

2026-02-26 iCRS-D Informational Webinar Transcript

Christi Pezzone 0:12

All right, let's go ahead and we will begin.

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to our informational webinar for the Interconnection Cost Reduction Solution for Distribution, or iCRS-D. My name is Christi Pezzone. I am the Deputy Director here at ENERGYWERX, and I wanted to go over a couple of notes before we get started. The first one, as you could see on our first slide, no AI bots are permitted, so we will be removing those if we see them come in and not allowing them come in if we catch them before they get into the call.

We will be posting a transcript and this video and the Q&A [on the website](#). The Q&A will be posted sometimes next week. The transcript and the recording should be up today. If not today, it'll be first thing tomorrow. So, if there's anything that you missed, you can go reference those. Next slide please.

Again, this is an information session. There will be some time to address some questions after a briefing from the program office on iCRS-D. You will see on this website information about our Slido tool. You can either scan that QR code or go to [slido.com](#) and enter #icsdoss and that will give you access to our Slido where you can ask questions. This is crowdsourced, so you'll be able to see the questions that other folks have asked and upvote any questions if you have the same question. Doing that will bump them to the top of the list to ensure that they get answered. Anything that does is not answered because we don't have time, we will get the responses to that, and [we will have those posted on our website](#) probably sometime early to mid next week.

I wanted to go over a few upcoming key dates before we kick everything off. The next informational webinar is scheduled for [March 19th at 3:00 PM Eastern Time](#) and the one after that is [April 2nd at 3:00 PM Eastern Time](#). These informational webinars will be another opportunity for you to ask questions, and they will have a little shorter review of what the program is. An important date to

keep in mind is applications closed on Thursday, April 16th at 3:00 PM. If you have any application issues, please reach out to info@energywerx.org. Moving on to the overview portion of the webinar, I'll be turning this over to Andrew Torma from the Interconnection Innovation Exchange Program.

Andrew Torma 2:47

Perfect. Thank you so much. I hope everyone can hear me.

My name is Andrew Torma. I'm part of the i2X team in the DOE.

We are a program that sits under the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation in the DOE but spearheaded within that by the Integrated Energy Systems Office. I have two other colleagues here. So I'm Andrew and this is...

Spencer Doyle 3:08

My name is Spencer Doyle.

I'm also a tech advisor on i2X.

Ammar Qusaibaty 3:13

I'm Ammar Qusaibaty and I'm a tech advisor on i2X.

Andrew Torma 3:17

So we're here to talk about the Interconnection Cost Reduction Solutions for Distribution Grid funding opportunity. So you can go to next slide.

Quick agenda: we'll review what i2X is. Then we'll do the program funding overview. Spencer will take over halfway through and talk a little bit more about the eligibility materials, review selection and timeline, and then we'll open up for Q&A.

Again use the Slido to ask your questions, and there's a QR code here.

You can go next slide.

i2X, our mission is to enable a simple, fast and affordable interconnection while enhancing the liability and security of our electric grid. Within that, we can have 4 main ways we support this mission.

- One is strategic solutions for interconnection.
- Stakeholder engagement by convening stakeholders.

- Data analytics to inform and benchmark how we implement and do better decision making for the solutions and
- Research and innovation- leveraging partners with national labs and other expertise to implement these solutions and interconnection. You know the next slide.

This is our team here. We again are spearheaded by the integrated Energy Systems Office in the DOE, but we also work across different offices in the DOE.

One that would make sense for interconnection in the grid is office electricity, and then we also work across a lot of the different national labs to leverage their expertise in the area. 5 main ones that we generally work with are Idaho National lab. Sandia, Berkley, Oakridge and then the newly named National Lab of the Rockies. You can go next.

Just to give some highlights of what we've done over the past year.

So under the strategic solutions for interconnection, we have 60 plus rural solutions for the transmission and distribution grid around four goals. These goals are increasing data access transparency, improving the process and timing, promoting economic efficiency in our connection and maintaining reliable, resilient and secure grid. Within that, we've had a lot of stakeholder engagement opportunities.

