



Department of
Development

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program
Local Governments
Request for Proposal # 09-10
Questions and Answers

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program: Local Governments
Request for Proposal
Ohio Energy Office
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Columbus, OH 43216-1001

Note: Any questions on the program should be directed by email to Recovery.Tibbs@em.ohio.gov

Q: Where can the presentation for this teleconference be found?

A: The presentation can be found at:

http://www.development.ohio.gov/recovery/energy/fundingopportunities.htm#Energy_Efficiency . Scroll down to Bidders' Conference Materials, and click on Presentation.

Q: Is geothermal an eligible project?

A: Yes.

Q: If AEP owns the street lights and we have a contract agreement with them how can the streetlights be changed out and have a cost savings?

A: We are allowing partnerships with private entities as well but the applicable must come from the city or local government.

Q: We currently use a high sodium street lights, is there a better streetlight bulb out there to use?

A: The LED or the light emitting diode. Any other technology of equal or greater efficiency to an LED light is also eligible.

Q: When you are defining the retrofit, is each building considered an activity or is it the task itself?

A: The main purpose of breaking out the buildings is to ensure that the building is not a historic building or if it is eligible to receive a historic building. If all buildings are similar in age and located in a similar area, only one activity for all retrofits is needed.

Q: Are the activities of the project defined by the building where the project will be done? For example if I have six different building, I will have six different activities sheets, with six associated budgets?

A: Activities that are similar across multiple buildings only need to be broken out to ensure compliance with historic preservation. If you are doing a solar photovoltaic project on one building, and a retrofit on another building, you will need to submit two activity sheets. If you are doing energy efficiency retrofits on six buildings, you only need to submit one activity sheet, unless the one of the buildings is located in a historic

district and the others are not, or if one building is under 50 years and the rest are over 50 years, or vice versa.

Q: If I have four buildings that are over 50 and two that are under 50. I can group them into two groups – one for the four buildings and one for the two buildings?

A: Correct.

Q: If a building is five years old with propane heat is this an eligible project?

A: Yes; that fits into retrofits.

Q: Would the installation of a septic system be eligible?

A: Yes; any retrofit, including the adding of installation; retrofit of efficient lighting; increased heating, ventilation, and ac upgrades; weather sealing; purchase of energy star appliances; replacement windows and door; and the typical retrofit of a building shell and or mechanical.

Q: Is the replacement of vehicles for hybrid or other low mileage included?

A: No.

Q: We have a program to put shade trees in our residential areas to lower the air conditioning cost. Would this type of program be eligible?

A: If you can clearly demonstrate the energy saving from that measure.

Q: Is an automated materials recovery facility an eligible project?

A: No. Currently, we do not have any funding available for recycling programs. Our programs are strictly for energy efficiency retrofits, energy distribution, traffic and street lighting, reduction and capture of methane, and renewable energy deployment.

Q: Is alternative fuel derived from an automated materials recycling facility eligible project?

A: It would be considered under the Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases, but would need more information to make an accurate determination.

Q: The renewable energies activities references wind must be 20kW/hr. Is a system a single turbine with all its components? Is this correct?

A: A system is defined by the US Department of Energy by site. If there are multiple turbines on one site they are considered to be one system. If multiple turbines are on multiple sites these are considered to be separate systems. The reason for the 20kW restriction is because that is the amount that Ohio Department of Development has been guided by the US Department of Energy to use because they trigger the NEPA compliance.

Q: Is Ohio Department of Development willing to consider “conditional approval” of projects pending NEPA compliance?

A: If you gone through the NEPA compliance before and you have documentation that shows that the project has already been reviewed by the US Department of Energy, US EPA, or another federal entity and has been approved than we are willing consider those projects that are over 20kW.

Q: If NEPA is not done for projects over 20kW, than we shouldn't apply?

A: Correct.

Q: Do the NEPA restrictions apply for biomass?

A: The new guidelines for biomass thermal are 3 MMBTU/hr or small system. Biomass thermal is the combustion of biomass material. The 3 MMBTU per hour is the size cap.

Q: Is there a 10 ton limit on geothermal projects?

A: The new cap placed on geothermal is 5.5 tons.

