

Shane Hamstra, TechWerx

Well, good afternoon. Good morning, everyone depending where you're joining from today. We greatly appreciate you being here.

Just a few logistical announcements before we begin. As you've been another TechWerx webinar, that chat is off, and we encourage you to put your questions, comments, or technical needs into the Q&A and we'll be monitoring those throughout today's event.

We are recording today's session, and we'll be posting this as an archive for viewing in the next few days.

When you submit questions, you'll be able to see the questions that your fellow attendees have submitted, and if you would like to identify and encourage us to answer the questions that you see, please Upvote. So, we know which questions are most top of mind.

Now, without further ado, I'll gladly hand things over to our moderators to get us going for today.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Thanks, Shane, and hi, everyone. We're excited to host this informational webinar on clean energy careers for all this is our second webinar of the series. So, some of you maybe have seen this before. Some of it's for some of you maybe this is new. But either way we're excited that you're here.

This opportunity is being funded by EERE or the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the Department of Energy. next slide, please.

So just a really quick intro. My name is Taylor Moot, and I'm part of the TechWerx Hub. TechWerx is a new innovation hub, managed by RTI International in support of the Department of Energy, and our goal is to facilitate connections among federal, academic, nonprofits and small businesses across the US.

To hear about any new opportunities that come up or updates on CEC4A, we recommend you follow our page on LinkedIn, as well as sign up for our newsletter via the link on our website. Next slide, please.

We're going to go through a couple of housekeeping items here. So, as Shane said, questions will be submitted through the Q&A chat, and we will answer those towards the end of the session. Please feel free to jump in and put your questions in that Q&A chat throughout the presentation, and go ahead and upvote folks, or questions that are relevant to the ones that you have, so that we know which ones are most pertinent to the audience, and we'll make sure that those get answered first.

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I do want to note that we will not be answering any questions about the election at this time, but we will notify you if there's any changes to this opportunity.

We may not be able to get through all the questions that we get today, but we'll try to get through as many as we can for any that we can't get through. We'll pass them over to DOE. They'll review them and we'll get those answered. And then those will get posted on our website, the TechWerx website in the FAQ section. In addition, any questions that are answered live will also be updated and put on that FAQ section of the opportunity page on that TechWerx website. And we'll continue to update that periodically as we have been with any other questions that come in via email, things like that.

Just a couple other small things per DOE guidance. We're not allowing any AI bots on the webinar, such as Otter AI, or any other note-taking AI bots, and we don't think you should need them, because this is being recorded, and the transcript of this will be available on our website. But just so, you know, if we see them, they will get kicked out of the session.

Last, as a reminder, this webinar is being recorded, and it will be posted to the TechWerx website within a couple of business days along with the slides here, as well as the transcript of this. Next slide please.

All right. So, I want to introduce our lovely speakers from DOE. We have Terrence Mosley, who is the Senior Advisor for Diversity and Stem for EERE at DOE, and he is accompanied by Zachary Quirk and Alexandra Johnson from his team. With that, I'm going to pass it over to Terrence to cover the most interesting part of the webinar, the opportunity. And yeah, please go ahead, Terrence.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Okay, thank you, Taylor. Much appreciated. And thanks. We want to thank everybody for tuning in. I think the 1st thing that the 1st and most BA- basic thing that we try to cover is really the mission of the mission of EERE to make sure that we cover that just for those that might, you know, might not be as familiar with us. But as you see here on the screen, you know, our mission is basically not only to accelerate the research development demonstration and deployment of clean energy technologies, you know, to try to transition and meet the goals of transition into a net zero economy by 2050. But the bottom half of that is very important as well where we're really trying to. At the same time, we're doing the R&D, we're trying to also create ways to create good paying jobs for the American people and to really focus on workers and communities that have, you know, been traditionally overlooked. And so, with that said, we can move to the to the next slide here. Just that's just really give you a little background on our organization and what we're trying to get done.

If you look at one of the reports that we that DOE sponsors is called the United States Energy and Employment Report or the EER report, and we try to really use this and provide it so that people can use it as a reference document as far as the workforce within the

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energy space and a few basic, just kind of background notes on that report. And the areas that it looks at, you know, the way that the report is broken down. The energy employment in the country is really broken down into 5 technology areas. You've got electric power generation. You've got energy efficiency fuels, motor vehicles and trans transmission well, fuels and motor vehicles. Then you've got transmission distribution and storage and employment across all of those areas increased in 2023.

