



**Department of
Development**

**Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor**

Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Director

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
77 S. High St. 26th Floor
P.O. Box 1001
Columbus, OH 43216-1001**

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

Q: How much time will the public have to respond to this Request for Proposal?

A: Applicants must register at www.recoverey.ohio.gov by 2 pm on November 20, 2009 and submit a full application to the Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Energy Office by 2 pm on November 30, 2009. Applicants may submit questions on this request for proposal to Recovery.Tibbs@em.ohio.gov no later than November 20, 2009.

Q: Hi, I submitted proposals for several of my properties on the recovery website. It states for the EECBG grants that we do not need to resubmit. When we will hear about the other grant dollars?

A: The Request for Proposals says: “all interested parties must complete a two-step application process.” Step 1, submit a summary through the recovery.ohio.gov website, Step 2, submit a full application. Completing Step 1 is not sufficient to receive grant awards. Step 1 is essentially your letter of intent to apply.

Q: Where would I find the full, comprehensive application for Ohio Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program: Local Governments?

A:
http://www.development.ohio.gov/recovery/energy/fundingopportunities.htm#Energy_Efficiency

Q: Regarding the RFP document EECBG Guidelines that the deadline for the one-page project summary is listed as November 20, but on the following page, the deadline is listed as November 25. Which is correct?

A: The one-page summary should be submitted by November 20th.

Q: Can proposals for the above program [EECBG: Local Governments] be submitted electronically to this email address?
(Recovery.Tibbs@em.ohio.gov)

A: No, applications must be submitted as One original copy marked “Original,” 2 additional paper copies marked “Copy,” and one CD containing an electronic copy of the proposal, application, exhibits, and attachments.

Q: I am wondering why the City of Westlake is not on the list to apply for grant funds for the Ohio Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program: Local Governments?

A: All cities located in counties that received direct awards from the federal U.S. Department of Energy are not eligible to apply.

Optional additional information:

Counties received allocations based on their entire population, minus the population of cities that received direct allocations located in their county. The State's funding from the federal government was based on the remaining populations of the state that did not receive a direct allocation. Thus, the State did not receive funds from the federal government to cover cities located in counties that received direct allocations, therefore the State did allow cities located in direct allocation counties to compete for state funds through this program.

Optional additional allocation numbers:

Direct allocation cities received approximately \$9/population. Counties received approximately \$8.8/ population. The State received approximately \$3.1/ population to disperse among small local governments that did not receive a direct allocation.

Q: The time table indicates that notification of awards will not occur before winter of 2010. This seems to be a bit lengthy considering the immediacy which has been promoted in regards to stimulus projects. Is this date range accurate?

A: Yes; it is accurate. Depending on the volume of proposals received award could occur sooner, but administrative review to ensure all the forms are accounted for and the technical review to score applications will take a minimum of 45 business days.

Q: Can I now lower the Grant-Owner match from what we originally submitted on the Recovery.gov web site? The county does not now feel they can afford the original match percentage.

A: Yes, you can. Development will be checking to make sure projects are submitted through this website, but if minor changes to match percentage, amount requested, or scope of work occurs, this will not affect your application. The match percentage submitted on your full application is what will be reviewed and scored.

Q: Now that you have indicated that this grant has a minimum award amount of \$150k, do I need to modify our original submission on the Recovery.gov web site since our original project did not request this much money? If so, how do I modify it? Or do I just resubmit?

A: You do not need to resubmit, or modify your submission through recovery.ohio.gov. Development will be checking to make sure projects are submitted through this website, but if minor changes to match percentage, amount requested, or scope of work occurs, this will not affect your application. The amount requested on your full application is what will be reviewed and scored.

Q: Who is the applicant? In our case is it the County? Does the County need a DUNS number? Does the County need to register with the CCR? If the applicant is the County why on page 2 of 30 on the Application Form, line 10 does it say Business Type? And Line 11 does it ask is your Business Currently Certified as an MBE or EDGE?

A: Make sure the applicant is either a city or county listed on Page 4 of the #09-10 Guidelines. Yes, each applicant needs to have a DUNS number. Yes, each applicant needs to register with CCR. Business Type applies even for counties and cities and is assigned by CCR. For example, the State of Ohio Business Type is: "2F - U.S. State Government"

Q: The Executive Summary for this funding originally contained a component for state facilities and higher education. Should we anticipate an official application to be posted soon or will this funding be announced and conducted through a differently?

A: The application for State facilities and Higher Education will available through a separate solicitation and will be released soon.

Q: Item 5 in the guidelines only establishes maximum size requirements for solar and wind for NEPA requirements. Does this mean that a small scale biomass project (50KW) located at a wastewater treatment plant only have to complete the NEPA Environmental Questionnaire EF-1?

