



Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0003065

Notice of Intent to Issue Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Opportunity Announcement FY23 No. DE-FOA-0003065

Section 40542 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$50,000,000 for the purpose of providing nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency materials. The term “nonprofit building” means a building operated and owned by an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code. The Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) intends to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), Renew America’s Nonprofits, to decrease energy use and utility costs, reduce carbon emissions, and redirect savings to mission-critical services for nonprofit organizations across America.

Focus Area – High Impact Energy Efficiency Portfolios

DOE intends to use an aggregation model to implement the Renew America’s Nonprofits program. This approach will enable partners within the nonprofit community to provide technical and administrative support for retrofit projects while maximizing equitable impacts. The goal of this model is to encourage innovative program strategies and support strong localized engagement while mobilizing funding quickly and activating local workforces to improve the buildings of nonprofits across America.

DOE will encourage nonprofit 501(c)(3) applicants interested in serving as “Prime Recipients” to assemble a portfolio of nonprofit buildings in need of energy efficiency upgrades. Each portfolio should demonstrate significant energy and cost savings, emissions reductions potential, compelling cost effectiveness, and alignment with the Justice40 Initiative goals.¹ Recipients will subaward up to \$200,000 for individual energy efficiency projects in nonprofit buildings owned and operated by 501(c)(3) organizations (e.g., 25 energy efficiency projects at an average of \$150,000/project equals a \$3,750,000 project portfolio). Although DOE has yet to establish a definitive cost matching formula it is worth noting that recipient cost share would be applicable to this potential funding opportunity. Prime Recipients will serve as the portfolio aggregators, establishing subrecipient relationships with building owners, flowing down award terms and conditions, managing program implementation, and synthesizing the project results. Both Prime Recipients and subrecipient must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

¹ [Justice40 Initiative | Department of Energy | https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative](https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative)



Energy efficient materials may include materials (including a product, equipment, or system) the installation of which results in a reduction in use by a nonprofit organization of energy or fuel. Examples include lighting upgrades, roof replacement with insulation, HVAC upgrades, and door or window replacements. Fuel-switching upgrades that will reduce both energy costs and projected carbon emissions will also be eligible. Prime Recipients will be encouraged to look for projects that package multiple improvements to deepen energy and cost savings and increase carbon reductions.

Prime Recipients are encouraged to begin planning how they might recruit nonprofit facility retrofit projects, provide technical assistance, manage a diverse portfolio of projects, and measure and communicate success. Performance-based criteria will guide the applicant review process to assist with prioritizing eligible applicants. Considerations in the application review will include proposed energy and carbon emissions savings; the cost effectiveness of energy efficiency projects; an effective plan for evaluation, measurement, and verification of energy savings; and evidence of financial need of the subrecipients. In addition, DOE encourages eligible applicants to consider projects that leverage funding and economies of scale, create innovative, sustainable partnerships, and enable replicable and scalable impacts.

Eligible Entities

Section 40542 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law specifies that an eligible “applicant” must be a nonprofit as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code. All renovations, repairs, or installations under this provision must be performed on a building owned and operated by a nonprofit 501(c)(3) (as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

Additional Information

This is a Notice of Intent (NOI) only. SCEP may issue a FOA as described here, may issue a FOA that is significantly different than the FOA described herein, or may not issue a FOA at all. This NOI is issued so that interested parties are aware of SCEP’s intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All information contained in this Notice is subject to change. SCEP will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, SCEP will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

SCEP envisions granting multiple financial assistance awards under one FOA in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for the awards will be approximately three years. Additional information and resources related to this new opportunity may be available at the following web page [Energy Efficiency Materials Pilot Program for Nonprofits | Department of Energy](#).

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Teaming Partner List

SCEP is compiling a Teaming Partner List to facilitate widespread participation in this initiative. This will facilitate nonprofit subrecipients in need of facility upgrades to express interest in receiving subawards for building efficiency projects and for interested Prime Recipients and their potential partners (i.e., financial partners, community outreach organizations, technical partners, utilities, etc.) to identify one another. Applicants may utilize this list to create teams that can competitively address the intent of the anticipated FOA. If selected, Prime Recipients may choose to recruit nonprofit projects from this list as part of the portfolio of building retrofits they proposed to DOE.

