Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Competitive Program

Accelerating Clean Energy Transitions for Teams of Small Governments to Benefit of Disadvantaged Communities

May 15, 2023

Agenda

- Background Context & Program Overview

- How to leverage EECBG Competitive Funds

- Application Process:
  - Concept Paper
  - Full Application

- How to Reach DOE with Questions

- Q&A

Background & Context

Biden-Harris Administration Priorities

- The Administration knows there is no greater challenge facing our nation and our planet than climate change.

- We can turn the threat of climate change into an opportunity to:

  – Revitalize the U.S. energy and manufacturing sectors.

  – Create millions of high-quality, good paying jobs throughout the country.

  – Address historic environmental injustices and inequities.

- DOE is working to advance these goals and help the U.S. build a 100% clean energy economy and reach net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

- The Office of State and Community Energy programs was created to work with states, local governments, and tribes to significantly accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies.

EECBG Program Overview

Program Purpose: **support state, local, and tribal governments to**

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and maximizes benefits to communities

- Reduce their total energy use

- Improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building, and other sectors

Total Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Appropriation (IIJA):
$550 Million for states, local governments, & tribes

EECBG Program Eligibility & Funding Distribution

Total IIJA Appropriation: $550M

Formula Grants:
$431.2M
2,708 eligible entities

Competitive Grants:
$8.8M
Formula *ineligible* entities

68%
of grant funds

1,878 Local Govts.
$299.2M

28%
of grant funds

50 States, 5 Territories & Wash, DC
$123.2M
States must pass through at **least 60%** to ineligible local governments

Local Governments, Tribes & Consortia NOT eligible for formula grants

2%
of grant funds

774 Indian Tribes
$8.8M

*Distribution does not reflect $110M set aside for DOE to deliver an effective and efficient program and to provide technical assistance to eligible entities before distributing remaining funds to eligible entities.

EECBG Program: Who is eligible?

Formula

Local Governments:

Alternative 1
- Cities >35,000 people OR top 10 most populated cities of state
- Counties >200,000 people or top 10 most populated counties in state

Alternative 2
- Cities >50,000 people or counties >200,000 people

View list of eligible local governments here

States & Territories:

- 50 States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, U.S Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands

View list of eligible states and territories here

Tribes:

- Indian Tribes, per section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act

View list of eligible tribes here

Competitive

Local Governments:

- Towns, villages, cities and counties NOT receiving an EEBCG formula award

Tribes:

- Indian tribes NOT recognized by the Federal government, e.g. State-recognized tribes

+Teams of the above entities

> Formula-eligible entities may NOT apply as the lead applicant for the EECBG Competitive Program, but may participate on a team

The EECBG Program formula allocations are established by DOE, in accordance with Section 543 of Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. For additional information, see Federal Register Notice 87 FR 38732, June 29, 2022

EECBG Competitive Program Vision

The EECBG Competitive Program is a prestigious grant program awarded to small local governments and state-recognized tribes –or preferably teams of them- to support their transition to clean energy and benefit disadvantaged communities.

The program will give communities often left behind by other grants the boost they need to succeed and thrive.

Recipients will receive direct grants and extensive technical assistance, with a focus on building capacity for equitable community engagement and procedural justice for future decision-making.

By participating in this program, grantees will build regional partnerships, grow project delivery capacity, and be connected with other funding resources to sustain and grow their efforts.

