



Nevada Governor's Office of Energy

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY Fiscal Year 2021

The Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (GOE) was established in 1975 to ensure the wise development of Nevada's energy resources in harmony with local economic needs and to position Nevada to lead the nation in renewable energy production, energy efficiency, and the exportation of energy. Funding for this announcement will be provided to all eligible applicants for projects located within the State of Nevada. The priorities for this cycle of available funding can be found in Section I.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will help Nevada's tribal nations fund projects that identify solutions to advance energy resiliency, increase clean energy access, offer opportunities for economic development and diversification and greenhouse gas emission reduction on tribal lands.

APPLICATION SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

GOE will be accepting applications for this NOFO on the following schedule and timeline.

EVENT	DATE
NOFO issued	February 9, 2021
Applicant questions on NOFO: Deadline for submission	March 8, 2021 by 5:00pm Pacific Time

EVENT	DATE
GOE responses to applicant questions	March 12, 2021 by 5:00pm Pacific Time and posted at energy.nv.gov
Applications Due	April 5, 2021 by 5:00pm Pacific Time
Award notification(s) (approximately)	April 12, 2021 by 5:00pm Pacific Time
Legislative Approval TBD	Expected Summer 2021

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Section I Funding Information

Program Description

GOE administers energy-related programs under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 701 and 701A, and in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 701 and 701A. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) repurposes ARRA funds previously awarded to GOE. These repurposed ARRA funds will be used to accomplish the initiatives and goals of GOE and the Governor and the intent of the laws of this State pertaining to renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, energy assuredness and carbon reduction.

Priorities

Preferential competitive points will be awarded to projects that align to GOE's mission, Nevada's goals for economic recovery and carbon reduction, advance innovative clean energy technologies, demonstrate community support, can be scaled for statewide applicability and/or serve a public interest (help underserved communities, address a public need, etc.) within the priorities below:

1. Renewable energy production;
2. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure (preference is given to DCFC projects);
3. Energy efficiency;
4. Energy storage (preference is given to projects that couple storage with renewable energy); and/or
5. Energy resilience and assuredness.

Subgrant Opportunity:

Renewable energy projects on tribal nations' lands reflect untapped potential for benefits beyond energy generation.¹ Renewable energy, including microgrid development and/or energy efficiency projects, provide potential benefits beyond energy provision, including economic development and recovery, energy cost savings and stabilization, climate change mitigation and resilience. However, while, nationwide, approximately 9 terawatts of renewable energy potential exist on tribal nations' lands, barriers, including regulatory, technical, and capital barriers have limited renewable energy to a fraction of its potential.²

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) seeks projects that will support Nevada's tribal nations in developing energy resilience, economic recovery opportunities and energy equity through planning, analysis and/or infrastructure that is scalable for use statewide. Funding proposals could include any or all of the following scopes:

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/energy-department-invest-more-5-million-tribal-energy-infrastructure>; https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/09/f36/DOE-IE-brochure_0917.pdf

² <https://cleanenergyfinanceforum.com/2019/12/11/what-is-holding-back-renewable-energy-development-in-indian-country>

Infrastructure development:

Renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy conservation, energy storage or microgrid projects that develop infrastructure and meet all ARRA requirements (see Federal Assurances, Appendix D)

Regulatory consulting and analysis:

Regulatory restrictions may limit potential renewable energy development on tribal nations' lands. In order to secure needed approval for a variety of infrastructure development, proposals seeking to conduct regulatory review and analysis for power providers statewide related to energy projects will also be accepted. Nevada tribal nations are located in the service territories of a number of power providers and may be subject to the regulatory authority of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) and/or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and this type of analysis could provide a roadmap statewide on the types of infrastructure projects available to Nevada's tribal communities and their regulatory pre-conditions.

Planning consulting and analysis:

Renewable energy can also play a key part in emergency planning and resilience, and the development of this type of infrastructure can secure the continuation of critical government and business functions that are essential to human health and safety or economic security, i.e., address and support the FEMA based community lifelines. Planning projects eligible for submission would include analysis, review and recommendations that would assist a tribal community, with the potential to create a model for use statewide, in developing an emergency planning strategy supported by renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or storage systems are eligible for submission.

Section II Award Information

Total Funding Available (FY2021): \$500,000.00 (maximum award \$250,000.00)

GOE reserves the right to determine the number and amounts of awards for this NOFO, based on available funding, projects selected, and current program priorities. GOE also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, negotiate with all qualified applicants, or cancel or modify this NOFO in part or in its entirety. The application must provide information about the applicant's plan for completing the proposed project no more than one (1) year after the Notice of Award (NOA) is issued.

