



Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF)

Webinar – Request for Information (RFI)
March 23, 2023



Webinar Notice

- ▶ None of the information presented herein is legally binding.
- ▶ The content included in this presentation is intended for informational purposes only relating to the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF) Request For Information (RFI)
- ▶ Any content within this presentation that appears discrepant from the RFI language is superseded by the RFI language.
- ▶ All applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read the RFI guidelines and adhere to them.
- ▶ The purpose of this webinar is to provide an overview of the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund and highlight the RFI submission process.





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Grid Deployment Office

Mission Statement: The Grid Deployment Office (GDO) works to provide electricity to everyone, everywhere by maintaining and investing in critical generation facilities to ensure resource adequacy and improving and expanding transmission and distribution systems to ensure all communities have access to reliable, affordable electricity.

Generation Credits Division

The Generation Credits Division works with existing generation facilities to ensure resilience and reliability, and works to improve electricity markets at the wholesale and distribution levels.

Transmission Division

The Transmission Division supports innovative efforts in transmission reliability and clean energy analysis and programs, and energy infrastructure and risk analysis in support of the Administration's priorities to enhance grid resilience.

Grid Modernization Division

The Grid Modernization Division oversees activities that prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid.



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in Puerto Rico

- ▶ Since the 2017 hurricanes, DOE and six of its national laboratories have provided expert technical support on grid recovery efforts to both Federal and Puerto Rico agencies.
- ▶ Last year, DOE and FEMA launched the **PR100 study** to generate community-driven pathways to meet Puerto Rico's target of 100% renewable electricity by 2050 and improve energy resilience.
- ▶ After Hurricane Fiona, President Biden tasked DOE Secretary Jennifer Granholm with forming the **Puerto Rico Grid Recovery and Modernization Team** to work across Federal agencies to support rapid infrastructure deployment and expedite the island's recovery.



For more information on DOE's activities in Puerto Rico:
<https://www.energy.gov/gdo/puerto-rico-grid-recovery-and-modernization>



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Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF)

Background

- ▶ In December 2022, Congress approved \$1 billion for the U.S. DOE to improve the resilience of the Puerto Rican electric grid, with a focus on the island's most vulnerable and disadvantaged households and communities.
 - Target beneficiaries are low- and moderate-income households and households that include individuals with disabilities.
 - The DOE shall coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development on these activities, including the ongoing implementation of similar programs (e.g., HUD CDBG DR/MIT).
 - The funding is to remain available until expended.



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Competitive Solicitations

- ▶ DOE expects to release one or more competitive solicitations in the areas of technology deployment and community engagement, education, and workforce development.
- ▶ DOE plans to focus on two types of deployment:
 - **Residential (single family) homes:** DOE is pursuing an accelerated solicitation for investment in residential rooftop solar and storage.
 - **Community resilience (Critical services & multi-family housing):** DOE is considering investments for low-income multi-family buildings and critical services in low-income areas. Technological solutions could include community solar, grid-scale storage, microgrids, and others.



Request for Information (RFI)

Key Areas for Stakeholder Feedback

▶ On February 21, DOE published a RFI to inform the implementation strategy for the PR-ERF, including feedback across following areas:

- Technology & Engineering
- Beneficiary & Community Considerations
- Financial Assistance
- Technical Assistance, Capacity Building, and Workforce Development
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Auditing

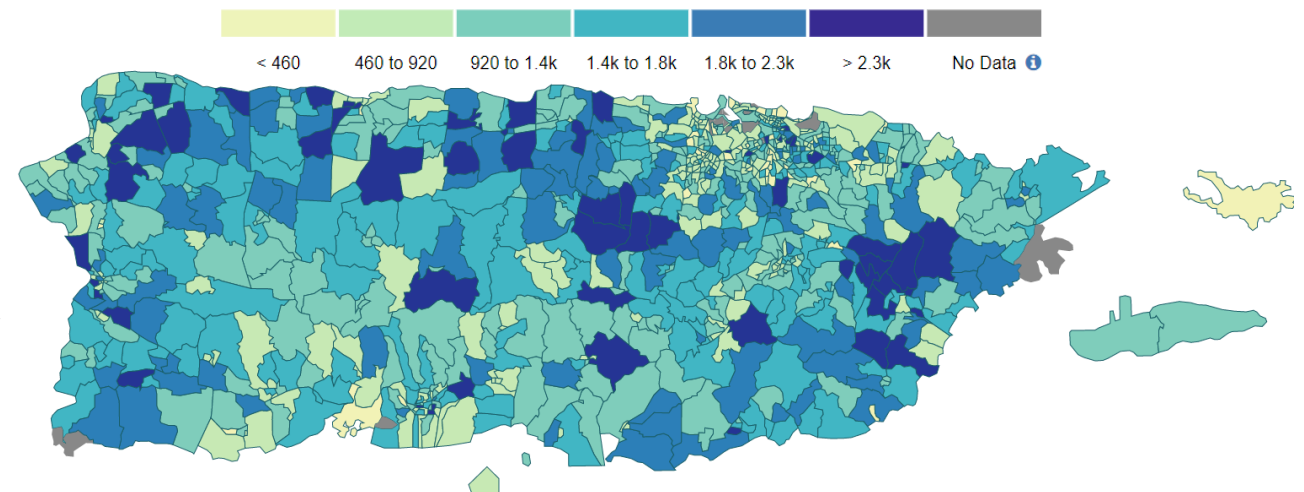
Source: DOE Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool
<https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/lead-tool>

