

North Carolina Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Request for Proposals

ADDENDUM 1

Friday, November 1st, 2024

The North Carolina State Energy Office (SEO) is amending the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Request for Proposals (RFP).

Extension of deadline: The deadline to respond to this RFP has been extended to Friday, December 13th, 2024. The submission protocol remains the same.

Expansion of accepted Blueprints: The scope of work accepted within this RFP has been expanded to include all Blueprints detailed by the US Department of Energy. Link to Blueprint summary webpage: <https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program-blueprints>.

Blueprints include:

- Energy Planning
 - [Blueprint #1: Energy Planning](#)
- Efficient Buildings
 - [Blueprint #2A: Energy Efficiency - Energy Audits and Building Upgrades](#)
 - [Blueprint #2B: Energy Savings Performance Contracts: Energy Efficiency and Electrification in Government Buildings](#)
 - [Blueprint #2C: Building Electrification Campaign](#)
 - [Blueprint #2D: Building Performance Standards & Stretch Codes](#)
- Renewables
 - [Blueprint #3A: Solar & Storage- Power Purchase Agreements and Direct Ownership](#)
 - [Blueprint #3B: Community Solar](#)
 - [Blueprint #3C: Solarize Campaign](#)
 - [Blueprint #3D: Renewable Resource Planning for Rural and Tribal Communities](#)
- Electric Transportation
 - [Blueprint #4A: Electric Vehicles and Fleet Electrification](#)
 - [Blueprint #4B: EV Charging Infrastructure for the Community](#)
- Finance
 - [Blueprint #5: Unlocking Sustainable Financing Solutions for Energy Projects and Programs with Revolving Loan Funds](#)
- Workforce
 - [Blueprint #6: Workforce Development](#)

So that projects funded by this subgrant do not trigger NEPA, proposed projects must ensure that they do not involve any *new ground disturbing processes*. For example, an EV charger can only be installed in an *existing* parking lot with funds from this subgrant.

Evaluation criteria: With the expansion of the accepted Blueprints detailed above, the evaluation criteria has been amended (see below). Care has been taken to preserve the integrity of the initial scoring method, while expanding the criteria to meet a broader range of Blueprints.

Title page (5 points)

- Project name
- Project location
- Project county(s) and [County Distress Ranking\(s\)](#)
- Blueprint selected
- Project description (provide a brief summary of the proposed project activities and outcomes)
- Funding amount requested
- Point of Contact
 - Name
 - Title
 - Email address
 - Phone number
- Entity's legal name
- Entity's primary place of business
- Recipient UEID number

Prompt 1 – Program Importance (25 points)

In a cohesive narrative, include the following information, along with supplemental information as the applicant deems appropriate.

- Describe the existing infrastructure and what upgrades are needed for the proposed project. How would receipt of funds improve energy efficiency? Include details that will help reviewers understand the magnitude of need for assistance. At a minimum, applicants should provide the type of energy currently used in the community (electric, natural gas, propane, other) that the project could affect. Clearly stated need for assistance based on existing infrastructure and required upgrades, and how funds will improve energy efficiency: **5 points**
- Explain the importance of this project as it relates to energy efficiency, including the impacts to the surrounding community and how this project will enhance energy efficiency. Include projected energy savings and/or reduced greenhouse gas emissions this project may implement. Describe clean energy savings in terms of kilowatts, kilowatt hours, therms, gallons of gasoline, etc. Applicants may also use the EPA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Equivalencies Calculator: <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator> to estimate greenhouse gas emissions reductions (carbon, other GHGs, etc.) from the proposed project. **5 points**
- Discuss potential issues that could arise during the project period and how they will be addressed and/or avoided. **1 point**
- Discuss any community engagement, community outreach, and community impact that this project will include. **2 points**
- Provide information about the way the proposed project supports the entity's current energy efficiency and/or decarbonization plan. **2 points**
- Be sure to include detailed descriptions of how the proposed project meets Blueprint requirements. Specify which Blueprint and which aspect of the Blueprint the project will address. Why is the selected Blueprint and aspect relevant and critical to the project? **10 points**

Prompt 2 – Community Impacts (25 points)

In a cohesive narrative, include the following information, along with supplemental information as the applicant deems appropriate.