Common Eligible Project Costs:

- Permanent staff salary MUST be for project related work only. This includes planning, development of project tasks and timelines, supervision, permitting and field work. Permanent staff will be required to certify activity.
- Consultant or contractual services.

- Supplies, materials, and tools for the project (e.g., charging station equipment and systems, photovoltaic panels, batteries, charge controllers, inverters, etc.).

Common Ineligible Project Costs:

- Costs that are expended and not included in the project budget at the time of application.
- Any expenditure not related to the project or defined in the project budget.
- General overhead or indirect costs (costs to support an organization, including rent, furniture, electricity, internet, or meeting space).
- Volunteer or program insurance.
- Expenses related to promotional or fund-raising efforts of an organization.
- Flyers, brochures, and publications not related to education or outreach.
- Printing not related to education or outreach.
- Time and services associated with writing the subgrant application.
- Marketing and advertising not related to education or outreach.
- Postage.
- Vehicle Maintenance.
- Mileage for governmental agencies and districts using fleet vehicles.
- Depreciation on vehicles, tools, and equipment used for the subgrant.
- Food or alcohol.
- Team building or bonding.
- Audit and legal services.
- Bonuses, gifts, and incentives.
- Membership fees or dues.
- Lobbying costs.

Section III Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

- All applicants must be federally recognized Native American tribes based in the state of Nevada.
- All applicants MUST have a Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) number, Nevada business license, be in good standing with the Nevada Secretary of State's office and be able to provide proof upon request.
- Upon request, any entity requesting funds must provide proof that the appropriate federal, state, local, or private authorities have been consulted regarding the nature of the proposed project to be funded.

Additional Information

All materials submitted regarding this NOFO become the property of the State of Nevada and will become public record upon submission.

Section IV Application & Submission Information

A complete application must include four (4) components: 1) Project Abstract; 2) Project Narrative; 3) Budget and Justification; and 4) Attachments. Incomplete applications will not be scored for consideration of funding. Applications have the potential to score a maximum of 175 points.

1. Project Abstract

The project abstract must succinctly summarize the proposed project and should include:

- A brief background of the project;
- Specific objectives and/or goals;
- Any unique and/or innovative features of the project;
- Collaboration and partnerships (if applicable); and
- Expected results and/or outcomes.

The project abstract is limited to one (1) page, single-spaced, Times New Roman 12 –point font with 1-inch margins on all sides of 8 ½ by 11 size (letter size) paper. Additional pages will not be reviewed or considered for scoring.

2. Project Narrative

The project narrative must not exceed 8 pages, single-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font with 1-inch margins on all sides of 8 ½ by 11 (letter size) paper. ***Important:*** For maximum points, each project proposed must answer all questions and expand on the idea or answer. For questions that are not applicable to the proposed project, be sure to answer by providing a reason why the question is not applicable.

The following information must be contained within the project narrative:

A. Proposal Signature Page (template in Appendix A – *required*)

Use of the template in Appendix A is required. It must be filled out completely and must be signed. It must not exceed one (1) page and is not included in the 8-page narrative limitation.

B. Problem Statement

The problem statement must provide a clear and concise description of the issue(s) or goals to be addressed by the proposed project. The primary purpose of this statement is to focus the reviewer’s attention to the primary issue/problem to be solved. In this section, describe (i) the primary problem or goal to be reached; (ii) the project location; (iii) why the project is needed now, and consequences of not funding the project; (iv) partnerships and public need; and (v) a budget section that discusses the project costs, financial risks, additional funding and any additional information the reviewers should be aware of relating to the project.

C. Priorities

This section must identify the priority area(s) that your proposal is addressing and provide detailed information explaining how your proposal meets the priority.

PRIORITY AREAS		Points
1	Renewable energy production	10
2	Electric vehicle charging infrastructure (Preference is given to DCFC projects. If including a DCFC project, please describe the intended use/access of the chargers and the fleet benefits of the infrastructure).	10
3	Energy efficiency	10
4	Energy storage (preference is given to projects that couple storage with renewable energy)	10
5	Energy resilience and assuredness (If including this category in your proposal, please include detailed information as to how Priorities 1, 2, 3 and/or 4, will be integrated to accomplish Priority 5).	10

D. Workplan (template in Appendix B – *required*)

Important: Use of the template in Appendix B for the workplan narrative is required. This component must describe your goals (what will be accomplished) in broad terms as well as listing the measurable objectives with tasks describing how each goal will be met. In this section, describe (i) the proposed project and how the completion will affect the identified problem; (ii) agencies and stakeholders consulted and/or commitments/partners; (iii) design standards used for project development; and (iv) any site surveys and assessments conducted.

