

Empowering The Town of Bluff: Securing a Portable Generator for Emergency Preparedness and Community Resilience

Executive Summary

The Town of Bluff, Utah, is seeking a \$50,000 grant through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to fund a mobile generator for emergency incidents and ensure the well-being of our community.

The Town of Bluff, a rural and underserved community in southeastern Utah, is seeking funding to purchase a mobile towable generator with a trailer to enhance our emergency response capabilities. Bluff's current infrastructure does not include a backup power solution capable of supporting these needs, highlighting the urgent necessity for this grant. Bluff frequently experiences power outages due to extreme weather conditions, posing significant threats to our predominantly elderly population. A portable generator based out of the Bluff Community Center would serve our 250 residents and support a surrounding community of over 3,000 individuals. A generator can provide electricity for cooling, heating, medication stabilization, cell phone charging, and resident peace of mind. We are seeking a mobile generator, as it could also be made available to vital local service entities such as the Bluff Volunteer Fire Department, volunteer EMS staff, and other aid entities. The generator's mobility will ensure that it can be effectively deployed across the town. Securing this grant will enable Bluff to better prepare for, and respond to, catastrophic events, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Statement of Need

Bluff, Utah is a rural community that faces frequent power outages due to extreme weather events, including both severe heat and cold. These outages pose significant risks, especially to our elderly population, which makes up a considerable portion of our 250 residents. Our community's vulnerability is compounded by our remote geographical location and resulting delayed response times from the power utility to fix outages. This isolation, coupled with the extreme desert heat and bitter winter cold weather exacerbates the impact of power outages, making it challenging to provide timely assistance across the entire town.

We are asking for funding for a mobile generator, as the town's resources and entities are spread across the town at multiple locations. While our town offices are currently located at the Bluff Community Center (BCC), we also aid the Bluff Volunteer Fire Department located three blocks away from the BCC. A mobile generator would enable us to place the asset exactly where it is needed, as the need arises. We are also seeking funds for a stationary backup generator for our future Cooperative Cultural Center. This larger building will require a much larger generator to power the 19,000 square foot building. A mobile generator could be used to power critical components of the CCC in the interim.

The acquisition of a portable/trailer generator is critical for several reasons:

1. **Health and Safety:** During power outages, the lack of heating or cooling can be life-threatening, particularly for elderly residents and those with medical conditions requiring electricity.

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2. **Emergency Services Support:** Our volunteer fire department, Emergency Medical Services, and other aid entities need reliable power to operate effectively during emergencies.
3. **Infrastructure Protection:** Helps maintain the functionality of critical infrastructure, such as our water treatment system, communication systems, and transportation networks, during power outages.
4. **Strategic Location:** Bluff was incorporated in late 2018, making it one of the newest municipalities in Utah. It is situated sixty (60) miles south of the county seat in Monticello, where a majority of the county emergency resources are based. Having access to backup power within town boundaries will empower the municipality to provide care at the location needed for residents.
5. **Community Resilience:** Having a mobile power source would enable us to provide continuous power to essential services and aid in disaster response efforts, enhancing our community's resilience.

Project Description

The proposed project involves the purchase and maintenance of a mobile generator on a trailer. The unit will be stored at the Bluff Community Center, and easily transportable to other areas in town, should the need arise. Bluff Community Center will serve as the primary meeting place in the event of a large catastrophe, so having the generator easily accessible at the center is beneficial. The Bluff Senior Center is also located within the Bluff Community Center. The senior center provides routine services and meals for the elderly and it would be beneficial for them to be able to continue to provide services for the community.

Key Components of the Project:

Equipment Purchase

Acquisition of a large, commercial-grade mobile trailer generator, similar to the *Generac MDG100DF4 STD Mobile Towable Generator w/ Trailer* found on [Nationwidegenerators.com](https://www.nationwidegenerators.com). This specific unit provides up to 85,000 watts of power. We plan to acquire a generator with at least 60K watts, up to 100,000 watts to power our large commercial buildings. Our buildings do run refrigerators, air conditioning, and other electronics, and we would want to ensure plenty of power for other entities who may need to borrow the unit. As of July 2024, this listed unit retails at \$63,999.00. Similar devices range in price from \$60,000 to \$85,000.

Training, Storage, Maintenance

We will store the generator at the Bluff Community Center and schedule regular maintenance to ensure readiness. Routine maintenance and startup will be tasked to our community center manager. In the future, this role will be handled by our public works department. We will provide training for key personnel on the operation and maintenance of the generator to ensure a long-life span of the device. This training will be conducted withing one (1) month of acquiring the device.

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Deployment Plan: We will develop a comprehensive deployment plan to ensure the generator can be quickly and effectively mobilized to areas of need within Bluff and the surrounding communities. This plan will be included in our community Emergency Response Plan, which will be finalized Summer 2024.

Partnerships: We will establish written protocols for lending the generator to the volunteer fire department, EMS, and other entities providing aid withing two (2) months of acquiring the asset.

The project will ensure that Bluff is prepared to handle power outages and other emergencies, safeguarding the health and safety of our community.

