

FOA #EN-06032010
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program

Please see below for answers to all questions regarding the EECBG program received by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) through May 12, 2010 (this includes questions received during the EECBG Webinar).

NOTE: All Applicants must read and follow the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and complete the Application in full to be considered. This is a highly competitive program and not all Applicants will receive funding. The FOA and Application are available at www.stimulus.mississippi.org.

1. QUESTION

Any size company can apply? I have a hard time finding the qualifications. Will private community (Diamondhead) entities like water and sewage qualify?

ANSWER Only cities, counties and tribal governments within the state of Mississippi that did not receive direct EECBG funding from the Department of Energy are eligible to apply for funding under this FOA. Eligible applicants include only those cities and counties that are included in the latest available Census of Governments as a currently incorporated government, and the government has a governance structure with an elected official and governing body.

2. QUESTION

We have several small communities that want to apply for the EECBG grant program (they are now waiting for audits through the TEAA program). Some of the communities (if not all) cannot afford to pay the bills and wait for reimbursement.

My question is, will the Energy Office allow small communities to submit invoices, or will they need to submit paid invoices with canceled checks with their Requests for Cash?

ANSWER As stated on page 7 of the FOA, Requests for Payment are to be submitted and paid on a cost reimbursement basis only.

3. QUESTION

Are utility districts and utility authorities eligible for funding? If they are would it be dependent if their county was awarded funding as listed in the FOA? If it is multijurisdictional, how would that affect the eligibility if one or more of the counties were funded?

ANSWER As stated on page 2 of the FOA, only eligible cities, counties and tribal governments may apply for funding under the EECBG program.

4. QUESTION

Will it be possible for small communities without financial resources to submit invoices for payment, or will paid invoices with copies of checks be required to be submitted with RFCs?

ANSWER As stated on page 7 of the FOA, Requests for Cash are to be submitted and paid on a Cost Reimbursement basis. MDA will require that an invoice submitted must be paid for by the county, city or town and have the check or warrant information attached before asking MDA for reimbursement.

5. QUESTION

Under Appendix A, this diagram list cities and counties receiving funds from DOE that are not eligible for this FOA, what if you have an applicant that resides in a county that is listed but the actual city isn't listed?

ANSWER In that case, although the county is not eligible, any non-entitlement city within the county would be eligible.

6. QUESTION

If the applicant hasn't had an energy audit done, can they get one done and apply for the EECBG program?

ANSWER Yes. If awarded, the cost of an energy audit or feasibility study performed in preparation for application under this FOA (on or after September 14, 2009) is a reimbursable expense. Audits performed for projects that are not awarded funds will not be reimbursed. For awarded projects, the cost of the audit will be included in the total project cost and will not be reimbursed in addition to the total project cost (see page 7 of the FOA).

7. QUESTION

Can applicants who have received stimulus funds under SEP apply for the EECBG program?

ANSWER Eligible cities and counties awarded funding under the SEP may also apply for funding under the EECBG program.

8. QUESTION

From my understanding the EECBG program will allow publically-owned buildings including publically owned libraries, schools and publically owned and operated hospitals. When "public hospitals" is stated, does this mean a non-private owned hospital?

ANSWER Publically-owned means a hospital that is owned and operated by a city or county.

9. QUESTION

Can public community colleges apply for this? Our community college is looking for funding to become more energy efficient.

ANSWER No. This program is restricted to buildings owned and operated by local county or municipal government.

10. QUESTION

Who is eligible to perform an energy audit?

ANSWER A professional engineer who is licensed in the State of Mississippi and has experience performing energy audits.

11. QUESTION

Can you give an example of a project that a municipality and county might join together to do?

ANSWER Possibly a city and county might want to address a multi-jurisdictional project to retrofit a building that is jointly managed by both the city and the county.

12. QUESTION

Can cities receive funding for multiple activities (retrofits, street lighting, AND renewable energy) under one application?

ANSWER Yes.

13. QUESTION

If your project is for a school, library or hospital does this still require a resolution from the board of supervisors, city council or mayor?

ANSWER Yes.

14. QUESTION

Will this webinar be available to download after this is over?

ANSWER Yes, go to www.stimulus.mississippi.org and click on Webinars and Programs.

