

# **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - SECTION 40552**

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT - EECBG**

### **NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

#### **Program Background and Description:**

The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity is to provide guidance to eligible entities listed below for preparation of subgrant applications to be submitted to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) in response to Section 40552 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The stated purpose of the Department of Energy's EECBG Program is to assist units of local governments in implementing strategies to reduce total energy use of the eligible entities, improve energy efficiency in the building sector, and build an equitable energy economy that prioritizes rural, underserved and disadvantaged communities and promotes equity and inclusion in workforce opportunities. The KCC's allocation from the DOE will total \$1,914,100.00. No matching funds are required.

Under the Program, States are required to subaward not less than 60% of their allocation to cities and counties within the State that are ineligible for direct formula grants from DOE. Only the largest cities and counties in the State were qualified to receive funding directly from DOE.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the funding requirement, the State is also obligated to provide the subgrants to the smaller local governments no later than 180 days after the date on which DOE approves the proposed energy efficiency and conservation strategy. Kansas received approval of its proposed energy efficiency and conservation plan on February 4, 2024.

The KCC intends to support with this Program projects limited to the replacement of traffic signals and/or street lighting with energy efficient lighting technology with a particular preference to rural, underserved and disadvantaged communities<sup>2</sup> in Kansas. Many publicly owned facilities in Kansas' rural, underserved or disadvantaged communities are aging and inefficient, incurring high costs for energy and maintenance. Replacement of street lights and traffic signals with more energy efficient lighting can significantly cut energy use and maintenance costs while improving light quality and output. The KCC will manage and administer activities in order to achieve project goals.

Awarded recipients will be required to report at least quarterly. Reports required by DOE and/or the KCC may include measurable improvements of energy efficiency or conservation, stakeholders engaged, value of contracts or agreements with minority owned business for supplies, services, or equipment, and accountability toward meeting project milestones.

The KCC is seeking applications from eligible entities for subawards for projects that meet the criteria set out herein.

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<sup>1</sup> Counties that received funds directly from DOE: Butler, Cowley, Crawford, Finney, Ford, Geary, Johnson, Leavenworth, Sedgwick, and Shawnee. Cities that received funds directly from DOE: Hutchinson, Kansas City, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Lenexa, Manhattan, Olathe, Overland Park, Salina, Shawnee, Topeka, and Wichita.

<sup>2</sup> Identified as a disadvantaged community in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool found at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5> or the Energy Justice Dashboard which can be found at <https://energyjustice.egs.anl.gov/>.

**Timeline:**

The KCC will utilize the Kansas Infrastructure Hub for taking applications beginning March 8, 2024. Please see below for details concerning the Hub platform. It is anticipated that awards will be made on a first-come-first-served basis for applications that meet the requirements, priorities and preferences, until the earlier of July 31, 2024 or all available funds have been allocated.

**Eligible Entities:** As stated above, all local governments located in Kansas and not eligible for direct funding from the DOE for this funding opportunity are eligible entities for funding under this Program.

**Cost Matching:**

There are no cost match requirements.

**Program Period:**

The program term is for 3 years through December 31, 2026.

**Other Information:**

NEPA Environmental Questionnaire is required if directed to submit.

Build America, Buy America requirements do apply.

Davis Bacon Act Requirements do apply.

**Application Checklist:**

- Entity name and address
- Project manager and contact information
- SAM.gov UEI Number
- FEIN
- Latest financial statement and audit report
- IRS Form W-9
- Award amount requested
- Project description and scope
  - Detailed explanation of the grant funds to be utilized.
- Project funding need
  - Provide a Need for Funding narrative.
  - Describe whether the project funds will be used in rural and/or disadvantaged and underserved communities. Identify disadvantaged communities using Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and the Energy Justice Tool (links are provided below). Projects located in these disadvantaged communities will be prioritized.
  - Provide historical maintenance and energy costs and energy usage for current traffic signal and/or street lighting and post project estimated maintenance and energy costs and energy usage data.
  - Provide pro rata customer impact of total project cost.
  - Provide number of residents to be impacted by project and the number of residents in the disadvantaged or underserved community impacted.
- Project budget and narrative
  - Provide a detailed budget with expected expenditures required for the success of the project.
- Project timeline
  - Provide a detailed timeframe with milestones toward completion of the project.
- Project bids and estimates
  - Attach bids and/or estimates received for project. Attach engineering reports that are relevant for the project as well as quotes for services.

- Community Benefit
  - Provide a Community Benefit narrative.
  - Provide the age of the systems to be replaced by the project.
  - Describe efforts to attract, train, and retain a skilled workforce, especially for members of the disadvantaged communities.
  - Provide an estimate of jobs created by the project and jobs to be added from the disadvantaged communities.
  - Provide any other metric that indicates potential community benefit.
- Confirmation that the subaward recipient will comply with Davis Bacon Act requirements.
- Confirmation that the subaward recipient will comply with the Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements.
- Confirmation that applicant will submit a NEPA Environmental Questionnaire if directed to submit and will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**How to Apply:**

Applications and all required documentation must be submitted online using the Kansas Infrastructure Hub, linked below. The Kansas Infrastructure Hub is a grant submission tool to manage applicant profiles and proposals across a variety of Kansas state agency funding opportunities. An Application Guide and other program resources can be found below, and on the KCC's website.

**Resources:**

Copy of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:

<https://netl.doe.gov/sites/default/files/netl-file/Sections%2040101%2C%2040103%2C%2040107.pdf>

Kansas Infrastructure Hub (click on Guidelines for further details of the Program and Submittable Portal):

<https://kshub.submittable.com/submit/a17a81db-a4a3-4edf-a6c4-ed88a8f22469/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-ecgb-program>.

Application Guidance:

<https://submittable.help/en/collections/185534-help-for-applicants>