



Department of Energy  
Office of Science  
Washington, DC 20585

April 1, 2026

Dear Colleagues:

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science program in Biological and Environmental Research (BER) hereby announces its interest in receiving applications from universities and/or national laboratories for multi-disciplinary research centers that focus on regional studies of severe weather-related hazards that impact energy and other critical infrastructures. This funding opportunity aligns with DOE's [Genesis Mission](#), and projects are strongly encouraged to incorporate artificial intelligence methods and partnerships.

These regional centers should combine data and modeling approaches to improve the predictability of extreme weather phenomena, land-atmosphere interactions, hydrological hazards, impacts on built energy and related infrastructures, and the development of new tools to improve decision-making. The goals of the research centers are to:

- Improve Earth system predictability on seasonal to annual timescales;
- Advance research focused on atmospheric data, including severe weather events;
- Develop new tools for key decision-makers to strengthen the resiliency of energy and other critical infrastructure; and
- Train the next-generation workforce in these fields (e.g., atmospheric science, hydrology, ecology, infrastructure resilience, AI applications).

BER expects that successful applications will be hypothesis driven and clearly address all four of these goals through an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach that incorporates environmental system sciences, atmospheric system research, Earth system modeling, and data management. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate clear relevance to DOE's energy mission, particularly related to the predictability of severe weather events and hazards and their potential impacts on the energy sector, including water availability, grid, supply chains, and infrastructure security.

BER encourages applicants to leverage DOE-supported observational data, models, and/or user facilities as appropriate for the proposed research. Projects should also develop and use advanced analytics and tools, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, to analyze complex atmospheric data and environmental data, improve predictability, enhance modeling capabilities, and develop decision-support frameworks for infrastructure resilience.

BER encourages applications based on collaborations across multi-disciplinary research teams comprised of participants from DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) National Laboratories, academic and non-profit research institutions, other federal agencies, and/or the private sector. Applications may be led by a university or DOE/NNSA National Laboratory. The most competitive applications will demonstrate a well-coordinated collaboration across participating institutions, with responsibilities of team members and/or institutions appropriately balanced.

**Anticipated Award Information:**

- Total Funding: \$20,000,000
- Maximum Award Amount: \$5,000,000 per award, regardless of the number of participating institutions.
- Period of Performance: 3 years
- Start Date: The first budget period for awarded projects should begin on September 1, 2026. This date can be negotiated if an application is recommended for funding.

**Application Formatting and Submission:**

Applicants are encouraged to send an email to [Daniel.Winkler@science.doe.gov](mailto:Daniel.Winkler@science.doe.gov) by May 1, 2026, on the planned regional focus areas and expected teaming arrangements. These emails

are for planning purposes only; institutions should not expect a response. BER anticipates holding merit review panels in summer 2026 and strongly encourages applications to be submitted by June 1, 2026, for consideration.

Applicants should carefully review the guidelines for applications in the [FY 2026 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program, Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) Number: DE-FOA-0003600-000001](#). In the case of any perceived inconsistencies between this letter and the referenced NOFO, the terms of the NOFO apply. Additional BER-specific recommendations regarding application formatting and teaming arrangements can be found in Section III.3 of the NOFO. A prime and subaward model with one application submitted by the lead institution is a better fit for BER applications.

Grant applications should be submitted through Grants.gov to DE-FOA-0003600. National Laboratory-led applications should contact Dr. Daniel Winkler ([Daniel.Winkler@science.doe.gov](mailto:Daniel.Winkler@science.doe.gov)) to receive an invitation to submit an application through the Portfolio Analysis and Management System (PAMS).

We look forward to receiving your innovative applications and working together to advance Earth system science and enhance the resilience of our nation's critical infrastructure. If you have questions about this research initiative, please contact Dr. Daniel Winkler at [Daniel.Winkler@science.doe.gov](mailto:Daniel.Winkler@science.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

Dorothy Koch  
Associate Director of Science for Biological  
and Environmental Research  
Office of Science