

IIJA and IRA Funding Opportunities

Issue Area – Transmission

Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program

This grant program is intended to help states and local communities with siting and permitting interstate onshore and offshore electric transmission lines. Grants are also authorized for economic development projects for communities impacted by transmission projects.¹

Eligibilities

Eligible Applicants – Tribal, state, and local siting authorities and Tribal, state, and local entities undertaking economic development projects for impacted communities.

Eligible Uses –

- Impact analysis of a covered transmission project;*
- Studies of up to three alternate siting routes; and
- Participation in local, state, regional, and/or federal regulatory proceedings.

* “...a covered transmission project [is] a high-voltage interstate or offshore electricity transmission line that is proposed to be constructed and to be operated at a minimum of 275 kilovolts if onshore, or at a minimum of 200 kilovolts if offshore, by an entity, and for which the entity has applied or informed a siting authority of its intent to apply for regulatory approval.”¹



IRA Section 50152



\$760 million



Status – Request for Information



Competitive – Yes



Expiration Date – until expended or September 30, 2029, whichever comes first.



Lead Agency – Grid Deployment Office (GDO)



Links –

- [Program Overview](#)

State Legislative Opportunities to Support

- Instruct the utility commission to identify areas of transmission constraint and develop a prioritized list of transmission projects to facilitate the development of clean energy resources.
- For states near seams in the interconnect (Eastern/Western Interconnect and ERCOT), identify opportunities to increase the potential for market participation across interconnect areas to expand capacity of renewable resources and reduce costs of clean energy for customers.
- For vertically integrated utilities, identify opportunities to use existing transmission capacity before approving any certificate of public need for new transmission.
- Identify and promote development of renewable resource zones (areas of high renewable potential) and the connection of those zones to the existing transmission system (this could be a multi-state initiative).

References

¹ DOE – Grid Deployment Office. n.d. “Frequently Asked Questions on the Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program.” <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/frequently-asked-questions-transmission-siting-and-economic-development-grants-program>