And so, we know from the numbers that 42% of energy jobs in in 2023 were made up of clean energy jobs which provided a total of 5% of new jobs created in the US economy in 2023. And clean energy is really driving job growth. And it's outpacing the rest of the energy sector at 12.8% versus 9 point, I mean, yeah, 9.8% overall. We also know that 82% of the entire energy workforce is under 55 years old. And as you can, you know, as you so as you can see and tell from some of these things, we, we're really looking at a fast growing job category and employment category, and one that really is going to be requiring a lot of a lot of workforce over these next few years to really continue the clean energy transition. And just the bottom line number, you can see 142,000 clean energy jobs were added in 2023. So, all of the numbers really tell us, like, we really have to work hard and create ways and create programs to fill this workforce need.

So, if we keep going to the next slide, these are just some demographic breakdowns. And when you, when you look at this and you compare the overall energy workforce average to the national workforce average. There's a couple of things that stick out when you really look at it is that you know, male and female, as far as ethnicity. I mean, there's some numbers that stick out ethnicity wise, but the basic numbers when you look at male and female is that you know, you're talking about a 73% energy workforce versus 53% of the national workforce and the opposite for female, where you're looking at 26% of the energy workforce versus 47% or closer to half of the national workforce. And then, as you look at it, you can see where some of the different ethnic categories stand, as far as comparisons to the national workforce. The one thing that you do see that it's heavily male and heavily Caucasian, and it's something that we really need to be able to broaden the umbrella for those that participate to be able to really fulfill the energy transition as it needs to happen.

So, if we go to the next slide. We'll move more into specifically into this opportunity with the clean energy careers for all opportunity.

We are trying to really address the need for a diverse American energy workforce. And the way we want to do that is by leveraging a lot of organizations just like you that are online that are really uniquely qualified to reach a wide variety of communities.

And so, what we're looking for is effective ways to broaden participation and engage individuals from many different categories within STEM in ways that promote interesting careers that support the nation's transition to clean energy. So bottom line, we're really looking to work with organizations just like a lot of you that are online today, because a lot

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of you have specialties within the stem or science and engineering space or within the technical professions and really need your expertise to help us really promote those careers and create pathways for people to participate in clean energy careers.

So, under the under the details of what we're trying to do with this project, though we're anticipating designating between somewhere between 7 to 10 awards in the that will be up to \$300,000 during this 1st phase one. And the projects, even though we have here that we're expecting projects not to necessarily be completed but for us to be able to do a check in approximately 9 months or so, and we and that that's a little flexible. It could be 9 to 12 months somewhere within that 9 months to a year timeframe where we really would like to be able to see the progress that's been made from the original proposals that come in. And so, after the phase one after that second check in that, we're talking about to, you know see the progress that's been made of the original 7 to 10 awards that go out. We're looking at approximately 3 to 5 of those phase one Awardees may have an opportunity to receive a phase, 2 award, and that, of course, would be based on metrics and performance and availability of these additional funds. So that's really the overview of what's going on with this particular opportunity.

If we go to the next slide. This is really kind of the overview of what we're talking about, as far as like the objective what we're really looking to do is promote the exposure to and inspiration of participants that will provide future growth of the clean energy workforce sector. And so, when I mentioned earlier, you know that we really want the expertise of a lot of the organizations just like you online because a lot of you have access to a ton of different workforce potential workforce populations. And we just put several examples here. And it's not limited to this. But when you think about the different populations that you could target within some of your specialty areas you could be talking about K, through 12. You could be talking about undergraduate or graduate students. You could be focusing on professionals or alumni. Also, we know that there's great programs out there for veterans, or for reentering populations, or for formerly incarcerated or reentry populations.

And of course, the workforce sectors that we're looking to affect within clean energy. Once again, it's not limited to just these, but with the office of energy, efficiency, and renewable energy. This is really the crux of the areas that that our technology offices focus in. So anywhere within the advanced materials, manufacturing space bioenergy and on down the line, you know. You'll be able to see this in the recording. But you know all of your renewable energy technologies, vehicles, any mobility and what have you. So, we're looking to affect the populations on the left, to want to pursue and to be able to either be certified or to be qualified to work in the industries on the right side.

So, if we go to the next slide, I will turn things over to my friend Alex to take over here.

Alexandra Johnson, DOE EERE

Hi, everyone. As mentioned earlier, I am a science technology and policy fellow, that works with Terrence. And in designing this opportunity we wanted to focus on certain programming components for potential applicants. So, we were really interested in opportunities such as work-based learning opportunities, very hands on focus, like internships, apprenticeships, other sorts of experiences that can really expose the participants. That would be a part of your program and get them really interested in clean energy, especially with industry partners. Those who have resources that really can get them working on the technology that we're interested in.

