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39178_Grid Resilience Formula Grants for Tribes Webinar
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WHITNEY BELL: Hello, and welcome to the Grid Resilience Formula Grants for Tribes webinar. I'm Whitney Bell with ICF and I will be your host today. First, a few housekeeping items for today's webinar. This WebX meeting is being recorded and may be used by the US Department of Energy. If you do not wish to have your voice recorded, please do not speak during the call. If you do not wish to have your image recorded, please turn off your camera or participate by phone.

If you speak during the call or use the video connection, you have presumed consent to recording and use of your voice or image. All participants are in Listen Only mode. If you have technical issues or questions you may type them in the chat box and select send to host. There will be a Q&A after today's presentation, so please submit all questions in the chat box and indicate which speaker your question is for.

If you need to view the live captioning, please refer to the link that will appear in the chat now. Finally,

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we will post a copy of today's presentation on the Grid Resilience Formula Grants for Tribes webpage by next Monday. The recording of today's webinar will be available in two weeks. We will also notify you when that happens. Today we'll hear from David Parsons, Program Manager with the Grid Deployment Office, for opening remarks, followed by a presentation on the Grid Resilience Formula Grants for Tribes by Cory Felder, Program and Management Analyst with the Grid Deployment Office. David, welcome, I'll turn this over to you.

DAVID PARSONS: Well thank you very much, Whitney, and thank you to the ICF team for all of your assistance in organizing and facilitating today's event. Good afternoon everyone, or good morning as the case may be. Thank you for taking the time to join us today. This webinar is presented by the Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office. My name is Dave Parsons, I'm the Supervisor for the State Tribal and Territory Grid Resilience Programs at the Grid Deployment Office. I want to welcome all of you to this meeting, and thank you again for your participation. We're very excited to

share details about the Grid Resilience Grants that are available to tribes.

Before we get started, I'd like to begin with some background on the Grid Deployment Office and the Grid Resilience Formula Grant program. The Grid Deployment Office is a relatively new office within the Department of Energy. Our office works to provide electricity to everyone, everywhere, by maintaining and investing in critical generation facilities, and improving and expanding transmission and distribution systems.

Today we will be discussing the Grid Resilience Formula Grant program, which provides \$2.3 billion dollars in funding to states, tribes, and territories for grid resilience over five years. This program is designed to strengthen and modernize the power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters exacerbated by the climate crisis. The grant funding is intended to support projects that reduce the likelihood and the impacts of these events, these kinds of disruptive events. And the first two years of funding

total over \$180 million dollars dedicated specifically to tribes, including Alaska native village corporations and Alaska native regional corporations and the funding is available now.

This program offers a formula grant, so funding is allocated to each tribe and there is no competition among tribes to receive the grant. This is a tremendous opportunity to obtain federal funding to help advance tribal grid resilience goals. It's very important to know that the deadline for applications for the first two years of funding is coming up soon, on March 31st, 2023.

We will talk more about the requirements and how to apply during this webinar, but I want to emphasize the importance of getting an application in before the deadline. This will secure your funding allocation for the first two years. If a tribe misses the deadline, it could still apply for funding in future years, but we don't want tribes to miss out on the first two years of funding that is available.

Finally, I just wanted to express my appreciation for the dedicated team at the Grid Deployment Office, and our partners at the National Energy Technology Laboratory that are developing this program. Our team has been working tirelessly for the past several months to reach the tribes and increase awareness of this opportunity, and help to answer questions about the program and the application process.

In particular I wanted to acknowledge Homere Aioki [phonetic] who leads our tribal engagement efforts, along with Emily Barrett, Cory Felder, Tom King, and Michelle Zimpleny [phonetic] at the Grid Deployment Office, as well as Jay Hanna and Eddie Christie, and their team at the National Energy Technology Lab. We have also received invaluable support and guidance from our leadership at the Grid Deployment Office, including Pat Hoffman, Whitney Mews, and our Director, Maria Robinson.

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You may have heard from some of us already, and you'll hear from several members of the team on this webinar today. As tribes continue to prepare applications, our office is available to assist. We have information on our website, and our email address is on one of the slides at the end of the presentation. Please feel free to ask questions today, and don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions after the webinar. With that, I think I'll conclude and turn things over to Cory to lead us through the presentation. Thank you very much.

CORY FELDER: Thank you, Dave, and thank you, Whitney. I'm really excited to be here. Thank you all for taking some time out of your busy days to be with us today and hear a little bit more about the Grid Resilience Formula Grant. My name's Cory Felder, I'm a Program and Management Analyst on the Grid Deployment Office team and I'm going to be doing a few things with the group today.

First, I want to provide an overview of the Grid Resilience Formula Grant and I'll go over some of the

key actions that are required prior to the application deadline. We're going to take a brief navigated tour of the GDO website to understand where some of the key materials are. We've been getting a lot of similar questions, so we wanted to repeat some of those back to you and survey some of the responses that we've been getting to questions that are coming up pretty frequently from tribes. And then finally, my colleagues and I want to spend some time answering your questions that you have about the program and any assistance that you need in leading up to the applications.

So, a bit of level setting. We recognize that there are a number of federal funding opportunities for tribes out there right now, both at the DOE and other federal agencies. So I wanted to put into context where the Grid Resilience Formula Grant sits, thinking about some of these other opportunities. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, provided the Department of Energy with several different types of resilience funding opportunities.

Today we are talking about a non-competitive grid resilience formula grants. There's \$2.3 billion dollars over five years for this program, with applications for the first two years of funding due on March 31st. When I say, and Dave previewed this before, but when we say non-competitive it means that the tribes and the states and the territories who are eligible to apply for this grant program are not competing with each other for the funding.

Each tribe has a set allocation for each of the years, according to a five part formula. There are a number of other grid resilience opportunities currently at the Grid Deployment Office that are competitive opportunities called the Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership and we had a webinar on some of these opportunities yesterday. We're going to be focused really on the non-competitive piece, the Grid Resilience Formula Grants, today.

Okay, so a few high level highlights about what this grant does, and some of the requirements. First, again, this is a non-competitive grant. It's focused on projects, investment projects that will reduce the likelihood in consequences of electrical outages or electric system outages due to disruptive events like extreme weather, wildfire, and natural disasters.

As Dave said, the application deadline for the first two years of funding is coming up fast, March 31st, out of the full five years of funding. We encourage tribes to apply by the deadline to secure the funding, even if they are not entirely sure what specific projects they'd like to invest in yet. We'll cover this a little bit more in depth later. But the applications that we are asking for by March 31st don't need to include those project specifics; rather, the application is a process-oriented application.

