

State Energy Program (SEP) Grant Application

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions & Answers

1. ***Are applicants allowed to utilize these funds in conjunction with energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs)?***

Yes. However, program regulations govern all funds used in the project. If one building is part of a large-scale project, it may require the entire project's procurement process to adhere to the applicable provisions of this award.

The procurement of those services will need to be reviewed along with any contractors utilized for product installation to ensure they comply with the Davis-Bacon Act and are not debarred or suspended from participation in federal assistance programs.

In addition, any supplies, materials, or equipment used in the portion funded by SEP must adhere to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) if the total project cost is over \$250K.

Award recipients should contact the Energy Division for approval prior to purchasing items for the project.

2. ***Can an applicant utilize the State of Alabama's qualified products or suppliers lists?***

As stated in 2 CFR Part 200, the acquisition of property or services under a Federal award must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition. The State of Alabama procurement standards require full and open competition for purchases and award recipients must comply with the Competitive Bid and Public Works Laws. These state requirements may fulfill Federal procurement standards set forth in 2CFR §200.320, but may not comply with the Build America, Buy America or Davis-Bacon Acts.

Award recipients should contact the Energy Division for approval prior to purchasing.

3. ***Are non-profit hospitals included in the category of non-profit organizations eligible for SEP awards?***

Yes, if they are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

4. ***Will Davis Bacon interviews be required?***

Yes, interviews will be randomly conducted through spot-checks. Energy Division personnel will travel to a job site and interview one or more of the workers to confirm their wage rate.

5. ***What is the deadline for submission?***

The deadline for all submissions is December 13, 2024, at 11:59 pm CST.

6. *Are lighting retrofits for lift stations at wastewater treatment facilities eligible?*

Yes, as long as the energy savings requirements are met.

7. *How much funding is available for this grant cycle?*

A total of \$745,000 is available for the Energy-Efficient Retrofits with a minimum award of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$50,000.

A total of \$70,000 is available for Energy-Efficient Retrofits of Wastewater Treatment Facilities for two awards of \$35,000 each.

8. *Can an applicant apply for both Energy-Efficient Retrofits and Wastewater Treatment Facility Energy-Efficient Retrofits with different projects?*

Yes. Applications will need to be submitted separately and for different buildings.

9. *Can a private school that is not a 501(c)(3) use another 501(c)(3) as a physical conduit?*

No. The awards are made directly to the organization that owns the property.