

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications #2022-2205-USA
Green Building Innovation Assistance Grants

RFA REVISION: The RFA has been revised to include language on preferential scoring for Certified Business Enterprises (CBE). See Sections 3.4(k) Required Documents and the Application Scoring (pg.28).

- Q1.** The Professional Liability Insurance (Errors & Omissions) requirement says, "if applicable". If we have a theoretical project, would we be exempt from providing E&O insurance?
- A1.** If the project is just theoretical then Professional Liability Insurance (Errors & Omissions) is not required.
- Q2.** The Environmental Liability/Grantees Pollution Liability Insurance requirement says, "if applicable". If we have a theoretical project, would we be exempt from providing Environmental and Pollution Liability insurance?
- A2.** If the project is just theoretical then Environmental Liability/Grantees Pollution Liability Insurance is not required.
- Q3.** We are working with a multifamily client who is considering a storage system with solar PV. Could you please shed some light on what might be covered via the grant? Will the client get a portion of the storage cost as a grant? Or would the grant be applied towards our consulting services?
- A3.** Pages 11-13 of the RFA describe the Project budget and include lists of allowable and non-allowable expenditures. Examples of fundable activities are also included in the sections describing each Approach (pages 23-27). The description of Approach 3, Renewable Energy Storage, on pages 25-26, notes that "Approach 3 may be used to partially fund the purchase and installation of energy storage technology." Professional services, such as consulting, are also allowable expenditures.
- Q4.** Is there an upper amount limit per project out of the \$175K total?
- A4.** No, there is no limit to the amount that may be requested per Project. However, DOEE's evaluation favors a cost-effective Project. Page 23 of the RFA includes a table showing DOEE's recommended budget maximum for each Approach. These limits are not mandatory, but if an application departs from the recommended budget amount, it should provide a compelling justification.
- Q5.** Would a grant for a green cleaning training be a good fit?
- A5.** No. Applicants should only propose Projects that address one or more of the Approaches listed in the RFA. The Approaches are described on pages 23-27 of the RFA.
- Q6.** I am considering a smart plug-load pilot as well, but the minimum cost for a single K12 facility to adopt such an initiative would be close to \$100K. Is this the best grant vehicle for these types of projects?

- A6.** A smart plug-load initiative may be an appropriate strategy for a Project pursuing Approaches 1, 2, and/or 3. However, while DOEE has total funding of \$175,000 for these grants, DOEE anticipates awarding grants to multiple applicants, in varying amounts. There is no limit to the amount that may be requested per Project, however DOEE's evaluation favors a cost-effective Project. DOEE's evaluation also favors a Project that is supported by matching funds or in-kind services.
- Q7.** Given the recommended allocation of funding, how much flexibility does DOEE have to award larger amounts for projects with a larger scale?
- A7.** The recommended maximum budget amounts listed in the table on page 23 of the RFA are only recommendations. DOEE has a total of \$175,000 available for this grant program. While there is no limit on the amount that may be requested for a given Project, DOEE's evaluation favors cost-effective Projects. If an application departs from the recommended budget amount, it should provide a compelling justification.
- Q8.** Is there a list of past projects that have received the grant?
- A8.** Yes, available here: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1144081>
- Q9.** Would a building envelope assessment of a historic building be eligible? It is for an HVAC upgrade to save energy. We just electrified the heating system.
- A9.** A building envelope assessment could fit into a strategy for Approach 1, Net-Zero Energy.
- Q10.** What is the balance between implementation and research that will inform future projects?
- A10.** The application should describe a specific building project that grant activities and findings will be applied to. While an applicant is not required to implement all of the green building strategies evaluated for their Project, DOEE's evaluation favors Projects that are more likely to be implemented; this scoring criterion offers up to 10 points. A letter of support from the owner would be welcome documentation of likelihood to implement. DOEE's evaluation also favors Projects that would serve as valuable case studies, with high potential to advance green building practices and knowledge in the District; this scoring criterion offers up to 15 points. This criterion has the highest point value in recognition that a primary goal of the grant program is to expand knowledge and build capacity in the industry.
- Q11.** Can an applicant submit multiple proposals or submit a single application for multiple Approaches?
- A11.** Yes. If multiple Approaches are being considered for the same building project they may be submitted as part of the same application. An applicant may also submit multiple applications. If one building project wants to pursue multiple approaches, they are welcome to submit one application or multiple. That is at an

applicant's discretion. Reviewers will look at each application, holistically, and score it as a package.

