



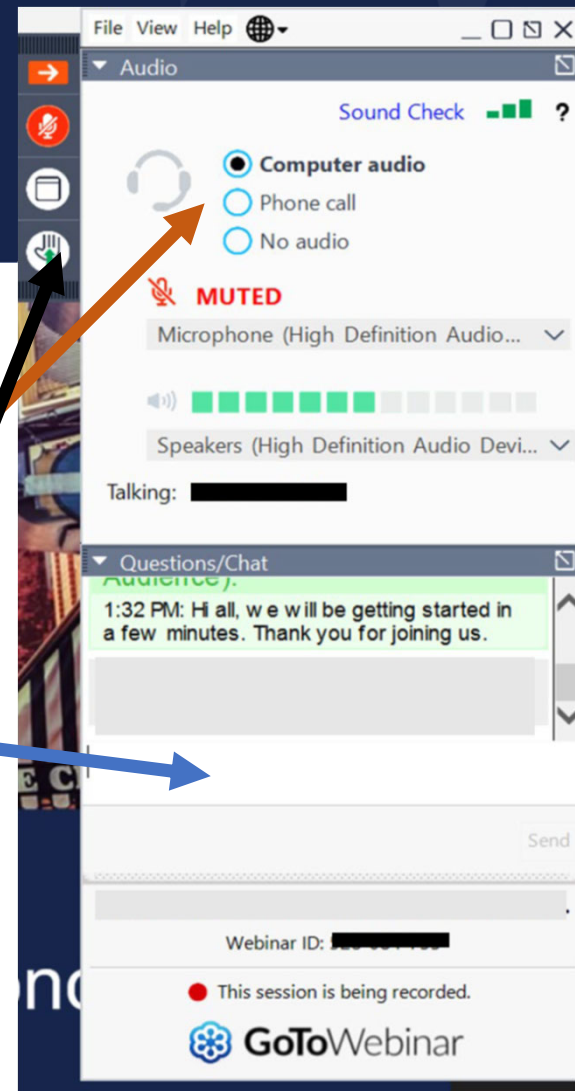
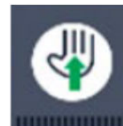
Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP) Grant

January 25, 2022

Welcome

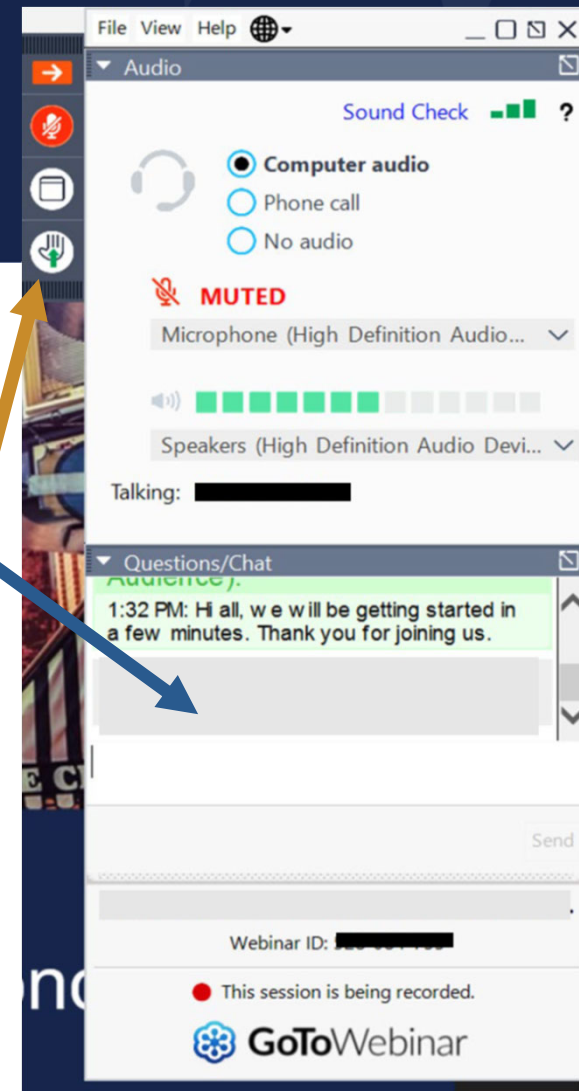
Attendees:

