



STATE CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING RESILIENCE PROJECTS

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Resilience Training for States – Western Region

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Design Criteria with the End in Mind

- ▶ Be clear about what resilience means for your context
 - To or from what?
- ▶ Identify the outcomes you're trying to achieve
 - For who?
 - How much?
- ▶ Outcomes → Projects → Evaluation criteria

Principles of Resilience*

What makes a resilience project a resilience project?

- ▶ Proactive
- ▶ Collaborative and Inclusive
- ▶ Whole-System
- ▶ Durable
- ▶ Equitable and Just
- ▶ Multi-Benefit
- ▶ People-Centered

**National Climate Resilience Framework, September 2023.*

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/National-Climate-Resilience-Framework-FINAL.pdf>



Types of Evaluation Criteria

- ▶ Quantitative
- ▶ Qualitative



Potential Evaluation Criteria

- ▶ Physical impacts
- ▶ Operational impacts
- ▶ Public health and safety impacts
- ▶ Economic impacts
- ▶ Social impacts
- ▶ Equity impacts
- ▶ Environmental impacts
- ▶ Cascading impacts and interdependencies



Potential Evaluation Criteria

- ▶ Feasibility
- ▶ Effectiveness
- ▶ Achieves multiple community objectives
- ▶ Administrative impacts
- ▶ Financial implications
- ▶ Timeframe for implementation
- ▶ Return on investment
- ▶ Useful life



Example Approaches

Colorado

- ▶ Prioritize funding for projects based on:
 - Demonstrated need
 - Impact
 - Project readiness
 - Proposed cost match
- ▶ Evaluation Criteria:
 - Demonstrated need - 40%
 - Project Impact - 30%
 - Project Readiness - 20%
 - Labor Impact - 10%

Example Approaches

Kansas

- ▶ Preference to:
 - Monitoring and control technologies
 - Utility pole management
 - Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations and of other systems
 - Replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables
- ▶ Prioritize projects that will
 - Generate the greatest community benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events
 - Historical measurements of resilience and reliability for the targeted areas of each proposed project
 - Expected changes because of each proposed project
 - Located in rural, underserved and/or disadvantaged communities
- ▶ Scoring Matrix:
 - Project Description and Scope: 20 points
 - Need for Funding: 20 points
 - Complete Budget and Narrative: 10 points
 - Project Timeline: 15 points
 - Bids and Estimates: 10 points
 - Community Benefit: 25 points



Example Approaches

Ohio

- ▶ Objective #1: Improve reliability, including reducing the frequency and duration of outages in disadvantaged communities. 20 points
- ▶ Objective #2: Enhance resilience to address all hazards, including future climate implications. 20 points
- ▶ Objective #3: Demonstrate beneficial community impact. 25 points + 10 points for GHG reduction
- ▶ Objective #4: Improve customer experience. 17.5 points
- ▶ Objective #5: Ensure project success. 17.5 points
- ▶ Complete and compliant application. 5 points



Example Approaches

▶ South Carolina

STEP 1: SCREENING CRITERIA



Is the application complete?



Does the response meet 1 of the 4 objectives?



Does the application meet workforce standards

STEP 2: PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluate the proposed improvements of the submitted projects and proposed metrics for tracking against a weighted scoring system

PROJECT RESILIENCY IMPACT (60%)

Does the project demonstrate significant improvements to:

- Reduce the number of outages due to extreme weather events
- Improve the restoration times due to extreme weather events

COMMUNITY BENEFIT IMPACT (40%)

Does the project demonstrate community benefits in any of key areas:

- Community population impacted beneficially
- Community and Labor Engagement
- Workforce Continuity and Good Jobs Plan:
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Plan:
- Justice40 Initiative

Example Approaches

Michigan

- ▶ Project Scope & Objectives (20 Points)
- ▶ Project Feasibility (10 Points)
- ▶ Project Impact (35 Points)
- ▶ Program Priorities (15 Points)
 - Hardening of power lines (not pole management or conductors), facilities, substations, or other systems
 - Vegetation and fuel-load management.
 - Relocation of power lines
 - Replacing old overhead conductors and underground cables
 - Undergrounding of electrical equipment
 - Non-Wired Alternative Projects that focus on using distributive energy resources (DERs), battery storage, and capacity relief, including microgrids.
- ▶ Diversity Equity and Inclusion (15 Points)
- ▶ Environmental Justice (5 Points)
- ▶ Overmatch (5 Points - bonus)

Example Approaches

Idaho

- ▶ Project Resiliency (70%)
 - Provides a clear and cost-effective work plan for improving grid resilience. (45%)
 - Demonstrates a strong need for alleviating probable risk (35%)
 - Provides clear metrics for tracking measurable improvements to resiliency (20%)
- ▶ Community Benefit (25%)
 - Generates community benefits (55%)
 - Creates and maintains jobs (30%)
 - Serves low-income Idaho residents to alleviate energy burden (15%)
- ▶ Administrative Compliance (5%)
 - Adheres to administrative requirements (100%)



Things to Consider

- ▶ Mechanics of the criteria
 - Number of criteria
 - Availability of data
 - Scoring rubric
 - Scoring weights



Things to Consider

- ▶ Review process
 - Who's involved?
 - How do you evaluate consistently?
 - Timeframe for review



Things to Consider

- ▶ Unintended consequences
 - Too complex?
 - Is there potential for bias?
 - Cancel each other out?



FEMA BRIC Program – Technical Evaluation Criteria

FY20

- ▶ Infrastructure project
 - 20 points
- ▶ Mitigating risk to one or more lifelines
 - 15 points
- ▶ Incorporation of nature-based solutions for hazard mitigation
 - 10 points
- ▶ Mandatory Building Code Adoption
 - 20 points
- ▶ BCEGS Rating
 - 15 points
- ▶ Project results from previous Project Scoping
 - 10 points
- ▶ Increased non-federal cost share
 - 5 points
- ▶ Small impoverished community
 - 5 points

FY23

- ▶ Infrastructure project
 - 15 points
- ▶ Incorporation of nature-based solutions for hazard mitigation
 - 5 to 15 points
- ▶ Building Code Adoption and Enforcement
 - 5 to 15 points
- ▶ Project results from previous Project Scoping or TA
 - 10 points
- ▶ Justice40 community OR EDRC or CDRZ
 - 30 points OR 40 points



FEMA BRIC Program – Qualitative Evaluation Criteria

FY20

- ▶ Risk Reduction/Resilience Effectiveness
 - 35 points
- ▶ Future Conditions
 - 15 points
- ▶ Implementation Measures
 - 15 points
- ▶ Population Impacted
 - 15 points
- ▶ Outreach Activities
 - 5 points
- ▶ Leveraging Partners
 - 15 points

FY23

- ▶ Risk Reduction/Resilience Effectiveness
 - 30 points
- ▶ Climate Change and Other Future Conditions
 - 20 points
- ▶ Implementation Measures
 - 15 points
- ▶ Population Impacted
 - 25 points
- ▶ Community Engagement and Other Outreach Activities
 - 5 points
- ▶ Leveraging Partners
 - 5 points



Questions to Ask

- ▶ What are we trying to achieve and what criteria will help us get there?
- ▶ Are the criteria clear and actionable?
- ▶ Do we have a clear evaluation process?
- ▶ Are we creating unintended consequences with the criteria we've selected?





Contact



<https://www.energy.gov/gdo/grid-deployment-office>



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▶ Thank you

