REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Issued By: **Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy (C&E)**

Issue Date: **October 23, 2026**

Responses Due: **December 31, 2026**

Respondents can provide supplemental information following the deadline by sending it via the email listed below.

Instructions for Submission: **See details below.**

PURPOSE OF THE RFI

The Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy (C&E) issues this Request for Information (RFI) as an open call for input to inform the design of an anticipated Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the next round of HERO project funding. C&E is seeking input from stakeholders with knowledge about the needs and opportunities for projects that would modernize the statewide electric grid, generate backup power for critical infrastructure or facilities, and increase energy reliability and security.

C&E is requesting input from a variety of stakeholders by soliciting ideas on potential project types, technologies, critical facility needs, resilience challenges, and financing strategies for 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. View the project criteria on the HERO website for more information on the types of projects HERO will fund.

Please note this RFI is exploratory and does **not** constitute a solicitation for bids, proposals, or contracts. Responses will help inform program design, partnership structures, service delivery models, and future procurement activities.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Louisiana HERO Program, which is administered by C&E's Office of Energy (OEN), is designed to accelerate the growth of more resilient, reliable, and secure energy for greater 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.

Strategic priorities for HERO projects:

- 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 for 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 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.

For more information about the Louisiana HERO Program, visit louisianahero.org.

REQUESTED INFORMATION

Respondents can use this form to complete the following information:

Interested organizations are invited to submit a written response that includes the following:

- Organization Profile
  - Entity name and overview
  - Primary point of contact (name, title, email address, city, zip code, phone number)
- Areas of Interest

Please respond to the areas below that apply to your organization:

1. **Given the goals of the Louisiana HERO Program, where could the program have the greatest impact?**
2. **What critical infrastructure or facilities are most important to keep powered during times of distress in your community?**
3. **What kinds of projects or solutions could help address those needs?** *Examples of potential solutions include, but are not limited to, microgrids and backup power systems that power critical facilities during outages, distributed energy resources and energy storage systems that provide backup power, and energy management systems or other technologies that improve the reliability of a critical facility's energy system.*

Examples of components that may fall outside the scope of HERO funding include pre-award engineering and design, routine facility maintenance (e.g., replacing electrical poles, wiring upgrades), small-scale generators for single purpose (e.g. in-ground generators), general building renovations (e.g., office remodeling), standalone energy efficiency improvements (e.g., LED lighting upgrades), and general infrastructure improvements (e.g., undergrounding, vegetation management).

Photovoltaic (PV) solar components are not eligible for HERO grant reimbursement.

4. **Are you aware of any projects being planned or discussed that should be on HERO's radar for future funding opportunities? If so, please describe the facility or infrastructure served, the proposed technology, estimated cost, anticipated construction timeline, and current stage of development.** *Please note that photovoltaic (PV) solar components are not eligible for HERO reimbursement.*
5. **What potential barriers, if any, could prevent these types of projects from moving forward?** *Examples could include cost, interconnection, site control, permitting, utility coordination, equipment lead times, local match, operations and maintenance, procurement rules, and technical uncertainty.*
6. **What local, state, or private funding sources, if any, might be available to help cover a local cost-share requirement for federal HERO grants?**
7. **Are there additional stakeholders HERO should engage to learn more about local energy resilience needs or potential projects? If so, please provide their names, titles, organizations, and a brief description.**

- **Additional Information**
  - Provide additional questions, considerations, or recommendations for program development.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

All correspondence related to this RFI must be submitted through this questionnaire.

The RFI allows users to save their progress and work on responses over time. To save progress on a response, respondents must click “Next” on each page and then reopen the link using the same browser and device. Users can return to previous responses using the “Back” button. To submit a response, respondents must click “Submit” at the end of the questionnaire.

- **Responses Due:** Thursday, Dec. 31 by 5:00 p.m. CST, however, respondents may supplement their response after that date by emailing supplemental information to LaHero@la.gov.
- **Submission Format:** Please respond at this link before the deadline.

- **Disclaimer:** This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes. It does not obligate the State of Louisiana or the Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy to award funding, enter into agreements, or initiate procurement.

PUBLIC RECORDS

All submissions are subject to the Louisiana Public Records Law. Respondents are responsible for clearly identifying any portions of their submission they deem confidential or proprietary.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions or clarifications, please email lahero@la.gov.

NEXT STEPS

The responses from the RFI will help inform the design and development of an anticipated Notice of Funding Opportunity for HERO projects. C&E expects to issue the NOFO in mid-to-late 2027.

To receive the NOFO when it is issued, please sign up for program notifications at louisianahero.org/contact.