One is i2X connect; it's a platform. [Here's a link where you can join.](#) It's where we have interconnection, stakeholders and actors come together. They can learn from each other, share solutions, questions or just connect.

We also had 10 events and presentations where we disseminate these solutions. We came up with four lab hosted exchanges to cover these solutions, specifically on the distribution grid and we have something called i2X first form for reliability standard for transmission. We, in the last year, for under data analytics arm, we've had a lot of bulk power system reports, one on cost and another one called "Queued Up" which is a big one that comes out every year. It's all about the current state of interconnection queues and the last part for research innovation we kicked off recently. Actually, another PIA opportunity that we had called iQMS. It's all for queue management solutions.

So we have 5 utilities there working with Sandia and SEPA also leading.

Peer learning on the technical guidance for them, we had a White paper from Sandia

about direct transfer trip. You should go read that if you have a chance, and also we've done some training for EMT modeling for the bulk power system through Oak Ridge and ESIG NERC. You can go to the next slide.

So we can get to the this program. This is iCRS-D. The purpose of this program is to reduce interaction costs related to the distribution grid related to distribution grid upgrades by directly funding organizations that will lead local, state, or regional partnerships to demonstrate the innovation solutions with what we're calling Lighthouse projects.

You can see example on the right of what [the website looks like](#). So if you scan this corridor code it will take you here right away. [You can see a link to the application, which is due on the 16th of April](#). As was said before and this whole page will give you a description and a lot of information we're going to go through in the upcoming slides. If you have any questions, you can go there. Also, the total funding for this is \$4 million. You can go to the next slide.

As I said, we're going to fund a lead organization to lead partners who will represent these multi stakeholder partnerships. They will compose organizations that have the expertise, capabilities and authority to implement these projects.

So here are examples that if you want to implement and demonstrate these solutions, you may need that distribution utility, a state regulator, a developer, and/or a state governing body. These are people you might want to have in your partnership, and we're going to fund our Lighthouse Projects.

When we say Lighthouse Project, we mean a pilot program that develops and demonstrates new technologies and effective solutions for interconnection.

So the goal is to have efforts that deliver tested approaches of scalable interconnection solutions, all with the goal to improve the process, reduce over costs and maintain a reliable grid. So that's a bigger picture within i2X.

Specifically here within these Lighthouse Projects, we aim to improve interconnection timelines and cost and you'll do that by maximizing economic efficiency, increasing data access and transparency, or by streamlining services.

That's the goal of the Lighthouse Projects. You can go next.

So how we actually do this? What do we mean? What are the logistics? The duration is going to be about two years. The funding level will be about up to \$1,000,000 per lead organization, and so again we're going to have multi stakeholder partnerships at the local state regional level to execute the Lighthouse Projects. You'll be using your distribution level interconnection expertise within your partnerships to prioritize and adapt practical solutions for load and generation interconnection.

So by doing this by implementing these Lighthouse Projects, we're looking for the partnerships

- to perform stakeholder engagement,
- facilitate cross learning,
- conduct analytical research and modeling for the solution development within your subject matter expertise,
- support technical innovation implementation,
- and also pilot the solutions in a local environment under real world conditions and scenarios.

With all of this, the results will then be shared publicly. Go next.

So some examples of solutions we have in three categories here:

The maximized economic efficiency idea better accommodate growth and mitigate costly system upgrades. Here you can do integrated grid planning, proactively upgrade feeder circuits, or maybe develop a process for flexible interconnection or co-located generation.

Aid project development and cost estimations of the data analytics or the transparency aspect. So, this could be increasing public access to aggregated and ominous grid data, identify grid sectors that host surplus interconnection services and capacity (This will help avoid those costly upgrades), or integrate greater enhancing technologies.

Last, facilitate efficient screening methods and remove undue burden. So, this is all about streamlining the services so you can harmonize their connection procedures across territories. You can automate your systems. You can provide fast tracking or expedited services based on different factors of the interconnection request. You could maybe do a cluster studies.

