

Request for Proposals
Support for Comprehensive Electricity Planning in Era of Load
Growth Initiative

Solicitation Number: NASEO-2026-RFP-011

Released: Monday, August 3, 2026
Responses Due: Monday, August 17, 2026

National Association of State Energy Officials
1812 North Moore Street, Suite 1810
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Note on applicants' eligibility: All applicants must meet the [DOE Mandatory Requirements and Standard Provisions](#). This includes having a current registration in SAM.gov and providing assurance that the applicant is not a debarred or suspended entity.

General Information

Overview

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) is the only national nonprofit organization representing the governor-designated energy directors and their offices – the State Energy Offices – from the 56 States and Territories across the nation. Formed by the states in 1986, NASEO facilitates sharing of best practices among states, serves as a technical and policy resource for states, and advocates the interests of State Energy Offices to Congress and federal agencies.

For the first time in decades, utilities are projecting significant load growth due to rising power requirements from data centers, manufacturing facilities, transportation, and buildings. Emerging technologies, evolving cost profiles, consumer preferences, energy provider options, and state and local efforts are driving the need for a variety of electricity sources and responses. Capital expenditures will be significant to meet growing needs. Ensuring investments are right-sized and consider all cost-effective approaches such as demand-side solutions, innovative technologies, and resilient supply-side resources will be critical to maintaining reliability and customer affordability. Comprehensive electricity planning that considers customer, distribution system, resource, and transmission needs and capabilities will lead to higher value outcomes at lower costs.

Purpose of this Request for Proposals

To support the advancement of comprehensive electricity planning, NASEO and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), have provided a forum for the development of state-led pathways toward a more resilient, efficient, and affordable grid that accommodates load growth. To support this Initiative, NASEO is seeking a subcontractor who will provide subject-matter-expertise and expert facilitation support.

Timing and Resources

Proposals should discuss the proposing organization's expertise, subject matter familiarity, relevant experience, and ability to carry out the activities described in this RFP. For the purposes of proposal evaluation and approval, as well as execution of the services, all prices, costs, and conditions shall remain firm and valid for a ninety (90) day period, commencing on the day of the proposal due date. Upon award of the contract, all prices shall be firm and valid for the duration of the contract. The estimated RFP timetable is:

ACTION	DATE
RFP Issued	August 3, 2026
Written Proposals Due	August 17, 2026
Proposal Evaluation Complete (estimated)	August 21, 2026
Proposal Award Notification (estimated)	August 26, 2026
Contract Awarded/Subcontractor Start Date (estimated):	September 15, 2026
Contract/Subcontractor End Date (estimated):	December 31, 2026

Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted to:

Kirsten Verclas

Senior Managing Director

National Association of State Energy Officials

Email: kverclas@naseo.org

The funds utilized by NASEO to support this work have been provided to NASEO by DOE's Office of Electricity. The funding agreement between DOE and NASEO will be incorporated in the final contract between NASEO and subcontractor. DOE's Special Terms and Conditions for use in most grants and cooperative agreements can be found [here](#). All requirements of the DOE funding agreement with NASEO shall be controlling, including, but not limited to, federal reporting and the propriety and form of expenses and costs.

Scope of Work

The subcontractor shall provide expert support to NASEO across three main tasks:

1. Facilitate Member Education and Peer Sharing;
2. Convene Initiative Members and Stakeholders; and
3. Develop Tools, Resources, and Webpages.

Each area is described in detail below.

Task 1. Facilitate Member Education and Peer Sharing

The subcontractor will collaborate with NASEO, NARUC, DOE, National Labs, and industry experts to develop and deliver a virtual and in-person peer sharing opportunities for members and the broader community to facilitate deeper exploration of comprehensive electricity planning. The subcontractor will propose topics and speakers to NASEO and NARUC for virtual training or peer exchange opportunities, draft event abstracts, invite speakers, and gather and review PowerPoint presentations in advance. (NASEO or NARUC will establish registration, provide Zoom or a comparable platform to host the events, record events, and post them to a public website.)

Task 2. Convene Initiative Members and Stakeholders

NASEO and NARUC are planning a convening of the Comprehensive Electricity Planning Initiative members in September 2026. For this and other potential in person or virtual events, the subcontractor will prepare an agenda outline with objectives, suggested expert invitee list, and a detailed facilitation agenda in collaboration with NASEO and NARUC, applying expertise from other association, federal, and industry efforts that are relevant to the topic. The subcontractor will facilitate various sessions during the one or two-day event and record notes taken at all workshop sessions. Facilitation will include presenting materials developed for the workshop, leading and facilitating discussions at the sessions, providing technical comments and expert opinion, and capturing key discussion points on flipcharts. The subcontractor should plan to provide two facilitators for the workshop and leverage additional facilitation expertise and persons provided by NARUC and NASEO. The subcontractor will produce a document no later than four weeks after the workshop to be shared with the NARUC/NASEO team and workshop participants that captures the key points that were expressed at the sessions and records any conclusions reached. Revisions may be required based on clarifying comments from the workshop participants.

Task 3. Develop Tools, Resources, and Webpages

The subcontractor will develop up to five (5) tools, resources, and content for webpages to support member decision making about comprehensive electricity planning. Resources can include a combination of presentation-based recordings and PPTs, case studies, template materials, short guidance or best practices resources, and suggestions of questions commissions or state energy officials can ask utilities or stakeholders. These materials should build from a review of actions and lessons learned from early mover experiences to support fast followers and emerging efforts. Specific materials will be designed in consultation with NASEO and NARUC staff. For estimation purposes, assume that each resource will be no more than 10 pages long and will require an outline, draft, and final version iterated with NARUC and NASEO. (NASEO will conduct formal copyediting, design, and production activities for any resources to be printed or published.)