- You are joined with computer Audio by default
- **You can change to Phone if needed: Check this button**
- **You can submit comments via the Questions/Chat section**
- **If you prefer to provide comments verbally, you can be unmuted by the moderator, please raise your hand and then wait to speak when prompted by name.**



Q&A

- You can submit comments via the Questions/Chat section
- If you prefer to provide comments verbally, you can be unmuted by the moderator, please raise your hand and then wait to speak when prompted by name.



Steffanie Bezruki
Chief of Staff

Welcome and opening remarks

Agenda

- Program Overview
- How to Apply
- Selection Criteria
- Questions
- Wrap-Up



REPP Overview

Tony Crooks

Rural Energy Pilot Program Grant

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) appropriated \$10 million for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program to provide financial assistance for rural communities to further develop renewable energy.



REPP Implementation

- \$10 million appropriated as available until expended.
- Little guidance beyond, “provide financial assistance for rural communities to further develop renewable energy.”
- March 30, 2021, published in *Federal Register*, “Request for Information and Notice of Stakeholder Listening Session on a Rural Energy Pilot Program”.

REPP RFI & Listening Session

April 22, 2021, REPP Listening Session

Over 75 public comments were received in response to specific questions about the program:

- Purposes, goals, metrics, and standards;
- Eligible applicants, participants, and partners;
- Eligible technologies;
- Potential impacts of the pilot program and renewable energy systems on -- Environmental justice, Racial equity, and Economic opportunity.



REPP Inter-Agency Panel

May - June 2021, convened Inter-Agency panel of subject matter experts:

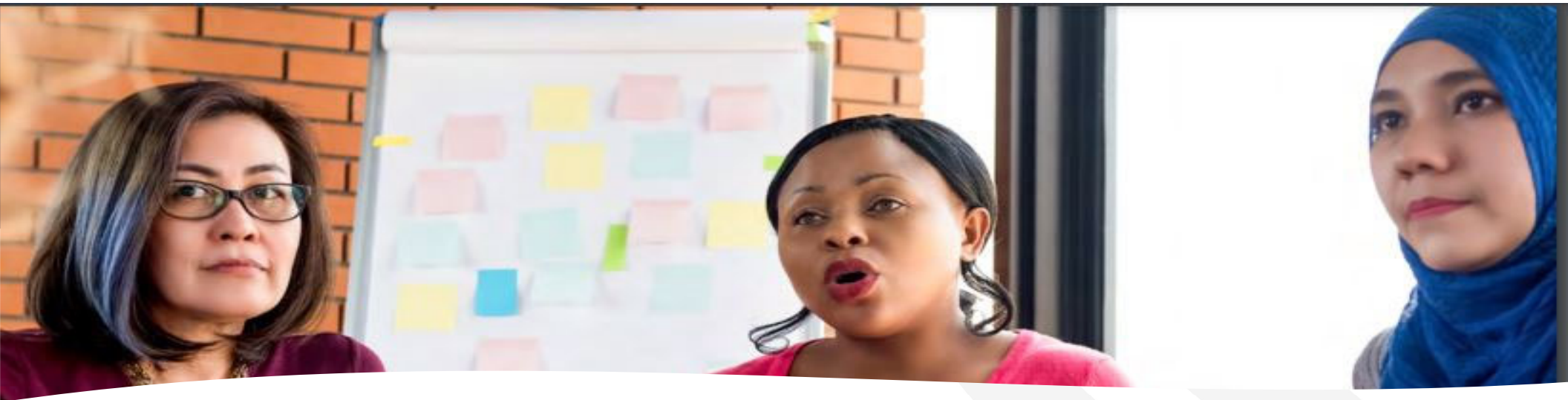
- With representatives from --
 - DOE/Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
 - EPA/Environmental Justice
 - DOE/National Renewable Energy Lab
 - DOE/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
 - Appalachian Regional Commission
- Assist with review of public comments; and
- Provide recommendations for REPP guiding principles.