EECBG Competitive Award Program by the Numbers

✓ DOE anticipates making approximately **10-20 awards**

✓ Award period: **24-36 months**

✓ Individual applicant awards may vary between **$200,000** and **$500,000**

✓ Team applicant awards may vary between **$700,000** and **$2 million**

DOE expects to make a total of **$8.8 million** of federal funding available

What will DOE prioritize? (I/II)

DOE will prioritize applications that aim to meet the following goals:

✓ Operate as teams or consortia of local governments & state-recognized tribes

✓ Reduce energy use and carbon emissions in communities

✓ Deliver efficient and effective program designed to achieve sustained impacts that put communities on a pathway to decarbonization, particularly in disadvantaged communities (in line with the Justice40 Initiative)

✓ Increase local community investment / local workforce development opportunities

✓ Create ongoing energy and operational cost-savings for governments and taxpayers

What will DOE prioritize? (II/II)

Statute requires that DOE prioritize applicants in states and territories with less than 2 million people:

Priority States:

- Alaska
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Maine
- Montana
- North Dakota
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- South Dakota
- Vermont
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

Priority Territories:

- American Samoa
- Guam
- Northern Mariana Islands
- US Virgin Islands

Key Dates

Application Submittal Timeframe	Process Step
June 5, 2023, 5pm ET	Concept Paper Due to DOE
Mid-June 2023	DOE to send encourage/ discourage notices
August 7, 2023, 5pm ET	Full Application Due
September 30, 2023	Expected Date for DOE's Selection Notification
October - November 2023	Expected Timeframe for Award Notification

Flexible Funding Allows Choice From Diverse Activities

- ✓ **Eligible activities** range from strategy development to clean energy deployment
- ✓ Funds can be used community-wide; not just for **government** buildings and facilities
- ✓ **Governments can fund clean energy *projects* _or_ launch clean energy *programs***

1. Strategy Development
2. Technical Consultant Services
3. Building Energy Audits
4. Financial Incentive Programs
5. Energy Efficiency Retrofits
6. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities
7. Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs
8. Building Codes and Inspections

9. Energy Distribution Tech. for Energy Efficiency
10. Material Conservation Programs
11. Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases
12. Traffic Signals and Street Lighting
13. Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings
14. Programs for Financing, Purchasing, and Installing Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Zero-Emission Transportation (and associated infrastructure) Measures

New activity added by IIJA

Applicants can be in one of two tracks

① Planning, analysis & strategy development

Example Projects:

✓ Develop a regional energy resilience strategy, identifying potential resilience hub locations

✓ Create a regional clean energy economic development strategy, and analyze entrepreneurship opportunities and areas to grow the clean energy workforce pipeline.

✓ Develop a regional stretch energy code for new construction and a building performance standard for existing buildings.
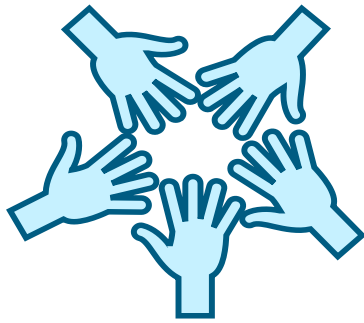
② Implementation & Scaling

Example Projects:

✓ Stand up an energy efficiency workforce training program to serve several neighboring communities and hire a part-time program administrator.

✓ Create a low-interest financing program for home energy efficiency improvements and rooftop solar to serve low-income community members statewide

✓ Design and establish a revolving loan fund to deploy virtual power plants (e.g., grid-interactive efficient buildings, battery storage systems), or building or transportation electrification projects across a utility.

✓ Coordinate with peer communities to build & execute innovative programs to lower energy burdens.

Teaming Can Maximize Local & Regional Impact

DOE encourages teaming up with neighboring or peer eligible governments

Teaming Overview:

- Eligible entities can- and are encouraged to- partner together on an application.

- Teams should submit a single joint application to DOE, with one eligible entity as the prime applicant and the other team members as sub-recipients.

- While the prime applicant must be a local government or tribe, applicants are encouraged to invite non-eligible partners (e.g. local nonprofits, States, companies, utilities, foundations) to join project teams.

