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WHITNEY BELL: Hello, everyone, and welcome to the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program, also known as the GRIP program, second round funding webinar. I'm Whitney Bell with ICF, and I'll be your host today.

First, I have a few housekeeping items for today's webinar. This Webex 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 a video connection, you are presumed consent to recording and use of your voice or image.

All participants that have entered are in listen-only mode. If you have any technical issues or questions throughout today's webinar, you may type them in the chat box and select Send to Host, and we'll be able to help you troubleshoot individually. If you need to view the live captioning, please refer to the link that will appear in the chat now.

Now I do have a brief notice for today's webinar. None of the information presented herein is legally binding. The content included in this presentation is intended for informational purposes only relating to the funding opportunity announcement DE-FOA-0003195. Any content within this presentation that appears discrepant from the FOA language is superseded by the FOA language.

And finally, we will post a recording of today's presentation and a copy of the PowerPoint on the GRIP second round funding webinar web page in about two weeks. We will alert you via email when those materials are available online, and the link to that webpage is in the chat now. You want to just go ahead and bookmark that for the future.

But with all the housekeeping out of the way, let's go ahead and get started today. I'd like to welcome members of GDO's GRIP program team to join us for their presentation on the GRIP selection. Today we'll hear from Colin Meehan-- he's a project manager of the GRIP program; Anne Egger-- she's a project manager for Grid Resilience; Kristen Frick, project manager for Grid Innovation; Isabel Sepulveda-- she's a project manager for Smart Grid grants; and KC Fussell, metrics and analyst lead.

So Colin, I'm going to go ahead and turn this over to you to get us started today.

COLIN MEEHAN: Thank you, Whitney. And thank you all for joining our webinar today. It has certainly been a busy month over here at the GRIP program we were incredibly excited to announce our first selections from the first funding cycle of the GRIP program, and we're equally excited today to talk with you all about our recently released second FOA, second funding opportunity announcement.

For today, we have a lot of material to get through. We want to introduce you to the FOA itself and walk you through a lot of the different details, with a focus on elements that have changed in some way or another from the first funding cycle. So in part because of that, and also just to make sure that we're being as transparent as possible, we're not going to be having a Q&A section. We're not going to be having a Q&A section for this webinar. We do strongly encourage anyone with questions to send them to the email address that is on this slide. All of those questions will be posted on the Exchange website under this FOA's landing page.

So our goal here is going to be to respond to your questions as quickly as possible and to be as transparent and accessible as possible in doing so. That's a high bar that the GDO and the Department of Energy holds us to, and we certainly aim to meet that.

To start with, want to step into a program overview. The topic areas are still the same topic areas that you're familiar with. Those are statutorily set. So we still have Topic Areas 1, 2, and 3 respectively-- the Grid Resilience grants, the Smart Grid grants, and the Grid Innovation programs. They are going to be released as one funding opportunity. As you're hopefully familiar with, and certainly as the FOA outlines, each of them provides different opportunities for various applicants. So each topic area has different types of eligibility, and we'll be speaking to that later in the discussion today.

I do want to spend a little time walking you through the goals for the GRIP program. We have reformatted those a little bit. And really, our goal here is to emphasize for you all that these three goals are equally important, and that they're critically important for our program.

So first we have transforming the electric grid at the transmission and distribution levels, and in doing so, increasing the resilience of the grid in the face of extreme disruptions. Transformational change is central to the GRIP program. We view that as a goal for each of the topic areas.

Our second goal-- and again, these are not in order of priority. They're all equally important and critical to this program. Our second goal is to prioritize energy justice as an essential component of infrastructure development by dramatically altering the relationship between energy providers and their communities. I want to spend a little bit of time on that one. That relates to Community Benefits Plans, and in general meeting the administration's Justice40 goals, which we'll talk about later in this presentation. We wanted to put a little more language in there around this goal, in particular around the idea of altering the relationship between energy providers and their communities in a dramatic and notable way. We think it's really important for everyone who's looking to deploy new resources to recognize a need to engage with their communities and with communities that they maybe haven't engaged with as much historically. So this is a really critical goal for us.