REPP Purposes

-
- **Goal of REPP is to provide energy burden relief for priority communities.** Relief that will reduce climate pollution, increase resilience to climate change impacts, and advance environmental justice, racial equality and economic opportunity.
 - REPP grant funds are made available to **rural energy community partnerships** to establish and/or develop **clean energy communities** through the deployment of community scale, distributed energy technologies.
 - REPP Grant will meet a recognized need for federal inter-agency support of rural communities **to further develop renewable energy.**
 - REPP funds will support the Nation's critical energy needs and combat climate change while advancing **environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity**





What is a rural energy community partnership?

Rural energy community partnership. A partnership established to provide assistance to an identified community for purposes as specified in the REPP Notice of Funding Opportunity.

- Such purposes include but are not limited to --
 - Community energy planning, capacity building, and/or technical assistance, community efficiency and weatherization; and
 - The deployment, installation, and/or equipping of community scale - renewable energy technologies or systems.
- The partnership need not be located in the identified community but must demonstrate that it is actively engaged and involved with community leadership and must provide assistance specifically to the identified community.



Eligible entities

REPP applicants are Rural Energy Community Partnerships, comprised of (but not limited to) key community and regional stakeholders:

- Private entities;
- State and local entities;
- Tribal entities; and/or
- Municipalities and other public bodies.

Rural Energy Community Partnership entities

REPP partnerships must include one or more of the following entities:

- Private entities
- State and local entities
- Indian Tribes
- Municipalities and other public bodies



And must have a lead entity (Applicant) from one of the following:

- District organization (defined in Title 13 CFR Section 304.2)
- Indian tribes, political subdivision of a Tribe or a consortium of Indian tribes
- State and local governments or political subdivisions
- Public or private nonprofit orgs

REPP Eligible Entities

- A REPP partnership must serve a Rural Community as defined in the REPP Notice of Funding Opportunity published on January 19, 2022.
- Partnership must demonstrate engagement with identified community leadership and specifically assist the identified community.
- The Partnership may consist of industry entities and other partners outside of the targeted region.
- Pass-through entities are permitted.
- Partner entities may be private contractors and/or vendors.

What does it mean to further develop renewable energy?

- **Grant award may not exceed \$2 million and eligible project costs may not exceed:**
 - **(80 percent)** -- To install and equip community scale (up to 2 MW), renewable energy systems and technologies -- solar, wind, biomass or bioenergy, geothermal, hydroelectric, and distributed renewable energy resources.
 - **(20 percent)** -- Community energy planning, capacity building, technical assistance, and community efficiency and weatherization.



REPP Eligible Projects

- Community scale distributed renewable energy systems;
No larger than 2 megawatts in generation capacity.
- Eligible technologies are commercially available systems -
Wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, biomass or
bioenergy.
- May include energy storage devices and software, such
as:
 - Batteries
 - Fly wheels
 - Storage Distributed Resource Schedulers (SDRS)



What are Distributed Renewable Energy Resources?

- Small units of power generation that operate locally;
- Energy often consumed close to the source;
- May be connected to larger power grid or operate independently (off-grid).




How will REPP advance environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity?

Targeted assistance priority will be afforded to:

- (1) Distressed Rural Communities;
- (2) Distressed Energy Communities;
- (3) Communities with High Energy Burdens;
- (4) Centers for Disease Control - Socially Vulnerable Communities;
- (5) Qualified Opportunity Zone Communities; and
- (6) Disadvantaged Communities.





