**Why just 4 Custom Objects?**

My recommendation to create four custom objects is based on the information provided in your project description and the roles and data requirements outlined therein. Here's the reasoning behind this recommendation:

* **Scope of the Project:** The project description primarily focuses on managing small businesses participating in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Small Business Program. The key entities involved in this program are small businesses, applications, grants/deals/agreements, and application steps. Therefore, the four custom objects—Small Business, Application, Grants/Deals/Agreements, and Application Steps—adequately cover the core entities and processes described in the project.
* **Data Modeling Simplification:** Keeping the data model simple and focused on the essential entities helps streamline development, configuration, and maintenance efforts. Creating only the necessary custom objects minimizes complexity and reduces the risk of over-engineering the solution.
* **Adherence to Requirements:** The project requirements explicitly mention the need to capture information about small businesses, applications, grants/deals/agreements, and application steps. By creating custom objects for these entities, you ensure that the solution aligns closely with the specified requirements and addresses the core needs of the EERE Small Business Program.
* **Flexibility and Extensibility:** While the initial focus may be on managing small businesses and their associated applications and agreements, the chosen data model provides flexibility to accommodate future enhancements or changes. If additional entities or functionalities are required in the future, you can extend the data model by creating new custom objects or modifying existing ones as needed.
* **Efficient Resource Utilization:** Creating a lean data model with only the necessary custom objects optimizes resource utilization, including storage space, processing power, and development efforts. It ensures that you allocate resources efficiently to build a solution that meets the project requirements without unnecessary overhead.

Overall, recommending the creation of four custom objects aligns with the project scope, requirements, and principles of simplicity, flexibility, and efficient resource utilization. This approach aims to deliver a tailored Salesforce solution that effectively supports the objectives of the EERE Small Business Program while allowing for future growth and evolution.

**Define Data Model:**

Begin by analyzing your project requirements and defining the data model. Identify the entities, relationships, and attributes that need to be represented in your Salesforce org.

**Create Custom Objects:**

Start by creating the core custom objects that are central to your application's functionality. In your case, this would likely include the Small Business, Application, Grants/Deals/Agreements, and Application Steps objects.

**Modify Standard Objects (if necessary):**

If your project requires modifications to standard objects like the User object (e.g., adding the Title field), you can proceed with making those changes once the core custom objects are in place. This ensures that you have a clear understanding of your data model and can incorporate any additional fields or relationships as needed.

**Define Fields and Relationships:**

Once the custom objects are created, define the fields and relationships for each object based on your data model. Ensure that the fields capture the necessary information and support the required functionalities of your application.

**Configure Page Layouts and Record Types:**

Customize page layouts and record types for each custom object to optimize the user interface and streamline data entry and management.

**Implement Business Logic:**

Implement any necessary validation rules, workflow rules, process builder flows, or Apex triggers to enforce business logic and automate processes within your Salesforce org.

**Test and Iterate:**

Thoroughly test your configurations and customizations to ensure they meet the project requirements and function as intended. Iterate as needed based on feedback and testing results.