A: Small scale biomass projects must complete NEPA Environmental Questionnaire EF-1. Activity 5D (fuel cells), Activity 1 (Energy Efficiency Retrofits), and Activity 4 (Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases) must also complete NEPA Environmental Questionnaire EF-1.

Q: We are in the \$15 million segment (counties and cities under 65,000) and we have tabled an ordinance several times in anticipation of the announcements. Is the deadline extended even for cities that have already submitted a full application [proposal]?

A: Yes, the deadline is final and will not be extended. Proposals submitted through recovery.ohio.gov are not full applications.

Q: Under the ARRA funding for energy projects, I have a project for a city that is eligible. Recent changes in the energy performance contracting law, Ohio House Bill 300/420, allows automated meter reading projects to be counted as energy projects. Can a city apply for funding under the EECBG for automated meter reading? We would like to implement the project using stimulus funding under an energy performance contract.

A: No, automated meter reading is not eligible for funding under this solicitation.

Optional additional information

Not all energy projects are eligible to receive funding under this solicitation. Only activities listed of page 5 and 6 of the guidelines are eligible to be awarded. Automated meter reading is considered an “Energy efficiency and conservation program for a building or facility” by the U.S. Department of Energy and is an activity that was not included in Ohio’s program.

Q: [On behalf of] Defiance County Board of Commissioners. We submitted an application for the Recovery Act – EECBG Program, Reference Number: DE-FOA-0000013 on August 11, 2009 and we were told that we did not qualify for that program. Since we already applied for that program, do we still have to fill out the application for the \$3 million for eligible county and city governments with populations below 39,000?

A: Yes; you need to fill out the application for the \$3 million for eligible county and city governments with populations below 39,000. The application you submitted for FOA-0000013 was to the U.S. Department of Energy. The current application is to the Ohio Department of Development. Many of the same forms and information required in FOA-0000013 are required in Ohio’s application, but the Ohio Department of Development would not be able to accurately score your application if you only submitted the information provided in your FOA-0000013 application.

Q: The RFP lists minimum grant size as \$150,000. Is there a maximum grant size to be awarded?

A: The maximum available to the 26 smallest counties and the cities located in these counties is \$3,000,000 (counties under 39,000 population). The maximum available to the 26 next largest counties and the cities located in these counties is \$4,000,000 (counties between 39,000 and 65,000 population). The maximum available to the largest 26 counties and the cities located in these counties is \$8,000,000 (counties over 65,000) as described on page 4 of the guidelines.

Q: [Firm submitted] proposal for regenerating lead acid batteries, to reduce the amount of electricity needed to recharge batteries, to reduce the carbon footprint, to reduce the amount of lead and acid consigned to landfills or expensive recovery methods. Question: is the conference for only wind and solar or should we be involved?

A: Activity 2 “Energy Distribution” on page 5 of the guidance lists “Energy storage systems” as an allowable activity.

Q: Can you please tell me the correct link to the answers page for ARRA-EECBG local government’s information? Also, do you prefer me to send an entire list of questions at once or each question individually?

A:
<http://www.development.ohio.gov/cms/uploadedfiles/Development.ohio.gov/Recovery/Energy/EECBG%20Local%20Gov%20RFP%20Q&A.pdf>

Q: [Superintendent] of a school district in Pike County Ohio. I am preparing to do a project that will make us more energy efficient. Is this grant something I can apply for to help with the cost of the project and if not [is] there one for public school systems on saving energy?

A: Public school systems are not eligible to apply directly, but may partner with an eligible city or county government and have the city or county apply to have a project installed in a school district.

Q: [Proposed] project estimated to reduce inflow and infiltration of storm water and groundwater into a municipal sanitary sewer system thereby reducing the electricity usage of the waste water treatment plant (aerobic digester) by [approximately] \$300/day. Is this an eligible project for the EECBG Program for Local Governments?

A: Yes, this would be considered an Energy efficiency retrofit, under Activity 1 on page 5 of the guidelines.

Q: Regarding the Requests for Proposals for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (competitive). Is the one-page proposal distinct from the original proposal that [was] initially sent in over the summer? We had sent in a proposal previously, but it was not noted for being "1 page." The submission site looks the same, and the box is for 1200 characters (but not 1 page). If this proposal meets the criteria for [November] the 20th, should we only be focused on the comprehensive application due [November] the 30th?

A: The one-page summary is the same as the 1200 character summary you submitted through the recovery.ohio.gov website. You should only focus on the comprehensive application.

Q: (1) In regard to EECBG grant, is a grant application for an energy audit permissible? Please advise. (2) Are there two separate EECBG grants that are open? Is there a grant through DOE and is there a grant through the Ohio Department of Development, respectively?

