Louisiana HERO Program

Project Criteria

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Louisiana HERO Program, which is administered by the Department of Conservation and Energy's (C&E) Office of Energy (OEN), is designed to support more resilient, reliable, and secure energy and strengthen power resilience across Louisiana. The goal of the Louisiana HERO Program is to deliver uninterrupted 24/7 service for mission-critical infrastructure by spurring innovation in distributed energy resources and modernizing the grid to enhance reliability, improve resilience, and meet evolving customer, commercial, and industrial needs.

C&E is requesting input from a variety of stakeholders on critical facility needs, resilience challenges, and resilience financing strategies, and soliciting ideas for innovative approaches to address them through future HERO projects. The input will guide broader program design and advance the identification of a pipeline of future projects that may be eligible for HERO funding.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Advance Louisiana's energy goals by supporting innovation and sector growth, aligning with DOE's energy dominance and national security priorities
- Provide uninterruptible, 24/7 electricity with critical infrastructure
- Spur innovation of distributed energy resources
- Support grid modernization to improve reliability and resilience and meet evolving customer, commercial, and industrial needs
- Enhance emergency response operations with advanced grid and energy storage technologies
- Prioritize solutions that enhance local preparedness and grid resilience in rural and urban areas to strengthen disaster response and recovery efforts
- Reduce energy costs, ease the financial burden of storm recovery, and increase energy access for Louisiana residents
- Support the creation of high-quality jobs and bolster Louisiana's skilled energy workforce
- Strengthen statewide coordination to accelerate the deployment of projects that improve energy security and Louisiana's long-term competitiveness.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

The Louisiana HERO Program will invest in projects that strengthen energy reliability, resilience, and security through the deployment of microgrids, distributed energy resources (DERs), energy storage systems, and other eligible technologies. These projects will vary in components, size, cost, and performance. In some cases, projects may be integrated with the main electric grid and statewide emergency operations. Projects may incorporate a range of technologies and infrastructure components that support energy reliability, resilience, security, and continuity of operations for critical infrastructure and assets. Depending on project objectives, components may include power generation, energy storage, controls, energy management systems, and other resilience-related technologies.

HERO funding will be prioritized for projects that enhance grid reliability, generate new megawatt capacity, provide backup power during long-duration outages, deploy microgrids and distributed energy resources (DERs), strengthen emergency response capabilities, and demonstrate innovative and replicable approaches to resilience. Projects may incorporate innovative partnerships, existing infrastructure, technologies, or complementary funding sources, as appropriate.

TECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS

The technologies below represent examples of components that may be incorporated into HERO projects.

HERO CATEGORY	INCLUDED TECHNOLOGIES
Power Generation	Generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), Geothermal, Fuel Cells, Biomass/Biogas
Energy Storage	Batteries, Hydrogen, Ammonia, Synthetic Fuels
Controls	Energy Management System (EMS), Demand Management, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS)

C&E will consider additional innovative project approaches to the deployment of distributed energy resources, microgrids, and critical facility resilience on a case-by-case basis. Photovoltaic (PV) solar components are not eligible for HERO reimbursement.