

Iowa Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program – Community Fund

The State of Iowa has received \$2 million to establish the Iowa Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The Iowa EECBG Program is comprised of two funds—Community Fund and Innovation Fund. This fact sheet is for the EECBG Community Fund.

Eligible applicants for the Community Fund are cities and counties that are not eligible to receive a formula EECBG direct allocation from the federal government. The Community Fund has a total of \$1.2 million available for competitive grant awards to Iowa local governments for community-driven energy efficiency retrofit projects. Project awards may range from \$50,000-\$300,000. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2026. Project examples, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Building energy assessment or audits plus energy efficiency upgrades
- Energy efficiency upgrades at wastewater or water supply facilities
- Replacement of traffic signals and streetlight lamps to improve energy efficiency

Cost share is not required for Community Fund applications, 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:

- Energy assessments/audits
- Developing and installing energy efficiency improvements
- Contracting for project development and/or implementation
- Direct administration costs
- Contracting for federal regulations compliance assistance

In support of the federal Justice40 Initiative, projects benefitting federal identified [disadvantaged communities](#) will receive a significant scoring preference during application review. Applicants are strongly encouraged to follow the EECBG [Blueprint 2A Energy Efficiency: Energy Audits, Building Upgrades](#) developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (“Blueprint”). The document outlines key activities to drive project success. Following the Blueprint may also streamline National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

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

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 Iowa EECBG webpage at iowaeda.com/iowa-energy-office/energy-block-grant. Application deadline and application materials are available at iowagrants.gov. Questions may be directed to Jeff Geerts, jeff.geerts@iowaeda.com or 515.348.6211.