



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Community-Oriented Resilient Energy (CORE)
Subaward Program Guidelines
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – State Energy Program

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Introduction

This document serves as a guide to applying for the Community-Oriented Resilient Energy (CORE) Subaward Program. The Program Overview section provides the program objectives, eligibility, metrics, funding details, and performance approach. The Application section provides guidance for applying for this grant using the Virginia Energy Grant Portal. Included as addendums are (A) Federal Terms and Conditions from the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) of the Federal Department of Energy, and (B) the Commonwealth of Virginia’s General Terms and Conditions. Applicants are not required to agree to these terms and conditions to submit an application for the award; however, acceptance of the terms and conditions will be required as a condition of proceeding with the award in the event their project is selected.



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Any questions related to your grant should be sent using the Help & Communications tab in the Grant Portal. Virginia Energy staff will respond within five days. The last day to submit questions is February 10th, 2026.

CORE Program Overview

Community-Oriented Resilient Energy (CORE) Subaward Program provides funding opportunities to local governments or community-based non-profit organizations for the development of energy resilience projects. Funding will be utilized for resilient energy upgrades such as distributed energy resources (DERs) including solar plus storage, mobile resilience solutions, and/or backup generation.

Virginia is committed to assuring that all Virginians have access to affordable, abundant, and reliable energy. This federally funded program will enable Virginia to partner with eligible entities to limit the impact of disruptive outages that adversely impact our communities and critical infrastructure.

Total amount of funding available: \$400,000

Period of Performance: 12 months, up to 18 months if justified and approved

Proposal Amount: Proposals between \$50,000 to \$250,000 are allowed. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) may elect to partially award proposals at its discretion.

Applications are due 11:59pm, February 17, 2026.

Selection of a project does not constitute a guarantee of award. All prospective awardees are subject to financial vetting and must maintain an active registration in SAM.gov. Final award approval is contingent upon review and authorization by Department of Energy.

Program Objectives and Metrics

All subaward proposals are required to meet one or more of the following objectives. Proposals should detail which objectives will be met and present metrics that will demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the program.

Objective #1: *Increase Local Energy Resilience*

Metrics: Example metrics to be evaluated include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Reduction in the negative impact of a power outage (outage readiness improvement)

Community-Oriented Resilient Energy (CORE)



- Population served during emergencies
- Increase in community or facility resilience capacity
- Improved energy resilience of emergency or first responder facilities
- Improved remote internet access

Objective #2: *Advance Local Distributed Energy Deployment*

Metrics: Example metrics to be evaluated include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Amount of distributed energy resources installed
- Operational cost reduction (savings from project to be used beneficially for the local community)

Objective #3: *Build Local Capacity and Community Leadership in Resilience*

Metrics: Example metrics to be evaluated include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Community/workforce training or education delivered
- Participants reached (*Example:* Number of local workers, community volunteers, or students engaged/educated)
- Local contracting and workforce participation
- Community-driven planning outcomes (*Example:* Plans that include community input (surveys, stakeholder meetings, etc.).)
- Completion of community resilience workbook.

Build America Buy America Act, Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Historic Preservation

All recipients (and subrecipients) will be required to comply with Build America Buy America, Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage and Historic Preservation laws per the terms and conditions of the award. Awardees are responsible for contractor and subcontractor compliance.

Projects funded through this grant are subject to Davis Bacon prevailing wage requirements. Recipients and their contractors must ensure that all laborers and mechanics are paid wages and fringe benefits at rates not less than those determined to be prevailing for the locality and type of work performed (<https://sam.gov/wage-determinations>), in accordance with applicable federal and/or state law. Awardees will be responsible for maintaining payroll records and demonstrating compliance upon request.

All recipients (and subrecipients) will be required to submit an environmental questionnaire for each work location proposed in the application in compliance with NEPA, as applicable on a project-to-project basis.



Reporting Procedure

Each project proposal should include plans for documenting invoiced work and submitting quarterly progress reports summarizing the work completed. The reports should address the applicable metrics discussed above, deliverables and milestones, subcontractors (if any) working on specific objectives, invoices, milestones within the proposal, reports including funding, and any data gathered should be reported through milestones report and into the final report.