And the third critical goal is to catalyze and leverage private sector and non-federal public capital to make sure that we're going to have an impactful technology and infrastructure deployment. And what we mean by that is really to make sure that the projects that we're selecting are leading to a multiplier effect, or some might call it a knock-on effect. We recognize that this is a tremendous amount of federal funding that's available to the grid, but I think we also all know that it's a drop in the bucket compared to what we know is needed. And we certainly saw that in the first cycle with applications and funding requests that significantly exceeded the ultimate selections we were able to make. So recognizing that need and that urgency, we wanted to release this funding opportunity and get this train moving as quickly as we could. We heard a lot of feedback from you all, and we are listening to that feedback. We want you to continue to reach out to us, and through that email address from the earlier slide to give us any other feedback that you may have. We did want to give you more time to complete the concept papers in this cycle. So we are asking for concept papers for all three topic areas to be due by January 12. I will strongly urge-- and we'll talk about this again more in subsequent slides-- strongly urge applicants to download the concept paper form early and provide us-- upload it for their final concept paper submission early as well to avoid having any issues on that final day, because that's when things really tend to get down to the wire, and we don't want anyone missing eligibility just because of that deadline.

So I want to spend a little bit of time talking about the updates to the FOA that are going to directly affect the applicants. This presentation is largely focused on applicants and others involved in the stakeholder

process in applying for these programs. And as I said, we really heard all of the concerns from the stakeholder community around the complexity and the challenges of the process, and we're doing everything that we can to reduce the burden on the application process. And in particular, we focused on streamlining the concept paper process.

So now what we have is a form-based PDF document that reduces the overall kind of page requirements or limits to give applicants an easier process and really to encourage you to focus on the very specific questions that we're asking in our form and providing us with the heart of the response to those questions, as opposed to maybe additional language or stuff that's less directly relevant to the concept. Because ultimately what we're trying to look at is the underlying concept that you're proposing to give you some feedback and guidance as an applicant. And we'll talk more about that when we get to the concept paper discussion.

We also want to create opportunities for a variety of applicants. We're really encouraging with this cycle vendor-driven or consortia-based applications. We saw some of those in the first cycle. and we think that they have a unique opportunity to push the technology forward, to shift the focus from single-service, territory-driven applications to applications that cover a larger geographic as well as a larger demographic landscape. So we're encouraging those kinds of applications going forward, and we would love to see more of that.

We're also continuing to support small utilities and technology vendors to apply for larger projects across multiple service territories. That's really the heart of this, what we're doing. We would like to see more of those. We make that language very clear in the FOA, and continue to encourage those applications. As I said, we did see a few of those, and you see them in the selections from the first cycle, some of those. So we continue to want to see those.

Fundamentally, what we're trying to do is provide you all-- all of the applicants, I should say-- with the most transparent guidance that we can. And one of the things that we learned in the first cycle from a lot of the applications that we saw is a need to use some really direct language to highlight some of the critical elements that we've seen in successful applications in the first cycle. So encourage you all to take a look at that section in this FOA. We think that will highlight for you both structurally and in terms of content what some of the elements that really help to make applications shine were. And so our goal there is to just help anyone who's interested in applying put their best foot forward.

We also revised the technical review criteria. And in particular, in the first FOA, you may recall we had separate technical review criteria for each of the topic areas. In this FOA, what we've done is combine the technical review criteria into a single document and indicated where any of the review criteria is slightly different for one particular topic area versus another. So our hope there is to really frankly shorten the document, make it a little more simple. We heard from a lot of applicants concerns about making sure that they were following the correct technical review criteria for the correct topic area, and we're trying to make that as clear and direct as possible.

We are highlighting priority areas of investment that are somewhat different from the first funding cycle, and that's a really important change that you will need to pay attention to. And we'll have our project manager leads speaking to that in this discussion in a little while today. But that's going to be a really critical area.