We're asking a lot about how the tribe plans to, what process the tribe plans to use to distribute the funding, and what objectives are driving some of the

resilience investments. We've made sample application templates and a number of other resources available on the website, which we'll cover in a little bit. And then finally there are sub-granting and cost match requirements for applicants under this program that we'll cover in more detail in just a moment.

Okay, taking a step back at, and thinking about the goals of this program, Grid Resilience Formula Program is being driven by four strategic goals of Congress and the Administration. The first tier that you can see, demonstrate measurable improvements in grid resilience in an all-hazards setting, and mitigating climate related risk. Investing in grid modernization, investing in clean energy and de-carbonization solutions and then creating good paying jobs. These are some of the overarching goals that are being informed by the Administration and Congress, in driving this program.

So getting specific about the allocations, we talk about this as a non-competitive grant funding program.

It is for states, tribes, and territories. For tribes, \$96 million is available for the first year, for fiscal year 2022, with \$85 million across tribes for fiscal year 2023, and then approximately that amount for the remaining three years of the program.

I want to reiterate that all federally recognized tribes, Alaska native regional corporations, and Alaska native village corporations, have been allocated funding through this program. If you go to the QR code on the right side of the screen here, or to the link below, you can take a look at what your tribe's individual allocation is. Those are available online, just to give you a sense of sort of the landscape of the tribal allocations for the first two years.

Most tribes have allocated between a \$100,000 and \$500,000 dollars. But the broader range of funding goes from about \$50,000 dollars a year to \$5 million dollars a year. I'll give you a quick look at the website and where you can find those allocations in just a minute,

but if you go right now to this QR code or to this link you can see your allocations for your tribe.

I mentioned this before, that we are using a five part or five factor formula to determine allocations for each of the states, territories, and tribes. That formula looks at land area, the probability of disruptive events, the severity of disruptive events, historical expenditures on mitigation efforts, and population. So we'd be happy to answer additional questions about what goes into that formula, and we have posted the data sources being used online on our page as well for those that are interested.

Okay, so what types of investments specifically are eligible under the Grid Resilience Formula Grant program? The statute calls out twelve types, explicitly calls out about twelve types of investments that are eligible, ranging from utility pole management; the hardening or undergrounding of equipment like lines or substations; vegetation and fuel-load management; and

all the things that you can see here in the bucket on the left - advanced modeling technologies as well.

There are a number of investments that are not eligible explicitly under this program and it's important that we cover them here today. Perhaps the one we get the most questions about is the restriction on construction of new electric generating facilities. New electric generating facilities are ineligible under this program. Even though we see on the left hand side we see micro-grids and distributed energy resources are called out and then the ineligible investments, the new electric generation component of some of those infrastructure investments would not be eligible under this program.

So a new solar facility, for instance, would not be eligible under this program, but the hardening of a substation might be or would be, rather. Similarly, cybersecurity measures are not eligible under this program. Battery storage technologies are eligible under this program, provided they're being used to

supply electricity where needed during disruptive events.

So a little bit of flexibility about battery storage and really depending on the use case. Investments, on the left side that you see here, that are called out. These can be tailored to meet the needs of the community or the tribe specifically, but these are the types of investments that are generally eligible to this program. I mentioned a few slides ago that there are sub-granting and cost-matching requirements under this program and the next few slides are going to outline the details around those two components.

First, tribes must sub-grant under this program, to eligible entities to execute the grid resilience projects. So, the eligible entities are called out here, electric grid operators to field suppliers. In many cases we've seen this list look, is likely to be the utility, whether its investor owned, or co-op or a tribal utility, that's going to be the sub-awardee and

the eligible entity to execute the grid resilience projects.

There are cost match requirements for the tribe and for the eligible entity or a sub-grantee that would need to be fulfilled as well. Five percent of the funding received can be used for technical assistance and program administration, so I wanted to provide a bit of an example of what that could look like. Technical assistance and program administration here means anything from providing technical assistance generally, to administrating the expenses associated with the program.

That five percent for technical assistance could also be given to a third party to provide that administrative and technical support, capped at five percent of the federal funding received. So you can see here on the right hand side of the slide, we assume a \$100,000 dollar DOE award, five percent of that funding, \$5,000 dollars, could be used for technical assistance and administration and that would then leave

\$95,000 dollars for funding for these various projects. Grant recipients, the tribes in this case, also must provide a fifteen percent cost match, fifteen percent of the federal funds received.

The cost match can be in-kind, it can be staff time, it can be cash. There's no restriction on another entity, like their sub-grantee for instance, providing that cost match on behalf of the tribe, but with some limited exceptions federal funding can't be used to provide that cost match on behalf of the tribe. So when on the updated example on the right you can see here assuming a DOE award of \$100,000 dollars to the tribe and 5 percent of that funding as being used for TA, 95 percent of that funding is being used for the resilience projects, the tribe cost match here is flowing right into the resilience project funding, they get \$410,000 dollars.

The cost match could also be used for the technical assistance program administration bucket of funds. So in the updated example here, you can see that \$50,000

dollars being applied, bringing the total of technical assistance funds to help support the resilience projects up to \$20,000 dollars. I mentioned the sub-granting requirement. The eligible entity, in this case it would be the utilities that would be the sub-grantee of the tribe to execute the projects under this program.

The sub-grantees have a required match as well, in addition to that 15 percent match provided by the tribe. An eligible entity that received a sub-grant from this program is required to match 100 percent of the amount of the sub-grant. So in the example here where it says large sub-grantee on the right side, if the sub-award is \$95,000 dollars, the sub-grantee is providing that 100 percent match of \$95,000 dollars for a total of 190.

However, if the sub-grantee sells less than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year, they're required just to match one-third of the sub-grant amount. So based on some of the conversations we've

been having, in many cases this might be a co-op or a tribal utility that sells than this amount of electricity and is only then required to provide that one-third match shown in the small sub-grantee example on the right hand side here. Small sub-grantees, however, do need to sell electricity to be eligible for the reduced cost match.

There is a process by which tribes could apply to be the sub-grantee themselves, but if they don't sell electricity, that may result in them being required to provide the 100 percent cost match, so there are implications around that. But these are the two kind of broad buckets of sub-grantees that we have seen. Given that as of February 9th, the deadline for applying for the first two years of funding is March 31st, we want to spend a little bit of time talking about the practical side of what tribes need to provide in their applications.

There are two key applications components that I want to cover first. The first, and perhaps the area that

needs the most attention for applicants is the program narrative. Applications and program narratives are really, we are really encouraging process-oriented program narratives. So at a minimum what we're asking is that the applicants address the categories of potential eligible entities, a tribal utility, a co-op, a utility or other, who they anticipate carrying out the project and the process for selecting those eligible entities, the criteria for selecting the project.

