

EFFICIENCY CITIES NETWORK

April 28, 2009

3pm EDT

ARRA Funding for Retrofit Programs:

Details and Case Studies

Agenda

- Welcome (5 min)
- Perspectives on Certain ARRA Programs with primary focus on EECEBG (35 min)
- Questions and Discussion (10 min)
- Next call (5 min)

EECBG Eligible Activities Include:

- Development of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and Technical Consultant Services to assist in the development of such a strategy.
- Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits.
- Financial Incentive Programs and Mechanisms for energy efficiency improvements such as energy savings performance contracting, on-bill financing, and revolving loan funds.
- Grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing Energy Efficiency Retrofits.
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities.
- Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs to conserve energy.
- Building Codes and Inspections to promote building energy efficiency.

Eligible Activities continued...

- Energy Distribution Technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including distributed resources, combined heat and power, and district heating and cooling systems.
- Material Conservation Programs including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency.
- Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases generated by landfills or similar waste-related sources.
- Energy efficient Traffic Signals and Street Lighting.
- Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings.
- Any Other Appropriate Activity that meets the purposes of the program and is approved by DOE.

EECBG Priorities:

- Leverage other public and private resources.
- Enhance workforce development.
- Persist beyond the funding period.
- Promote energy market transformation such as revolving loans, low-cost loans, energy savings performance contracting, advanced building codes, building and home retrofit incentives and policies, and transportation programs and policies.

EECBG Metrics for Success:

- Jobs created and/or retained
- Energy savings on a per dollar invested basis
- Renewable energy capacity installed
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduced
- Funds leveraged

EECBG Deadlines

- Applications from units of local government are due to DOE by 8 p.m. Eastern Time on June 25, 2009.
- Application from states are due to DOE by 8pm Eastern Time on May 26, 2009.

EECBG Resources

- Basics from DOE: <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>
- Funding Announcement:
http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/pdfs/eecbg_foa.pdf
- Some Descriptions:
 - ICLEI EECBG FAQs available from <http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/financing-staffing/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-faqs>
 - Sierra Club Cool Cities EECBG Tool Kit available from http://coolcities.us/resources/ForumLinks/ARRA/EECBG_CoolCities%20Toolkit.PDF
 - U.S. Conference of Mayors materials available from www.usmayors.org

Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECCB)

- State and local governments can issue tax credit bonds to finance energy conservation projects.
- From the Conference Report:
 - The provision expands eligibility for these tax credit bonds to include loans and grants for capital expenditures as part of green community programs. For example, this expansion will enable States to issue these tax credit bonds to finance loans and/or grants to individual homeowners to retrofit existing housing.

Details from Treasury

- Bond volume is allocated to each state based on the state's percentage of the U.S. population. Each state is then required to allocate a portion of its allocation to "large local governments" (municipalities and counties with populations of 100,000 or more).
- Information from the IRS
 - http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-16_irb/ar10.html
 - http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-17_IRB/ar06.html

Discussion Starters

- Kevin McCarty, U.S. Conference of Mayors
 - kmccarty@usmayors.org
 - EECBG Program
- Andria Jacob, City of Portland
 - ajacob@ci.portland.or.us
 - Portland's EECBG application plan
- Dana Kenney, City of Chicago
 - dana.kenney@cityofchicago.org
 - Chicago's EECBG application plan
- Dorian Dale, Town of Babylon
 - ddale@townofbabylon.org
 - Babylon's EECBG application experience
- Matt Mayrl, City of Boston
 - matt.mayrl@cityofboston.gov
 - QECB Program

Questions from Babylon

1. Under the eligible activities section of the grant's announcement, we did not note whether acceptable energy efficiency projects included residential renewable energy programs. We are seeking to help to finance residential renewable energy projects, specifically the installation of solar systems. Would this kind of project be acceptable for use of our EECBG formula grant?
2. For any work that will be performed as part of a program funded by this grant, we understand that the Davis-Bacon Act would apply. Might there be exceptions (or a technical correction) to the Davis-Bacon Act for operating a residential-focused program?
3. Would the Town be allowed to leverage the funding from this grant with private funding?
4. Can the municipality use stimulus funds to finance work performed in residences by a contractor that has been selected by the homeowner? This arrangement will eliminate a typical procurement process using competitive bidding.

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