Additional reporting requirements apply to projects funded by BIL. As part of tracking progress toward key departmental goals - including creating jobs, boosting domestic manufacturing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing a pathway to private sector - Virginia Energy requires specific data collection.

General Reporting:

Proposal metrics to be used in reporting may consist of the following:

- Project locations
- Measures of performance and/or improvements of resilience
- KW of generation + storage capacity installed
- Energy saved and stored (kW-hrs per project)
- Projected carbon emissions avoided
- Community demographics served
- Resiliency services provided during emergencies
- Community services provided outside of emergencies
- Number of educational outreach events
- Stakeholders engaged
- Funding leveraged

Sub-recipients must maintain and provide sufficient records to substantiate this information upon request.

Each project proposal should include plans for documentation of invoiced work as well as quarterly progress reports summarizing completed work and providing applicable information discussed above.

Note: If the data is proprietary, generalized data and statistics should be provided to show the outcomes in the report.

Contracting and Invoice Payment

Subaward recipients will be required to enter into a contract agreement with Virginia Energy after receiving the award. This agreement will include the enclosed federal terms and conditions



as well as required state terms and conditions. Contracts involving construction are subject to retainage amounts up to 5% of the total construction amount.

Invoices will be paid no less frequently than once a month and must be received by the 15th of each month. Invoices will only be paid upon completion and acceptance by the agency of any portion of the contracted work and upon submission of a properly itemized invoice. Final payments may be withheld until final internal auditing of each contract is completed.

FAQs

What types of projects are eligible?

This grant is open to a wide variety of resilience related projects, including solar plus storage, storage only (to be added to existing solar projects), mobile resilience solutions (such as mobile trailers with energy storage), and back-up generation. Please see the grant objectives and application for an understanding of what projects will be prioritized.

Can only one entity apply, or can there be two (or more) applicants?

Applicants may partner on this grant but there must be a prime applicant. This may make sense for localities that are supported by community-based organizations or mobile solutions that may support multiple localities.

Do applicants need to have a final project design and cost estimates to apply?

Yes, applicants must have a workable project design and strong cost estimates to be eligible to apply. Virginia Energy understands that final costs may vary slightly due to equipment availability and project timelines, but budgets must be finalized once a project is selected and under contract.

What is the timeline for selection?

Once the applications close, Virginia Energy staff will work diligently to select projects. We expect to score, select, and begin financial vetting and contracting within four to six weeks of the final deadline.



Application

All subaward applicants must use the application format provided and must apply via the [Virginia Energy Grant Portal](#). If it is the first time using the system, applicants will be required to create a user account, or log into an existing account if the system has been used previously. Please note that applications will be linked to the applicant's account. While additional contacts may be listed on the application, the applicant should be the primary point of contact for all grant-related communication.

Applications may include additional attachments to support the application, but these should be limited to essential information. Carefully review the program guidelines, objectives, and example terms and conditions. All proposals should align with the goals and requirements proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis and will be awarded based on the perceived highest merit and priorities identified in the guidelines. Awards will be made based on the scoring indicated on the required application.

Proposals for the initial round of funding will be accepted until **11:59pm, February 17, 2026**. Only applications that are complete and submitted by the stated deadline will be considered for review.

Help & Questions

If you have a question on your application, please enter it here and Virginia Energy will respond. Please allow 5 business days for a response. The last day to submit questions is February 10th, 2026.



This documentation serves as a guide to the application section tabs in the [Virginia Energy Grant Portal](#). Applications will be graded and selected by committee based on a 100-point scale, outlined below.

Please save your responses in a master application document with the below headers and submit the complete application document in the “Supporting Documents” section. From the master document, you may copy your responses for each tab into the Grant Portal.

Applicant Info Tab (5pts)

Contact Information: Provide the name and all relevant contact information, including physical and email addresses and phone numbers, of the primary contact for purposes of application and administration of the subaward.

Address: Provide a mailing address for your organization.

Secondary Contacts: Provide the name and all relevant contact information of any other staff you would like to receive correspondence about this application.

Organizational Summary (5 pts): Describe the background of key organizational leadership, project leadership, organizational qualifications to execute program goals, financial history, and grant management capacity. Describe any recent grant administration your organization has completed (in the last 36 months).

