

Subgrant Application FAQs: Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant

1. Is my locality eligible?

Localities who did <u>not</u> received direct Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant funds are eligible to apply. **If you are** <u>not listed here</u>, then you <u>are</u> **eligible**. Towns, cities, and counties are eligible as long as they are incorporated, have elected officials, and are able to carry out the requirements of the grant.

2. Do localities have to provide matching funds?

No matching funds are required.

3. What activities are eligible to help my community?

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Offering free energy audits
- Providing energy auditor education and certification
- Supporting staff for energy marketing and outreach (e.g. hiring/training an energy coach or outreach coordinator),
- Hosting public workshops/trainings for residents and contractors, or
- Partnering with local community-based organizations for weatherization, energy efficiency retrofits, and efficient technology installations efforts.
- 4. Are planning district commissions eligible to apply?

Planning district commissions (PDCs) are <u>not</u> eligible to apply for this subgrant opportunity. However, localities can team up with their PDC to help administer or implement the grant.



5. How much funding can I apply for? Is the amount awarded dependent on the locality's population size?

Localities can apply for subgrants between **\$10k-\$100k** for MEO projects based on project needs and application volume. The award amount is **not based on locality size**.

6. Can I partner with other localities and/or partner organizations?

Yes. Localities can **partner together on a project to braid funding** or to **partner with local community-based organizations for support.**

There is also the **option to do pay for service provided by Virginia Energy's contracted MEO vendor** to have them create some of all of the following: website content, emails, social media posts, digital ads, mailers, and public signs to inform the community about energy incentives, rebates, and technology available and/or to market free home energy audits or the energy auditor education/certification program.

7. What is the application process?

The application is meant to simply lay out your marketing, education, and outreach goals and strategies.

The application asks for:

- A list of proposed activities (eligible activities are outlined in the NOFO),
- Project objective(s) and scope
- Anticipated long-term positive outcomes,
- The total project budget

8. Are there resources available to help with the application?

Yes. Grant specialists are available for consultation. Contact Jessica Greene (<u>jessica.greene@energy.virginia.gov</u>) to schedule a meeting. Blueprint Cohorts from the **U.S. Department of Energy** are also available for guidance on energy projects.



9. Can the funding help cover the administrative costs of the subgrant?

Yes. Hiring someone to administer the grant can be included in the proposal. Administrative expenses cannot be more than 10% of the grant; however, tasks like completing the required reporting are not subject to that cap.

10. Who is the target of the marketing, education, and outreach?

The MEO project can target all energy consumers, including residents, businesses, and contractors.

11. What are the subgrant deadlines?

- Application deadline: **11:59 pm on December 13, 2024**, or until funding is exhausted
- Project Completion Deadline: April 30, 2027

12. Relevant Links

- <u>Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)</u>
- <u>Virginia Energy's EECBG webpage:</u> includes the application form, budget templates, reference reporting requirements, and more
- U.S. Department of Energy's EECBG Blueprint Cohorts