Q: A 10 ton limit on geothermal is only a 3,000 - 5,000 square foot facility. We are looking to build a much larger facility than that. Can we carve out part of that 10 ton limit and apply for only portion of the facility. Even though the entire project may exceed that can we just carve out 10 tons of that project?

A: The larger size/total project size would be considered, not just the portion EECBG funds cover regarding NEPA.

Q: Are there any of limitations that we may not be aware of like the number of windows?

A: There are not to the number of windows. There are potentially some restrictions to historic preservation interactions. This mainly applies to door and window retrofit under Section 106 for building over 50 years.

Q: Is there a funding match requirement for local governments?

A: No. There is not a match or leverage requirement by local governments. However, it is a criteria for selection. It is 10 points out of 100 points and is one of the smallest criteria on the request for proposal.

Q: Can portions of the project start before the request for proposal award or do the expenditures need to occur after the award date?

A: I expenditure must be after the award date.

Q: How are we supposed to determine who the contractor will be if we have not been awarded funds yet?

A: It is your best estimate. If it is not entirely known right now, that is ok.

Q: Is it possible to combined projects together to meet the minimum threshold of \$150,000?

A: No; that is not a problem to combine projects to meet the \$150,000 threshold. The award will be the entire amount. It will not be just per project. It will not be \$150,000 per project. It will only be \$150,000 minimum for all projects per award.

Q: We have already submitted one project on the www.recovery.ohio.gov website. In order to combine projects, will we need to delete that project and resubmit a new project with the combined projects on it?

A: No; if it a minor alteration or change, it is not necessary. If the new combined project is a completely new project, you will need to submit it through www.recovery.ohio.gov.

Q: If you don't have a contractor lined up before the fund is awarded, do you use your best guess as to whether or not your contractor will be within 100 miles of the project location? How can that be scored- that gives people who don't have a contractor lined-up an unfair advantage?

A: You do not receive points for having the contractor be within 100 miles. Points are awarded for projects that use components produced within 100 miles. We are asking for a vendor quotes to show project readiness. This is separate from the locally produced component. If you don't have a contractor established yet, to be able to score points, you would have to put in writing that you would pass that commitment on to any yet to be determined contractor.

Q: How can you have a contractor in place before a grant is issued and you put it out for competitive bid as required by Ohio Revised Code? How can we have already selected a contractor before the award has been issued?

A: If you put your project out for bid but have not selected a contractor yet you should have an estimate of what the project will cost.

Q: There are points given for people that use a contractor within 100 miles of the project site. Some people are not going to want to put the project out for bid until they have secured funds through the grant. How can you know what contractor you will choose?

A: The points were not for a contractor within 100 miles, it was components produced with 100 miles.

Q: Can you please clarify the scoring that says that you can get points for using so many local components?

A: Yes; it is the components that should be locally produced and not the contractor. You can place this condition on your contractor.

Q: Is it correct that if your contractor's home base is within 100 miles of the project site and your parts are locally produced you get all five points?

A: If you can assure us that the products will have been produced locally within 100 miles than you will receive all five points. You only need to procure 20 percent of the components within 100 miles to score the full five points.

Q: Can you please clarify the contractor issue on the website?

A: All responses will be posted on our website and the application asks for the level of components that are produced within 100 miles of your jurisdiction.

Q: If you have put the project out for bid and you have a contract, an awarded contract, before the grant has been issued than that won't be eligible for the grant because you already awarded the contract.

A: It's not the contract; it is the spending of the funds.

Q: So you cannot start the work until the grant is issued?

A: Correct.

Q: What if a product is not and cannot be manufactured locally, but can be installed locally?

A: The components must be manufactured in America under the Buy America Provision Act under ARRA. There is a process to try to get an exemption. Currently, zero exemptions have been granted; however, if you wish to see if the products for your projects can be classified as exempt you may send them to Greg Payne via email at Greg.Payne@development.ohio.gov.

**Additional Buy American Q&A issued by US Department of Energy
The Office of Management and Budget issued interim guidance for financial assistance actions funded by the Recovery Act in March 2009. Public comments on the interim guidance have been received and are currently being analyzed by Office of Management and Budget. The following questions and answers address many issues that are expected to be clarified in Office of Management and Budget's final guidance, and will be updated as needed.**

Q: What are the Buy American restrictions in the Recovery Act?

