

# Renewables Advancing Community Energy Resilience (RACER) PCFO IGAP Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Snapshot

April 27, 2022

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| <u>Agency:</u> Department of Energy  | <u>Bureau:</u> Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy |
| <u>Application Deadline:</u> Concept Paper due 5/26/22 at 5 p.m. ET; Full Application due 7/25/22 at 5 p.m. ET | <u>Max Award:</u> Varies by project topic area                |

## Description

RACER is a funding opportunity for projects that enable communities to utilize solar and solar-plus-storage to prevent disruptions in power caused by extreme weather and other events, and to rapidly restore electricity if it goes down. Projects will foster engagement and ongoing communication among multiple stakeholders and will develop and demonstrate rapid energy restoration technologies based on the community resilience plan in order to increase the durability of photovoltaic (PV) systems.

## Eligible Recipients

1. US citizens and lawful US permanent residents
2. For-profit entities
3. Educational institutions
4. Nonprofits
5. State, local, and tribal government entities
6. DOE/NNSA Federally Funded R&D Centers (FFRDCs)

All institutions listed above are eligible to apply as prime applicants if they are incorporated and have a physical location for operations in the United States.

To facilitate the formation of teams, SETO is providing a forum where interested parties can add themselves to a Teaming Partner List, which allows organizations that may wish to apply to the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), but not as the prime applicant, to express interest to potential partners. The Teaming Partner List can be found on the EERE Exchange. Any organization that would like to be included on this list should submit the following information in Excel format to [SI.FOA.SETO@ee.doe.gov](mailto:SI.FOA.SETO@ee.doe.gov) with the subject line "Teaming Partner Information": organization name, contact name, contact address, contact email, contact phone, organization type, area of technical expertise, brief description of capabilities, and topic area.

## Matching Grant Requirements

- Topic 1: 0% for domestic institutions of higher education, domestic nonprofit entities, FFRDCs, or US state, local, or tribal government entities. 20% for all others.
- Topics 2 & 3: 20% for R&D. 50% for demonstrations.

## Eligible Projects

### **Topic Area 1: Innovative Community-Based Energy Resilience Planning – 6-8 projects, \$500,000-1 million each**

Projects will develop energy resilience planning frameworks at the community level through robust multi-stakeholder participation and collaboration. Projects can include the development and integration of new or existing metrics and preparedness and response plans. Based on the developed energy resilience planning framework, projects will identify locations where PV-plus-storage deployment can best support increased community energy resilience.

### **Topic Area 2: Automation Strategies for Rapid Energy Restoration – 5-6 projects, \$2-3 million each**

Projects will develop and demonstrate sensors and communication technologies that enable rapid identification of available assets to re-energize a power system after an extreme event, including the design and integration of automation procedures that are assisted by distributed solar technologies to enable rapid recovery. Phase one will develop or refine a structured community energy resilience plan, including multi-stakeholder participation and collaboration. Phase two will focus on technology development and demonstration.

### **Topic Area 3: Innovative Solutions to Increase the Resilience and Hardening of PV Power Plants – 2-3 projects, \$1.5-3 million each**

Projects will advance innovative approaches to PV system hardening, utilizing novel sensors, communications strategies, and data analytics to increase generation-side hardware resilience to minimize damage during these events.

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## Tips for Being Competitive

Under all topics of this FOA, teams that include multiple partners are preferred over applications that include a single organization. Teams are encouraged to include representation from diverse entities, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) or Minority Serving Institutions (MSI), or through linkages with Opportunity Zones.

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## Labor Requirements

None specified

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## Agency Contact

SI.FOA.SETO@ee.doe.gov

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## Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions

DOE hosted a webinar on April 27. A recording and presentation slides are available on EERE's listing for the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#).

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## Types of Partners Required

Under Topic Areas 1 and 2, active community-based stakeholders are required as project partners and should play a central role. More details can be found under Topic 1 and Topic 2 description. Teaming arrangements can include multiple stakeholders across academia, community colleges, industry, utilities, national laboratories (as appropriate), community groups and others to provide technical solutions.

Community groups might include but not limited to civic leadership groups, community-based organizations, local non-profits, neighborhood associations, relevant finance and insurance providers, state and local government entities, relevant emergency management coordinators, local utilities and asset owners; local critical infrastructure managers, such as hospital administrators; solar/DER developers and technology providers, among others.

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**Total Allocation**                      \$25 million

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**Link to Grant  
Opportunity**

- [Funding Notice](#)
- [EERE Exchange Grant Application Portal](#)