



GRANT APPLICATION GUIDANCE

SC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)

For: Competitive Grants

Project Types: Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Clean Transportation

DOE Federal Award ID: DE-SE0000167 – CFDA #81.128

Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the US Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded funding to the South Carolina Energy Office (Energy Office), an office housed within the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), to fund projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation.

Purpose: Improve energy efficiency, reduce energy use, cut carbon emissions, and build a clean and equitable energy economy.

Eligible Applicants: Units of local government that were ineligible to receive EECBG direct formula funding from the DOE.

Ineligible Applicants: Units of local government that were eligible to receive EECBG direct formula funding from DOE, including but not limited to casinos or other gambling establishments, aquariums, zoos, golf courses, or swimming pools. Any buildings or infrastructure supporting the above establishments are also ineligible.

Subrecipients: A non-Federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program.

Available Funding: The Energy Office intends to fund multiple projects through issuance of subgrants for up to \$75,000 per Eligible Applicant. The Energy Office reserves the right to adjust the final subgrant amounts based on the applications received. No cost match is required.

Timeline: Subrecipients must begin their projects within 30 days of execution of a Grant Agreement with the Energy Office. Subrecipients shall submit periodic status reports as outlined in the Grant Agreement. The project period, to be specified in the Grant Agreement, may last up to two (2) years, but the Energy Office reserves the right to withdraw and reallocate funds to other eligible entities if Subrecipients have not made adequate progress according to periodic status reports. Projects must be completed by **May 15, 2026**.

Application Process: Applications should be submitted on the [2023 EECBG Application Form](#) provided, with supporting materials and technical analyses, as appropriate. Completed applications, with all necessary supporting information, must be received by the Energy Office no later than 11:59 pm EST on Monday, **January 08, 2024**.

Application Submission: Please submit complete application packages, signed by an authorized representative of the Eligible Applicant, via email to energy@ors.sc.gov.

EECBG Eligible Activities for South Carolina

All proposed projects must fall under one (or more) of the following eight (8) categories of eligible activities described in the DOE's [Guidance for Eligibility of Activities under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\) Program](#) document. (**Note:** the category numbers are the same as the categories for US DOE)

- **Strategy Development and Implementation (DOE Category 1)**
- **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants for Government Agencies (DOE Category 5)**
- **Conservation of Transportation Energy (DOE Category 7)**
- **Building Codes and Inspection Services (DOE Category 8)**
- **Reduction, Capture, and Use of Landfill Gases (DOE Category 11)**
- **Replacement of Traffic Signals and Street Lighting (DOE Category 12)**
- **On-site Renewable Energy on or in a Government Building (DOE Category 13)**
- **Programs for Financing, Purchasing, and Installing Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Zero-emission Transportation (and associated infrastructure) Measures and Capital Investments, Projects, and Programs for Leveraging Public and Private Sector Funds (DOE Category 14)**

To assist Eligible Applicants in developing and implementing effective projects, DOE created [EECBG Blueprints](#) – detailed guidance documents accompanied by helpful tools and resources – for the following topics: Energy Planning, Efficient Buildings, Renewables, Electric Transportation, Finance, and Workforce. *Eligible Applicants are encouraged to utilize a relevant Blueprint, if applicable, as they develop their project.*

Other Requirements

Reimbursement of Expenses: Subrecipients shall request reimbursement for eligible costs incurred in accordance with the approved project budget on the ORS reimbursement request form provided by the Energy Office.

Project Permits: Subrecipients shall be responsible for obtaining any necessary licenses and/or permits and for complying with applicable federal, state, municipal laws, codes, and regulations in connection with the project.

Procurement: Subrecipients shall procure goods and services according to their established procurement policies, provided that the procurements conform to State law. For details please review Subrecipient certification of General Procurement Standards outlined in 2 CFR 200.317 through 200.327.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): All projects receiving a grant award must comply with NEPA. Projects activities that are not categorically excluded in the funding source's NEPA determination will require submission of an Environmental Questionnaire, with review and approval by DOE.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): All projects receiving a grant award must comply with NHPA. Projects with a potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties will require submission of a Section 106 Review Form, with review and approval by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. For information about activities exempt under the NHPA, please review the [South Carolina NHPA Programmatic Agreement](#).

