



## Indiana Community Energy Challenge, 2020 | Funding Opportunity

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The Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED) is announcing a competitive Community Energy Challenge Grant to enhance municipal resilience with a focus on planning and key infrastructure. Funding for this grant comes from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and is administered by OED to enhance energy resilience and support state energy initiatives.

This grant program is aimed at enhancing energy resilience through reinforcing local infrastructure and diversifying energy sources, which is key to withstand extreme events such as severe weather or man-made events. DOE defines resilience as “the ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions.” Grantees can benefit from resiliency improvements in a variety of ways, such as reducing overall energy costs included through decreased maintenance-related activities through the use of a new and more efficient technologies as well as energy audits and resilience planning. By diversifying energy sources, upgrading technology, and reducing energy consumption, grantees may also mitigate their exposure to price volatility.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Eligible applicants are municipalities, public safety entities including EMS/Fire/Police, municipal utilities, and public K-12 schools.

### **Available Funding:**

Eligible awards up to \$40,000 per project. Only one award per applicant, per award, per grant cycle.

### **Match:**

No minimum match is required, although projects that demonstrate other funding sources increase chances to be funded. See Selection Criteria and Scoring.

### **Project Requirements:**

- Project must support energy audits, resilience planning or infrastructure improvements and demonstrate that it enhances resilience to key local government, public safety, municipal utilities or public K-12 schools;
- Project must evaluate all energy sources and technologies including traditional energy resources as well as renewables including natural gas, propane, steam, fuel oil, solar voltaics (Solar PV), geothermal (ground or air-source heat pumps), biomass or battery storage;
- Projects may also support efficient HVAC systems and control components, windows/doors or insulation suitable for both existing municipal/public buildings and new construction;

- Must not duplicate or replace funding for an existing private or public program;
- Meet all of the application requirements, including, but not limited to developing work plans, budgets, maintenance plans, obtain insurance and/or permit approvals (where required), and be prepared to comply with grant administration protocols defined in the guidelines;
- Have a 5-year maintenance plan detailing ongoing maintenance schedules.

**Timeline:**

Applicants should anticipate approximately a 1 ½ year project period tentatively of November 30, 2020 to June 1, 2022. Applicants should include a timeline and significant milestones in their project proposal.

Below is the timeline anticipated for the application and award process.

- Applications Due: September 30, 2020
- Award Notifications Beginning : October 19, 2020 - October 23, 2020
- Grant Agreements Issued Beginning: November 1, 2020
- Project and grant agreement period: November 30, 2020 - June 1, 2022

**Grant Format and Procedures:**

- Applications accepted by email only.
- Submit a completed proposal application to [grants@oed.in.gov](mailto:grants@oed.in.gov)
- Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- The applications must be submitted on the format attached. A handwritten application will not be accepted.
- Only one grant application, per grant cycle, per organization will be considered.
- Project has clear goals and metrics by which to evaluate the success of the project. Project clearly outlines the goal, identifies the objectives to meet the goals, and the milestones/activities to be accomplished.
- Purpose or Summary: Provide a detailed summary of the project. The summary must include the impact or purpose the project will have on your organization and/or community.
- Objectives: State the objectives and base them on the need. The objectives state the desired

outcome of the proposed project in terms that are specific and quantified.

- Results: Summary of the anticipated results or expected benefits.
- Budget: Describe the purpose of each item listed in the budget detail and justification for the completion of the project's objectives and outcomes.

### **Selection Process & Criteria:**

An initial cursory review will be conducted to ensure accuracy and eligibility in submitted applications for project requirements. Then, a review committee will review and score each proposal based on its quality.

In addition to the project requirements noted above, project proposals will also be evaluated on the following criteria:

- The organization is in good standing with the State of Indiana.
- Project has clear identifiable goals and demonstrates tangible benefits for the community and/or organization.
- Project clearly outlines the goal, identifies the objectives to meet the goals, and the milestones/ activities to be accomplished.
- Budget is complete and detailed. Each item is listed and justified.

### **Reporting Requirements for Grantees:**

- Quarterly reporting and a final report is required on OED templates before payment will be reimbursed.
- OED reserves the right to conduct site visits on projects.

### **Submission Checklist:**

The following items must be put into one zip file and sent to [grants@oed.in.gov](mailto:grants@oed.in.gov):

1. Completed Proposal Application on the approved OED template
2. Quotes and Literature for Selected Technology
3. Project Calculations
4. NEPA Questionnaire (if applicable)
5. SHPO Section 106 Assurance
6. Installer Certification and Licensure ( if applicable)

**Resources for Your Grant Application:**

Questions on the grant opportunity should be directed to the OED Grants Team at [grants@oed.in.gov](mailto:grants@oed.in.gov).

For additional help on grant applications, refer to 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200

For technical assistance, applicants can contact South Shore Clean Cities Coalition. Clean Cities Coalitions are supported by the U.S. Department of Energy and serve as a resource for fleets that seek to deploy alternative fuels and technologies.

South Shore Clean Cities Carl Lisek, Executive Director 219.644.3690 <a href="mailto:info@southshorecleancities.org">info@southshorecleancities.org</a> <a href="http://www.southshorecleancities.org">www.southshorecleancities.org</a>
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## INDIANA COMMUNITY ENERGY CHALLENGE GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION

### I. Applicant Contact Information

Name of Organization:		
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Phone Numbers:		
DUNS Number:		

Name of Project Manager/Contact:	Authorized Representative/Signatory:
Title:	Title:
Email:	Email:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:

Briefly describe your organization:

Has your organization previously received an OED Grant?      Yes      No

If yes, describe the grant project?

## II. Proposal Information

A. Summary--Clearly summarize the project. Include the impact or purpose that the project will have on your organization and/or community. Explain why the project is necessary and how it fulfills the purpose. (Limit to 5000 characters)

B. State the objectives. Describe the activities along with the timeline and milestones. The objectives state the desired outcome of the proposed project in terms that are specific and quantified.

C. What are the anticipated results or expected benefits? Include the educational value to your community and organization (if applicable).

## IV. Budget Summary

Category	Grant Request (\$)	Other Funds (\$)	Total (\$)
Personnel			
Fringe			
Travel			
Supplies			
Equipment			
Other			
Total Direct Costs			
Indirect Costs			
Total Budget			

### A. Justification for items requested.

For each item listed in the budget, describe how this item will be used to achieve the objective(s) and/or outcome(s) of the project. If necessary, add more items by attaching a PDF.

**Item 1:**

**Item 2:**

**Item 3:**

**B. Other Funds**

Please indicate how much funding from your own organization will contributing to this project and if it is from other federal or state funds. If so, please indicate the federal or state funding source.

**V. Affirmation**

1. To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is correct and that I am legally authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of this organization, which is legally eligible to enter a grant contract.
2. I understand that submitting false or misleading information in connection with this application may result in the application or organization being found ineligible for financial assistance under the OED Grant Program. I further understand that receiving public grant funds because of false representations constitutes an act of fraud.
3. I understand that OED may conduct audits, check references, and conduct site inspections before or after grants are awarded and disbursed.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

TITLE: