

Response to Request for Information: U.S. Department of Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Areas

Submitted by: Collective Energy

Date: 9/12/2025

Introduction

Collective Energy appreciates the opportunity to respond to the RFI's we received for energy system development for rural community health centers across the Southeast. The following responses are provided to address the requested clarifications laid out in the RFP.

RFI Responses

Site Information & Engineering

- Site Visits: Bidder must perform site visits at all locations to gather necessary engineering and design data, including single-line diagrams, available space for equipment pads, slope conditions, etc. Addresses will be provided at the issuance of the MSA (please refer to Exhibit A).
- Point of Interconnection: Existing voltage/current/phase information will be confirmed during site assessments; this data is not yet available.
- Utility Data: Customer will provide utility bills for interconnection studies and load analysis. Utilities for the first 8 sites have been confirmed to host solar interconnection programs. No Interconnection applications have been filed to date.
- Building Plans: If available, building plans (structural/electrical) will be provided by the customer. Exhibit A displays the culmination of preliminary work.
- Geotechnical Reports: None have been ordered to date; geotech will be scoped as required.
- Site Information: Wiggins, MS is designed as a carport. While none of the first 8 sites are located in Florida, additional future sites may be.

System Design & Performance

- System Goal: Energy production systems are sized to offset as close to 100% of each site's annual consumption.
- BESS Scope: Batteries are intended to support overall site resiliency (4 hours minimum, typical 8 hours for the full building's loads) and offset goals; final sizing and coupling (DC/AC) to be confirmed in design.
- Battery Specifications: Listed battery sizes are estimates. Comparable kW/kWh substitutions may be proposed provided they meet functional and performance requirements.
- Array Layouts: Layouts may be optimized by the bidder for rooftop, groundmount, and carport installations.

Permitting & Deliverables

- Permit Submittals: Target permit application date is 1/1/2026, following engineering kickoff (11/1/2025).
- Stamped Drawings: Stamped drawings are not required for proposal submission. Electrical stamps will be required at all sites; structural stamps may not be required in all cases. Minimum requirements for Phase 1 deliverables will be determined between bidder and AHJ.
- Progress Submittals: Plan sets will be reviewed by Developer before final submission to AHJ. Permit submittals will be executed by bidder.

Procurement & Construction

- Procurement: Collective Energy will not provide procurement agreements or vendor lists for modules and batteries. All selected equipment must be BABA compliant unless otherwise noted. BABA waiver has been submitted for BESS and is in the review process.
- Subcontractors: All subcontractors are subject to customer approval. Non-approval would typically result from non-compliance with licensing, safety, insurance, or performance requirements.
- Licensing: The awarded bidder may subcontract construction in states where it is not licensed. The awarded bidder does not need to be licensed for construction in all 8 states. Bidders can bid for specific states and/or regions. All work must meet Davis Bacon standards.

Commercial & Contractual

- Phases: Both phases will be bid together, with a cost breakdown for each phase in the proposal.
- Competitive Range: Pricing adjustments post-Phase 1 will be reviewed by CEC below a certain threshold and approval DOE for larger changes; criteria to be determined following bidding.
- Payment Terms: 50% at time of signing and 50% once Phase 1 deliverables are complete. To be further defined in the MSA and confirmed by DOE.
- Change Orders: Any adjustments required by AHJs/utilities will be addressed through a formal change order process.
- Future sites: Additional RFP(s) will be issued for future sites (up to 125)
- Warranties: Bidder will be responsible for any required post-construction inspections to adhere to roof, solar and BESS warranty requirements.

Conclusion

Collective Energy is committed to supporting rural community health centers in achieving reliable power in partnership with the Department of Energy. We look forward to the next steps, including site visits, finalizing system designs, and working with stakeholders to deliver 100% annual energy offset across all participating facilities.