We're also really interested in supporting career coaching and mentorship programs to help develop those soft skills get more exposure to clean energy, especially to populations that don't necessarily have those resources to learn about these technologies.

We're also interested in enhancing education and curriculum within the clean energy technologies and sciences and along the lines of providing clear exposure. Whether that's virtual in person. We're hoping to get more engagement with stakeholder groups at multiple levels of the clean energy workforce pipeline. So that can be early education students to entry level workers or workers wanting to transition into the clean energy workforce undergraduate graduate. We're open to any level of exposure just trying to get that entry into the career energy sector.

And all these programs can all these applicants, they can cover multiple types of programming. It doesn't have to be the ones listed above. It's just ones that based on a short survey. We did while designing this, we are touching on areas that seem to be underserved when it comes to clean energy programming. And we are particularly interested in proposals that can facilitate these activities at a scalable level within the resources that you have access to. We're trying to get as much of an impact as we can through our networks.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Alright, and for the next slide we'll turn it over to Zack.

Zachary Quirk, DOE EERE

Great thanks, Terrence. And once again I'm Zach Quirk. I'm a physical scientist and program analyst working alongside Alex and Terrence.

So essentially the kind of whole aim of this opportunity is to fund different proposals from nonprofit and nonprofit organizations. Specifically, 501(c)3, and non-lobbying 501(c)6 organizations that are qualified to essentially reach and best develop strategic programs that are able to meet the need to foster a diverse American energy workforce. So, part of this eligibility criteria is that preference will be given to programs that have a really large

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broad national or regional impact. We're really interested in, I think, things that could be scaled. And there is some interest in state and local community focus. But we do encourage you guys to consider ways to expand your reach beyond just a single state or a single community, because we want what can be scaled or replayed per se across different parts of the country.

Additionally, the applicant must be must qualify as a domestic entity. And this is part of the idea that we really want you guys to collaborate and form partnerships. To expand your ability and capacity to make the greatest impact for this opportunity.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

And then I think, do we have one more, I believe. Yes, yeah, Zack, we got just the last one.

Zachary Quirk, DOE EERE

Sure, sounds great. So, a lot of this is outlined on the TechWerx website. So really and as well as the application. So, I really recommend you guys to read that through. But for the majority, that of this application, and for this opportunity we hope you for your applications to focus on jobs in relevant technical areas as we described earlier. Really focus on kind of a large breadth of participants, whether that is programs aimed at different parts of the academic life cycle. So, for K, through 12 community colleges, undergrads, graduate programs and different kind of swaths of the community. So, veterans formerly incarcerated transitioning professionals. Just kind of see what works for you guys as well.

We want to focus on types of support or programs that will be provided through the opportunities such as certificate programs, internships, online programming kind of stuff like that, preference will be given. The programs like I said, that have a broad national regional impact.

We are really interested in novelty approaches and ways. You can provide quantifiable evaluation metrics and to be understood to be able to describe how these will impact your opportunity and your program.

We'd love for you guys to include industry engagement, such as companies or trade associations, or having these partnerships in your programs, as well as providing some feasibility of how these programs will be implemented across your budget and its timeline as well as like. I said, program, milestones and both qualitative and quantitative evaluation metrics.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Really quickly before we move to the next slide. I do want to emphasize when we talk about national or regional, regional as in like multi-state, impact, we recognize that not every organization has that currently. But we do want to highlight that we have a teaming list up on the opportunity page. There are quite a few organizations already listed there. So that

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teaming list is really there to help facilitate the collaborations to help achieve all the goals that Zach has just laid out here. Next.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

And thank you for emphasizing the partnering list, too. I did. I wanted to make sure to mention that to make sure people knew about that.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Just as kind of as we wrap up a few last details about key dates. So, the application opened at the end of September. We had a webinar roughly a month ago. We are now in the office hours session number one. And we'll have another office hours a week before the opportunity closes just to help answer any last minute questions that might be coming up as you all are starting to write these applications. After that the application closes on December 13th, 2024, at 5 PM Eastern. We'll kind of go through review, selection, and negotiations and we'll announce the selectees in April 2025. And that's when we expect the activities to begin.

We do want to highlight as best practice we always recommend that folks try to submit their applications ahead of the deadline. Just in case there's any technical issues that may arise, it gives us time to respond, and you all time to get in contact with us. Okay, I think. Next slide.

All right. Oh, sorry, Zach, you have your hand raised.

