

## How to Manage Your Service Provider for Cybersecurity

Managed Service Providers (MSPs) are external third-party companies that provide various services, including specialized security services. MSPs are important vendors for cooperatives, to provide an array of services when co-ops do not have the resources to do the tasks themselves, including cybersecurity. It is important for cooperatives to practice due diligence in selecting MSPs, and to conduct regular cybersecurity checks with the MSPs' operations and systems. This new advisory reviews the role of MSPs and key issues cooperatives should consider when selecting and contracting with MSPs.

- **Advisory**
- Contacts: [Ryan Newlon](#) and [Justin Luebbert](#)

## NREL Research on Wind and Solar Hybrid Power Plants for Energy Resilience

There is an increased interest in wind-solar hybrid power plants due to decreasing costs for these technologies. NRECA's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND)* project has identified wind-solar complementarity as a major topic of interest because co-location of these technologies on the same distribution grid can deliver significant advantages. Our new advisory summarizes a report published this past January by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) entitled *Wind and Solar Hybrid Power Plants for Energy Resilience*, which looks at this topic.

- **Advisory**
- Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#) and [Tolu Omotoso](#)

## New Web Portal: Grant Writing Assistance

A grant writing assistance portal was added to NRECA's infrastructure [Hub](#). The portal provides NRECA voting members access to grant writing resources to support their efforts to seek federal funding. To get a better understanding of what member co-ops need to successfully pursue federal funding, interested co-ops are invited to visit the portal and complete the questionnaire. NRECA, through its vendor, will use this information to assist co-ops with getting access to grant writing resources, namely access to an established bench of grant writers.

- **Grant Writing Assistance Web Portal**
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

# New Resources to Help Members Seeking Infrastructure Funding Opportunities

## Fact Sheet: Common Federal Grant Data Requirements

The inclusion of key data and metrics in grant applications can greatly enhance the chances of success. This new fact sheet provides insights into common data requirements of grant-making programs.

- [Fact Sheet](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

## Co-op Consortia Opportunities

NRECA has established co-op consortia around five key areas of co-op interest related to infrastructure funding opportunities. Members are invited to sign-up to participate and join in the associated webinars:

- **Cooperative Approach to Vehicle Electrification (CAVE) Consortium**

A network of electric cooperatives that have implemented or are planning to implement electric transportation programs. The consortium seeks to work with federal agencies, foundations and vendors to provide grassroots electric transportation solutions for rural America.

  - [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)
  - Contacts: [Brian Sloboda](#) and [Tolu Omotoso](#)
- **Microgrid Consortium**

A coalition of the nation's rural electric cooperatives seeking to develop resilient, reliable, and economically beneficial microgrid and storage projects for their communities. The consortium will partner with federal, state, and local stakeholders to identify funding opportunities and develop replicable pathways for advanced microgrid deployment in rural communities.

  - [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)
  - [Webinar – On Demand](#)
  - Contact: [Tolu Omotoso](#)
- **Natural Hazards Consortium**

A coalition of rural electric cooperatives seeking to build communities resilient to all hazards through holistic planning and risk assessment. The consortium partners with federal agencies, state and local governments, nonprofits and industry to identify funding opportunities and develop replicable pathways for all-hazards risk assessment for rural electric cooperatives and their members. Our kick-off webinar from June 22 will be available soon for members to view [On Demand](#).

  - [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)
  - Contact: [Patti Metro](#)
- **Smart Grids and Data Consortium**

A coalition of the nation's rural electric cooperatives working to use digital technologies to modernize grid infrastructure and better serve their communities. The consortium partners with federal, state and local stakeholders to identify funding opportunities and develop replicable pathways for smart grid investment in

rural America. Join us on **June 30, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** for our webinar.

- [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)
- [Webinar Registration](#)
- Contacts: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#) and [Fathalla Eldali](#)
  
- **Cyber and Physical Security Consortium**  
A coalition of the nation's rural electric cooperatives seeking to develop and maintain a well-rounded cyber and physical security posture for their cooperative. The consortium will partner with federal, state and local stakeholders to identify funding opportunities and develop replicable pathways for advanced cyber and physical security deployment at electric cooperatives.
- [Consortium Information and Sign-up](#)
- Contact: [Ryan Newlon](#)

For More Information and Questions:

- [NRECA Infrastructure Consortia Website](#)
- [SAM.gov: The First Step to Accessing Funds for Co-ops in the Infrastructure Law](#)
- [NRECA Infrastructure Resource Hub](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

## Participate in NRECA's Co-op Technology Survey by July 1

NRECA, in coordination with CFC and NRTC, has developed a Cooperative Technology Survey to help cooperatives understand what technologies are currently or soon to be installed by their peers, how they are used, and what vendors and options are most widely-used. Data from the survey also helps NRECA, CFC and NRTC to target their research, development, financing, and consulting offerings to best meet the needs of cooperatives. We invite all cooperatives to participate. A copy of the 2022 full survey results will be available at no charge to co-ops who fill out the survey. Find more information, a copy of the survey questions for preview, and the participation link on our website. The survey will be open for member participation until July 1.