A: The Buy American provision in the Recovery Act (section 1605 of Title XI), directs that, subject to certain exceptions, no funds appropriated or

otherwise made available for a project may be used for the construction, alteration, or repair of a public building or public work unless all the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used are produced in the United States.

Q: Does the Buy American provision apply to all projects funded by the Recovery Act?

A: The law covers Recovery-Act-funded federal contracts and Recovery-Act-funded state and local public works projects. For recipients of Federal contract awards directly from the Federal government, guidance is provided at Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 25.6, as published in the interim rule in 74 Federal Register 14623 on March 31, 2009.

Q: How do financial assistance applicants know if the Buy American requirements apply to their project?

A: Applicants should first read the information regarding Buy American requirements contained in Office of Management and Budget guidance located in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 176 (2 CFR 176) at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/CFR/>. Then, for further clarification, applicants should consult with the Contracting Officer in the US Department of Energy office that is issuing the specific project announcement.

Q: What is a public works project?

A. Public building or public work means a public building of, and a public work of, a governmental entity (the United States; the District of Columbia; commonwealths, territories, and minor outlying islands of the United States; State and local governments; and multi-state, regional, or interstate entities which have governmental functions). These buildings and works may include, without limitation, bridges, dams, plants, highways, parkways, streets, subways, tunnels, sewers, mains, power lines, pumping stations, heavy generators, railways, airports, terminals, docks, piers, wharves, ways, lighthouses, buoys, jetties, breakwaters, levees, and canals, and the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of such buildings and works.

Q: What is a “manufactured good”?

A: A manufactured good is a good brought to the construction site for incorporation into the building or work that has been processed into a specific form and shape; or combined with another raw material to create a material that has different properties than the properties of the individual raw materials. (See 2 CFR 176.140(a)(1)). There is no requirement with regard to the origin of components or subcomponents in manufactured goods used in a project, as long as the manufacturing occurs in the United States. (See 2 CFR 85.3).The interim final guidance at 2 CFR part 176 requires that the manufactured good be incorporated into the project. A crane used to lift items to and from the construction site would not be a covered manufactured good while an energy meter that is brought to the site for incorporation into a building would be covered. The parts that go into a meter brought to the construction site for incorporation into the

building would be considered components and, therefore, would not be covered.

Q: What is an “alteration”?

A: An alteration is defined as a limited construction project for an existing building that comprises the modification or replacement of one or a number of existing building systems or components. Alteration means remodeling, improving, extending, or making other changes to a facility, exclusive of maintenance repairs that are preventive in nature. The term includes planning, engineering, architectural work, and other similar actions.

Q: Does Buy American apply to privately owned improvements to public buildings and works?

A: The question to answer is who owns the project, not who is doing the work. If a state/local government entity “owns” the building/work project, it is a public building/work that would be subject to Sec. 1605 (unless exempted). The interim rule applies Sec. 1605 to any building/work that is constructed, altered, repaired, or maintained with Recovery Act funds without regard to title.

Q: Is it true that non-manufactured construction materials are not Buy American Act covered?

A: Correct, they are not covered under Section 1605 of ARRA.

Q: Is any change to a public building or work considered construction, alteration, modification, or repair and would therefore prompt the Buy American Act Requirement? Or are minor changes that typically would not be considered a construction activity excluded? If the latter, what is the threshold?

A: There is no threshold. Agencies that fully or partially fund construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public works/building project with Recovery Act funds would be subject to the Buy American requirements unless an exemption applies and a waiver is granted. In response to several comments, Office of Management and Budget is looking at the possibility of having a de minimus provision in the final rule, but no final decision has been made yet.

Q: When are alternate proposals allowed?

A: When a project proposal includes foreign iron, steel, and/or manufactured goods, other than designated country iron, steel, and/or manufactured goods, that are not listed by the Federal Government at 2 CFR 176.140(b)(2), the applicant may also submit an alternate proposal based on use of equivalent domestic iron, steel, and/or manufactured goods. If an alternate proposal is submitted, the applicant shall submit a separate cost comparison table prepared in accordance with 2 CFR 176.140(c) and (d) for the proposal that is based on the use of any foreign iron, steel, and or

manufactured goods for which the Federal Government has not yet determined an exception applies.

