

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will all federal grants flow through ODOE? Will ODOE guide all application efforts under IJA?

No, ODOE will not be involved in all applications under the IJA as there will be numerous opportunities.

Some opportunities may be explicitly available to communities or other non-state applicants, and others may require state-level involvement as part of the application. ODOE hopes to understand the capacity of our stakeholders and identify where we can help support local efforts.

2. What are the attributes/strengths you see for Oregon that will make us likely to win certain grants, and thus become a lens for what we should apply for?

Oregon's leadership on clean energy, abundant clean resources, history with energy efficiency, existing programs, and strong climate change policies and goals will help the state compete well for federal dollars. The state has also prioritized investment in and engagement with vulnerable communities, which should help us meet the federal goals and requirements associated with Justice40.

3. Is Oregon contemplating any multi-state collaborative efforts?

Yes. Hydrogen Hub funding is an example of this multi-state collaboration. For this opportunity, Oregon is collaborating with Washington state. ODOE also intends to work with other state energy offices to improve Oregon's energy security plan and may identify other partnerships in the future.

4. For the competitive funds, has ODOE thought about submitting comprehensive proposals with other stakeholders (communities, industry, utilities, etc.)?

ODOE's specific strategy and partnership activities will depend on the purpose of the funding and any preferences identified in the application process. In general, ODOE is very interested in opportunities to partner on applications with other Oregon entities, especially where those partnerships will make an application more competitive.

5. Has ODOE considered creating some limited duration positions that could work with organizations and communities to do project planning?

ODOE has submitted a legislative concept to the governor's office proposing a community "navigator" to provide rural, Tribal, and other environmental justice communities with information about potential funding resources and other technical assistance to develop energy projects or build energy-related capacity. You can read more about this concept on page 2 of [the ODOE Legislative Concepts summary](#).



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions

6. Will ODOE consider prioritizing funding for categories that are not currently supported by other funds.

Yes, if the need for funding in those areas appears to be met, ODOE will consider those factors when crafting our applications. We will strive to best match funding opportunities with the needs we see.

7. Does Oregon anticipate the need for consulting assistance in developing programs or deploying funds?

ODOE is likely to consult experts in developing programs and deploying funding. At this time, we do not know precisely what we may need. We have identified two areas where we plan to seek assistance from consultants: ODOE will be putting out an RFP (request for proposals) for assistance in improving the state's Energy Security Plan, which is required under US DOE's State Energy Program. We will also be working with a consultant to engage Oregonians in the development our application for grid resilience funding.

8. Is ODOE attaching any standards for contractors who will perform work under these projects with IIJA funding?

Federal funding will come with requirements for contractors, such as compliance with the [Davis-Bacon Act](#). ODOE will pass along those requirements at a minimum. [Buy American](#) requirements, as well as other terms and conditions, will also apply.

9. Is there a specific pathway for tribes and tribal organizations to engage/access funding?

Depending on the federal program, federally-recognized Tribes may be specifically invited to apply for funding or may receive their own allocation from formula funds. ODOE welcomes the opportunity to coordinate with Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes and other tribal communities as we move forward under each specific program. Tribal communities are encouraged to reach out to coordinate with ODOE on energy-related issues.

10. Is there a role for businesses to review opportunities and encourage Oregon (or communities) to apply for them?

Yes, ODOE plans to promote opportunities for businesses and communities as we become aware of them. Often ODOE will not have much advanced information (if any) from the federal government and we anticipate quick turn-around times on many applications.



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions

11. Is there a federal or state definition of disadvantaged communities that will determine eligibility for beneficiaries?

At time of writing ODOE has received the guidance from US DOE and is evaluating how this guidance aligns with each funding opportunity, as the definition may vary based on each program's purpose and unique guidance. You can view the federal US DOE Guidance on Justice40 [here](#).

12. What is the State Energy Program? How will the \$6.5M under State Energy Program will be used?

Update: Oregon has received an official allocation of \$5,664,180 for the State Energy Program, which is slightly lower than our earlier estimate.

The State Energy Program was created by Congress in the early 1970s to encourage and facilitate state programs to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. It is run by the USDOE. ODOE receives money from the SEP every year, usually around \$800,000. The IIJA significantly increased the SEP for a 5-year period.

The purpose of SEP is to promote the efficient use of energy and reduce the rate of growth of energy demand through the development and implementation of specific state energy programs. The SEP has capacity for broad types of projects, energy planning, studies, and on the ground investments. There are some limitations, but it is one of the broader funding opportunities we anticipate under IIJA. To learn more about the State Energy Program please see: [State Energy Program](#).

At this time, we are in the process of crafting an application for additional SEP funding under IIJA, based on agency needs and feedback we've heard from the public webinars.

13. Regarding the Energy Auditor Training competitive grant program, are the auditors state auditors or utility-based?

The competitive grant opportunity will support workforce development activities for energy auditors, wherever they may obtain employment. There will likely be a wide array of opportunities for both public and private employers to benefit from a better trained workforce. ODOE is currently gathering information to be well positioned to apply when the funding opportunity announcement is released.

14. Regarding the revolving loan fund, will the state be administering the revolving loan fund or providing the funding to an organization to administer the revolving loan fund?

ODOE is currently waiting for guidance from USDOE on how the revolving loan fund should be administered. At this point, we are gathering information, consulting with

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions

stakeholders, and considering our options on this topic. We have not made a decision yet about our capacity to administer the program vs using a third-party.

15. Will ODOE reach out to more people than just those who have signed up to get more information?

ODOE would like to reach out to new audiences and make sure there is a broad chance to participate and provide feedback. Please reach out to let ODOE know if there are any other presentation venues and/or opportunities.

16. Is ODOE open to being invited to group meetings to share this information (and again when many of these opportunities are released)?

Absolutely. Please contact ODOE with any ideas on where and when staff can present and engage with organizations and communities on this topic.

RESOURCE LINKS

- ODOE IJIA website with recordings and resources:
<https://www.oregon.gov/energy-oregon/Pages/IJIA.aspx>
 - Link to the slides from ODOE presentation on federal funding opportunities:
<https://www.oregon.gov/energy-oregon/Documents/IJIA-Webinar-Presentation.pdf>
 - ODOE comment portal for federal funding:
<https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/en-US/ijiacomments/>
 - Federal funding by agency (hosted by ODOT) -
<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/IF/Pages/Funding-Programs.aspx>
- ODOE's strategic plan: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Pages/Strategic-Plan.aspx>
- Energy Advisory Work Group meeting materials: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Get-Involved/Pages/Energy-Advisory-Work-Group.aspx>
- Workforce Roundtable materials - <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Documents/2022-03-16-Workforce-Development-Mtg-Summary-Presentation.pdf>
- ODOE public budget meeting on July 25: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Pages/Budget.aspx>