

# From the Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute

## 2023 Federal Funding to address Energy Poverty

### Department of Energy (DOE)

- [Buildings Energy Efficiency Frontiers & Innovation Technologies \(BENEFIT\) – 2022/23](#): This FOA will invest up to **\$45 million** across five topic areas to research and develop high-impact, cost-effective technologies and building retrofit practices that will **reduce carbon emissions, improve flexibility and resilience, and lower energy costs**. BENEFIT 2022/23 will spur innovations in air conditioning, space heating, water heating; thermal and battery storage; plug loads and lighting; and the building envelope that have significant potential for equitable carbon savings, through building electrification, energy efficiency, and demand flexibility with utmost affordability at its core.
- [DOE Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize](#): Through the Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) aims to fund organizations for ongoing and/or proposed activities related to climate and clean energy that support, build trust, and strengthen relationships and partnerships with disadvantaged communities. Specifically, this prize seeks to enable and enhance business and technology incubation, acceleration, and other community-based and university-based entrepreneurship and innovation in climate and clean energy technologies. Teams competing in Phase One focused on communities from every corner of the nation, demonstrating their commitment to building an inclusive innovation ecosystem and putting people at the center of clean energy and climate justice. In May 2022, DOE announced 18 winners of the Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize. Each winning organization received cash awards of **\$200,000 each**. Phase Two of the Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize is only open to [Phase One awardees](#). **The Phase Two application period opened in May 2022 and will remain open for 12 months**
- [Buildings Upgrade Prize: \\$400,000 Prizes for Equity-Centered Energy Upgrade Innovations](#): The Buildings Upgrade Prize (Buildings UP) is offering more than \$22 million in cash prizes and technical assistance to teams with winning ideas to accelerate widespread, equitable energy efficiency and building electrification upgrades. Winning “Equity-Centered Innovation” teams, focused on delivering upgrades to low- and moderate-income homes; small, disadvantaged businesses; and other equity-eligible buildings, will receive **\$400,000** in cash. Community-based organizations, state and local governments, Indian tribes, building owners, utilities, nonprofit organizations, energy efficiency program implementers, and other organizations are encouraged to team up and apply. **Phase 1 submissions due July 18, 2023.**
- [Clean Energy to Communities Program \(C2C\)](#): The C2C connects local governments, tribes, electric utilities, and community-based organizations with national laboratory experts and customized, cutting-edge analysis to achieve clean energy systems that are reflective of local and regional priorities. By bringing together innovative technology, state-of-the-art modeling, and unique abilities to test clean energy plans before installing them in the field, C2C can help close the gap between clean energy ambitions and real-world deployment. Communities lie at the heart of C2C, recognizing that when it comes to clean energy, each community has different institutional contexts, resources, challenges, opportunities, and ambitions. C2C fosters community-led innovation with tailored support, from goal setting and project development to technology deployment. **[Managed by NREL, Funded by the DOE]**
- [Energizing Rural Communities Prize](#): The **\$15 million** Energizing Rural Communities Prize challenges individuals and organizations to develop partnership plans or innovative financing

strategies to help rural or remote communities improve their energy systems and advance clean energy demonstration projects. The application period will open this March. This prize is part of the \$1 billion [Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas \(ERA\) Program](#), created by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED). The ERA Program supports projects that improve the resilience, reliability, safety, availability, and environmental performance of **energy systems in rural or remote areas of the U.S. with populations of no more than 10,000 people**.

- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law FOA To Address Key Deployment Challenges for Offshore, Land-Based, and Distributed Wind](#): This **\$28 million** funding opportunity from the U.S. Department of Energy Wind Energy Technologies Office aims to lower costs and address barriers to deployment of wind energy in all its applications—offshore, land-based, and distributed. Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this opportunity will support research to improve offshore wind transmission technologies, reduce barriers for distributed wind deployment by communities, better understand the impacts of offshore wind development on affected communities, and reduce impacts to wildlife.

**Concept Paper Submission Deadline: 1/20/2023**

**Full Application Submission Deadline: 3/10/2023**

- [Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange Partnership To Connect More Clean Energy to the Grid](#): The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched the Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X), a new partnership funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that brings together grid operators, utilities, state and tribal governments, clean energy developers, energy justice organizations, and other stakeholders to help solve challenges associated with deploying clean energy resources to the electricity grid. As the Biden Administration ramps up the expansion of new renewable energy to reach the nation's goal of a net-zero economy by 2050, i2X partners will develop solutions for faster, simpler, and fairer interconnection of clean energy resources through better data, road map development, and technical assistance.

The i2X program will provide technical assistance to partners to develop solutions to specific regional, state, and local interconnection issues. i2X partners will also address the inequities caused by burdensome interconnection processes in alignment with the Administration's Justice40 initiative.

Collaborating with participating i2X organizations, experts from DOE's Solar Energy and Wind Energy Technologies Offices and DOE's National Labs will develop a 5-year road map that sets goals and identifies research gaps and benchmarks for success.

- [American-Made Challenges: Equitable and Affordable Solutions to Electrification \(EAS-E\) Home Electrification Prize](#): The American-Made Equitable and Affordable Solutions to Electrification (EAS-E) Home Electrification Prize provides **up to \$2.4 million** in cash prizes and technical assistance vouchers to innovators who can help simplify the electrification processes for contractors and implementers. Administered by the U.S. Department of Energy Building Technologies Office, the prize aims to make the electrification more affordable and accessible for homeowners across diverse communities and all housing types.

Teams interested in participating in this EAS-E Prize can submit their Phase 1 concept papers by **March 8, 2023**.

- [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#): The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of State and Community Energy Programs released a notice of intent (NOI) announcing a \$550 Million investment in all 50 states, 768 federally recognized tribal governments and villages, 6 U.S. territories, and 1,878 local governments. The EECBG Program will enable communities across America to develop and deploy strategies to increase energy efficiency, cut emissions, and reduce energy use.
- [Underserved and Indigenous Community Microgrids](#): DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), on behalf of the DOE Office of Electricity (OE), released a [Notice of Intent \(NOI\)](#) to issue Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), titled "Underserved and Indigenous Community Microgrids." The objective of this planned FOA would be to conduct coordinated research, development, and implementation of replicable microgrid solutions for underserved and Indigenous communities in remote and islanded regions throughout the United States. The planned FOA is anticipated to include the following areas of interest:
  - Modular Microgrid Systems with Standardized Control/Communication Functionalities for a Range of System Sizes and Renewable Contributions
  - Multi-port Medium Voltage DC Converter Research and Development for Integration of Microgrids and Clean Energy
  - Regional Initiatives to Support Microgrid Deployments within Underserved and Indigenous Communities

If the FOA is released, approximately \$9.1M in Federal Funds is expected to be available for awarding 6 - 8 new agreements. Work proposed under this FOA would have a maximum duration of 2 years.

## Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- [EPA Environmental Justice Grants for Underserved and Overburdened Communities](#): The [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program \(EJCPS\) Cooperative Agreement Program](#) will provide \$30 million to community-based nonprofits working on collaborative projects to address environmental and/or public health issues.

The [Environmental Justice Government-to-Government \(EJG2G\) Program](#) will provide \$70 million to support model environmental or public health activities in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks. Of this, \$20 million will be for Federally Recognized Tribal Nations with Community-Based Organization (CBO) partners, and \$10 million will be for U.S. territories and remote tribes with limited access to CBO partners. Both programs will give special consideration to projects: addressing climate change, disaster resiliency, and/or emergency preparedness; located in and/or benefitting rural areas.