

US Department of Energy

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/block_grants.cfm

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 appropriated \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program for fiscal year 2009. The EECBG Program was authorized in Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), signed into Public Law (PL 110-140) on December 19, 2007. The Program provides federal grants to units of local government, Indian tribes, states, and U.S. territories to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and for improvements in energy efficiency. The EECBG Program is administered by the Office Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

What Is the Purpose of the Program?

The purposes of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program are to:

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions
- Decrease total energy consumption
- Improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building, and other energy consuming sectors
- Spur economic growth
- Create and/or retain jobs

Who Is Eligible To Receive Funding?

States, U.S. territories, Indian tribes, units of local government, and consortia of these entities are eligible to receive funds under the EECBG Program. DOE uses the most recent and accurate population data from the U.S. Census to determine eligibility. Specific definitions for eligibility are as follows:

States and Territories

Entities eligible under the definition of "state" are the 50 United States, the District of Columbia and the following territories of the United States: Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All states are eligible to apply for direct formula grants and competitive grants from DOE.

Cities

Entities eligible under the definition of "city" are cities and city-equivalent units of local government such as towns, boroughs, villages or other municipalities. Consolidated city-county governments will be considered as cities.

Depending on population, cities are eligible for EECBG program funds either directly from DOE or from the state in which they are located. A city with a population of at least 35,000 or that is one of the 10 highest populated cities of the state in which the city is located, is eligible for a direct formula grant from DOE. A city with a population below 35,000 is eligible for a sub-grant from the state in which it is located.

All cities are eligible to apply for competitive grants from DOE regardless of population.

Counties

Entities eligible under the definition of "county" are counties and county-equivalent units of local government such as a parishes or boroughs.

Depending on population, counties are eligible for EECBG program funds either directly from DOE or from the state in which they are located. A county with a population of at least 200,000 or that is one of the 10 highest populated counties of the state in which the county is located, is eligible for a direct formula grant from DOE. A county with a population below 200,000 is eligible for a sub-grant from the state in which it is located.

County populations do not include the populations of cities within them that are eligible for direct formula grants from DOE. Consolidated city-county governments will be considered as cities.

All counties are eligible to apply for competitive grants from DOE regardless of population.

Indian Tribes

Entities eligible under the definition of "Indian tribe" are all Indian tribes recognized by the Federal government.

Indian tribes eligible for direct formula grants from U.S. DOE are those in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.450b), which is any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688; 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. Indian tribes recognized by the state in which they are located are eligible for sub-grants from that state.

All Indian tribes recognized by the Federal government and state governments are eligible to apply for competitive grants from DOE.

Consortia of Local Governments and Indian Tribes

Consortia of cities, counties, and Indian tribes that are not eligible for direct formula grants from DOE are eligible to apply for competitive grants from DOE and may be eligible for sub-grants from states.

How Are Program Funds Allocated?

Of the \$3.2 billion dollars appropriated in total program funds, \$2.8 billion is available as authorized under Subtitle E of Title V of the Energy Independence and Security Act and \$400 million is available in competitive grants from DOE.

Of the \$2.8 billion available as authorized under Subtitle E of Title V of the Energy Independence and Security Act includes:

- 68% in direct formula grants from DOE to:
 - Cities with a population of at least 35,000 or that are one of the 10 most populous cities in the state
 - Counties with a population of at least 200,000 or that are one of the 10 most populous counties in the state
- 28% in direct formula grants from DOE to:
 - All 50 states
 - The U.S. Territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
 - The District of Columbia
- 2% in direct formula grants from DOE to:
 - Indian tribes listed in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.450b)
- 2% in competitive grants from DOE to:
 - Cities, counties and Indian tribes that are not eligible for direct formula grants from DOE, and consortia of those entities

All entities eligible for program funds either through direct grants from DOE or from sub-grants from states will be eligible for \$400 million in competitive grants. The award criteria of these competitive grants are to be determined by DOE.

In addition, not less than 60% of the amount received by each state shall be sub-granted to units of local government in the state that are not eligible for direct formula grants from DOE. Each state decides how to award these sub-grants. Find contact information for your state's [State Energy Office](#).

DOE will retain a small percentage of program funds for technical assistance, training, and administrative costs.

What Activities Are Eligible for Use of Funds?

Energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy programs and projects are building blocks for a strong economy, the end of our addiction to foreign oil, and better quality of our environment. EECBG program funds will have maximum impact if invested in ways that create and/or retain jobs and stimulate the economy in the short term while laying the foundation for a long-term and sustainable clean energy economy.

The activities eligible for use of funds are:

- **Development of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and Technical Consultant Services** to assist in the development of such a strategy
- **Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits**
- **Financial Incentive Programs** for energy efficiency improvements
- Grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing **Energy Efficiency Retrofits**
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities**
- **Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs** to conserve energy
- **Building Codes and Inspections** to promote building energy efficiency
- **Energy Distribution Technologies** that significantly increase energy efficiency, including distributed generation, combined heat and power, and district heating and cooling systems
- **Material Conservation Programs** including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency
- **Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases** excluding carbon capture or sequestration from power plants
- Energy efficient **Traffic Signals and Street Lighting**
- **Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings**
- **Any Other Appropriate Activity** that meets the purposes of the program and is approved by DOE

How Can I Apply?

Details on the application process are coming soon. In the meantime, entities that meet the eligibility criteria above for formula grants from U.S. DOE should become familiar with FedConnect, the mechanism for applying for the EECBG Program, by downloading and reading: https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf

- Step 1: Request a DUNS Number at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>
- Step 2: Register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) at <http://www.ccr.gov/>.
- Step 3: E-Business Point of Contact must register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/>.

Please allow 21 days to complete the registration process.

Where Can I Get More Information?

If you have questions regarding the EECBG program, please contact the [EERE Information Center](#) via toll-free phone at 1-877-EERE-INFO (1-877-337-3463) or by submitting questions via the [Web submission form](#).

Hours of Operation: 9 am – 7 pm ET, Monday-Friday

You may also subscribe to [EERE's Progress Alerts](#) for updates to the Block Grant Program.

Read more at [Recovery.gov](#) and at the [The White House Agenda: Energy and the Environment](#).

This Web page will be updated regularly. Please check back frequently.