

Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Section 40101(d)
Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the
Electric Grid Formula Grant Program

Stakeholder Working Group Kick-Off Meeting



# Welcome and Thank You for Your Participation

# Agenda for Today's Meeting:

- I. Introductions
- II. IIJA Grid Program Recap & Timeline
- III. Stakeholder Working Group (Goals, Objectives, & Charter)
- IV. ORNL Presentation on Outage
  Data, Advanced Metering
  Infrastructure (AMI) Status, Gaps,
  and Preview of TASTI Grid Interface
- V. Clean Energy Innovator Fellowship (CEIF) Approval & Timeline
- VI. Grid Resilience Formula Grant Implementation in Other States
- VII. Preview of Discussion Topics
- VIII.Data Needs
- IX. Stakeholder Working Meetings –Frequency & Duration
- X. Next Steps
- XI. Adjourn

## Introductions

- Please briefly introduce yourself:
  - Name
  - Title
  - Affiliation (Organization)
  - What is your or your organization's interest in grid resiliency?
  - What expertise or skill set do you bring to the group?



Program Scope

As part of the of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the objectives of the Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program are:

- Demonstrate measurable improvements in energy resilience;
- Invest in modernized grid infrastructure;
- Invest in clean energy and decarbonizations solutions to achieve a carbon-free power sector by 2035 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide by 2050; and,
- Create good-paying jobs.

Overall, the objective of this Program is to improve the resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events. To achieve this objective, funding provided under this Program may be used to implement a wide range of resilience measures intended to mitigate the impact of disruptive events.



- Eligible activities under the Grid Resilience Formula Grant include:
  - Weatherization technologies and equipment;
  - Fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems;
  - Monitoring and control technologies;
  - The undergrounding of electrical equipment;
  - Utility pole management;
  - The relocation of power lines or reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors;
  - Vegetation and fuel-load management;
  - Adaptive protective technologies;
  - The use or construction of distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including microgrids and battery-storage subcomponents;
  - Advanced modeling technologies;
  - Hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems; and,
  - The replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables.



- Eligible activities under the Grid Resilience Formula Grant also include:
  - The training, recruitment, retention, and reskilling of skilled and properly credentialed workers in order to perform the work required for the particular resilience measures to be funded under the Program; and,
  - Based on the amounts made available under the Program each fiscal year, the State or Indian Tribe may use up to 5% for providing technical assistance and administrative expenses associated with the Program.



- Resilience activities that are INELGIBLE include:
  - Construction of a new electricity-generating facility;
  - Construction of a large battery storage facility that is not used for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events; or,
  - Cybersecurity.
- In addition, guidance from the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) has clarified that:
  - While the construction of new distribution lines below 69 kV that reduce the likelihood and consequence of disruptive event is eligible, the construction of new transmission lines is not eligible for funding; and,
  - Projects that focus on routine maintenance are discouraged, as recipients should be focused on prioritizing activities that would not be completed without grant funding.





- Eligible entities include:
  - Electric grid operators;
  - Electricity storage operators;
  - Electricity generators;
  - Transmission owners / operators;
  - Distribution providers;
  - Fuel suppliers; and
  - Any other relevant entity, as determined by the Secretary of the DOE.



- Matching funds requirements / small utility set-aside
  - Matching funds requirements are based on the size of the entity:
    - Entities that sell 4 million megawatt hours per year or more will be required to match the subaward 100 percent.
    - Entities that sell less than 4 million megawatt hours will be required to match 1/3 the value of the subaward.
  - The small utility set-aside requires that States ensure that the percentage of subawards made available to entities that sell less than 4 million megawatt hours of electricity per year is not less than the percentage of all customers in the State that are served by the eligible entities.



Justice40 Initiative
 Executive Order 14008 directs that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments to flow to disadvantaged communities (DAC).
 Types of investments subject to the Justice40 (J40) Initiative include clean energy, energy efficiency, and training and workforce development.