These are all examples here. [You can find them online too.](#) We just want to give you a taste of what we're what we you can do for your projects. You can go to the next slide, and I'll pass it over to Spencer.

Spencer Doyle 10:33

Great. Thank you, Andrew, for the thorough description and overview of iCRS-D. So I'll start off by talking about eligibility for the applicants. First off, an applicant must qualify as a domestic entity. To do so, the applicant must be organized, chartered or incorporated under the laws of a state or territory within the US. Additionally, the entity must have a majority domestic ownership and control and have a physical place of business here in the US. Beyond that, the applicant must certify that it is not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government on the country of risk list that is published by the DOE. Currently, the DOE defines the country of risk list to include China, Russia, North Korea and Iran, but note that that list is subject to change.

Finally, applicants are required to provide supporting evidence of strong interest from the partners that are a part of your multi stakeholder partnership. We will get more to that later, but just a quick note here that if the lead organization on the lead applicant is an IOU, you will be required to provide a 50% cost share. Next slide please.

[Our application is live.](#) It has been live for a week now and will remain open until April 16th at 3:00 PM Eastern, which is 7 weeks from now, so still ample time to form your partnerships and get your applications put together. You can see an initial screenshot of what that application website looks like on the left. You will be instructed to create an account and fill out a form and some documents which we'll get to you in a moment. There's a link to this application on the information web page that we shared previously. You can additionally scan this QR code and be brought straight to the application as well. Next slide please.

Let's get into the actual application materials. We are requiring applicants to first off describe your proposed projects using a [Project Proposal Template.](#) We are both linking that in this slide show, but also on the informational website and in the application. You can see a screenshot of that template on the right, but this

template really makes up a big portion of what we are requiring in the application. You can think of this as kind of your narrative document where you're providing some simple logistics like your project title, the lead organization name, but also some more slightly involved more descriptive sections such as a project summary, list of your partners and their various roles, as well as a problem statement, current practices in your particular region and so on.

In addition to that document that you will be filling out comprehensively, we have a form that you will be filling out online on the application site and as a part of completing that form you will be uploading two types of documents.

The first is that proposal template that I just discussed. Applicants will fill that out on your own and upload that to the application form. Then additionally, as you go through the application form, you will see certain requests for supporting documents. For example, providing resumes for key personnel, providing letters of intent or commitment from your partnering organizations, and those can all be uploaded in the supporting document section on the application form.

Finally, once you've got all of your application materials bundled up in a nice pretty package, you can go ahead and [submit that completed form online](#).

Again, I'll sound like a broken record, but the application is due by April 16th at 3:00 PM Eastern. OK, next slide please.

Here we'll just be looking at some key information that will be needed as a part of online application. Of course, #1 certifying your eligibility. Verify that you meet those eligibility criteria, I discussed a few slides ago. You will also be providing your lead organization's information, your name, website address and points of contact. You'll be doing the same for your partnering organizations. Include all of the members of your multi stakeholder partnership by providing each organization's name and contact info. Just a small note there that the online form itself allows you to provide up to three additional partnering organizations, but if you have more than three partners, that is no problem. You can provide any additional information in your narrative, so in that document that you will be to the website.

You will also be providing regional details such as geographic coverage for the region of interest that you are planning your pilot project in, as well as a state of the

interconnection efforts in the region that you're targeting. For example, you could include the number and capacity of interconnection requests in that area. We'll ask for your project's title and summary, of course. Then there are a handful of multiple choice questions about your project alignment with the partnering entities priorities, make sure everybody's on the same page and supporting everybody else's priorities. Another multiple choice question on the staff and resources that you are willing to commit to the project as well as ask questions about any previous or pending DOE funding outside of this opportunity. OK, next slide please.