15. QUESTION

I can't open the Application on your website. Can you email it?

ANSWER You may request an emailed application by emailing procurement@mississippi.org or by faxing a request to 601-359-5042 to the attention of Lynn Johnson Burris or Mike McCollough.

16. QUESTION

You stated early in the meeting that all buildings had to belong to the municipalities or the county but in several meeting I was told that the city and counties could include other entities such as community college buildings which they do not own.

ANSWER Eligible building structures must be city or county-owned buildings, including publically owned libraries, schools and publically-owned and operated hospitals.

17. QUESTION

Our college currently has a campus in four counties. Will we have to present separate proposals?

ANSWER Colleges and community colleges are not eligible.

18. QUESTION

May I have a recording of this event? I am interested in this project for several buildings at a junior college.

ANSWER Yes. The archived webinar is available at www.stimulus.mississippi.org and then by going to Webinars and Programs. Please note the state junior/community colleges are not eligible under this program.

19. QUESTION

It was mentioned that proposals should not detract from the aesthetics of historical buildings. Will projects that enhance and dramatically improve the aesthetics be viewed more favorably? To what degree will aesthetic improvement be considered in the proposal?

ANSWER To ensure the preservation of Mississippi's historical sites, all Applicants must submit a Request for Cultural Resources Assessment form with their application. MDA will submit all finalists' Requests for Cultural Resources Assessment forms to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) for clearance. MDAH will determine the impacts of the project. MDA will only fund projects under this FOA that have been cleared by MDAH (see page 9 of the FOA) and will evaluate projects based on the criteria in the FOA.

20. QUESTION

How can we determine if a county is eligible based upon the criteria described earlier? Such as size of county and if county received direct stimulus funds?

ANSWER Appendix A of the FOA lists the entitlement counties that received direct funding from the Department of Energy and are therefore not eligible under this program. All other counties and municipalities in the state are eligible.

21. QUESTION

Are admin costs charged against the total grant amount?

ANSWER Application preparation and administrative fees will be reimbursed and will not count against the grant funds allowed for the project (see page 4 of the FOA).

22. QUESTION

Are utility authorities within a county that has already received funding eligible?

ANSWER Only eligible cities and counties may apply for funding under the EECBG program.

23. QUESTION

I believe I saw a statement on the presentation that "all inefficient lighting must be replaced". Does that mean that if any lighting has been identified as inefficient that replacement must be included in the grant application?

ANSWER If the energy audit recommends replacement of inefficient lighting, and the installation costs and energy savings create a cost-effective measure for that specific building, then the lighting retrofits should be a part of the funding request. In evaluating potential energy management projects for funding, applicants are encouraged to address those projects that include both energy conservation measures with quick, simple paybacks that leverage or help balance the more comprehensive measures with longer paybacks.

24. QUESTION

Is there a dollar limit on audit reimbursement?

ANSWER No, but the amount must be reasonable based on industry standards. Potential applicants are encouraged to follow applicable procurement and purchasing practices to ensure cost effectiveness.

25. QUESTION

Do professional services have to be procured through a particular process?

ANSWER All awardees under this program are public entities, and therefore, applicable state procurement procedures should be followed.

26. QUESTION

If your energy audit does not identify replacing windows and doors, would they still be eligible for replacement?

ANSWER The energy audit evaluates building energy use and the resulting recommended measures contribute to the overall reduction of energy use and operating costs in the building. Generally, energy conservation measures are prioritized according to cost-effectiveness and energy savings and if the energy audit did not recommend window or door replacement, then perhaps replacement did not represent a feasible opportunity for energy conservation. However, feel free to contact your energy auditor to explore your audit in further detail.

27. QUESTION

Do you have a list of recommended/authorized renewable energy installers?

ANSWER Applicants/awardees are encouraged to contact their energy auditor or person who performed their feasibility study for recommendations for an authorized renewable energy installer.

28. QUESTION

Why is it that private business, cities, counties, and every other entity in the state has had an opportunity at these types of ARRA funds for energy assistance but community colleges and/or universities have been completely left out of the projects?

ANSWER Community colleges have been able to apply for funding in other stimulus programs, and will in the future be able to apply for others as they are announced.

29. QUESTION

If the audit is handled by the city engineer can it be used as match?