Build America, Buy America (BABA): All projects involving the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of publicly owned or public serving infrastructure are subject to BABA. Federally assisted projects that involve infrastructure work, undertaken by applicable recipient types, require that:

- All iron, steel, and manufactured products used in the infrastructure work are produced in the United States; and
- All construction materials used in the infrastructure work are manufactured in the United States.

BABA guidelines are described in greater detail in the [EECBG Administrative and Legal Requirements Document](#). When necessary, Subrecipients may apply for, and DOE may grant, a waiver from BABA requirements.

Davis Bacon Act (DBA): All projects receiving a grant award must comply with DBA. All laborers and mechanics employed in performance of construction, alteration, or repair work in excess of \$2,000 shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality.

Maintenance of Records and Audit Requirements

Subrecipients must maintain records pertinent to all grants, agreements, and accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These records shall be made available to the Energy Office, or any of its designated representatives, upon request for examination and audit. Subrecipients must comply with audit requirements for federal funds, OMB Circular, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations and AICPA Standards. Annual financial statements are required to be audited by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in accordance with the applicable OMB Circular and/or AICPA Standards. Documents must be retained for three (3) years per Federal requirements. These funds are required to be listed on the Schedule of Federal Expenditures under CFDA #81.041. Within nine (9) months of the close of the Subrecipients' fiscal year, Subrecipients shall be required to provide the Energy Office with financial statements that reflect the receipt of these federal funds.

Review and Award Process

Complete and timely applications shall be reviewed and scored by an Energy Office selection committee, based on the following general criteria:

- Savings - Expected energy savings and emission reductions according to [EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#);
- Impact - Simple payback period and expected useful life of the project and impact (see Section D. of the EECBG Application Form);
- Location – Special consideration will be given to projects occurring in a federally defined [Disadvantaged Community](#) and that may be of community interest;
- Feasibility - Ability to complete the project within the specified timeline and budget;
- Innovation – Innovative projects will utilize new and creative ideas, methods, partnerships, and/or technologies; and
- Resilience – Resilient projects will demonstrate compatibility with current or future infrastructure. They will continue to positively impact communities even when faced with environmental change and natural hazards.

The Energy Office reserves the right to award grants that are in the public interest.

The Energy Office selection committee shall present recommended projects to the Energy Advisory Council (EAC). Following EAC review and final recommendations, the Executive Director of the ORS shall make a final determination to award subgrants to the selected Eligible Applicant(s). Following a final determination, the Energy Office will notify the Eligible Applicant(s) selected for subgrants (Subrecipients) and send Subrecipients a Grant Agreement that will include the award notice stating the amount of the award(s), the approved use of the funds, the effective date of the award(s), and the assigned Energy Office contact. The Energy Office and Subrecipient may negotiate the final terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement. The Energy Office reserves the right to withdraw the offered award for any Subrecipients unable to agree to the final terms and conditions under the Grant Agreement. The Energy Office further reserves the right to withhold and reallocate funds to other Eligible Applicants if Subrecipients fail to achieve their proposed projects' goals according to the project overview and timeline described in the Grant Agreement.

Reporting

Following project completion, Subrecipients must submit a Project Completion Narrative Report (form to be provided by the Energy Office) along with their final request for reimbursement which includes:

- All procurement supporting documentation related to the project including invoices, proofs of purchase, and vendor payment;
- Quantitative information such as estimated annual energy savings, with offset source specified (electricity, natural gas, petroleum, etc.); and
- Qualitative information such as system performance, publicity, public involvement, etc., including photos, news stories, and/or other narrative descriptions. Such information shall assist the Energy Office assess the degree to which Subrecipient meets the terms of the Grant Agreement.

Monitoring

The Energy Office shall conduct an on-site project monitoring/inspection visit prior to making the final grant disbursement.

Questions

Please direct questions about the solicitation or application process to:
The Energy Office - SC Office of
Regulatory Staff at
energycs@ors.sc.gov
Subject: EECBG Program

Applications are due Monday, January 08, 2024, by 11:59 pm EST.