A: 1) Audits are not eligible. 2) There are two separate grants currently available. One is through the Ohio Department of Development and one is through the U.S. Department of Energy. Both are for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program. Ohio's program is only available to the 114 cities and 78 counties listed in the guidelines. DOE's program is available to roughly 3,000 counties, and 25,000 cities/villages/townships.

Q: Is this funding source able to be used for the installation of smart electric meters that will allow our residents and business owners to obtain real time data on electric consumption?

A: No. Installation of smart meters is not eligible for funding under this solicitation.

Optional Additional information:

Not all energy projects are eligible to receive funding under this solicitation. Only activities listed of page 5 and 6 of the guidelines are eligible to be awarded. AMR is considered an "Energy efficiency and conservation program for a building or facility" by the U.S. Department of Energy and is an activity that was not included in Ohio's program.

Q: (1) Could our solid waste management district, a county-government agency, apply for methane-to-energy grant funding and sub grant the funds to a privately owned and operated landfill facility located within the county? (2) Would a curbside recycling expansion project qualify for the EECBG?

A: 1) A county government can apply to this program. A county may also partner with a private entity, but they must be listed as a

partner. Projects must demonstrate project readiness to be considered. Applications that just list a County will subgrant their award is not sufficient to show project readiness. 2) A curbside recycling expansion project is not eligible to receive funding under Ohio's EECBG program.

Q: Are there two separate EECBG grants that are open? Is there a grant through DOE and is there a grant through the Ohio Department of Development, respectively?

A: There are two separate EECBG grants currently available. One is through the Ohio Department of Development and one is through the U.S. Department of Energy. Both are for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program. Ohio's program is only available to the 114 cities and 78 counties listed in the guidelines. DOE's program is available to roughly 3,000 counties, and 25,000 cities/villages/townships.

Q: Page 4 of the RFP (OEO 09-10) for the Ohio Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program lists eligible counties and cities. It also lists the counties and cities that received a direct allocation, and specifies that those jurisdictions may NOT apply for funds under this RFP. Our city is located in Montgomery County (which received a direct allocation), but our city itself did not receive such an allocation. Are we eligible to apply?

A: No, your community is not eligible under the Ohio Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program.

Q: West Chester Township is located in Butler County, one of the ten that received a direct allocation. In addition, the [C]ity of Hamilton, also in Butler County, received a direct allocation. [I have] two questions:

1. May we apply directly for an ARRA-EECBG (specifically DE-FOA-0000013) or must we partner with a county or city? Please advise ASAP.
2. Has the deadline passed for applications for DE-FOA-000007[1]3?

**A: 1. Cities, villages, and townships within counties that received direct allocations are NOT eligible under this program.
2. The deadline has not passed; applications are due November 30, 2009.**

Q: The Attachment E on RFP Number: OEO 09-10, EECBG Program – Local Governments does not have Part III included – the Attachment only goes through Part II, Table C – please advise.

A: This was an error. It should state: “Would your project require or produce any radiological materials? If not skip TABLE C.”

Q: Since we cannot legally hire a vendor or contractor BEFORE a grant is awarded, how can we list a vendor, contractor?

A: As part of your planning and development of your project you will receive quotes from the contractor. You must submit these quotes documenting the costs of your project. If you are selected for an award and that contractor is not used for your project, you may submit updated information informing us of the change in contractor.

Q: I sent a question but when I type in the response page <http://www.development.ohio.gov/cdd/oe> link I find no section for the answers. Please advise on where to find your responses.

A: The Q& A is posted here:

http://www.development.ohio.gov/recovery/energy/fundingopportunities.htm#Energy_Efficiency under the “[Questions and Answers \(pdf\)](#)” link.

Q: Several weeks ago the city of Delaware Ohio submitted three separate proposals that upgrade lighting at three different park facilities (Smith Ball Field lights, Mingo ball field lights, and Mingo Pool lights). After looking at the EECBG application & appendices we discussed internally and were wondering if we could combine the three light proposals into one project application. We received cost estimates from one vendor on all three of these facilities and it just seems easier to package them together if possible. If so I will resubmit a combined one-page project summary through the recovery.gov site. Please let me know.

A: You don’t need to resubmit. If your project (s) has been submitted but it has expanded to include other projects that have already been submitted, or it has changed slightly, this is not a problem. You still must complete a formal application, in addition to your summary at www.recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state .

Q: I'm inquiring about Attachment B of the grant application, and whether or not that form applies to our (city of Marietta) grant application. Because we are a municipality, I'm questioning whether or not it needs to be filled out.

Also, is there a list somewhere of the exact documents and attachments we need to submit?

A: All documents and forms in the Request For Proposal are required to be completed by the applicant.

The checklist is located on the second page of the Application and Appendices.

Q: Please clarify that the minimum project award is \$150,000 as stated on page 3 of the RFP. Are there other funding opportunities for projects under \$150,000?

A: The minimum is \$150,000 per award. There are not other opportunities with lower funding level available or anticipated to be available.

