



# State, Local, and Tribal Technical Support Services Agreements

Getting renewable energy, energy efficiency, or sustainable transportation projects off the ground can be challenging. With the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) State, Local, and Tribal Technical Support Services Agreements, decision makers can tap into expertise, data resources, tools, and decision support options to inform and chart the path forward to achieving local energy goals.

Whether starting from the early conceptual stages, developing project proposals, or requesting continued technical support once a project is underway, NREL's State, Local, and Tribal Technical Support Services Agreements offer national laboratory expertise and guidance to help meet energy goals through various service options.

## Service Options



Ask an Expert



Technical, Policy, and Regulatory Overview



Custom Data Development for Jurisdictions



Expert Participation in Technical or Advisory Committee



Technical Review of Request for Proposal (RFP)



Technical Review of Proposals in Response to RFP



Request NREL expert in-person services  
*(domestic U.S. only)*

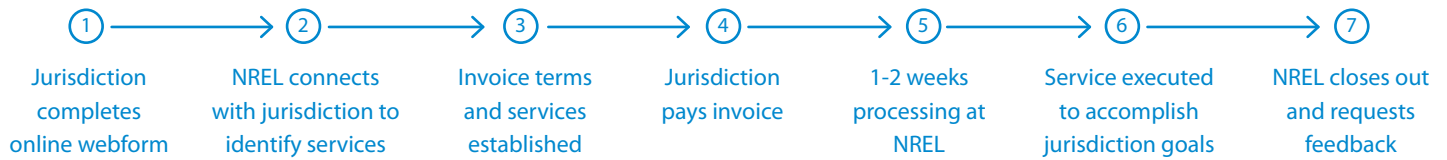
## Why Use Technical Support Services Agreements?

State and local decision makers can gain access to national lab expertise for small or shorter-term projects for relatively low costs. Technical assistance can be provided at affordable rates as low as \$2,000<sup>1</sup>, and offers expedited contracting timelines to efficiently implement energy projects.

<sup>1</sup> Most technical support service options range between \$2,000 and \$20,000, depending on the service. Higher cost agreements can be negotiated based on user needs.

# How Might a Technical Support Services Agreement Work for a State or Locality?

Depending on a jurisdiction's needs, goals, and challenges or when federally-funded options are not available, NREL's State, Local, and Tribal Technical Support Services Agreement customizes support to help jurisdictions achieve their energy goals. The steps below outline the typical support process.



The following scenarios show how a state or local official might use the service to accomplish jurisdiction goals.

**Scenario 1:** A state Department of Environmental Protection would like to put out an RFP for an upcoming solar project. The team would like NREL's expertise in the development and review of the RFP. What is the best technical support service agreement pathway?

Technical Review of RFP	Technical Review of Proposals in Response to RFP
NREL experts review and provide comments to refine the technical aspects of the RFP working with the project team to improve responses.	First the state will obtain the advice of an NREL expert as a non-voting technical review member on the proposal review committee. NREL will then provide one or more experts in the technology or technologies included in the RFP to review and score (based on stated criteria) proposals submitted in response to a request for proposals in collaboration with the committee.

**Scenario 2:** A State Energy Program manager wants to understand opportunities to target clean energy and efficiency programs and/or policies to benefit low- and moderate-income residents in their jurisdiction. What is the best technical support service agreement pathway?

Ask an Expert	Custom Data Development	Expert Participation in Technical or Advisory Committee
Asking an expert is the first step in this technical assistance request to identify specific needs, goals, and challenges.	NREL will provide training and customized analysis on the Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool (LEAD) to gain insight on low-income housing stock and efficiency options.	An NREL expert will participate in a jurisdictional or city council meeting, or on an advisory committee to provide support to decision makers.

**Scenario 3:** A city planner would like to understand how to reduce energy use by 30% in their jurisdiction by 2035, but is unsure where to start. What is the best technical support service agreement pathway?

Ask an Expert	Technical Policy and Regulatory Overview	Custom Data Development	Request for Proposals (RFP) Technical Review
Asking an expert is the first step in this technical assistance request to best understand the city's specific needs, goals, and challenges.	Use existing NREL tools <sup>2</sup> to inform planning and decision-making process by weighing options for specific jurisdictions.	With NREL guidance, gain deeper understanding of local jurisdiction potential and the core sectors that influence energy use in the jurisdiction.	Receive NREL expert review to refine the technical aspects of the RFP to improve responses.



**"Ask an Expert"** can be utilized independent of additional support options. Through the online webform, users can select from the "Ask an Expert" support options to obtain a series of four phone conversations to discuss specific project needs, enabling users to make more informed decisions to chart their pathway forward.

## Get Started

To begin your consultation for a cleaner, more efficient energy future, or find more information on all services, visit [nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/technical-support-services.html](https://nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/technical-support-services.html).

<sup>2</sup> Example tools include NREL's System Advisor Model or ReOpt Lite. A complete list of NREL tools can be found at [nrel.gov/research/data-tools.html](https://nrel.gov/research/data-tools.html)