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About Community Benefits Plans

The Department of Energy (DOE) requires Community Benefits Plans (CBPs) for nearly all Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and loan applications.

Community Benefits Plans are based on a set of four core policy priorities:



These key principles, when incorporated comprehensively into project proposals and applications, will reduce project risk and help ensure broadly shared prosperity in the clean energy transition.

Community Benefits Plans are intentionally flexible to generate the best approaches from applicants and their partners. Plans must be specific, actionable, and measurable. In most cases for grants, these plans are scored at 20 percent of the technical merit review of proposals.

For grant programs focused on deployment of clean energy infrastructure, this 20 percent is split equally into four intersecting sections that work together to ensure project success, the efficient and effective use of taxpayer funds, timely implementation of projects, and the acceleration of private sector uptake in projects funded by BIL and IRA. Specific asks for Community Benefits Plans may vary due to the range of project types. For example, large place-based demonstration and deployment projects will require the most robust plans. Research and development project applications will be based on the same priorities, but may ask for different ways of approaching and planning for those opportunities.

When an applicant is selected, their Community Benefits Plan will be part of the contractual obligation of the funding recipient. A summary of the Community Benefits Plan will be publicly posted on DOE's website for transparency and accountability.

Community Benefits Plan Templates

Below are a few templates that can assist applicants for funding with the formulation of their Community Benefits Plans:

- [Template for Demonstration and Deployment Projects](#)
- [Template for Research and Development Projects](#)
- [Template for FEED Study/ Phase 1 Projects](#)

Please refer to the specific DOE funding opportunity or program for direction regarding which template to use. For specific guidance on how Community Benefits Plans apply to the Loan Programs Office, please visit [Community Jobs and Justice](#).



Community Benefits Plans Webinar Series for Applicants

A video presentation series on developing effective Community Benefits Plans

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Community Benefits Plan FAQs

Have a question about Community Benefits Plans? Check out our FAQ page.

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