



HERO

Hubs for Energy Resilient Operations

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING (ICEP) WEBINAR

LOUISIANA HERO PROGRAM – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

JUNE 17, 2025

AGENDA

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Louisiana's Hubs for Energy Resilient Operations (HERO) Program, administered by the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources (LDENR), is designed to **accelerate the growth of more affordable, reliable, and abundant energy for greater power resilience**. The program builds upon Louisiana's robust energy portfolio and **positions the state as a leader in grid innovation**.
- Through HERO, LDENR unites the public and private sectors, research institutions, and community partners to identify areas across Louisiana with the most critical energy challenges. HERO's pilot projects are designed to **establish the most efficient energy production and storage practices and advance disaster response efforts**.
- Guided by lessons learned from the pilot phase and ongoing engagement with community stakeholders, LDENR and its HERO partners will deliver innovative projects to provide power resilience to **address the state's future residential and commercial energy needs**.



VISION

Deliver more affordable and reliable energy to enhance power resilience in Louisiana.

HUBS FOR ENERGY RESILIENT OPERATIONS

PURPOSE

Drive innovation in energy grid resilience and reliability for critical facilities in Louisiana's most vulnerable areas.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Address energy security vulnerabilities and power outage risks to improve economic and social stability



Provide 24/7 power to priority hubs during emergency events and periods of peak energy demand



Invest in distributed energy resources for power resilience and reliability as an energy security priority



Design grid enhancements focused on critical infrastructure, community needs, and overall resilience to position Louisiana as a leader in grid innovation



Improve grid distribution systems and emergency response operations by integrating advanced technologies with existing infrastructure



Prioritize solutions that enhance local preparedness and community resilience in rural and urban areas to strengthen disaster recovery efforts