REPP Program Thresholds

- \$2,000,000 maximum grant amount
- Grant can cover a maximum 80% of eligible project costs
- 3-year grant period of performance



Approximate Number of Awards

- **The number of awards will depend on the number of eligible participants and the total amount of requested funds.**
- **If every successful applicant is awarded the maximum grant amount of \$2 million, five (5) awards will be made.**

REPP Matching Fund Requirements

- The applicant is responsible for securing matching funds for total eligible project costs not covered by grant funds.
- The non-Federal share of the total eligible project costs may be in the form of:
 - Cash;
 - Third-party -- equity contributions including donations, in-kind contributions of fairly-valued goods and services; and
 - As allowed by law, **other Federal grant funds.**



Other Federal program opportunities

Leveraging REPP:

- Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program [How to Apply for Weatherization Assistance | Department of Energy](#);
- DOE, State Energy Program [State Energy Program | Department of Energy](#);
- [DOE, Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project \(ETIPP\)](#);
- AmeriCorps Energy Corps [Energy Corps – Helping Design a Green-Collar Workforce](#); and
- Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Justice Grants



Matching Funds requirements

Estimated Funding:	Cash	In-kind value	All
Federal			
Applicant			
State			
Local			
Other			
TOTAL			

- Arrangements with private entities
- Commercial vendors/technology providers
- Renewable energy promotional organizations
- State-led programs and private sector efforts

Matching Funds:

- Required to receive REPP grant
- Secured by applicant
- Remainder – All eligible project costs not covered by Grant funds
- Consist of **CASH** and In-kind contributions
- No in-kind from applicant entity
- Must have written commitments – Bank statements for cash, Letters of Commitment for in-kind
- As allowed by law, from other Federal grants
- Passive tax equity contributions allowed



REPP Eligible Costs

REPP grant funds may be used to pay for up to 80 percent of eligible project costs directly related to:

- Installation and equipping of commercially available, community based, community scale/**renewable energy systems**; and
- For up to 20 percent of award -- Community energy planning, capacity building, technical assistance, **efficiency and weatherization**.

Eligible Costs (continued)

- Incurred during **Grant Period**;
- Directly related to use and purposes of REPP;
- Purchase, installation, distributed/renewable energy technologies, including any associated materials, machinery and/or equipment (**Limited to 2 Megawatts (MW)**);
- For up to 20 percent of awarded funds -
 - Activities, materials, machinery and/or equipment associated with community energy planning, capacity building, technical assistance, efficiency and weatherization
- Construction, retrofitting, replacement, improvements;
- Fees – construction permits and licenses;
- Professional service fees.



Ineligible Project Costs



- Expenses incurred outside the grant period;
- Used equipment;
- Vehicles;
- Real property/land;
- Lease payments including lease to own and/or capitalized leases;
- Payment of any judgement or debt owed to the US Government;
- Any project expense that creates or appears to be a conflict of interest;
- Expenses associated with applying for REPP.

REPP Summary

Partnerships

Multiple entities with a lead applicant to administer up to \$2 million REPP Grant
(80% of Total Eligible Project Costs; 20% cost share match required)

Distributed energy solutions

At least 80% of grant funds to install community based/scale, renewable, energy systems;
Up to 20% of grant funds may also be used for - Community energy plans, technical assistance, efficiency and weatherization.

Goals

Energy burden relief for Priority Communities;
Reduced climate pollution, increased resilience to climate change impacts;
Advancing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity.

REPP Program Delivery

- National Office will serve as lead for review of all REPP applications with assistance from a team of N/O, S/O staff and interagency review team
- RD State Offices will assist as necessary:
 - Environmental reviews
 - Award processing
 - Servicing activities
- 36-month period of performance

How to Apply

Deb Yocum



Electronic Application and Submission

- Application materials and submission information is available at:

- ☐ <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-pilot-program>;

- Applications must be submitted electronically:

- ☐ Cloud Vault (link provided by Agency in response to email)

- No other form of application submission will be accepted.

