

IMPORTANT: READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION DETAILS.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) is funded from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) through the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant. DOE's goal is to extend the capacity and capabilities of communities to implement high-impact, self-sustaining clean energy projects. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) will provide subawards to communities for energy efficiency projects. Eligible applicants for the Energy Efficiency Grant are counties, cities, and villages of Nebraska. The application can request funding for one project, and only one application per entity is allowed. Recipients must allocate funding to new projects: projects not started prior to the implementation of a grant award. DWEE intends to fund projects in small, mid-sized, and large communities throughout the state. Recipients will have until October 31, 2026, to complete the project. Quarterly progress reports to DWEE are required through December 2026 to track the progression of projects and evaluate community impacts of completed projects.

DOE awarded funds directly to the 10 most populous counties, 10 most populous cities, and the four Tribes of Nebraska under the same IIJA provision. Directly awarded counties, cities and tribes are ineligible to receive funding under this application.

DWEE anticipates that many communities will submit applications for this competitive grant opportunity. Recipient awards will be determined by the proposed project, benefit to the community, and overall quality of the application. The distribution of funds will depend on the number of applications received and grant amount requested. The maximum award per project is \$100,000.

Funding will be awarded to various types of energy efficiency projects: upgrades to improve performance of building envelope for government structures, heating, cooling and ventilation improvements, energy efficiency workforce development and training, and replacement of existing lighting equipment for government infrastructure. More details are provided on the types of energy efficiency projects in the following instructional pages.

Applicant Information

Eligible entity types are counties, cities, and villages. Enter the type and the name of the entity.

Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov. Existing registered entities can find their UEI by following the steps [here](#). New entities can get their UEI at SAM.gov and, if required, complete an entity registration. For more information about this transition, visit [SAM.gov](#).

Enter the Head of Entity Name and their title; for example: Mayor, City Administrator, or Chairperson. Enter requested contact information.

Enter the Contact Person for the grant application and their requested contact information.

Budget

Complete the Energy Efficiency for Communities Block Grant Program Budget Worksheet. A template is available on DWEE's EECBG Program Webpage. Fill in all applicable yellow cells in all the individual sheets: Budget Summary, a. Personnel, b. Fringe Benefits, c. Travel, d. Equipment, e. Supplies, f. Contractual, g. Other, h. Indirect Charges. Check Budget worksheet to verify all costs and totals are calculated correctly. From the Budget Summary sheet, enter the Total Project amount, Grant Funding Requested, and Additional Funding into the Application under Budget. Awarded recipients will be required to cover any additional project costs not covered by the award.

BUDGET RELATED FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS – PROCUREMENT STANDARDS

Property procurement and services under a federal award require that states must follow the same policies and procedures used for procurements from non-Federal funds. States are to comply with [§§ 200.321](#), [200.322](#), and [200.323](#) and ensure that every purchase order or other contract includes any clauses required by [§ 200.327](#). All other non-Federal entities, including subrecipients of a State, must follow the procurement standards in [§§ 200.318](#) through [200.327 as listed here](#).

BUDGET RELATED FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS – DAVIS BACON ACT

Recipients must comply with the Davis-Bacon Act that requires contractors and any subcontractors to compensate workers as required by the Act. Davis-Bacon Act and Related Act contractors and subcontractors must pay their laborers and mechanics employed under the contract no less than the locally prevailing wages and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area. Grant recipients must require contractors to submit weekly payroll data for construction and labor workers.

Contractors will submit weekly payroll information utilizing DOE’s LCPtracker online portal. Recipients must certify contractor payrolls through the LCPtracker system. Submission of payroll on LCPtracker is required for the labor of contractor and subcontractor workers performing project construction and labor at or adjacent to the project site; county, city or village employees performing construction and labor work are not required to have their wages entered into LCPtracker.

Please review the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Fact Sheet available on DWEE’s EECBG Webpage for a summary of the federal requirement. More information on the Davis-Bacon Act can be found from the U.S. Department of Labor and accessed at this link: [Davis-Bacon and Related Acts | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](https://www.dol.gov/eis/whysubs/ba.html).

BUDGET RELATED FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS – BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA ACT (BABAA)

For equipment and supplies purchased with federal funds, recipients must comply with BABAA. All iron and steel used in any infrastructure project is produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.

- All manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation. The costs of components of a manufactured product are determined in accordance with 2 CFR 184.5; and
- All construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. See 2 CFR 184.6 for the meaning of “all manufacturing processes” for specific construction materials.

BABAA only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or permanently affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought into the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a BABAA apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project. The BABAA requirement must flow down to all subawards, all contracts, subcontracts and purchase orders for work performed under the infrastructure project.

The term “infrastructure” includes at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States roads, highways and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property.

All applicants must submit either a certificate of compliance or a waiver request as follows.