Lower energy burden and reduce future storm recovery costs



Create high-quality jobs and develop a more robust local workforce

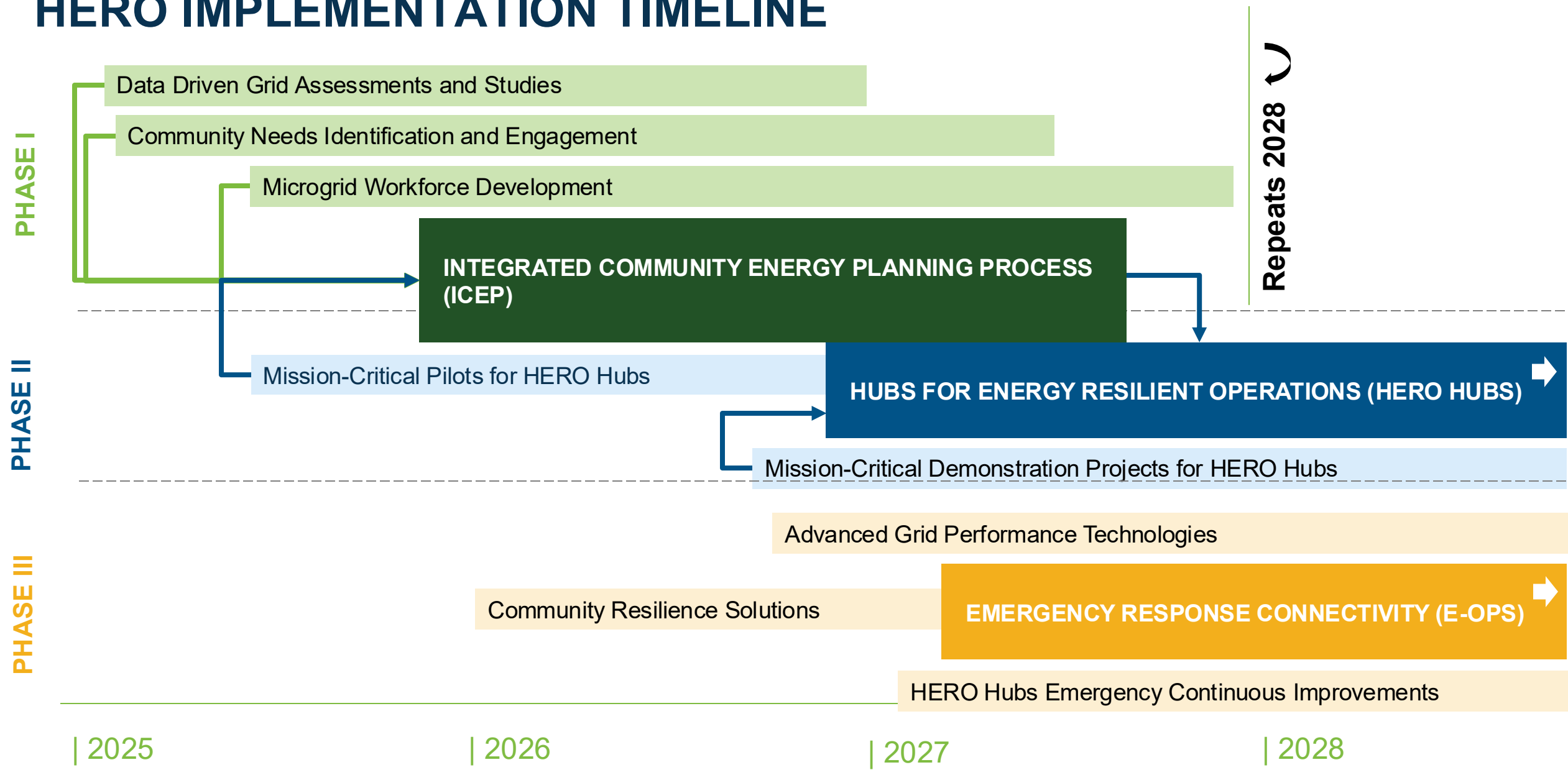
HUBS FOR ENERGY RESILIENT OPERATIONS



PROGRAM STRUCTURE



HERO IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



INTEGRATED COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING (ICEP)

WHAT IS INTEGRATED COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING?

KEY FOCUS

- The **Integrated Community Energy Planning (ICEP)** process will bring together utility, community, state, and federal level data to identify hotspots of greatest energy burden, disaster risks, threats to security and systems, long-duration outages, and grid congestion.
- The ICEP process uses data-driven studies, combined with a community-informed approach, to enhance community resilience by planning for a network of local microgrids. The ICEP planning effort will help communities identify and prioritize ways to best support community energy needs during times of distress.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Design grid enhancements focused on critical infrastructure, community needs, and overall resilience to position Louisiana as a leader in grid innovation.
- Prioritize solutions that enhance local preparedness and community resilience in rural and urban areas to strengthen disaster recovery efforts.

KEY MILESTONES

- **Milestone M1:** Engage 15 communities in ICEP by end of 2025
- **Milestone M5:** Engage 30 communities in ICEP by end of FY2029

HUBS FOR ENERGY RESILIENT OPERATIONS



ICEP: TWO DISTINCT PHASES

COMMUNITY PLANNING PHASE

- **Needs Identification.** Support communities to identify their set of prioritized resilience needs.
- **Coordinate Planning.** Engage local governments, utilities, and key stakeholders at the local level to coordinate electric grid resilience planning.
- **NOFO opened this month**

STATEWIDE PLANNING PHASE

- **Resilience Planning.** Anticipate future challenges for reliability, resource adequacy, and resiliency based on load growth, storm trends, capabilities, and constraints.
- **Bring it all together.** Collect input from community planning phase, develop a statewide grid resilience plan, and develop HERO hub solicitation priorities.
- **Launching no later than Winter/Spring 2026**

COMMUNITY PLANNING PHASE

- In the Community Planning Phase of the HERO ICEP process, communities can apply for a grant from LDENR to conduct a community-driven planning process in coordination with local utilities and stakeholder.
- Communities can apply for a **grant of up to \$125,000** to lead a local, community-driven planning process focused on energy resilience.

LEAD APPLICANT

- Local government (city or parish)
- Utility (municipal, co-op, or investor-owned)
- Critical facility (like a hospital, port, or military base)

REQUIRED PARTNERS

- Every application must include both a local government and its area utility.

