

ROUND 2 – SUBGRANT APPLICATION GUIDANCE

SC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Competitive Program (SC 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 (US DOE) awarded funding to the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO), within the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), to award subgrants 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.

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

Eligible Applicants:

1. Units of local government ineligible to receive EECBG formula funding directly from the US DOE, and
2. Units of government within a State, including a county, municipality, city, town, township, parish, village, local public authority, school district, special district, council of governments, or any other regional or intrastate governmental entity or instrumentality of a local government.

Ineligible Applicants: Units of local government that were eligible to receive EECBG formula funding directly from US DOE. Ineligible applicants also include, but are not limited to, casinos or other gambling establishments, and any buildings or infrastructure supporting the above establishments.

Application Packages: Prepare an application package using the Round 2 - [2024 SC EECBG Application Form](#). Applications must include supporting materials and technical analyses. Refer to the “Supplemental Information” Worksheet document for a guide to information needed to assess proposed projects that include:

- Alternative Fuel Vehicles, including Electric Vehicles (EV) and Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE)
- Lighting
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), as well as Smart Thermostats
- Building Envelope (windows, doors, insulation, etc.), and Duct Work
- Solar Installation

Application Submission: Submit complete application packages, signed by an authorized representative of the eligible applicant, via email to energycs@ors.sc.gov. Completed applications, with all necessary supporting information, must be received by the SCEO no later than **11:59 pm EST on Monday, April 15, 2024**.

SC EECBG Eligible Activity Project Categories

All proposed projects must fall under one (or more) of the following eight (8) categories of Eligible Activities (Projects) described in the US 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 (US DOE Category 1)**
- **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants for Government Agencies (US DOE Category 5)**
- **Conservation of Transportation Energy (US DOE Category 7)**
- **Building Codes and Inspection Services (US DOE Category 8)**
- **Reduction, Capture, and Use of Landfill Gases (US DOE Category 11)**
- **Replacement of Traffic Signals and Street Lighting (US DOE Category 12)**
- **On-site Renewable Energy on or in a Government Building (US 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 (US DOE Category 14)**

US DOE created topical guidance documents ([EECBG Blueprints](#)) with tools and resources applicable to: Energy Planning, Efficient Buildings, Renewables, Electric Transportation, Finance, and Workforce. EECBG Blueprints may assist Eligible Applicants in developing and implementing effective projects.

Review, Selection, and Award Offer

Complete and timely applications shall be reviewed and scored by an SCEO selection committee, using 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 of community interest, especially projects benefiting a federally defined [Disadvantaged Community](#) (See Section III.E. of the SC EECBG Application Form).
- Feasibility – Ability to complete the project within the specified timeline and budget (See Sections IV. And V. of the SC EECBG Application Form).
- Innovation – Innovative projects utilize new and creative ideas, methods, partnerships, and/or technologies (See Section III.C1. of the SC EECBG Application Form).
- Resilience – Resilient projects demonstrate compatibility with current or future infrastructure. Projects that support a community’s ability to anticipate, absorb, recover, and thrive when presented with environmental change and natural hazards (See Section III.C2. of the SC EECBG Application Form).

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

The SCEO selection committee will recommend scored projects to the Energy Advisory Council (EAC) for approval. The Executive Director of the ORS shall make the final determination for projects to fund, considering the recommendations of the EAC. Following a final determination, the SCEO will notify all applicant(s). Proposed Subrecipients shall be notified of the offered amount of the award(s), the approved use of the funds, and the assigned SCEO project officer. The SCEO will send Proposed Subrecipients an Award Agreement with terms and conditions for the offered award. Proposed Subrecipients may negotiate the final terms and conditions of the Award Agreement. The SCEO reserves the right to withdraw an offered award where the SCEO and a Proposed Subrecipient are unable to agree to final terms and conditions under the Award Agreement. The SCEO further reserves the right to withhold and reallocate funds to other Eligible Applicants if a Subrecipient fails to achieve the proposed projects’ goals according to the project overview and timeline described in the Award Agreement.

Subrecipient Requirements

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

Award Agreements contain detailed requirements, including, but not limited to, the items noted below:

Timeline: Subrecipient must begin the approved project(s) within 30 days of execution of an Award Agreement with the SCEO. The project period, to be specified in the Award Agreement, may last up to two (2) years.

Completion: The Project must be complete no later than May 15, 2026 (Project Completion Date). Completion includes submission of the final Reimbursement Request and other information as specified in the Award Agreement. If the Project is not completed by the Project Completion Date, the Subrecipient may not be entitled to receive funds from the SC EECBG program and SCEO has the right to terminate the Award Agreement. The SCEO reserves the right to withdraw and reallocate funds to other eligible entities if a Subrecipient has not made adequate progress toward project completion as reflected in Subrecipient's periodic status reports. The Subrecipient acknowledges and agrees that SCEO has final discretion as to the determination of adequate progress, completion and Subrecipient's compliance with the Award Agreement.

Reimbursement of Expenses: Subrecipients shall request reimbursement for eligible costs incurred in accordance with the approved project budget using the SC EECBG Reimbursement Request form provided by the SCEO. Costs incurred by Subrecipient prior to the Effective Date of the Award Agreement are not eligible for reimbursement.

Project Permits: Subrecipients shall be responsible for obtaining any necessary licenses, permits, waivers, and for compliance 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 procurement policies conform to applicable federal and State laws, regulations, and standards, including, but not limited to the General Procurement Standards of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, as amended by 2 C.F.R. Part 910.

Federal Requirements: All projects receiving an EECBG grant award must comply with specific federal flow-down requirements to which Subrecipients must comply, including, but not limited to:

- **[National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#):** Project activities that involve groundbreaking activities may require submission of an Environmental Questionnaire, with review and approval by US DOE.
- **[National Historic Preservation Act \(NHPA\)](#):** 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 US DOE may grant, a waiver from BABA requirements.

- **[Davis-Bacon Act \(DBA\)](#)**: 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 this Award, including but not limited to all Project-related agreements and accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These records must be retained for three (3) years from the date of the final reimbursement from the SCEO, or longer per Federal requirements.

Subrecipients must comply with audit requirements for federal funds defined in 2 CFR Part 200, as amended by 2 CFR 910. Within nine (9) months of the close of Subrecipients' fiscal year, Subrecipients shall be required to provide the SCEO with financial statements that reflect the receipt of these federal funds. Annual financial statements must be audited by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and specifically state that the financial statements were completed in accordance with applicable OMB Circular, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations and American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) standards.

Reporting

Throughout the Award period, Subrecipients shall submit progress reports quarterly to the SCEO. Reimbursement Requests may be submitted on either a monthly or quarterly basis, as selected by Subrecipient. Following Project completion, Subrecipients must submit a final Reimbursement Request, no later than May 15, 2026, along with a Project Completion Narrative Report (form to be provided by the SCEO) and when applicable, payroll worksheets in accordance with DBA.

Monitoring

The SCEO shall conduct post-Project monitoring prior to making the final grant reimbursement to Subrecipient.

Questions

Please direct questions about the solicitation or application process to:

The Energy Office –
SC Office of Regulatory Staff
energycs@ors.sc.gov

Subject: Round 2 SC EECBG Program

Applications accepted through Monday, April 15, 2024, by 11:59 pm ET.