

**SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY (The “Authority”)
SANTEE COOPER
GRID RESILIENCE GRANTS (GRG)**

1. Technical Scope of Work Definition

In developing the proposed Program, Santee Cooper sought to enable and encourage innovative thought and creativity on the part of those who propose subaward grant projects while simultaneously ensuring a dual focus on the goals of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the needs of South Carolina, as outlined in its Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Referencing the BIL and the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Santee Cooper has identified a set of Program-level objectives for GRG Year 1 and 2 allocations. These objectives enable a range of project types and outcomes that will support achieving the overall Program Objectives.

Santee Cooper’s proposed GRG Program objectives are fully aligned with the goals articulated in the program purpose of the BIL and the following minimum measures:

- Address “resilience and energy justice concerns, including reducing the frequency and duration of outages in disadvantaged communities”
- Use compliant labor standards and protections (including for direct employees, contractors, and sub-contractors), such as using project labor agreements, local hire agreements, and an outline of a plan to attract, train, and retain an appropriately skilled workforce (i.e., through registered apprenticeships and other joint labor-management training programs that serve all workers, particularly those underrepresented or historically excluded)
- Include “plans to partner with a training provider (labor, community college, etc.)”
- Assure “the use of an appropriately credentialed workforce (i.e., requirements for appropriate and relevant professional training, certification, and licensure)”

The Program objectives are to make meaningful progress in one or more of the following ways:

- Demonstrate measurable improvements in energy resilience in the South Carolina grid and mitigate climate-related risk
- Invest in modernized grid infrastructure that can enable consumer access to lower-cost energy and accommodate increased electrification, increased penetrations of variable renewable electricity and distributed energy resources, and other evolving system needs over the coming decades!
- Invest in clean energy and decarbonization solutions in keeping with the federal administration targets of 100% clean energy by 2035 and net-zero economy-wide greenhouse gas emission by 2050
- Create good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to be a part of a represented workforce as specified in the BIL
- Adhere to and further the principles of equity and justice in alignment with the Administration’s Justice40 initiative
- Show a clear, positive impact on underserved communities or disadvantaged populations!

Santee Cooper is mindful of the need to strike an effective balance between meeting the needs of the wide range of statewide stakeholders and maintaining the cost-effectiveness of the grant monies deployed. Program criteria will tend to favor medium to larger projects that can deliver stakeholder value with lower overhead as a proportion of the total spend. We will remain open to proposals of any size but will also apply a Program benchmark related to material impact delivered as a percentage of the total grant awarded.

2. Program Objectives

Using the overall Program Objectives discussed above as the foundational requirements for any proposal, Santee Cooper seeks proposals from qualified respondents for subawards that deliver against one or more of the following project objectives. The example projects and associated metrics for each objective listed below are not all inclusive and represent examples of project concepts that may qualify for funding under this program.

**SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY (The “Authority”)
SANTEE COOPER
GRID RESILIENCE GRANTS (GRG)**

Objective 1 - Increase monitoring and control capabilities to provide visualization and enhance situational awareness leading up to, during, and after extreme weather events. Examples of projects in this objective area include but are not limited to:

- Installation or expansion of Distribution Automation (DA) or Distribution Management Systems (DMS/ADMS)
- Installation of equipment for remote operation of facilities (reclosers, switches, etc.)
- Installation of line monitoring equipment
- Installation of remotely controlled sectionalizing devices

Metrics

The metrics for this project objective would likely consist of:

- Increased number of
 - monitored facilities,
 - facilities under centralized control centers
 - line miles benefiting from automation,
 - customers positively impacted by additional automation (broken out by customers in disadvantaged/underserved communities)
- Improved situational awareness/visualization for operators (% of the system and customers covered by situational awareness/visualization)

Objective 2 - Harden or adapt the electric system to increase resiliency during extreme weather events. Examples of projects that could achieve these objectives include but are not limited to:

- Overhead to underground conversion
- Upgrades of overhead facilities, such as lines and substations
- Construction of redundant paths

Metrics

The metrics for this project objective would likely consist of:

- Avoiding or reducing consequences to
 - key electric infrastructure (expected reductions in outage events and permanent damage to facilities)
 - disadvantaged communities - expected reductions in SAIDI (system average interruption duration index) and CAIDI (customer average interruption duration index), including normal and extreme events
 - priority customers (through an expected reduction in the number or duration of outages, impacting emergency services or key employers, with an emphasis on those in disadvantaged communities)
 - key geographic areas (avoiding loss of wages and production due to disruption in electric service)
- Reduction in the average electric infrastructure age
- Increase in the percentage of underground miles of lines versus total miles of lines
- Reduction in the number of radial line miles

Objective 3 – Enhance vegetation management programs to reduce exposure to tree-related damage to the electric system during extreme weather events or wildfires. Examples of projects in this objective area include but are not limited to:

- Advanced technologies to improve vegetation management practices (Artificial Intelligence, satellite analytics, vegetation, and wind modeling, etc.)
- Reclassification and removal of danger trees along transmission and distribution corridors
- Analytics-based adjustments to tree trimming activities to reduce vegetation risks.
- Reconfiguration or relocation of lines to reduce vegetation-related impact risk

Metrics

The metrics for this project objective would likely consist of:

- Refined and optimized vegetation management programs
- Number of miles cleared, or number of danger-trees removed

**SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY (The “Authority”)
SANTEE COOPER
GRID RESILIENCE GRANTS (GRG)**

- Reduction in the number of miles/customers exposed to danger-tree risk
- Reduction in the number of predicted vegetation-related outages during extreme weather events

Objective 4 – Develop energy storage and microgrids to provide system adaptive capacity (e.g., systems able to provide electrical energy during disruptions) and, therefore, increase resilience for communities and customers. Examples of projects in this objective area include but are not limited to:

- Development of a microgrid(s)
- Installation of battery storage at substations to serve load during disruptive events
- Installation of distributed battery storage at a critical facility or critical customer locations, such that when the power is out, the battery supplies energy to the facility. This distributed storage could include one or more of the following:
 - Hospital(s)/Retirement and Nursing Homes or Long-term Care facilities
 - Police or Fire stations
 - Key government facilities
 - Low Income Housing facilities
 - Facilities used as shelters during severe weather events
 - In specific communities, distributed storage could be set up to island or isolate and create a micro-grid on demand.

Metrics

The metrics for this project objective would likely consist of:

- Number of
 - MWh of resilient energy supply
 - customers made resilient because of the installation
 - residents benefiting from resilient public facilities (hospitals, fire, police, shelters, etc.)
 - community/essential locations made more resilient (community centers, long-term care facilities)
 - underserved residents benefitting from resilient supply

3. Community Benefits

Priority shall be given to projects that will generate the greatest community benefit (whether rural or urban) in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events. The project applications will be required to describe, to the greatest extent possible, how the project will generate community benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events and to detail support and engagement of community leaders for the project. Given the as-yet undetermined scope of the grant proposals, we would expect to measure community benefit through a combination of:

- Tangible impact demonstrated
- Community population impacted beneficially
- Current level of advantage/disadvantage of the subject community
- Overall project cost in relation to overall impact

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GRID RESILIENCE GRANTS (GRG)**

4. Award Information and Proposal Scoring

Santee Cooper anticipates that there could be a greater number of requests for funding than could be funded under the Initial allocation. Should the overall number of requests exceed the available funds for Year One, Santee Cooper will evaluate each proposal based on the metrics discussed in the previous section and the criteria listed above. Once those assessments have been completed, Santee Cooper will compare the level of funding requested for each project to the projected impacts. Those projects able to deliver the greatest level of impact per dollar requested, will be prioritized for further examination and award.

Proposal evaluation will be based on project resiliency impacts per dollar and community benefits.

Proposal Evaluation	
Project Resiliency Impact (60%)	Community Benefits (40%)
Does the project demonstrate significant improvements to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of outages due to extreme weather events • Improve the restoration times due to extreme weather events 	Does the project demonstrate community benefits in any of the key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact to customers • Community and Labor Engagement • Workforce Continuity and Good Jobs Plan: • Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Plan: • Justice40 Initiative

5. Proposal Submission

The documentation outlined below should be submitted by 5pm ET on September 28, 2023. The documents should be emailed to: gridresiliencegrant@santeecooper.com. Any documentation provided outside the required documentation will not be reviewed. The documentation and instructions can be found in the supporting documentation.