HUBS FOR ENERGY RESILIENT OPERATIONS

ESTIMATED GRANT AWARD

- **Award Amount:** Up to \$125,000 per plan
- **Cost Match:** Minimum of \$25,000 (from applicant or partners)
- **Funding Source:** Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources



GENERAL PROCESS AND TIMELINE

COMMUNITY PLANNING PHASE



The community plans developed in the Community Planning Phase will serve as direct input into the Statewide Planning Phase of the ICEP process, which is expected to launch in 2026.

STATEWIDE PLANNING PHASE

- In the Statewide Planning Phase of the HERO ICEP process, stakeholders from across the state will participate in working groups to anticipate future challenges of reliability, resource adequacy, and resiliency based on load growth, storm trends, capabilities, and constraints that impact the whole state.
- The Statewide Planning Phase will also collect input from the Community Planning Phase and state-funded assessments and studies.
- This phase builds on local and statewide planning efforts to address big-picture energy resilience and grid reliability across Louisiana to ensure the state's strategy is data-driven, coordinated, and ready for implementation at every level.

GENERAL PROCESS AND TIMELINE

STATEWIDE PLANNING PHASE



HUBS FOR ENERGY RESILIENT OPERATIONS



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) supports local communities in leading Integrated Community Energy Planning efforts in partnership with utilities and other stakeholders.
- Through this grant, LDENR aims to help communities identify resilience needs, map critical facilities, and develop strategies that improve grid and community resilience. These local plans will feed directly into statewide planning efforts and help shape the future deployment of HERO Hubs across Louisiana.
- **Funding Opportunity Overview:**
 - **NOFO #:** LADENR-HERO-ICEP
 - **Total Funding Available:** \$1,875,000
 - **Award Maximum:** Up to \$125,000
 - **Intended Number of Awards:** 15 awards
 - **Application Deadline:** July 31, 2025, by 5 PM CST
 - **Release Date:** June 2, 2025

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

SUMMARY

Local governments, utilities, and stakeholder partnerships will be expected to convene local workshops and working groups of stakeholders in a community planning process.

Outcome: Compile relevant information, including a prioritized set of possible HERO Hub projects, from the community planning process into a standard report template to serve as inputs into the statewide planning process, which will support statewide resilience planning and the development of HERO Hubs.

Planning should include:

- Identifying localized hazards and resilience needs, focused on community members and impact
- Identifying critical facilities that support those community needs, particularly during grid disruptions
- Developing a portfolio of ideas and strategies that can increase electric grid and community resilience for those needs
- Incorporating existing community goals and plans into the process

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

STATE FUNDING OBJECTIVES (2.2)

Proposals will be evaluated based on how well they meet five key objectives:

- **Community Need** – Demonstrate local energy and economic challenges—such as grid safety, reliability, security, affordability, and economic needs.
- **Lead Applicant Capability** – The projected ability of the lead applicant to execute and lead the effort, including through a review of previous efforts.
- **Strong Partnerships** – The proposed partnerships, including the participation and commitment of required partners, and the contribution of other optional partners.
- **Deep Community Input** – The expected level of engagement with community members and key stakeholders during the community planning process.
- **Geographic Representation** – A wide range of physical and demographic geographies from across the state to ensure a robust set of data inputs.

All proposals must also present a reasonable, well-justified budget.

HUBS FOR ENERGY RESILIENT OPERATIONS



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

PRIORITY APPLICANTS (2.3)

- The state will prioritize proposals that focus their planning efforts in areas with the greatest need. This includes communities facing challenges related to grid reliability and security, economic needs, and geography.
- LDENR will use a data-driven evaluation method developed by the LSU Center for Energy Studies to help guide this prioritization. This approach ensures that proposals are reviewed fairly and consistently across the state.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES (2.4)

A proposal can only be led by the following:

- A unit of local government
- A small utility (sells \leq 4M MWh/year)
- A large utility (sells $>$ 4M MWh/year)
- A critical facility (e.g., public safety, emergency response, healthcare)

Priority will be given to local governments and small utilities

ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIPS

All proposals must include the following:

- A unit of local government
- A utility serving the same area

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS (OPTIONAL):

- Critical facility (required if lead applicant)
- Local planning orgs or nonprofits
- Utility associations
- Local government associations

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

COST MATCH (2.5)

As part of this funding opportunity, all applicants are required to commit to a cost match. The applicant will need to contribute a portion of non-federal funding toward your proposed effort.