Zachary Quirk, DOE EERE

So sorry about that.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

No, no worries. It's all good. Okay. We are going to transition over to the Q&A session. I see that a lot of you have been putting questions in here. Which is awesome, and please keep doing that. Please keep upvoting all that good stuff, and then I will start reading these off to Terrence and his team. Okay, ready?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

You can go for it.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay, cool. So, the first question is, can you provide any input or point of view on kind of what is the content required for those letters of support or partnership?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

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You know what I would really just say if you're a, you know, lead organization that is applying and if you're working with a let's say, a trade organization industry partners, you know, a group that's going to be actually maybe performing some sort of certifications, or you know, whatever it might be. You just want to be able to see that those groups are truly on board and support the efforts and will show their partnership. So, we don't have necessarily like a template for you to use.

It's pretty much just a standard letter of support that a reviewer would be able to look at and understand that you know the groups that you say are within your proposal, and that we'll be working with you on the project are truly on board and with you on the project. And so, I think that's probably the best guidance I can give you. It doesn't have to be a, you know, a 3 page letter or something, really just a basic couple of paragraphs to say that, you know, hey, we are aware of the clean energy careers for all opportunity, and we will, you know, be taking part with this with our partner in form of, you know, whatever that form may be. So, I think hopefully that that hopefully that answers that.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Excellent. Next question is, What expectations do you have for milestones and reporting? Are you looking for qualitative reporting metrics, such as like surveys, feedback, those types of things or quantitative measures, such as total number of people reach total number of events, those types of things?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

I would. I would really say your best shot at both, because we of course we really, it's important with a program like this that we really get a feel for how many people that you're looking at being able to take through your program. And so, for instance. That's one of the reasons why we mentioned looking at it from a regional or even a national standpoint. From some of the organizations that may propose because we really want to get a feel for the reach that you may be able to have within the opportunity. but I do think that that's one of the reasons we talk about the EER report and other references that you might have, because we do want you to use data to really base your reasoning upon, you know, because you may be pursuing, trying to trying to generate workforce in a particular area that is regionally important in your region that you might be working in. You know, we really want to have the best mix of both to be able to truly reflect what you're trying to get done in your project. but I think, of course, you know, as with any workforce type program, we really want to try to get a feel for the numbers of people that you that you feel that you can confidently take through programs and lead to potential careers in in the industry.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Alex, you have your hand raised

Alexandra Johnson, DOE EERE

Yeah, I'll just simplify by saying, yes, while quantitative data and would be amazing to collect, I understand that this is a you know, this is our pilot phase, and I would refer back to the rubric guidelines and everything within the website provided and just delineate what it is that you think you can collect within your proposal. So, it's not necessarily required one specifically over another.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Exactly. Yup, thank you, Alex.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

And the last thing I'll add is that there are milestones that are based on kind of progress along the project those are going to integrate into your payment schedule things like that. Those are separate than kind of the reporting that Terrence and Alex are talking about. And Terrence correct me if I'm wrong, but those milestones are really output based to show progress along the project.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Right.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Whereas the reporting is really about like impact of the program itself. So, there is slight difference there.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Right

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

The next question. We've kind of answered, but I'll just ask the piece of it that I think we haven't touched on so far. So, the question is again about the letters of support and partnership. They asked about like official letterheads. I think we've answered that we don't necessarily need those. But, Terrence, correct me if I'm wrong.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

It would help. I'm you know, of course, just to show official correspondence, or what have you? But you know there's I'm not going to say there's a strict rule on it. But of course, we would like to see, you know. If it's available to have official letterhead to show the partnerships from industry, or whatever group that you may be working with.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

And then the second part of that question is currently there's a limit to the appendix is 3 pages. Do those letters to support need to be within that 3 page limit, or can they be additional?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

That. Well, because it's within that appendix we may have to just see, because I think some of that is, going to depend on if there are some larger consortium groups that you know that pull together. We may have to get people to email us email. The you know the general box, or something to keep us updated on that, because if they don't have room we may have to, we may have to account for that, or perhaps. Be able to have people to send us extra letters outside of the application form.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

And we'll circle back, and if we make any changes to like the application form itself, we'll make sure that that is clearly stated in the application as well as in the FAQ. So, keep an eye out there in the next week or so for any changes, if that is necessary.

Okay, the next question is, what criteria will be used to evaluate if proposed initiatives have broad national or regional impact?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Well, you know what? It's not so much that it has. You know that that's important. And it's part of the review criteria. But it's not the only criteria and I think we shared that. And it's on the opportunity page. If you really stick with the review criteria that's listed. I think that it'll lead you in the right in the right direction.