ANSWER This will be considered project leveraging (see page 17 of the FOA).

30. QUESTION

Is there a match scale? How do we qualify?

ANSWER

To the question "Is there a match scale?"

As stated on page 3 of the FOA, "There is no matching or cost sharing requirement under this FOA; however, applications that leverage grant funds with other committed sources of funding (cash or in-kind) are encouraged in order to maximize the total energy related benefits resulting

from the program. Applications that include leveraging will be awarded additional points during the review process.” Please see page 17 of the FOA for information about leveraging or cost share scoring.

To the question “How do we qualify?”

As stated on page 2 of the FOA, “Cities, counties and tribal governments within the State of Mississippi that did not receive direct EECBG funding from DOE are eligible to apply for funding under this FOA.”

31. QUESTION

If the City were to get awarded the EECBG to retrofit with a new HVAC system, and we followed all state and federal policy, does the money that we would pay the contractor count towards jobs retained, and if the contractor had to hire additional people what kind of documentation does MDA need to follow ARRA?

ANSWER For the purposes of the EECBG Application, no induced or indirect jobs may be counted. Only jobs meeting the definitions of a job created or retained on page 8 of the FOA will be counted for federal reporting purposes. If induced or indirect job creation or retention is anticipated, Applicant may furnish this information in the job description section of the application (#10 on page 9). Once awarded, however, if ARRA funds are spent or will be reimbursed on labor hours, then those hours will be counted as either a job created or retained for the purposes of jobs reporting.

32. QUESTION

I’ve recently been made aware of the upcoming EECBG opportunity being provided to Cities and Counties not already covered by DOE stimulus monies. I’d like to learn more about this program, its requirements, and ultimately who (which Cities /Counties) intends to take advantage of the program.

ANSWER Interested parties are strongly encouraged to read the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and EECBG Application for information regarding the EECBG program. The FOA and Application may be found here: <http://www.mississippi.org/index.php?id=718>.

33. QUESTION

How do we proceed?

ANSWER Interested parties are strongly encouraged to read the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and EECBG Application for information regarding the EECBG program. The FOA and Application may be found here: <http://www.mississippi.org/index.php?id=718>.

34. QUESTION

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Will the state pay on current needs rather than reimbursement with proper documentation of work being completed and invoices?

PAY BACK ON STREET LIGHTING

I met with a representative of Entergy regarding LED light and found out that LED light is not part of their approved rate structure with the Public Service Commission. The only upgrade that is allowable under the current approved rate structure is from mercury vapor lighting to high sodium light. Because these lights are billed on a flat rate during this type of upgrade will result in \$1.00 cost savings per month per light. However, based upon the installation charge, the pay back is 24 months. Will this type of upgrade be allowed?

ANSWER

To the question “Will the state pay on current needs rather than reimbursement with proper documentation of work being completed and invoices?”:

No. As stated on page 7, “Payments shall be made on a cost-reimbursement basis over the course of the grant. Only the cost of actual charges incurred and paid will be reimbursed by MDA-ED, and all payments will be made to the entity awarded funds.” Grantees may submit invoices as they are paid and MDA-ED will endeavor to process Requests for Payment quickly, to limit the burden on the city or county awarded funds.

To the question “I met with a representative of Entergy regarding LED light and found out that LED light is not part of their approved rate structure with the Public Service Commission. The only upgrade that is allowable under the current approved rate structure is from mercury vapor lighting to high sodium light. Because these lights are billed on a flat rate during this type of upgrade will result in \$1.00 cost savings per month per light. However, based upon the installation charge, the pay back is 24 months. Will this type of upgrade be allowed?”:

As stated on page 5 of the FOA, eligible entities may use grant funds for energy efficient lighting technologies, including light emitting diodes (LED) or any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency. Within the scope of the question, the only upgrade that Entergy allows is high pressure sodium (HPS), which is more efficient than mercury-vapor and allowable under the EECBG program. In addition, MDA will endeavor to fund those projects that fall within a 10-year payback period. However, more information is needed to fully answer this question.