 The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), and online, interactive mapping application, has been developed to identify DACs.



- Other Federal compliance requirements:
  - Davis-Bacon Act
     The Davis-Bacon and Related Act applies to contractors and subcontractors performing on federally funded or assisted contracts in excess of \$2,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works.

The Act requires that contractors and subcontractors pay their laborers and mechanics employed under the contract no less than the locally prevailing wages and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area, as determined by the Department of Labor.

More information about the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts can be accessed at: <a href="https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction">https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction</a>

Prevailing wages and fringe benefits for your area can be found at: <a href="https://sam.gov/content/wage-determinations">https://sam.gov/content/wage-determinations</a>



- Other Federal compliance requirements:
  - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
     Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. The Act applies to recipients and subrecipients / subcontractors of pass-through funds.

All grant and loan applicants for federal or hybrid federal-state funding are required to submit a Title VI pre-audit survey to ensure compliance with Title VI. Applicants must also include the following documents as part of the pre-audit survey: Nondiscrimination Policy and Procedures, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Policy, and Title VI Complaint Procedures.

Subrecipients of Grid Resilience Formula Grant funds will be required to take Title VI training through TDEC's Grants Management System. More information about the training can be found at:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/policyplanning/documents/title-vi-ej/opp\_titlevi-subrecipient-guide.pdf

The Title VI Statue, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-7 can be found at: <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2010-title42/pdf/USCODE-2010-title42-chap21-subchapV.pdf">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2010-title42/pdf/USCODE-2010-title42-chap21-subchapV.pdf</a>



- Other Federal compliance requirements:
  - Build America Buy America
     Build America Buy America (BABA) requires that certain Federally-funded public infrastructure projects to use products produced in the United States, which include:
    - Iron and steel (the entire manufacturing processes from initial melting through coating);
    - Manufactured products (the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product); and,
    - Construction materials (all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States).

### Waivers may be requested in limited circumstances if:

- Applying the domestic preference requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- Types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or,
- The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall product by more than 25%.



- Other Federal compliance requirements
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969
     The Act requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental impact of their proposed actions prior to making decisions such as:
    - Permitting
    - Federal land management
    - Construction of publicly-owned facilities (such as infrastructure)

Some of the activities eligible for funding for under the Grid Resilience Formula Grant program may fall under a Categorical Exclusion (CX). Activities that qualify for a CX are those that "normally do not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement normally is required." Additional information about the Department of Energy's CX Determinations can be found at: <a href="https://www.energy.gov/nepa/categorical-exclusion-cx-determinations-cx">https://www.energy.gov/nepa/categorical-exclusion-cx-determinations-cx</a>

Not all eligible grid projects are covered under CXs. Applicants are responsible for performing the appropriate level of environmental review (e.g. Environmental Assessments).



- Other Federal compliance requirements
  - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966
     The Act established processes to assess, designate, and protect historic and cultural resources. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country.

The State of Tennessee has a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with DOE to fulfill the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for certain DOE-funded undertakings in Tennessee; however, initial consultation with DOE indicates that the PA does not cover programs funded by the Grid Deployment Office (GDO).

More information about the NHPA can be found at: <a href="https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/national-historic-preservation-act">https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/national-historic-preservation-act</a>



- Other Federal compliance requirements
  - Foreign National Participation and Access

Additional documentation is required if a recipient or subrecipient will be using foreign nationals for any part of a project.

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## Other Federal compliance requirements

- Quarterly Performance and Financial Reporting
  - Grantees will be required to prepare a quarterly progress report, sent to the State, which will inform the State's Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) required by DOE. The reports will include Federal and Non-Federal expenditures, milestones completed in the reporting period, and performance metrics impacted by the work completed to date.

### Annual Reports

— Grantees will also be required to prepare and submit annual progress reports to the State. The information provided will be used to inform the Annual Program Metrics and Impact Report the State submits to DOE each year. Like the quarterly reports, the annual reports include information about expenditures and milestones; however, the number and type of metrics is expanded.