In the first round of the GRIP funding program, we got a lot of excellent applications in a wide variety of deployments and technologies, and we're taking that information. And what we've done is to use that information, use that feedback from those applications, to design the topic areas and the priority areas of

investments to reflect a combination of some new areas where we'd like to encourage the industry to focus for this funding cycle as well as further emphasizing some areas where we saw some success in the first round and want to continue to move that part of the industry forward.

Finally, I do want to mention, consistent with the FOA, we may be coordinating pre-selection interviews with one or more applicants. And that is to allow applicants to provide clarification on the contents of their full application and provide the Department of Energy an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed project. That's going to be an important part of this cycle, and we've made some adjustments to the timing to help accommodate that. Particularly as it relates to more complex and potentially higher-dollar applications, we may see a need for that just to make sure that we have the opportunity to answer any questions regarding the contents of their application.

So in addition to the priority areas of investment that I just spoke to, which are-- each individual topic area is going to have a subset of priority areas of investment, we've also in this FOA-- and this is a new thing that you'll see-- we've highlighted priority areas of investment that cover the entire program. So these apply to all three of the topic areas.

And I want to walk through these briefly for all of you to really highlight what we're looking for in this funding cycle. I've already talked about the value we see in projects that cover multiple utility service territories, and that's because they have the ability to share utility-best practices in a more cohesive way. That can be, again, from vendor-driven applications or applications that are coming from a consortia of utilities or other potential applicants. But that's something that we really do encourage, and that's a priority area of investment for us in this cycle.

We're also looking for projects that address substation hardening, and that includes-- In doing so, in performing the substation hardening, we want to make sure that those projects include automation and digitization of substation-- sorry, that's a hard one to get out-- as well as coordinating those changes with upgrades that will further enable distributed energy resource integration and electrification readiness. So really, what we want to focus on there are projects that are not just hardening substations against extreme weather. That's a very important step, and we recognize that. We want to make sure that applicants in this particular area are going beyond that part of the hardening to make sure that they're really future-proofing the substation and getting us to the kinds of automization and digitization that we know we need as we get ready for continued energy transition.

I should also note in these priority areas of investment, these are not ordered in any particular rank. They are all equal areas of interest and areas of priority.

The next one that I'll talk about are projects that "propose to construct new transmission infrastructure that's going to be resolving a specific identified contingency condition that an applicant has been unable to resolve using standard investment and planning approaches." This is really important, that last part of the sentence, because one of the things that is incredibly helpful for us as we've been reviewing applications in the first cycle is an explanation of what the problem is that is being solved and how the GRIP funding can play a unique role in solving that problem. So the more that an applicant can specify what this new transmission infrastructure is resolving and why they've been unable to resolve it through traditional means, that is very helpful for us in the review process.

We're also looking for projects that significantly increase the transmission of existing rights of way. And they can do that using advanced conductors if they're re-conductoring, grid-enhancing technologies, or high-voltage direct current. We see that as a particularly interesting application of the GRIP program.

Existing rights of way obviously have a number of benefits if they can be utilized, and we think that those can come quicker to market, and that's something that we want to seek opportunities to encourage. The next subset of priorities of areas of investments are projects that will deploy solutions increasing interconnection-- sorry, increasing the speed with which a service territory can process interconnection applications. Ultimately, we're looking for solutions to reduce the problem with interconnection queue backlogs across multiple service territories. So we know those problems may be unique to each service territory, but what we really want to see are proposals that will address those interconnection queue problems, whether it's in a single-service territory or more broadly. That's an issue that we continue to see, and we continue to look for solutions to help us resolve that, or where we can really help applicants resolve that.

Projects that have a significant impact on the transmission system. So this is language that you'll see again as we get into the specific topic areas. But that includes projects that leverage advanced transmission technologies-- like advanced conductors that I discussed earlier, or grid-enhancing technologies-- and that reduce or remove existing barriers and demonstrate enhanced operational flexibility or capacity and enhance reliability.