Q: Are there exceptions to the Buy American restrictions?

A: Yes; there are three exceptions where:

- **Iron, steel, or manufactured goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of satisfactory quality;**
- **Inclusion of iron, steel, or manufactured goods produced in the United States will increase the cost of the project by more than 25 percent;**
- **Applying the Buy American restriction is inconsistent with the public interest.**

Also, the Buy American restriction is not applicable if it is inconsistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

Q: How are exceptions processed?

A: Before Recovery Act funds are awarded by the Federal agency or obligated by the recipient for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work, an applicant or recipient may request from the award official a determination concerning the inapplicability of the Buy American restrictions for specifically identified items. The Recovery Act refers to this determination as a waiver of the Buy American provisions. A prospective applicant requesting a determination regarding the inapplicability of the Buy American restrictions for lack of quantity or quality, increase of cost of the project by more than 25 percent, or inconsistency with the public interest, should submit the request to the award official in time to allow a determination before submission of applications or proposals. The prospective applicant shall include the information and applicable supporting data required by 2 CFR 176.140(c) and (d) in the request. If an applicant has not requested a determination regarding the inapplicability of the Buy American restrictions before submitting its application or proposal, or has not received a response to a previous request, the applicant shall include the information and supporting data in the application or proposal. Exceptions must be approved by the Head of the agency, and published in the Federal Register.

Q: What about a category exception?

A: If the head of the agency makes a determination of inapplicability for a category of cases, it will be published in the Federal Register and posted on the US Department of Energy Recovery Act webpage. To date, US Department of Energy has issued no categorical waivers for the Buy American requirements.

Q: What if a project falls under United States obligations under international agreements?

A: The Buy American restrictions shall not be applied where the iron, steel, or manufactured goods used in the project are from a Party to an international agreement, and the recipient is required under an international agreement

to treat the goods and services of that Party the same as domestic goods and services. This obligation only applies with an estimated value of \$7.4M or more and to projects that are not specifically excluded from the application of those agreements. The international agreements that obligate recipients that are covered under an international agreement to treat the goods and services of a Party the same as domestic goods and services and the respective Parties to the agreements to the agreements are listed in the regulations at 2 CFR 176.90(b). Recipients are required to treat the goods and services of that Party the same as domestic goods and services are listed in Appendix B to 2 CFR part 176.

It is important to note, as the Appendix indicates, many states have exceptions to the trade agreements depending upon the items to be purchased or the state sub-entity making the purchase. In particular, NAFTA (Canada and Mexico) does not apply to most states and entities listed in the Appendix.

Q: The consensus is that the State of Ohio does not have any manufactures that make HVAC equipment that is needed for retrofitting.

A: This would be a case of a level playing field were no one would be receiving the points if that is the case.

Q: Does the grant apply to industrial facilities as well?

A: The grant must come from an eligible city or county government, but partnerships are allowed.

Q: Are private entities allowed to apply for these grants directly?

A: No.

Q: Is Automated Meter Reading an eligible activity?

A: No.

Q: Is Advanced Metering Infrastructure an eligible activity?

A: No.

Q: Are there any restrictions on the type of government building that can be eligible such as a water facility? The government owns it but they generate income from it by charging residence a fee.

A: A city or county owned government building is eligible to implement a project and receive funding.

Q: Are engineering fees reimbursable?

A: Engineering fees are able to be reimbursable if an award is granted and the work occurred after the start date of the award.

Q: Under the project readiness section of the application you can get points for adhering to environmental regulations. What if your activities do not require environmental regulations, how do you include that in the application? And can you still get points for this section?

A: If your activities do not require environmental review, this would be one less permit to have to attain and would show the same project readiness as if the project required review and had the review in hand. Be sure to clearly state why you think your project is not subject to or is exempt from environmental review.

Q: If you have already paid the engineers before the fund was awarded are these fees disqualified?

A: Any expenses you have prior to the grant award would not qualify as an eligible cost. Typical engineering fees, grant application fees, and any other additional fees that are usually incurred just to get the project ready are not reimbursable. Usually eligible cost will be the equipment, installation of cost, and other similar items that directly relate to the project itself and the project equipment.

Q: Does this grant reimburse administrative cost?

A: Yes; however, they must be incurred after the grant award.