E. Sustainability

Describe (i) how the project will provide long term value; (ii) provisions for on-going maintenance and future projected costs after the project period ends and how funds will be obtained.

F. Organization Capacity

Describe (i) your organization’s capacity and experience to implement and accomplish the proposed project; and (ii) key personnel with a resume or short biography for each, demonstrating ability to manage the project.

3. Budget and Justification (template in Appendix C – *required*)

Important: Use of the template in Appendix C for the budget and justification is required. The budget must demonstrate a clear and strong relationship between stated objectives, goals, activities, and costs. The budget does NOT count towards the total page count of the project narrative. The budget should be detailed, reasonable, adequate, cost efficient, and should align with the proposed work plan.

The budget narrative should clearly illustrate how the budget relates directly to the proposed project.

Match Requirements

There is no requirement to report match for GOE subgrants. However, evaluation points will be awarded to proposals demonstrating partnership funding. Subgrantees awarded projects that have in-kind valuation must include those activities in their program and evaluation reports. "In-Kind" means cash, materials, volunteer labor, or other methods of contribution that an applicant provides toward offsetting the total cost of the project and reduces the amount of the subgrant funds needed from GOE to complete the project.

4. Attachments

Attachment 1: Construction Plans, Drawings, Pictures, etc. (if applicable)

Attachment 2: Letters of Commitment/Support (not to exceed 10) (if applicable)

Submission Instructions

One (1) electronic version of the entire application, in PDF, should be submitted to karen.long@energy.nv.gov. The PDF must include all components of this NOFO. Each section of the subgrant should have the same format, headings and subheadings in the narrative as this NOFO.

Applications will not be accepted outside of the open application period. See cover page for when applications are accepted.

Written Questions and Answers:

GOE will only accept questions and/or comments in writing via e-mail regarding this NOFO. The deadline for submission of questions is March 8, 2021 at 5:00pm Pacific Time. All questions and/or comments will be addressed in writing and will be posted to the GOE website by March 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm Pacific Time. Items posted to the website will not include any identifiable information.

Tips & Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Ensure budget figures are mathematically correct, and the total of the budget summary matches the total on the proposal page; have your financial staff review;
- Use only whole dollar amounts;
- Observe page limits (any pages over the page limit, will not be reviewed);
- Use standard type, Times New Roman, Size 12-point font;
- Respond to all sections of the application; ensure the thread that ties the application sections together are related;
- Subgrant funds may not be used to replace federal, state, or local funds that are currently being used or are forthcoming;

- Spell out acronyms at initial use. Eliminate jargon whenever possible;
- Do not assume reviewers are familiar with existing projects;
- Read the NOFO carefully; and
- Use local statistics rather than national statistics.
- Take advantage of resources available in the state such as the Nevada Subgrant Office and the Nevada Indian Commission to assist with your application.
 - Nevada Indian Commission: Sari Nichols (snichols@nic.nv.gov).
 - Nevada Grant Office: <https://grant.nv.gov/>.
- The following items are not qualifying projects under this subgrant:
 - Funding construction, such as construction of mass transit systems.
 - Purchasing land, a building or structure, or any interest therein.
 - Subsidizing fares for public transportation.
 - Subsidizing utility rate demonstrations or state tax credits for energy conservation or renewable energy measures. Conducting or purchasing equipment to conduct research, development, or demonstration of energy efficiency or renewable energy techniques and technologies not commercially available.

Section V Application Review Information

Each proposed project will be evaluated for content, inclusiveness and succinctness of the application using the scoring matrix below.