35. QUESTION

1. Will the amount or percentage of the grant be based on the median income level of the municipality?

2. Is a cultural resource assessment required when the funding is to upgrade air-conditioning units?

3. Does upgrading an air-conditioning unit to a higher S.E.R.I.S. qualify for this funding?

4. If we have a current MDA project are we still eligible to apply for these funds?

ANSWER

To the question “Will the amount or percentage of the grant be based on the median income level of the municipality?”:

No. The grant amount will be based on the project described in the application. As stated on page 3 of the FOA, “The maximum individual grant size is \$100,000 for cities and \$175,000 for counties. The minimum grant size is \$15,000. The maximum grant amount for a multijurisdictional award is \$375,000 with applicable caps (\$100,000 per city; \$175,000 per county).”

To the question “Is a cultural resource assessment required when the funding is to upgrade air-conditioning units?”:

Yes. As stated on page 9 of the FOA, “all Applicants must submit a Request for Cultural Resources Assessment.”

To the question “Does upgrading an air-conditioning unit to a higher S.E.R.I.S. qualify for this funding?”:

As stated on page 5 of the FOA, heating, venting, and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades are eligible. These upgrades must be identified as energy efficient by an energy audit or feasibility study.

To the question “If we have a current MDA project are we still eligible to apply for these funds?”:

Yes. As stated on page 2 of the FOA, “Cities, counties and tribal governments within the State of Mississippi that did not receive direct EECBG funding from DOE are eligible to apply for funding under this FOA.”

36. QUESTION

- a. The Mississippi Development Authority American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Funding Opportunity Announcement Appendix A lists Pearl River County receiving a direct allocation of \$234,700 from DOE. Do we contact the Board of Supervisors to find out how money is/was spent?

ANSWER

Yes

- b. Poplarville Special Municipal Separate School district is located in the city of Poplarville in Pearl River County. Poplarville School District is not owned or operated by Pearl River County or the City of Poplarville. Poplarville School District is governed by a five member board. Three of the five members are appointed by the Pearl River County Board of Supervisors. Two of the five members are appointed by the City of Poplarville Board of Aldermen. Is Poplarville School District eligible to apply for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program through the City of Poplarville?

ANSWER

Only those cities and counties that did not receive direct funds from the U.S. Department of Energy are eligible to apply for these funds. A school district is not an eligible applicant. See Appendix A for a list of Entitlement Communities.

37. QUESTION

As per the guidelines in the FOA, all buildings had to have energy audits completed to identify those items or activities that would reduce total energy consumption. I did not read anything indicating traffic signals or street lighting had eligibility requirements. Can the entity then apply for every traffic signal and street light that does not meet energy efficient lighting technology?

ANSWER

Per page 5 of the FOA, “Applicants are encouraged to develop and submit projects that provide measurable and verifiable benefits for existing buildings and public infrastructure within their jurisdiction. Eligible entities may use grant funds for the replacement of traffic signals, pedestrian signals, and street lighting with energy efficient lighting technologies, including light emitting diodes (LED) or any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency.

NOTE: Funds may not be used for the installation of a new traffic signal or new street lighting. Funds may only be used for the replacement of existing traffic signals or street lights with energy efficient signals or lights.” Additionally, per page 6 of the application, grant funds can only be applied to those devices owned by the applicant.

38. QUESTION

Are engineering fees an eligible cost through the EECBG Program? If so, what is the cap?

ANSWER

Applicants should be reminded to check the calculations in their audits to determine if design and engineering fees were included. Per the amended FOA on Page 4, Engineering Services will be reimbursed as part of the project delivery costs under the maximum grant amount. These services shall not exceed 10% of the estimated costs of the energy conservation measures. For the purposes of this FOA, Engineering Services include: 1) technical analysis and assessment

(audits); 2) the design phase; 3) coordination of advertisement, bidding, bid evaluation, and recommendation of award; and 4) inspection services.

Costs associated with allowable engineering services should be listed within the Budget grid on Page 9 of the Application under the “TOTAL OTHER” cost column and described in the Budget Justification.

39. QUESTION

One of the municipalities that I am working with has an open Small Municipality (SMLPC) grant on two of their public buildings that have had energy audits. Can they apply for the EECBG grant with an already open grant (SMLPC)?

ANSWER

Yes, a municipality that already has an open SMLPC grant can apply for EECBG funds. The only ineligible municipalities are Entitlement Communities. Please see Appendix A of the FOA for the list of Entitlement Communities.

