

First Responders Resilience Pilot (FRRP) Program FAQs

What does the FRRP program fund?

The First Responders Resilience Pilot Program (FRRP) supports the installation of photovoltaic (PV)/battery energy storage systems (BESS) designed to help first responders continue operating and provide critical services during emergencies.

Who can apply?

Funding requests will be accepted from police stations, fire stations, and public agencies supplying water. Applications will be accepted during the competitive grant cycles and will be limited to one grant per applicant per year.

What should be included in the First Responders Resilience Pilot Application Form?

Please provide complete and thorough answers to the questions in the First Responders Resilience Application form. Include the annual electricity/energy consumption of your facility and what critical loads must be maintained during an emergency. Provide details on the proposed PV/BESS serving critical loads and how long you anticipate being able to do so with the proposed system.

Can we seek funding for only the solar photovoltaic system?

No. The applicant must install a solar photovoltaic array as well as a battery energy storage system to be able to continue operating during prolonged power outages.

What are the benefits of installing a PV/BESS?

PV/BESS can operate in a grid-connected mode to reduce electricity purchases and demand charges during non-emergency periods. They can also generate revenue by participating in the frequency regulation market and in demand response programs. During a prolonged power outage, or in emergency situations when access to other fuels may be difficult or impossible, PV/BESS can provide electricity for extended periods of time with the sun and PV panels continuing to charge the BESS.

What makes a PV/BESS resilient?

The PV/BESS must be islandable, meaning it must be designed and installed to operate independently from the grid during a power outage. The system can generate electricity and power critical loads until power is restored.

How do I determine the size of my PV/BESS?

Work with a PV/BESS professional to determine the best size for your system. Have on hand:

- electricity bills for the last 12 months
- information on the duration and cost of outages, and information on when -- time of day and time of year -- outages are likely to occur
- list of critical loads that need to be available during an outage

Contact your electric utility about revenue opportunities for PV/BESS that can provide voltage regulation and demand response.

How long will the grant application process take?

Once you have submitted the Online Full Proposal Application, the process is expected to take 3 months or longer.

How does the grant application process work?

1. To start the grant application process, you must submit a Full Proposal (FP) Application. Pay particular attention to the section about using the PV/BES system during emergencies/disasters.
2. You may be asked to provide additional information specific to the project for which you are seeking funding. In addition, you will need to submit documentation and specification for educational displays and signage as well as plans for performance measurement and verification.

The project must be ready to proceed with construction, if a grant is awarded.

How will the grant be paid?

FRRP program grants will be paid upon successful installation and start of operation of the PV/BESS and submission of the project completion report, invoices, and proof of payment.

Are displays and signage eligible for grant funding?

Yes. An essential component of the Foundation's FRRP program is awareness. Projects seeking Foundation support should communicate their ability to provide services to the community during emergencies.

Does project ownership affect eligibility?

Yes. In order to be eligible for funding, the project has to be 100% owned by an eligible applicant.

Why do I need to retire the environmental attributes for my project?

Environmental attributes (also called green tags, RECS, emission offsets, etc.) can be sold. However, when you sell the environmental attributes from your project, you can no longer claim the associated environmental benefits. The benefits now belong to the buyer. Foundation-funded projects may not sell their environmental attributes so they can retain the associated environmental benefit for themselves.

Grant Reporting

If you are awarded a grant, the full reporting requirements will be outlined in the grant agreement. You will be required to provide the Foundation with updates throughout the project. An Interim Report must be submitted six months after the grant has been awarded. Annual system performance reports are required for the first 3 full years of operation.

What is the IDNR Information Request Form?

If your project includes a ground-mounted solar array, you must submit an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Information Request Form form with your FP Application. Please go to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' [EcoCat](#) website, enter your project information, and EcoCat will generate a 1-2 page Information Request Form with the inquiry results. This form will tell you about potential adverse impacts on natural areas, wetlands, and endangered species. Complete this as early as possible, in case your project will require a full consultation with IDNR.