Q: If you are anticipating \$25,000 in engineering cost to rewire your lighting system, would that be an eligible cost for reimbursement?

A: Yes; if they occurred after the grant award.

Q: If a project does not have a locally produced product does it just score lower or is it ineligible as a project.

A: According to the Office of Management and Budget, if it is not manufactured in the United States it cannot be funded in public works or public building. There is a link for a website that expands on this subject, that can be found here: http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/opnbiz/FAR_recovery_advisory_buy_a_american.pdf . This is an issue for many other states so it is encouraged that you still apply for an exemption through Greg Payne via email at Greg.Payne@development.ohio.gov. Greg Payne will forward them through the US Department of Energy, who approves all exemptions. The process is laid out in Section 1605 under the ARRA.

Q: Do you have to supply information that proves that you are actually buying American products?

A: Under Exhibit 2 it does ask for equipment type information and manufacturer information, under pages 14-19 under the terms and

conditions of the application it. This is required and agreement and conditions of award.

Q: Shouldn't locally refer to anything in Ohio instead of being within 100 miles of site location?

A: The "locally" criteria is defined as being of the site, within 100 miles, not within Ohio.

Q: If you have a retrofit than you are not necessary agreeing to create jobs. How can you guarantee that you are creating jobs? In the guidelines it says that 82 or 92 thousand dollars gives you one job. Can you please clarify are you literally creating that job or just retaining it?

A: The \$92,000 spent was the preliminary spent given by the US Department of Energy. However, now they are asking for the Full Time Equivalent which includes construction jobs, engineering jobs, and all the other related jobs that are needed in order to implement a project.

Q: Would you use this Full Time Equivalent for the creation or the retention? How can you identify the difference?

A: We would ask you to provide that documentation. If the project is helping to maintain a currently employed person, that would be retention.

Q: Would a new hybrid straddle crane be an eligible project?

A: No; it does not included transportation for vehicles and/or trains.

Q: Can we use the US Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant estimated expected benefits calculator that allows you to place all the project information into a spreadsheet it bases everything on a dollar value based on a geographical region and than it populated everything that the US Department of Energy expects to be the estimated best created and retained jobs. Can we use that tool to help estimate the created and retain jobs for our projects?

A: This is one tool that is available. It is very limited though. The tool was developed prior to US Department of Energy's switch from a straight \$92,000 per job created calculation to a Full Time Equivalent reporting requirement. This tool does not estimate Full Time Equivalency; it only converts dollars spent into jobs created using the now invalid reporting metric. The tool does estimate the number of tons of CO2 reduced based on electricity saved, or clean electricity generated. 1 MWh (or 1,000 kWh) reduced through efficiency or cleanly generated reduces 0.9066400143911 tons of CO2.

Q: There is not an outline for the grant proposal. Should we just follow the criteria as an outline?

A: Exhibit 2 asks for a lot of the technical information documentation. It lists all of the criteria and provides space. You can also attach documents and list them as attachments to Exhibit 2.

Q: Would part of Exhibit 2 have a short narrative in addition to the criteria?

A: Yes.

Q: The Historic Preservation Compliance is at least a 30 day process once you get the entire application submitted. How are we supposed to complete this process before the November 31st deadline and submit documentation of approval?

A: You do not have to show approval. You just need to provide information for the form to be completed so that it can be forwarded on the Historic Preservation Officer so that Ohio Department of Development can get clearance on the project as required by US Department of Energy to make awards.

Q: It is my understanding that you get more points if you have the Historic Preservation Compliance completed than if you just have it started. Is that true?

A: If you have compliance it shows that your project is more ready than a project that has not been reviewed. By not being reviewed it does not make you ineligible to apply for the grant.

Q: Would the Ohio Department of Development submit the Historic Preservation Compliance application or should be do it?

A: We can forward it to you.

Q: Our project is exempt from Historic Preservation Compliance because it is not over 50 years old and is not in a historic preservation district. We do not have clearance from the Historic Preservation Society stating that. It will take 30 days to get that documentation. Can you still get full points?

A: That is why we are putting together a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure that building that are under 50 years old and/or are not in a historic preservation district and/or are not currently listed are not required to State Historic Preservation Office and have been cleared. You should clearly mark you are not subject to Section 106 on you application.