CERTIFICATION OF BABAA COMPLIANCE

The applicant is required to provide certifications or equivalent documentation for proof of compliance that those articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, affixed to, or otherwise used in the infrastructure project, not covered by a DOE waiver or exemption, are produced in the United States. The certification or proof of compliance must be provided by the suppliers or manufacturers of the iron, steel, manufactured products and construction materials and flow up from all sub-awardees, contractors, and vendors to DWEE.

BABAA WAIVER REQUESTS

Applicants can submit a Waiver Request to DWEE if the applicant determines:

- Applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; or
- The types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
- The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent; or
- Small Grants Waiver – waives the requirement for projects that are less than \$250,000 in total costs; or
- De Minimis Waiver – waives the requirement when the covered products represent 5% or less of the total applicable project costs; or
- Minor Components Waiver – waives the requirement with respect to minor components of iron and steel products, where the minor components comprise no more than 5% of the total material cost of the iron or steel product in question.

Please complete the Waiver Request(s) using the information in *Guidance on Submission of Waiver for DOE Buy America Requirement* that can be accessed on DWEE's EECBG Program Webpage. The guidance details all the information that must be submitted. Applicants must submit any Waiver Request(s) to DWEE with the grant application package; DWEE will submit waiver requests to DOE. DOE may request, and the applicant must provide additional information for consideration of a submitted waiver. Waiver requests may take up to 90 days for DOE to process. DOE's final determination regarding approval or rejection of the waiver request may not be appealed.

Please review the Build America Buy America Fact Sheet available on DWEE's EECBG Program Webpage for a summary of the federal requirement. More rules on BABAA can be found at the U.S. DOE website at this link: [Build America, Buy America | Department of Energy](#).

Project Information

Enter the complete physical address(es) of the proposed project.

PROJECT CATEGORY

Check the box next to the category of the proposed project.

BUILDING ENVELOPE IMPROVEMENTS

Actions to improve energy efficiency of the building's envelope include installation of insulation, weather-sealant, duct-sealant, window replacement, and door replacement. Replacement windows must have a U-Factor of 0.26 Btu/(hr* ft^2 *°F) or lower; exterior doors must have a U-Factor of 0.20 Btu/(hr* ft^2 *°F) or lower.

HEATING, COOLING, OR VENTILATION UPGRADES

HVAC upgrades to existing systems to improve energy efficiency and/or improve ventilation are approved projects. Installation of programmable thermostats and electrical panel upgrades for new HVAC equipment are also eligible. The energy efficiency ratings for new equipment must follow standards listed on the HVAC Requirements page of the Lighting & Projects Metrics Spreadsheet. All HVAC equipment will require certification through the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) and will require a copy of the certification.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Development of training programs for energy technology workers, including payment to trainers and payment of fees for staff and apprentices are eligible for funding. A project description should include the community's assessment on current and future needs and plans to implement in-person or virtual training programs.

ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING

Replacement of less efficient lighting in existing government infrastructure: buildings, streetlights, and traffic lights with lighting technology that lowers energy demand are eligible projects. All lighting projects will require completion of the Lighting Worksheet in the Lighting & Project Metrics Templates spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is available on DWEE's EECBG Program Webpage. Fill in the type of proposed lighting shown in the left-hand column of the Lighting Worksheet. If replacing lamps and ballasts in existing fluorescent fixtures, identify the lamp and ballast manufacturers and model numbers and the number of each to be installed, and then mark "NA" for the fixture manufacturer but still total the number of fixtures. Or, if installing new fluorescent fixtures, complete the same information as above, but also identify the manufacturer, model number and number of new fixtures to be installed.

PLEASE NOTE:

Funds may not be used toward new buildings or construction. Instead, they must be used for efficiency improvements and retrofits to existing structures. For example, an eligible entity may not install new energy efficient streetlights in locations where there are currently no streetlights.

Ancillary equipment to perform energy efficient upgrades necessary for proper functioning and safety, such as electric system upgrades and wiring upgrades required by electrical codes are eligible uses of funds.

When replacing streetlights with LEDs on state highways, the applicant must obtain and provide a letter of approval from the State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT). For further assistance contact NDOT at NDOT at 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, NE 68502, (402)471-4567, <https://dot.nebraska.gov/contact-us/>.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROJECTS LOCATED IN A 100-YEAR FLOOD ZONE, WETLAND, OR ON TRIBAL LAND

If the proposed project is located within a 100-year Flood Zone, Wetland, or on Tribal Land, the applicant will be required to complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review before federal funds can be authorized for the project. A NEPA review requires an applicant complete an Environmental Questionnaire to submit with the application package. Projects that require a NEPA review may delay grant approval up to six weeks depending on the DOE NEPA review and response time.

