IOWA ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM - APPLICATION ROUND 2

The State of Iowa received \$2 million to establish the Iowa Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. Nearly \$1.5 million of funding was awarded in the program's first round of funding in June 2024. The Iowa EECBG Program is once again seeking applications. Applications are due at 4:00 Central Daylight Savings Time on August 1, 2025.

Eligible applicants include local governments, nonprofits, and for-profit entities. The lowa EECBG Program has approximately \$470,000 available for competitive grant awards. Project awards may range from \$10,000-\$200,000. Projects must be completed by September 30, 2026. For this round of funding, the lowa EECBG Program seeks projects that support downtown revitalization and downtown streetscape improvements. Project examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Replacing existing streetlights and traffic signals with more efficient lighting
- Improving energy efficiency of existing exterior building and public space lighting
- Installing public electric vehicle charging infrastructure (must be at least Level II charging capability)

Cost share is not required, but applicants providing cost share will receive a scoring preference during application review. Project costs incurred before the approval of a grant award are not eligible. Eligible project costs include:

- Developing and installing energy efficiency improvements
- Purchasing equipment and supplies necessary to complete the project
- Contracting for project development and/or implementation
- · Direct administration costs
- Contracting for federal regulations compliance assistance

Projects that best demonstrate how the proposed EECBG project supports a local downtown plan or project will receive a significant scoring preference during application review.

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 (projects with a total project cost <\$250,000 may be eligible for a waiver)

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 lowa EECBG webpage at <u>iowaeda.com/iowa-energy-office/energy-block-grant</u>. Application deadline and application materials are available at <u>iowagrants.gov</u>.