There, that's one of the reasons we mentioned that. It's not that there's a preference, for, you know, larger versus regional, you know, national versus regional. But we, you know. But of course, there's a there's a big interest in trying to scale, you know, being able to have projects that really scale on a larger level.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay. Next question is, when does the 9 month project timeline begin?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

You know, this really ties into the this really gets more probably into TechWerx, and you know, OTT, but you know that after winners are, you know, after potential awardees are selected, you know, there's a negotiation process that happens. And you know, like Taylor mentioned earlier there's milestones, and all of that would be laid out. So of course, you know the start date. Wouldn't you know, it's nothing to worry about at this point, because

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the start date would only happen after, you know, everybody has come to full agreement on what you're going to be doing, and the timelines that will be set. So that that's nothing to really worry about. Right now, you know what we want to get across this first hurdle first and then, once we select people, then we'll be dealing with timelines.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Yeah, and just to highlight our timeline that we showed on the slide previously, as well as what's on the website is that we expect to have negotiations end roughly in April, so projects would be kicking off soon after that.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Right, yeah. But just you know, those are tentative. Just in case something runs over runs a little long like I said, you know we'll see. We would definitely cross that bridge when we when we get to that point.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay. The next question is... I'm going to rephrase a little bit. But should or could hyperlinks be included in the proposal?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Well, you know, I think because we're we will have, you know, because we want to have it in formats where reviewers, where it's easier for reviewers to, you know, to review. I think only where really needed. You know, because if a, you know, if a person decides to print out a document to read it, or what have you? Of course they can't get to links there, but I think where necessary, I think that can be done. Alex, I think you have a comment there.

Alexandra Johnson, DOE EERE

I would go on the assumption that hyperlinks assume that they are not going to be read. You can put them in there, but don't assume that they are the major part of your application within the limits written.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

That's a great way to put it great way to put it. And you know, I think I work off of the assumptions of the typewriter method, you know, as old school as possible. You know some people do not like to read proposals on tablets, or what have you? Some are going to want to print those out, so it's not a guarantee that, you know links will be followed, you know, in all cases, but we want to make sure that you have the best chance as possible.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Alright, the next question is, can I add short bios of the PI and Co-PIs as part of the appendix?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Yes, I think that's great. You know, that's part of what we'll be looking for, anyway, is, you know any relevant experience, or, you know, connection with the project happening. So, I think that's very appropriate.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

The next question is multi-part and a little bit specific. So, I'm going to do my best to generalize it a little bit, so that it is more generically useful, and I know that we can't comment on specifics of any in particular application. So, I'm going to do my best. But bear with me here. Let me think about this for a second.

So, I think it's just asking kind of what is the breadth of activities that that 9 month program could cover. Could it be anything from creating a program that doesn't currently exist to running a classroom to developing an online course? We'll start with that part.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Well, yes, to all of the above. Yes, you know, that's probably the simplest way to answer it, because I think a lot of it is dictated, you know, by the you know, one of the reasons we cover how much the awards can go up to is because, you know, you pretty much have to keep that in mind as you're putting your programs together because you could have a ton of things that you're trying to get done. But if you can't get it done for the amount that that we have available, then it's not going to do you much good. So yeah. So, I would just say, no, there's no preference for the type of programming. Once again, by what you see on the on the Pportunity Page, I think you know, we've given, you know, some examples of potential programs. But you may have other creative things that you're that you're thinking about, that can help drive workforce.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

The other component of the question that I will not sure this is fully generalized. So, feel free to take this to a more generalized perspective. Would, having industry, partners, or job shadowing or internship models, make a proposal more competitive?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Well, that's something I mean, once again, we couldn't really comment on that like whether that's any more favorable than another. I would just say that you know, the part of the purpose of the program, of course, is to end up with more people working in the industry. So, if you're able to do that through the through the form of internship program, or you know

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job shadowing, or you know the others that you mentioned right there. I think that would be fully appropriate.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Alright. The next question is, should the submission that's happening in December information on both Phase 1 and Phase 2 tasks? Or should it just be Phase 1 with that roughly \$300K?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Yes, I, you know, I would tell you that it probably could go either way. But I think the way it's originally you know, written and designed. I think it's really your best shot with Phase 1 you know, really. Just let us know what's your idea is how you're trying to get it done and lay it out. The Phase 2 is like, as we mentioned, you know that that is, you know, down the line after we're able to really see after this first you know, 9 to 12 months, what you're able to get done and how much progress you've made with that Phase 1 funding for the opportunity to potentially have Phase 2, you know, funding added. And so, I would tell you if timeline wise, if you have a very clear picture of what you would do in a second phase, whether it's maybe a second year of activity and you want to do that, that's fine. But it's not a requirement, you know. We really just want to get your best original proposal ideas for you know. What's your idea? What's your program going to be? And you know, have us to review that, and you know, make a judgment call on that.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

There's another handful that are coming that are mostly around budgets and kind of the milestones. So, I'm going to read them off. But then I will probably answer them, and then, or Rob or anyone else that wants to jump in and help clarify, feel free to. But well, it'll be a lot of me talking.