As I mentioned before, a sample program narrative template is available, in addition to an example of what a tribe program narrative could look like that tribes are welcome to build off of. In addition to the program narratives, a head of government letter must be submitted by the applicant and identifies who is the sole entity within the tribe that's applying for and receiving and administering the award. Those are two key application components.

If we get a little bit more specific about the program narrative in particular, these seven things on the slide here are what we are asking for. So again, process-oriented, we want to know what are the objectives that are driving the resilience investments in a tribe's application for the metrics, they can be provisional that tribes are planning to use to track those investments or measure the success of those investments.

What are the criteria the tribe wants to use for selecting and determining the awards for the eligible entities, and what the process that you plan to use to distribute those funds and award them? There is a required description of how the application is meeting the equity requirements provided in the statute, so how the tribe will ensure that they address quality jobs, prioritize community benefits, and then maximize project benefits across disadvantaged communities.

How the tribe plans to use the technical assistance funds capped at 5 percent, we discussed before. And

then critically, the description of a public notice and hearing that has been conducted prior to the application being submitted. To that end, I just want to highlight, prior to March 31st that public notice and public hearing does need to occur. So while there aren't many restrictions about what that public notice and public hearing need to look like, it's really an opportunity for the tribes of the applicants more generally to get feedback on the proposed program narrative, or at least the components of the proposed program narrative.

In just a minute I'm going to take a break here from sharing these slides and I'm going to take us on a quick tour of the website and make sure we know what all of the materials to apply are. I did want to highlight on this last slide though that the public hearing, we encourage tribes to think kind of strategically about how they want to conduct the public hearing and what they want to include.

A public hearing that addresses, say, all five years of the program and puts it in that context wouldn't necessarily need to be repeated each year of the program. That's one way the tribes can think about streamlining the number of hearings that they'll need to have. There are some other tips that I'll cover in just a minute about how to think kind of strategically about these applications given that they are process oriented and that we are not asking applicants to specify the projects that they plan to pursue. That will come after these applications come in.

Okay, before I move on to some of the commonly asked questions, I did want to take us on a tour of the website. Here you can see the QR code and the link to the landing page for the Grid Resilience Formula Grants. We're going to cover what some of these links here on the right hand side take you to and what you can find in them in just a minute, but I'll give folks a second if they want to use the QR code on this slide to get to the site themselves with the link that's in there.

So if you've gone to that link, you'll see, you hopefully can see the landing page on the Grid Deployment Office website for the Grid Resilience State/Tribal Formula Grant program here. We're actually here in this webinar right now so you can see here on the right hand side. But if you scroll down the page, you'll see two drop downs. The first is application resources, the first line on the cover.

As you go about pursuing your application, the first thing you may be interested in being aware of is the actual documents and instructions for how to complete the documents. I have now clicked on that, application forms and templates link which has taken us to the page that includes many of the templates that you will need to complete the application and an option to download all of those forms all at once, if that's helpful. That includes the program narrative template that I mentioned before. That is a template you can use in developing your program narrative.

The second link here, I mentioned before, the allocation of the grants to states and tribes. If you click on that link, it will take you to the National Energy Technology Laboratory learning page for the application documents. And you can see here if you scroll down on the page a few things, but it includes the allocations for 40101(d) formula grants and the data sources used for formula allocations.

So if you click on the allocations for formula grants, you will see, as I mentioned before, the allocations themselves for each of the states, the territories, and then here the tribes for fiscal year 2022 in the first column, and then fiscal year 2023 in the second column. Coming back to the GDO landing page, I want to highlight just a few other resources that are here.

The administrative and legal requirements document is a detailed overview of all the requirements of the program. If you click on that, that will also take you back to the, it will take you to the page that provides the latest amendment of that document and that may be

helpful if you were looking for additional detail on the program as you apply.

Perhaps more immediately relevant for many folks is the frequently asked questions document that we've provided that answers a lot of commonly asked questions about the program in terms of eligibility, the public hearing, the cost match. I will click on that link now just to show you where it is. You can see the latest version, provided on December 14th. And if you click on that page, you can see the questions themselves and the answers and then a table of contents to help you navigate.

Last, but definitely not least of the things that I wanted to share here on the GDO landing page, come back to the GDO landing page for those who are with me here, is the example program. So in addition to the template program areas that provides the description of things that need to be covered in the program areas, we have taken feedback from many of the folks we are talking to and developed an example program narrative that

actually provides sample objectives, metrics, and other pieces of the program area.

Tribes are welcome to use this example narrative and build off it and tailor it to their own circumstances, but I wanted to make sure that folks were aware that it's here. It's actually on the website on two places, but if you go, again, to the application assistance and example program narrative, you can find it there.

That's a very quick tour of the website and sort of how you can find some other things.

There's an abridged version, as you can see here back on the GDO landing page, of the frequently asked questions as well and a fact sheet about the program as one of the links here in case you want to communicate with others about it. But the most important things, I think, for tribes to be aware of, is the application form templates, the allocation themselves, the legal document that describes the program detail in depth, the frequently asked questions, and then that example program area that tribes are welcome to build upon.

With that, I'd like to move on to one last just thing for folks to be aware of before we move on to the frequently asked questions. We have been working with other agencies, other federal agencies and other offices within the Department of Energy to identify other potential funding opportunities that could be supportive in the context of the good resilience formula grant.

We are aware of an upcoming deadline for the local assistance and tribal consistency fund out of Treasury. The deadline is ahead of the March 31st deadline for this program. And so we encourage tribes that have not already applied to check this out, to take a look at it and explore how it might be useful in the context of the Grid Resilience Formula Funding. This is another non-competitive grant.

The kind of key thing to take away, is that there's broad - tribes are able to have broad discretion about how they use these funds and there is \$500 million that

is eligible or that's available for tribal governments. There's a QR code here on the right and a link so you can find out more about this program, but we did want to highlight it because of the upcoming deadline and the potential relevance for the Grid Resilience Formula Grant. Onto the long promised FAQs.

So I'm going to go through these - we have about five or six here and hopefully we're answer some of the questions that you all are thinking about or have already submitted. First, do applicants need to provide detailed project information in their program areas that are due on March 31st, including things like a detailed budget? We encourage tribes or applicants not to provide detailed project information at this stage.

As I mentioned, these program narratives are process-oriented and we encourage tribes to focus on the process that they will use for, for instance, selecting the grid resilience projects or the eligible entities who will be providing those projects - I'm sorry, executing those projects. Once grants have been

awarded, then there will be a process for, there is a process for tribes to provide project specifics.

Part of the reason why we encourage holding off on providing project specifics right now beyond our recognition that tribes and territories may be in different places of the process on resilience planning. And that can also preserve some flexibility over the five years of the program if the project specifics change or if the projects that are identified that are prioritized change.

