

FOA #EN-06242010
Energy Saving Performance Contracting Program (ESPC)

Please see below for answers to all questions regarding the ESPC program received by the Mississippi Development Authority – Energy Division (MDA-ED) through June 10, 2010.

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

- a. Does the performance contract have to include the financing piece if we choose to pay cash for the project? If it must be financed, are there a minimum number of years?
- b. Can the ongoing performance monitoring be performed by the school district or does it have to be with the ESCO?
- c. The Energy Management Software requirement is for the project period plus one year. How do we determine what the project period is?
- d. How long will the monthly reporting be required by ARRA?

ANSWER

To the question – Does the performance contract have to include the financing piece if we choose to pay cash for the project? If it must be financed, are there a minimum number of years?

If a public entity intends to pay for a project from its own reserves, it is unclear why a performance contract would be entered into and if perhaps standard state procurement procedures are more appropriate in this case. MDA questions whether a project paid for in cash can even be considered a performance contract.

To the second question, the terms of the performance contract must ensure that savings from the project pay for the financing of the project. Per state law, the terms of the contract cannot exceed 15 years or the “useful life of the equipment,” whichever is less.

To the question – Can the ongoing performance monitoring be performed by the school district or does it have to be with the ESCO?

ARRA reporting will be required to come from the sub-recipient, which would be the school district in this case. If they choose to involve the ESCO to generate the data that the school district will report to MDA, that would be acceptable. MDA will expect monthly reporting from the sub-recipient, but it will be up to the sub-recipient as to how the reports are prepared.

To the question – The Energy Management Software requirement is for the project period plus one year. How do we determine what the project period is? How long will the monthly reporting be required by ARRA?

The project period will last from the time of the grant agreement execution until all grant-funded work is completed. After the project period ends, MDA will require monthly energy metrics reporting for one year, to report the actual savings resulting from the project implementation to the Department of Energy.

2. QUESTION

I would like to clarify who can file for the grants and how we can assist. i.e. What are the guidelines for the public entities that we can contact to assist in the grants?

ANSWER

Per page 3 of the FOA, Eligible Applicants are restricted to the following public entities working with an ESCO, per categories allowed for under MS State Law: public school districts, Institutions of Higher Learning; Community/Junior Colleges; publicly-owned hospitals; state agencies; local units of governments (cities and counties); and private non-profit hospitals.

3. QUESTION

In regards to indirect or administrative costs, my agency would like to know the indirect cost rate for this funding opportunity?

ANSWER

As stated on page 5 of the FOA, “funds will be used for the purchase and installation of equipment only and should have a Payback Period of less than 10 years.” As this program is structured to pay for the purchase and installation of these projects only, there will be no indirect costs paid for with grant funds. Please see page 5 for a list of eligible projects.

4. QUESTION

In the first table in Section 2: Building Information, the application asks for the building name and address. Our organization is in a campus setting. All of the buildings on the campus have the same address. Should the table be filled out with each individual building, even though they have the same address, or should the table just list the campus as a whole and the address for the campus? Also, our campus has one electric meter and one gas meter for the entire campus. There are more buildings than the number of rows in the table. If each building is required to be listed, what is the appropriate way to list all the buildings? The application is protected and it is not possible to add rows to the table.

ANSWER

To the question – Should the table be filled out with each individual building, even though they have the same address, or should the table just list the campus as a whole and the address for the campus?

Each building where work will be done under the Performance Contract should be listed separately.

For Applicants whose facilities have only one meter for an entire campus: MDA understands that this will be an issue when attempting to complete parts of the application. Please fill out the application to the best of your ability. Please note the reason that the questions in this section cannot be answered.

To the question - There are more buildings than the number of rows in the table. If each building is required to be listed, what is the appropriate way to list all the buildings? The application is protected and it is not possible to add rows to the table.

ANSWER

If necessary, attach a document to the Application with the required additional building information.

5. QUESTION

Which entity (Public or ESCO) is required to fill out Attachment B of the application? The text refers to the person signing as the person applying for the grant and the recipient of the grant, but the signature block has a place for "Company Name".

ANSWER

The responsible officer of the application should sign attachments A, B and C. Per page 3 of the FOA, Eligible Applicants are restricted to the following public entities, per categories allowed for under MS State Law: public school districts, Institutions of Higher Learning; Community/Junior Colleges; publicly-owned hospitals; state agencies; local units of governments (cities and counties); and private non-profit hospitals.

6. QUESTION

Does CCR Registration need to be active at the time of application submission or for a certain period of time after funds are allocated? What are the timeframe parameters for active CCR Registration?

ANSWER

Applicants must have DUNS and CCR numbers before MDA will be able to issue an award. See Page 7 of the FOA, for the web addresses for DUNS and CCR. Instructions on how to register can be found at the listed websites.

7. QUESTION

In submitting the Application Package, do you need 5 copies plus 1 original copy of *all enclosed items* or 1 original copy of all enclosed items plus *5 copies of the Application*?

ANSWER

Per page 10 of the FOA, please submit five copies of the application and one copy of the remaining application contents.

8. QUESTION

Once the applications have been opened and reviewed, what is the length of time in which the applicant will be notified if they will be awarded any funds? Is it days, weeks or months?

ANSWER

All applicants will be notified with an acceptance or rejection letter by mid August 2010.