



## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

### Monthly TAP Webcast ▶



**April 22**

**Renewable Energy on Contaminated Lands**

Over \$2.6 billion in formula grants are now available to U.S. states, territories, local governments and Indian tribes under the **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program**. To see a list of entities eligible for formula grants and allocation amounts, [click here](#). To obtain a copy of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, which contains complete information for grantees on the Program and application process, go to [FedConnect](#) and search for Reference Number DE-FOA-0000013.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The Program was authorized in Title V, Subtitle E of the **Energy Independence and Security (EISA) Act of 2007**, and signed into Public Law (PL 110-140) on December 19, 2007. The Program provides federal grants to units of local government, Indian tribes, states, and territories to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and for improvements in energy efficiency. The EECBG Program is administered by the Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)**.

Frequently asked questions and answers are below. If you have additional questions regarding the EECBG program, please contact the EERE Information Center via toll-free phone at 1-877-EERE-INFO (1-877-337-3463) or by submitting questions via the web [submission form](#). The EERE Information Center is open Monday - Friday 9AM to 7PM Eastern Standard Time.

You may also subscribe to [EERE's Progress Alerts](#) for updates to the Block Grant Program.

Read more at [Recovery.gov](#) and at the [The White House Agenda: Energy and the Environment](#).

This Web page will be updated regularly. Please check back frequently.

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### **About the EECBG Program**

#### **What is the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program?**

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) provides grants to U.S. local governments, states, territories, and Indian tribes, to fund projects that reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and that improve in energy efficiency.

The EECBG Program represents a Presidential priority to deploy the cheapest, cleanest, and fastest energy source energy efficiency. EECBG was authorized in Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), signed into law on December 19, 2007. It is modeled after the [Community Development Block Grant Program](#) administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

#### **What is the purpose of the Program?**

Section 542 of Title V, Subtitle E of EISA (PL 110-140) describes the Program purpose as the following:

- (b) PURPOSE - The purpose of the program shall be to assist eligible entities in implementing strategies -
1. to reduce fossil fuel emissions created as a result of activities within the jurisdictions of eligible entities in a manner that -
    - A. is environmentally sustainable; and
    - B. to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;
  2. to reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; and
  3. to improve energy efficiency in -
    - A. the transportation sector;
    - B. the building sector; and
    - C. other appropriate sectors.

Additional purposes of the EECBG Program are to spur economic growth and create and/or retain jobs under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

#### **What was the funding level of the Program in past years?**

The EECBG Program is new in 2009; it was funded for the first time by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

### **About the Grants**

### **How much money is available?**

Congress appropriated \$3.2 billion for the EECBG Program, most of which (nearly \$2.7 billion) will be distributed through formula grants. The balance includes approximately \$455 million for competitive grants, which will be awarded through a separate **Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)** coming soon.

Allocations to entities eligible for direct formula grants from the DOE are based on the following approximate funding amounts:

- nearly \$1.9 billion is available to cities and counties
- more than \$770 million is available to states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia
- nearly \$54 million is available to Indian tribes

In addition, each state must pass not less than 60% of its allocation on to cities and counties within the state that are ineligible for direct formula grants from the DOE. Each state decides how to award these sub-grants.

To see a list of entities eligible for formula grants and allocation amounts, [click here](#).

### **What is the formula for the formula grants?**

The population data used in Program formulas are from the 2007 U.S. Census Population.

#### **State Formula**

The formula for determining allocations to states includes three factors that are considered with equal weight: (1) the total population of the state; (2) the population of the state after subtracting the populations of all cities and counties eligible for direct formula grants from DOE in that state; and (3) the total energy consumption in the state, less consumption in the industrial sector.

#### **City/County Formula**

The formula for determining allocations to cities and counties is based on two weighted factors: resident and daytime (commuter) population. The resident population factor receives a weight of approximately 70%, and the daytime population factor receives a weight of approximately 30%. This accounts for the energy use of these populations.

#### **Tribal Formula**

The formula for Tribal governments is based on two weighted factors: tribal population and the climatic conditions in each tribe's state, derived from heating and cooling degree days. The tribal population factor receives a weight of 75% and the tribal climate factor receives a weight 25%.

### **About the Use of Funds**

#### **Generally, what can these funds be used for?**

These funds are to assist State, local, territorial and Tribal governments in implementing strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, total energy use, and improve energy efficiency in all sectors.

#### **What specific activities are eligible for use of funds?**

Funds can be used community wide, not only for government owned facilities and infrastructure. A list of eligible activities for use of program funds is provided in Section 544, Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). Additional details on eligible activities are in the Funding Opportunity Announcement. The following activities are eligible:

- Development of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and Technical Consultant Services to assist in the development of such a strategy.
- Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits.
- Financial Incentive Programs and Mechanisms for energy efficiency improvements such as energy savings performance contracting, on-bill financing, and revolving loan funds.
- Grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing Energy Efficiency Retrofits.
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities.
- Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs to conserve energy.
- Building Codes and Inspections to promote building energy efficiency.
- Energy Distribution Technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including distributed resources, combined heat and power, and district heating and cooling systems.
- Material Conservation Programs including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency.
- Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases generated by landfills or similar waste-related sources.
- Energy efficient Traffic Signals and Street Lighting.
- Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings.
- Any Other Appropriate Activity that meets the purposes of the program and is approved by DOE.