Q: Please clarify that the anticipated number of awards for the \$15 million is 3-50 as stated on page 12 of the RFP.

A: Based on the number of applicants, and funding available, we anticipate awarding between three (3) and 50 projects.

Q: Please define "Winter 2010" as the estimated date for awardees to be notified.

A: Awards will be made no later than the end of March 2010.

Q: On the application form there is an Employment Profile. [I]t inquires about job creation and job retention. Is that question in regards to the applicant ([C]ity of [M]arietta, how many we employ, etc.) or the facility we are actually renovating (how many jobs will be created, etc.)?

A: The "Total number of jobs created" is regarding how many jobs are estimated to be created in order to complete the project. The form also asks for "Current employment level as of July 1, 2009" - this

asks how many you currently employ. Remember, one full-time equivalent equals 2080 hours of work.

Q: Is the Central Contractor Registration # the same as the MPIN or CAGE CODE? If not, where can I find this number?

A: Yes, it is the same. When you register you will receive the CAGE code.

Q: Since we cannot legally hire a vendor or contractor BEFORE a grant is awarded, how can we list the number of contractual employees and their rates of pay?

A: The number of contractual employees will be a realistic estimate on the application form. You will not be required to confirm these figures until you submit your quarterly reporting.

Q: Since we cannot legally hire a vendor or contractor BEFORE a grant is awarded how can we know what manufacturer, equipment type, material, product warranty, etc. they will use BEFORE we know who wins the bid?

A: You must be far enough along in your planning and development of your project that this information is available and can be submitted with the application so your project can be properly reviewed and scored.

Q: Under Contractual/Sub award, how can we list the contractors to be used for the project before it is funded and legally put out to bid?

A: The number of contractual employees will be a realistic estimate on the application form. You will not be required to confirm these figures until you submit your quarterly reporting.

Q: Is the applicant's Human Resource Director typically the most appropriate "Designated Responsible Employee" to certify compliance with 10 C.F.R. § 1040.5?

A: Yes; typically, but not exclusively.

Q: Does the W-9 apply to the applicant or to the contractor once someone is hired?

A: The W-9 and all other forms are for the applicant to complete.

Q: If the Vendor Information Form has to match the W-9, how can the applicant be the vendor?

A: The applicant, if awarded a grant, will be the vendor of the State of Ohio.

Q: If W-9 is for contractor, again, how can we legally hire someone BEFORE a grant is awarded, how can we list a vendor, contractor?

A: The W-9 is for the applicant to complete, not by the vendor the applicant may hire.

Q: Is the VENDOR INFORMATION FORM applicable since costs cannot be incurred before a grant is awarded?

A: This form is to be completed by the applicant.

Q: Why is it important to document project readiness when awards will not be announced for over a year? [Solar panels can be installed as soon as we get funding, put it out to bid according to Ohio Revised Code, and hire a contractor to install.]

A: Awards will be announced in Winter 2010 (within two to three months).

Q: We are considering applying for the above referenced funds and our Auditor is having difficulty locating the Central Contractor Registration #. We have a DUNS # and an NAICS # and are registered with CCR but cannot locate any reference to the CCR # number anywhere. Can you advise us where to look for or obtain this number?

A: Please refer to the instructions in the Request for Proposal, page 7 which states: To see if your organization is already registered with CCR, check the CCR website located at <https://www.bpn.gov/ccrsearch/Search.aspx> . You will be able to search CCR by using either your organization's DUNS Number or legal business name. If your organization is already registered, take note of who is listed as the organization's E-Business Point of Contact (EBusiness POC).

Q: The RFP for the Local Government's portion of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant lists five eligible activities:

- 1) Energy Efficiency Retrofits
- 2) Energy Distribution
- 3) Traffic Signals and Street Lighting
- 4) Reduction and capture of methane and greenhouse gases
- 5) Renewable Energy technologies on government buildings

The DOE listed fourteen activities as national goals for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grants of which the first three are:

- 1) Development of an energy efficiency and Conservation Strategy
- 2) Technical Consultant Services
- 3) Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits

The above three activities offer a low cost high impact opportunity for a number of the cities/counties that did not receive direct federal funding for projects. Will projects that strictly involve Retro-commissioning and Energy Auditing of buildings be entertained if submitted for funds through RFP OEO 09-10?

A: No, they will not.

Q: A client (village) would like to apply through County for a street lighting project to replace inefficient existing street lights (poles, lamps, etc.) with new more energy-efficient lighting. Village does not own lights, but instead leases them from the electrical service provider. Is the Village eligible for this type project? Would funds pay only for the new poles, globes and lighting or are funds limited to just the electrical/lighting components?

A: It could include poles, and lamps as well.

Q: Are public schools and/or universities considered as eligible applicants?

