
Grid Modernization – Project Idea Worksheet

Use this worksheet to help guide you to create a project idea for a potential Grid Mod application.

Project Title

Give your idea a short, clear name.

Lead Entity & Partners

Who would lead this? Who else should be involved?

Problem Statement

What local challenge are you trying to solve?

Proposed Solution

What grid modernization tool or approach could help?

Expected Benefits

How will this project improve reliability, resilience, affordability, equity, or clean energy?

Next Steps

What's the first action you could take to move this project forward?

Grid Modernization Grant Program

What: EMNRD developed a grid modernization grant program pursuant the Energy Grid Modernization Roadmap Act of 2020. The program is intended to fund electric grid modernization projects as New Mexico transitions to a 100 percent zero-carbon electricity system. In 2025, the New Mexico Legislature passed the Community Benefits Fund Act (CBF) awarding Seventy-Million Dollars to the grid modernization grant fund for the purpose of administering and supporting projects through the Grid Modernization Grant Program. Projects should demonstrate Community Benefits through enhanced electric distribution or transmission grid reliability, grid security, demand response capability, customer service or energy efficiency or conservation.

Who: Eligible Applicants include municipalities and county governments, state agencies, state universities, public schools, post-secondary education institutions, and Indian nations, tribes and pueblos.

Project Types: The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) solicits three types of projects. Ninety percent of available funds will be allocated to Type 3 projects and five percent each for Type 1 and Type 2 research projects.

- Type 1: Research projects are projects or monitoring and evaluation studies intended to provide valuable information about the functioning of the grid and pilot program feasibility analysis.
- Type 2: Pre-construction and design activities that are expected to lead to the construction or installation of grid modernization technologies.
- Type 3: Construction projects involve the construction or installation and verification of grid technologies.

How to Apply: Prospective Applicants should visit the New Mexico Grid Modernization Grant Program website (<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/ecmd/grid-modernization-grant-program/>) for more information and the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Questions about the program and completed Applications can be submitted to chadette.pfaff@emnrd.nm.gov