

Indiana Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

FAQs



The Indiana Office of Energy Development announces a \$1.46 million-funding opportunity for Indiana's **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program**. This program will fund efforts to increase energy efficiency and conservation for units of local governments. Grant funds will target energy planning, energy audits and building upgrades, and electric transportation for communities. Funding for this opportunity is available only to units of local government in Indiana that were not allocated EECBG formula funds directly from the U.S. Department of Energy. See the updated guidance on eligibility [here](#).

Below are Frequently Asked Questions associated with the EECBG Funding opportunity. This list is not exhaustive and will be updated periodically. For all other questions, please reach out to grants@oed.in.gov.

1. What is the duration of a project that can be proposed?

Applicants are encouraged to propose projects that can be completed within one year but should not exceed 2 years.

2. What is required for quarterly reporting?

Quarterly reporting includes both performance and financial updates. They will include metrics and milestones provided in application, as well as a narrative on the status of the project. Detailed reporting templates and requirements will be provided by OED when funds are awarded. However, be prepared to report on all activities included in the application.

3. Can the funding request include administrative costs?

OED will not award funds for administrative expenses, as they are not directly related to the work performed on the project. OED will only make awards for non-administrative project costs. Additionally, all costs must be eligible expenses under the program. Please list all expenses that cannot be captured in the specified spend categories in the "Other" category, indicate what those expenses are, and how they relate to the completion of the project.

4. Can the application be submitted as a collection of multiple smaller projects?

Each application will be considered as one project, and the applicant should clearly describe the scope and parameters of their proposed project. A project may contain multiple components as long as they collectively can be defined as a project that falls within one Blueprint. Please note that depending on the scopes of each component of a project, OED may request the applicant to report metrics and activities for each component individually, based on DOE requirements.

5. Can equipment that is purchased prior to submitting an application, due to lengthy wait times, be reimbursed if awarded grant funding?

No. Eligible expenses must be incurred after an executed contract. Any expenses prior to an executed contract will be considered ineligible, pursuant to federal cost principles and regulations.

6. Which units of local government are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity?

OED recently released a clarification regarding eligible applicants, which can be found [here](#). Only cities and counties that were not eligible to receive formula funds directly from DOE under the EECBG program are

eligible to apply. If a special purpose unit of government or other unit of government located within an eligible city or county is interested in applying, please work with the or county to submit an application for the proposed project.

7. Does the applicant have to complete all of the activities listed under each blueprint?

No, the applicant can select which of the activities listed they wish to perform, as applicable and relevant to the project proposal.

8. What if the proposed project could be considered under multiple blueprints?

Select the blueprint that best aligns with the proposed activity and primary purpose of the project. Be sure to explain all of the ancillary benefits of the project that may include benefits or activities that could be qualified under another blueprint. All proposed activities should be linked to the selected blueprint, even if they could be included under a separate blueprint. For example, if the project is primarily energy efficiency but includes workforce training needed to conduct the proposed work, the blueprint to select should be energy efficiency. However, workforce activities that are not related to the energy efficiency project should not be included in the scope of the proposed project.

9. The proposed project includes activities related to building management systems and/or the replacement of existing traffic signals and streetlights with more energy efficient lighting. Where should the applicant identify these activities?

All of these activities fall under the “Energy Efficiency-Energy Audits and Building Upgrades” Blueprint for these activities. However, traffic signals and streetlights are not listed as an activity on the application form. This was an oversight by the OED team and was meant to be included in the table. If applicants would like to select these activities, please indicate that in the response for question 8, in addition to selecting the Blueprint. We appreciate your patience!

10. Are awards of less than \$250K exempt from Build America Buy America (BABA) requirements?

No, the \$250K blanket waiver only applies to direct recipients of awards from the US Department of Energy. Since OED is the direct recipient of EECEBG funding under this solicitation, all projects will be subject to BABA compliance.

11. Are towns eligible for EECEBG funds?

Yes, towns are included under the “cities” category for purposes of EECEBG eligibility and are eligible so long as the town was not eligible for formula funds from the US Department of Energy.