

Funding Energy Retrofits of Affordable Rental Housing: Department of Energy Stimulus Resources

Program Name/Description	Eligible Activities	How are funds distributed?	Additional Information
<p>Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant: \$3.2b</p> <p>Overview: The Program provides federal grants to units of local government, Indian tribes, states, and U.S. territories to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and for improvements in energy efficiency. The EECBG Program is administered by the Office Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).</p>	<p>There is significant flexibility in the use of funds. The parameters include any type of program that contributes to the reduction of fossil fuel emissions and/or total energy use, as well as programs that improve energy efficiency in the transportation sector, building sector and other appropriate sectors.</p> <p>Eligible activities for grants include conducting residential and commercial building energy audits; developing and implementing energy efficiency & conservation strategy; retaining consultant services to assist in the development of such a strategy; installing LEDs.</p>	<p>\$2.8 billion to be distributed by formula to states, eligible local governments, and Indian tribes. The remaining \$400 million will be distributed via competitive energy grants through DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE).</p> <p>DOE will provide 68 percent of the total amount in direct formula funding to eligible cities (pop > 35,000) and counties (pop> 200,000); 28 percent to the states, of which 60 percent must be passed through to cities and counties not eligible for direct formula funding. The remaining funds will be allocated to Indian tribes.</p> <p>Each state decides how to award the sub-grants through the State Energy Office. Local governments may subgrant funds to nongovernmental organizations, up to the greater of 20% of funds or \$250,000.</p>	<p>Important Organizations/Agencies: National: The U.S. Conference of Mayors played an important role in advocating for the creation of this program.</p> <p>State: State Energy Offices</p> <p>Local: Mayors, City Councils, and County Executives</p> <p>Notes: Each local government must submit a proposed energy and conservation strategy to the DoE outlining planned activities.</p> <p>This program has never been appropriated prior to the stimulus. DoE has yet to establish rules and regulations for implementation of the program.</p>
<p>State Energy Program (SEP): \$3.1b</p> <p>Overview: DOE's State Energy Program (SEP) provides grants to the states to design and carry out their own renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.</p>	<p>Among other activities, eligible activities include: Programs of public education to promote energy conservation; Programs to promote energy efficiency in residential housing; Programs for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy capital investments, and programs, which may include loan programs and performance contracting programs for leveraging additional public and private sector funds, and programs which allow rebates, grants, or other incentives for the purchase and installation of eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in buildings owned by a non-profit organization; Programs for encouraging and for carrying out energy audits of buildings.</p>	<p>Grants are awarded both by formula (one-third equally among all states and territories, one-third according to population, and one-third according to energy consumption) as well as competitively for special projects.</p> <p>The state submits an application to DoE outlining how it plans to spend the grant.</p> <p>Funding from the State Energy Program goes to state energy offices in all states and U.S. territories.</p>	<p>Important Organizations/Agencies: National: The National Association of State Energy Officials' (NASEO) membership includes the governor-designated energy officials from each state and territory.</p> <p>State: State Energy Offices; The States are responsible for planning and implementing program activities.</p> <p>Notes: SEP special projects have included energy retrofits of public housing in MA, NC and MI.</p> <p>Funding level is up from \$44M last year.</p>
<p>Weatherization Assistance Program: \$5b</p> <p>Overview: Provides funding to the U.S. Dep't of Energy for the Weatherization Assistance program, which funds home weatherization services for low-income families through community action agencies and other local agencies or nonprofits.</p>	<p>Existing multifamily or single family housing occupied by low income residents. In most MF buildings, at least 66 percent of the units must be occupied by income-eligible persons in order to be eligible. States are permitted some flexibility and may require as few as 50% of units to be income-eligible.</p> <p>Eligible income limit= 200% of the federal poverty level or 60% AMI; per unit assistance limited to \$6,500; up to 20% of funds available for training and technical assistance, including providing information concerning conservation practices to occupants of eligible dwelling units.</p>	<p>DOE provides funding and technical guidance to the states, but the states run their own programs and set rules for issues such as eligibility. They also select service providers, which are usually nonprofit agencies that serve families in their communities, and review their performance for quality.</p>	<p>Important Organizations/Agencies: National: National Association for State Community Services Programs membership includes state administrators of the weatherization program.</p> <p>National Community Action Foundation is the association for community action agencies.</p> <p>The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) is the primary policy organization for the state directors of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).</p> <p>National Consumer Law Center</p>