Project Summary Tab (45pts)

Provide a Project Title. Using the headers provided in bold in this section, please copy your “Project Summary” into the section on the bottom of this tab.

- I. **Project Background (25pts):** Describe the location where the project will focus. Emphasize any existing energy resilience challenges, including any notable challenges within the last five years. Discuss the impact of these challenges on residents. Explain the assistance or interventions required to address these challenges and how this project will improve overall community energy resilience. If the community has completed a resilience workbook, attach the workbook to your complete application document, and discuss how your project will address the community’s vulnerabilities.
- II. **Project Impact (20pts):** Briefly describe how the project will benefit the local community. Please include an estimated contribution to outage scenarios: What is currently powered in an outage and what could be powered if this project was funded? How would this increase community resilience?



Project Details Tab (40pts)

Input the proposed project start and end date, the county/city, and anticipated project partners (question a). Please *IGNORE* the rest of the questions on this page and put “NA” for required questions. Using the headers provided in bold in this section, please copy your “Project Details” in the section on the bottom of this tab. Please only include information relevant to your project. For example, ignore “back-up generator proposed capacity” if your project does not include back-up generation.

III. Project Area and Site Selection (20pts): Provide a detailed description of the proposed project area and a list of site or sites. The site’s tax parcel identification and latitude and longitude should be included. Provide the name of the property owners impacted by the project. Indicate whether the property is publicly or privately owned. If privately owned, indicate whether there is or will be an option agreement or some other documentation between the applicant and the private owner demonstrating involvement by both parties. Attach such documentation or an example agreement. If these activities happen later, provide a description of your process.

- a. Project Location
- b. Public or private property (name property owner)
- c. Site accessibility (accessibility, how residents would arrive by car/bus/pedestrian, hours of operation in outage situations)
- d. Please note if your project is located in a [historically, economically, disadvantaged community](#).

IV. Project Details (15pts)

- a. Proposed Technology or Technologies (Solar Array / Battery Storage / Mobile Trailer / Back-Up Generator)
- b. Proposed Capacity (Solar: kW, Battery storage: kWh and/or projected hours of backup, Mobile Trailer: kW, kWh, and/or projected hours of backup, Back-Up Generator: kWh, and/or projected hours of backup)
- c. Equipment and technology
 - i. Solar Module Type/Model
 - ii. Number of Panels
 - iii. Inverter Type and Capacity
 - iv. Battery Type and Capacity
 - v. Resilience Features (microgrid controllers, islanding, etc)
- d. Utility interconnection: Yes or No
- e. Site Technology Location Description (battery location, mobile solutions location, back-up generation location, solar location: roof, ground-mount, canopy, etc.)
- f. Resiliency Goal with Proposed Technology (hours/days of grid independence)

V. Additional Community Benefits (5 pts)

- a. Is any additional funding or in-kind support leveraged through this project?



- b. Is community engagement and/or education proposed as a part of this project?
- c. Would this project/solution qualify for any current or future utility cost-savings programs? If so, how would those cost-savings be utilized? (Ex: Dominion Virtual Powerplant pilot, Peak time rebates)

Financial Details Tab (10 pts)

VI. Financial Details (10pts): Submit a detailed budget using the provided budget justification worksheet. Please include a brief budget narrative, including a brief summary of costs and any information on additional funding or tax incentives that will be leveraged to complete the project, in your complete application document.

Supporting Documents

Please save your responses in a master application document with the above headers and submit the complete application document in this section. If you completed a resilience workbook, please attach to your master application document or upload as a separate document here.

Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

Tab	Criteria	Possible Points	Score
Applicant Info Tab	Organizational Summary	5	
Project Summary Tab (45pts)	Project Background	25	
	Project Impact	20	
Project Details Tab (40pts)	Project Area and Site Selection	20	
	Project Details	15	
	Additional Community Benefits	5	
Financial Details Tab	Financial Details	10	
Total		100	



Submit Your Application

Once all required documentation has been submitted and the terms and conditions have been accepted, submit your application through the [Virginia Energy Grant Portal](#). Virginia Energy will notify you whether your project has been selected for with Intent to Award or notification that your project has not been selected.