A: Public schools are not eligible to apply directly, but may partner with an eligible applicant. A second RFP is expected to be issued soon that is for State agencies and higher education facilities, where a university could apply directly.

Q: There are conflicting dates on your web site. One indicated project summaries must [be filed] online at the recovery.gov web site by 11/20/09 and another reference indicates 11/25/09. Which date is correct?

A: 11/20/2009.

Q: [Lucas County Improvement Corporation] A county agency is renovating a building that it leases. Are leased county buildings eligible for the EECBG?

A: Yes.

Q: [I] need a clarification on the grant program. Is the grant program a matching fund program?

A: Matching funds are not required, but percent of match is a criteria for selection.

Q: Is this the only vehicle for submitting questions regarding RFP: OEO 09-10?

A: Yes.

Q: Regarding the First page of the "application" (pg.2 of 20). We are a social services agency making application in cooperation with our County Commissioners. We will not be adding staff or retaining staff in our agency (largely social workers); however, there will be significant positive impact on employment resulting from proposed projects, both in manufacturing and installing equipment etc. THIS INITIAL PAGE OF THE APPLICATION APPEARS NOT TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO INDICATE THIS. How can this be addressed?

A: Use Tables 1 and 2 of Exhibit II to indicate direct job creation, including jobs in installation or project implementation. Use Tables 3 and 4 to indicate jobs created indirectly, such as manufacturing jobs.

Q: Regarding EXHIBIT 1, Planned Activity and Associated Costs - Activity 1 Please define "quasi-government agency"

A: Park districts, school districts, libraries, county boards, county commissions.

Q: Under exhibit II it references collaborations; can we include letters of support as a description of collaboration?

A: Yes, you may.

Q: [City of Kent, Community Development Department] We are planning to submit for energy efficiency retrofits at government buildings. Does each proposed government building to be retrofitted equate to one activity? In other words, should a separate Exhibit I form (Planned Activity and Associated Costs) and related Technical Worksheet (Table 5) be completed for each building?

Are all government buildings eligible for energy efficiency retrofit activities, including government buildings that generate revenue by billing residents for services in order to cover a portion of the services operating costs (i.e. city-owned water reclamation plant, waste water treatment plant)?

A: They do not need to be completed for each building, but you should complete multiple exhibits if some of the buildings are under 50 years and some buildings are over 50 years, since the buildings over 50 years will need to be reviewed for historic preservation laws, while younger buildings will not. If you aggregate buildings and you check that one of the buildings is over 50 years, it will be assumed that all are over 50 years and will need to have Section 106 Reviews, Attachment D completed regarding review and possible mitigation.

Q: [City of Sylvania] Is it acceptable for an eligible government applicant to direct funds to the energy retrofit of a privately owned building?

A: Yes, this is acceptable.

Q: The City of Toledo and County of Lucas are interested in working together on an energy study of our existing facilities. The study would essentially set a baseline of "accepted" use of energy per square foot - allowing us to prioritize our retrofit program and establish a baseline. After reviewing the eligibility guidelines, I wasn't sure if this fits under the 1st bullet. I didn't see any mention of energy audits, energy studies, etc.

Also, because the City has received a direct formula allocation, would this make our application ineligible?

A: An award cannot be made to the City of Toledo. An award can be made to the County of Lucas. "A State that receives a grant under this program shall use no less than 60 percent of the amount received to provide subgrants to units of local government in the State that are not eligible units of local government (those who received direct allocations)."

Q: I have not received an answer to my question. I have a community that would like to know if an automated meter reading program would qualify. It would

reduce vehicles on the street as well as provide a way to reduce water consumption by detecting leaks. Does it apply?

A: Transportation projects are not eligible to receive funding.

Q: Would a local government be permitted to use the funds toward the incremental cost of a new hybrid electric straddle crane for a rail yard? (Incremental costs in this case being the difference between the hybrid version and the conventional diesel version)

A: This is outside the scope of allowable activities.

Q: How do we go about submitting the full, comprehensive application by the 2PM deadline on November 30th?

A: Mail, or deliver it to:

Ohio Department of Development
Ohio Energy Office
EECBG - ARRA
77 South High Street 26th
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001

Q: The Ohio Department of Public Safety has several projects that were entered into the recovery.ohio.gov website. We have been receiving the emails informing us of various updates, but have questions about the most recent updates and the November 12 bidder's conference.

1. As a state agency, will this bidder's conference be useful to us, or will there be another bidder's conference for us at a later date? (We are both signed up for it.)
2. Is the one-page project proposal that is due on November 20 the same thing as the project entries that were made on the recovery.ohio.gov site in March 2009?
3. Do the state agencies have the same November 20 deadline for submitting the one-page project proposal and the same November 30 deadline date for submitting the full, comprehensive application?
4. Will ODOD be providing an application format for this full, comprehensive application? If not, which format are we to use?