Okay first question is, are there any constraints on indirect costs? And the short is no, we want to see the total amount of money that it'll meet that you think, it will take to reach an individual milestone. But we don't need to see exactly those line items. We really just need to understand what it costs to meet that milestone and Rob; I will turn it over to you to clarify or correct.

Robert Andersen, DOE OTT

Yeah. So, the milestones are going to be set up as firm, fixed price. And so, we are so essentially, if you say it costs X to perform that to get to that milestone, that that's what will be taken into consideration. So no, we do not take a look at indirect costs, and we do not need it broken down at that level.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay, another similar one. Would you recommend applicants also include a line item, budget in addition to having a budget column in the milestone chart provided?

Same answer. Really, we don't need to see that line item budget. What the information that's in that milestone chart that we're asking for is what we need, and if we do need to have additional conversations, there are mechanisms for us to do that. But that is really all we need actually.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Yeah. And I think part of the reason into is it takes a valuable real estate in the, in the actual proposal. Like, we actually, we want to hear more about what you'll be doing. And then, you know, of course, you know you have to take into account the funding to do that. But you know, we really want to hear the proposal. And we don't want to take up a lot of your real estate with, like, you know, budget line items, anyway.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay, that one's done. And then, yeah, just to confirm we don't need a line item, budget in the proposal. We just need that milestone template filled out that does have the total amount of money that you will be asking for, as well as those key couple of milestones, and what those payments are. So not a detailed budget. But we do need some information about what you are asking for.

Okay, let me triple check that. I'm not missing any budget specific questions that have boiled up to the top.

Okay, so the next question, I think, might also go to me. But, Terrence, you can jump in as well. They're asking about specifics on the application if there's any other constraints besides the one inch minimum margins. Can it be written in single space, those types of things?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

No, I think it's pretty much as provided.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Yeah, so single space is totally fine. Please make it legible. We give the font size and the font. So, stay within that.

Okay, the next... So, we are getting to the point of questioning, which is good. But we're getting to the point of questions where some of these are very specific to potential proposals. I will read them out, but I will just caveat with a lot of these we won't be able to answer, and we'll do our best to kind of give broader answers, or just kind of say, look, we

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can't answer these. So, I apologize in advance if these are not as fulfilling of a conversation as you're hoping for. But we're kind of just constrained in what we can and can't say. Okay with that being said, I'm going to go through the questions. And, Terrence, best of luck, I will leave you about that.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

I'll listen to you a lot. Okay.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay, yeah, exactly.

So, the question is, would programs such as ones that prepare educators to deliver clean energy content be within scope?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Okay, to keep it, general, I would say that if that is your area of expertise, and that is your way of trying to address the issue that we're trying to address. Then that would be that would be my recommendation. You know I would tell you not to go outside of your scope of what you do, if what you do and what you're proposing fits within the opportunity as written. I think you are full well ready to, you know, to submit, you know, to submit a proposal.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

The next question is, is the rubric online. So, we have that rubric or that kind of the information about what do you review?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

It is not online. but we can tell you, though the review criteria, as written online will be directly tied into the rubric that we that we do have. So, we can tell you every item that is on the review criteria is accounted for in the scoring rubric that that's why we tell you to kind of stick with the with the review criteria as written on the opportunity, and I think that will guide you in the right direction.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

And the second part of the question is, is there any weighting from of the different criteria that you all have identified?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Well, yes, I mean there's different... each component of the rubric has a score. But you know this. It's hard to say. I guess, as far as like if there's a weight, you know, like, like I mentioned, each of the review criteria are in a different part of the scoring rubric. So, you know, if you look at it that way, you know. Yes, there are different components that are that

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are, you know, that are mixed into the rubric. So, I guess I should just leave it at that as general right now, because, you know, like, it's not like something is 50%. And something else is 25%. It's an across the board rubric there is that. Zachary.

Zachary Quirk, DOE EERE

Yeah, I would agree with Terrence. I think there's a really a combination of different aspects that could be more of a positive and more of kind of a drawback for your application. So, it really depends. But I think to kind of lay the line there's no like specific weights for each component.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Right.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay, yeah, we're getting into the hard ones. Sorry.