- Other Federal compliance requirements
  - Audits and Subrecipient Monitoring
    - Grantees must provide audited financial statements to the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury if during the Grantee's fiscal year, the Grantee:
      - Expends \$750,000 or more in direct and indirect federal financial assistance and the State is a pass-through entity;
      - Expends \$750,000 or more in state funds from the State; or,
      - Expends \$750,000 or more in federal financial assistance and state funds from the State, and the State is a pass-through entity.
    - Grantees are also required to establish written procedures for monitoring subcontractors, establish quality assurance/quality improvement plans, and maintain an internal quality improvement process to assess subcontractor performance.





- Other Federal compliance requirements
  - Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Reporting
    - The intent of the FFATA is to empower citizens to hold the government accountable for spending decision.
    - As of October 1, 2015, Prime contractors are required to report on subcontracts under federallyfunded contracts that are greater than or equal to \$30,000.
    - In addition, grant recipients are required to report names and total compensation of their five most highly compensated executives if:
      - 80 percent or more of the Grantee's annual gross revenues are from Federal contracts / financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act;
      - \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues are from Federal contracts / subcontracts subject to the Transparency Act; or,
      - The public does not have access to information about the compensation through other sources.
    - Grantees must also obtain and maintain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) for the term of the contract.



### Timeline of Events to Date:

<u>11/15/2021</u> IIJA signed into law

### 07/06/2022

Department of Energy (DOE) issues the first Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the Grid Resilience Formula Grants, Year 1 funding (call for applications)

#### Summer 2022

TDEC OEP begins development of the application materials, including the Program Narrative

#### 09/15/2022

TDEC OEP holds a Public Hearing to allow stakeholder input on the Year 1 allocation request, including the Program Narrative

#### 1/05/2023

DOE issues an amended ALRD to include funding for the Year 2 allocation in the initial application (combined Year 1 and Year 2 funding into a single request)

#### 04/24/2023

TDEC OEP submits the Year 1 and Year 2 application to DOE

#### 9/12/2023

TDEC OEP receives the combined Year 1 and 2 allocations for \$15,205,970

#### **Winter 2023**

TDEC OEP begins to recruit additional staff for program administration

### Projected Timeline

### 1/18/2024

DOE issues an ALRD to request Year 3 funding

### 04/11/2024

TDEC OEP submits the Year 3 application to DOE for \$6,908,468

### Summer 2024

Grid Resilience Working Group Kick-off and providing input on specific program design

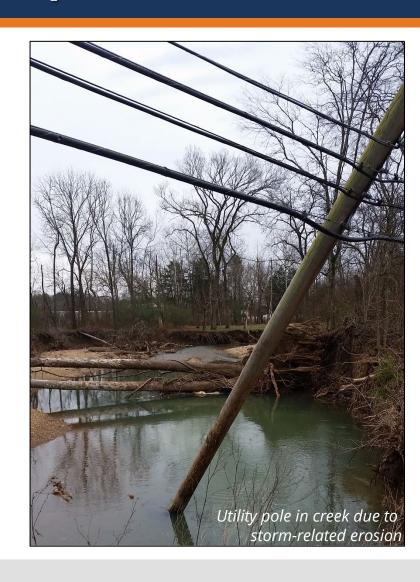
### **Spring 2025**

TDEC OEP releases the Request for Proposal (RFP) for subrecipient funding



# Stakeholder Working Group

- Program Narrative Objectives and Goals:
  - Objectives:
    - Improve Grid Resilience;
    - Promote Grid Equity; and,
    - Support the State's Grid Workforce.
  - Goals
    - Show how mitigation investments reduce risk;
    - Coordinate mitigation investments to reduce risk; and,
    - Make mitigation investments standard practice.