DUNS Number and SAM Registration

The screenshot displays the SAM (System for Award Management) website interface. At the top, there is a login section with fields for 'USER NAME' and 'PASSWORD', a 'LOG IN' button, and links for 'Forgot Username?', 'Forgot Password?', and 'Create an Account'. Below the login section is a navigation bar with links for 'HOME', 'SEARCH RECORDS', 'DATA ACCESS', 'GENERAL INFO', and 'HELP'. The main content area features the D&B logo and a section titled 'The D-U-N-S® Number' with a 'View Infographic' button. The text in this section reads: 'Home > Get a D-U-N-S Number. The D-U-N-S® Number. Harness the power of the D-U-N-S® Number. At no cost, you can have this unique, location-specific identifier that allows you to accurately gauge and communicate your company's creditworthiness. As your business grows and changes, your D-U-N-S® Number stays with you.'

Applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System Number and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting a complete application.

- Each applicant applying for REPP grant funds must:
- (i) Register in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application;
 - (ii) Provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application;
 - (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times while the Agency is considering an application or while a Federal grant award or loan is active; and
 - (iv) Complete the Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations in SAM.

Tools for Applicants

Required Letter of Intent Guide

Available NOW:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-pilot-program>.

Click -- To Apply tab

On or after March 1, 2022: Complete Application Guide

Available

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-pilot-program>.

Click -- To Apply tab



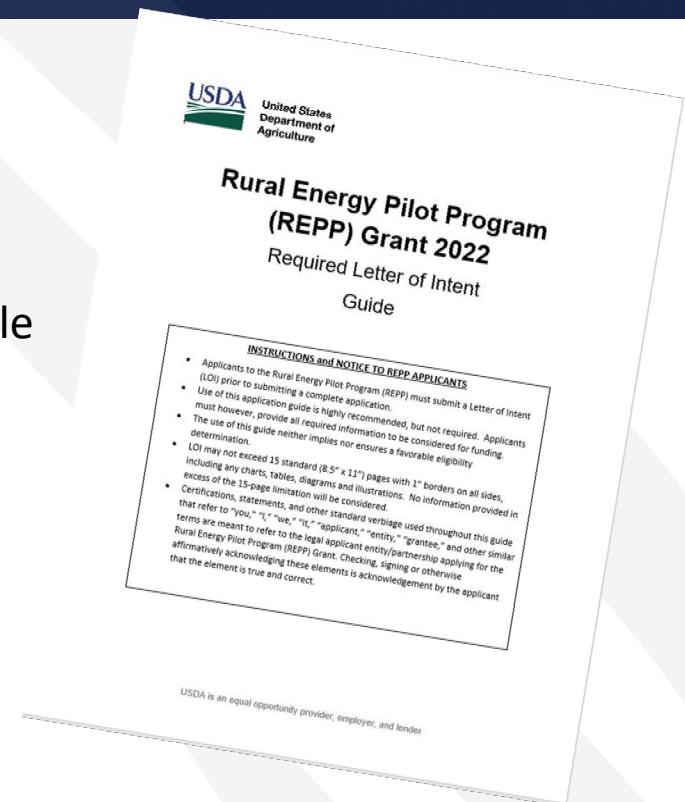
Two-Stage Application

Required Letter of Intent



Stage 1 – Letter of Intent:

- REPP Required Letter of Intent (LOI) due **April 19, 2022.**
- **Required LOI Guide** and submission instructions are available on REPP Website -- **To Apply** tab.
- Agency/IA panel reviews LOI and responds on or before May 19, 2022.



