



Electric Grid Resilience Grants Report

Pursuant to Laws of Minnesota 2023, chapter 60, article 12, section 72, subd. 7

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REPORT PREPARED BY

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Program Basics

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature established the Electric Grid Resilience (EGR) Grant Program (Laws of Minnesota 2023, chapter 60, article 12, section 72, subd. 7 (hereinafter referred to as Chapter 60)). The purpose of this program is to provide grants to consumer-owned utilities, up to \$250,000 each, to increase the resilience of the electric grid.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for this grant program are consumer-owned utilities defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.2402, subdivision 2, which includes municipal gas utilities, municipal electric utilities, or cooperative electric associations. Other eligible applicants for this grant program are defined under Chapter 60, which states that “Eligible applicant” means a consumer-owned utility or associated trade association, generation and transmission cooperative electric association, municipal power agency, or power district serving one or more consumer-owned utilities.

Program Progress

The Electric Grid Resilience grant program Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted in August 2024 and closed in November 2024. Commerce received applications from all regions of the state. Applicants included:

- 13 Municipals
- 14 Cooperatives
- 1 MMUA (Minnesota Municipal Utility Association)
- 1 MREA (Minnesota Rural Electric Association)

In total, Commerce received 40 applications for approximately 30% more than the allocated funds available. Four eligible applicants submitted more than one application. Applicants were asked to prioritize their applications if they submitted more than one application.

Key response details include:

- 40 applications from 29 applicants, for \$7,400,233.94 total requested.
- Only the priority applications from the 29 applicants were selected for the full review.
- Of the 29 prioritized applications, the full funding request for the applications submitted was \$6,452,924.36. This includes adjusting one application request that asked for \$50,000 over the maximum award of \$250,000.
- After awarding, one cooperative applicant dropped out of the program. This led to 28 awards.

Award Allocations

Commerce staff finalized the application reviews in January 2025 and awarded all available funds to applicants from the 2024 round. Commerce finalized and executed contracts with all awardees, and a total of \$175,990.00 of the \$4,994,122.33 awarded has been expended to the awardees as of December 2025. See the list of awardees in Table 1, below, and Map of awardees in Figure 1.

Table 1: Grant Recipients and Priority Funding Request

Municipal or Cooperative Electric Utility	Project Name	Funding Received
Austin Utilities	2024 Grid Resiliency – Cyber Security	\$145,405.59
Blooming Prairie Public Utilities	3 rd St SW URD Project	\$126,555.95
City of Anoka	Grid Resilience – Underground Primary	\$177,194.24
City of Granite Falls	Granite Falls Transformers	\$250,000.00
City of Hawley	Increasing Grid Resiliency & Strengthening Electrification in Hawley, MN	\$100,000.00
City of NEWFOLDEN	NEWFOLDEN Electric Grid Resilience Program	\$250,000.00
City of Roseau	Roseau Electric Overhead to Underground Grid Resilience Project	\$250,000.00
City of St. Charles	Project 7	\$67,224.73
Clearwater-Polk Electric Coop	Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op State Resilience Project	\$239,113.34
Connexus Energy	Modernizing Substation Security	\$250,000.00
East Central Energy	Substation Security Enhancements	\$238,182.00
Freeborn Mower Electric Coop	Freeborn Mower EC – Adams Tie Line Resilience Project	\$138,984.41
Itasca-Mantrap Electrical Cooperative	Itasca-Mantrap State Resilience Project	\$248,400.00
Kandiyohi Power Cooperative	Kandiyohi County Big Kandi Lake Resiliency Project	\$177,194.24
Lanesboro Public Utilities	Lanesboro Public Utilities - MN State Electric Grid Resiliency Project	\$250,000.00
Madelia Municipal Light & Power	Madelia Grid Improvement	\$161,971.83
Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association	Meeker State Resilience Project	\$98,000.00
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association	MN Electric Grid Resilience Grants Program	\$79,973.00
Minnesota Rural Electric Association	MREA Apprentice Lineworker Training Program	\$249,930.00
New Ulm Public Utilities	New Ulm MN Center Substation Breaker #2417 Replacement	\$100,000.00
North Itasca Electric Co-op, Inc	NIECI Wildfire Mitigation Resilience Project	\$100,000.00
Red River Valley Co-op Power	Red River Valley - Line Relocation and Undergrounding Resiliency Project	\$177,194.24
Renville-Sibley Coop Power Association	Renville-Sibley Recloser Project	\$248,787.52
Rochester Public Utilities	Substation H-Frame Thermal PTZ Camera Installations	\$100,000.00
The Cooperative Light & Power Association of Lake County	CLP Wildfire Mitigation and Targeted ROW Clearing	\$100,000.00