- [Co-op Technology Survey Website](#)
- Contacts: [Mike Sassman](#) and [David Pinney](#)

## Canoochee EMC Uses Utility Privatization to Support Fort Stewart Resilience Goals

The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the United States. Co-ops work closely with U.S. military installations, providing electricity and partnering on projects. Our latest case study highlights this partnership, explaining how Canoochee EMC serves Fort Stewart in Georgia through its Utility Privatization contract, where the cooperative owns, operates, and maintains the electric distribution grid on the base. Learn how this Canoochee's innovation has helped the base meet their resilience goals.

- [Case Study](#)

- [Working with the Military Case Study Series](#)
- Contact: [Lauren Khair](#)

## 2022 National Compensation System Available

One of the most useful salary benchmarking resources in the industry, the [National Compensation System](#) provides comprehensive salary information compiled from NRECA member electric cooperatives across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure cooperative.com login, it allows users to customize their data search and export individual reports into a variety of formats. Order today for \$595.

- [Order](#)
- Contact: [Beth Wray](#)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### 2022 Safety Leadership Summit

Join us **Aug. 17-19 in Austin, Texas** for NRECA's premier industry, educational and networking event for co-op staff responsible for safety practices. The summit will be held in person with portions available for viewing via livestream as well. New this year: In-person and online registrants can also participate in our whole person health & wellness and concern for community activities.

- [Registration](#)
- Contact for questions: [Perron Nicholas](#)

## WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

### Infrastructure Webinar Series:

- [Smart Grid and Data Consortium](#) – June 30

### Federal Funding Opportunities Webinar – July 20 & August 17

Join us on **July 20 & August 17 at 2:00 p.m. ET** for our next sessions in our free monthly webinar series highlighting federal grant and other funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and opportunities available to NRECA members. These 30-minute sessions share information on NRECA research initiatives and upcoming funding opportunities in which cooperatives may want to participate, including new opportunities with the infrastructure law. Past webinars are available to members [On Demand](#).

Also join our new professional community to stay up to date on research funding developments. Through this community, we will have member discussions and share ongoing updates on research and new funding opportunities as they become available. To participate, send an email request to [ResearchFunding@nreca.coop](mailto:ResearchFunding@nreca.coop).

- [Webinar Registration](#)

- Contact: NRECA Team at [ResearchFunding@nreca.coop](mailto:ResearchFunding@nreca.coop)

## **Co-op Economic Outlook Webinar: July 28**

Join NRECA economic and investment professionals **July 28, 2 p.m. ET**, as they continue their quarterly discussion highlighting the latest issues expected to shape the economic health of electric cooperative communities in 2022. This free series covers key economic indicators, insights on economic growth, and the latest trends and implications for rural areas and the broader U.S. economy— labor market conditions, supply chain issues and more.

- **More Information and Registration**

- Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

## **ON DEMAND WEBINARS**

- **Microgrid Consortium Webinar**
- **Co-op Economic Outlook**
- **FCC Broadband Initiative**
- **RADWIND: Modeling Tools for Distributed Wind Hybrid System Sizing, Integration & Optimization**
- **Cybersecurity Incident Response Workshop**
- **Federal Funding Opportunities Series** (formerly Research Funding Opportunities series)
- **Leading Through the Workforce Revolution**
- **Grid Operations & Innovation Series: Wood Pole Production and Quality Assurance**
- **Grid Operations & Innovation Series: Wood Poles: The Growing Need for a Supply Chain Strategy**
- **Business Insights Series: Enterprise Risk Management: It's a Good Fit for Your Co-op**
- **Business Insights Series: Market Segmentation**
- **Business Insights Series: Using Performance-Based Frameworks to Deliver Consumer Value**
- **Emerging Tech Series: Wind Hybrid Power Plants as an Emerging Energy Resource Option**
- **Emerging Tech Series: Utility Uses for Augmented and Virtual Reality**
- **Emerging Tech Series: EV Trends and Consumer Perspectives**
- **Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Summit**
- **The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 1**
- **The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series – Vol. 2**
- **Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)**
- **Series: Mitigating Bird Issues**

See past issues of *Business and Technology Update* in our [archive on cooperative.com](#).

**Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.**

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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