Award Amount May Depend on Teaming:

- Smaller awards may go to applicants with only one eligible community represented (approximately $200,000-$500,000)

- Larger awards may go to applicants representing several eligible communities (approximately $700,000-$2,000,000)

Awardee Experience Extends Beyond Funds

DOE will provide **ample support** in addition to financial awards:

1. Meetings with local leadership & DOE

2. Community of Practice trainings & webinars
   - Phased coaching to increase local capacity and ensure best use of funds for implementation
   - Equity training, with focus on procedural justice practices
   - Community engagement best practices
   - Navigating other federal resources
   - Metrics and data reporting

Every single awardee will be able to access technical assistance & support

3. Technical Assistance
   - Teams will receive a "Clean Energy Corps in the Field" Fellow to boost capacity (individual applicants may apply to receive one)
   - Greater access to DOE experts and TA providers, including Blueprints

4. Invitations to DOE workshops and events (e.g. Better Buildings Summit)

5. Match making with relevant partners, such as state energy offices or philanthropic organizations

Justice40: DOE Priorities | Screening Tool

1 **Transform local infrastructure & economies**

- Increasing domestic manufacturing and protecting energy supply chains
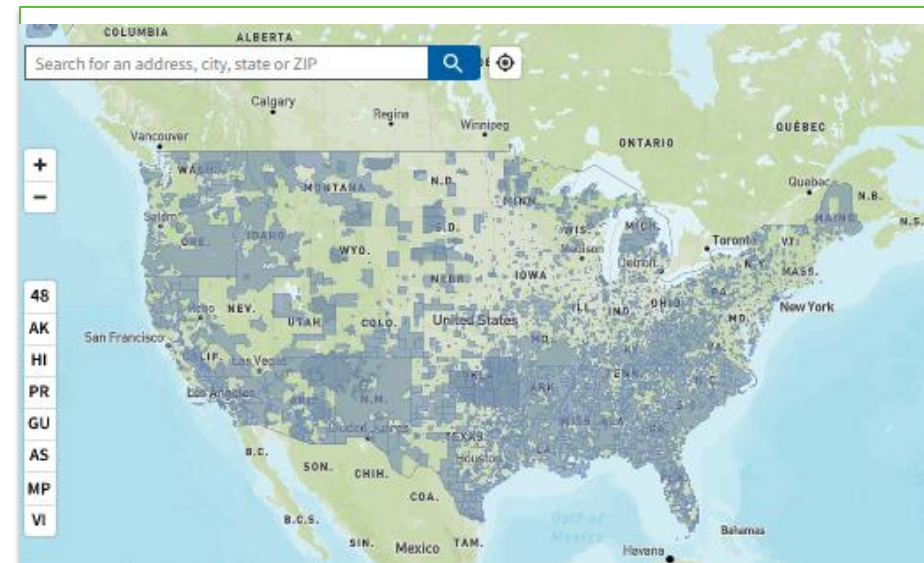- Driving quality job creation, including the opportunity for good paying union jobs

2 **Lift up historically disadvantaged communities**

- Establishing the goal that 40% of benefits flow to underserved, underrepresented, and frontline communities ("disadvantaged communities or 'DACs'")
- Advancing justice and equality

3 **Mitigate and build resilience to the climate crisis**

- Growing private sector uptake of clean energy technologies through DOE-led demonstration and deployment programs
- Modernizing and upgrading American energy infrastructure

Use the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJEST) to identify DACs in your region.

For more information, visit the DOE Justice40 Website at: https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative

Application Process

Application Process Overview:

1 Concept Paper:
- Concept papers are brief descriptions (10 pages or less) of the project proposal, team members, and requested budget amount.
- Concept papers are due on the EERE exchange by June 5, 2023.

2 Encourage / Discourage Notice:
- DOE will review the concepts and either encourage or discourage applicants to submit a full application.
- DOE expects post these notices on the EERE Exchange in mid-June.

3 Full Application
- Full application will require extensive information about the program, including budget, letters of commitment and more
- Applications are due on the EERE Exchange by August 7, 2023 at 5pmET.