We're also looking for projects that implement novel and replicable approaches to reducing energy burden and increasing resilience for disadvantaged communities, especially projects that increase access to cheaper generation resources and reduce the impact of infrastructure costs on those disadvantaged communities. This is a priority area of investment with us, along with finally projects that in combination with these priority areas of investments will foster the growth of a highly skilled power sector workforce and minimize workforce constraints associated with power sector innovation. We know that's a continued constraint within the power sector. We want to do what we can with the GRIP funding to help resolve that, and we're looking for your help in doing so.

All right. So now that we've talked about priority areas of investment, I want to talk a little bit about the funding. You will see some differences here, and I want to highlight first that you see these exceptions. Each of the project management leads will be talking about within the topic areas how those exceptions are designed. But generally speaking, we're using those exceptions to highlight some specific areas of interest for us.

So I'll just walk through this really briefly, but we also now have some minimum award sizes. Based on the applications that we got in the first funding cycle, we think these minimum award sizes for Topic Areas 1 and 2 are very reasonable and will still allow for a tremendous amount of applications and a very competitive portfolio or applicant pool.

For Topic Area 1, that limit is for small utilities. For larger utilities, or really I should say for all other eligible applicants, the minimum award size is $50 million. For Topic Area 2, we have that $10 million award size. And then we've got these maximum award sizes where we have those exceptions that I was speaking to. So the maximum award size hasn't changed. What has really changed by the topic areas are these exceptions. We saw an exception in Topic Area 3 in the first FOA, and that's still structured fairly similarly. But what we've done is introduced those into Topic Area 2 and Topic Area 1 as well. And again, the project managers will speak to those when we get to that part of the discussion.

For the approximate funding, we are again pulling in two fiscal years of funding for this cycle. We know the appetite is there for the industry. We saw this in the first round of applications. And what we want to do, because this is such critical infrastructure, we want to get these projects moving forward as quickly as we can. So we're doing everything we can to do that.

In terms of the submission and timing schedule, I want to spend a moment on this, because there actually is a typo that we're in the process of addressing within the FOA. We did have a slight shift in the schedule here, and what you see here is the correct schedule. The FOA will be amended ideally hopefully by the end of this week to reflect the correct schedule. It has two different schedules. One of them is incorrect within the FOA.

But fundamentally, we're looking for those concept papers due in mid-January. And for Topic Areas 1 and 3, we are-- the deadline for full applications is April 17. For Topic Area 2, the deadline is May 22. And we're making that change in this funding cycle for a variety of reasons. Part of this is the review process, to facilitate more efficient and effective reviews, but also to accommodate the potential for interviews from applicants. And we see those potentially across the topic areas. But in particular as we talk about more complex and larger projects, larger proposals, we think there's more likelihood of that.

Want to talk about the concept paper now. We have made changes to the concept paper. In the prior cycle, we asked applicants to draft a-- I believe it was a 12-page concept paper with a variety of key elements within the concept paper. But this cycle looks pretty different. What we're doing instead is we're using a PDF form that you will upload-- that you will download, I should say, from the Exchange website, where the FOA is, and then fill out and upload it back to the Exchange website. In order for the concept paper to be compliant, that is what you need to do. You need to download it, fill it out, and upload it back to the Exchange website.

The goal here is to provide you with a much simpler and ideally lower lift set of questions for you to respond to, for applicants to respond to directly and to respond to concisely, so that there isn't a feel or a need to develop additional language or additional analysis. We're looking for fundamental concepts about what is the technology or the application that you want to seek GRIP funding for, how you plan to engage with the impacted communities to make sure that we're addressing disadvantaged communities and Justice40 communities in doing so. And the idea here is to make the process simpler and to reduce the overall burden on potential applicants for the concept paper stage.

Move on to the next one that walks through the content and form of the concept paper. We're looking for a project overview, details, project impacts, Community Benefits Plan. This is really fairly similar in the structure to the first concept paper, the first funding cycle concept paper. The primary difference is we're asking you to fill out a form this time. And as a result of that, we're compressing the amount of information that you need to provide, again, in an effort to reduce the burden of potential applicants.

