

RFA-FY25-DBD-875 Public Questions and Answers

Q1: We wanted to discuss if this aligns with a decarbonization project we are currently working on at a local university. We've assessed a total of 10 buildings and are proposing upgrades/decarbonization for each building and 6 of the buildings are between 10,000 GSF and 50,000 GSF, which aligns with one of the requirements for the retuning pilot program. Part of our effort is looking for incentive and rebate programs to offset the costs of the initiatives.

A1: Regarding eligible building types, please see Section 7.1 of [the RFA Document](#) where targeted segments are discussed.

This is a competitive grant opportunity. We cannot provide individual consultations with potential applicants.

Q2: Does the applicant have to be a single entity, or can it be a group of entities?

A2: The applicant can be a group of entities with a single applicant as the lead applicant. If awarded a grant, the lead applicant will be the recipient, and the other entities will be subrecipients.

Q3: Does everyone involved in the proposal need to have insurances as outlined in Appendix 6, or just the lead?

A3: Any sub-recipient or sub-contractor working on grant activities must have the same insurance coverage required by the prime grantee.

Q4: To receive the grant, does the grantee have to be a DC based entity?

A4: There is no requirement for the recipient or sub-recipients to be DC-based.

Q5: What is DOEE's vision for how much of this grant funding goes directly to buildings (whether in the form of no-cost or low-cost measures) vs to the project partners for plan development, coordination, etc.?

A5: There are no requirements for dividing the budget between grant activities, labor, materials, etc., how funds are spent are entirely up to the grantee to propose.

Q6: You mentioned that the grantee will implement measures. Who selects the contractors for implementation? Guarantee, building owner, or DOEE?

A6: Grantee will determine and coordinate which party implements complementary energy conservation measures.

Q7: Does DOEE want a community partner involved? Is it intended that community engagement be a significant part of this pilot?

A7: A community partner is not required to be involved, and community engagement is not part of this pilot.

Q8: Is blower door/infrared mandatory for building enclosures improvements?

A8: There are no specific requirements for energy conservation measures (ECMs) to be offered to pilot participants.

Q9: Can all 10 selected buildings be owned by the same person/entity?

A9: Because this grant targets three building segments, house of worship, affordable housing and Class B and C commercial buildings, it is unlikely that one entity would own buildings from all three categories.

Q10: Who selects the 10 "eligible" buildings? Guarantee or DOEE?

A10: Grantee proposes eligibility criteria and selects participants utilizing that criteria.

Q11: You mentioned that grantees don't need to provide a checklist in the proposal, just approach to develop it; also approach to developing engagement strategy - so, does this mean that we would be using grant money to actually develop the checklist and the engagement strategy?

A11: Yes.

Q12: You mentioned that installation of a building automation system (BAS) can qualify as a "complimentary" upgrade. Will optimization measures post BAS implementation be considered as separate measures or be included in BAS implementation?

A12: While the grant would require the BAS be installed and set up properly, ongoing maintenance and retuning is not funded or required under this grant.

Q13: How crucial is it that an organization get a Certificate of Clean Hands and Good Standing before submitting the application? It may take some time for us to get these certificates.

A13: If you cannot get the certificates before the application due date, please provide evidence via an email communication that you are in the process of requesting these certificates.

Q14: Can incentives from the DCSEU be counted as complementary ECMs?

A14: No, applicants may bring identified ECMs to the DCSEU after project implementation outside of grant activities.

Q15: After reviewing the project scope, we believe the budget may be too low to adequately meet the overall goals of the solicitation. Would DOEE consider reducing the minimum number of buildings or increasing the budget? If the answer is yes, would DOEE consider extending the submission deadline to accommodate for changes to a proposal?

A15: No additional funding is available, and the deadline cannot be extended, but an applicant may propose targeting less than the 10 specified buildings with an explanation of costs constraints necessitating the reduction.