So to sum up, project specifics do not need to be included in the program narrative. Once grants have been awarded, then we will get into project specifics. Public hearings - so what requirements must tribes need to satisfy, to satisfy the public hearing requirement ahead of the deadline? The purpose of the public hearing here is to get comments from a diverse set of stakeholders on the criteria and methods that are being contemplated in the program narrative for the resilience grant program.

The statute is not proscriptive on intention not to be grading anybody on their public hearing. Instead, we encourage applicants to issue notice and conduct a public hearing in a way that is most appropriate for their community or tribe. So the one requirement here is that a public hearing process should happen, must happen before March 31st.

And then again, just to encourage, as you think about how you want to hold that public hearing, thinking about the full lifetime of the program rather than just the first year or the first two years, can allow for some streamlining in later years and not having to repeat that public hearing again. We've gotten a lot of questions about the use of Self-Determination Act funding for the cost match.

You may remember before I said that with some very limited exceptions other federal funding opportunities can't be used for the cost match under the 40101(d), the Grid Resilience Grant, Grid Resilience Formula

Grant program. But tribes may use Self-Determination Act funding for the cost match under this program, as long as that contract contemplates the use of funds for activities that are eligible under this program.

Can two tribes or more tribes combine some or all of their grant funding to collaborate on a project that provides benefits to all of the tribes? The answer is yes. Multiple tribes can award funding to eligible entities that are collaborating on a resilience project using their combined allocations and required cost match, as long as each of the tribes involved in that collaborative effort find that that project would provide the greatest community benefits in reducing the likelihood in consequences of disruptive events, and the project aligns with the objectives under the Grid Resilience Formula Grant program.

It's also important that in the event that there is a collaborative project like this, that the tribes who are collaborating are tracking and reporting costs to DOE in a way that ensures that there's no double

payments for work done as part of the broader project.
Study Eligibility - can tribes use funding under this program for feasibility studies that are related to grid resilience measures?

So, broadly speaking, formula grants can be used for different kinds of studies, but we plan to review the costs and scope of those studies on a case by case basis. Generally speaking if the study that's being performed is more exploratory and comparing different options, then the amount of funding being used for that kind of study will be capped at the five percent, that technical assistance, and use that technical assistance funds.

But if the study is more focused on a specific project, and it's exploring the viability of the project, the performance of the project, or performance specifications of the project, or something like that, then it could be considered part of the actual project implementation, and therefore not subject to that five

percent cap on the TA and program administrations funds.

So, to sum up, we'll be tackling study eligibility more on a case by case basis, but I've offered some general guidelines for how, with the types of studies that might be eligible for project implementation versus subject to that five percent cap. Can tribes accumulate multiple allocations, annual allocations, over the five years of the program for instance, until they have enough resources to do a larger project? The answer here is yes. It is possible that tribes can accumulate their annual allocations until they have sufficient funds to do the projects that they have prioritized.

We are, we do require in order for that to happen, that the program narrative identify a strategy that involves accumulating those multiple years of funding to initiate the project and then the work does need to happen within the period of performance which starts at five years for the investment time of this program. So yes it is possible to accumulate those, and again we

encourage tribes to think about, think strategically about the full five years of the program as they consider their program narratives for year one and two that are due on March 31st.

That's all I have at this moment for frequently asked questions. I'm sure, as we said at the beginning, my colleagues and I are here to help answer or clarify anything that still needs clarifying that wasn't clarified in this presentation, please don't hesitate to ask us any question that you have. Thank you so much. And Whitney I think I'll pass it back to you from here.

WHITNEY BELL: Yes, that sounds great, thank you, Cory. As Cory mentioned, we now it's time for Q&A. So as we said before, please submit your questions to the host via the chat box on the right. In the To: you'll write Host, or select Host, and send them in. We have a couple of questions that are coming in now which is great.

I'd also like to welcome some additional Grid Resilience Formula Grants for Tribes staff to join us for the Q&A. We'll be joined by Jay Hanna, with the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and Emily Barrett, Senior Power Systems Research Engineer at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. And we'll also be bringing David back here, from the beginning. So let's get everyone up here. And it looks like we've got everyone here. And let's go ahead and get started with some of these questions that have been coming in. So the first one, Jay is actually going to be for you. For the application, should we develop a budget that includes both years of funding or just one year of funding?

JAY HANNA: Okay, so your application does not include a detailed budget. The only budget information would be the SF-424, which is the Application for Federal Assistance and you're just simply requesting the sum of the year one and the year two allocations. And then also you'll be showing the 15 percent cost match on that amount. And then post-award, you'll be providing your plan to budget within 45 days of effort. After you

receive the grant, you'll need to provide your plan budget to DOE for that amount, but you do not need to provide that with your application.

WHITNEY BELL: Great, thank you. I hope that answered your question. The second question here is for you, Cory. Someone had noted, I assume a public hearing can take place at a monthly tribal council meeting. Is that correct?

CORY FELDER: Yes, that's possible. We don't have, as we said before, there are no specific requirements beyond that it does happen and the intention of it that we're providing. So yes, a tribal monthly council meeting could qualify.

WHITNEY BELL: Great. There's another clarifying question here. Do tribes need to conduct public hearings each year or just one? And Cory, I think that's more directed towards you.

CORY FELDER: Sure. Coming back to the last strategic program narrative notion that I was mentioning before, tribes that conduct a public hearing in a way that is considering the full five years of the program would not necessarily need to re-hold that public hearing

each year unless something changes significantly. And Jay or Emily or David, if you have things to add there, feel free.

WHITNEY BELL: How widely must the public notice be distributed for a tribe? And again, a native village or corporation, who must or should be invited or attend the meeting? And these are multiple questions here. Is the public aspect mainly identified as the tribe and corporations, like shareholders?

CORY FELDER: I'm happy to take that one, Whitney. Again, I think the intention of the public hearing is to get that feedback from the folks, from stakeholders, who may be impacted or involved. Again, we don't have specific items for who needs to be included in the notice, but we really recognize that tribes have their own way to conducting a public hearing and including the right folks. So it is up to the tribe to determine what is the right folks to invite for the public hearing.

WHITNEY BELL: Emily, this one's for you. One of the main goals is to invest in clean energy. However, solar and wind are not eligible investments. What is the reason

for not including electricity generation as an eligible investment?

EMILY BARRETT: Yeah, that's a good one and one that we actually get a lot. It is a product of the statute that the grant funding program comes out of. So actually within the law there is a provision that explicitly states that new generating facilities are not eligible and that's why they're not eligible under this program. I will also say that there are some other funding opportunities available right now that the tribes can take advantage of, that would allow them to go after funding for clean energy sources.

