

**NASEO 2024-RFP-003 Questions and Answers**  
**April 16, 2024**

- Can NASEO staff help connect the project team with appropriate contacts at different State Energy Offices and provide feedback on the consultant's approach to ensure the consultant is meeting SEO needs?

*Yes, NASEO staff will connect the Consultant with the appropriate State Energy Offices for the project and will provide frequent feedback on the consultant's approach.*

- Can NASEO staff help connect the project team with appropriate contacts at State Energy Offices or among other stakeholders who have been active in the resiliency space so that the consultant can conduct interviews to identify takeaways and insights from resiliency efforts in their respective states?

*Yes, NASEO staff will connect the Consultant with the appropriate State Energy Offices for the project and will also participate in the interviews.*

- Would NASEO be interested in a webinar to share results or other marketing support with respect to NASEO publishing the Gris Resilience Planning and Implementation Guide?

*Yes, that is one avenue to disseminate the results of the project; NASEO is also open to additional suggestions in the proposals.*

- Is there a specific interest in types of resilience efforts or is the guide intended to be a fully inclusive resource (e.g., local resilience vs. broader distribution system, vs. bulk system and regional resilience)?

*While broad, NASEO anticipates that the focus will mostly be on grid resilience planning and implementation connected to the [Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants](#).*

- How is feedback from the DOE Energy Security and Grid Resilience Cohorts going to be fed to the contractors? Will there be the opportunity to listen in to these conversations?

*While the cohorts are restricted to state only participation, NASEO will provide a high-level summary to the selected consultant to inform the development of the analysis and tools.*

- Can NASEO provide more specificity on the types of Issue Brief/State Spotlight that may fall under Task 3? Any further discussion around the supporting documentation and analysis or potential topic examples would be helpful.

*Topics will be derived from the meetings of the [DOE Energy Security and Grid Resilience Cohorts](#), specifically the cohorts on grid resilience grant implementation, risk assessment approaches, and risk mitigation strategies. Topics within each of the cohorts are listed on the [cohort website](#).*

- Does NASEO have a budget range that can be shared for this work? Are you able to share a target budget for this work? Will NASEO share a “not to exceed” budget for the project? Without this information, bidders may offer proposals that are 5- to 10-fold the level of resourcing. In this circumstance, the organization may need to discard proposals for being misaligned with its expectations for budget and resources. By sharing a “not to exceed” budget, the organization will have the greatest number of proposals to consider which are aligned with your budget and needs.

*NASEO’s not to exceed budget is \$100,000 for this RFP.*

- Will NASEO accept proposals to perform this effort on a firm-fixed price basis?

*All proposals should be based on a time and materials price basis in accordance with U.S. Department of Energy guidelines.*

- The Budget Justification form appears to require a breakdown of all costs. However, bidders that exclusively offer commercial services and do not hold a cost accounting system are unable to provide a cost breakdown. In addition, such commercial services are offered at commercial rates which are set in the context of a highly competitive market and are not based on the application of indirect rates to a direct contractor salary or other cost elements. Accordingly, can NASEO confirm that bidders who exclusively offer commercial services on a firm-fixed-price basis will not be required to propose a cost breakdown?

*All proposals should be based on a time and materials price basis in accordance with U.S. Department of Energy guidelines.*

- Can NASEO confirm that Offerors who propose commercial services on a firm-fixed-price basis in response to the RFP will not be subject to any of the cost requirements contained in the DOE Mandatory Requirements and Standard Provisions and will only be required to accept those clauses applicable to contractors, as defined by 2 CFR 200.331?

*All proposals should be based on a time and materials price basis in accordance with U.S. Department of Energy guidelines.*

- Can NASEO confirm that an awardee, that exclusively provides commercial services on a firm-fixed-price basis, will be required to provide supporting documentation of the proposed labor rates by offering a published rate scale or a copy of a contract or invoices demonstrating acceptance by other public sector agencies or well-known institutions, and that such awardees will not be required to “provide documentation to support individual cost rates, indirect cost rates, and wage/salary schedules”?

*All proposals should be based on a time and materials price basis in accordance with U.S. Department of Energy guidelines.*