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\$454 Million Funds Available DOE Seeks Applications for Innovative Energy Programs

On Monday, October 19, 2009, the Department of Energy (DOE) released a competitive grant solicitation for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. Funding for this grant program was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Applicants are requested to submit a letter of intent by November 19, 2009. Failure to submit such letters will not negatively affect a responsive application submitted in a timely fashion. The letter of intent should be sent by E-mail to FOA148@emcbc.doe.gov.

To submit an application for an EECG grant, applicants must be registered with Grants.gov at <http://www.grants.gov>. Allow at least 21 days to complete all registration requirements.

Applications must be received by December 14, 2009. DOE anticipates notifying applicants selected for award by March 15, 2010, and making awards by May 15, 2010. Entities are required to obligate/commit all funds within eighteen (18) months from the effective date of the award. In the event funds are not obligated/committed within eighteen (18) months, DOE reserves the right to de-obligate the funds and cancel the award.

DOE is awarding \$453.72 million in Recovery Act EECBG funds for competitive grants in two topic areas. Applicants may submit multiple applications to a topic area and/or apply to multiple topic areas; however separate stand-alone applications must be submitted.

1. Topic 1, the Retrofit Ramp-up Program, will award a total of \$390.04 million for 8 – 20 projects ranging between of \$5 million to \$75 million.
2. Topic 2, the General Innovation Fund, is for competitive grants program reserved for units of local government and state-recognized tribes not eligible for direct formula grants. Topic 2 provides up to \$63.68 million for projects of \$1million to \$5 million for 15 to 60 awards.

TOPIC 1 – The Retrofit Ramp-up Program

The following entities may apply under Topic 1:

1. States;
2. Formula-eligible units of local government (*a unit of local government that was eligible for direct funding under the EECBG formula. A list of formula eligible local governments can be found on the program website <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov>*);
3. Formula-eligible Indian tribes;
4. Entities eligible under Topic 2; and
5. Governmental, quasi-governmental, or non-governmental not-for-profit organizations authorized by and on behalf of entities described in 1 through 4.

Under the Retrofit Ramp-up Program, DOE is seeking applications that target innovative, “game changing” ideas that will create a comprehensive framework for building retrofits that can serve as templates for other communities across the country. Projects should address key obstacles (e.g., upfront cost, lack of consumer confidence), are long-term, replicable, scalable, and enable continued energy efficiency investment beyond the grant period.

The goal of Topic 1: The Retrofit Ramp-up Program aims to stimulate activities and investments which can:

- Deliver verified energy savings from a variety of projects in the local jurisdiction of the applicant, with a particular emphasis on efficiency improvements in residential, commercial, industrial and public buildings;
- Achieve broader market participation and greater efficiency savings from building retrofits;
- Highly leverage grant funding in order to significantly enhance the resources available for supporting the program;
- Sustain themselves beyond the grant monies and the grant period by designing a viable strategy for program sustainability;
- Serve as pilot building retrofit programs that demonstrate the benefits of gaining economy of scale; and
- Serve as examples of comprehensive community-scale energy-efficiency approaches that could be replicated in other communities across the country.

TOPIC 2 – The General Innovation Fund

Through Topic 2, DOE wishes to support program approaches that prove the value of investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy so that future funding to support similar efforts by other local governments can be confidently provided by those govern-

ments or private sources as good investments. DOE has intentionally left Topic Area 2 broad to allow for innovation in program design and delivery across a wide variety of market sectors.

Only the following entities may apply for financial assistance under Topic 2:

- Units of local government (or State-recognized Indian tribes) that were not eligible for EECBG formula dollars. *A list of those communities who were eligible for formula dollars can be found on the program website <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov>;*
- A governmental, quasi-governmental, or non-governmental, not-for-profit organization authorized by and on behalf of a unit of local government (or State recognized Indian tribe) that is not an eligible entity; or
- A consortia of units of local governments (or State-recognized Indian Tribes) that are not eligible entities. States, formula-eligible units of local government, and formula-eligible Indian tribes are not eligible to apply for Topic 2.

Through Topic 2, DOE will provide financial assistance to units of local governments (and State-recognized Indian tribes) that are not formula-eligible entities to implement programs that:

1. Contribute to meaningful and sustainable market transformation (are broadly replicable and scalable and/or bring a significant benefit to other units of local government and State-recognized Indian tribes through the successful execution of an outcome or deliverable);
2. Highly leverage DOE financial assistance to achieve significant energy and cost savings and create jobs;
3. Result in a new or innovative approaches to the purposes of the EECBG program which are to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy use, and increase energy efficiency; and
4. Are capable of being financially self-sustaining beyond the funding period.

The following examples are provided to illustrate potential areas of activity and are not intended to be comprehensive:

- Building Energy Audits
- Financial Incentive Programs for Energy Efficiency Improvements
- Energy Efficiency Retrofits
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities
- Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs to Conserve Energy

- Building Codes and Enforcement
- Energy Distribution Technologies for Energy Efficiency
- Material Conservation Programs including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs
- Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases
- Replacement of Traffic Signals and Street Lighting with Energy Efficient Lighting Technologies
- Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings

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