Okay, this one might be a little bit easier to answer. So, we'll see. How will decisions about Phase 2 funding be made?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Once we are able to get the initials, you know, 7 to 10 projects identified. Then that's where we mentioned the 9 to 12 months of kind of period of evaluation, really, well, and of course that fits along with the Taylor, what's the what's the I'm blanking, of course, but the milestone, the milestone schedules, you know. Once you're on that milestone schedule when we get towards the end of that 9 to 12 month period. Then we you know we will review data from each project to see first off, we'll help. We'll make sure. We, you know, have, you know, have that funding solidly in place, you know, to take care of how many projects that we could look to help continue on. But basically, it'll be another review process. We'll review where we are with each of those projects based on the milestones that have been met along the way. And we'll make a determination from that based on reviewing that data, who the Phase 2 recipients would potentially be.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

And then the second part of the question is the likelihood of continued support?

And I'll just note that the information provided in the opportunity notes that 7 to 10 awards are expected for Phase 1, and then 3 to 5 are expected for Phase 2.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Right. Yep. And so, and like I said so we full fully expect to, you know, to meet those criteria. But yeah, but it would just be a matter of seeing the progress of, you know through the

milestones with the phase one projects, and then determination would be made on the Phase 2.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay, next question is. sorry. I'm trying to figure out which ones feel the most useful, easy to answer, that are not a super specific, so this one's a little bit more about this schedule and asking once it's awarded, are you desiring same year implementation? Are summer programs okay, or considering academic years in the following year?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Let's see, our okay proposals are doing in December. So yes, I think if you had activities that were happening, you know, next summer, or I think that's why we left it open. Because it's not necessarily. It doesn't necessarily have to run around school schedules or anything. You know, it could be other programming that you have that's online, or that's, you know, in person, whatever it might be. You know, the timing of it is really up to you. But I mean, if you were selected as an awardee, of course you know, as Taylor mentioned, you would work. You would work to get the paperwork in place to, you know. Give you the milestone calendar. And just, you know, just knowing that. Okay? Well, you know, if we start in April or May, or whatever it is, you have maybe an activity that you're committing to do next summer. So, you know that's part of your milestones. It might be something you're looking at doing during the fall. That's part of your milestone meeting for your milestones. And so, I think that's probably the best way that I could try to answer that, though, is that it's incorporated in that it's baked into your milestones that you would be reaching.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

I think that that's great. Okay. Next question again, is a pretty specific about ideas for programs. So, I'll try to generalize it the best I can, but we know that you can't answer everything, so do what you can with this one. I think the core of the question is as folks are imagining what program and initiatives, they might be able to put together is national reach and impacting a lot of people preferable versus one that's more aligned to specifically workforce development training?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Okay, let's see, the best way I think I could answer this is to tell you that and then this is what I would tell anybody. If regional, if local or regional, yield you better quality as to the programming that you can offer, then I would tell you to do what works best for your organizations and your partners. You know. Don't try to have a national reach if you don't have a national partner, or, if you are, you know, trying to do that. And you feel that the quality of your programming, you know, would suffer so I don't know that, Taylor. Is that a simple enough way.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

These are hard questions. So, I think as much as kind of help or point of view you can provide is great. And obviously there's only so much that DOE can say so.

I'll ask another question, kind of in that same vein of a little bit specific to potential proposals that might be coming in. So again, we may not be able to answer these in full but is the intent of the program to develop a framework for workforce training opportunities? Or should it also include, like pilot implementations?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Could be either or okay. Once again, based on your specialty kind of what you're really prepared to offer. you know, because that's why we mentioned like potential examples, but not all of the above. Because while you may you know, put, you may want to start in in practice programs where you're actually, you know, really, whether it's some sort of certifications or whatever it might be. That's fine. But if your organization is more geared towards setting a framework that can be you know, implement it with other partners, or something in actual practice, then that may be the route you want to go. It's really about what you want to bring to the table. So, you know, there's not a preferred method, you know, it's really what can you do to generate what we're looking for in in future workforce

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Next question is again, I'll do my best to generalize it as much as I can... this person, so that their organization is submitting, planning to submit a similar project to a different DOE funding opportunity. Would there be any conflict of interest or concern about submitting a similar project to this opportunity?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Well, I I think it's on the backside. We you know, we definitely couldn't fund the same project that another, you know, DOE prize or opportunity is funding. So that's something that we would just have to, we would probably just have to work out at the end, you know. I don't know the timing of the other of the other opportunity that they're talking about. If their opportunity closes before ours does, and maybe it's been already reviewed and approved, or something. Then, of course, you know, we would have to pull it out of ours. It wouldn't be double funded. In other words.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

And they added the context. It'd be decided in early 2025. But I think your answer still holds.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Yeah.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Program can't be funded by 2 different opportunities.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

That is correct.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay. Alright. We have a couple of minutes left, so I'll try to pick of the ones for everyone that's still on. Please, upvote, if you have preferences. Otherwise, I'm going to try to pick the ones that I think might be most relevant.