The form is uploaded currently on the Exchange or available on the Exchange website for anyone who is interested in applying, and you can see in a more detailed manner what the entry forms are. I think that you'll see that it generally maps from the prior FOA with a little more detail that we're asking for from applicants within their concept paper to try and provide us estimates of impact, whether it's impact to communities or impact to the service territory, and that can be in any quantifiable or measurable manner. Those kinds of impacts and estimates, we recognize that that's what they are, that they're just estimates, and that as you develop a full application, those estimates are likely to change. But they are very helpful in evaluating the concept paper and understanding the scope and scale of the ambition as well as the likely impact. So those are some really important different elements within the concept paper that we're going to be asking for.

And again, I'll just emphasize we have the Community Benefits Plan section contained within the form. It still includes the four key points of the Community Benefits Plan that were requested in the prior submission as well. So a focus on community and labor engagement, and how that's going to lead to

negotiated agreements. Focus on investing in job quality and workforce continuity, and advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and contributing to the Justice40 initiative. Those are the key areas of the Community Benefits Plan within the concept paper that we would like you to focus on.

So now I want to hand it over to my colleague KC, who is our lead for metrics here, to talk a little bit more about specifically the Community Benefits Plan.

KC FUSSELL: Thanks, Colin, and hello, everyone. As many of you are likely already aware, to support the goal of building a clean and equitable energy economy, bill-funded projects are expected to include Community Benefits Plans, or CBPs, that involve the support of the four core elements listed on the slide that Colin just mentioned, the previous slide. Even at the concept paper stage of the application process, applicants should look to describe as explicitly as possible their approach to each of the four CBP elements and the CBP elements' objectives, which are detailed explicitly in the FOA.

But within the first element, applicants can expect to describe their approach to community and labor engagement and demonstrate how the CBP will address opportunities for feedback and respond to that feedback, not just at one stage, but throughout project deployment. Under Investing in Job Quality and Workforce Continuity, sometimes referred to as "quality jobs," applicants should explain how their project will generate quality jobs, and that workforce development opportunities provided are relevant to the impacted communities. In addition, applicants should detail the expected number of jobs as closely as you can or workforce development opportunities that the project will create, describing whether these positions are the result of community engagement or agreement.

Third element. Applicants should include and note which Community Benefit Plan elements will support DEIA-- diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility-- while being sure to highlight methods that ensure accountability to specific goals throughout the project.

Lastly, applicants should identify how this project will contribute to the Justice40 initiative, the goal that 40% of overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities. We're looking for applicants to identify not only which project elements will reach disadvantaged communities, but to what degree those benefits will reach and really impact communities that have been historically left behind.

With that, I'll pass your attention forward to GRIP's project managers, who will be walking us through GRIP's topic areas. First with Anne Egger, who leads our Grid Resilience Grants program. Anne?

ANNE EGGER: Yes. Thank you, KC. Colin, if you want to go to the next two slides.

So Topic Area 1, also known as Grid Resilience Grants, or 40101(c), supports activities that reduce likelihood of the impacts to electric grid due to extreme weather or natural disasters. As shown on previous slides, the award maximum is capped at $100 million or an amount an entity has spent over the last three years in resilience investments. But there will be two exceptions for this round of funding. So projects that construct new transmission infrastructure-- we'll talk about this more on the next slide-- and projects that aggregate multiple utility service territories, these projects will be capped at $250 million this cycle.

As Colin, mentioned there's a small utility set aside for this topic area of 30% of the total funding. And as for the cost share, an eligible entity is required to match 100% of the amount of the federal grant. There is an exception for small utilities where they are required to match 1/3 of the federal grant amount. There's a great table in the FOA that shows how to calculate this if needed.

Also shown on this slide is a list of eligible entities. This is not changed from the last funding cycle. Next slide.

Areas of interest for Topic Area 1. One of the new areas of interest is improvement of system adaptivity. This includes the use of smart reclosers and similar technologies, for example FLISR, and also substation projects with automation. Another area of interest this cycle are projects that cover multiple utility service territories and will evolve and share utility best practices. This is an area such as vegetation management, undergrounding, or pole and equipment replacement for system hardening, also with reconductoring and incorporating upgrades to the electrical system.