# Stakeholder Working Group, cont.

- Draft Charter
  - Goals and Objectives of the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) include:
    - Provide insight and exchange information;
    - Advise TDEC OEP staff by providing subject matter expertise;
    - Identify outage-related data sources;
    - Support TDEC OEP in establishing required metrics, data exchange, and data gathering;
    - Inform the development of a framework / methodology for evaluating community benefit;
    - Evaluate the need to expand the State's list of eligible entities; and,
    - Advise TDEC OEP on effective means to track progress and outcomes.



# Stakeholder Working Group, cont.

- Draft Charter, cont.
  - Roles and Responsibilities of SWG members include:
    - Attend SWG meetings (or send a designee);
    - Represent the interests and concerns of your organization;
    - Share public engagement opportunities (e.g. surveys, public hearings);
    - Review input from public engagement and provide additional data as requested;
    - Provide organizational updates; and,
    - Respond to specific action items, such as reviewing materials and providing feedback.



# Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Presentation

Introduction

In TN's Grid Resilience Program Narrative, TDEC requested authorization to engage the technical assistance services of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), as this National Laboratory has significant expertise in tracking customer-level outages, grid resilience modeling, and infrastructure interdependence analysis. ORNL also has a history of working with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and various local power providers in Tennessee, and great familiarity with the transmission and distribution grid in Tennessee.

The request to the Grid Deployment Office was approved, and TDEC is leveraging ORNL's expertise to provide technical assistance in the following areas:

- –Data and analytics;
- –Data curation; and
- –Modeling and simulation.



# Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Presentation

- Today, ORNL will present an update concerning on-going projects including:
  - Data coverage map;
  - Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI); and,
  - Status, data gaps, and preview of the TASTI Grid interface





# **Clean Energy Innovator Fellowship**

- The Clean Energy Innovator Fellowship (CEIF) is a program funded by DOE to pair recent graduates and energy professionals to support energy organizations in advancing clean energy solutions for up to 2 years.
- TDEC OEP was approved as a host institution on April 2, 2024, TDEC OEP was approved as a host institution for one fellow (data gap analyst).
- Applications for Fellows were accepted from April 15 – May 3, 2024, with host institution onboarding May 8, 2024.
- OEP has reviewed the applications received, and interviews are currently underway.
- OEP has until June 14, 2024 to provide DOE with the top three selections.



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the United States, including Puerto

Applications are open for DOE's Clean Energy Innovator Fellowship

Peld Fellows Will Spend up to 2 Years at Critical Energy Organizations Across the United States, including Puerto Rico

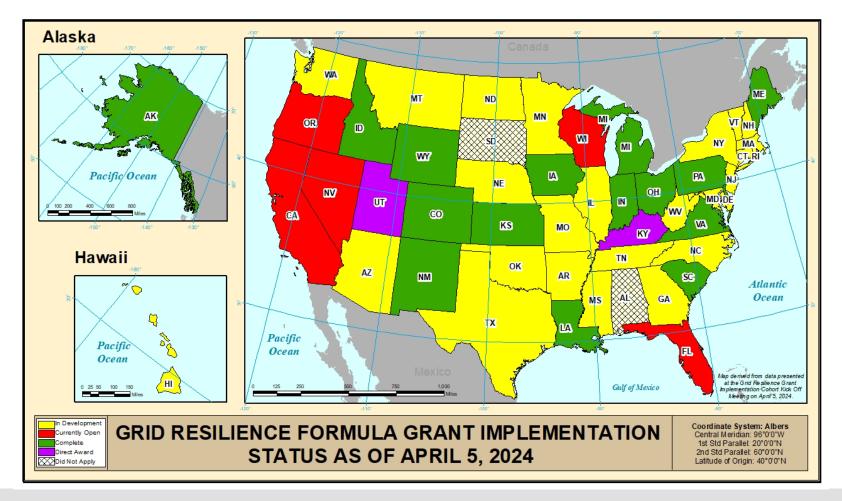
Applications are now open for recent graduates and energy professionals to be considered for OOE's Clean Energy innovator Followship. Paid Fellows will spend up to 2 years at critical energy organizations supporting projects that will help decemberize govern systems and bostor energy resilience. Condidates should have a demonstrated interest in clean energy solutions, and those with diverse backgrounds are expectably encouraged to apply. Applications are due on May 3.