In particular would encourage you to look at the Inflation Reduction Act. There are direct pay incentives under that Act, which means that tribes can take advantage of those incentives when they never have been before. Because tribes don't have tax [unclear], but now the IRA has made that no longer a barrier.

And so in some cases the economics for things like new solar are really advantageous, especially for tribes.

Up to 70 percent of the costs of new solar could be covered through that incentive program. So, yes, you're correct. Solar wind new clean generation is unfortunately not an eligible expense under this program. But this program could support other pieces of the infrastructure that could enable those projects, and allow you to use those projects to provide greater grid resilience by for instance coupling those systems you may be able to procure through some of these other opportunities with the battery storage system for example.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you, Emily, appreciate the clarification there. This one's for you, David and it's got multiple questions in one. How do we schedule a time with a Department of Energy expert who can answer questions, and would DOE be willing to do a presentation for Alaska's 400 tribes or other groups as well on this program where they could ask them questions live? And if so, how can they arrange that?

DAVID PARSONS: Yes, I think absolutely, we would definitely be interested to speak with more tribes about this opportunity and so we're doing as much outreach and

engagement as we can in the lead-up to the deadline, and that will continue even after the deadline. But yeah, if there is interest in more webinars or more opportunities to discuss, please reach out to us. We have an email address that you can use. It's on our website and I think it's also in the slides. And maybe we can put it in the Chat as well. And you can contact us and we'd be happy to discuss with you how we could, to speak with you and other tribes.

WHITNEY BELL: Great, thank you.

CORY FELDER: I'm sorry to interrupt. I think if you advance one more slide, that email will come up.

WHITNEY BELL: And we'll be sure to drop that in the chat here momentarily as well. All right, Jay, this one is for you. Can utility operators transfer a grid asset, poles, conductors, et cetera, that exists on tribal trust land to the tribe, and be considered in-kind?

JAY HANNA: That would be very project-specific. Certainly the equipment and materials provided for a project can potentially be used as the in-kind cost match. But post-award, when you identify your project you will probably want to consult with your project officer so

that we could take into account any specific nuances of your project to give you a more precise answer on that. But in general, in-kind cost match is allowed and in many cases that can be the value of poles, conductors, and that sort of thing. But it's difficult to give a blanket answer without knowing the specifics of your project.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. Emily, I have two questions back to back here for you, but I'll start with this one first. On disruptive events, most tribes don't report outages to anyone because they happen all the time, maybe even weekly. Did you just use reports about earthquakes or floods from state or federally declared disasters?

EMILY BARRETT: Yes. And the answer is, when, as you can probably imagine, I mean Cory went through and talked a little bit about the five factors that are laid out for how the formula was constructed. Getting data with national coverage that allowed us and the contractor that DOE worked with to make this calculation was really challenging. I'm putting in the chat right now a link to the data sources that were used in making these

determinations. But yes it was declared disasters coming out of FEMA that were used for calculating the disruptive events.

I will also say that as we move forward through this program, DOE is committed to using the best available data. And so if you know of other data sources that we should be considering and looking at, we would be really excited to hear about them. So please feel free to reach out and point us to data that we should be looking at to do this better in the future. I think you said there was a second related question?

WHITNEY BELL: Yes, there's a related question. This person is wondering why Alaskan Native regional corporations received a small amount of funding compared to village corporations when they own much more land? Total land Native corporations own, you know, 44 million acres, an area about seven times the size of Connecticut. Can you address that question there?

EMILY BARRETT: Yeah, sure. And you know, I can't address that, can't speak to that specific example without kind of digging into it a little bit more, which we are

happy to do. So if you wanted to share your specifics in an email with us, we can certainly dig more into it. I will say that, you know, land area is only one of the five factors. And so there are four other factors, including population, probability of disruptive events, severity of disruptive events, and historical investments in mitigation efforts, that were also a part of that calculation. So that may be a part of what's leading to that sort of unexpected, those unexpected funding allocations.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you so much. Cory, this one is for you. When calculating the 15 percent cost match, is it that 15 percent of the total of the two year allocations, or is it just for the first year allocation?

CORY FELDER: 15 percent of each annual allocation. So for that example of \$100,000 that we talked about before, if you're getting \$100,000 in your year one, and \$100,000 in year two, it would be 15 percent, it would be \$30,000 dollars total.

WHITNEY BELL: Okay, that makes sense, thank you. Jay, this one's for you. Can remote tribes without the internet apply through the mail instead of online? Other

agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and Department of Commerce allow this.

JAY HANNA: I will say that is an excellent question, and it's something that we can address with the Grid Deployment Office and NATL to look at ways of, if there are tribes that have that limitation, that we can accommodate, because we certainly want to make the grant program available to all tribes and lack of internet should not be an obstacle to that. So, right now we have identified a path for the application through the mail, but we can work on that. And I guess the question will be how do we provide information back out to the tribes, and we'll address that with GDO as well.

WHITNEY BELL: There was a similar question of, do we submit this grant on grants.gov, or via email?

JAY HANNA: Through Fed Connect which is where the ALRD is posted, the funding opportunity is posted.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. Cory, can you clarify how battery storage is eligible for funding, and can you also clarify if it's being specified for being available only in times of emergency?

CORY FELDER: Battery storage is eligible under the program provided that it's providing power during disruptive events. Or I was called into some of the ALRD documents, some of the program documentation, is system adaptive capacity. So, in a program narrative, for instance, where a tribe is considering the types of technologies that it might be pursuing and highlights battery storage, as provided the primary use of that battery is for providing that system adaptive capacity, that backup power during disruptive events, it would be eligible under the program.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. Emily, someone had asked, can we use the money to weatherize homes?

EMILY BARRETT: No, that is actually not an eligible expense under this program. So, because this is a grid resilience program, it is, the investments are really intended, the investments are really intended - the funding is really intended to be used to invest in electrical infrastructure.

That said, I believe there are some weatherization funding opportunities also available under the

Inflation Reduction Act, and maybe even coming out of the BIA right now. So I think there are other funds that could be used for those projects, but not this funding. This funding would need to go towards providing resilience from the perspective of an electrical infrastructure.

WHITNEY BELL: All right. And that kind of leads into this next question, if electrical equipment are eligible investments, so, transformers, switch gears, etcetera.

EMILY BARRETT: Yes.

WHITNEY BELL: Do you want to expand on that?

EMILY BARRETT: Yeah. I mean, so that really is, if you look at the list of eligible investments that has been provided within the law, I know of course it's not totally comprehensive, but they sort of are examples that we can point to and say these are clearly eligible. That is the kinds of investments, like the replacements of that kind of electrical infrastructure, is exactly how, you know, it's a clear eligible expense as long as it's being used for that electrical infrastructure, is providing a resilience benefit.