SCORING MATRIX (max 175 points)

Section / Description	Max Points
Project Abstract Project abstract must be completed as described in section IV of this notice of funding opportunity. Section IV(1)	5
Project Narrative – Proposal Signature Page Project signature page must be completed in its entirety and signed by the applicant (or an authorized representative). Section IV(2)(a)	5
Project Narrative – Problem Statement This section of the narrative must include the (i) primary problem and/or goal to be achieved, (ii) project location, (iii) how potential funding would help the project, and (iv) a description of the budget. Section IV(2)(b)	15
Project Narrative - Preferred Projects Projects that incorporate the priorities described in Section IV(2)(C) may be awarded up to 10 points for each category, i.e. renewable energy, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, energy efficiency, storage, and/or energy resilience and assuredness.	50
Project Narrative – Work Plan Projects must describe (i) effect of the proposed project, (ii) stakeholders and agencies consulted, (iii) design standards used, (iv) scalability of project for statewide benefits; (iv) benefits to the state’s economic	50

recovery plan and carbon reduction goals; (v) development of in-state resources; (vi) site surveys or site maps. Section IV(2)(d)	
Project Narrative – Sustainability Projects must describe the (i) long term value of the project and (ii) the on-going maintenance and potential future cost of the project. Section IV(2)(e)	15
Project Narrative – Organizational Capacity Projects must describe the (i) program and fiscal capacity and experience and (ii) key personnel and experience. Section IV(2)(f)	5
Budget & Justification Using the template provided, projects must have a proposed budget breakdown. Section IV(3)	5
Partnership Funds and Perceived Community Need Additional points may be awarded to the project if the proposed project has identified additional funding to support the project. Section IV(3)	25

Section VI Award Administration Information

Subgrant Review and Selection Process

Eligible applications are reviewed, evaluated, and competitively scored by a review committee using the scoring matrix located in Section V. Scoring is provided to rank the applications as the primary basis for final determination for funding. Applicants and GOE staff are not permitted to engage in communication regarding application scoring prior to subgrant award.

To avoid disqualification, the entire application must be concise and complete; certifications must be signed and dated; objectives must be measurable. Denial letters, with scoring disclosure, will be sent to applicant agencies that are not funded.

Subgrant Commencement and Duration

Subgrants will be awarded for each subgrant period, with project completion not to exceed one (1) year. Funding is based on performance of subgrantee goals, activities, milestones, reporting requirements, and availability of funds; GOE reserves the right to terminate a subgrant award demonstrating poor performance.

Project implementation must be initiated within ninety days (90) from the starting date indicated on the subgrant award. Requests for an exception to this rule must be justified and submitted in writing within thirty days of award and approved by GOE. At the discretion of GOE, the subgrantee risks losing the award if the project does not commence as required.

Reimbursement Notice

GOE subgrants are reimbursement subgrants. Subgrantees are expected to pay for expenses upfront from their budgets and will be reimbursed for eligible expenses listed on the approved award budget after a review of the expense request form and appropriate backup. To be reimbursed by GOE, subgrantees must be established as a vendor with the Nevada State Controller's Office. Information about the vendor requirements may be obtained at the following website:

http://controller.nv.gov/VendorServices/Electronic_Vendor_Registration.html

Fiscal Responsibilities

All recipients of funding are required to establish and maintain accounting systems and financial records to accurately account for awarded funds. Accounting systems for all projects must ensure the following:

- Funds are not commingled with funds from other subgrant sources.
- Funds specifically budgeted and/or received for one project cannot be used to support another.
- All subgrant awards are subject to audits during the project and within three years after the subgrant award performance period has closed.
- The accounting system presents and classifies historical cost of the subgrant as required for budgetary and auditing purposes.

Additional Information

Financial obligations of the State payable after the current fiscal year are contingent upon funds for that purpose being appropriated, budgeted, and otherwise made available. In the event funds are not appropriated, any resulting contracts (subgrant awards) will become null and void, without penalty to the state of Nevada.

Reconsiderations

Any applicant whose application has been submitted according to this NOFO and has not been awarded may request reconsideration.

Submit requests for reconsideration to GOE within ten (10) days of notification of non-award. Requests for reconsideration must be in writing and clearly state how GOE erred in following the procedure outlined in this NOFO. GOE reserves the right to request additional clarifying information on any reconsideration requests. The Director will make the final determination once all information is received.

State Historic Office of Preservation (SHPO) Requirements

All projects must comply with applicable State statutes, regulatory requirements, and policies. Projects being completed on historical buildings/sites using GOE funds must follow SHPO requirements.

Section VII Contacts

Governor's Office of Energy
Attn: Subgrants & Fiscal Manager
600 E. William Street, Suite 200
Carson City, Nevada 89701
karen.long@energy.nv.gov

Thank you for your interest in applying for GOE funding. You will be contacted if further information is required. Do not begin your project or incur costs until you have received, signed and returned the Notice of Award document with GOE.