

EECBG Frequently Asked Questions (Last updated 2/1/24)

If a city or county received a EECBG competitive grant funded by the Department of Energy, but did not receive the full amount they requested, is a city or county eligible to apply to OEMR's Idaho EECBG grant program to make up for the shortfall in program funding?

- *Yes, so long as the applicant who received the competitive EECBG award is not eligible for a formula grant EECBG award directly from the Department of Energy.*

Can a city apply funds to residential low-income housing units that are run by a city or is funding only available for commercial government run buildings?

- *Yes, energy efficient retrofits performed by government agencies or nonprofit organizations are eligible so long as retrofits in residential buildings are being performed by the government or nonprofit.*

Can this grant be used for creating a Sustainability Plan or Climate Action Plan for our country?

- *Yes, please refer to Bounded Category 1 in the [Statement of Work](#) for a detailed list of eligible projects under energy planning that can be completed using Idaho EECBG subaward funding.*

Can this grant be used for building department upgrades to our thermostats?

- *Yes, please refer to Bounded Category 5 in the [Statement of Work](#) that refers to eligible building energy efficient upgrades.*

Are there any J40 or DAC eligibility requirements from DOE that might take a wealthy county or city out of contention, eligibility-wise or are these metrics not applicable?

- *Cities and counties that receive direct EECBG formula funding from the Department of Energy are not eligible to receive an Idaho EECBG subaward grant. Cities and counties who are eligible for an Idaho EECBG subaward grant should ensure proposed projects align with the scoring rubric listed in the [Request for Applications Scoring Criteria](#).*

Is a small library district eligible to apply for this program?

- *No, although a small library district is recognized as a unit of local government, Idaho EECBG grants are available only to cities and counties that are ineligible to receive a direct EECBG grant from the Department of Energy.*

Are there any prohibitions to preferring local contractors to complete the work vs. using government contractors to complete work funded under EECBG?

- *Cities and counties can follow their own procurement standards as long as they align with federal procurement standards. For more information on federal procurement standards, please refer to the [statute](#).*

If a city or county is able to get fees waived, such as an energy audit, should the city consider the waived fee as leveraged funding and should it be listed on the budget worksheet?

- *Yes, it shows the overall expenses associated with the proposed project. Please refer to the [budget worksheet](#) to list all costs associated with the proposed project.*

If a city or county submits an application for multiple projects, should the applicant identify each project separately?

- *Yes, each applicant must provide a detailed description of each proposed project included in their application. Total funding requested must not exceed \$100,000.*

Do electric vehicles under the program need to meet the federal consumer tax credit standard and should they be built in America? Are there any domestic battery sourcing requirements?

- *OEMR's understanding is that electric vehicles do not meet the definition of "infrastructure" under the Build America, Buy America Act. Please consult your legal or tax professional for questions relating to tax credits. OEMR will update this FAQ document if the Department of Energy releases additional information.*

Is it alright for work to be completed by electrical contractors and by a facilities team as long as a city or county is meeting Davis Bacon wage requirements?

- *Work may be completed by contractors and/or a city or county's facilities team. Applicants must ensure their applications and projects comply with all applicable federal law. For more information on Davis Bacon, refer to [Appendix C in the Request for Applications Appendices](#).*

Is there a sheet to ensure the correct format is being used for wage categories?

- *For guidance on how to comply with the Davis Bacon Act provisions and clauses, see:*
 - o <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction>
 - o <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>

General Davis-Bacon wage determinations are published online at www.sam.gov

Is a city or county eligible to upgrade their outside lighting facilities to more efficient lighting systems? Do all products need to be built in the United States of America or just the manufacturing of the product?

- *Yes, please refer to Bounded Category 5 in the [Statement of Work](#) that refers to eligible building energy efficient upgrades and [Appendix B in the Request for Applications Appendices](#) for a detailed description of the Build America Buy American Act.*

Where can a city or county locate Section 70914 of the Build America Buy America Act to define infrastructure?

- *Section 70914, Application of Buy America Preference can be found in the Infrastructure and Investment Act legislation or page 7 in the [Administrative and Legal Requirements Document](#).*

The Build America Buy America Act states that iron and steel are for all material used in covered infrastructure. Does installing light fixtures need to meet this requirement?

- *The Build America Buy America requirement applies to the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of public*

infrastructure in the United States under an applicable award when those items are consumed, incorporated, or permanently affixed to infrastructure. Please refer to [Appendix B in the Request for Applications Appendices for a detailed description of the Build America Buy American Act.](#)

Is a city or county eligible to apply the EECBG grant to fund a zone assessment, plan and certification to produce alternative energy sources for the community, such as the Bio Mass Development Zone rating certification?

Eligible planning projects that fall under the EECBG grant are limited to energy data collection to assist in reducing fossil fuel emissions, reducing total energy use, or improving energy efficiency. For more information on eligible energy planning projects please refer to Bounded Category 1 in the Statement of Work listed in the [Request for Applications Appendices.](#)

OEMR opened a second round of applications period for cities and counties who are not eligible for direct funds from the Department of Energy under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. Are cities and counties who have received a subaward during the first round of applications eligible to apply during the second round of applications?

No, applicants can only submit one application to the Idaho EECBG grant.

Will there be additional rounds to submit applications after the second round?

No, OEMR does not anticipate opening additional application rounds for cities and counties to submit applications.