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Request For Information (RFI) No. 2023-001

For

Governor's Office of Energy

Release Date: February 13, 2023

Deadline for Submission: April 13, 2023

For additional information, please contact:

[Info@energy.nv.gov](mailto:Info@energy.nv.gov)

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## Description

This is a Request for Information (RFI) issued by the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (GOE). It is NOT a solicitation for quotations, bids, or proposals. No contract award will result from this RFI. The RFI process will be used to collect information that will ultimately support and inform GOE on best practices for program design that effectively serve Nevada households with technology products and services that reduce energy bills, increase home comfort, improve indoor air quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The intent of this RFI is to obtain public input regarding the solicitation process and structure of future GOE Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) to utilize the resources in accordance with the Infrastructure & Investment Jobs Act (IIJA - also known as the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)) and the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) of 2022 (IRA). GOE is expected to utilize any funding allocated, either through formula funds or competitive funds, to expand or develop programs related to grid resilience, energy efficiency and conservation, building energy codes, transportation electrification, clean energy supply chains, renewable energy technologies, and workforce development. This RFI also seeks public input on the development of Clean Energy Workforce Grant Opportunities to support and supplement existing programs.

Specifically, this RFI seeks input on:

The content of, and proposed programmatic requirements for the following DOE Funding:

- IIJA section 40109 State Energy Program Increase
- IIJA section 40503 (the Energy Auditor Training Program)
- IRA section 50123 (the State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training program, or Contractor Training Program)

A gap analysis and needs assessment to determine:

- Equitable access to high quality careers
- Existing gap(s) in qualified candidates
- Requirements and barriers
- Equity and partnerships
- Other

The information collected from this RFI will be used by GOE for planning purposes to develop one or multiple potential FOAs or contracts related to IIJA sections 40109 and 40503 and IRA section 50123. The information collected will not be published but is subject to Nevada Revised Statutes chapter 239 ([NRS 239](#)), Nevada's Public Records Law.

This RFI, having been determined to be the appropriate method for gathering the best information, is designed to provide interested vendors with sufficient information to submit replies meeting the intent of this request. It is not intended to limit a vendor's content or exclude any relevant or essential data.

## Background

The Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (GOE) oversees energy programs required through statute and those that help to meet the mission of the office. The GOE mission is to ensure the wise development of Nevada's energy resources in harmony with local economic needs and to position Nevada to lead the nation in renewable energy production, energy conservation, and the exportation of energy.

In DOE's Request for Information on Workforce Development, it states:

*On November 15, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which appropriates more than \$62 billion to DOE to ensure the that clean energy future delivers true economic prosperity to the American people by:*

- *Investing in American manufacturing and workers, including good-paying jobs that are subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage protections and provide the free and fair opportunity to join a union, effective workforce development to upskill incumbent and dislocated workers, and equitable workforce development pathways into good jobs for workers from underserved communities.*
- *Expanding access to energy efficiency and clean energy for families, communities, and businesses.*
- *Delivering reliable, clean, and affordable power to more Americans.*
- *Building the technologies of tomorrow through clean energy demonstrations.*

*On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The energy and climate provisions of this bill include tax credits for clean energy technologies, almost \$9 billion in residential energy efficiency rebates, \$200 million for energy efficiency contractor training, and billions more for clean energy research and development, community investment, energy justice, and permitting processes.*<sup>1</sup>

DOE is in the process of designing and implementing program requirements and guidance for these appropriations through open RFIs and subsequent FOAs. Specific sections of IIJA and IRA provide formula allocations directly to the State Energy Offices to implement these funds ensuring that overburdened, underserved, and underrepresented individuals and communities have access to federal and state resources.

According to DOE's RFI on Workforce Development *'The BIL and IRA implementation processes should advance equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.'*

*The implementation of any workforce development program will support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, the incorporation of strong labor standards, and high-road workforce development, especially sector-based training, Registered Apprenticeship, and quality pre-apprenticeship.*

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<sup>1</sup> [DE-FOA-0002885 RFI](#)

Having a well-trained workforce in the state is essential to improving the energy performance and quality of the state’s building stock, developing career pathways in the building trades, and ensuring Federal & State funds can be deployed quickly and efficiently.

A study from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) states the number of workers in renewable energy and energy efficiency will double by 2025 and triple by 2030.<sup>2</sup>

GOE is interested in development of new and established locally driven efforts to scale a well-trained, diverse workforce. The agency could do so by establishing a Clean Energy Workforce Development Program. GOE is investigating how to use this program to support the development of a more equitable clean energy workforce.

