

## Community Emergency Power Act of 2007

### *Fostering energy-resilient communities*

#### Objective

To provide communities across the United States with **essential power and communication services** for continuity of critical local operations amid natural and/or man-made disasters.

#### Description

The *Community Emergency Power Act of 2007 (CEPA)* will provide \$110 million per year for projects in every state, congressional district, and territory. Projects shall include both **renewable energy and energy-efficiency systems** for designated **emergency shelters**.

The CEPA will provide **grants to local communities** for installing renewable energy systems, storage backup, and energy-efficient critical systems (lighting, refrigeration, computing, communications) in existing or new local shelters and emergency management facilities to **ensure minimum continuity of operations** in the face of natural or man-made disasters.

The CEPA will provide

- \$200,000 per year per congressional district (including non-voting members) for no less than two qualifying projects (minimum \$50,000 for one project).
- \$200,000 per year for every state and territory for no less than two qualifying projects.
- \$2.5 million per year for tribal grants.
- \$5 million per year for areas designated as high-risk by the Department of Homeland Security.
- \$5 million per year eligible for areas that suffered extended (three or more days) periods of grid-power disruption within the previous decade.

The state funding will be distributed to qualifying projects by congressional district. Each State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will run the grant review process according to national standards for judging grant proposals. Additional funds for high-risk and extended-disruption communities will be administered by FEMA and the relevant SEMAs. The tribal grants will be administered by DHS, with direct support from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) in the Department of Health and Human Services.

In total, the program will allocate \$112.5 million per year for community grants. To be eligible for grants, programs will

- Invest at least 50% of funds in **renewable/high-efficiency energy generation and power storage/management** (no less than 20% on renewable power) for providing **continuity of power** even in the face of grid disruptions.

- Provide for **energy-efficient systems necessary for supporting displaced citizens**, such as heat, lighting, communications, computing, basic refrigeration, and water pumping.
- Include facilities that serve as **emergency shelters** in the community.
- In non-emergency periods, where applicable, **provide excess capacity (power generation, etc), to the local community.**

The Department of Homeland Security will establish an office for working with state and local communities to structure projects relevant for each region. The DHS, with support from the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), will develop grant standards and requirements. The DHS will establish an outside advisory council for this program of emergency services and energy systems specialists. In addition, the DHS will hire a renewable energy/energy efficiency firm to conduct lessons-identified analyses of program successes/failures.

## Benefits

1. Enables local communities to ensure **continuity of basic operations for emergency shelters**, even in the face of disruptions not just to the electrical grid but also fuel supplies for emergency generators
2. Fosters **more resilient power systems and communities** in the face of either man-made or natural disaster
3. **Creates new jobs** through increased economic activity
4. **Increases awareness of renewable energy** and energy efficiency capabilities and benefits at the local level to meet both public/private requirements
5. Spurs the development of **public and private sector expertise and capabilities in renewable energy** for design, construction, installation, and maintenance of these systems

## Investment

\$12 million per year:

- \$112.5 million for grants
- \$7.5 million for oversight and grant management

## Key Messages

1. **Protects Americans** facing man-made or natural disasters
2. **Improves US resiliency and Homeland Security** in the face of natural or man-made disasters
3. **Strengthens local government infrastructure**
4. **Reduces local-government energy costs**
5. Builds grassroots knowledge about and **support for energy efficiency and renewable energy**

