

ARRA – BOC Webinar

Q&A Responses

[Thank you for participating in the webinar. We have provided answers to a number of questions that were posed during the webinar but not addressed due to time constraints. These answers are based on our best understanding of the ARRA process, but are not official determinations of US DOE. For additional and on-going information on ARRA, please reference the web sites included in the webinar.]

Do you have a sense when the competitive grants will be announced?

There has been no timeline announced for the competitive grant portion of the EECBG funds from US DOE. We would expect more information from DOE in the next few weeks about the timeline and process for that solicitation.

Are there funds available through the EECBG for privately held property?

There are no restrictions for using EECBG funds for private buildings if the project otherwise meets the criteria and requirements of the EECBG. We have heard of jurisdictions who are considering establishing grant/loan pools for opportunities in commercial and residential properties.

Our municipality is thin on grant writers and the application seems time consuming. Is there a resource for grant writers?

Sorry that we don't know of any specific resource in this regard beyond the traditionally available pool of grant writers who offer these services. You may want to look at the model template of an application response that we developed to support a request for BOC funding. This may help calibrate for you the level of effort and if you choose to include BOC in your application, please feel free to use this language in your application.

Are engineering services for retrofit set apart in grants or are these costs included in the grant application?

There is not separate pool of funds for engineering services for the projects contemplated under EECBG. Your application should be inclusive of the costs you choose to dedicate to the project.

Do the grants have to be paid back?

No, the EECBG funds are not paid back to the federal government. A jurisdiction can choose to develop a loan fund with grant dollars, however, and those loans can have the expectation to be paid back to the jurisdiction (e.g. revolving loan fund).

Can we receive funds to create a solar energy program?

A solar project for building energy use appears to be an acceptable use of EECBG funds.

We are a small community in a larger county. How do we benefit from the funds provided at the county level?

Each county that receives a direct allocation from EECBG may establish its own plan for fund use. It would be best to contact the individual or department within the county who is responsible for developing the county's EECBG application and plan.

We are about to install 3 solar projects. How can we incorporate these projects into an application and can that be in lieu of any available federal solar tax credits?

Solar projects may be eligible for EECBG funds. We are uncertain about how this might relate to the specific project you are contemplating. We suggest that you get additional information from the websites referenced in the webinar.

Is a community college eligible for EECBG if we target municipal and county employees for BOC?

Cities, counties, and tribes are the direct recipients of EECBG funds. These jurisdictions may choose to allocate portions of their funds to training facilities staff. The community college may be able to partner with the jurisdiction to provide the training.

How might schools take advantage of the ARRA opportunity?

Schools are not direct recipients of EECBG funds. Jurisdictions may choose to allocate a portion of their EECBG for energy projects that benefit school districts in their locality. There are other sources of funds within the ARRA that may benefit schools as well. It might be good to visit www.recovery.gov to assess those opportunities.

There appears to be \$8B targeted for higher education for modernization and repair. Are these funds included in these EECBG grants or through the state funds?

No. That funding is separate from the EECBG funds.

Where do small cities/counties get the application to submit a grant application to the state?

This will vary from state to state. You will want to contact the department within your state who has administrative responsibility for the state allocation portion of the EECBG funds.