



ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS (ERA) FISCAL YEAR 2025

OVERVIEW

This Department of Energy-funded opportunity provides support for rural and remote populations in building clean energy projects that benefit their communities.

IMPORTANT DATES:

CONCEPT PAPERS DUE FEBRUARY 27, 2025

FULL APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 28, 2025

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Priority will be given to:

- Disadvantaged communities, as well as energy/coal, low-income, underrepresented, high energy burden, and frontline communities.
- Inclusive teams that include diverse stakeholders, members of the community, and members with experience in project development and managing government funding.
- Projects that demonstrate learnings that are applicable to other rural or remote communities across the nation.

ELIGIBILITY

Communities of 10,000 people or less. Eligible applicants and sub-applicants include Indian Tribes, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, tribal organizations, rural electric cooperatives, farming associations and cooperatives, labor unions, institutions of higher education, incorporated consortia and unincorporated consortia.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Improving overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems
- Siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation in rural or remote areas
- Providing or modernizing electric generation facilities
- Developing microgrids
- Increasing energy efficiency

**TURN OVER TO LEARN ABOUT
THE FOUR FUNDING TOPIC AREAS**

APPLICANTS MUST CHOOSE ONE:

OPEN CATEGORY

Funds many different project types, demonstrating approaches to address one or more relevant adoption barriers – community perception, permitting and siting, and downstream value chain.

- Expected award size per project: **\$10M–\$50M**
- Cost share from applicant: **50%***
- Project Examples: **Installing microgrids, upgrading transmission lines less than 30 miles, and replacing diesel backup generators with green options.**

DUAL USE & CO-LOCATION

Projects in this category provide co-benefits beyond supplying energy and reducing pollution. These projects could address potential conflicts between clean energy and other land and water uses.

- Expected award size per project: **\$10M–\$50M**
- Cost share from applicant: **50%***
- Project examples: **Innovative solar (agrivoltaics), distributed wind for farmers, and community geothermal heating and cooling systems.**

SMALLER-SCALE COMMUNITY-CENTERED

Funds smaller-scale clean energy projects initiated, driven, and/or broadly supported by host community residents.

- Expected award size per project: **\$2M–\$10M**
- Cost share from applicant: **20%***
- Project examples: **Community-owned solar and battery, distributed wind, solar, and battery storage microgrid system.**

ISOLATED MICROGRIDS & UNELECTRIFIED BUILDINGS

Funds clean energy projects for either isolated microgrids or unelectrified homes or community buildings not currently served by an electrical grid.

- Expected award size per project: **\$2M–\$10M**
- Cost share from applicant: **20%***
- Project Examples: **Distributed wind plus battery storage and/or solar plus battery storage microgrids.**

** For all topic areas, Indian Tribes, state and local governments, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit primary applicants are eligible for the lower cost share amount of 20% or 5%.*

[CLICK HERE FOR A DETAILED SUMMARY](#)
[CLICK HERE FOR THE APPLICATION GUIDE](#)
[CLICK HERE FOR THE FUNDING NOTICE](#)

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NEED ASSISTANCE?

Request technical assistance through the Great Lakes Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center:
tinyurl.com/greatlakes-TCTAC

GREAT LAKES TCTAC

The Great Lakes TCTAC prioritizes underserved, disadvantaged, and energy communities disproportionately impacted by climate change, but all are welcome to request support.