

# Partnership Track: Helping Rural Communities Access Broadband-Dependent Clean Energy Resiliency and Efficiency Solutions

NASEO ● Energizing Rural Communities Prize ● Kelsey Jones & Jasmine Xie, NASEO ● May 24, 2023





## **Project Objectives**

- Convene the State Energy Office, State Broadband Office, and rural community partner(s) in Mississippi to identify broadbanddependent clean energy solutions for improving energy resilience and efficiency.
- **Enable** energy and broadband improvements in underserved rural communities through meaningful engagement and capacity building.
- **Create** collaborative frameworks and model approaches that can be easily replicated by other states
- **Support** the deployment of clean energy solutions through feasibility studies and applying for funding to implement the project idea.

### **Anticipated Deliverables**

- 1. Community engagement guidelines to advance procedural equity within the project partnership.
- 2. Bi-annual partnership impact assessments.
- 3. An issue brief on rural community engagement and broadband as a requisite for various clean energy solutions, to be shared in the peer exchange network of the NASEO Rural Energy Working Group.
- 4. Support for a microgrid feasibility study this will include developing an RFP solicitation and scope of work agreement for a support contractor to conduct the feasibility study.
- 5. Joint funding applications to support microgrid deployment.

### **Participants and Background**

• Partnership Participants:









- Background:
  - New Albany, Gas & Light (NALGW) is a municipal utility offering electric services to rural areas in Mississippi that can potentially use a clean energy microgrid to address severe reliability challenges in Blue Mountain, MS, a small rural town within their service territory.

### **Timeline for Phase Two and Beyond**

July 2023-July 2024

Facilitate partnership meetings to codesign project plan and share out best practices.

Mar 2024 - Sept 2024

Support a clean energy microgrid feasibility study for NALGW. Sept 2024 – July 2025 Support
accessing federal
funding for
microgrid project
deployment for
NALGW, subject
to funding
availability.