4 Award Notification
- DOE expects to post *selection notifications* on the EERE Exchange September 30th
- DOE expects to post *award notifications* on the EERE Exchange in October-November 2023.

All Applicants Will Use Infrastructure Exchange

- To apply to this FOA, applicants **must register with and submit application materials** through EERE Exchange at https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/

- The Infrastructure Exchange is where you will:

  - ✓ Access the control number, which must be included with all application documents

  - ✓ Submit the Concept Paper

  - ✓ Submit the Application

  - ✓ Review award notification information from DOE (both concept paper and final application results)

  - ✓ Look to see if answers you have submitted to the community@hq.doe.gov inbox have been posted.

- Please register in Exchange ASAP

Concept Paper

1 | Concept Paper Overview

The purpose of the **Concept Paper** is to save applicants the considerable time and expense of preparing a Full Application that is unlikely to be selected for award negotiations.

Concept Paper Contents

1. Cover Page
2. Project Description
3. Community Benefits & Engagement Plan
4. Addendum

Concept Paper Template

Available on Infrastructure Exchange

How Concept Papers Work

- Each Concept Paper must be limited to a single proposal and follow the instructions that follow.
- DOE makes an assessment of each Concept Paper based on the FOA's criteria in Section V.
- DOE will encourage a subset of applicants to submit Full Applications.
- Other applicants will be discouraged from submitting a Full Application. Applicants may submit a Full Application regardless of whether they are encouraged or discouraged to do so.
- Concept papers are due on Infrastructure Exchange by June 5, 2023 5pm ET.

1 | Concept Paper Criteria - Overall FOA Responsiveness

Reminder:

*Concept papers are due **June 5.***

DOE will send encourage / discourage notices in mid-June.

1 ## Project Impact
Impact on near term and long-term greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuel use, and/or energy use; and/or increase in the use of clean energy

2 ## Community Engagement and Benefits
- Planned or completed community engagement strategy
- Additional benefits to the community(ies), such as economic opportunities, job creation/retention, energy cost reduction, improved energy reliability, and/or positive health outcomes

3 ## Viability of Plan and Strength of Team
- Technically feasibility, financial viability, and support from the local government or tribal leadership
- The applicant, including all team members and partners, has the qualifications, experience, capabilities, and other resources necessary to complete the proposed project
- Whether the proposal includes a community located in one of the priority States (i.e., AK, DE, HI, ID, ME, MT, ND, NE, NH, RI, SD, VT, WV, WY, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands & US Virgin Islands)

1 | Concept Paper – Cover Page

Must Include:

Page Count: 1 Page Maximum

- Control number (this will be issued when an applicant begins the Infrastructure Exchange application process.)
- Project title
- Team Members:
  - Lead project manager
  - Business points of contact
  - Names of all team member and partner organizations and their respective roles
- The project location(s)
- Federal budget requested
- Cost share, if applicable
- Any statements regarding confidentiality
- Indicates:
- "Track 1- Planning, Analysis & Strategy" **OR** "Track 2 – Implementation and Scaling."

1 | Concept Paper – Project Description

Must Include:

Page Count: 3-4 Pages

An explanation of the proposed project:

- The approach
- A project timeline
- The proposed geographic scope
- The vision for how the proposed project will be sustained beyond the grant period;

Proposed Impacts:

- How project would accelerate rate of clean energy deployment in the community & beyond
- How it significantly improves over status quo
- How proposed outcomes would compare to baseline metrics
- The impact that DOE funding would have on the proposed project

Feasibility Qualifications:

- Include list of partners and their respective roles
- Budget details

For Track 2 proposals only, include:

- Selected clean energy technologies or activities, and measurable targets or goals
- The impact that the proposed project would have on energy burdens, greenhouse gas emissions, clean energy deployment, and/or local job creation in the near- and long-terms, as compared to baseline data.