So coming back to the objectives of the formula grant funding opportunity, you'll hear us say this a lot, but there's a lot of investments that could be eligible if they provide that grid resilience benefit, or that ability to maintain electrical power during disruptive events or ride through outages. And that could include things like replacing aging infrastructure that would otherwise be a hazard and could otherwise lead to outages. Or installing redundant equipment that would allow multiple pathways for power to travel through to increase the ability of the system to respond in the events that certain pieces of equipment do go into outage.

WHITNEY BELL: Okay, thank you for clarifying that. Jay, could you describe the eligible entities and how tribes and their enterprises can be determined to be eligible?

JAY HANNA: Sure, the eligible entities are defined actually in the statute. There are six types of eligible entities - electric grid operator, electric storage operator, electricity generator, transmission owner or operator, distribution provide or a fuel provider. And then there's one more type, and that would be any other

relevant entity as determined by the Secretary of Energy.

But what happens if there's an entity you want to have designated as an eligible entity for a specific project, you would need to make that request post-award after you receive the grant to the Department of Energy, and you would do that through your federal project officer that's assigned to your grant.

We've developed a template that you can use to fill out that provides a rationale for that designation, and then we would review that and then submit it to the person within the Department of Energy that has that delegated authority to make that eligible entity determination.

As part of that same process, you could provide evidence that that is a small utility eligible for the lower cost match, if that's what you choose to do. You would use that same process. So again, the eligible entities are defined in the statute. If there's another

type of eligible entity or for example, if a tribe wants to execute the project itself and wants to be designated as an eligible entity for the sake of executing the project, they can make that request to the Department of Energy for the secretarial determination to be an eligible entity.

WHITNEY BELL: Great, thank you so much. Cory, this is kind of a follow-up on one of the questions earlier, but they said who must or should be invited to the public hearing?

CORY FELDER: Maybe what I'll say is, just again, we're not providing any, we don't have any prescriptive guidance on what needs to happen or who needs to be invited to the public hearing. So I would suggest the tribe or the tribe finds to be the public in the context of the stakeholders that they need feedback from in order to develop the program narrative is probably how I would respond.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. Emily, would utility provider AMI infrastructure upgrades that contribute to smart grid solutions be considered as an eligible use of funds?

EMILY BARRETT: Yes, so AMI is an advanced metering, monitoring solution that's included in the list of eligible investments in both the funding opportunity, and in the statute. I think what you would need to do is you would need to speak to how that AMI infrastructure would support grid resilience and kind of meets the objectives of the funding opportunity.

But yes, in general I would say provided that there was an intention to leverage that to provide additional resilience that would be ineligible. And to be clear, recognizing that - we talked a little bit about the battery storage and a little bit, I think it's relevant with the AMI question here, too.

You know, there's no expectation that you make these investments and then the only thing you can use them for is just resilience - so you have a battery that's sitting there totally unused except for when there is an outage. I think these are, in many cases, going to be multi-use investments. But really, it just comes down to if there are real grid resilience investments,

is that a primary use and a primary driver for the program.

WHITNEY BELL: Great, thank you. So there are a lot of questions about the match requirement coming in. Could one of you just review those requirements one more time for us? If we have a specific question, but I think if we kind of review them one more time, that might be helpful for everybody. Cory, do you want to go back to a slide or anything? If you do, let me know.

CORY FELDER: That might be helpful to bring the slide back up. If you go back, or I can go back. So let's start here. Grant recipients for the tribe in many cases are responsible for 15 percent cost match of that on an annual basis. So \$100,000 dollars in year one, \$15,000 dollars for the cost match for the tribe for that year. Sub-grantees, so the eligible entities, let's say it's a large utility in this case themselves within 4 million megawatt hours of electricity, they would then be responsible for 100 percent of the sub-award.

So in this case, the sub-award is \$95,000 dollars because the tribe has presumably taken 5 percent and

used it for technical assistance. The tribe has separately provided that \$15,000 dollar cost match. The sub-grantee is eligible for an additional 100 percent, so an additional \$95,000 dollars. For a small sub-grantee who sells than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year, that sub-grantee match is only one-third.

So for a \$100,000 dollar, so the same situation, \$100,000 DOE award, 5 percent is carved out to use for technical assistance and program administration leaving \$95,000 for the sub-award for resilience projects, the small sub-grantee would be responsible for \$32,000 dollars, one-third of that sub-award.

For, as Jay was responding to before, if a tribe decides to go through the process, the grant recipient does not sell electricity but it wants to be designated as an eligible entity to execute the project on their own, they don't sell electricity, they may be responsible for that full 100 percent cost match. Hopefully that helps clarify a little bit.

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WHITNEY BELL: I hope so as well. I think one other question someone had was will you receive two years of funding if you apply by March 31st, or just one year of funding?

CORY FELDER: If your application program narrative, it's two years of funding is the short answer. If two years of funding are available, you can apply for both years of funding. That's the short answer.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. I hope that clarified some of these questions that were coming in. Alright, Jay, will communities' benefits plan be required once a project has been determined?

JAY HANNA: For these grants, the community benefits are addressed in the program narrative, so there will not be a separate plan required.

WHITNEY BELL: Okay. Emily, is there any scenario where building generation would be acceptable since tribes have a number of facilities that either do not currently have power, or experience frequent outages and would like to build micro-grids to solve these issues?

EMILY BARRETT: Yeah, currently our interpretation and the understand of the law is that there is really no

getting around the new generation facility question. You know, one of the things that I will say is that what this funding could be used for is everything about a micro-grid with the exception of that new generating facility.

So some of the things that I've heard, speaking of tribes who are kind of thinking through where this funding might fit in helping them meet some of those goals. They may be pursuing new generation under the Infrastructure Investments Jobs - I'm sorry, under the Inflation Reduction Act.

So they may be going after other funding sources for the new generation component of a micro-grid. And then this funding could be used for the battery backup, the battery storage components of that, as well as any of the electrical infrastructure outside of the generation facility itself that would be required to allow you to operate that system in the event of a grid outage. So, unfortunately the answer is no, there's really no, we have not found a way to get around the new generation

prohibition; but this funding could be used in conjunction with some of the other funding to support a larger project that could meet those goals.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. All right, Cory, it's a little bit long but I think it'll be beneficial. Under grid infrastructure and resiliency in the IAJ, grants can't be used for construction of a new electric generating facility, but distributed energy resources like micro-grids are allowed. Would GDO be able to clarify the term 'electric generating facilities'? If it's limited to facilities constructed for the sole or primary purpose of providing a new source of power generation, as opposed to providing the resilience benefit of a DER micro-grid?

