

# AESO Process - Funding for REM Engagement Participation

## 1. Overview

### Funding for REM Engagement Participation

The AESO will provide limited funding to eligible market participants, or associations of market participants (collectively, “Market Participants”) that:

- require financial support to meaningfully participate in the AESO’s ongoing Restructured Energy Market (REM) design engagement process and the AESO’s upcoming REM Independent System Operator (ISO) rules engagement process (collectively, the “REM Engagements”); and
- represent a unique and valuable perspective that would otherwise not be part of the REM Engagements.

The AESO is providing funding to ensure that the REM Engagements are as robust and inclusive as possible, in light of the Government of Alberta’s decision to enact the initial set of ISO rules required for the REM via legislation.

This document outlines the eligibility criteria, and the funding process that the AESO will rely upon to provide and administer such funding.

### How much funding will be provided?

The AESO will provide funding in alignment with the Alberta Utilities Commission’s (AUC’s) existing Scale of Costs, which funds stakeholder participation in utility rates proceedings,<sup>1</sup> up to a maximum of:

- **\$50,000** per eligible Market Participant; and
- **\$500,000** in aggregate funding for all eligible Market Participants.

Funds will be allocated on a “first come first serve” basis.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A to AUC Rule 022: *Rules on Costs in Utility Rate Proceedings*: <https://www.auc.ab.ca/rules/rule022/>

## 2. Eligibility and Applications for Funding

### Who is eligible to receive funding?

A Market Participant will be eligible to receive funding from the AESO if the AESO is satisfied that the Market Participant will:

- be unable to meaningfully participate in the REM Engagements without funding from the AESO; and
- bring a unique and valuable perspective to the REM Engagements that would otherwise be missing.

### Who is not eligible to receive funding?

The following Market Participants are ineligible to receive funding from the AESO:

- a publicly traded corporation;
- an owner of a utility or a regulated service provider;
- a municipality or an association of municipalities;
- a government entity or government agency; or
- a Market Participant that is represented by an association that the AESO has already determined to be eligible for funding.

### Funding will be provided on a “go forward” basis

Funding will be provided to support costs incurred by eligible Market Participants on a “go forward” basis, for the remainder of the REM Engagements.

### Eligible Market Participants may be required to coordinate

As a condition of funding, the AESO may request an eligible Market Participant to coordinate and jointly share funding with other eligible Market Participants with similar interests, to ensure that funding is efficiently allocated.

### How do I apply for funding?

A Market Participant may apply to the AESO for funding by submitting a completed funding application form, available on AESO Engage, no later than **May 26, 2025**.

### What should be included in a funding application?

A Market Participant should include, in its funding application:

- a description of the interests that the Market Participant represents;
- if an association is applying for funding, a list of all stakeholders represented by the association;

- a description of how the Market Participant intends to participate in the REM Engagements, including the individual representative(s) of the Market Participant who will participate in the REM Engagements (whether through attendance at engagement sessions or the review of engagement materials); and
- an explanation of why, without funding, the Market Participant will be unable to meaningfully participate in the REM Engagements.

#### **The AESO may request additional information**

The AESO will review funding applications to determine if they are complete and, to ensure completeness, may request additional clarification or information from the Market Participant.

#### **The AESO will determine whether a Market Participant is eligible for funding**

If the AESO determines that a funding application is complete, the AESO will provide written confirmation on or before **May 30, 2025**, with reasons, of whether the Market Participant is eligible to receive funding.

Decisions to provide or to deny funding eligibility will be made jointly by the AESO's Vice President, Markets and the AESO's Vice President, Law, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary.

### **3. Disbursement of Funds**

Upon completion of the REM Engagements, the AESO will provide funding to reimburse eligible Market Participants for the costs they have incurred to participate, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per eligible Market Participant.

#### **How do I receive funding?**

To receive funding, an eligible Market Participant must submit, via AESO Engage, to the satisfaction of the AESO:

- a completed summary of total costs and consultant, analyst and expert fees in the form of summary published on AESO Engage;
- copies of supporting documentation and proof of payment, in the same manner as required for the recovery of costs under Appendix A to AUC *Rule 022: Rules on Costs in Utility Rate Proceedings*; and
- the written consent of the Market Participant to disclose the above-described summary, supporting documentation and proof of payment, in the form of consent published on AESO Engage.

An eligible Market Participant may also include the salary equivalent for staff representatives of the market participant or association who participated in the REM Engagements, to the maximum hourly rate allowed for consultant, analyst and expert fees under Appendix A to *Rule 022: Rules on Costs in Utility Rate Proceedings* of the Alberta Utilities Commission.

### **Deadlines for eligible Market Participants to obtain funding**

The AESO will only provide funding if the completed summary and supporting documentation referred to above is submitted no later than 30 days after the AESO has announced the completion of the REM Engagements.

However, if an eligible Market Participant requires funding before the AESO has announced the completion of the REM ISO rules engagement, the Market Participant may also submit the documentation described above no later than 30 days after the AESO has announced the completion of the AESO's engagement for the REM market design.

### **The AESO may request additional information**

The AESO may request that an eligible Market Participant provide the AESO with additional information regarding the costs being claimed.

### **When will the AESO disburse funds?**

Upon receipt of the completed documentation described above, the AESO will disburse funding within 30 days.

## **4. Publication of Funding Information**

The AESO will publish the following on its AESO Engage page:

- any funding applications received;
- confirmations of eligibility or ineligibility for funding provided by the AESO;
- supporting documentation received; and
- confirmation of any funding disbursed by the AESO.

## **5. Cost Recovery**

The AESO intends to record and recover the costs of any funding provided under this process as "other industry costs" of the AESO, being costs that could not have been forecast prior to the budget year in which they arose, similar to regulatory proceeding costs and other regulatory process costs that the AESO incurs. The AESO would allocate and recover these costs in a manner consistent with other AESO costs related to the REM.