Host Institutions include electric cooperatives, grid operators, municipal utilities, public utility commissions, state energy effices and Tribal entities. This year, to support IDG's Puerto Rico energy realience work, the Cooperative Hidrantictrics do is Montaña in Puerto Rico will host an innewstor Fellow to support local microgrid development.

Learn more and apply today:



• The solicitation development status in other states (as of April, 2024).





- Differences among states:
  - Multiple Solicitations / Multiple Categories of Funding
    - Colorado two type of grants offered (planning and construction/implementation).
    - California Group 1 and 2, based on project size (different match requirements, different minimums / maximums for funding).
  - Use of Concept Papers or Pre-Application Qualifications
    - Pennsylvania required concept papers from applicants prior to accepting full applications.
    - Louisiana used a pre-application process by which projects were evaluated and determined to be either "Shovel- Ready Projects," "Early-Stage Community-Based Project Partnerships," or "All Other Timing."
  - Use of consultants / 3<sup>rd</sup> party reviewers
    - The lead for South Carolina (Santee Cooper) retained Guidehouse to assist with the review of proposals.





- Differences among states, cont.:
  - Funding "guide rails" express minimum and/or maximum funding amounts
    - Virginia capped subawards at \$5 million.
    - Subawards in Maine are capped at \$2 million.
  - Period of performance
    - lowa's period of performance is three years from the time of the award, extendable up to five years.
    - Nevada has set the period of performance for five years, extendable up to ten years.



- Differences among states, cont.:
  - Required match
    - Indiana requires applicants that sell more 4 million megawatt hours per year 105 percent; applicants that sell that sell no more than 4 million megawatt hours per year must match 38 percent of the value of the subaward.
    - Nevada requires applicants that sell more 4 million megawatt hours per year 115 percent; applicants that sell that sell no more than 4 million megawatt hours per year must match 48 percent.
  - Project type restrictions and / or project type priorities
    - Washington D.C. focuses on battery energy storage systems (BESS).
    - Michigan has set priorities for hardening of power lines (not pole management or conductors); vegetation and fuel-load management; relocation of power lines; replacing old overhead conductors and underground cables; undergrounding of equipment; and non-wired alternative projects that focus on using distributive energy resources (DERs).



- Differences among states, cont.:
  - Evaluation criteria
    - Idaho uses criteria graded as percentages for project resiliency (70 percent), community benefit impact (25 percent), and administration compliance (5 percent).
    - New Mexico combines:
      - Pass / fail items (e.g. Environmental Questionnaire, Cost Match Letter), and
      - Scored criteria (Key Personnel and Administrative Capacity - 100 pts, Background Information & Project Selection Rationale - 200 pts, Project Goals & Objectives - 100 pts, Project Metrics - 100 pts, Project Permit Requirements - 50 pts, Community Engagement - 100 pts, Job Creation & Training - 100 pts, Implementation Schedule - 50 pts, Cost - 200 pts).





- Key Takeaways
  - States are in various stages of grid resilience formula program implementation.
  - Wide variability exists among different State grid resilience formula grant programs.
  - Significant flexibility exists within the program to shape it to best match Tennessee's most critical resilience needs.
  - The overarching goal of the Stakeholder Working Group is to leverage this flexibility to customize Tennessee's program to provide maximum benefits.



# **Preview of Discussion Topics**

- Should IIJA Grid Program funding be awarded via competitive solicitation and/or formula grants?
  - Should we tier the solicitation into sub-buckets:
    - Projects that are more fundamental to bring local power companies (LPCs) up to speed on outage data management such as a formula program for LPCs with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) but no outage management system (OMS), and
    - Projects that are focused on hardening infrastructure, etc.?
  - Alternatively, the solicitation could all be competitive but applicants could apply within a category or "area of interest" so that like for like applications can be more easily scored/evaluated against one another (e.g., existing infrastructure replacements/upgrades, capacity expansion, hardening, grid technology/grid management hardware or software).