Two-Stage Application

Complete Application

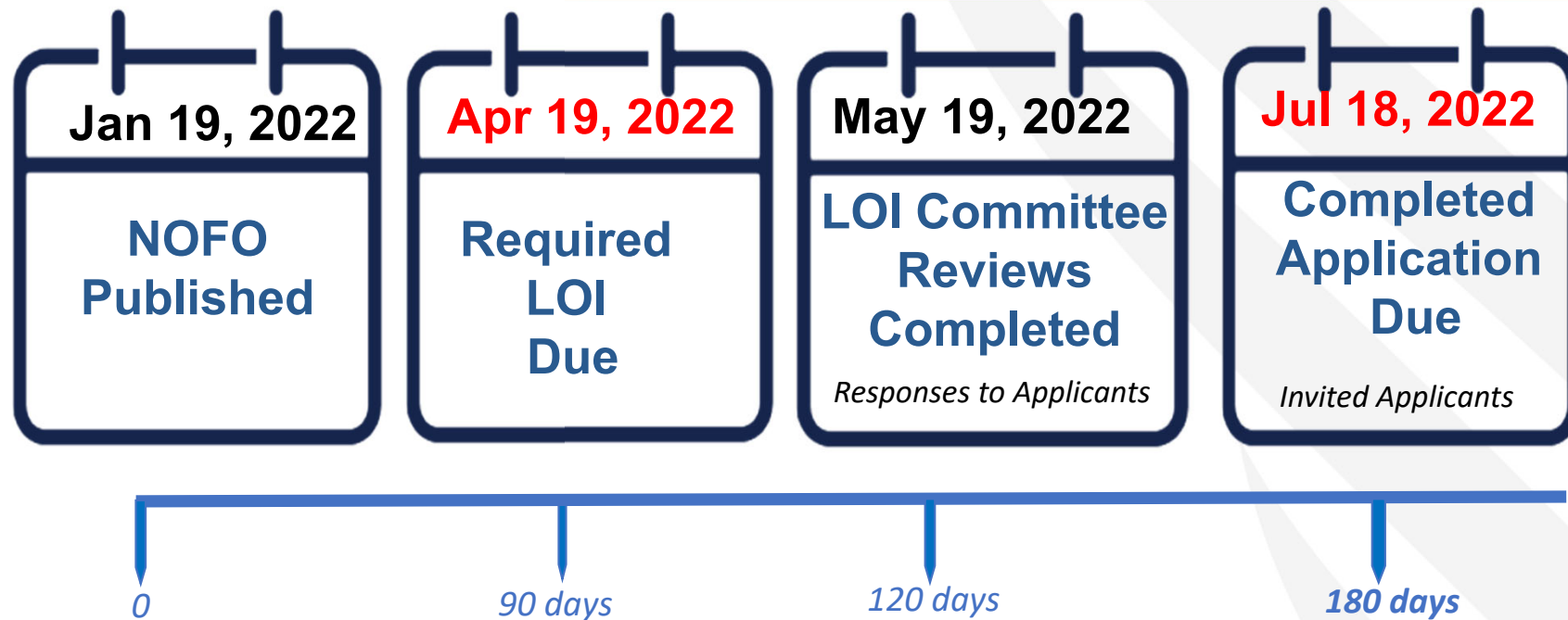


Stage 2 – Complete Application:

- Applicants receiving Letter of Encouragement from Agency are invited to submit Complete Application.
- **Completed Application** must be submitted on or before **July 18, 2022**.
- Complete Application Guide, Checklist, and submission instructions will be available on REPP Website beginning March 1, 2022.



REPP Application Timeline



REPP Selection Criteria

Tony Crooks

REPP Selection Criteria



110 Points Possible

- (a) Further develop renewable energy* (max 25 points)
 - (b) Community and regional impacts* (max 25 points)
 - (c) Targeted region* (max 25 points)
 - (d) Project and community support* (max 15 points)
 - (e) Demonstrated readiness and likelihood of success* (max 10 points)
- Administrator points* (max 10 points)

REPP Selection Criteria



(a) Further develop renewable energy.

Application materials demonstrate the ***rural energy community partnership's*** ability/commitment to addressing targeted initiatives as specified in Section III. C. of the REPP NOFO.

More points will be awarded for reasonable initiatives that can be delivered within 36 months of the grant award.

More points awarded to partnerships/projects leveraging other Federal, State, Tribal, and local assistance resources for -- community planning, human capacity building, technical assistance, efficiency, weatherization, and improvements in high-speed broadband service to the region.