The subcontractor will also develop a companion comprehensive electricity planning library, which will include a formatted citation and hyperlink for each resource, organized to allow NARUC to easily populate an online library of such key resources.¹

Task 4: Project Management

- Report on activities and expenditures on a monthly basis.
- Maintain regular communication with NASEO's designated project lead.
- Submit all draft deliverables and course content in a timely manner, allowing adequate time for NASEO review and revision cycles prior to deadlines.
- Proactively identify and communicate any risks, delays, or technical issues—including platform-related challenges—that may affect the quality or timing of deliverables.

Anticipated Deliverables and Timeline

#	Deliverable	Target Milestone
1	Provide Final Agenda for Workshop	Week 3
2	Provide Summaries After Workshop	Week 10
3	Create Resource Library and Other Tools	Week 14

Project Budget

The proposed project budget should reflect a times and materials consulting agreement. This is a competitively bid project; costs should be feasible and prudent. The subcontractor must submit cost proposals by task for the entire Statement of Work using the [DOE budget justification spreadsheet](#) which is a separate file available for download from DOE's website.

Compensation

The subcontractor shall invoice monthly for actual work completed. NASEO shall reimburse the subcontractor for actual hours spent in the execution of the agreed upon deliverables (not to exceed the total approved task budget shown in the final contract agreement) once NASEO has

¹ For example, see www.naruc.org/taskforce/comprehensive-electricity-planning-library/.

received payment from DOE. The subcontractor will submit a monthly invoice (along with supporting time records for personnel hours) and progress report by the tenth day of each month of the agreement. The total maximum budget allocated for the subcontractor must not exceed \$125,000.

Rejection of Proposals and Incurred Costs

This RFP does not obligate NASEO to award a subcontract. All costs incurred in response to this RFP are the responsibility of the respondent. NASEO reserves the right to reject any or all submitted proposals. NASEO reserves the right to request new proposals or to cancel all or part of this solicitation.

Contract Requirements

The funds for this work have been provided through a funding agreement from DOE to NASEO. The underlying terms and conditions of the funding agreement between DOE and NASEO will be provided to the subcontractor and incorporated in the awarded subcontract. All requirements of the DOE funding agreement with NASEO shall be controlling, including, but not limited to, federal reporting and the propriety and form of expenses and costs. If selected for award by NASEO, the selection must be approved by DOE prior to NASEO executing the subcontract with the subcontractor. NASEO will be the owner of final deliverables and all files generated by the contractor need to be provided to NASEO in editable file formats.

Responding to the RFP

Please submit responses to the RFP to Kirsten Verclas at kverclas@naseo.org. **RFP responses are due no later than Monday, August 17, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

Responses shall include and fully address the following:

- Cover letter (should include the following):
 - Unique Entity Identification Number
 - SAM.gov registration expiration date
 - Assurance that applicant is not a debarred or suspended entity
 - Resumes (please identify any foreign nationals included in the proposal)
 - Description of relevant experience including prior work on comprehensive electricity planning and related issues, as well as working with State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions
 - Proposed approach and treatment of the tasks with a view toward expected deliverables
 - Proposed Budget by Task
- The budget should be completed using the [DOE budget justification spreadsheet](#). Please note that there is no cost-share requirement, applicants can use either the 3-year or 5-year budget justification and add all costs for their proposal under Budget Period 1.

Please limit the cover letter, the description of relevant experience, and the narrative that addresses the proposed approach and development of the project tasks and proposed budget **to 6 pages in 11-point font**. Resumes and the proposed budget do not count toward the page limit.

Note: Late proposals will not be accepted.

Subcontractor Selection and Required Qualifications

NASEO will select a subcontractor through a competitive selection, which will include consideration of the following:

- Experience working with State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions.
- Competitive budget proposal.
- Quality of academic and professional experience in relevant field.
- Flexibility of availability and ability to meet a fast-paced schedule.

NASEO will use the following criteria in evaluating all responses to this RFP:

Administrative (applicant must meet these requirements for NASEO to review the proposal)

- Unique Entity Identification Number.
- Current SAM.gov registration.
- Assurance in writing that applicant is not a debarred or suspended entity.

Technical Experience and Applicant Qualifications (40% of total score)

- Relevant substantive experience in proposed activity and topical areas, including distributed energy resources, transmission-distribution coordination, state utility regulation and policy, and workshop planning and facilitation.
- Prior engagement with or demonstrated understanding of State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions.
- Familiarity with integrated resource planning processes and utility distribution system planning at the state level.
- Strong written and oral communication skills, with demonstrated ability to translate complex regulatory and technical concepts into clear, accessible content.

Proposed Approach for Implementation (40% of total score)

- Proposal responds with original content to the outlined topics in the RFP and includes innovative approaches.
- Existing resources / subcontractor availability to meet needs of flexible deployment.
- Overall quality and professionalism of the proposal (well written, structured and organized) and materials are provided in the format requested.

Budget (20% of total score)

- Given the scope, is the estimated cost of the proposal appropriate?
- Does the total cost fall within \$125,000?
- Does overall cost reflect an efficient value for the level of effort?
- Is the level of effort for each task appropriate?