As you could tell probably from my colleague Andrew's description, we are willing to support a wide breadth of innovations and interconnections solutions here. I do think it's worth talking a little bit about what some projects that we are specifically not interested in might look like to help you with your applications. The following types are considered nonresponsive to the opportunity and thus will not be reviewed or funded under the opportunity. We ask please do not submit if it is along these lines.

- First projects that do not include a partnership composed of organizations with the necessary expertise, capabilities, and authority to implement their proposed projects. So make sure you have the right team.
- Projects that are focused on one specific generation, source or load type. We're looking for projects and pilots that are technology and resource agnostic.
- Projects on the national scale or that are led by a national actor that has no expertise in local, state or regional priorities or goals. We're looking really for very specific regional innovations and implemented solutions on the distribution level.
- Projects that focus solely on convening stakeholders or conducting research to produce things like new frameworks, grid modeling capabilities, new electric regulations, or compiling strategies for improving interaction. Practices, although all that sounds like great work, we're not interested here in simply convening stakeholders and groups, but implementing these real-world Lighthouse Projects.
- Projects that focus solely on transmission level solutions. Again, this is targeted to the distribution level.

I will just make a quick flag for anybody who may be on this call, and maybe you're on the wrong call. We do also have an [Interconnection Cost Reduction Solutions for Transmission \(iCRS-T\)](#) that is using a Voucher Program and [that application is also open](#) and we are happy to provide a link to that if that is of interest to you.

- Projects that focus on marketing efforts or business development activities, either for existing or new solutions or products. Simply put, this is not a small business grant. This is really about those distributed interconnection solutions.
- Projects that support or fund specific interconnection applications or service requests.
- Projects that proposed solutions or technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles, of course. Next slide please.

Great. So what are we looking for? We have a nice list of what we're not looking for, so here I'm showing our merit review criteria. This is how we will be reviewing applications and you can see that we've organized this into 3 broad categories,

- scope and partnership,
- work plan, and
- feasibility and impact and scalability.

So starting on the left, under scope and partnership, we will be evaluating applications for their thorough understanding of existing interconnection practices, highlighting both limitations and deficiencies. We are looking to support solutions that can help reduce costs and reduce barriers associated with interconnection services for generators, large loads and hybrid facilities on the distribution grid of your targeted region. We're looking to support teams that are multi stakeholder partnerships that are composed of the organizations that provide sufficient expertise, capabilities and authority to implement your proposed lighthouse project.

For example, a distribution utility, a state regulator, a representative of the state government. For example, iCRS-D is looking for projects that demonstrate strong interest from their partnering organizations and along those lines, the next bullet point. Ideally, you know we're requiring applicants to include signed partnership agreements or commitments from their partner organizations. Project should include key personnel who have the relevant expertise, capabilities and decision making

authority to implement the project. The proposal should align well with the goals and priorities of the various key team members in the organizations.

Moving on to the work plan and feasibility. Application should include specific and feasible activities, milestones and outputs for their proposed Lighthouse Projects. So that's the first three bullet points there. They're all very similar wording, but you can go ahead and take a look. As you were describing, you know the activities, milestones and outputs of your proposed project, you should be thinking of things like stakeholder engagement, solution development and implementation, and your field demonstration. Those are all critical components of your proposed project. The application should identify potential risks to their project success and provide appropriate mitigation strategies for those risks. Finally, applicants should include key performance indicators or measurable outcomes that are specific and feasible to assess.

Moving on to the right impact and scalability. We're looking for projects that will sufficiently impact interconnection costs and timelines. To demonstrate that goal, we're looking to support solutions that will help reduce projected interconnection costs by at least 50% in the targeted region. This is just to give a benchmark a goal. Your solutions should be readily adopted locally and beyond locally. We're also looking for projects that are scalable, and they can be adopted at, say, a state or a regional level. We're looking for applications that clearly define how the partnership will both quantitatively and qualitatively measure the success of their project. We're also looking for applicants to include a plan that for sharing your Partnership's findings with a broader audience. So this means publications or something of the sort. Finally, for this slide, we're looking for a clear vision to sustain the interconnection process improvements beyond just the funding period. iCRS-D is hoping to prolong the solutions that you help implement beyond the timeline here, including strategies for embedding them with an existing regulatory and utility practices. That was fairly thorough. Next slide.