Q: Section 106 is only for buildings that are over 50 years old and/or are in a historic preservation district and/or are currently listed

A: Correct.

Q: Where can Exhibit 2 be found?

A: Exhibit 2, labeled the *Technical Worksheet*, can be found on the application in the appendixes on page 4 of 30.

Q: If you are just doing activities like HVAC, window and doors you do not need to submit a NEPA form?

A: If you are doing energy efficiency retrofits, we are asking for that form. You do not need a separate form for all activities just one form for the entire activity.

Q: So if you are doing four activities under one project, you can list all four activities under one NEPA form?

A. That is correct. You do not need to place every activity on your NEPA form, only applicable activities, namely energy efficiency retrofits, reduction and capture of methane and greenhouse gas, fuel cells, and biomass projects. If you are proposing to do a traffic signal and street lighting project and a fuel cell activity, you only need to place the fuel cell activity on your NEPA form.

Q: Can you please clarify the Buy America Provision on page 17? It says that it is for construction only. Are there any construction projects that could be undertaken that would not be considered "construction" in which the Buy American Provision would not apply?

A: The Buy America Provision is for public works and public buildings. So anything that is on a local government building or public work, Buy American would apply. I would also refer to you question 34, which goes over Buy American provisions in depth.

Q: The word "construction" is almost a misnomer, is it not? Construction would apply to every project than correct, regardless if it is construction or not?

A: It is for any public building and any public work.

Q: Would the installation of LED streetlights be a construction project?

A: Yes; that would be a public work. As described and defined in the Buy American Provision any road, bridges, and any other non-building activity or structures is considered a public work.

Q: How do we apply for an exemption from the Buy American Provision, especially for HVAC that is not made here in the United States? Should we still submit the application as is? Will we lose points for this?

A: The Buy American Provision is not a component of score but a term and condition placed on award. It is a requirement of the application.

Q: Doesn't the "Buy American Provision" affect both your score and the award?

A: It does not affect your score. You must be in compliance with the Buy America Provision to receive award. Please forward any exemption to Greg Payne to be considered via email at Greg.Payne@development.ohio.gov.

Q: We are planning to do Eligible Activities under 1 and 2. On page 6, it says on activities 1, 4, 5D, and 5E must submit the Environmental Questionnaire. If we are proposing to apply for eligible activities under the energy efficiency retrofit, we must complete the NEPA Environmental Questionnaire; however, I thought that the NEPA permit must be received by the application date.

A: That is only for Activity 5 if you want to go larger than the guidance that we have issued or for Activity 4. So you do not have to have NEPA compliance issued by the US Department of Energy for Activity 1.

Q: Do we still have to complete the application for Activity 1?

A: Yes; you will need to complete the form and submit the information to us.

Q: So this form is Attachment E?

A. Yes. We have been assured that certain activities under the energy efficiency retrofits will be categorically excluded, but will still have to be reviewed by the US Department of Energy. There should not be any further actions taken unless you have a larger project that will have an environmental impact.

Q: Can you please clarify if building that is older than 50 years old is required to submit a Historic Preservation Compliance if it had an addition added in 1972?

A: The Historic Preservation Compliance applies to the age of the building regardless of any new updates, upgrades, and/or additions.

Q: The only part of this building is over 50 years old and is not located in a historic district and is not one the historic building list. It still requires Historic Preservation Compliance materials and approval?

A: Yes; the material. You don't have to have it approved yet.

Q: Are more points given out if State Historic Preservation Office has already signed off on your project?

A: Yes; that would show proper project readiness.

Q: There are a lot of questions on the application that we cannot answer right now. Will we be disqualified if we do not have the entire application filled out?

A: If something is filled out improperly because you may have misunderstood something or interpreted the application incorrectly that would not be

grounds for disqualification. If you do not submit required information that would be an incomplete application.

Q: The application is complete; however, we are having a hard time getting all the fine details for the application. Would that be grounds for disqualification?

A: No; it would not be disqualified.

Q: How are you suppose to complete the application in its entirety when you cannot get real data. For example in Table 1, 2, 3, and 4, the application asks for job title, hours per week, week per year, and employee hourly wage. How are you suppose to complete this form out completely when you have no idea who will be filling what job or what job you will actually create? From US Department of Energy, you know that \$92,000 equals one job. So, if you are doing a \$500,000 project, you may know that equals five jobs. But how do you fill out the rest of the information? It's not like you can know how many jobs that will actually be.