CORY FELDER: I'm just building off of Emily's last comment there on new generation assets or generation assets. Given the way that the statute is written and the legal guidance that we have, new generation facilities are ineligible. So if I'm understanding this question correctly, there would be no distinction unless it's at sort of the project level. But there wouldn't really be a distinction between the new generation for resilience

and the new generation generally. Both would be ineligible under this program. But the other components of the micro-grid that are not the generation components could be still be eligible.

EMILY BARRETT: Yeah, the only technology that I'm aware of that produces power that is eligible is energy storage. So that could be a battery, that could be really any other kind of storage capability, but not something that generates electricity independently.

WHITNEY BELL: Thanks for continuing to clarify that, I appreciate it. So for planning purposes, and this is to whomever would like to answer this one, could DOE set out the criteria for how tribal enterprises who are not utilities be considered for qualification as an eligible entity?

EMILY BARRETT: Do you want to take that one, Jay? Since you did a similar one before.

JAY HANNA: Basically you'll just have to make a request and provide a justification of why this is in the benefit of the tribe for whatever entity to be designated an eligible entity. And again, we will have developed for you a template that you can use. We're not making this

as a particularly difficult process for you to undergo. But you would be asked what type of an entity it is, and why is it in the interests of the tribe, the best interests of the tribe, for this entity to be designated an eligible entity for the particular project that's being proposed. I'll defer to Cory or Dave or Emily, if they have anything else to add to that.

DAVID PARSONS: Yeah, I'll just say I think what we've been encouraging is for the tribes to keep their program narratives as general - that preserves flexibility for the tribe to make these kinds of decisions after they submit their application and receive their award. And we'll work, our office will work with the tribes to help them sort of through some of these decision about eligible entities and how to designate and how to make these kinds of requests. How to work through the cost match questions. And when eligible entities have identified, or when the tribes have identified the kinds of projects that they want to use the funding for, we can assist in kind of navigating through those different processes and requirements.

EMILY BARRETT: The only thing I might add, Dave, to sort of even amplify what you just said is, not only does keeping the program narrative really high level and sort of process oriented give you flexibility now in terms of what projects you want to do, but if you indicate in your program narrative that this is a multiyear program, you don't have to sort of reapply in future years. Right?

So that same program narrative that you've kept really high level and really strategic can be used for the entire program. And that gives you the flexibility over the next five-plus years to be thinking about what projects are going to be, or help you realize that community benefit because your thinking may evolve.

And so I would say that it also really reduces some of the administrative burden on you in kind of going through the application process again. You don't have to submit a new program narrative. You don't have to go through the public hearing process again. It becomes a

pretty easy contract amendment at that point, to get access to that next year funding.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. Emily, this is for you. Can funds be used to replace/improve bulk fuel tanks that are leaking into the environment?

EMILY BARRETT: And Jay, I think we have a frequently asked question about replacing fuel tanks, don't we? No? Let's take that one back then, because I know we've gotten that question before and I think we have a good answer it and we can sent that out with a follow-up.

WHITNEY BELL: Great. Somebody was clarifying back to the public hearing notice, was it stated that a public hearing notice can be held during a council meeting? Just to clarify that part.

EMILY BARRETT: Yes.

WHITNEY BELL: Alright, Jay, this is for you. How often are compliance reports going to be required - annually, quarterly, do you know yet?

JAY HANNA: Under this grant program, we will be receiving quarterly progress reports and we have a template for that that will be provided with your grant agreement.

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WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. Emily, are you open to tribes submitting proposal that include off-grid components, would help reduce the strain on the grid today? Are you open to that?

EMILY BARRETT: So this would be an electrification project, is that correct? Oh, you can't clarify.

WHITNEY BELL: I can't clarify, but I'm assuming yes. But if somebody writes in and lets us know their clarification, that would be great.

EMILY BARRETT. So Jay, jump in here too if I say anything incorrect. I would not confidently say that this, we think with confidence that we can get, that electrification would be eligible under this program. I would like to take that back to the team to get a decisive answer.

But because of the way that the funding opportunity has been structured there is that sort of grid resilience element to providing that resiliency. That said, we can get a definitive answer and get that out to the group. I will also say that there are some significant, there are significant amounts of funding right now for

electrification programs available under the, I believe it's also the IRA, through the BIA and there are historic opportunities to get electrification projects done in particularly rural areas. So there are also very good alternate opportunities to need to explore in that space as well. I'm going to start taking notes of all the things to respond to, too.

WHITNEY BELL: Jay, can in-kind contributions identified early in year one and two be spread out to cover future years, three through five, for match requirements?

JAY HANNA: It is likely that that could be done for the, in the in-kind contribution towards technical assistance and administrative costs. Which you can use, you know, the applicant or the recipient would have to provide 15 percent cost match on the entire amount and that can be for technical assistance and administration and that can be provided using in-kind.

I don't know that we can approve cost match for projects, resilience projects, the 100 percent or the one-third cost match, for projects until those projects have been reviewed and approved through the

notification process that's described in the Section VG of the ALRD.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. David, related to the statutory limitation on power generation, can you please cite the part of the statute that prohibits this, that we discussed earlier?

DAVID PARSONS: Yeah. So, and we understand that this is a frustrating aspect of the program and it's just unfortunate that the statute is very proscriptive in this regard and doesn't allow the department the flexibility to make adjustments around the new generation.

But if you look in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the BIL, in Section 40101 which is the section that is covering the grid resilience grants, there is a prohibition section, it's under 40101 Section E. And it says, under E and then 2, it says, Prohibitions and Limitations and one of them is construction of new electric generating facilities. But we can make sure that that is also sort of put on our website in the Frequently Asked Questions if you want to have that

sort of written down because I know that's a little, it's a little bit hard to follow exactly where it is, but it's in there.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. Jay, I've kind of got a two-parter here. So just to confirm, a tribe can receive their allocated funds on an annual basis for the next five years, correct? And then they were wanting to know how long will it take you to process the applications after March 31st?

JAY HANNA: Okay. So, in your initial grant application, as Cory mentioned, you'll be requesting year one and year two allocations. Based on your application, we will award you a grant and it'll be for the amount of the sum of the year one and the year two allocations, assuming that's what you request and it'll have the five year period of performance.

Next year, once your grant has been awarded, next year there'll be a process where you can request your year three allocation. And when you make that request we will amend your agreement, your grant agreement, to increase it by the amount of that year three allocation

and then we will extend the period of performance one year. And then year four we'll do the same thing, year five we'll do the same thing.

So the grant will continue to be extended because we understand that there's a tail-end on these projects. You know, that some of these are going to take several years to complete potentially. So we'll continue to extend the period of performance on the grant each year when we add your annual allocation based upon your request for that allocation.

As far as when we'll make the initial grant agreements, the awards, we are receiving, we've already received applications and we hope to start making grant awards hopefully by the end of this month and then we're going to continue to process applications as they are received. And if the application comes in and it's clean, it's complete, you'll receive the grant sooner.