The required cost match is 20% of your subaward amount.

Note: Only expenses directly tied to the **Eligible Activities** outlined in the NOFO can be counted toward your match.

EXAMPLES:

- If you're requesting the **maximum amount of \$125,000**, your required cost match is at least **\$25,000**.
- If you're requesting **\$100,000**, your cost match must be at least **\$20,000**.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES (2.6)

This funding supports activities that advance Integrated Community Energy Planning and development of a community resilience plan, including:

- Community energy & resilience planning
- Local outreach and coordination
- Data analysis, engineering, and design
- Financial analysis
- Modeling
- Other necessary activities supporting plan development

Final deliverable: A community plan report using the LDENR-provided template, contributing to the statewide planning process.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

TIMELINE (2.7)

Funded applicants are expected to follow the timeline below:

- **Notice of Award:** September 2025
- **Grant Agreement Finalized with LDENR:** October 2025
- **Training on ICEP Process:** November 2025 – January 2026
- **Begin Community Energy Planning:** December 2025 – February 2026
- **Complete Community Energy Planning & Submit Final Report:** August 2026

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Notice of Funding Opportunity is a competitive, multi-stage application process divided into three stages:

- **Pre-Application** – The Notice of Funding Opportunity outlines a pre-application process, which provides an easy-to-navigate application, which is helpful for entities with limited bandwidth. LDENR reviews for eligibility, alignment with program goals, and provides early feedback.
- **Final Application Submission** – Selected applicants will submit a full proposal with required federal and state documentation. SAM.gov registration is required at this stage.
- **Competitive, Rolling Applications** – If funding remains, LDENR may open monthly competitive application rounds. Proposals will be reviewed in batches based on alignment with program objectives.

PRE-APPLICATION PROCESS

PRE-APPLICATION CONTENT (4.1)

Your **pre-application submission** must include four main components:

- **Applicant's Information** (up to 1 page, Word or PDF)
- **Proposal Narrative** (up to 5 pages, Word or PDF)
- **Budget Narrative, Metrics & Timelines** (Excel – Attachment A)
- **Applicant Certifications** (Word or PDF)

PRE-APPLICATION CONTENT (4.1)

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION (UP TO 1 PAGE)

- **Lead Applicant**
 - Name, eligibility category, contact details
 - Background and relevant experience
- **Partners**
 - Names, contact leads, and eligibility categories
 - For small utilities, explain why they qualify

PRE-APPLICATION CONTENT (4.1)

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE (UP TO 5 PAGES)

Executive Summary

- Planning goals, activities, outcomes
- Note if previously submitted to federal programs

Location

- Boundaries of the planning area (e.g., local gov, utility, geography)

Anticipated Community Participation

- Identify stakeholder groups, methods of engagement, and quantifiable goals for participation
- Identify census tracts and underserved communities
- Include maps, data, or other visuals as needed

Funding Objectives

- Describe the planning process, roles of partners, analyses, and services needed

Timeline

- Show timeline of activities and demonstrate ability to meet program deadlines

Requested Funding

- Federal funds requested, cost match sources, and a break down by cost item

PRE-APPLICATION CONTENT (4.1)

BUDGET NARRATIVE, METRICS, AND TIMELINES

- Must be submitted using Attachment A (Excel file)
 - **Cost Breakdown** - Fill out “Part I – Cost” tab
 - **Performance Metrics** - Complete “Part II – Metrics” tab with estimates

PRE-APPLICATION CONTENT (4.1)

APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATIONS OF FUNDING REQUIREMENTS COMPLIANCE

Each entity receiving funds must certify compliance with:

- Non-debarment/suspension
- No corporate felony/federal tax violations
- Reasonable, allowable, allocable costs principles
- No conflicts of interest
- Foreign national participation (DOE approval may be required)
- Davis-Bacon Act (prevailing wages for labor over \$2,000)
- No lobbying with federal funds or cost match
- Federal terms flow-down to all subawards

APPLICATION PROCESS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (4.2)

LDENR reserves the right to adjust these dates at any time without notice.