Points are awarded on a scale of 0 to 25 with a maximum of 25 points being awarded.

REPP Selection Criteria



(b) Community and regional impacts.

The community objectives to be achieved through ***rural energy community partnership*** efforts at the completion of REPP assistance. These objectives will be identified by the community and can include the ability to withstand disruptive events, economic and energy resilience, increased environmental justice, improved racial equity, expanded economic opportunity, and the stability or diversification of distributive energy resources.

Points are awarded on a scale of 0 to 25 with a maximum of 25 points being awarded.

REPP Selection Criteria



(c) Targeted region.

Application materials should describe the geographic region to be served including county names and zip codes and **demonstrate that the geographic region served by the rural energy community partnership is of significant consequence** to REPP priorities of advancing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity:

- (1) Distressed Communities Index [2020 DCI Interactive Map - Economic Innovation Group \(eig.org\)](#);
- (2) [Low-Income Energy Affordability Data \(LEAD\) Tool | Department of Energy](#);
- (3) CDC Social Vulnerability Index, https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/at-a-glance_svi.html
- (4) [OZ Activity Map - Economic Innovation Group \(eig.org\)](#);
- (5) Distressed Energy Communities listing, <https://ruraldevelopment.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=86027863e066487ca1b33dc9217a70d1>.
- (6) Disadvantaged communities – Provide a brief narrative with supporting information to demonstrate how the geographic region meets the definition of a Disadvantaged Community.

Points are awarded on a scale of 0 to 25 with a maximum of 25 points being awarded.

REPP Selection Criteria



(d) Project and community support.

Application materials document/demonstrate strength of local support of the ***rural energy community partnership***, activities, projects, and entrepreneurial commitment. Points will be awarded from the partnership's demonstration of its sources of funding, personnel and technical resources committed to the project; a focus on the inclusion of institutional partners expanding access to capital and willingness to potentially invest in projects emerging from the RECP. Points shall also be awarded for demonstrated resources that will sustain the project beyond the term of the REPP grant period.

Points are awarded on a scale of 0 to 15 with a maximum of 15 points being awarded.

REPP Selection Criteria



(e) Demonstrated readiness and likelihood of success.

Application materials demonstrate the ***rural energy community partnership's*** readiness in administering the REPP grant successfully and shows strong documentation indicating the likelihood of implementing plans developed through technical assistance as indicated by the explanation of previous, ongoing, or future efforts to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the community and/or a stakeholder engagement plan; the existence of an energy resilience goal; and the availability and/or expectation of project financing.

Points are awarded on a scale of 0 to 10 with a maximum of 10 points being awarded.

REPP Administrator points



Administrator points.

The Agency retains the discretion to afford priority to applications that will advance key Administration priorities:

- (1) Assist Rural communities recover economically from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly disadvantaged communities;
- (2) Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects; and
- (3) Reduce climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

The Agency also retains the discretion to afford priority to applications that achieve geographic distribution of REPP grant awards across the maximum number of States and diversity of communities targeted.

A maximum of up to 10 points will be awarded, with justification, at the discretion of the Administrator.