### Purpose

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit input from local governments, energy contractors, labor organizations, manufacturers of energy efficient equipment and materials, community-based organizations, environmental and housing justice organizations, disadvantaged communities, other stakeholders, and Tribal Nations to inform the program guidance and needed tools that will assist these entities, in designing, managing, and improving clean energy workforce development programs and opportunities.

Through section 40109 of IJJA the State Energy Program (SEP), GOE is considering the deployment of a Clean Energy Workforce Development program. The initial phase of this program would be a gap analysis and needs assessment which will be used to inform the design of a grant program. The second phase of this program would utilize feedback received during this open RFI and the gap analysis and needs assessment to develop and deploy a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to support the workforce needs of the clean energy industry in Nevada.

If additional funding is received from DOE to implement the 40503 the Energy Auditor Training Program and IRA section 50123 the Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training program, GOE will also consider utilizing the information gathered under this RFI to develop and implement those provisions.

GOE does not intend to respond to individual submissions or publish a compendium of responses. Respondents are encouraged to provide input only on questions of relevance or interest to them and may provide additional information not requested, but relevant to these programs at their discretion. For any questions answered via an emailed word document, please include the question number prior to each response.

### Disclaimers

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<sup>2</sup> [NREL, State-Level Employment Projections for Four Clean Energy Technologies in 2025 and 2030.](#)

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. GOE will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported because of this RFI. Under this RFI, GOE is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. GOE will consider responses to this RFI as it develops program guidance, expected to be issued as an Open Competitive Funding Opportunity.

This RFI is not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA); therefore, GOE is not currently accepting applications. Responding to this RFI does not provide any advantage or disadvantage to applicants to future funding opportunities regarding the subject matter.

Any information obtained as a result of this RFI is intended to be used by the State on a non-attribution basis for planning and strategy development; this RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. Your response to this notice will be treated as information only. GOE will review and consider all responses in its formulation of program strategies for the identified materials of interest that are the subject of this request. GOE will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI. Respondents are advised that GOE is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI. Responses to this RFI do not bind GOE to any further actions related to this topic.

#### Right to Cancel

The State of Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (GOE) reserves the right to cancel this RFI at any time.

#### Acceptance of Responses

All responses properly submitted will be accepted.

All materials submitted in response to this RFI become the property of the State. By submitting a response, the vendor acknowledges and accepts that contents of the response and associated documents may become available to the public, except items that have been identified as proprietary by the vendor shall label all information deemed proprietary or confidential in their response. Materials may be evaluated by anyone designated by the State as part of the response evaluation committee.

#### Response to the RFI is not mandatory

Failure to respond to this RFI in whole or in part will not disqualify any vendor from participation in any subsequent solicitation regarding this matter.

#### Review of Responses

GOE will establish an impartial review committee to review the responses to the RFI and reserves the right to consult with other state experts and stakeholders.

### Subsequent Solicitations

Information obtained through this RFI may be used to shape future plans of GOE, including the potential for issuing a funding opportunity and/or Request for Proposals for the types of services identified in this process.

### Projected Timeline

GOE anticipates following the tentative schedule shown below.

Event	Date & Time
Release RFI	<b>February 13, 2023</b>
RFI Responses Due	<b>April 13, 2023</b>

The State reserves the right to modify this schedule at the State’s discretion. Notification of changes in the response due date would be posted on the GOE website or as otherwise stated herein.

Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to [info@energy.nv.gov](mailto:info@energy.nv.gov) no later than 5:00pm (ET) on April 13, 2023.

Responses must be provided as attachments to an email that includes “Clean Energy Workforce RFI Response” in the subject line. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 15MB be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery.

Responses must be provided as a Microsoft Word (.docx), text document, or PDF attachment to the email, and no more than 15 pages in length, 12-point font, 1-inch margins. Only electronic responses will be accepted.

For ease of replying and to aid categorization of your responses, please copy and paste the RFI questions, including the question numbering, and use them as a template for your response. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish.

Respondents are requested to provide the following information at the start of their response to this RFI:

- Company / institution name;
- Company / institution contact;
- Contact’s address, phone number, and e-mail address;
- Company / institution URL
- Represented industry of company / institution

Sign up for updates and learn more: [Federal Funding Opportunities \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov)

### Requests for Information Categories and Questions:

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from partner stakeholders such as labor unions, employers and contractors, workforce development boards (WDBs), institutions of higher education including community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), energy efficiency or related training providers, researchers, community partners, manufacturers, community-based organizations (CBOs), and others on issues related to the development and implementation of the Clean Energy Workforce programs.