5. It appeared that new construction is not an allowable cost under the federal grant guidelines. Does this also apply to building additions?

- A:**
1. No, attend the December 9, 2009 Bidder's Conference.
 2. No, there will be a separate deadline.
 3. No.
 4. Yes.
 5. It applies to building additions.

Q: [To understand eligibility for] the Ohio Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program: [Press release of September 28, 2009] includes the phrase; \$8.2 million will be available to state facilities and institutions of higher education through a competitive solicitation.

In RFP Number: OEO 09-10, higher education is not specifically named; however, the RFP refers to quasi-governmental entities. Since Columbus State Community College is a state-funded, public, 2-year institution of higher ed, does it qualify to apply? [The intended project, already submitted in the one-page format, is a retrofit of a power generating solar thermal system.]

A: There will be a separate RFP for state and higher education entities.

Q: I am trying to complete the EECB grant for the City of West Carrollton, but I am concerned we are not eligible to receive funding for light retro-fitting. I can not find the City of West Carrollton on the eligibility list, and not sure if I should proceed with the grant application.

A: All cities located in direct allocation counties are not eligible under Ohio's program (Butler County, Clermont County, Cuyahoga County, Franklin County, Hamilton County, Lake County, Montgomery County, Stark County, Summit County, and Warren County).

Q: How can we insert "page x of x" or our "project and agency name" at the bottom of each page when the document is locked with a pass code? Can we have the pass code to unlock the application in order to fulfill your requirements?

A: This problem has been addressed and fixed. If problems still persist, and are outside the control of the applicant, you will not be penalized.

Q: The application which needs filled out is going to be very difficult for our county (for a variety of reasons). Is it a requirement for the application to be filled out entirely? Will we be penalized and/or disqualified if we are missing certain information?

A: All requested information should be included in your application to be able to be scored accurately. Information that is missing cannot be scored.

Q: For some reason I could not speak on the bidders conference call today, but I do have a question. Should I go ahead and submit a full proposal not knowing if my initial summary was approved or not?

Or does being invited to this call today say that my summary has been accepted to move forward on?

A: No summaries have been rejected. The call was open to all applicants.

Q: During the conference you referred to Exhibit # 2, a 30 page application PDF. I have not been able to locate that document. Please send me a link.

A:
http://www.development.ohio.gov/cms/uploadedfiles/Development.ohio.gov/Recovery/Energy/EECBG_Application&Appendices.doc

Q: On Exhibit IV.: If you answer yes to any of the questions it asks you to provide an explanation in addition to a copy of an annual report or audit report. Our audit report is 70+ pages... which obviously go over the max of 50 pages. Will this be accepted?

A: Page 8 of the guidance states: "Total number of pages, **not including attachments**, should total no more than 50." Attachments are not counted towards the 50, so this will be accepted.

Q: Buckeye Hills – Hocking Valley Regional Development District in Marietta serves an eight-county region in southeastern Ohio, all Appalachian counties.

Mayor of Logan is interested in purchasing a natural gas-powered street sweeper.

Will there be a round 3 of the DERG (Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant)? If so, when do you anticipate announcing that?

Would this project be eligible for the EECBG grant?

A: Can't speak regarding the DERG. This project would not be eligible under the EECBG.

Q: On Table 6, is the Measured Demand the same as the Previous Reading and Billed Demand the same as Present Reading? If not, where do I find this information?

A: Measured Demand (kW) is the greatest 15-minute demand during the billing period, adjusted for 'Power Factor'. Billed Demand is billed to the nearest 0.1 kilowatt. The read demand charge may be different than the billed demand charge if the 'Power Factor' is below 90%.

Q: The copy of the EECBG application posted on the ODOD Ohio Energy Office website is still in a locked Word format. During the Bidder's Conference call on Thursday, 11-12-09, it was indicated the unlocked version would be posted on Friday, 11-13-09. Can you please indicate when the unlocked version will be posted online?

A: It was reposted, so page numbers and names could be added at the bottom of each page, but an unlocked version will not be available.

Q: [Sponsor] submitted [a proposal] and it had requested \$500,000 for project; it was supposed to be \$600,000. Before [submitting] another request to the system is there a way the original request can be modified to read \$600,000? Please advise [in order] to make the correct action.

A: All that matters is that your full application includes the most recent information. It does not have to match exactly with what was submitted through www.recovery.ohio.gov

Q: If we are in a city of a county that received prior funding but, as a city did not receive any part of this funding, would we be eligible to receive funding under this new opportunity?

A: All cities located in direct allocation counties are not eligible under Ohio's program (Butler County, Clermont County, Cuyahoga County, Franklin County, Hamilton County, Lake County, Montgomery County, Stark County, Summit County, and Warren County).

Q: Where can I find the full comprehensive application packets?