Questions regarding the content of this RFP must be submitted through by September 5th, 2023. Questions should be emailed to: gridresiliencegrant@santeecooper.com. Questions will be responded to during a webinar held September 7th, 2023. The Q&A session will be recorded and made publicly available.

Proposal Submission Date	
Task Description	Date
Q&A Due	September 5, 2023
Q&A Response	September 7, 2023
Proposals Due	September 28, 2023

Documentation	Format
Form 1 Resilience Project & Subaward Notification Form	.pdf
Form 2 Secretarial Eligible Entity Designation Form	.pdf
Form 3 Environmental Questionnaire (NEPA)	.pdf
Form 4 SF-424 Budget Justification Workbook	.xlsx
Form 5 Cost match commitment letter	.pdf
Form 6 Appendix A – Performance Metrics to Evaluate Utility Resilience Investments	.xlsx
Form 7 Acknowledgement of federal funds governed by DE-FOA-0002736 - certification statement	.pdf
Form 8 SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)	.pdf
Form 9 Letters of Support (if applicable)	.pdf

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SANTEE COOPER
GRID RESILIENCE GRANTS (GRG)**

6. Reporting Requirements

The reporting requirements for subawards are outlined in the table below. The requirement reports can be found in the supporting documentation.

Please note, additional reporting forms may be required for reimbursement purposes.

Schedule	Documentation
Quarterly Reporting	Project Build and Resilience Impact Metrics
	Financial Report
	Updates to PMP if applicable
Annual Report	Financial Report
	Annual Program Metrics
	Impact Report

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7. Terms and Conditions

Davis-Bacon Act Compliance

- a. All transactions regarding this contract shall be done in compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 3141- 3144, and 3146-3148) and the requirements of 29C.F.R. pt. 5 as may be applicable. The contractor shall comply with 40 U.S.C. 3141-3144, and 3146-3148 and the requirements of 29 C.F.R. pt. 5 as applicable.
- b. Contractors are required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages specified in a wage determination made by the Secretary of Labor.
- c. Additionally, contractors are required to pay wages not less than once a week.

Anti-Kickback Act

- a. Contractor. The contractor shall comply with 18 U.S.C. § 874, 40 U.S.C. § 3145, and the requirements of 29 C.F.R. pt. 3 as may be applicable, which are incorporated by reference into this contract.
- b. Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clause above and such other clauses as FEMA may by appropriate instructions require, and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all of these contract clauses.
- c. Breach. A breach of the contract clauses above may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and subcontractor as provided in 29 C.F.R. § 5.12.

Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

- a. Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.
- b. Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages. Santee Cooper shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.

Buy America Requirements for Infrastructure Projects

Pursuant to the Build America Buy America Act, subtitle IX of BIL (Buy America or “BABA”), federally assisted projects that involve infrastructure work, undertaken by applicable recipient types, require that:

- All iron, steel, and manufactured products used in the infrastructure work are produced in the United States; and
- All construction materials used in the infrastructure work are manufactured in the United States.

In general, whether a given project must apply this requirement is dependent on several factors, such as the recipient’s entity type, whether the work involves “infrastructure,” as that term is defined in Section 70914 of the BIL (discussed in more detail in Appendix C), based in part on whether the infrastructure in question is publicly owned or serves a public function. For this FOA specifically, all projects subject to this FOA are considered “infrastructure” within the Buy America provision of BIL, based on implementation guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-22-11 issued on April 18, 2022.

Moreover, based on the OMB guidance, the Buy America requirements of the BIL do not apply to DOE projects in which the Prime Recipient is a for-profit entity; the requirements only apply to projects whose

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GRID RESILIENCE GRANTS (GRG)**

Prime Recipient is a “non-Federal entity,” e.g., a State, local government, Indian tribe, Institution of Higher Education, or nonprofit organization. Subawards should conform to the terms of the prime award from which they flow; in other words, for-profit Prime Recipients are not required to flow down these Buy America requirements to subrecipients, even if those subrecipients are non-Federal entities as defined above. Conversely, Prime Recipients which are non-Federal entities must flow the Buy America requirements down to all subrecipients, even if those subrecipients are for-profit entities.