

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Renewable and Grid Resiliency Program Guidelines

Office of Energy and
Environment

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Abstract:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) allocated \$13,295,590 in funds to the State of Ohio Department of Development (Development). Of these funds, \$2,000,000 will be used to provide renewable energy and grid resiliency opportunities to communities in Ohio.



Department of
Development

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Introduction

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), allocated \$13,295,590 in funds to the Ohio Department of Development (Development).

The goal of projects receiving these funds includes but is not limited to increasing the state's energy efficiency, deploying renewable energy technologies, and contributing to the economic development of the state of Ohio.

The program is being administered by Development within the Office of Energy and Environment (OEE). Funding for the Renewable and Grid Resiliency Program will total \$2,000,000.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include but are not limited to:

- Colleges
- Universities
- Local Units of government
- Non-profit organizations
- Commercial
- Manufacturing sectors

Development defines a local unit of government as a county, township, municipal corporation, or other body corporate and politic responsible for governmental activities. Other interested applicants may submit an application, but type of organization may impact overall score.

Eligible Projects

Total funding for projects will range from \$250,000 to \$500,000. Applicants must provide an engineer or architect approved American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Level II energy audit less than two years old, that shows an energy savings of 15% or greater for the location where the work will occur. Development reserves the right to accept or reject ASHRAE Level II energy audit submitted with this grant application.

Eligible onsite renewable energy/grid resilient applications and projects that generate electricity from non-depletable sources of energy and/or support grid resiliency may include but are not limited to:

- Small-scale solar
- Small-scale wind
- Bioenergy that includes gas generation for internal use or electric generation as by products
- Geothermal
- Microgrids
- Microturbines
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
- Battery storage and sub-components

For more information on eligible projects, please visit [2022 SEP Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Guidance](#) section on DOE State Energy Program page.

All renewable energy projects and grid resiliency projects using renewable energy must submit additional application materials and adhere to compliance with additional requirements.

Total project awards are determined at the discretion of Development.

Eligible Costs

Requested funds must meet applicable state and federal guidelines and may only be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy measures. Renewable energy measures to be installed must follow and meet all applicable federal guidelines. Eligible entities may purchase equipment with a per unit cost of \$5,000 or more with federal funds, but there must be written approval with Development's DOE contracting officer. For a full list of eligible federal costs, please visit the Code of Federal Regulations [website](#).

Eligible costs must follow all the following federal compliance standards including but not limited to:

- Build America, Buy America (BABA)
- Davis-Bacon
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Applicants are encouraged to ensure projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefit agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate. Local hiring is also strongly encouraged. Full documentation and submission of hiring and labor payment records will be required.

Ineligible Costs

Renewable energy and grid resiliency projects cannot charge costs associated with personnel, consultants, energy audits, travel, equipment, or overhead/indirect costs. For a full list of ineligible federal costs, please visit the Code of Federal Regulations [website](#).

Matching Funds

All projects will require a 10% match in funding. Matching fund sources can include other local, state, or federal grant dollars, or utilize other sources. A full breakdown of match funding and sources will be required in the application process.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Each renewable energy and grid resiliency project application will be reviewed based on information received and will include scoring in key priority areas identified in the table below. The scoring process will be used as a tool to assist in final project award decisions by Development.

Scoring Criteria	Renewable Energy Project Maximum Points:	Grid Resiliency Maximum Points:
Project Information/Energy Efficiency Savings/Economic/Employment Impacts for Ohio	40	40
Environmental Compliance	15	15
Project Readiness/Implementation Plan/Identified Risks	15	15
Project Match/Innovativeness	15	15
Supporting Documentation	15	15
Total Points:	100	100

Application Process

In order to access the application, individuals will be required to login using an existing OH|ID or create a new OH|ID, which provides users with secure access to State of Ohio services and programs. For more information on creating an OH|ID, please click [here](#).

Upon submission of a complete application, the applicant will receive an email from Development confirming that the application has been received. Submission of a complete application does not ensure the applicant will be awarded. If funding remains available at the time the application is filed, Development staff will review the application to determine eligibility.

Awards will be given until funds are depleted.

