

Iowa Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program – Innovation Fund

The State of Iowa has received \$2 million to establish the Iowa Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The Iowa EECBG Program is comprised of two funds—Community Fund and Innovation Fund. This fact sheet is for the EECBG Innovation Fund.

Eligible applicants for the Innovation Fund include local governments, nonprofits, and for-profit entities. The Innovation Fund has a total of \$600,000 available for competitive grant awards ranging from \$50,000 up to \$600,000. Eligible project types include innovative energy efficiency and innovative renewable energy demonstration projects taking place in Iowa. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2026. Project examples may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Demonstrating an innovative energy efficiency or renewable energy project, program or technology new or underutilized in Iowa that is replicable and will share project information publicly
- Reducing fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities
- Reducing total energy use
- Improving energy efficiency in transportation, building, or operations
- Building a clean and equitable energy economy that prioritizes disadvantaged communities and promotes equity and inclusion in workforce opportunities and deployment activities

A 50% cost share is required. Cost share may be a combination of cash and in-kind but must be at least 50% cash. Project costs incurred before the approval of a grant award are **not** eligible. Eligible costs include:

- Energy assessments/audits
- Developing and installing energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems
- Contracting for project development and/or implementation
- Direct administration costs
- Contracting for federal regulations compliance assistance

In support of the federal Justice40 Initiative, projects benefitting federal identified [disadvantaged communities](#) will receive a significant scoring preference during application review. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize any project applicable U.S. Department of Energy provided EECBG [Blueprint](#)

. Blueprints outline key activities to drive project success. Following a Blueprint may also streamline National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

Construction or purchase of equipment cannot occur ahead of award selection and federal requirement clearance. The following federal requirements may apply to EECBG funded projects:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Davis-Bacon Act
- Federal Procurement (2 CFR 200)
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Build America, Buy America

Applicants are encouraged to discuss federal requirements with their legal counsel and/or an experienced grant administrator prior to applying for the program.

Further program details are provided on the Iowa EECBG webpage at iowaeda.com/iowa-energy-office/energy-block-grant. Application deadline and application materials are available at iowagrants.gov. Questions may be directed to Jeff Geerts, jeff.geerts@iowaeda.com or 515.348.6211.