

Quarterly NGA Energy Security Brief – Summer 2021

Released August 20, 2021

The Latest in Energy Assurance News

FEMA Funding Opportunities

FEMA released the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) on Aug. 9, 2021. There is \$1 billion available in BRIC funding to support states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. The application period to apply for FY 2021 BRIC funding will open on Sept. 30, 2021, and close at 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Jan. 28, 2022. FEMA encourages sub-applicants and applicants to apply. Coincident with the release of this NOFO, FEMA is hosting an [informational webinar series](#).

[FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](#) – The White House [announced](#) \$3.46 billion in hazard mitigation funds to reduce the effects of climate change. Every state, tribe, and territory that received a major disaster declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible to receive 4% of those disaster costs to invest in mitigation projects that reduce risks from natural disasters. [State allocations](#). [Upcoming FEMA Webinars](#).

FEMA released the [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) with the same deadlines as BRIC. There is \$160 million available in FMA funding. The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program is a competitive grant program that provides funding to states, local communities, federally recognized tribes and territories. Funds can be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the [National Flood Insurance Program](#). [FMA Grants.gov Opportunity](#)

FEMA issued a fact sheet on Public Assistance (PA) funding options available to help address the challenges of managing disaster response and recovery operations in incidents that occur during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. FEMA continues to provide resources to support disaster response and recovery efforts during the 2021 Hurricane Season and peak of the wildfire season. [FEMA Fact Sheet](#)

White House released a [***National Security Memorandum on Improving Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure Control Systems***](#).

Section 2 creates an Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Initiative, a voluntary, collaborative effort between the Federal Government and the critical infrastructure community to significantly improve the cybersecurity of these critical systems. Additional context on the executive and legislative action is [here](#).

State News Spotlight: Oregon Department of Energy Resilience Promotion Grant

During the 2021 legislative session the Oregon legislature passed [HB 2021](#), which established a 100% clean energy standard for the state with a goal for retail electricity sold to consumers to be 100% below baseline emissions by 2040. The legislation also designated a new [\\$50 million grant program](#) to promote energy resilience and renewables in local communities. This program, the Community Renewable Investment Fund, is intended to offset planning and development costs for community renewable projects, making small-scale projects more affordable and distributing energy cost savings and the benefits of increased resilience to communities across the state. The program advisory committee includes business, utility, tribal, development, local government, NGO, state and federal emergency management, and environmental justice representatives. The legislation also requires that by 2030, 10 percent of the aggregate electrical capacity of all electric companies be composed of electricity from small-scale renewable energy projects or facilities using biomass.

The Latest with NGA

NGA Request for Applications: Support for Responding to Threats to the Electricity Grid and GridEx VI Exercise Participation – Apply by September 2

NGA will convene teams from up to four (4) states and territories to participate in NGA-facilitated activities related to [GridEx VI](#) – a remote, nation-wide energy exercise hosted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) that simulates a cyber and physical attack on the North American electric grid. NGA will assist states in preparing for the exercise and addressing their challenges identified during their GridEx VI play through phone consultations, an in-person workshop, and facilitated action planning. NGA previously held and recorded a [webinar](#) with NARUC on GridEX background, goals, and state roles. **For more information, contact [Dan Lauf](#). The deadline to apply is Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 2:00 PM PT | 5:00 PM ET**

Memorandum On State Utility Disconnection Moratoriums And Utility Affordability

This [memo](#) identifies the range of solutions Governors can deploy to address utility affordability and bill arrearages as the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant economic impacts continue. These solutions were gathered through an Experts Roundtable on Utility Disconnection Moratoriums hosted by the NGA Center on December 2-3, 2020, along with additional literature review and conversations with experts.

NGA-NASEO Energy Resilience Workshop

State participants from Governors' offices and state energy offices convened to discuss energy resilience best practices related to planning and governance, cross-sector interdependencies, making energy systems resilient to severe hazards, and identifying funding and financing opportunities. The virtual meeting, hosted by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and National Association of State Energy Officials,

involved a combination of expert presentations with engaging breakout discussions to help state planning efforts to build pre-hazard mitigation strategies. [Meeting Materials](#)

Webinar Recording: Addressing Energy Security Through State Cyber Governance Bodies

On Tuesday, June 8, NGA held a [webinar](#) to discuss the evolving energy cybersecurity threat landscape and strategies Governors are deploying to address cybersecurity vulnerabilities in their states. Governors have set up governance bodies to improve energy security, and this webinar highlighted best practices identified in a recent [white paper](#) that examined the approaches being taken in eight states.