Eligible entities will be required to provide the following in their application:

- ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit less than two years old and shows a 15% energy savings
- If applying with Disadvantaged Community criteria:
 - Screenshot of [Department of Energy Justice Dashboard](#) or the [Climate and Economic Justice Tool](#) (CEJST) mapping systems with project location(s).
- Breakdown of Renewable Energy or Grid Resiliency Measures to be installed:
 - Price per unit.
 - Number of units to be purchased.
 - Does unit to be installed follow BABA compliance?
 - If no, please provide information on why and a description of need for a BABA waiver (if applicable).
 - For more information on BABA, please visit the [DOE BABA website](#).
- If applying for a Renewable Energy project:
 - Renewable Energy Technical Guidelines Question Sheet.

Reimbursement Requests

Once a project has been approved by Development to receive a grant award, Development will notify the eligible applicant of the process to receive grant funds. Applicants may submit funding reimbursement as needed but must submit all reimbursement requests within 45 days of project completion.

The following documents will be required for reimbursement requests:

- Technical documentation completed (Zoning and code inspector's approval certificates, if required by the jurisdictional officials).
- Cost of materials/warranty period.
- Cost of labor/warranty period for installation.
- Invoice/Proof of Payment on contractor letterhead.
- Photo documentation of major equipment installed.
 - Defined as any piece of equipment with a per unit cost of over \$5,000.

Development is not responsible for the delay in reimbursement if the applicant fails to submit all correct documents.

An Ohio Supplier ID is required for disbursement. If the eligible applicant does not currently have an Ohio Supplier ID, the business will be required to register for an Ohio Supplier ID at Supplier.Ohio.gov. Businesses will only be able to receive an award once a valid Ohio Supplier ID matching the FEIN/SSN provided in the application has been obtained and is verified by Development. Applicant businesses that need assistance obtaining an Ohio Supplier ID or need to make changes to an existing Ohio Supplier ID should visit: www.Supplier.Ohio.gov/wps/portal/sp/suppliers/help-center.

Maintenance of Records

Successful applicants will be required to submit quarterly progress reports to Development outlining the percentage of work completed, detailed explanation of work completed, any issues with project timeline, and other beneficial information detailing work. Documentation for quarterly reports will be provided with the grant agreement. Inaccurate or late reporting may delay reimbursement requests as determined by Development.

Grantee shall establish and maintain, for at least three years after the expiration date or any earlier termination date, its records regarding project start date, the grant funds and the project, including, but not limited to, financial reports, documentation of expenditures of grant funds, job creation and retention statistics, and all other information pertaining to grantee's performance of its obligations under this project. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following record types shall be subject to the retention periods indicated for each: (i) real property and equipment records shall be retained for three years from the date of the disposition or replacement or transfer of the real property or equipment; (ii) if grantee is required to report program income after the period of grant support, records concerning such income shall be retained for three years after the end of grantee's fiscal year in which the income is earned; and (iii) indirect cost rate computations or proposals, cost allocation plans, and any similar accounting computations of the rate at which a particular group of costs is chargeable shall be retained for three years after (A) the date of submission to the federal government

for negotiation if the computation or proposal is negotiated or (B) the end of the fiscal year (or other accounting period) covered by the computation or proposal if not submitted to the federal government for negotiation. If any audit, dispute, litigation, or negotiation is pending when the applicable retention period would otherwise expire, grantee shall maintain such records as may be relevant to such matter until it is finally resolved.

Eligible Applicant Certification

Providing the signature of a duly authorized representative on an application, an applicant is certifying to Development and the State of Ohio that each of the certifications is true as of the date of signature and that each of the documents submitted are accurate and appropriate for the project requesting funds. By providing a signature on an application, the applicant also acknowledges that any person who knowingly makes a false statement to obtain an award of financial assistance may be required under Section 9.66(C) of the Ohio Revised Code to repay such financial assistance and shall be ineligible for any future economic development assistance from the State of Ohio, any state agency, or political subdivisions. Also, any person who provides a false statement to secure economic development assistance may be guilty of falsification, a misdemeanor of the first degree, pursuant to Section 2921.13(F)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Public Records of Information

Public records information, documents, or other materials submitted to Development as part of an application are public records unless a statutory exception exists under Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code or other relevant law that exempts the information, document, or other material from public release.