RFP and Grant Logistics

1. Do you accept letters of support? If so, how many are required or is there a limit?
   a. If applying with a fiscal sponsor, yes, a financial responsibility letter of sponsorship must be included.
   b. Ava is also requesting reference letters, affirming the organization has successfully completed similar projects and possess experience engaging with community members or organizations within Ava's service area.
   c. There is no minimum or maximum required letters.
2. In the RFP, it states "Ava Community Energy intends to award up to three Grant Agreements". Does this mean 3 orgs have the potential to split this award? If so, could a collective of 3 orgs apply with one application?
   a. Ava plans to award up to three grant agreements for this initiative based on receiving qualified proposals. Each agreement would award up to $300k over three years. A total of up to $900k may be awarded to three or more organizations over a three year grant term.
   b. Collective of organizations may submit one application
3. Do you allow subcontractors on a proposal to a prime?
   a. Yes, proposals may include subcontractors
4. What possibilities are there for a renewal of the RFP?
   a. Ava is not planning to re-issue this RFP at this time. Organizations should respond to the RFP as is.

Requirements and Eligibility

1. There is a requirement of 3 educational community meetings within the first two months of the grant start date. However if the grant starts in November, 3 community meetings held in December and January would likely not have a wide or comprehensive turn out. Is there flexibility in timing to allow for the most community input as possible?
   a. Yes, Ava will consider recommendations, there is some flexibility on the date of delivery for these initiatives, but will prioritize proposals that can deliver community feedback quickly.
2. The opening description in the RFP calls for potential community-owned resilience hub sites. Can you define what kinds of buildings would be considered "community owned"?
   a. Sites owned or leased to Community based organizations, non-profits, individuals or collectives are examples. Further definition of resilience hubs will be an developed with the grantee
   b. Sites must be an Ava electricity customer
3. Can a grantee identify a city or schools as resilience hubs?
   a. Yes, any site or organization that is not within Ava's Critical Municipal Facilities program will be considered.
4. Can organizations that are physically located in the City of Alameda, yet whose projects benefit the broader San Francisco East Bay area submit proposals for the grant opportunity?
      No, the City of Alameda is not served by Ava community energy so sites therein are not eligible for this program.
   a. Preference will be given to organizations who directly provide services or invest in Ava service area community members.
5. Would this definition (and Ava Community Energy's current definition of resilience hubs) change if through the research process, community members provided a different definition of "community owned"?

a. Yes, the definition of Resilience Hubs, and their ownership, will evolve based on the grantees research efforts and work with Ava's Board.

6. Can you give more details about each of the items listed in the requirement to include "site requirements, tool kits and needs assessments", for potential resilience hub sites? Is the requirement to have all 3 of those items for all 90-100 sites?

   a. These tools will be further developed through the term of the grant and with Ava's selected Resilience Hub Technical Assistance provider. The goal of the grant is to develop a list of viable sites. Ava assumes that site requirements, tool kits and needs assessment will be required to receive Technical Assistance. Site requirements would confirm what type of sites and site characteristics would be eligible as a resilience hub, tool kits and needs assessments would be made available to community members and potential site hosts to provide guidance on what's needed to develop community resilience hubs. Responses that provide draft proposals of these requirements will be reviewed by the evaluation team.

Ava Community Energy Staff and Engagement

1. Would Ava Community Energy staff or Board members also be present at public meetings to answer questions and interface with the community?

   a. Upon advanced notice and planning, yes.

2. What is the expectation of both community engagement and resilience hub site identification based on the geography of customers in Ava Community Energy territory (Alameda vs San Joaquin)?

   a. Ava expects that sites from both Alameda and San Joaquin Counties will be identified through the course of this grant. There is no set proportion of sites, but Ava would expect that community workshops and engagement would include both Counties. Respondents should include a description of their geographic approach to this work.

3. Due to the finite resources available in this grant, the team would have to make a decision on directing resources to where there's more customers or potential sites? If these don't align, is this acceptable?

   a. Ava will review and scope proposals based on the evaluation matrix provided which includes both geographic and site delivery metrics. Respondents should develop proposals that balance the multiple requirements set forth.

4. Alameda county has more community engagement and place-based connections in Oakland. Does Ava expect that more community engagement work can be done in the cities in San Joaquin County?

   a. See answers to #2 and #3 above.

5. Will there be other ongoing opportunities to receive community feedback outside of the 4 workshops per year?

   a. Yes, organizations can engage in conducting community research, interviews, and other activities that will support community education and learning opportunities.

6. How much Ava Community Energy Staff is dedicated to outreach and communication in the expanded San Joaquin County territory?

   a. Grant recipients can expect to collaborate with Ava's Local Development, Marketing, Account Services, and Data teams for outreach and tracking capabilities.