

Public Hearing

Thursday, March 16, 2023

3:00 p.m.

The hearing will take place online, via Zoom. To listen in or participate in the hearing, please register at the link below by noon on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/1jcr000rTovGtWVUpzgttPmS7kbV09-Vwlt>

You will receive a link to join the hearing at the email address you provide during registration.

Public Comments

The Commission will accept written comments about the Resilience Formula Grant Program through 5:00 p.m., March 20, 2023.

There are two ways to submit a written comment:

1. Send an email to:
40101d_grant@kcc.ks.gov
2. Submit a comment by mail to:
Kansas Corporation Commission
Energy Office
1500 SW Arrowhead Road,
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Additional Information

- [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#)
- [U.S. DOE Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program Web page](#)
- [Allocation of Grant Funds to States and Indian Tribes](#)

Formula Grant for Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

Overview

The U.S. Department Energy, using funds allocated in the Federal Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act, will provide grants totaling approximately \$471 million in the first year and approximately \$459 annually over the next four years to States and Indian Tribes to improve the resilience of electric grids. Kansas is eligible for approximately \$6.6 million in annual grant funds.

The Kansas Corporation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 16, 2023 regarding the utilization of the State of Kansas' allocation for the life of the grant under the Resilience Formula Grant Program and review the criteria and anticipated methods to be used to grant awards to eligible entities and potential approaches for distributing funding. Public comments will be heard at the hearing. Written comments will also be accepted (see sidebar to learn how to participate in the public hearing or submit a written comment).

Program Details

The objective of the Program is to improve the resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events. This is defined in IIJA Section 40101 as “an event in which operations of the electric grid are disrupted, preventively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or a natural disaster.”

States receiving grants may allocate funds to eligible entities which include the following: an electric grid operator, an electricity storage operator, an electricity generator, a transmission owner or operator, a distribution provider, a fuel supplier, and any other relevant entity, as determined by the Secretary.

Funding provided under this Program may be used to implement a wide range of eligible resilience measures such as:

- weatherization technologies and equipment
- fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems
- monitoring and control technologies
- the undergrounding of electrical equipment
- utility pole management
- the relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors
- vegetation and fuel-load management
- the use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including microgrids and battery-storage subcomponents
- adaptive protection technologies
- advanced modeling technologies
- hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems
- the replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables