

# Notice of Funding Available

## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

### **Introduction**

The WV DOE has allocated \$682,430.97 to the Region 8 PDC to allow it to fund energy efficiency retrofit projects to city and county government buildings in Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, and Pendleton Counties. The program design requires that the PDC assign priority to County Courthouses and City/Town Halls and limits funding for any one project to a maximum of \$200,000. The Region 8 PDC will award funds to eligible local government projects as the result of an objective and competitive review process. The Region 8 PDC expects that funding requests will exceed available funds.

### **Project Funding**

WV DOE guidelines limit funding to any one project to a maximum of \$200,000 and suggests a wide geographic disbursement of funds. The PDC expects the program to be highly competitive and it is extremely unlikely that a single local government will receive funding for more than one project. Direct local government participation in the funding of EE&CBG activities will greatly enhance a project's competitiveness. EE&CBG is a reimbursement program and local governments should be prepared to interim finance all construction activity. Reimbursement will not exceed actual project cost.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Only a county commission or municipality may submit applications.

### **Eligible Projects**

The agreement between the WV DOE and the Region 8 PDC requires the PDC to use implementation funds for energy retrofit projects to city and county government buildings in the Potomac Highlands. The program design further requires that the PDC assign priority to County Courthouses and City/Town Halls. Projects are limited to the installation of insulation, installation of efficient lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and high-efficiency shower/faucet upgrades; weather sealing; the purchase and installation of ENERGY STAR appliances; installation of solar powered appliances with improved efficiency; and replacement of windows and doors. The program can also fund the development, implementation, and installation on or in a local government building of on site renewable energy technology that generates electricity from renewable resources. These projects are limited in size and to specific locations at the local site. The project application contains further details on these limitations. WV DOE officials have expressed that a preference will be shown for well documented proven commonsense efficient approaches to reducing energy consumption at local government buildings. Applications proposing such projects will have a significant competitive advantage when evaluated.

### **Program Regulations**

Local governments must understand that the EE&CBG program, like all American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded programs, has unprecedented levels of reporting and scrutiny. The EE&CBG program contains requirements that will impact cost and timing. Local governments must meet these requirements or face the prospect of repaying grant funds.

Program requirements include but are not limited to Buy American regulations, Davis Bacon/State prevailing wage regulations, Historic Preservation requirements, and the National Environmental Policy Act. Local governments must document many aspects of each project including energy savings, greenhouse gas reduction, job creation, and appropriate waste disposal. While the EE&CBG program can participate in projects with a total scope beyond EE&CBG activities, the program's funds cannot be co-mingled with other programs and the local government must separately track program funds. EE&CBG regulations are contained in general and special provisions that each local government must agree to before the release of project funding. Interested local governments can obtain these provisions from the Region 8 PDC.

### **Program and Funding Preferences**

During the review of applications the Region 8 PDC and WV DOE will show preference for projects impacting courthouses and city/town halls including associated annexes. Preference will also be shown to projects with the highest levels of documented energy savings, job creation, and greenhouse gas reduction. Proven common sense measures and the use of Energy Star appliances will be given preferences. Preference will also be shown to the highest levels of local participation in the funding of EE&CBG improvements as well as shovel readiness.

### **How to Request EE&CBG Funding**

To seek project funding a local government must submit an original complete project application including required attachments to the Region 8 PDC, PO Box 849, Petersburg, WV, 26847 by 5:00 pm on June 30, 2010. The Region 8 PDC will not consider incomplete or late applications. Local government can obtain a copy of the required application at <http://www.regioneight.org> or by contacting the Region 8 PDC (304)257-1221 email: [mail@regioneight.org](mailto:mail@regioneight.org)

The Region 8 PDC will assist all local governments interested in seeking funds. The PDC will keep local governments informed through correspondence, meetings, conference calls, and Internet web sites. The PDC will provide application forms and will help with their preparation. The regional council will assist local governments with project implementation and EE&CB compliance. The Council will also collect and forward information to the WV DOE that will allow the Division to comply with federal reporting requirements. Local governments can obtain information at <http://www.potomachighlandseeecbg.blogspot.com>

While the PDC will assist local governments with the submission of applications, the applications will require technical information that the PDC cannot develop. Successful applications will require local governments to work with local contractors, engineers/architects, or WVU's Industrial Assessment Center to develop technical data in a timely manner.