A: You need to identify who will be retaining and doing the work. We are asking for full time equivalence documentation for jobs retained or created, not a dollar spent criteria.

Q: In a lot of instances you will hire contractors to do the work, not your on board personal. How do you count those jobs?

A: You can claim the people that you employ directly such as contractors. For the application, it is a calculation. The actual job numbers will be reported on your quarterly reporting.

Q: Under Contractual Sub-awards it asks the applicant to list the contractors to be used that will be used for the project. How can we list the contractors before it is put out for bid because it asks that we list the contractor name for the sub-award?

A: You only need to provide this information if the contractor is known. If that information is not known you should provide information explaining the process that you will use. If you don't have a contractor in place, you will put in that field that "It will be subject to bid upon receipt of award".

Q: In Table 1: *Job Creation* and Table 2: *Job Retention* it request that you list job title, the hours per week, the hourly wage. How can you complete this information if all the work will be done with a contractor and you haven't bid your project yet and have selected a contractor yet?

A: You will have to estimate this number. You might have to get vendor quotes.

Q: What if your vendor quote has a job title but does not have hourly wage, or the number of hours. Will you need to get this information from the vendor?

A: The vendor should not include this on the quote but can provide it on a separate document.

Q: Will it be considered inclusion if you talk to the vendors before the grant has been issued and the bid has been issued?

A: No; it will not as long as you do not commit to anything or anyone.

Q: Do traffic lights need to include Attachment D? Should we just initial the attachment checklist and mark it N/A for not applicable?

A: Yes. However, if the work is a public work is within a historic district, the State Historic Preservation Office might have an issue with that so we would request that do complete Section 106 attachment.

Q: What if it is not in a historic district?

A: If the public work, or structure is not in a historic district, you will not need to provide Section 106.

Q: If you are a community that already has a coordinating agreement with State Historic Preservation Office you simply refer to your accordance agreement and see if your project needs to be reviewed by State Historic Preservation Office or not.

A: If you have a special arrangement with State Historic Preservation Office that documentation would be requested as supporting documentation as your project readiness component.

Q: We have an accordance agreement too but it is based on residential structure. Is it specific to ODOD such as the housing program would that still be applicable?

A: The ODOD housing program allows us to do a lot of that compliance work right in house but we explicitly cannot use this for US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. This is because they are different federal agencies that we are dealing with and different types of projects. Agreements with State Historic Preservation Office must be for similar projects.

Q: So I would still have to complete the Section 106 attachment?

A: Yes, unless you have an exact or comparable project that has an MOU or some other agreement in place. That would assure that they do not have an issue with the project that you are submitting.

Q: We have a project that is for the replacement of our street lighting for energy efficiency street lights. Part of this process was to replace the sidewalk. We have worked with State Historic Preservation Office on the sidewalks. We received EECBG funds for the sidewalk portion. The lighting portion will require that we tear up the sidewalks in order to bury the street lighting lines. Would the EECBG funds that we have received for the sidewalks, be considered a funding match?

A: Costs that are necessary for the project to go forward and that come from the applicant or other sources are eligible to be counted as match or leverage. The Ohio Development of Development has not restricted where

match or leverage comes from, it just requires that it be accounted for and documented.

Q: Will the fund awards be a reimbursement? If that is not that is not the case will the funds be awarded directly to the county or the city so that no financing will be required?

A: The award will be a reimbursement. You will have to provide financial documentation showing that you have funding to pay for the project because you will have to pay for the project first and then you will be reimbursed.

Q: So the grant money will not be given to the county first? Work needs to be completed before the county can be reimbursed?

A: Yes, if you are only proposing one measure, you will you will not receive any money until the project or measure has been completed and paid for. If you are proposing multiple measures, you may request reimbursement as measures are completed, but no more than quarterly.

Q: Can questions be sent to Greg Payne directly?

A: No. They must be submitted to recovery.tibbs.ohio@em.ohio.gov. Any questions that are email to any other email address other than this one will not be answered.