40. QUESTION

As per the guidelines, an ASHRAE Level I or II Energy Survey and Analysis or feasibility study or other project assessment must be completed. Does this mean that an entity must use the estimated prices quoted in the audit for materials /labor/training that was recommended? Also, for those smaller scale items such as weather-stripping or developing computer use policies that were recommended, are we allowed to estimate the costs ourselves?

ANSWER

The purpose of the Energy Audit or feasibility study is to describe energy conservation measures and the estimated savings and payback period associated with those improvements. Although audits are designed to supply applicants with usable quotes and energy data, Applicants are not required to use any price quotes included in those audits in their budgets if they can obtain lower quotes.

Per Page 13 of the FOA, each Applicant must “explain how the cost estimates in the application were developed and why they are reasonable and justified. This is accomplished by furnishing vendor quotes on the proposed projects or other evidence of the costs of the proposed measures.”

If awarded, grantees must follow applicable state procurement laws when purchasing equipment or services. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their legal counsel to ensure full compliance with state procurement law.

41. QUESTION

What procurement regulations apply in selecting an outside consultant/administrator and engineer for the EECBG Program?

ANSWER

All awardees under this program are public entities, and therefore, applicable state procurement procedures should be followed. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their legal counsel to ensure full compliance with state procurement law.

42. QUESTION

In the audit, is the labor included in the quote that was received? And also, if they need to have an engineer to oversee the project to make sure everything is installed correctly, is the engineer cost in that quote or would this be a separate cost that could be put into the grant funding?

ANSWER

To the question – In the audit, is the labor included in the quote that was received?

If you have a specific question regarding information in your Energy Audit you should contact the auditor who did the report.

To the question – And also, if they need to have an engineer to oversee the project to make sure everything is installed correctly, is the engineer cost in that quote or would this be a separate cost that could be put into the grant funding?

Per the amended FOA on Page 4, Engineering Services will be reimbursed as part of the project delivery costs under the maximum grant amount. These services shall not exceed 10% of the estimated costs of the energy conservation measures. . For the purposes of this FOA, Engineering Services include: 1) technical analysis and assessment (audits); 2) the design phase; 3) coordination of advertisement, bidding, bid evaluation, and recommendation of award; and 4) inspection services.

Costs associated with allowable engineering services should be listed within the Budget grid on Page 9 of the Application under the “TOTAL OTHER” cost column and described in the Budget Justification.

43. QUESTION

The cost estimates that were given quoted in the TEAA Audits.... will these be final or will we be allowed to ask for over-runs in the bid process? Will an engineer of record be required in order to bid the project? If so, where will the funds come from to pay the engineer of record? Will the engineer who conducted the TEAA Audit be eligible to be the engineer of record for our project? In order to bid the project, the engineer of record will need to develop the plans and specifications for the bid process?

ANSWER

To the question – The cost estimates that were given quoted in the TEAA Audits...will these be final or will we be allowed to ask for over-runs in the bid process?

The purpose of the Energy Audit or feasibility study is to describe energy conservation measures and the estimated savings and payback period associated with those improvements. Applicants are not required to use any price quotes included in those audits in their budgets if they can obtain lower quotes.

Note that if an application is funded, the grant amount will be the maximum amount that MDA will reimburse. There will be no additional funds over and above what MDA awards to successful Applicants.

To the question – Will an engineer of record be required in order to bid the project?

Having an engineer is not required in this program. However if a city/county wishes to use an engineer, see Page 4 of the FOA for allowable engineering services. All awardees under this program are public entities, and therefore, applicable state procurement procedures should be followed. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their legal counsel to ensure full compliance with state procurement law.

To the question – If so, where will the funds come from to pay the engineer of record?

Per the amended FOA on Page 4, Engineering Services will be reimbursed as part of the project delivery costs under the maximum grant amount. These services shall not exceed 10% of the estimated costs of the energy conservation measures. . For the purposes of this FOA, Engineering Services include: 1) technical analysis and assessment (audits); 2) the design phase; 3) coordination of advertisement, bidding, bid evaluation, and recommendation of award; and 4) inspection services.

