

TCF Open Voucher Call (OVC) Application Support Checklist

Full Rules:

<https://americanmadechallenges.org/challenges/open-voucher-call/docs/Open-Voucher-Call-Private-Rules.pdf>

Key Dates

- **Submission opens: May 23, 2024**
- **Overview Webinar- July 18, 2024, 2 p.m. Eastern Time**
 - **Register here:**
https://nrel.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_FGj2mMfcRvusgdA23w5XKQ#/registration
- **Submission closes: October 3, 2024, at 5 p.m. Eastern Time**
- Check for other relevant dates like webinars and the announcement of selected vouchers on the [HeroX website](#)

Eligibility Confirmation

The TCF OVC is open to only private entities; non-federal government entities such as states, counties, tribes, and municipalities; academic institutions; and individuals. Please refer to Section 3.1 of the rules for full eligibility requirements.

- Confirm U.S. ownership and control for private entities
- Ensure all team members are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, if not applying as a private entity
- Verify that no team members are federal employees or have been employed by DOE within the last six months
- Check that no participants are from entities owned or controlled by governments of countries on the "countries of risk" list

Submission Preparation

- Register and submit via the [HeroX platform](#)
- Review the Technical Assistance Request Form Template and details in section 4.5.1 of the rules document
- Complete the Technical Assistance Request Form with all required details
 - The technical assistance request form is not to exceed 2,500 words in total and is to be completed via the Microsoft form on HeroX
- Attach optional one-page Letters of Support or Commitment (ensure they are critical to the project's success)
 - Follow submission format guidelines, attaching letters as per the instructions on the Microsoft Form

- Ensure all submission content is original or properly licensed.
- Teams may only submit one voucher per technology area during this round of the program

Technology Areas:

- Analysis
- Analytical Instruments
- Battery
- Bio-Based Products
- Biofuels
- Buildings
- Concentrating Solar Power
- Demand Flexibility and Controls
- Direct Air Capture
- Electric Vehicles
- Energy
- Energy Storage
- Hydrogen
- Hydropower
- Manufacturing
- Marine Energy
- Materials
- Microgrid
- Nuclear
- Photovoltaics
- Power Grid
- Security
- Solar Photovoltaic Module Mounting
- Technical Energy Assistance
- Water Power
- Water Treatment
- Wave Energy Conversion
- Wind Energy

It is possible that the administrator could select a voucher that does not fall within any of the areas of focus above, but vouchers that do fall within these areas are most likely to be selected.

Voucher Use Guidelines

- Plan to use the voucher exclusively at one of the eight specified national laboratories
- Prepare to provide a minimum cost share of \$25,000, either cash or in-kind

Contracting Requirements

- Understand and prepare for contracting with the national laboratory, including intellectual property terms.
- Retain detailed records of all cost-share contributions for potential audits

Evaluation Preparation

- Review the full evaluation criteria (Section 4.6 of the rules)
- Review the Evaluation Criteria Checklist on page 4 of this document
- Prepare for possible interviews or additional questions from the DOE

Privacy and Legal Compliance

- Mark any confidential or proprietary information according to the rules

Agree to all terms and conditions on the HeroX platform and the call's official rules

Evaluation Criteria Checklist:

National laboratory staff and DOE will review the requests based on the following criteria

Inclusion of National Laboratory Intellectual Property

- Does the project include national lab intellectual property to be advanced or commercialized due to the voucher request? *(please note: while the inclusion of national lab intellectual property is preferred, all submissions will be accepted)*

Project Feasibility and Viability

- Is the project overall feasible?
- Are the viability aspects well thought out and credible?

Team Capabilities and Diversity

- Does the team exhibit a diverse range of capabilities and experiences?
- Are there any notable past successes of the team that enhance their credibility for this project?

Alignment with National Laboratory Expertise

- How well does the project align with the specific expertise available at the national laboratory?
- Is the relevance and clarity of this alignment well articulated?

Use of National Laboratory Facilities/Equipment

- Is there a demonstrated understanding of how the national laboratory's facilities/equipment will be used?
- Is the use of these resources effective for the project?

Alignment of Resources with Project Objectives

- Is there a clear alignment between the national laboratories' facilities/equipment and the project's research/business objectives?

Enhancement of Project by National Laboratory

- Could the national laboratory's expertise and facilities significantly enhance the technical aspects and outcomes of the project?

Impact on Energy Justice

- Does the project have the potential to advance energy justice in underserved and underrepresented communities?

Financial Commitment

- Is there a clear plan and commitment for providing the requested minimum of \$25,000 cost share, whether in-kind or cash?

Presentation and Clarity

- Is the information presented clearly and coherently?
- Is the voucher request form well-structured and articulate?

These criteria aim to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the voucher request, taking into account the project's technical aspects, alignment of national laboratory resources, financial commitment, and the team's capability to execute the proposed project.

DOE will make all final decisions on the voucher requests that receive awards.