## Preview of Discussion Topics, cont.

- Should TDEC OEP require submission of concept papers prior to full applications?
- Should TDEC OEP narrow the menu of eligible projects?
  - Some items that might influence this decision could include:
    - Cost of certain measures;
    - NEPA requirements;
    - Supply chain and Build America Buy America requirements;
    - Complexity or design requirements around certain eligible measures; and,
    - Potential number of customers benefited.
- Should we expand the list of eligible applicants to include critical facilities and infrastructure that ensure essential community services or lifelines?



## Preview of Discussion Topics, cont.

- How should the State prioritize selected Eligible Resilience Measures?
  - What metrics should be requested at the time of application to inform this evaluation?
  - It is correct to say that some metrics (SAIDI, CAIDI) seem to be interpreted and/or reported differently, such that consistency across these metrics might be an issue? How do we account for that in asking for such metrics and/or evaluating them against one another?
  - Grid resilience projects are difficult to evaluate based on cost effectiveness alone, as certain joint and interdependent benefits are hard to quantify from a cost perspective. What other criteria should the State include in its review and evaluation of proposed projects?



## Preview of Discussion Topics, cont.

- How should TDEC OEP establish a methodology for determining and / or evaluating community benefit of grid resilience projects in a measurable way?
- TDEC has identified datasets and metrics to evaluate grid equity; are there additional metrics that should be considered?
- Should TDEC OEP utilize this funding to invest in gridrelated workforce development? Are there certain gaps in workforce development currently that are in need of investment?
  - If yes, projects to attract, train and retain an appropriately skilled and unskilled grid workforce are quite broad. What segment of the grid workforce should the State target with professional training and/or workforce development?



### **Data Needs**

- Refined service area / territory maps for the following cooperatives:
  - Volunteer Electric Coop
  - Southwest Tennessee EMC
  - Gibson Electric Members Corp
  - Mountain Electric Coop, Inc.
  - Cumberland Electric Members
     Corp
  - Duck River Electric Member Corp
  - Middle Tennessee EMC
  - Fort Loudon Electric Coop
  - Forked Deer Electric Coop, Inc.
  - Tri-County Electric Member Corp
  - Johnson City
  - Holston Electric Coop, Inc.

- A list of what metrics your organization currently collects such as:
  - Information about infrastructure purchases and installation (e.g. miles of distribution lines, number of poles replaced)
  - Reliability and resilience indicators (e.g. SAIDI, SAIFI, CAIDI, and MAIFI)
  - Job creation and training (e.g. apprenticeships offered)
  - Workforce demographics (e.g. veteran status)
  - Community engagement activities (e.g. website information, meetings)



# Stakeholder Working Group Meetings – Frequency and Duration

- How often do you feel the group should meet?
  - Once a month
  - Once every other month
  - Once a quarter

- What is an appropriate length for the meetings?
  - 1 hour
  - 1 2 hours
  - 2+ hours (if meeting less frequently)





## **Next Steps**

- TDEC OEP will set-up a schedule for meetings and provide it to the group.
- Action Items:
  - Please review the Stakeholder Working Group Draft Charter and provide comments via email;
  - Please indicate what types of data are publicly available from your organization, that may help inform decision-making – please send links, scanned data, etc. to <a href="mailto:Heidi.E.McIntyre-Wilkinson@tn.gov">Heidi.E.McIntyre-Wilkinson@tn.gov</a>;
  - If your organization identified more than one participant, please identify a principal point of contact for your organization; and,
  - Please review the Discussion Topics and be ready to provide input at the next meeting.
  - Be watching for a new Doodle poll to schedule the next meeting.

# A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!!!





## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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<a href="mailto:Alexa.Voytek@tn.gov">Alexa.Voytek@tn.gov</a>
(615) 613 - 1096