1 | Concept Paper – Community Benefits & Engagement Plan

Must Include:

Page Count: 1-2 Pages

Applicants are required to describe how the team will:

1. Engage the community, labor, and other stakeholders, including community-based organizations, utilities, foundations, or private companies, and labor unions.

2. Describe which project elements will be co-created with community members or partners.

3. Consider the needs and opportunities of the local workforce to engage in clean energy, including ensuring job quality and workforce continuity.

4. Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

5. Provide direct benefits to community members and how it contributes/will contribute to the Justice40 Initiative goal that 40% of the overall climate and clean energy investments flow to communities including disadvantaged communities.

1 | Concept Paper – Addendum

No Requirements!

Page Count: 3 Pages Maximum

Applicants may **optionally** *provide graphs, charts, images, maps, or other data to supplement their Project Description.*

Encourage / Discourage Notice

2 | Encourage / Discourage Notice

✓ DOE aims to finalize Encourage / Discourage Notices in mid-June

✓ DOE will place Encourage / Discourage Letters on **Infrastructure Exchange**

✓ Applicants will have approximately 30-45 days from receipt of the notification to prepare and submit a full application

✓ *Note:* Applicants may submit a full application regardless of whether they are encouraged or discouraged to do so

✓ Regardless of the date the applicant receives the Encourage/Discourage notification, the submission deadline for the Full Application remains **August 7, 2023 – 5pm ET.**

Full Application

3 | Full Application Overview

Full applications will go into further details of the project proposal, team qualifications, budget and workplan, and community benefits plan.

Full applications are due on August 7th at 5pm ET.

✓ Each Full Application must be limited to a single concept – no entity may submit multiple applications for different ideas

✓ Applicants must complete the application forms found on Infrastructure Exchange website at https://infrastructure-Exchange.energy.gov/ (described in next slides)

✓ All Full Application documents must be marked with the control number issued to the applicant.

✓ Full Applications must conform to the formatting requirements listed in the FOA

40%

Criterion 1: Overall FOA Responsiveness and Impact

- *Energy Impact:* which the proposed approach reduces greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuel use, and/or energy use, or increases the use of clean energy, both in the near term and long term

- *Additionality:* DOE assistance will impact the outcome of the proposed effort and result in sustained positive impact to the community(ies)

- *Replication Potential:* Project and project outcomes can be model approaches for other communities

30%

Criterion 2: Community Benefits and Engagement

- *Plan to Engage with Disadvantaged Communities:* Includes effective plan to engage community and/or has already been identified as a priority for community stakeholders through previous engagement

- *Impact on Disadvantaged Communities:* Plan to benefit large numbers of community residents or other stakeholders in significant direct & measurable ways, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

- *Jobs:* Extent to which the proposal will lead to the delivery of high-quality jobs

- *Track 2 only:* Quality of partnerships and agreements with apprenticeship readiness programs, or community-based workforce training and support organizations serving workers facing systematic barriers to employment

30%

Criterion 3: Viability of Plan & Strength of Team

- *Technical Feasibility:* Viability of technological development Including a reasonable budget and spend plan, clear support from the local government or tribal leadership

- *Track Record & Existing Skillset:* Including grant management experience, project management experience, technical expertise, and facilitation and convening experience

- *Sustained Capacity-Building:* Likelihood to build organizational and/or staff capacity to support further advancement of clean energy deployment and/or support the community(ies) participation in the clean energy economy

- *Statutory Alignment:* Whether the application includes a community located in a priority State (i.e., AK, DE, HI, ID, ME, MT, ND, NE, NH, RI, SD, VT, WV, WY, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and US Virgin Islands)

Timeline Reminders:

- *Full applications are due on Infrastructure Exchange **August 7th** at 5pmET.*
- *DOE expects to notify awardees on Infrastructure Exchange by **September 30th***

3 | Full Application - Content and Form (I/II)

