

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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June 14, 2024

NH Department Of Energy (NHDOE) Newsletter

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To request a letter of support from NHDOE for a funding opportunity, please e-mail newsletter@energy.nh.gov.

NHDOE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, NEWS, AND UPDATES

Municipal Solar Grant Program is Open

The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) resulted in a \$550 million appropriation into the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#). This program, overseen by the US Department of Energy, provides formula grants to states, local governments, and Indian tribes to implement strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency.

Under this program, the NH Department of Energy (the Department) will receive a \$1.6 million formula grant. With that award, the Department has developed the Municipal Solar Grant Program, a competitive grant assistance program that provides funding for municipal solar project expenses whose total installed capacity does not exceed 60 kW DC. These projects will have the dual benefit of lowering municipal energy expenses and providing a direct financial benefit to municipal budgets and local property taxpayers. The program will prioritize “disadvantaged municipalities” that directly own their solar systems for funding in light of USDOE’s [Justice40 Initiative](#).

The Department then applied for this EECBG formula grant in September 2023, and was approved by USODE on May 3, 2024. Funding is now pending New Hampshire’s approval process to accept and expend through the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council.

The total funding amount available under this RFP is \$1,480,000:

- A total of \$1,000,000 will be reserved for Tier 1 grants.
The maximum Tier 1 grant request is \$200,000.
- A total of \$480,000 will be reserved for Tier 2 grants.
The maximum Tier 2 grant request is \$120,000.

Projects must be completed no later than 24 months after approval of a grant agreement by the Governor and Executive Council. Electronic proposals must be received by the Department no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) EST on **Thursday, August 1**.

Proposals that seek funding for expansions or replacements of existing solar electricity/photovoltaic systems or for installed or operational facilities are not eligible for this Municipal Solar Grant Program.

Full program details and requirements are outlined in Request For Proposals (RFP) #2024-006, which can be found [here](#).

US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (USDOE) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, NEWS AND UPDATES

Funding Notice: Solar Energy Supply Chain Incubator

USDOE's Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) announced the FY24 Solar Energy Supply Chain Incubator funding opportunity, which will provide up to \$38 million for research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) projects that de-risk solar hardware, manufacturing processes, and software products across a wide range of solar technology areas.

The FOA also seeks projects that provide outreach, education, or technology development for software that delivers an automated permit review and approval process for rooftop solar photovoltaics (PV) with or without energy storage in the following topic areas:

1. Solar Research and Technology Development
2. Solar Technology Demonstration
3. Solar Permitting Software Outreach, Education, and Development

Concept papers are due **Friday, July 19** with applications due **Monday, October 7**.

To read more click [here](#).

Funding Notice: Solar Tech Rapid Integration & Validation for Energy Systems (STRIVES)

USDOE's Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) and Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) announced the Solar Technologies' Rapid Integration and Validation for Energy Systems (STRIVES) funding opportunity. This opportunity will provide up to \$31 million for research, development, and demonstration projects to improve power systems simulation software tools and demonstrate new business models for distribution systems operations to integrate and optimize the value of inverter-based resources (IBRs) and distributed energy resources including solar generation, wind generation, energy storage, and other technologies such as buildings and electric vehicles.

Concept papers are due **Thursday, July 25**. Application deadline is **Thursday, October 17**.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Round 2: Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program

New and previously submitted in Round 1 applications are now being accepted for the Round 2 \$1.3 Billion in Funding to Expand National Electric Vehicle Charging Network. The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI Program) is a competitive grant program to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in the places people live and work – urban and rural areas alike – in addition to along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). This CFI Program investments will make modern and sustainable infrastructure accessible to all drivers of electric, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas vehicles and provides two funding categories of grants: (1) Community Charging and Alternative Fueling Grants (Community Program); and (2) Charging and Alternative Fuel Corridor Grants (Corridor Program).

The Round 2 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the CFI Program is available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, August 28**. Click [here](#) for more information.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, NEWS AND UPDATES

Grants to Repair Affordable Housing in Rural Communities

Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announced that USDA is seeking applications for grants to repair or rehabilitate homes, rental properties or cooperatives for people in rural areas with low or very low incomes. Today's announcement is being made as USDA celebrates **Homeownership Month** and the importance of expanding access to safe and affordable homes in rural America and on Tribal lands. USDA is providing the funding through the Housing Preservation Grant program.

Eligible applicants include most state or local governmental entities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, nonprofit groups and faith-based organizations. Approximately \$12.2 million is being made available to eligible participants. Approximately \$2.2 million of this funding is available for disaster assistance with a maximum award of \$50,000.

For example, funds may be used to:

- Repair or replace electrical wiring, foundations, roofs, insulation, heating systems and water/waste disposal systems.
- Support accessibility features.
- Purchase construction materials.
- Finance administrative expenses up to 20%.

USDA is particularly interested in applications that will advance Biden-Harris Administration priorities to:

- Reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Ensure all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD-funded projects.

- Help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

Pre-applications for grants must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on **Monday, July 29**.