The Teaming Partner List is available on <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov> under this NOI DE-FOA-0003065 until a potential FOA is posted. Any organization that would like to be included on this list should submit the following information to the Teaming List email box (NonprofitsFOA@doe.gov) with the subject line “*Nonprofit FOA: Teaming Partner Information*” and must include the following in the body of the email (as applicable):

Organization name, organization contact email, contact phone, organization type, partner category (prime recipient, sub-grantee, utility partner, industry partner, community partner, finance partner) geographical area of impact or interest, area of technical or programmatic expertise (bulleted list less than 25 words), and brief description of capabilities, facility need, and/or potential community impact (less than 100 words).

By submitting a request to be included on the Teaming Partner List, the requesting organization consents to the publication of the above-referenced information. By facilitating this Teaming Partner List, SCEP does not endorse or otherwise evaluate the qualifications of the entities that self-identify themselves for placement on the Teaming Partner List.

Example Program Partnership Scenarios

1. A 501(c)(3) clean energy organization, as the Prime Recipient, partners with an organization working to end hunger across the Northeast U.S. to assemble a portfolio of 20 nonprofit buildings in need of efficiency improvements. The portfolio of projects represents food pantries serving diverse communities, is aligned with Justice40 goals, and has an average energy savings of 25% and carbon reduction of 30% across projects. The clean energy organization engages donors within their existing network to secure cost share funds. The clean energy organization works with building owners and contractors to conduct energy assessments, benchmark energy use, develop scopes of work, and collect bids. By aggregating the demand for retrofits, the clean energy organization can help bring down the per-building retrofit cost. The clean energy

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organization troubleshoots issues with its portfolio of projects, provides measurement and verification assistance, and collects insights gained to share with DOE. The partner organization works with leadership from the portfolio organizations to support marketing and administrative efforts and qualitative program measurement. The 20 participating nonprofit building owners experience reduced energy spend which is reprogrammed to mission-critical work supporting food security their communities.

2. A 501(c)(3) college with a robust sustainability department engages community foundations supporting nonprofits located in high need regions of their state as well as investor-owned utilities that provide rebates for energy efficiency upgrades. The college works with the community foundations to identify a diverse portfolio of 35 501(c)(3) nonprofits in their network that own and operate their buildings, show the need for building improvements, and have the capacity to manage upgrade implementation. College faculty and graduate students conduct ASHRAE 2.0 level building audits and provide each organization with a report and prioritized list of high impact efficiency upgrades. College faculty and graduate students estimate energy reductions of the portfolio to average 30% and greenhouse gas reductions to average 35%. They work with building owners and contractors to benchmark, develop scopes of work, and collect and review bids. The community foundations work with utilities and staff from portfolio nonprofits to apply for utility rebate programs. The cost share requirement is met through a combination of in-kind personnel costs (building assessments) and building owner contributions. The community foundations support administrative efforts and market the program outcomes to communities across the state. As a result of significant operational savings from the upgrades, the 35 nonprofit participants expand mission-critical services and staff.

Recommendations

SCEP plans to issue the FOA on or about May 2023 via the Clean Energy Infrastructure eXCHANGE website <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx>. If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from SCEP regarding this FOA, they should register in Clean Energy Infrastructure eXCHANGE. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through Clean Energy Infrastructure eXCHANGE.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Nonprofit “Team Leaders” are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in Clean Energy Infrastructure eXCHANGE at <https://infrastructure-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx>. This account will allow the user to

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apply to any open SCEP FOAs that are currently in Clean Energy Infrastructure eXCHANGE. To access Clean Energy Infrastructure eXCHANGE, potential applicants will be required to have a [Login.gov](https://login.gov) account. As part of the eXCHANGE registration process, new users are directed to create an account in [Login.gov](https://login.gov). Please note that the email address associated with Login.gov must match the email address associated with the eXCHANGE account. For more information, refer to the Exchange Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Quick Guide in the [Manuals section](#) of eXCHANGE.

It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Questions related to the registration process and use of the Clean Energy Infrastructure eXCHANGE website should be submitted to: InfrastructureExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov.

- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually. Upon registration, SAM will automatically assign a Unique Entity ID (UEI).
NOTE: Due to the high demand of UEI requests and SAM registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration process as soon as possible. If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process, they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue. Additional entity validation resources can be found here: [GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - Validating your Entity](#).
- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through Clean Energy Infrastructure eXCHANGE.

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