So, I'm going to go ahead with that. There is a question I thought might be helpful for folks in terms of like measurement, and reporting statistics or metrics of success.

So, this one says, do we need to demonstrate that participants went on to a job in the relevant fields? Or just they, for example, enrolled in the training or certificate programs, knowing that the program is 9 months?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

It's actually a great question. You know, we talk about this all the time, as far as like, you know, because we know, it's a challenge with these kinds of programs as far as tracking participants. Or it can be a challenge. If that data is available. That would be fantastic to be able to show and to have anything that can show, you know, I don't want to say concrete numbers, but you know anything that can show data that especially if you are able to work with a certain population that you can. And you have partners where you might be able to transition directly into the workforce. I mean, that'd be fantastic if you had the ability to have that. But we know every you know, every group is, you know, it depends on the community that you're working with in the area you're working in. And you know the industry in that area, or you know, across the board. And so, it it's really kind of an individual, you know, proposal, situation. But I would just say, you know, any, any, any useful data that will help someone that'll help a reviewer to see that, you know, there's a direct connection here. That that would be. That would be very appropriate. And I'm sure I'm sure very appreciated.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

I accidentally press answer, live on one. So, I'm going to answer it really fast. The question is, what is the limit of number of proposals one entity could submit as a lead organization?

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You can only submit one, and that includes like the individual and Terrence, correct me if I'm wrong but it would be for the organization. It can't be one person from the organization counts as one.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Yes, yes, definitely. We want one you know, because, you know, it's not like we have a hundred, you know, a hundred awards. We're doing so, you know, we just one lead organization you qualify for leading one proposal. Put it that way.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Perfect.

The next question, and I think this is one we might have to go back, and just triple check can the lead organization be fiscally sponsored?

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Probably have to understand that question a little bit more. If there's I don't know if there's any more detail given on that. If they're I don't know if that means if they're sponsored by a corporate entity, or something, or like or I'm not quite sure.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

I'll triple check the language; I think. The broad answer is, you need to be a 501(c)3, or a 501(c)6 and the funding can't be used in part for any lobbying. We'll look into within that bucket fiscally sponsored and, please, if this is your question, feel free to follow up via email. But we'll get whatever we can onto the FAQ portion of the website within the next couple of business days as well.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Yeah, let let's get a little more clarity on that, because I I'd hate to say something, and I totally misunderstand what they're what they're what they're asking. At first, I was almost thinking that it was like, if they meant there was a 501(c)3 parent company, or something, or parent organization, or something like that. But, you know, let let's get some clarity on it and figure it out.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay. Sounds good. Alright. We are wrapping up. So, I'm going to ask one last question. And then we'll do a bit of wrap up for anyone that whose questions we haven't answered. We will follow up and get those. Make sure that those are answered in the FAQ. I do know that some of these are already answered in the FAQ. I believe so please go through and look through that. If you feel like it's not email us. We'll happily like work with you to get it clarified.

But the last question is does the application need letters of partnership? If we're primarily looking to perform research and just build connections in that 1st phase.

Terrence Mosley, DOE EERE

Well, I I would think it's that's, they almost answered their own question, though, because I think if you're... okay, yes, okay, you're performing research. But if you're you in the same sense, you're saying, build connections. So, you're building connections with someone with another organization, I would think unless I'm misreading it, but you know I would say just do what's appropriate for your project. I'll say that. If there aren't any direct partners that you're working with, or industry, or you know, whoever it might be. Then do what's appropriate for your project.

Taylor Moot, TechWerx

Okay, with that, I'm going to do a quick wrap up for us. Let me get that organized really fast. Okay, so I think if we go to the next slide, if I'm not misremembering.

Okay, great. I'm going to breeze through this really fast. There's a couple of additional resources from DOE that we thought you all might be interested in. First is the current funding opportunities from EERE, as well as opportunities that are put out by DOE STEM training and workforce development. If you all are interested in this, you might be interested in some of those opportunities. So, we recommend just keeping an eye on that.

Last if you have any questions like I've said a couple a couple of times, I think. Please send us an email at info@techworks.org and we'll do our best to answer your questions as well as get any remaining questions. And the ones we've talked about today onto the FAQ page

Finally, I know we're at time. I really appreciate you all joining us. There is a quick post, Webinar survey that you are all welcome to take. We would appreciate any feedback that you have.

And yeah, we really appreciate you attending, and hope you have a good rest of your day.