So what is new this funding cycle for Topic Area 1-- this is kind of a big one-- is the ability to construct new transmission. New transmission will only be allowed for projects that loop a radial line or solve a contingency issue. No other types of transmission will be funded in this topic area. And there are three more areas that are not eligible for funding under Topic Area 1, to include new electric generation facilities-- for example, PV systems-- new large-scale batteries that are not used for enhancing system capabilities during disruptive events, and cybersecurity.

As a reminder, this is not an all-inclusive list. This is a full list of areas of interest. So now I'll turn it over to my colleague Isabel to cover Topic Area 2.

ISABEL SEPULVEDA: Thank you, Anne. So Topic Area 2 are the Smart Grid grants, or BIL-40107. The Smart Grid grants support technology solutions that increase the flexibility, efficiency, and reliability of the electric power system with a particular focus on advanced technologies and data-enabled system capabilities.

The award amounts for this, for the Smart Grid grants, have changed a little bit from the first round of funding, so I wanted to highlight that we now have a floor of $10 million for the smallest amount sized grant. And we have two exceptions-- an exception of $100 million grant for projects that aggregate multiple utility service territories, and a $250 million grant for projects that deploy advanced conductors for transmission line capacity improvements at scale. The cost share remains the same at 50% of total project costs.

The eligible entities for the Smart Grid grants are the most expansive among the three topic areas. So that includes for-profit entities, both utilities and technology or hardware vendors; non-profits and not-for-profits; state and local governments; tribal nations; and institutions of higher education. So we highly encourage a variety of different applicants to apply, and we look forward to seeing those.

Colin, if you could go to the next slide. Thank you.

So for the technical approaches of interest, you'll notice that these follow very closely to the overall GRIP technical approaches of interest and priority investment areas that Colin highlighted at the beginning of the presentation. In the first round of funding for Smart Grid, we saw a large number of projects for the distribution system, and in this round of funding, we really want to encourage projects on the transmission system as well. So those are focused on projects that significantly increase transfer capacity within existing rights of way through advanced conductors or high-voltage direct current, as Colin mentioned previously. And we are also very much looking for projects that foster coordination between multiple grid operators. Lastly, we're looking for grid-enhancing technologies, and we define that as dynamic line rating, advanced power flow control, congestion management, and network topology optimization.

The second area we are looking at is the strategic use of data for grid operations and planning, and specifically, deriving actionable insights from that grid data. So now that you have the data, that you're collecting it, what will you do with it? And that's what we're looking for, real specific plans for the utilization of that data within operations.

Third, we have facilitating the processing of interconnection applications to minimize queue-related delays for clean energy. And we are looking at this both on the transmission and distribution levels. Lastly, I'll highlight again substation level innovation, particularly that promotes system efficiency and agility given the increasing penetration of intermittent generating resources and DERs. So how do we operate in an increasingly heavy DER world? Those are all areas that we are looking at within the second round of funding.

And with that, I will turn it over to my colleague Kristen Frick.

KRISTEN FRICK: Thank you, Isabel. So I'm here to talk about Topic Area 3, the Grid Innovation Program. We haven't obviously changed the statutory requirements, so the eligible entities continue to be a state, a combination of states, an Indian tribe, local government, or a public utility commission.

The program is supporting activities that facilitate coordination and collaboration with electric sector owners, really focusing on all sectors, including the transmission, distribution, and storage infrastructure systems. We're looking at projects that have the potential to enhance resilience and reliability and really lean into the innovation side by demonstrating new approaches, specifically ones that can enhance regional resilience.

Lots of hard consonants. OK. So as Colin alluded to earlier, the award sum, the maximum anticipated amount is $250 million. We have retained the exception that was in the first round of GRIP funding. So projects that deploy significant transmission investments can be capped at $1 billion dollars instead, and the cost share requirements remain the same.