Activity/Event	Date
Notice of Funding Opportunity Issued	June 2, 2025
Pre-Application Deadline	July 31, 2025, by 5:00 PM CST
Anticipated Initial Proposal Selections	September 2025

APPLICATION PROCESS

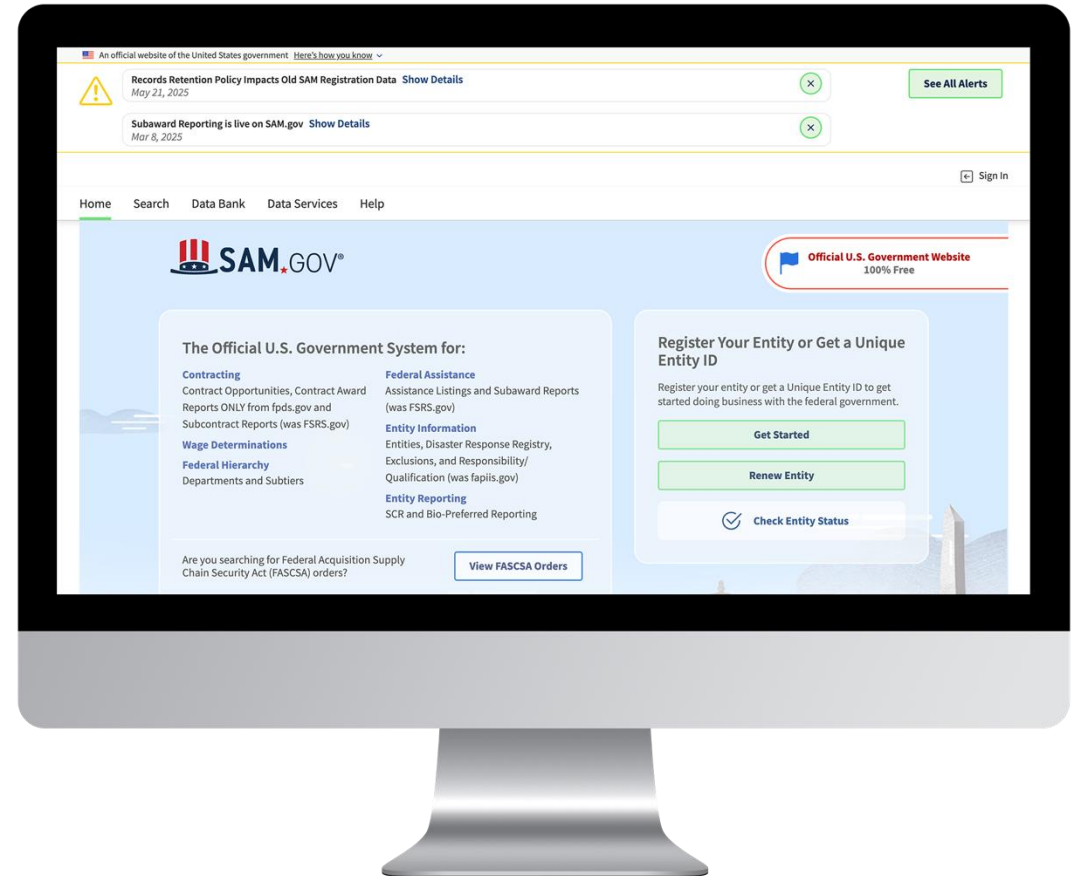
SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS (4.3)

- Submit pre-applications by email only to: lahero@la.gov
- Subject line must read: **ICEP Community Planning NOFO**
- Attachments must be in Microsoft Word (.docx) or readable PDF format
- Email submission is the **only** acceptable method of delivery
- Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted files, **may not be reviewed**.

APPLICATION PROCESS

UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SAM.GOV REGISTRATION (4.4)

- Selected applicants must register with the federal SAM.gov portal
- A Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is required to proceed
- Entities listed on the SAM.gov Exclusion List are not eligible for funding



REVIEW AND EVALUATION

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS (5.1)

To be eligible for funding, proposals must:

- Be submitted by an eligible lead applicant
- Include an eligible partnership
- Be located in Louisiana
- Include the required 20% cost match

ENGAGEMENT ASSESSMENT (5.2)

Proposals must score at least **30 out of 50 points** across the following five categories:

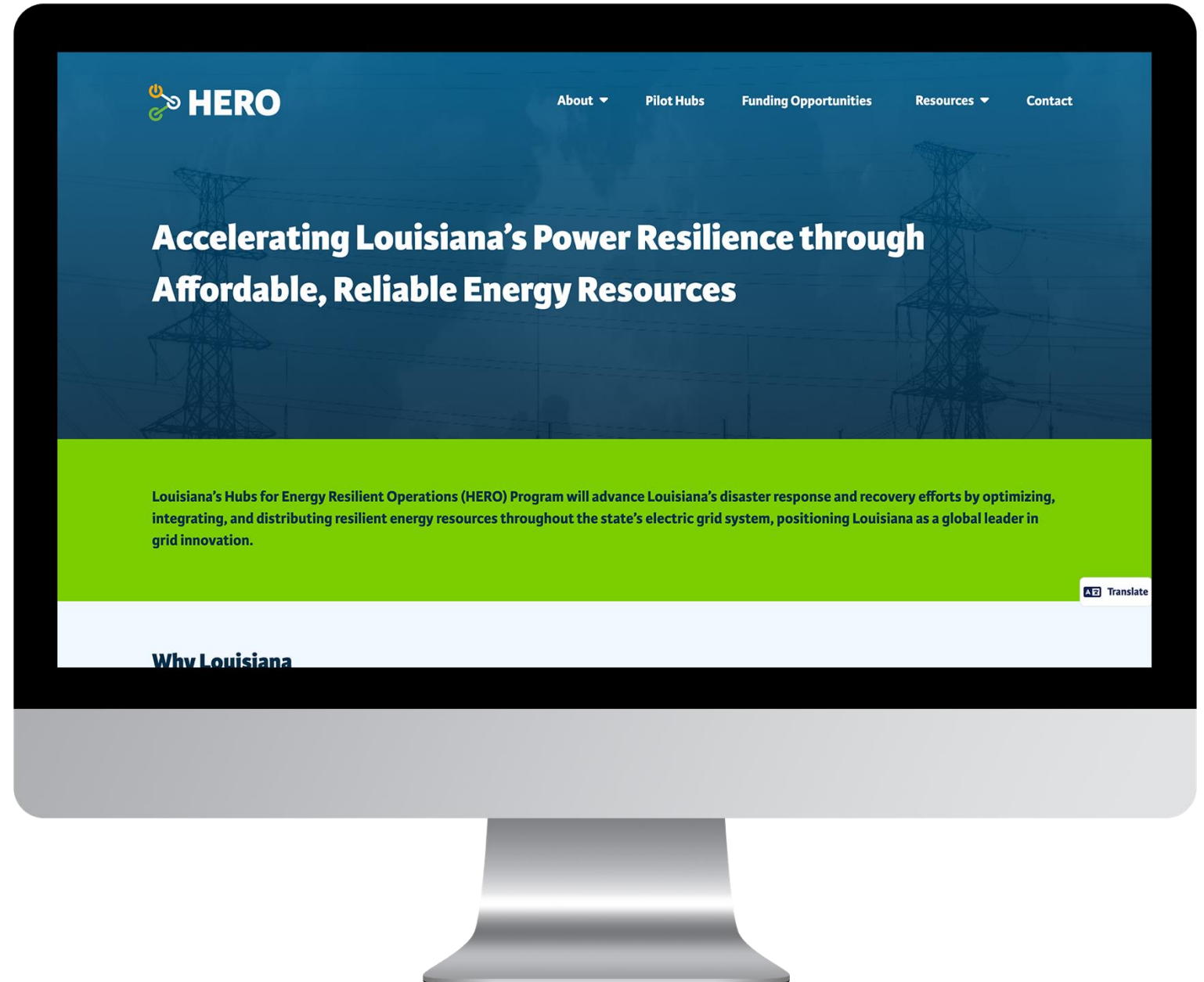
- Community Need
- Lead Applicant Capability
- Strong Partnerships
- Deep Community Input
- Geographic Representation

Each category is scored as Poor (1–3), Fair (4–6), or Strong (7–10), based on alignment with objectives, likelihood of success, and measurable impact.

WRAP-UP

WRAP-UP

For more information, please contact lahero@la.gov or visit louisianahero.org.





THANK YOU