A:
http://www.development.ohio.gov/recovery/energy/fundingopportunities.htm#Energy_Efficiency

Q: [Vendor] filed an Expression of Interest for Coshocton County Commissioners intent to submit a \$500,000+ EECBG grant? Is the filing of that electronically sufficient or do I still need to file a hard copy by November 20?

A: 1) Submit a one-page project summary on the <http://recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state/> website no later than **2:00 pm** on – **November 20th, 2009**. Applicants that have already submitted a summary at <http://recovery.ohio.gov> do not need to submit again.

NOTE: On the <http://recovery.ohio.gov/opportunities/state/> page, click on “**Submit your Proposal**” in the “How to Apply” box. When filling out the “Project Information” section of the form, choose the Federal Stimulus Program category “**Energy and Environment**” and the subprogram “**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants**”

2) Submit an application to the Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Energy Office no later than **2:00 p.m.** on **November 30th, 2009**. The application form may be found at http://www.development.ohio.gov/recovery/energy/fundingopportunities.htm#Energy_Efficiency.

Both steps need to be completed. Just submitting a proposal through recovery.ohio.gov is not sufficient.

Q: I filled out the questions on the webpage; I am not sure whether that fulfills the request for a one page proposal. Please advise if this is the proper way of proceeding.

A: The webpage submission is the one page proposal.

Q: [Intending to] confirm the eligibility of the entire City of Reynoldsburg for Ohio energy efficiency & conservation block grant program. The City of Reynoldsburg is located within three counties, Fairfield, Franklin, and Licking. Franklin County received a direct allocation, so communities in Franklin County are not eligible for funds. The City of Reynoldsburg is listed as one of 114 eligible cities for funding. The question is can the block grant funding be used in all of the City of Reynoldsburg, including the portion in Franklin County, or are only the Licking and Fairfield County portions of the City eligible for projects requesting grant funding?

A: After speaking with Ohio's Project Officer at the U.S. Department of Energy, they said it can be anywhere in the city.

Q: Can you give an estimate of when the Q & A's from the Bidders Conference will be posted?

Also, we need to view our original project proposal summaries, originally submitted 6/29/09 to Recovery.Ohio.Gov. We do have hard copies, but these do not reflect the entire 1200-word "Brief Project Description and Expected Outcomes." Can you tell us where these can be found on-line, or by any other means?

A: They are posted now.

Q: We are working with the Clinton County Commissioners to implement a solar PV project in Clinton County in connection with the RFP #OEO 09-10. In this sense, could you please clarify the following?

Can the proposal of the completed documents on the 30th be delivered by HAND (i.e. in person) to the address specified, or does it need to be posted?

We will have attachments to the proposal, including funding documents signed with the county. However, you specify that every page needs to be numbered consecutively. How can we do this for such attachments, as presumably we cannot renumber the agreements that were already signed?

We are doing our utmost to comply with the Buy American provision, but confess that it is a challenge to find 100% US solar panel manufacturers. Even the ones based here have some manufacturing capabilities elsewhere. On a worst case scenario, can [we] still apply knowing that we may not have a 100% locally manufactured solution?

A: Yes, they can be delivered by hand. Problems that are outside the control of the applicant will not be penalized.

Q: [At the Bidders' Conference] it was communicated] that answers to many of our questions would be posted for us to see. Has this been done yet? The web page [including] the presentation has a [link] to "Questions and Answers," it still says "Coming Soon." If there is a separate web page I should be visiting to find these answers, please respond. [If the answers to our questions are not yet posted] what is an estimated date when this will be done?

A: It should be posted now.

Q: During the Bidders Conference call a request was made that reimbursement be available upon completion and payment for separate activities within one project proposal.

The decision on this is the determining factor in whether or not our County might be able to apply as planned. It would be extremely helpful if we could have clarification on this issue as soon as possible because it is so critical to so many local governments with significant cash flow constraints.

A: if you are only proposing one measure, 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 a project proposal be submitted that includes numerous available counties? Example – a project that would incorporate the similar scope of work for numerous counties?

A: Multiple county proposals will be considered.

Q: [A] client is working with a number of K-12 school districts. Can the group of districts apply together or do they need to be done separately?

A: School districts cannot apply directly, but an eligible city or eligible county could partner with them and apply for them.

Q: I am getting ready to complete Tables 6, 7 and 8 that covers utility consumption for base year. Does "base year" mean the year before the retrofits are completed, or is "base year" cover amount expected the first year after retrofit is complete?

A: Base year if before the measure was implemented.

Q: [Regarding the EECBG RFP] who completes the vendor form?

Are we permitted to use the State Purchasing process?

Are we permitted to use a portion of what is allowable for administrative expense as match?

What documentation is required to submit for repayment?

Are CDBG dollars an eligible match?

