

## **Expression of Interest**

### ***Implementation of Innovative Energy Storage Projects***

Issued: June 1, 2021

EOI Response Due Date: July 15, 2021

### **Questions and Responses**

#### **Question 1:**

6/1/21

I read the EOI and I would love to promote the effort and to offer to help folks with their responses, but I think the benefit is not very clear. I think more information on who would be involved on the CESA side and what respondents would get would be beneficial. I hope it goes well.

#### **Response:**

6/3/21

The benefit per the EOI is, "Projects selected for consideration may be eligible for technical and/or financial support."

#### **Question 2:**

6/2/21

Is this for current on-going projects or future projects?

#### **Response:**

6/3/21

Support for ongoing projects would depend on several factors to include what stage the project is in and whether that project aligns with what this EOI is interested in. We encourage the submission of all projects, per the EOI, "...Respondents with project concepts of interest may be asked to submit a detailed proposal".

#### **Question 3 & 4:**

6/7/21

1. Could you help me understand the chances that a project submitted under this request would get implemented? Is this purely an information gathering request by CESA or is there a decent chance that a project submitted under this request could actually get built?
2. Is there any additional information on what type of projects CESA is looking for under the EOI? I understand the three goals mentioned in the request and the following notes but they are pretty broad and encompassing (maybe that's the point).

**Response 3 & 4:**

6/7/21

1. Per the EOI: "...there is no guarantee that any project concept will be implemented."
2. The three project areas mentioned in the EOI are areas of interest, but are not intended to limit the types of projects that may be submitted for consideration. There is no limit to the type of innovative ES projects that can be submitted. All submissions will be considered.

**Question 5 & 6:**

6/14/21

1. Will the Q&A involving other respondents be posted on the CESA webpage designated for addenda?
2. What if we have, hypothetically, \$1MM to apply towards a cost match, and wish to submit two projects. Should we:
  - Budget \$1MM per project, knowing that, at most, one project will be selected?
  - Budget such that the total amount of all of our proposals sums to \$1MM?

**Responses 5 & 6:**

6/16/21

1. All Q&A will be posted to the CESA webpage
2. As per the EOI, "Financial support, if offered, will require a minimum of a 50% cost share by the Respondent and Respondent's project partners (more specific cost share requirements will depend on multiple variables)."
  - Respondents are encouraged to submit as many projects as they feel are viable and within the scope of the EOI. For each project submitted, respondents should indicate their full range of resources. Respondents submitting multiple projects may wish to indicate, as part of their submissions, how these resources would be allocated between projects in the event that multiple projects were selected from a single respondent.

**Questions 7, 8 & 9:**

6/14/21

1. Please provide a range of project capital cost and in-service dates that would be applicable for the program.
2. Please elaborate on whether funds flow directly to a project developer, or if a community/municipal/non-profit partner is required to receive funds and co-own the project.
3. Please describe the technical assistance available to project partners, and what reporting and data collection is associated with program participation.

### Responses 7, 8 & 9:

6/16/21

1. For your project, per the EOI, please provide: "Estimated schedule (proposed start date, completion date, and interim milestones, if known)" and "Approximate values and estimates may be provided, and unknowns may be indicated as 'TBD.'"
2. Per the EOI, "Partnership with a State Energy Office is desirable" but is not required for a respondent to potentially "...be asked to submit a detailed proposal"
3. Technical assistance may include project analysis, RFP creation, technical bid response evaluation and support during design. For selected projects, reporting may include but is not limited to project meetings with CESA and its partners as needed during project development and construction; brief monthly and quarterly project reporting during the same period; contributions toward a final project report in collaboration with CESA and its partners; and one or more brief public presentations on the project at events hosted by CESA and/or its partners (events may be in-person or virtual). Data collection requirements are a data sharing agreement between the project and CESA partners that allows for automated operational data collection of the installed system for 1 year following commissioning.

### Questions 10, 11, 12 & 13

6/15/21

1. Please define what CESA means by "rural electric grids", as stated in the first design concept requirements. Does this refer to electric grids in rural areas and if so, please define your classification of a rural area? Or does this refer to electric grids served by rural electric utilities or cooperatives?
2. How is CESA determining disadvantaged, low-income, overburdened, and underserved communities? How is CESA qualifying communities based on these designations? What is the criteria used to determine these social equity designation?
3. The RFP states that projects selected for consideration may be eligible for technical and/or financial support. Could you please clarify what project costs qualify as eligible grant funds?
4. The RFP states a 50% Match requirement will be required for financial support (if offered) and more specific cost share requirements will depend on multiple variables. But, could share what project costs will qualify as Match; i.e.: equipment purchases, labor costs, interconnection and permitting fees, design costs, etc.?

### Responses 10, 11, 12 & 13

6/16/21

1. This refers to electric grids in rural areas. "Rural electric grids" may include, but is not limited to, areas served by rural electric utilities or cooperatives.

2. Respondents should refer to the formal definitions of these terms as determined by their states or regions.
3. All project related costs are included in the overall project cost, i.e., design, engineering, permitting, studies, system components, infrastructure, commissioning, land used by project, and capital costs. So all project related expenses are included in project.
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#### **Question 14**

6/18/21

Would a battery storage energy project in South Burlington, VT be considered as “providing resiliency and reliability to rural electric grids? This project would be integrated with an existing solar system which provides power to a new city building which houses City Hall, Library and Senior Center.

#### **Response 14**

6/18/21

Respondents should include in their submissions all information necessary to help CESA and its partners determine whether a project falls into one of the categories of interest, as outlined in the EOI. However, submissions are not limited to these categories. All submissions will be considered.