#### **How should activities be prioritized in planning for use of funds?**

Energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy programs and projects are building blocks for increased economic vitality, energy security, and environmental quality. EECBG program funds will have maximum impact if invested in ways that create and/or retain jobs and stimulate the economy in the short term while laying the foundation for a long-term and sustainable clean energy economy. DOE encourages grantees to prioritize programs and projects that:

- Leverage other public and private resources.
- Enhance workforce development.
- Persist beyond the funding period.
- Promote energy market transformation such as revolving loans, low-cost loans, energy savings performance contracting, advanced building codes, building and home retrofit incentives and policies, and transportation programs and policies.

#### **About Eligibility**

##### **Who is eligible to apply for formula grants?**

U.S. states, territories, Indian tribes, cities and counties are eligible to receive funds under the EECBG Program. DOE uses the most recent and accurate population data

from the U.S. Census to determine eligibility.

**States** For the purposes of the EECBG Program, the definition of "state" includes the 50 United States, the District of Columbia and the following territories of the United States: Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Specifically, the State Energy Office of each state is eligible to apply.

**Cities** For the purposes of the EECBG Program, the definition of "city" includes city equivalent units of local government such as towns or villages. Consolidated city-county governments will be considered as cities. A city is eligible for a direct formula grants from DOE if it has a population of at least 35,000 or if it is one of the 10 highest populated cities of the state in which it is located. Cities that do not meet the eligibility requirements for direct formula grants from DOE are still eligible for program funds through the state in which they are located.

**Counties** For the purposes of the EECBG Program, the definition of "county" includes county equivalent units of local government such as parishes or boroughs. Consolidated city-county governments will be considered as cities. A county is eligible for a direct formula grant from DOE if it has a population of at least 200,000 or if it is one of the 10 highest populated counties of the state in which it is located. County populations calculated for eligibility for direct formula grants from DOE do not include the populations of cities within them that are eligible for direct formula grants from DOE. Counties that do not meet the eligibility requirements for direct formula grants from DOE are still eligible for program funds through the state in which they are located.

**Indian Tribes** All Federally recognized Indian tribes and any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688; 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) are eligible for direct formula grants from DOE.

#### **How do I know if I am eligible?**

To see a list of entities eligible for formula grants and allocation amounts, [click here](#). For eligibility information regarding funding from states, contact your State Energy Office. For contact information for your State Energy Office, visit the [National Association of State Energy Officials](#).

#### **About the Application Process**

##### **Are there any pre-application requirements?**

Yes. In order to do business with the Federal government, a three-step registration process is required of all applicants. Please allow 21 days to complete the registration process.

Step 1: Request a DUNS Number at:  
<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>

Step 2: Register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) at:  
<http://www.ccr.gov/>

Step 3: E-Business Point of Contact must register in FedConnect at:  
<https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/>

**How do I apply to receive a formula grant from the DOE?** For complete application instructions and program

information, a copy of the Funding Opportunity Announcement can be obtained from [FedConnect](#) by searching under Reference Number DE-FOA-0000013. Applications must be submitted through FedConnect. If you have problems, email [support@fedconnect.net](mailto:support@fedconnect.net)

**What is FedConnect?** FedConnect is an online marketplace where federal agencies post opportunities and make awards via the web. For more information about FedConnect, download and read:

[https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect\\_Ready\\_Set\\_Go.pdf](https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf)

**How do I apply for a competitive grant from the DOE?** DOE's first priority is to award the formula grants. Details on applying for competitive grants will soon be provided in a Funding Opportunity Announcement.

**How do I apply for funds from my state?**

Contact your State Energy Office to request information on your state's plan for awarding sub grants under the EECBG program. For contact information, visit the [National Association of State Energy Officials](#).

**When will applications be accepted?**

Applications can be accepted now through FedConnect.

**What is the deadline to apply?**

The application due date for states is May 26, 2009 at 8:00:00 PM Eastern Time.

The application due date for cities, counties, and Indian tribes eligible for direct formula grants from the DOE is June 25, 2009 at 8:00:00 PM Eastern Time.

**How will applications be reviewed?**

The DOE's project management team will review each application to ensure that the grantee has developed a strategy for use of funds with activities eligible under the Program, and that the proposed budgets are acceptable.

**About Reporting and Accountability**

**How will success be measured?**

Grantees will be required to report regularly to the DOE on five metrics:

1. Jobs created and/or retained
2. Energy savings on a per dollar invested basis
3. Renewable energy capacity installed
4. Greenhouse gas emissions reduced
5. Funds leveraged

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