A: The applicant city or county is the one who completes that vendor form. I can't speak regarding the state purchasing process. Administrative expenses that you bear can be considered as match. Reimbursement processes will be made clear in any grant agreement that is issued. Funds that contribute towards the completion or implementation of the project can be counted as match.

Q: [City of St. Clairsville] how do we find out if we are a Priority Investment Area? Please inform.

A: Jurisdictions of local governments that are Priority Investment Area for 2009 are listed here:
http://www.development.ohio.gov/research/Reports_in_maps_economic_related.htm

Q: [City of St. Clairsville] if there are forms that are not applicable to our project, do you still want them submitted blank?

A: If they are not applicable, you can leave them blank.

Q: The deadline for enquiries is tomorrow and I am concerned that my queries have not been addressed yet. Would you be able to tell me if this will be possible before tomorrow?

A: All questions and answers will be posted.

Q: [Vinton] County Commissioners intend to apply for EECBG funding to replace an aging boiler system in the Courthouse with a new energy efficient HVAC system. The County will be contracting out for the engineering and construction but [a] county employee will be administering the EECBG grant.

On Exhibit V – Budget Information under Personnel do we list just the amount of EECBG administrative funds being budgeted for grant administration?

And likewise with the Fringe Benefits?

Am I correct to assume that the new HVAC system would be budgeted under #7 (Contractual) and not under #5 (Equipment)?

In regards to #7 (Contractual) we cannot list the contractors to be used in the project until we do competitive bidding. Do we just list them as TBD (To Be Determined) on the budget table?

A: Personnel is for the grantees expenses, contractual/subaward is for contracts. If you don't know who the contractor is, but TBD.

Q: I have a client filing and application for a grant and our office is assisting. It is stated that the application must be submitted as a single PDF, 8 1/2" x 11" and no more than 50 pages. In counting the sheets of the application the exhibits and the attachments these number just short of 50 sheets. How is support information submitted then?

For example on Attachment G, which as an application for a Section 106 review requires photographs and maps, etc., is this all expected to be submitted with this application?

Or is this form submitted with line items that say "see attached" which are really meant for the historical society and not this application?

A: Page 8 of the guidance states: "Total number of pages, **not including attachments**, should total no more than 50." Attachments are not counted towards the 50, so this will be accepted.

Q: During the Bidders conference on November 12th, mention was made of a website to assist with calculating job retention/creation numbers. I thought it was on the Department of Energy website but I have not been able to find it. Could you please provide me with the web address?

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: [Representative from] Musco Sports Lighting headquartered in Iowa, provides an energy-efficient lighting product to cities, counties, schools and other organizations. Some of our customers, who are located in Ohio, are interested in the EECBG program for their energy efficient sports lighting projects. [Regarding the application] see these questions:

Attachment C - Vendor Information Form: If the applicant plans to purchase energy efficient sports lighting from Musco Lighting. Does Musco need to complete this form?

Table 3 & 4 - Indirect Job Creation and Retention: Does this include jobs created/retained by vendors (i.e. Musco Lighting)? Are you only looking for indirect Ohio jobs?

Are new construction projects eligible, or is this program only for retrofit projects? For example, would installing energy efficient sports lighting on a ball field that did not have sports lighting previous be eligible?

Can an eligible city or county partner with a for-profit organization and apply on their behalf?

A: The grantee needs to complete the Vendor information form. It would be eligible.

Q: Do you require any attached documentation with NEPA questionnaire (Exhibit E)?

A: No. Answer the questions requested. If you want or need to supply any additional information to support your answers, please attach it and label it Attachment E.

Q: I am working with an eligible city [Delphos] and due to a communication mix-up they did not submit a summary by the 20th. Can we still submit it and can we still submit the RFP?

A: 1 page summaries were due November 20th.

Q: I have downloaded the application for the Ohio Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program.

This document is password protected. Some columns are too small causing figures to wrap around in the box. This makes it very difficult to read. Can you provide me with the password so I may enlarge the columns?

Second, on Attachment E, what is "ST"?

A: 1. We will read it.

2. ST=State

Q: The Section 106 Review Form asks for the Federal Agency and Federal Contact as well as the State Agency and State Contact. Should I put U.S. Dept. of Energy as the federal contact? Who is the contact person? Should I put Greg Payne as the State DOE contact?

A: You can leave those blank.

Q: I understand that geothermal units are limited to a 5.5 ton capacity. In order to meet demand, would multiple 5.5 ton capacity units be eligible for funding under this program?

A: It would depend on where each geothermal unit was located. If they were clustered at the same facility no, they were at multiple locations they would be considered.

Q: I noticed on your chart of eligible communities that Brown County is listed. Georgetown in Brown, is not. Are they then not eligible?

A: Villages are not eligible to apply. They must partner with an eligible city or county.