Budget Justification

Generac MDG100DF4 Mobile Diesel Generator, 80/85kW, John Deere Engine w/Single-Axle Trailer (or similar unit)

Generator Purchase: \$63,999

Shipping/Delivery: Free

Training and Maintenance Personnel Costs: \$850 annually, over 3 years of grant period

Total Project Cost over 3 Years: \$66,549

USDA Grant: \$50,000 Town of Bluff: \$16,549 (**25% Match**)

The budget covers the cost of purchasing the generator, delivery and installation, initial training, and the first three years of maintenance.

Sustainability and Maintenance

To ensure the success of this project, we will implement a robust plan that includes:

- **Pre- and Post-Training Assessments:** Evaluate the knowledge and readiness of personnel before and after training.
- **Deployment Drills:** Conduct regular drills to test the deployment plan and ensure the generator can be mobilized quickly and effectively.
- **Feedback Collection:** Gather feedback from community members and emergency service entities to assess the generator's impact.
- **Performance Metrics:** Track key performance metrics such as response time, power restoration duration, and the number of successful deployments.

Conclusion

The acquisition of a portable/trailer generator is a critical investment for the Town of Bluff. It will significantly enhance our emergency preparedness, ensuring the safety and well-being

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of our residents and surrounding communities during power outages and other emergencies. With this grant, Bluff can better serve its citizens, provide crucial support to emergency services, and build a more resilient community.

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APPENDIX A Quotations

Quote 1: Global Industrial \$64,900

SHOP ALL CATEGORIES SHOP BY INDUSTRY EXCLUSIVE BRANDS NEW PRODUCTS EXPLORE SOLUTIONS CATALOG DEALS

KEEP COOL EVEN WHEN THE TEMPERATURES RISE | See More Discounts >

Home > Lighting & Electrical > Generators, Inverters & PDUs > Towable Generators

Model #: WBB3091907 MPN #: MDG100DF4-STD3

Generac MDG100DF4 Mobile Diesel Generator, 80/85kW, John Deere Engine w/Single-Axle Trailer

★★★★★ | Questions & Answers (0)

[View All Towable Back Up Power Generators](#)

Purchase Information

PRICE **\$64,900.00** [Free Shipping](#)

Estimated delivery to 84512 by 17th Mar 2025
[Add or Change Zip Code\(s\)](#)

Designed to provide safe and reliable prime power, the MDG100 includes a wide variety of customer inspired features for safety, ease-of-use and low maintenance. Single to three-phase selector switch make this generator powerful and versatile.

[See more details](#)


Quote 2: Electrical Generators Direct: \$63,999

ELECTRIC GENERATORS DIRECT

Search Electric Generators

Call 800-800-3317 | Help

Shop By Category Deliver to 84537 Change Location



Generac 80kW (Prime) / 85kW (Standby) Skid-Mount Diesel Generator (John Deere Engine) w/ Single-Axle Trailer

Model: MDG100DF4-STD3

GENERAC ★★★★★ (0) Write A Review | Ask a Question

\$63,999.00

Free Shipping

Factory-Direct This Item Is Built To Order

[View Shipping Details](#)

\$960 / Month

With our 88 months 7.99% APR*
88 fixed monthly payments required.
[Click for important monthly payment and offer information.](#)

Qty. 1 [Add To Cart](#)

Quote 3 Rocky Mountain Generator Supply: \$91,283

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The screenshot shows the RMCS Generator Supply website. The header includes the company logo, navigation links (NEWS, ABOUT, MAINTENANCE, CUMMINS LOCATOR, CONTACT), and a search bar. A sidebar on the left lists various generator categories. The main content area features a product page for the 'C70 D2RE 70KW CUMMINS TIER 4 FINAL TRAILERIZED GENERATOR PACKAGE'. It includes a product image, a price of \$91,283.00, and a 'FREE SHIPPING' badge. The page also lists technical specifications such as model, series, and manufacturer, along with a 'Features' section detailing engine specifications and control systems.

Quote 4: (100 kw) Power Genenterprise \$155,000

Re: PGE - Question about Generac 250KW Diesel Generator Set



Andrew Schmidt <andrew@powergenenterprises.com>

To: Erin Nelson
Cc: PGE Sales

Hello Erin,

Thank you for your time by phone and the information regarding your project.

As discussed, you'll want a tech to go out and check total amperage used when necessary equipment is running. This will allow us to determine the appropriate size generator.

Based on the initial data provided, we can offer the following units. Keep in mind, units are all subject to prior sale but can be held with a small deposit.

Cummins DSHAD

230kW, 60Hz, 277/480V reconnectable, 1800RPM. Unit is enclosed in weather enclosure and comes with radiator, control panel, breakers and Cummins factory warranty.

Price is right around \$75,000

For your portable needs, we can offer the following.

Caterpillar XQ125

100kW Standby power, 60Hz, 3 phase multi voltage, 1800RPM.

Unit is enclosed in sound attenuated enclosure and comes with radiator, voltage selector switch, EMCP digital panel, 24hr tank mounted on a trailer.

Price is right around \$155,000

Keep in mind, both units are new and the price is reflected in that.

We can offer pre owned equipment with low hours if approved.

We can also connect you with a firm that can install units as needed.

Let me know what questions you have. We hope to assist you with your need.

Best Regards,

Andrew Schmidt

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