Costs associated with allowable engineering services should be listed within the Budget grid on Page 9 of the Application under the “TOTAL OTHER” cost column and described in the Budget Justification.

To the question – Will the engineer who conducted the TEAA Audit be eligible to be the engineer of record for our project?

No, the Engineer that performed an Energy Audit under the TEAA program is prohibited from also performing design and engineering services on that project.

To the question – In order to bid the project, the engineer of record will need to develop the plans and specifications for the bid process?

Design, coordination of advertisement, bidding, and bid evaluation are allowable Engineering Services, per Page 4 of the FOA.

44. QUESTION

Our board of education governs our school district. Therefore, does the grant still require a resolution from the mayor?

All contractors/installers must be licensed, bonded, and insured in the State of Mississippi. We plan to use our maintenance certified HVAC installers as leverage in the grant. Do these employees have to be licensed, bonded, and insured in the State of Mississippi?

ANSWER

Only cities and counties that did not receive direct funds from the U.S. Department of Energy are eligible to apply for these funds. A school district is not an Eligible Applicant. However, a city or county may submit an application that funds projects at city- or county-owned school facilities, up to the limits stated on Page 3 of the FOA.

Per page 8 of the FOA, applicants must include with their application a Letter of Commitment and Resolution from the mayor, city manager, county executive, or county administrator indicating support for the project and including a statement indicating that the Applicant understands and will adhere to all EECBG and ARRA requirements. See Appendix B for a Sample Resolution.

To the question - All contractors/installers must be licensed, bonded, and insured in the State of Mississippi. We plan to use our maintenance certified HVAC installers as leverage in the grant. Do these employees have to be licensed, bonded, and insured in the State of Mississippi?

ANSWER

As stated on Page 8 of the FOA, certified installers are required, *where applicable*, for all projects.

45. QUESTION

Are engineering design and construction inspection fees considered grant eligible costs?

ANSWER

Per the amended FOA on Page 4, Engineering Services will be reimbursed as part of the project delivery costs under the maximum grant amount. These services shall not exceed 10% of the estimated costs of the energy conservation measures. For the purposes of this FOA, Engineering Services include: 1) technical analysis and assessment (audits); 2) the design phase; 3) coordination of advertisement, bidding, bid evaluation, and recommendation of award; and 4) inspection services.

Costs associated with allowable engineering services should be listed within the Budget grid on Page 9 of the Application under the “TOTAL OTHER” cost column and described in the Budget Justification.

46. QUESTION

Does the energy audit or feasibility study have to be completed by the engineer before the application is turned in to MDA? If not how do we calculate components of current annual energy use and energy / cost savings data?

ANSWER

Applicants are required to have some form of analysis performed on their buildings that will substantiate the need for the proposed energy conservation measures, as well as provide estimated energy and cost savings, payback period, and justification for the cost of the measure. Per the FOA, this requirement can be fulfilled by obtaining an ASHRAE Level I or Level II Energy Survey and Analysis (energy audit), a feasibility study, or other energy assessment performed within the previous three (3) years.

If an Applicant is unable to obtain an Energy Audit before the application deadline, many vendors of energy conservation or renewable energy measures are able to perform analysis on buildings and provide the information necessary for this application.

47. QUESTION

Is it our responsibility to go ahead and forward the request for cultural resource assessment to the Mississippi state historic preservation office or do we simply include the completed Appendix C with our grant application?

ANSWER

No. MDA-ED will submit all finalists’ Request for Cultural Resources Assessment forms to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) for clearance. MDA-ED will only fund projects under this FOA that have been cleared by MDAH.

48. QUESTION

Are school systems eligible to apply for the ARRA EECBG grants? If the answer is yes, then it is assumed that the Resolution in Appendix B will be provided by the school district board of education. Is that correct? Would the letter of commitment come from our superintendent? We have the support of our cities and our county government, but the grant would be administered by the school district. Would the school district be considered a “county”, as we are a county-wide district, and would this make our maximum grant allowed be \$175,000? What is the approximate time for notification of acceptance or rejection of applications?

ANSWER

To the question – Are school systems eligible to apply for the ARRA EECBG grants?

