

PROGRAM ALERT!

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program

I. BACKGROUND:

The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA; Pub. L. No. 110-140), signed into law on December 19, 2007, created the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The Program as established by EISA is for federal grants to units of local government, Indian tribes, and states to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and for improvements in energy efficiency. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) of the US Department of Energy will likely administer the EECBG Program.

Title V, Subtitle E of EISA describes the purpose for creating the EECBG Program:

- (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program shall be to assist eligible entities in implementing strategies—*
- (1) to reduce fossil fuel emissions created as a result of activities within the jurisdictions of eligible entities in a manner that—*
 - (A) is environmentally sustainable; and*
 - (B) to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;*
 - (2) to reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; and*
 - (3) to improve energy efficiency in—*
 - (A) the transportation sector;*
 - (B) the building sector; and*
 - (C) other appropriate sectors.*

II. DOING BUSINESS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Each eligible grant recipient must become familiar with FedConnect, the mechanism for applying for the EECBG Program. The web link for submitting applications through FedConnect is:

https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf

Before submitting an application through FedConnect each organization must complete the following steps:

- Step 1: Request a DUNS Number at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>
- Step 2: Register with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) at <http://www.ccr.gov/>.
- Step 3: E-Business Point of Contact must register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/>.

Please allow 21 days to complete the registration process.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Please note that the eligibility requirements could change based on final passage of the Stimulus bill. The information that follows is taken directly from EISA to help you understand whether you *may* be eligible for funding under this program.

For the purpose of EECBG, an “eligible entity” is a State (which includes U.S. territories), an Indian tribe, and specified units of local government (cities and counties). Specific definitions for eligibility are as follows:

STATES

For the purposes of the EECBG Program, the definition of a “State” includes the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

INDIAN TRIBES

The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b) which is any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

ELIGIBLE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CITIES

For the purposes of the EECBG Program, a city is an “eligible unit of local government” if it has a population of at least 35,000, or a population that causes the city to be 1 of the 10 highest-populated cities of the State in which it is located.

COUNTIES

For the purposes of the EECBG Program, a county is an “eligible unit of local government” if it has a population of at least 200,000, or a population that causes the county to be 1 of the 10 highest-populated counties of the State in which it is located.

IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Visit the DOE website:

EERE’s Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/wip>

2. Contact the EERE Information Center via phone, e-mail or website:

Phone: 1-877-EERE-INFO (1-877-337-3463) (Toll-free)
Hours of operation – 9 am - 7 pm EST, Mon – Fri

E-Mail: eereic@ee.doe.gov

Website: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter/>

3. Subscribe to EERE’s Progress Alerts:

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/subscribe.cfm>