The 100-year flood zone consists of areas that are at-risk for becoming inundated with water during a 100-year flood. These zones occur in low-lying areas, along rivers, lakes, and coastlines, or in other areas with poor drainage. The 100-year flood zone is used for flood risk mapping by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Flood Insurance Program. More information on 100-year Flood Zones can be found at this link: [Flood Zone Indicator Reference Sheet \(epa.gov\)](#). Access the FEMA Flood Zone map at this link: [FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer \(NFHL\) Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. More information on Wetlands can be found at this link: [Wetlands Protection and Restoration | US EPA](#) . Access the National Wetland Inventory Map at this link: [National Wetlands Inventory \(usqs.gov\)](#) . An Environmental Questionnaire (NEPA) template can be downloaded on DWEE's EECBG Program's Webpage [ADD LINK]. Please complete the Environmental Questionnaire and submit it with the grant application package.

OTHER PROJECTS PROMPTING A NEPA REVIEW

If DWEE determines that there are Extraordinary Circumstances, Cumulative Impacts, Connected Actions, or Integral Actions as defined below, a NEPA Review will be required.

Extraordinary Circumstances would be presented if there was scientific controversy about the environmental effects of the project, the project resulted in uncertain effects or effect involving unique or unknown risks, there were unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources for the project.

Cumulative Impact is defined as the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time.

Actions are connected if they automatically trigger other actions, they cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously, they are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification.

Integral Actions include those actions that:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.
- Require the siting and construction of major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities.
- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.
- Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources.

PROJECTS SUBJECT TO A REVIEW FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

If the project is for a building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places or is located within a National Historic District, a Section 106 Review through the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is required before any federal funding can be used for the project.

If the project is for a building that is 45 years or older, a Section 106 Review will be required unless the project involves only indoor lighting. A SHPO Review is required if a project will result in any ground disturbance.

All projects on Tribal Land require a SHPO and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) review.

SHPO prefers that communities preserve the architectural character of existing streetlamps when replacing existing street lighting.

Applicants can access a copy of the SHPO form on DWEE's EECBG Program Webpage. Because SHPO Reviews may take up to 30 days for response, please send the completed form directly to SHPO. Please forward SHPO's response and a copy of the original Section 106 form to DWEE.

Project Description (45pts)

Provide a detailed description of the proposed project with supporting data and metrics, as provided in the Project Metrics Template sheet in the Lighting & Project Metrics Templates workbook; explain how milestones will be measured and evaluated; and explain the community's financial need for this grant.

- For upgrades in indoor or outdoor lighting installation provide the projected energy savings; use the provided Lighting Worksheet to obtain the necessary calculations.
- For improvements to the building envelope or replacement of old heating and cooling equipment, describe how the project will improve energy efficiency or improve comfort.
- For energy workforce training, describe how the project will increase the readiness of energy technology workers.

*Please note: All applications must be accompanied by at least one itemized bid providing a detailed description of the proposed project, such as manufacturers, model numbers, quantities, breakdown of cost for all components, labor, and installation. All bids must be accompanied by equipment cutsheets, or information sheets, providing proof of any necessary certifications. **However, bids and cutsheets will not suffice in lieu of the Project Description and listing "See attachment" in this section will disqualify the applicant from further consideration.***

Benefit to Community

Key components of the IIJA and the EECBG promote improving the community by providing long-lasting benefits such as decreasing the community's energy burden, improving energy efficiency, and promoting job growth.

ENERGY BURDEN is defined as the cost of energy relative to the overall budget. In qualitative terms, describe how lowering the cost of the community's energy will benefit the whole community and have long-lasting benefits. (15 pts)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY and conservation is the use of less energy to perform the same task or produce the same result. Describe how the proposed project will increase energy efficiency and promote energy conservation and have an overall community benefit. Explain how the project might lead to or enhance existing energy efficiency initiatives and projects in the private sector and community at large. (15 pts)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT is defined here as education and training of individuals for a more skilled energy workforce. Describe how an energy efficiency project or formal training will lead to higher skilled energy technology workers. (5 pts)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT is defined as a process in which a community transforms its economy. Describe how the project will encourage the creation or growth of local business ventures or how it will improve well-being and quality of life of the community's residents. (5 pts)

CLARITY OF OVERALL APPLICATION

Applicants will be scored for application clarity. For a maximum score, applicants must propose a well-developed project idea with clear and concise language, a well-prepared and reasonable budget, and communicate an overall goal to improve energy efficiency in the community. (15pts)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS

By signing the application and certifying the Acknowledgement of General Project Requirements section, the local official acknowledges the understanding of and agrees to the proper use of federal funding under this grant, specific grant requirements, including compliance with federal rules and regulations for Grant and Subawards under the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations.

APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

DWEE will review applications, select subaward recipients, and subaward agreements will be issued. Awarded recipients must be enrolled with the State of Nebraska for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The ACH Enrollment Form for EFT is available on DWEE's EECBG Webpage.

To expedite the application review process, please send the complete application package to dwee.energy@nebraska.gov with "EECBG Application" in the subject line. If electronic submission is not possible, applications may be sent to Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment, Attn. Energy Section EECBG, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, STE 100, Lincoln, NE 68521.