Only cities and counties that did not receive direct funds from the U.S. Department of Energy are eligible to apply for these funds. A school district is not an Eligible Applicant. However, a city or county may submit an application that funds projects at city- or county-owned school facilities, up to the limits stated on Page 3 of the FOA.

To the question – If the answer is yes, then it is assumed that the Resolution in Appendix B will be provided by the school district board of education. Is that correct?

Only cities and counties that did not receive direct funds from the U.S. Department of Energy are eligible to apply for these funds. A school district is not an Eligible Applicant. See Page 8 of the FOA for information on the Resolution Requirement and Appendix B for a Sample Resolution.

To the question – Would the letter of commitment come from our superintendent?

Only cities and counties that did not receive direct funds from the U.S. Department of Energy are eligible to apply for these funds. A school district is not an Eligible Applicant. See Page 8 of the FOA for information on the Resolution Requirement and Appendix B for a Sample Resolution.

We have the support of our cities and our county government, but the grant would be administered by the school district.

Only cities and counties will receive grants under this program and the ultimate responsibility for the expenditures, compliance, and reporting will fall on the city or county. If the city/county chooses to use its funds on school facilities it may designate a school official as a project contact, but the responsibilities associated with the grant (for example, monthly reporting) will rest solely with the city/county.

To the question – Would the school district be considered a “county”, as we are a county-wide district, and would this make our maximum grant allowed be \$175,000?

Only cities and counties are eligible to apply for these funds. See Page 3 of the FOA for limits on awards. Grant amounts will not exceed these dollars amounts.

To the question – What is the approximate time for notification of acceptance or rejection of applications?

Anticipated grant notifications will come in late summer 2010.

49. QUESTION

In Section 6 of the application, #8 (on page 8) asks for the company's current employment in the State of MS: Is this asking the number of persons employed by the county/cit/town or entity, or is it asking for the unemployment rate in the area?

ANSWER

This criterion was removed from the Application in April. Please disregard this question. The current application can be found online at www.stimulus.mississippi.org.

50. QUESTION

Will the grant pay for the replacement of window units with a central heating and air conditioning system?

ANSWER

As with all projects, applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Per page 5 of the FOA, Heating, Venting, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrades are an eligible project, as long as it reduces energy consumption in the building. If the proposed system does reduce energy consumption, it would be considered, provided it meets the ten year payback period as described on Page 5 of the FOA.

51. QUESTION

- a. Is a professional engineer required on each project to prepare bid specifications, installation oversight, etc.? Is this a grant eligible expense and if so, at what percentage?
- b. Is there a mechanism in place to cover cost overruns as the 5% contingency outlined in the energy audit is less than other funding sources?

ANSWER

To the question – Is a professional engineer required on each project to prepare bid specifications, installation oversight, etc?

No.

To the question – Is this a grant eligible expense and if so, at what percentage?

Per the amended FOA on Page 4, Engineering Services will be reimbursed as part of the project delivery costs under the maximum grant amount. These services shall not exceed 10% of the estimated costs of the energy conservation measures. For the purposes of this FOA, Engineering Services include: 1) technical analysis and assessment (audits); 2) the design phase; 3) coordination of advertisement, bidding, bid evaluation, and recommendation of award; and 4) inspection services.

Costs associated with allowable engineering services should be listed within the Budget grid on Page 9 of the Application under the “TOTAL OTHER” cost column and described in the Budget Justification.

To the question – Is there a mechanism in place to cover cost overruns as the 5% contingency outlined in the energy audit is less than other funding sources?

If an application is funded, the grant award will be the maximum amount that MDA will reimburse. There will be no additional funds over and above what MDA awards to successful Applicants.

52. QUESTION

In the FOA, page 4, administrative costs are described as...Application Preparation fees limited to \$2,500 and Administrative Fees limited to 10% of the total project cost. Is the Application prep fee supposed to be a percentage of the total project cost also or is a flat fee of \$2,500 no matter the total project cost? Example: A total project cost of \$20,000 would be entitled to a \$2,500 application prep fee the same as a \$175,000 total project cost would.

ANSWER

Per page 4 of the FOA, the application preparation fees will be reimbursed up to \$2,500, regardless of the total project cost.

53. QUESTION

Do I have to have an audit done thru the TEAA program in order to apply for grant funds?

ANSWER

No.