Questions

Tony Crooks

Deb Yocum

REPP Wrap-Up

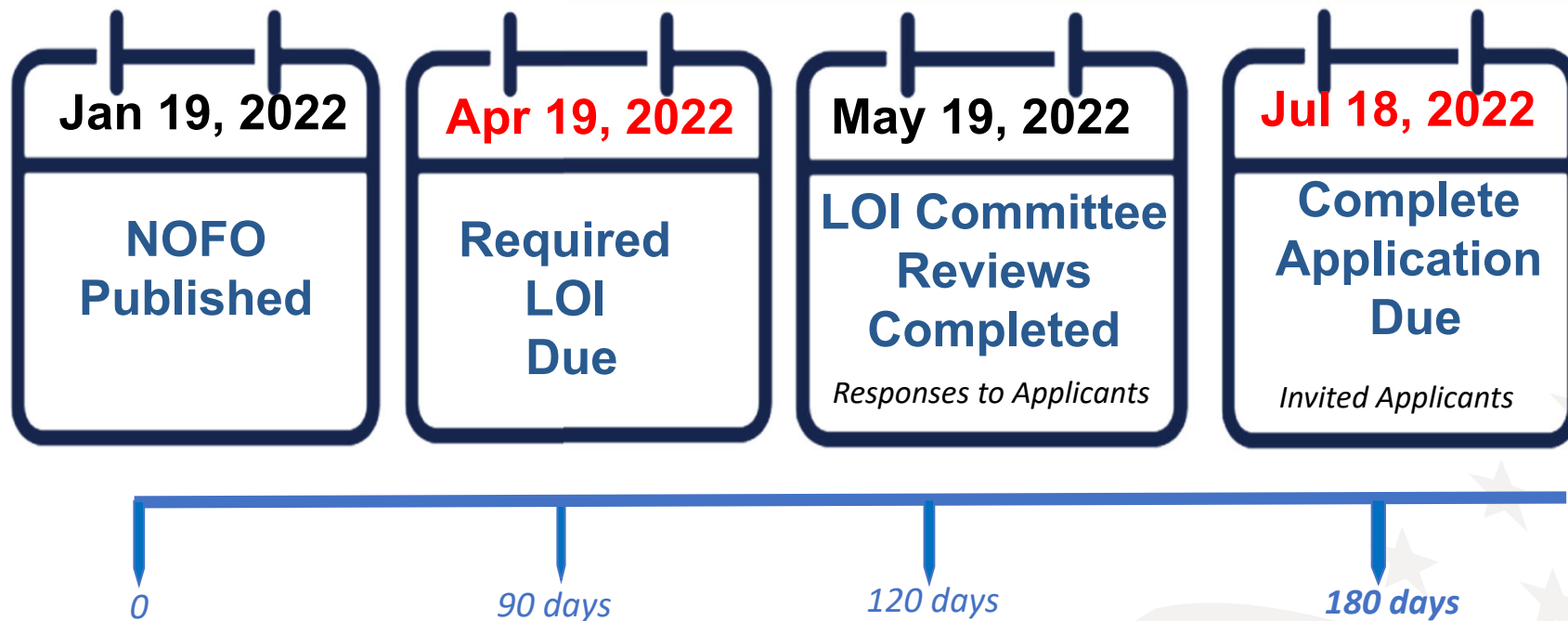
Deb Yocum



What's next?

- **Training Webinars – See REPP Website, Events tab:**
 - REPP Required Letter of Intent, 2pm ET, February 1, 2022
 - Submitting a REPP Completed Application, 2pm ET, Tuesday, May 24, 2022;
 - REPP Question & Answer Hour, 2pm ET Tuesday, June 28, 2022;
 - **REPP Deadlines:**
 - Accept **Required Letters of Intent** until, 11:59 pm ET, **April 19, 2022;**
 - Agency will send Response Letters to applicants on or before May 19, 2022;
 - Accept **Completed Applications** from invited Applicants until, 11:59 pm ET, **July 18, 2022.**
- **REPP Application Window Closes, 11:59pm ET, July 18, 2022.**

REPP Application Timeline



What's next?

Application Processing

August/September 2022:

- Agency Review for Completeness and Eligibility
- Panel Evaluation and Competition

October/November 2022:

- Selection; Written Communication to All Participants
- Public Announcement of Awards/Obligation
- Financial Assistance Agreements Execution
- Project Executions

REPP Website and Information

Application materials, the REPP Notice of Funding Opportunity and additional program information is available:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-pilot-program;>

REPP Contacts

- State Energy Coordinators:
 - https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/RBS_StateEnergyCoordinators.pdf
- REPP Contacts:
 - Anthony Crooks, RuralEnergyPilotProgram@usda.gov, 202-205-9322
 - Deb Yocum, RuralEnergyPilotProgram@usda.gov
 - REPP@usda.gov is also available.

Thank you!



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.