Those are kind of the project specific selection merit criteria. I'll speak here to the higher level program goals and policy factors, as these factors may also be applied when reviewing and evaluating applications to help select the most impactful portfolio of funded projects.

First off, of course alignment with the I2X program objectives. As you heard about some of those objectives from Andrew earlier, we're looking for proposed projects that strongly align with the goals, priorities and ongoing activities of the Interconnection Innovation Exchange program.

We of course will be supporting DOE priorities, so the proposed projects should advance key DOE energy goals related to grid modernization, streamlining of interconnection processes, cutting of bureaucratic red tape, and energy addition.

We value regional impact and replicability, so the proposed project demonstrates potential, ideally for significant regional impact as well as the ability to be replicated in other regions that face similar interconnection challenges.

Along those same lines, we also value geographic diversity.

So the proposed projects should help us expand the geographic diversity of organizations and regions that participate in DOE supported interconnection initiatives.

Finally, projects should really take advantage and leverage existing resources. So the partnership should effectively leverage existing resources, initiatives and expertise within the region they're working in to help maximize the impact of the project. Next slide.

We finally made it to the timeline. The timeline is already starting to include some past dates, so we opened the submissions a week ago. [You can find the application here](#). We're now a week in seven weeks left. You were all here with me in this Blue Square in this objective strategic session. As was mentioned earlier on the call, in about 3 weeks, you'll be holding [our first office hour also at 3:00 PM Eastern](#) and then about 3 weeks [2 to 3 weeks later, we'll be holding a second office hour](#). So two more opportunities to interface as you put together your partnerships and applications. As we've said many times, the applications are due April 16th at 3:00 PM Eastern.

We will then hold a review and selection process spanning from late April to about June. Moving on to selected project negotiation and contracting around July and

August of this year and we have the goal of kicking off our selected projects at towards the end of this year. In September 2026, to hopefully be completing these one year projects by September of 2028 and of course, just to note that all dates are subject to change. Next slide and I believe that now we will transition to our Q&A. So I will pass it off back to Christi.

Christi Pezzone 25:37

Thank you so much. We're ready to go with Slido. As a reminder, you can go to Slido.com and enter the #icrsdoss or you can scan the QR code on the slide. Now I will turn it over to Julia to go ahead and run our Q&A.

Julia Prudhoe 25:57

Awesome. Thank you so much, Christi.

Does the proposal need to be associated with a specific utility company?

Ammar Qusaibaty 26:13

Associated is a vague term or word. The focus could be working with one utility or more than one utility, right? So, it doesn't have to be only one utility. They could work with many utilities in the same state or across different states. That's sort of the term. People can do regional work and innovation.

Julia Prudhoe 26:39

Thank you.

Would proposals that expand or scale an initial utility pilot be considered responsive, or is DOE prioritizing entirely new efforts?

Ammar Qusaibaty 26:54

That is a really great question. I don't think we're prioritizing new versus existing or expanding efforts. We have merit review criteria as Spencer highlighted and the projects will be scored according to these criteria.

We review all of the applications as a portfolio of applications and pick the most impactful ones. So, it's really hard to tell if it's new versus an existing or expanding. It all depends.

Julia Prudhoe 27:28

Thank you.

Will this i2X program include support for the interconnection of mobile medium power PIPV appliances with the low voltage distribution grid?

Ammar Qusaibaty 27:42

I'm not familiar with that particular technology, but that's something we can get back to you on.

Julia Prudhoe 27:55

Thank you.

Is this a one-year program? I thought it had said two years in one of the initial slides.

Ammar Qusaibaty 28:03

Yes, it's a two-year program. I think there was a typo. This project timeline was supposed to be 2028, not 2027. It was just a typo.

There's a couple of typos we'll fix before we post the slides online.

