

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District Department of the Environment



Low Income Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - RFA # 2014-1415-EECP

District Department of the Environment's Responses to Questions Received

General Questions

1. RFA states that the purpose of the grant is “to install energy efficiency measure in more than 300 units per year” [page 3]. Please clarify how applicant should proceed if “maximum allowable cost per dwelling is \$6,904” [page 21]? That is, the minimum 300 units at this amount totals more than \$2 million, but the available funds are only \$1.2 million. Does this mean that the retrofits should be scaled back to achieve a maximum cost per dwelling of approximately \$3,300 to \$4,000?

Response

The “more than 300 units per year” phrase is a program goal based on historical achievements of the program. The amount of units completed each year depends on funding availability and the actual amount spent in each household. Although the maximum allowable cost per dwelling is \$6,904, a household may not require this maximum dollar amount, which allows more households to be served with the stated funding. An applicant is expected to establish a budget and a goal that does not exceed \$1.2 million each year or the maximum allowable cost per unit.

2. Is there a minimum number dwellings that must be serviced per year?

Response

No, there is no minimum number of units that must be served per year.

3. Is there an existing pipeline of qualified candidates for these retrofits?

Response

Yes, DDOE has a pipeline of qualified candidates for these retrofits.

4. If so, how many are there?

Response

DDOE currently has a pipeline of more than 300 low-income units to be served. DDOE accepts program on a continuous basis and will provide weatherization services to residents on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are fully expended.

5. Please state approximately what percent of the candidates will require emergency-related service? Please provide FY 2012 – FY 2014 data to support that estimate.

Response

The percentage of households that will require emergency-related service is based on the demand for emergency heating in a home. Historically, DDOE has provided emergency replacement or repair of heating systems to approximately 200 households.

6. Is there any flexibility in the 3 day installation requirement for emergency heating and cool appliances based on the applicant's schedule and the products availability?

Response

Yes, there is some flexibility to the 3-day installation requirement but there must be open and fully documented communications with the customer and DDOE.

7. What documentation will be provided along with each lead to describe their need and show that they qualify for services?

Response

DDOE is responsible for verifying the eligibility of each customer and will provide the Subgrantee with detailed Scopes of Work/Work Orders that identify the number and types of energy efficiency measures to be installed in each home.

8. Please state deadline date and time to respond to all clarification questions from applicants.

Response

The RFA does not specify a cut-off date for DDOE responses to clarifying questions. However, DDOE will not provide responses to questions submitted by potential applicants after the deadline specified in the RFA.

9. The EECF RFA indicates that it is a second request. Please share the results of the first request.

Response

DDOE cannot share the results of the first RFA at this juncture.

10. The EECF RFA indicates that it is a second request. Please share the results of the first request.

Response

See response to question number 9.

11. Will EECP funding be entirely focused on serving 300 units in the single-family market per year?

Response

No, EECP funding can be used to provide weatherization services to both single and multi-family low-income dwelling units.

12. In section 1.4 the proposal states that each applicant may submit an application for more than one project. How many projects are included in the EECP RFA?

Response

The EECP RFA includes two (2) projects that provide weatherization assistance to low-income District residents. One of the projects is funded by the US Department of Energy, and the other is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services and District General Funds.

Finance-related Questions

1. Please clarify if DDOE's cost for the program is included in the \$1.2 million. That is, should Applicants assume a budget of less than the stated \$1.2 million?

Response

DDOE's cost for the program is not included in the \$1.2 million budget. An applicant is expected to submit a budget for all costs associated with the delivery of the required services that does not exceed \$1.2 million per year.

2. RFA states "Subgrantee to include an operation fee not to exceed 20%" [page 20]. Please clarify if this is 20% of the total \$1.2million (or other budget total)? or 20% of \$6,904?

Response

The not-to-exceed 20% operations fee applies only to the project that is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services and District General Funds. A Subgrantee may receive an operations fee not to exceed 20% of the total allowable costs for each home/unit completed.

3. RFA states that "US DOE allows a 10% administration fee" [page 20]. Please clarify if the 10% is additional to or portion of the 20% operational cost mentioned in previous question. In other words, should Applicant budgets contain up to 30% in non-project costs?

Response

An applicant may not include a budget that contains "up to 30% in non-project costs." The 10% administration fee applies only to the project that is funded by the US Department of Energy and should not be viewed as an addition or portion of the 20% operations fee

mentioned in the previous question unless the Subgrantee performs work in a home that is funded by both projects.

4. Please clarify the definitional differences between the operation fee and the administrative fee.

Response

The terms are nomenclature developed by DDOE to differentiate the service/project delivery costs incurred by the Subgrantee.

5. Please clarify the extent to which a “Non-DDOE Match” is required, as stated on page 12, and what qualifies for that match.

Response

A non-DDOE match is preferred but not required.

6. Will extra funds be granted toward projects in which the installation of the appliance necessitates a budget price point above \$6904.00?

Response

An applicant must provide a detailed description of expenditures above the maximum allowable cost and obtain written approval from DDOE prior to the installation of any measure(s) that exceed the maximum allowable cost per home/unit.

7. Does DDOE have a percentage budget allocation in mind between weatherization versus emergency equipment replacement services?

Response

No, a specific percentage between weatherization versus emergency equipment replacement services has not been established.

Energy Audit Report Questions

1. Please confirm that the energy audit will be carried out by DDOE.

Response

Yes.

2. If so, please identify which contactors will perform those audits.

Response

DDOE energy auditors will perform all audits.

3. Should DDOE run the audit process, what is the estimated budget for running the process?

Response

There is no established budget for this process.

4. What specific standard is used to conduct the audit? BPI or HERS?

Response

DDOE utilizes the National Energy Audit Tool (NEAT) to conduct all single-family home energy audits, and the Targeted Retrofit Energy Analysis Tool (TREAT) to conduct all multi-family audits.

5. Please clarify if the final audit report will contain specific energy efficiency measures that must be installed by the applicant, and what provisions the Applicant should consider if the cost of installing the required measures exceeds the allowable maximum per-dwelling cost.

Response

The final audit report will contain specific energy efficiency measures that must be installed by the applicant. The recommended measures will be clearly specified in the “Work Orders” provided to the Subgrantee. If the cost of installing the required measures exceeds the allowable maximum per-dwelling cost, the applicant must provide a written explanation of those costs and receive written approval from DDOE prior to installing a measure whose costs exceed those specified in the Work Order.

6. Please clarify if the audit report will include pricing for recommended measures.

Response

Yes, the audit report/Work Order will include pricing for each recommended measure.

7. Please clarify if all the recommended measures have Savings-to-Income-Ratio (SRI) of at least 1 or higher, as listed on page 25.

Response

In most instances, the recommended measures will have a savings-to-investment ratio of 1 or higher.