Q: If you are a small city or county that has a million dollar project that they would like to propose you must have either financing documentation or a budget appropriation for the entire amount of your project because there will be no reimbursement until the project has been completed. Is that correct?

A: Yes.

Q: I have a question on Category 4 in the NEPA requirements. For example, if a small municipality has a small landfill and they are looking to do a methane reduction and possible energy recovery. Do we have to prove by the November 30th deadline that we have already been given a categorical 4 exemption by US Department of Energy? In light of it being a landfill I believe that it would require a categorical 4 exemption; however getting it completed by November 30th seem very likely.

A: Correct. NEPA clearance from US Department of Energy is needed for Activity 4.

Q: Does the Attachment C: *Vendor Information Form* need to be filled out by the county or any vendors that will be working on the project that will be working for the city or county?

A: A vendor is defined as anyone that receives funds from the State of Ohio. So the city of county would be considered the vendor under that definition.

Q: If the applicant needs technical support when filling out documents such as the vendor information form can they contact Greg Payne directly?

A: Complete the forms to the best of your ability. If you have questions regarding how to complete forms, please submit them through recovery.tibbs.ohio@em.ohio.gov.

Q: Is this grant for shovel ready projects only? And if so who can we contact in the Ohio Department of Development to help us finding that right funding sources available for our project? We have a program that will implement an energy office for our county who should we be talking to?

A: Please contact your local regional Ohio Department of Development representative, in your case; you may contact Eileen Granata at (419) 245-2445. For other regional economic development managers in the State of Ohio, please visit: <http://development.ohio.gov/edd/RegionalMap.htm>.

Q: The document online is locked. Can you unlock it? Also- if the form is already completed, do we have to redo it?

A: No, applications will be thrown out because the older document would not allow you to enter page numbers. Please use the current form as it has been reposted.

Q: On page one of the application where it asks for the Central Contractor Registration Number that is actually the CAGE number?

A: Yes. When you register for the Central Contractor Registration number, a CAGE number will issued on Central Contractor Registration notification.

Q: What if your project amount is too small or too big to apply for this grant?

A: You are encouraged to try to work with neighboring cities or counties and apply.

Q: You mentioned that project sites that are located within a historic district are subject the Historical Preservation Compliance. Does an historic district mean as put down by State Historic Preservation Office or will that include historic zoning? We have given ourselves a designation under local zoning but also under state law we are exempt from local zoning if we chose to be. Can you please clarify if we are subject to State Historic Preservation Office?

A: US Department of Energy requires State Historic Preservation Office compliance, not local zoning compliance. You are subject to State Historic Preservation Office if your structure is older than 50 years.

Q: I have a question on Exhibit 5: *The Budget and Information Form*. If we are doing a street light replacement to LED street lights what budget category will this go under or would we put it under "Other"?

A: You would place it under other and then define the project.

Q: I have a question about the Innovation Transferability Collaboration. It asks you to demonstrate partnerships and collaborations. Can that be shown through support letters from our partners?

A: Yes – and any documents that show partnerships or collaboration will be needed.

Q: We have a project that is a little over \$200,000. City Council has already approved \$84,000. We would like to expand the project by applying for additional funding through this grant. Would we have to have funding ready for the expansion?

A: Yes. Funding or financing.

Q: What if the contract is not willing to wait for the payment?

A: The grant is a reimbursement. You must provide documentation of your payment such as a paid invoice or a cancelled check to the vendor.

Q: We are a private contractor that designs the movement of wind windpower. We would looking to manufacturing and employ here in Ohio. Who should we talk to?

A: Tom Maves. You may contact Tom Maves via email at Thomas.Maves@development.ohio.gov.

Q: Can we receive progress payments? Can we pay our contractor as work progresses and seek reimbursement for each element?

A: The payment is for the entire project. Please see question 89 for further information.

Q: If a bank agrees to finance the entire project and submits a letter of commitment to that effect. Can the bank pay for the project cost rather than have it come out of city or county funds?

A: Yes. Have them submit a copy of their commitment letter. Any grant funds will not go directly to the bank. They will be paid to the city or the county.

Q: Will you clarify if progress payments can be made for each activity you have. For example if you have a project with six activities, can you be reimbursed for each activity as it is completed?

A: Currently, we are saying that you cannot. Please see page 18 of this document for further information.