If it requires some corrections or if there's missing documentation we will work with you on that to make

sure that we collect all the necessary information to make the award, but that might cause some delays. Of course, there's 850 or so potential applicants. We don't know how many actual applications we'll get. So, you know, we'll be making grant awards probably into the summer. And so it's essentially first in, first out, in terms of how we make the awards. And the applications that are clean and complete will likely get processed quicker because it'll require fewer iterations. I hope that answers that question.

WHITNEY BELL: I think it does. Thank you so much. Emily, this is kind of more of a statement, if you would like to respond to it. This one had said, for many Alaskan communities they are not interested in building new generation facilities, just give some repairs to generators and prevent outages. I think this is also related to one of the questions earlier. Can you elaborate a little bit on how that relates here?

EMILY BARRETT: Yeah, and we do believe that there is more flexibility to make upgrades to existing generation facilities, in the way of replacements or repairs to provide grid resilience and prevent outages. So I would

encourage you to, yeah, I think there's a good chance that those would actually be eligible expenses under this funding opportunity, and that'll be something you'll have an opportunity to work with your contracting officer to work through once you've had your application in and the award is done.

WHITNEY BELL: Jay, can a tribe designate a tribal organization to which it belongs to apply for the grant for them, or do they just need a letter designating that the tribal organization - I'm sorry, I'm trying to word this correctly as I read it. Do they just need a letter designating that the tribal organization is an eligible entity?

JAY HANNA: I'm not sure I entirely follow that question, but I'll give it a think as an answer. So with your grant application, the tribe can designate the applicant on behalf of the tribe. Maybe that will be a tribal owned utility. That's up to the tribe. If the tribal utility is the applicant and the grant recipient on behalf of that tribe, then it's quite possible they already meet the definition of an eligible entity.

And many tribal utilities, it's like a distribution electric utility, it's quite likely they are a small utility. So they would already meet the definition of an eligible entity and may execute projects themselves potentially with the lower one-third cost match that applies to a small utility.

If the tribe, the tribal government itself is the applicant and then the recipient, on behalf of the tribe and it is not a utility, and it wants to execute the project, it would have to go through the process to be designated an eligible entity. It's quite likely it will not be a small utility because if you do not sell electricity, then you're not going to qualify as a small utility, then you would have the 100 percent cost match on the resilience project that you're implementing. So I hope that answers the question, or if somebody else, Emily, Cory or Dave?

EMILY BARRETT: I potentially heard a slightly different question. So in case my interpretation was correct, I will also throw out an answer. And if we all throw out answers, maybe we'll get the right one. So I think the

other potential way of that question was, framed out, was can a tribe have somebody else or an organization actually submit an application on behalf of the tribe. And the answer is yes.

So if another organization were going to support the tribe and submit the application, that would be fine. They could even provide the technical assistance portion of funding and get supported through those technical assistance dollars. What isn't possible is another organization outside of the tribe could not receive the funding on behalf of the tribe. So ultimately the tribe itself will need to be the organization that receives the funding and takes ownership of the grant once it's awarded.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. I like that you both had different takes on it. So hopefully one of those will answer Cindy's question. So Cory, this is for you. What happens to the money that tribes don't apply for? Is it reallocated?

CORY FELDER: So tribes that don't apply for these first two years of funding with applications due March 31st, the

remaining funds, unapplied for funds, will be redistributed across the tribes in the third year of the program. So what it means for any particular tribe is that if you don't apply this year, you won't have an opportunity to recoup the full amount for years one and two. Rather, you'll end up probably getting a portion of that amount in the third year because it'll be redistributed across all of the tribes.

WHITNEY BELL: Thank you. We also have another matching question. This is for you, Cory. Does a tribe need to provide the 15 percent match in addition to that of the sub-grantee match?

CORY FELDER: I believe the answer, if I understand the question correctly, is yes. There's a few scenarios that you can imagine here though, let me see if I can help explain. The first, and maybe the most direct answer to the question is that for say, \$100,000 dollar award, the tribe would be responsible for matching 15 percent of that \$100,000 dollars, so \$15,000 dollars. And then the sub-grantee would be responsible, a large sub-grantee, for instance, for matching an additional 100 percent of the award.

So if the sub-award is \$100,000 dollars, then that's an additional \$100,000 dollars. So \$100,000 dollars from the sub-grantee and \$15,000 dollars from the tribe would be both components of the cost match. I believe we said earlier there is nothing precluding the sub-grantee from providing the cost match on behalf of the tribe. So we've heard discussions of, say, an investor in a utility that, or even tribes including in their program narrative or criteria or states for that matter around how they're going to link projects in terms of the amount of cost match provided.

So what you could have is that a utility, the sub-grantee, says I will provide the 15 percent cost match on behalf of the tribe. So they are providing both that 100 percent cost match that they're responsible for, plus the tribe's cost match. That would need to be worked out with that sub-grantee themselves, whether they would be willing to do that. But those are two scenarios for how the cost match might work.

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WHITNEY BELL: Great, thank you. So we are coming up on our time. Do you all have any closing remarks that you would like to give before I wrap everything up for everyone?

EMILY BARRETT: I will just very quickly say a question that I sometimes get that I didn't hear, but will clarify just in case somebody happens to have it, is sometimes tribes will ask whether the projects need to be on trust land, and the answer is no. The projects do not need to be located on trust land. As long as they, the tribe has discretion to determine what projects will provide benefit to the tribe, and that can be on or off tribal land.

WHITNEY BELL: Okay, any other closing remarks here, any questions you may want to answer that we didn't get to?

DAVID PARSONS: I'll just emphasize again, thanks Whitney, I'll just emphasize again that we really encourage all the tribes to get their applications in and at least secure the funding, and then we can work with tribes to help identify projects or work through the process to make the investments later. So it's really important to get your applications in.

And also, just to say again that we're here to help and we're here to assist. And so if you have questions, or if there's anything else that comes up, please reach out to us. We have our contact information and we'd be happy to meet with you to discuss your situation or to help you in any way that we can. But other than that, we really appreciate everybody's time and participation and thank you to Cory and Emily and Jay for helping to field all the questions, and to everyone for joining us today.

WHITNEY BELL: I'd like to echo that. Thank you, David, and thank you to all of you. That was a great Q&A session. Thank you for coming attendees with all of your questions ready. I did want to answer one of the more popular questions. A copy of today's slides will be available on the website. We are going to put that link here in the chat momentarily. The recording will be available in about two weeks as well, and we will send you a note when it's ready.

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Again, David, Cory, Jay, Emily, thank you so much for your time today and thank you to everyone for participating. I know this is a long time, and we really appreciate it. Take care, everyone, and we will see you next time.

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