Additional information is available [here](#) and on the Federal Register [here](#).

Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Grants

RCDI grants are awarded to help non-profit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas. USDA is making up to \$5 million in grants available under the [Rural Community Development Initiative](#) program. The program provides funding to organizations that provide financial and technical assistance for housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects. Eligible applicants include public (including Tribal) organizations, nonprofit organizations and qualified private organizations. Grants may be used to train sub-grantees to conduct educational training on homeownership or minority-owned business entrepreneurship. Funds also may be used to provide technical assistance to sub-grantees on:

- strategic plan development
- accessing alternative funding sources
- training and resources for board operations, management, financial systems and information technology

The minimum grant award is \$50,000 and the maximum award amount is \$500,000. Awardees must contribute matching funds equal to the amount of the grant. USDA is particularly interested in applications that will advance Biden-Harris Administration priorities to:

- Reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Ensure all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD-funded projects.
- Help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.

Electronic applications must be submitted via [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59 p.m. **Wednesday, July 10**. The deadline for paper applications is 4 p.m. **Monday, July 15**.

2024 Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program Now Open

The Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program provides a 10 or 20 percent (%) point increase to the investment tax credit for qualified solar or wind energy facilities under five megawatts (AC). P

Program guidance including the 2024 Revenue Procedure, final regulations, and program resources to help applicants prepare their submissions are available on the [USDOE program homepage](#).

The 2024 Program year will provide over 2.1 GWs of capacity across four categories of qualified solar or wind facilities. At least 50% of the capacity limitation in each category or sub-reservation will be made available to facilities that meet additional selection criteria.

Applications submissions for the 2024 Program Year of the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program will conclude on **Thursday, June 27 at 11:59 pm ET**. View the applicant portal [here](#).

USDOE will generally accept applications on a rolling basis and will review applications and provide recommendations to the IRS in the order applications are received. USDOE administers the Applicant Portal on behalf of Treasury and the IRS. For program-related inquiries and portal assistance email: EJBonusSupport@hq.doe.gov.

Webinar Series: National Cooling Standards Initiative (For State Energy Offices)

NASEO and Center for Energy Poverty and Climate (CEPC) will introduce the webinar series and briefly discuss the need for State Energy Offices to address the problems of extreme heat and lack of household cooling. They will preview their new report “Beating the Heat: Recommendations and Considerations for States to Support Cost-Effective Residential Cooling.” This report offers guidance for State Energy Offices about cost-effective residential cooling, including topics such as “centering consumer protections and affordability,” “determining how to prioritize households,” and “fostering interagency and intergovernmental partnerships.”

June 20 @ 1 p.m.	Session 3: State Examples of Comprehensive Affordable cooling Strategies	Register
July 2 @ 1 p.m.	Session 4: Funding & Financing the Energy Transition, Braiding Federal & State Funds	Register

NHDOE INFORMATIONAL LINKS

- [NHDOE'S HOME EFFICIENCY REBATES PROGRAM](#)
Helpful resource for news and updates on NH's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) rebate programs.
- [NHDOE'S ENERGY AND UTILITY BILL ASSISTANCE](#)
Helpful resource for several financial assistance programs that help with energy and utility bills.
- [NHDOE'S REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS \(RFPs\)](#)
Helpful resource for the latest RFPs for competitive funding opportunities and consultant needs.
- [NHDOE'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS \(FOAs\)](#)
Helpful resource for funding opportunities and updates by sector that could be of interest to folks looking to implement energy efficiency or clean energy projects.
- [NHDOE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND GRANTS](#)
Helpful to those interested in state funded grants for renewable energy/solar projects in the non-residential sector or low-moderate income (LMI) communities.
- [NHDOE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND REBATES](#)
Helpful to residential and commercial property owners interested in rebate funding for renewable electric generation resources or wood pellet heating systems.

USDOE INFORMATIONAL LINKS

- [USDOE'S ENERGY FUNDING GUIDE FOR RURAL & REMOTE AREAS](#)
Helpful to people in rural and remote areas looking to plan or build clean energy projects in their communities. The clean energy projects guide provides an overview of many federal programs that offer funding and/or advice.
- [USDOE'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS \(FOAs\)](#)
Helpful to those interested in learning about the many USDOE funding opportunities from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
- [USDOE'S CONSUMER ENERGY SAVINGS HUB](#)
Helpful to homeowners, renters, and potential EV drivers looking gain information on federal energy rebate programs and tax credits available for home improvements, various appliances and electric vehicles.

OTHER INFORMATIONAL LINKS

- [NHSAVES](#)
Helpful to folks looking resources related to energy efficiency, reducing costs, and protecting NH's environment statewide. NHTSaves is a collaboration of NH's electric and gas utilities working together. Their mission is to provide NH customers with energy related information, incentives, and support.
- [USDA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENERGY PROGRAMS](#)
Helpful to rural small businesses and agricultural producers looking for energy efficiency and/or renewable energy project funding and technical assistance.