Julia Prudhoe 28:21

Since we since we just answered that question,

Will these slides be available after the call?

Yes, we will post the slides along with the transcript and recording of this call after we fix those typos in the next couple of business days.

Next question,

IOUs (Investor Owned Utilities) must provide a 50% cost share. Does that apply only when an IOU is the prime award recipient or also when an IOU participates as a project partner?

Ammar Qusaibaty 28:56

That's correct.

Only when it's a prime recipient.

Julia Prudhoe 29:06

How does proactively upgrade feeder circuits achieve a 50% IX cost reduction? Isn't it just socializing costs on existing customers for new connections?

Ammar Qusaibaty 29:18

So I think in this context we're looking for innovative ways for cost reduction when it comes to grid upgrades. That's really the purpose of it. There's a lot of ideas or examples that were mentioned. So instead of doing an expensive upgrade, you can use the grid better, or use a term that people use called flexible interconnection. That's an example in which you can actually reduce the cost significantly of the upgrades themselves that are required to interconnect a new generation. That's the concept behind that 50% cost reduction as an example, there's other examples. It's all about deferring grid upgrades in many ways.

Julia Prudhoe 30:03

Thank you.

Without standard data standardization across utilities, scaling seems like an initial problem. Are you looking for some of these solutions to address that?

Ammar Qusaibaty 30:17

Thinking about how to scale it is a really an important aspect of it. I think it's part of being able to replicate that solution across multiple regions, i.e. going beyond the lighthouse project. It becomes a component. This becomes part of the plan of what you're going to do in order to enable that sort of seamless integration across different utilities. That becomes a really important component to consider.

Julia Prudhoe 30:48

Clarifying associated in the first question,

Does a utility have to be part of the applicant team slash partners?

Ammar Qusaibaty 30:59

It doesn't have to be. That's one of the options to be part of a team.

We give a lot of qualifications in terms of what would be an ideal team that you have the right organizations that have authority to implement these changes. A utility seems to be an important aspect, especially if you're going to make changes to interconnection practices.

Julia Prudhoe 31:24

Could you clarify if as a utility partner, vendors could be international companies with US presence?

Ammar Qusaibaty 31:32

I think this one maybe is for ENERGYWERX. If it was awarded and there is a Business-to-Business agreement, does it do they have to report? For example, if a utility is selected and they got the Business-to-Business agreement with ENERGYWERX, do they have to report who they work with in terms of vendors and things like that?

Christi Pezzone 31:58

Sara, I saw you had your hand up. We have Sara from DOE also.

Sara Harvey 32:00

The definition for domestic entity applies to the prime applicant. iCRS-D is looking for the prime applicant to be a US domestic entity and that includes having a headquarters on US soil. We're not asking for information about subcontractors or vendors. However, that information may be requested as we are getting into the negotiation stage. Generally, you are eligible to apply if the prime applicant is AUS domestic entity.

Julia Prudhoe 32:43

Thank you, Sara.

Are proposers allowed to structure projects in a phased way, such as a core

deployment with mild stone based expansion, or does DOE expect a fully fixed scope?

Ammar Qusaibaty 33:01

I think that's flexible of how people structure. There's no limitation of creating a phased approach. These projects have milestone-based payments. You can structure it in a phased approach. If you have one phase or you have a couple phases, because you want to test whether what you're doing is sort of working so. Absolutely. There's a lot of flexibility with that.

Julia Prudhoe 33:28

Are national labs eligible? If allowed, what are the limits for their participation?

Ammar Qusaibaty 33:33

I think maybe.

That question is for Sarah, and there's some guidance on that perhaps.

Sara Harvey 33:38

there is not separated funding in this opportunity for national labs. National labs are able to provide TA to awardees, but at a cap of 10% of the total project effort. That will be handled outside of the agreements with ENERGYWERX.

Julia Prudhoe 33:59

Thank you, Sara.

If a related utility pilot has received state or other funding previously, are there restrictions on layering in DOE funding to expand geography or scope?

