

## US DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

### Competitive Grants

DOE is now accepting applications for up to \$454 million in EECBG competitive grants. The competitive grants [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(PDF 394 KB\)](#) (FOA) was issued on October 19, 2009 and applications will be accepted through [Grants.gov](#) until December 14, 2009.

DOE is releasing this FOA seeking innovative state, local government and Indian tribe programs funded under the Recovery Act. This FOA will use up to \$454 million in Recovery Act EECBG funds for these competitive grants awarded in two topic areas - (1) the Retrofit Ramp-up Program and (2) the General Innovation Fund.

The goal of this competitive FOA is to stimulate activities that move beyond traditional public awareness campaigns, program maintenance, demonstration projects, and other "one-time" strategies and projects. DOE seeks to stimulate activities and investments which can:

1. Fundamentally and permanently transform energy markets in a way that make energy efficiency and renewable energy the options of first choice; and
2. Sustain themselves beyond the grant monies and the grant period by designing a viable strategy for program sustainability into the overall program plan.

In this FOA, DOE is seeking applications which:

- Leverage the participation and support of multiple local jurisdictions, regional planning agencies, and state energy offices;
- Prioritize energy efficiency and/or energy conservation as first in the loading order before investments are made in new generation; however, DOE is interested in applications that integrate cost-effective renewables with efficiency.
- Move beyond the planning stage and ready for implementation;

- Clearly articulate and demonstrate the ability to achieve measurable stretch goals and that have the potential to make an impact at the regional or national level; and
- Maximize the creation and/or retention of jobs in the United States.

The first topic area, the "Retrofit Ramp-Up" program, will award up to \$390 million for innovative programs that are structured to provide whole-neighborhood building energy retrofits. These will be projects that demonstrate a sustainable business model for providing cost-effective energy upgrades for a large percentage of the residential, commercial, and public buildings in a specific community. Possible approaches could include innovative partnerships between the public and private sector, utility retrofit and audit programs, alternative financing, retail partnerships, and others. DOE expects to make 8 to 20 awards under this topic area, with award size ranging from \$5-75 million.

The second topic area, the "General Innovation Fund," will award up to \$64 million to cities, counties and State-recognized Indian Tribes that were not eligible to receive population-based formula grant allocations from DOE under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. These funds are intended to help expand local energy efficiency efforts and reduce energy use in the commercial, residential, transportation, manufacturing, or industrial sectors. DOE expects to make 15 to 60 awards, with award size ranging from \$1-5 million.

For complete details on the availability of funds please see [FOA \(PDF 394 KB\)](#). Frequently asked questions regarding the competitive grants can be found [here](#).

### **Additional Resources**

- Whitehouse Recovery through Retrofit Initiative
- DOE's Building Energy Codes Website
- Program Evaluation Methodology *coming soon*

### **How to Apply**

A summary of the key application steps can be found [here \(PDF 23 KB\)](#). For complete application details, please see the [FOA \(PDF 394 KB\)](#).