



Mini-Grant Program Solicitation

Fiscal Year 2027

Program Overview

The South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) Mini-Grant Program awards up to \$75,000 for high-impact projects in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. Each year, the program funds projects that cut energy costs, showcase new technologies and approaches, and serve as models for communities across the state. Mini-Grant projects should be highly visible and should encourage awareness of emerging technologies or innovative approaches that others can learn from and replicate.

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) State Energy Program (SEP) through supplemental funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). As a result, FY2027 awards are larger than in past grant cycles, allowing for projects that go beyond demonstration to deliver lasting energy and cost savings. SCEO expects future Mini-Grant awards to be smaller.

Key detail	Information
Maximum award	\$75,000 (cost share not required)
Project types	Energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation
Applications open	October 8, 2026
Application deadline	5:00 p.m. EST, November 30, 2026
Project completion deadline	December 1, 2027
Submit to	energyics@ors.sc.gov
Questions	Michael Garner, mgarner@ors.sc.gov or 803-737-2090

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- State agencies
- Local governments
- Public colleges, universities, and technical colleges
- K-12 public schools
- Nonprofit organizations

Mini-Grants fund new projects only. Projects that have already begun are not eligible. Applicants must own the project property or be the designated controlling agency of property titled to the State of South Carolina.

Available Funding

The maximum award is \$75,000 per project. Cost sharing is not required, but leveraging other funds is encouraged to maximize a project's energy benefits. Applicant contributions are one of the selection criteria (see Review and Selection). Due to limited funding, Mini-Grants are competitive and only a small number of projects may receive a grant award.

Mini-Grants are paid on a reimbursement basis. Recipients pay project costs and then request reimbursement from SCEO. The final disbursement is made following SCEO's on-site monitoring visit of the completed project. Costs incurred before the grant agreement is executed are not eligible for reimbursement.

Example Projects

The following are examples of projects that may be eligible. Other projects that meet the program's purpose will also be considered.

Project type	Example projects
Energy efficiency	LED lighting retrofits; high-efficiency HVAC or heat pump upgrades; building automation and energy management systems; insulation, window films, or shading; efficient water heating.
Renewable energy	Rooftop or ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems; solar paired with battery storage; solar water heating.
Clean transportation	Public or workplace electric vehicle (EV) charging stations; electric vehicles, to include non-road vehicles; alternative fuel infrastructure.

Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Applications open	October 8, 2026

Milestone	Date
Application deadline	5:00 p.m. EST, November 30, 2026
Award notifications	January-February 2027
Project start	Within 30 days of grant agreement execution
Project completion deadline	December 1, 2027

Recipients will be asked to submit periodic status reports during the project period.

How to Apply

1. Review this solicitation and the [Mini-Grant Program webpage](#).
1. Complete the [FY2027 Mini-Grant Program Application](#), including the authorized signature.
2. Attach the [Supplemental Information Worksheet](#) for your project type and any supporting materials and technical analyses, as appropriate, such as vendor quotes, cost estimates, or energy savings calculations.
3. Email the completed application and all attachments to energyys@ors.sc.gov by 5:00 p.m. EST on November 30, 2026. Use the subject line "FY2027 Mini-Grant Application – [Organization Name]."

Only complete applications that meet eligibility requirements will be considered. We encourage applicants to review our guide, [Tips for Writing a Strong Application](#), to ensure scoring criteria are fully addressed.

To request submission by mail or alternate method, contact energyys@ors.sc.gov or 803-737-2090.

Review and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by an SCEO selection committee based on the following general criteria:

- Expected energy savings and simple payback period
- Visibility of the project
- Ability to complete the project within the specified timeframe
- Applicant's contribution to the project, including the applicant's proposed post-installation evaluation of impact (see Reporting and Monitoring)
- Educational and/or demonstration value of the project
- Expected useful life of the project and impact

For clean transportation projects, the following general criteria also apply:

- Avoided consumption of petroleum products

- Reduction in vehicle miles traveled
- Compatibility with current or future infrastructure, community interest, or policies/goals

During the application review process, applicants may be contacted for clarification and additional information. The SCEO reserves the right to award funds for an amount other than that requested and/or request changes to, or clarification of, the proposed project.

The SCEO selection committee will submit recommendations to the Energy Advisory Council for review and approval. All final award determinations are made by the Executive Director of the SC Office of Regulatory Staff. Following award selections, the SCEO will send each selected recipient a grant award agreement stating the award amount, the approved use of funds, the effective date of the award, and the assigned SCEO contact.

Award Requirements

Unique Entity ID: Selected applicants must provide a Unique Entity ID (UEI), obtained through SAM.gov, before the grant award agreement is executed.

Project Permits: Recipients are responsible for obtaining any necessary licenses and permits and for complying with applicable federal, state, and municipal laws, codes, and regulations in connection with the project.

Procurement: Recipients shall procure goods and services according to their established procurement policies, provided that the procurements conform to state law and the applicable federal procurement standards at 2 CFR 200.317–200.327.

Reimbursement of expenses: Recipients shall request reimbursement for costs incurred in accordance with the approved project budget, using the SCEO Reimbursement Request form.

Schools: K-12 public schools are responsible for complying with all requirements of the Office of School Facilities, SC Department of Education.

Federal Requirements

All projects receiving a Mini-Grant must comply with federal requirements, including the [U.S. DOE Special Terms and Conditions](#) and the following:

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** Projects not included in NEPA’s “Bounded Categories” will require submission of an Environmental Questionnaire, with review and approval by DOE.
- **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA):** Projects with the potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties will require submission of a Section 106 Review Form for review and approval by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.
- **Build America, Buy America (BABA):** Projects involving the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of publicly owned or public-serving infrastructure are subject to BABA. When necessary, recipients may apply to DOE for a waiver from BABA requirements.
- **Davis-Bacon Act (DBA):** Construction, alteration, or repair contracts in excess of \$2,000 are subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements. All laborers and mechanics

employed on such work shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality.

Records and Audit Requirements

Recipients must keep records related to the grant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for three years after the final reimbursement request is submitted. Records must be made available to SCEO, DOE, or their designated representatives for examination and audit.

Recipients that spend \$1,000,000 or more in federal funds during their fiscal year must obtain a single audit in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart F and notify SCEO of any findings related to this grant. Recipients below this threshold are not required to obtain a federal audit.

Mini-Grant funds must be reported on the recipient's Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) as Assistance Listing No. 81.041, passed through the SC Office of Regulatory Staff. Within nine (9) months of the close of its fiscal year, each recipient must submit to the Office of Regulatory Staff financial statements that reflect the receipt of these federal funds.

Reporting and Monitoring

Following project completion, recipients must submit a Project Completion Narrative Report (form provided by SCEO) with their final reimbursement request. The report must include:

- All procurement documentation related to the project, including invoices, proofs of purchase, and vendor payments
- Estimated annual energy savings, with the offset source specified (electricity, natural gas, petroleum, etc.)
- Qualitative information about system performance, publicity, and public involvement, such as photos, news stories, or other narrative descriptions

SCEO will conduct an on-site monitoring and inspection visit before making the final grant disbursement.

Questions

Direct questions about this solicitation or the application process to the South Carolina Energy Office. All questions should be submitted to:

Michael Garner, Energy Data Specialist
mgarner@ors.sc.gov
803-737-2090

This solicitation is available in alternate formats upon request. Contact energycs@ors.sc.gov for assistance.