Q12. How should we include implementing partners in the application?

A12. Identify the key team members for the project and provide brief biographies or their resumes. The team members can be staff, volunteers, subgrantees, or contractors. Any partnering organizations should provide a letter of support. RFA section 3.d.4, on page 14 of the RFA, goes into greater depth on partnerships.

Q13. When is the final report due?

A13. The initial grant period is tied to the DC fiscal year, ending September 30, 2022. The grant period may be extended at DOEE's discretion. Grantees must submit a draft final report two weeks before the end of the grant period and must submit the final report within two weeks after the end of the grant period.

Q14. Does the project need to be in permitting process?

A14. No. Projects may be in any stage of the development process.

Q15. How much funding is available for Renewable Energy Storage?

A15. Of the total \$175,000 available for this grant program, \$75,000 is earmarked for Approach 3, Renewable Energy Storage.

Q16. Does the Project need to be a proven technology/strategy, or can it be a prototype/pilot approach?

A16. The grant is intended to support green building innovation, so prototypes and pilot programs are welcome. Proven technologies/strategies are also welcome.

Q17. Can grant funds awarded through this program be combined with grant funds from other DC government grant programs?

A17. Yes. This grant program does not have any restrictions related to other funding sources. In fact, DOEE's evaluation favors an application that leverages matching funds or in-kind services in support of the Project.

Q18. Will a recording of the February 9 Q&A session be available?

A18. Yes, available here:

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/ldr.php?RCID=a27ce59b3c945418b420d745d5a4071d>

Q19. Does a business entity or non-profit need to be registered in DC to be eligible to apply?

A19. A business entity or non-profit does not need to be registered in DC, but the building project described in the application must be located in DC. Please note that the documents required per Section 3.4 of the RFA apply to all entities regardless of where they are registered to do business (e.g., Certificate of Good Standing, Certificate of Clean Hands, etc.).

Additionally, for qualifying local District business or nonprofit entities (as described in Appendix 5), DOEE will award 5 additional points to an application's total point score. Qualifying local entities should submit a completed and signed copy of Appendix 5 to claim these points.

Q20. Could I apply as a private citizen?

A20. The full list of eligible entities is available on page 5 of the RFA; a private citizen is not allowed to apply if they are unaffiliated with one of those listed entities.

Q21. What is the timeline for review?

A21. Announcements will be made approximately 6-8 weeks after the application deadline.

Q22. Are there any resources available to support projects pursuing these green building strategies?

A22. Applicants are encouraged to review the resources available on the DOEE Green Building page: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1506686>

Q23. Do projects need to be located in the District of Columbia?

A23. Yes.

Q24. Given the likelihood of multiple awards under this RFA, if there is a project DOEE deems worthy, but is trying to maximize awards, will it prorate an application request, or are applications all or nothing?

A24. Grants are not awarded all or nothing. DOEE may award a grant of less than the amount requested in an application based on availability of funds.

Q25. I have a 12-units apartment building located in DC. I house all low-income families. Am I eligible to apply for making upgrades or some changes?

A25. Section 1.6 Eligibility lists entities that are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity. Your application may be eligible for review if the proposed upgrades or changes address one of the Approaches described in Section 7.2 of the RFA.

Q26. We are assisting a project with installing a dedicated outside air system (DOAS) with an energy recovery wheel which will save a lot of electricity. The grant program is specifically for Net-zero energy, Building electrification, Renewable energy storage, Embodied carbon reduction, and/or Deconstruction and reuse. Would our DOAS design project apply to this grant?

A26. The design of this system may fit into a building's net-zero energy or building electrification strategy, and could therefore be eligible for Approaches 1 or 2, described in the RFA.