Ammar Qusaibaty 34:16

I will give my quick answer, but maybe Sarah can sort of highlight. I don't think I see an issue as long as there's no duplication. The US the federal dollars are not used in a duplicative way as long as sort of separated from the other activities are funded separately. Sara can elaborate on.

Sara Harvey 34:40

I think that's the right assessment. As long as you know you can show that there's no duplication of effort from the other federal dollars, that should be fine. But obviously we'll have to make that assessment on a case-by-case basis.

Julia Prudhoe 34:54

Thank you.

Can you propose a timeline that is faster than two years?

Ammar Qusaibaty 35:02

Absolutely.

Julia Prudhoe 35:07

Should a cybersecurity solution or plan for flexible interconnection be considered?

Ammar Qusaibaty 35:16

I think it would not hurt.

So really it depends on how you want to structure your application.

That seems very logical to consider risks to the solution itself that you're implementing and seeing the cyber security is one of those.

Julia Prudhoe 35:36

Why only four project previous similar opportunities from I2X? The target was 10 to 12 awardees.

Ammar Qusaibaty 35:44

The funding cap per award is \$1,000,000. That's the funding cap. We're not going to fund more than a million per project and we have 4 million in total funding. Most people apply for the full amount, but if we really get that great mix of applications, we can fund more than four. The funding amount is the constraint is not necessarily how many. The total funding is limited at this time to 4 million.

Julia Prudhoe 36:19

Thank you.

Christi Pezzone 36:23

So we will wait a couple minutes to see if we get any other questions before wrapping up. That's how it always works.

Julia Prudhoe 36:35

How is DOE thinking about the balance between new tools slash feature development versus scaling proven tools that can achieve measurable cost reductions within the two years?

Ammar Qusaibaty 36:47

I mean, it's a great question and we have to see how that is rationalized within the application itself and how people are thinking about that. We certainly open for new tools and we love for people to think about how to combine new tools and enhancement to existing ones in order to achieve the goal. We tend to be focused on outputs and outcomes much more than the journey itself and how you did it, but certainly having new tools increase the risks. We want to see in the application how people adjust these risks and how they think about them and how they mitigate these risks.

Christi Pezzone 37:31

Perfect. I'll try again. Just kidding. I won't.

Julia Prudhoe 37:38

The question, just says thank you for a great Q&A.

Christi Pezzone 37:42

Perfect.

Ammar Qusaibaty 37:42

Fantastic. Thank you. That's not the end of it.

You can always send us questions, and we're happy to answer them and put them on the frequently asked questions section of the website.

Christi Pezzone 37:54

If you all come up with any questions after kind of reviewing the materials from this, again, the recording, the transcript and the slides will be [posted on our website](#) probably by first thing tomorrow, so you'll have access to those to review.

If any if you come up with any questions after that, please reach out to info@energywerx.org and we will work with DOE to get those answered and get those posted on our website so that everybody can see those.

As a reminder, all questions will be provided to DOE after our webinar today so that they can answer them in writing. We will post that on our website as well. Those should be posted sometime next week. Please remember again that submissions are due no later than Thursday, April 16th, 2026 at 3:00 PM Eastern Time, and in the chat you will find [links to eligibility, evaluation criteria, required templates to complete,](#) and [application forms for consideration.](#)

Again, I mentioned that we will be providing the recording and the slides on our website. You can see the links on the screen to the upcoming office hours that we will be hosting. We welcome you to register for those as well.

- [March 19 Informational Webinar](#)
- [April 2 Informational Webinar](#)

Again, the format for those will just be a short overview kind of like we did. Today, but probably about 10 to 15 minutes and then more time for questions. And as always, you can e-mail info@energywerx.org if you have any questions prior to that that you would like answered. It looks like we do not have any more questions, so we'll go ahead and wrap up a little bit early today. I wanted to thank the i2X team for being here and the ENERGYWERX team is always for your support. I hope everyone has a great rest of your week. Thank you so much.