These programs focus on energy efficiency and related clean energy industries and do not cover renewable energy or transportation electrification workforce development programs.

This is solely a request for information and not a Funding Opportunity Announcement. GOE is not accepting applications through the release of this RFI. You may answer as few or as many of the questions below as you would like. Please use the bolded category numbers and subcategory numbers as headings in your response to the greatest extent possible and refer to the questions (A1, B1, etc.) in the body of your responses. This helps save time both for the responder and the reviewers.

Specifically, GOE is interested in public input on questions across the following categories and questions:

#### **Category A: Workforce need**

GOE is seeking to identify the types of energy efficiency and related clean energy careers in greatest demand. Please provide supporting research, data sources, and evidence for responses to these questions, when available.

**A1.** What job categories in the energy efficiency and related clean energy fields are the most in demand? What is driving this demand?

1. What job categories are the hardest to find qualified candidates for?
2. What are the key characteristics of these hard-to-fill jobs?
3. What hourly wages and/or annual salaries (or ranges) are associated with these occupations?
4. What are the entry qualifications—educational background, related experience, training, skills, and/or certifications—necessary to fill these positions?
  - a. What are the barriers to entry?
5. Are there promotion opportunities to develop a career within these jobs?

**A2.** In what locations of the state do you project the greatest demand for workers?

**A3.** What support services do workers need to overcome barriers to employment in these high demand careers?

**A4.** What types of contracting firms should GOE target for workforce development and business owner training (e.g., general contractors, home performance contractors, HVAC or electrical contractors, etc.)?

1. What skills, knowledge, and/or training are most pressing for these contracting firms to have?
2. How do the needs of contracting firms vary based on the size of each business?

**Category B: Workforce Development and Business Owner Training Strategies**

GOE is seeking to understand the best strategies to prepare individuals and businesses for energy efficiency and related clean energy careers. Please provide supporting research, data sources and evidence for responses to these questions, when available.

**B1.** What education and training (i.e., workforce development) strategies are most effective, and why, for incumbent workers and contracting firms in energy efficiency and related clean energy careers? (e.g., online, classroom and/or lab instruction, on-the-job training, hybrid models)?

**B2.** What education and training (i.e., workforce development) strategies are most effective, and why, for new workers in energy efficiency and related clean energy careers?

**B3.** Which certifications or credentials should the Clean Energy Workforce Development program prepare participants for?

**B4.** What obstacles prevent access to training for workers and contracting firms? What type of incentives or return on investment would workers and employers need to invest in the training?

**B5.** How could GOE funding be used to support continued education, job placement, and supportive services (e.g., transportation, child and elder care) for the clean energy workforce?

**B6.** How can GOE ensure that workers have pathways for growth and well-paying careers within these industries?

**B7.** What are examples of effective existing workforce development programs?

**Category C: Equity and Partnerships**

GOE is exploring how to design the Clean Energy Workforce Development program to support an equitable energy efficiency and related clean energy workforce with robust partnerships. Please provide supporting research, data sources and evidence for responses to these questions, when available.

**C1.** How can GOE design the Clean Energy Workforce Development program to include and best serve individuals from disadvantaged communities and underserved populations in workforce development and economic inclusion programs? How can GOE design these programs to reach rural community members and businesses?

**C2.** What are examples of successful existing partnerships between nonprofits, industry, government and labor organizations? What is needed to develop more partnerships, particularly to reach disadvantaged communities and underserved populations and provide access to career-track training?

**C3.** How can GOE use funds to expand business ownership in energy efficiency and related clean energy fields for people of color, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and other disadvantaged communities and underserved populations?

**C4.** Are there currently organizations (for profit, nonprofit, trade, labor organizations, etc.) or networks comprised of or supporting disadvantaged communities and underserved populations that should be engaged in this effort of economic inclusion?

**C5.** How can GOE ensure that workers from disadvantaged and underserved communities have access to good quality union jobs? What evidence-based models can GOE deploy to help employers to hire, recruit, retain, and develop a diverse workforce while also eliminating gender, race, and disability-based pay gaps?

**Category D: Other**

**D1.** Please provide any additional information or input not specifically requested in the questions above that would be valuable to help GOE develop the Program FOA and implement the Clean Energy Workforce Development Program.