- Provide details about the communities that will be served by this proposed funding. Include information about how the project will provide benefits to specific DAC in the area. For assistance, reference the CEJST map provided on page 3 of this document. This information will be used to determine entity prioritization. **17 points distributed as shown below.**
 - Project entity is a local government that did not receive direct EECBG funding. **7 points**
 - Projects located in CEJST specified DAC area. **5 points**
 - Provide details on how the project will provide direct benefits to the local community. **5 points**
- Explain why this project will be transformative to the community, highlighting both short- and long-term impacts. **2 points**
- Detail jobs created/retained by this project, including expected impacts to historically underserved communities. **2 points**
- Discuss planned community engagement and outreach that will be conducted as part of this project. **2 points**
- Include information about community partner organizations, including nonprofits and local businesses. **2 points**

Prompt 3 – Technical Information (25 points)

In a cohesive narrative, include the following information, along with supplemental information as the applicant deems appropriate.

- Detail the project plan, highlighting the technical aspects in this narrative section. For example, if Blueprint 2A is selected, provide details on how many buildings are being assessed or audited, provide technical details on upgrades to buildings and proposed energy efficient technologies to be installed. **8 points**
- Discuss energy savings, including metrics for calculation and anticipated savings. This information should include the type of energy used and how potential energy savings and/or GHG emission reductions were calculated. Include the current baseline energy expenditures and/or GHG emissions. Applicants may, but are not limited to, refer to the EPA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Equivalencies Calculator: <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator> to estimate potential GHG emission reductions from the proposed project. If no energy savings will be generated by the project, clearly explain why. Ensure that the reader can understand the importance of the proposed project. **10 points**
- Project Objectives and Metrics. The applicant should provide specific, measurable objectives that describe the desired results of the project. For each objective, identify metrics to measure progress and success of the project.
- Provide information about long-term project success and sustainability and how this project will impact future energy reductions. **2 points**

- Define when the program will be ready to start and when it will be completed. Note that projects must be completed by December 2026. **1 point**
- Include information ensuring that the project will follow all relevant federal requirements, detailed in Reporting Requirements for Accepted Projects on page 8 and Additional Information for Applicants on page 8. **1 point**
- Provide justification for parts and labor needs to supplement vendor quote attachment. If vendor quote is not available when application is submitted, provide estimated timeframe for vendor quote submission. **3 points**

Prompt 4 – Financial Assistance (10 points)

In a cohesive narrative, include the following information, along with supplemental information as the applicant deems appropriate.

- Describe the need for financial assistance in completing this project by including why the project has not yet been implemented, including the impact to the community and why earning this award would be transformational. **5 points**
- In addition to a clearly organized budget spreadsheet, applicants must include a budget narrative that justifies the need for funding in this section. **5 points**

Required documentation (10 points)

- Budget spreadsheet (template included at the end of this RFP). **5 points**
- Program timeline (Please note that all projects must be completed by December 2026). **2 points**
- Vendor quote for parts and labor (Strongly recommended but not required with initial application, but will be required prior to funding award and agreement)
- A written assurance that the applicant is not a debarred or suspended entity. **1 point**
- A written assurance that all required award provisions will be flowed down in the resulting applicant agreement. **1 point**
- [If applicable] Environmental questionnaire for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Key Partners and Stakeholders. Identify and provide the roles and responsibilities of all partners or key stakeholder groups who will take part in the project implementation. **1 point**
- Any additional information that applicants feel is pertinent to their proposed project.

Additional application information

- Multiple applications are permitted.
- Cost matching is not required for this funding opportunity.
- System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration. Applicants must register with SAM.gov and obtain a Universal Entity Identifier (UEID) prior to receiving a grant award. A UEID number is a unique twelve-character alphanumeric ID, generated by SAM, used to identify your organization. Applicants should complete this process as soon as possible to provide the UEID number with the application. SAM is a web-based, government-wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about intended federal grant recipients and other partners.

Question period: SEO will be accepting questions related to this addendum through Monday, November 11th, 2024. Please direct all questions to SEO.team@deq.nc.gov. Answers to all questions will be posted on the DEQ website on Friday, November 15th, 2024.

Unless discussed above, all other sections of the original RFP remain as written.