

Federal Funding Infrastructure Opportunities

Objective: To share information on the energy-related provisions of the IIJA that may become funding opportunities for the state. ODOE is requesting public input as to where and how to prioritize our efforts in seeking federal funds. Feedback received will play a critical role in helping agency staff and stakeholders have a better understanding of perspectives and needs so that we may prioritize the opportunities and strategies most critical for our state.

Background

To support feedback, ODOE will provide background information in two webinars open to the public: **Tuesday, July 12 at 1 p.m.** and **Wednesday, July 20 at 6:00 p.m.** (the same content will be covered at both webinars). A recording from the July 12 webinar will be available [online](#) following the meeting. During the webinars, we will be using interactive tools to survey the audience and collect feedback. However, you are welcome to use this handout and the [online portal](#) to provide written feedback – we hope to gather all substantive input **by August 3, 2022**.

Prompting Questions

General Questions

In conducting broad outreach on this topic, we recognize that not everyone is at the same starting place and may have different levels of knowledge or need.



Thinking about your organization or community, which of these phases or stages would describe how you feel/where you are in regards to federal funding? (Select One)

1. Haven't started and/or new to this topic
2. Assessing options and interests
3. Prioritizing projects and funding under IIJA
4. Ready to implement projects or plans under IIJA
5. Prepared to expand or improve current work with IIJA funds

Energy related federal funding may be available to directly support construction projects, workforce development, energy education, data/policy analysis, and programs to provide financial incentives to bring down the costs of clean, resilient energy for Oregonians. We know that funds may be available for energy auditor training as well as energy education and data/policy analysis related to energy efficiency, weatherization, electric vehicles, and resilience and reliability. We also know that funds will be available for state energy programs ("SEP"), which was created by Congress in the early 1970s to promote the efficient use of energy and reduce the rate of growth of energy demand through the development and implementation of programs (learn more from USDOE here).

Federal funding may also be available to support construction of projects involving transmission, smart grids, hydrogen development, school improvements, energy codes, and smart manufacturing. There are also could be competitive applications for federal funds that could support statewide efforts (research, analysis, technical assistance), community-level projects (planning and infrastructure), or expand customer programs (incentives for homes, businesses, and industries). So far, ODOE has heard interest or the need to address workforce development, supply chain disruptions, energy resilience, supporting renters, and navigating funding opportunities.




Based on the description above, are there any topics, issues, or pathways missing from the types of federal funding available, and/or the previously identified interest areas?

-  **What is the most important thing that ODOE could invest in to support your energy needs and interests?**

What Will Success Look Like?

Based on ODOE's Mission, Authorizing Statutes, Strategic Plan and Biden Administration Priorities, ODOE will strive for: An **efficient, effective, equitable, and transparent** use of resources.

-  **As ODOE strives for most efficient, effective, equitable, and transparent use of resources, what would success look like?**

A core focus of [ODOE's strategic plan](#) is to prioritize engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, create more inclusive and coordinated discussion about energy challenges and solutions, and meaningfully engage with diverse communities.


-  **How can ODOE support inclusivity in program design and/or implementation?**

Understanding and administrating federal funding can be very time intensive and difficult due to lack of capacity or expertise. On the other hand, others may already manage federal funding and are ready to sustain or expand this level of activity and implementation.

-  **How can ODOE support communities applying for energy related federal funding under the IIJA?**

-  **Which best describes your capacity to implement and administer federal funding? (Select one)**

- We have capacity and expertise to implement and administer
- Unsure if we have the capacity and expertise to implement and administer
- We know we lack the capacity and/or expertise to implement and administer

-  **If you know your organization lacks the capacity and/or expertise, is there substantive energy education or technical assistance ODOE can offer to your community to help you be better positioned to apply for and receive funding?**

Information on the details, scope, and eligibility for federal funding may come quickly, be complex, and have quick federal deadlines for state response, which means ODOE may need to act fast.

-  **What is your preferred method of communication so that we may provide timely information and receive additional feedback? (Select all that apply)**

- Email
- Social Media
- Webinars
- Presentations at existing public meetings
- Newspaper or radio
- Other (please list)

We hope to gather all substantive input **by August 3, 2022** via ODOE's online comment portal. Submit responses to these questions and any additional input at:

 <https://odoedev.powerappsportals.us/en-US/iijacomments/>