If you have any further questions about this, please review that section in the FOA for cost-sharing requirements. OK. Next slide.

Technical approaches of interest. We have only really added one. We have continued to highlight a few that based on the first round of funding we want to highlight as priority investments. So innovative projects in transmission. We will continue to prioritize transmission across all of the topic areas, and especially the Grid Innovation Program, where there's potential to have inter-regional impacts in multiple service territories.

But just as critical as transmission is distribution system. And we have highlighted some examples here where technical approaches that address increased electrification and increasing distributed energy resource penetration, or DERs, projects that can have an impact on how the electrification of industrial, commercial, and other building energy needs, black start capability system and controls, and grid services from these DERs, including demand response and other grid-forming inverter-based systems.

Related, we also want to highlight behind the meter asset operations with aggregation and coordination to provide a wide variety of DER resources, again, thinking about where they could provide grid services. And we would be remiss to not mention storage. We're still looking for and interested in innovative approaches to the deployment of storage that supports specific resilience goals and that can enhance the renewable energy penetration on the grid.

These are only a highlight, though, of what we've called out. And I would encourage you to review the section for further priority investment information. And with that, I hand it back to Colin.

COLIN MEEHAN: Thanks, Kristen, and thanks, everyone on the team. As I'm sure you all know, our team has put in just endless hours and just tireless work over the last year to make this program the success that it is and make the second funding round equally exciting. So really grateful for the work that everyone's put in, and especially grateful for all of you, our stakeholder community, for your applications in the first funding cycle. We encourage you all to apply again.

I do just want to take a moment for a couple of quick notes. And just to elaborate on that, we encourage you to apply again if your project was not selected. I want to be really specific and explicit and say that you are welcome to apply again. You should have received strengths and weaknesses from your GRIP 1 application. That's a document that shows you what reviewers thought were stronger or weaker in your application.

Regardless of that, we welcome you to apply again with the same project or a different project. And I just want to make that crystal clear. Projects that were not selected were often, in almost all cases, really done so because of the highly competitive nature of this program. And again, because it's so competitive, we're trying to give everyone as clear guidance as we can into all of these applications.

But again, we do welcome your questions. We welcome any questions and feedback. In particular, we are trying to do whatever we can to make lots of different resources available. The team is working on some additional webinars that we plan to have to help you as you go through the concept paper development and full application development process.

I also want to just take the opportunity to mention the DOE has additional resources on the different technologies that we're trying to deploy throughout the GRIP program that might be helpful to potential applicants. In particular, one that comes to mind, we're currently preparing the latest installation in the Pathways to Commercial Liftoff series, which is focused on innovative grid deployment. The Department of Energy will be hosting a webinar in early December, which we would encourage you to check out. There are lots of different resources like that on the Liftoff website, which is at liftoff.energy.gov.

And we are looking for everything that we can do to make this application process as easy as possible for you. So as you think of questions and feedback, please think of things that we can do that will be more helpful to you. And we're going to do our best to be responsive and transparent throughout this process as we were with the first process.

So with that all being said, I just want to thank everyone for your time. We're very excited about this cycle. We have a lot of opportunity to continue to move the grid modernization of the United States forward in a way that has never been done before. So I think that's exciting for everyone involved in this program, including all of you as stakeholders. And we're just looking forward to hearing from you. And with that, I'll hand it back to you, Whitney.

WHITNEY BELL: Great. Thank you so much, Colin, and thank you to the rest of the GRIP team-- Anne, Kristen, Isabel, and KC-- for your presentations today. It was really, really helpful.

So this does wrap up today's webinar. As a reminder, please submit your questions regarding the FOA to FOA3195@netl.doe.gov. The email is available to copy out in the chat now. Also, a copy of today's slides will be available on the webinar's landing page by Friday, and the recording will be available in about two weeks. We will send you an email when it's available. Don't worry. But you can find the link in the chat now for that landing page so you can bookmark it for the future.

And thank you again for attending and joining this webinar today. Take care everyone, and we will see you next time.