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Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

Description: The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, enacted as part of the 2007 Energy Investment and Security Act, aims to help local governments implement strategies to reduce both fossil fuel emissions and total energy use. The program emphasizes a community-based approach to help meet energy and climate protection goals. Appropriations for the program are included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The program's five metrics are: energy saved; greenhouse gas emissions reduced; utility bills reduced; renewable energy created; and jobs created.

Eligibility: the cities of Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Roswell, Farmington, Alamogordo, Clovis, Hobbs, and Carlsbad; the counties of Bernalillo, San Juan, Doña Ana, Sandoval, McKinley, Santa Fe, Valencia, Grant , Rio Arriba, and Taos; and New Mexico's 22 Tribes and Pueblos can apply directly to the Department of Energy (DOE) for funding set aside for them. Amounts for these entities are listed at http://www.governor.state.nm.us/press/2009/march/032609_03.pdf.

All other municipalities and counties are eligible to compete for funding through the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's Energy Conservation and Management Division. A request for applications will be posted and advertised when the plan receives final approval from the Department of Energy and the New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment.

Uses: Grants may be used to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and for improvements in energy efficiency, in any of the following categories:

- 1) Development and implementation of an energy efficiency strategy;
- 2) Energy audits of homes and commercial buildings;
- 3) Energy efficiency retrofits of nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies;
- 4) Development and implementation of energy efficiency programs for county or municipal buildings and facilities, including design and operation, public education, measurement and verification of energy use, or identification of energy efficient technologies;
- 5) Transportation measures to conserve energy, including use of flex time by employees, satellite work centers, development of zoning and other land use guidelines to promote energy efficient land use development, development of



- alternative infrastructure such as bike lanes, pathways and sidewalks, synchronization of traffic signals, or other measures that decrease energy use and increase energy efficiency;
- 6) Financial incentive program for energy efficiency improvements;
 - 7) Development and implementation of building codes and inspection services for public, commercial, industrial, and residential buildings to promote energy efficiency;
 - 8) Application of energy distribution technologies such as district heating and cooling systems;
 - 9) Activities to increase participation in material conservation programs such as recycling;
 - 10) Application of technologies that capture methane from landfills;
 - 11) Installation of light emitting diodes in traffic signals, street lights and buildings; or
 - 12) Use in a government building of onsite renewable energy such as solar thermal, solar electric, wind energy, or geothermal energy.

Match Requirement: There is no match requirement; however, a local government is strongly encouraged to contribute its own funds to the project or solicit from other federal, state, utility, business, nonprofit or foundation sources.

Criteria: Draft criteria to judge applications include:

- Describe the energy related need of the project, that is, the significance of the current energy-related situation that the proposed project is meant to overcome.
- What is the project's purpose, that is, how effectively will the project address the need and result in the expected project outcomes
- What is the project's impact in energy savings per dollar invested; renewable energy generated; number of people trained in new/green technologies; number of jobs created; and/or number of jobs retained.
- What is the project's cost benefit, that is, dollars spent per energy savings
- Demonstrate that funds have been leveraged from other sources and that the funding requested, when combined with other funding, is sufficient to complete the proposed project, while remaining cost-effective.
- Show that all necessary funding, plans, staff, contractors, materials, and other resources are in place to successfully complete the project within fairly tight time constraints
- Comply with Executive Orders 2006-001 or 2007-053. The first requires buildings to be 40 percent more energy efficient than current construction practices; the second seeks to cut energy use 10% below 2005 per capita levels by 2012, 20% by 2020.
- Show administrative capability to provide all required project oversight, reporting, and financial accounting

More Information: Contact Ken Hughes to sign up for a Spring 2009 webinar:

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ECMD's website www.CleanEnergyNM.org.

DOE's block grant website www.eecbg.energy.gov/.