Section	Application Component	File Type	Page No.	File Name
i.	Project Narrative, including locations of work	PDF	10	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_TechnicalVolume
ii.	Community Benefits Plan	PDF	5-12	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_CBenefits
iii.	Budget Information (SF-424A)	Excel	N/A	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Budget
iv.	Letters of Commitment	PDF	1 page each	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_LOCs
v.	Community Partnership Documentation	PDF	1 page each, max 10 pages	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_PartnerDocs
vi.	SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance	PDF	3	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_App424
vii.	Summary/Abstract for Public Release	PDF or Word	0.5-1	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Summary
viii.	Summary Slide	Powerpoint	1	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Slide
ix.	SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	PDF	N/A	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_SF-LLL

	DOE Work Proposal for national lab partner (FFRDC), if applicable (see DOE O 412.1A, Attachment 3)	PDF	Pages	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_WP
xi.	Authorization from cognizant Contracting Officer for FFRDC, if applicable	PDF	N/A	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_FFRDCAuth
	Additional items will be required if the applicant is selected, including the following			
i.	Statement of Project Objectives	MS Word	4-6	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_SOPO
ii.	Full Budget Justification Workbook	MS Excel	N/A	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Budget_Justification
iii.	Subrecipient Budget Justification, if applicable	MS Excel	N/A	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Subrecipient_Budget_Justification
iv.	Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice, if applicable	PDF	N/A	ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_PDFN
v.	Cybersecurity Plan			ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Cyber

Award Notification Process

Timeline Reminders:

- *Selection* Notification:
  - September 30, 2023

- *Award* Notification:
  - October - November 2023

- Applicants will be notified on **Infrastructure Exchange** of DOE's decisions.

How to Reach DOE

The EECBG Program Team is Available To You

DOE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the FOA except through the established question and answer process as described below:

- Questions regarding the EECBG Competitive Program must be submitted to: community@hq.doe.gov.

- Questions related to the registration process and use of the S3 Exchange website should be submitted to: S3exchangehelp@hq.doe.gov.

- Feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.

- All questions and answers related to this FOA will be posted on S3 Exchange at: https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov.

- SCEP will attempt to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar question and answer has already been posted on the website.

Q&A

FAQs: Who can participate?

Can these entities participate? YES!

- Non-profit organizations
- Councils of Government
- Businesses
- Universities/Colleges
- Planning organizations
- Utilities
- Community-based organizations
- Quasi-governmental entities

Can they be the "prime" applicant? No.

- Only local governments and tribes that did not receive an EECBG formula allocation can be the lead or "prime" applicant.
- The prime applicant must hit "submit" in Infrastructure Exchange
- Additional organizations such as those listed are encouraged to be project partners, and can support every step of the application and project implementation process.
- Partners can receive funds through the grant as a "sub-recipient" and have designated roles and responsibilities in relation to the grant.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I tell if my local government is eligible to apply to the Competitive Grant?

A: Check out the list of local governments receiving a formula award here. If it's not on the list, you can be the lead applicant for the Competitive Grant!

Q: If I want to apply, but I don't represent an eligible local government or state-recognized tribe, what should I do?

A: Find an eligible local government or state-recognized tribe and partner up!

Q: What are the first steps in getting an application together?

A: Gather your team. Register in Infrastructure Exchage. Submit concept paper by June 5th

Q: Where can I find out if my project idea is an eligible activity?

A: Check out the EECBG Statute, and EECBG Eligible Activities and Program Guidance

Frequently Asked Questions, continued

Q: Can I braid EECBG Competitive Funds with other federal funds?

A: Yes! You can braid EECBG Funds with other federal funds as long as they are for distinct activities and they are accounted for separately.

Q: What will make my concept paper successful?

A: Review the evaluation criteria, and don't leave any part out!

Q: May I submit more than one concept paper?

A: Yes, so long as the concept papers present different and distinct project ideas or concepts.

Q: What counts as a team?

A: Multiple eligible local governments or tribes on one application is considered a "team" application. Adding project partners like universities or non-profits does not make a team.