Puerto Rican Household Classification by Income

Household Classification	% of Area Median Income	Median Income (All of PR = \$21,900)	Housing Counts
Very low income	0-30%	0-6,500	236,000
Low Income	30-50%	6,500-11,000	198,000
Moderate Income	50-80%	11,000-17,500	126,000
Middle Income	80-120%	17,500-26,200	645,000
High Income	>120%	>26,200	

560k

Very Low-Income Housing Counts by Census Tract



Request for Information (RFI)

Sample Questions

- ▶ What challenges should DOE consider regarding rooftop solar and storage deployment (e.g., system size, system cost, average household load, average household critical load, household repairs, storage requirements, etc.)?
- ▶ How should DOE prioritize possible beneficiaries? Are there existing criteria, screening tools, databases, or definitions that DOE should incorporate in program design?
- ▶ What are the major non-technological barriers to rooftop solar and storage ownership (i.e., property titles, roof material, roof repair, education gap, hesitation to sign long-term agreements, locating target beneficiaries, etc.)?
- ▶ What applicable models exist to award financial or technical assistance to nonprofits and community organizations to develop a pipeline of community-led energy resilience projects?
- ▶ What existing workforce education and training efforts are preparing workers for this industry? How can those efforts be best supported or augmented under this Fund?



RFI Response Submission

When does the Request for Information (RFI) comment period open and close?

- ▶ The RFI opened on February 21, 2023, and closes on April 21, 2023, at 5:00pm Eastern Time.

How do I submit my responses to the RFI?

- ▶ Responses to this RFI can be submitted electronically as a Microsoft Word (.docx) attachment to PuertoRicoGDO@hq.doe.gov.
- ▶ Responses can also be mailed to

*Grid Deployment Office
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585*

Is there a page limit?

- ▶ The page limit for responses is 20 pages in length.

Can I submit responses in English or Spanish?

- ▶ You can submit responses in either English or Spanish.



RFI Response Submission

Will my answers be posted online?

- ▶ DOE will not publish the information collected in response to this RFI.

What if I want to add information to my response that doesn't directly address a question?

- ▶ You may add additional information, as long as it is within the maximum page limit.

Do I need to submit answers to all the questions?

- ▶ You do not need to submit answers to all the questions. You may pick and choose according to where your responses can inform DOE's program design efforts.

Can I submit anonymous answers?

- ▶ Respondents are to provide the following information at the start of their response:
 - Company / institution name
 - Company / institution contact
 - Contact's address, phone number, and email address



RFI Response Submission

Can I share business confidential or proprietary information my response?

- ▶ Responses received under this RFI are subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.
- ▶ Respondents are strongly advised to NOT include any information in their responses that might be considered business sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential.
- ▶ If, however, a respondent chooses to submit business sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, it must be clearly and conspicuously marked as such in the response.

Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data

Pages [List Applicable Pages] of this response may contain confidential, proprietary, or privileged information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for the purposes described in this RFI. The Government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source.



RFI Next Steps

After the RFI comment period closes:

- ▶ DOE will review and consider all responses in its formulation of program strategies, and may contact individual respondents to ask for additional information or clarification on their responses.
- ▶ DOE then expects to release one or more competitive solicitations in the areas of technology deployment and community engagement, education, and workforce development. DOE aims to release the first competitive solicitation in Summer 2023.
- ▶ DOE is analyzing RFI responses on a rolling basis. **The earlier you submit responses, the better!**

RFI responses must be received by 5:00 p.m. ET on April 21, 2023 by emailing PuertoRicoGDO@hq.doe.gov.



Resources

- ▶ Request for Information ([link](#))
- ▶ Request for Information Frequently Asked Questions ([link](#))
- ▶ PR-ERF Fact Sheet ([link](#))
- ▶ DOE Puerto Rico Grid Recovery and Modernization Team ([link](#))
- ▶ PR100 Study ([link](#))



▶ **Thank You**

