

Montana

<http://deq.mt.gov/Recovery/energy/energy.asp>

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Formula Block Grants (10 largest cities & counties)

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The federal Department of Energy (DOE) recently released stimulus funding amounts of almost \$4.4 million for energy project block grants to Montana's major cities and counties. A separate federal funding is intended for energy block grants to the remainder of Montana's cities, towns, and counties. Additionally, a related program will fund energy projects on Montana's seven Indian Reservations.

Formula Block Grants for Energy Efficiency and Conservation

In an effort to help Montanans to reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emissions while stimulating the economy, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program was authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and funded by Congress. These allocations to Montana are divided into three distinct types of grants. The first type — known as formula block grants — is intended for the state's larger cities and counties and will be administered at the federal level. The second type will be state-administered grants for the rest of the state's cities, towns, and counties — the entities not eligible for the formula grants. The third type of EECBG is for energy-related projects on Indian Reservations and will be administered through federal channels. All these grants are designed to support a broad array of investments in energy efficiency and conservation, mostly at the city and county level.

The EECBG funding will support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy installations on government buildings, energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, among others.

Montana's ten largest cities and ten largest counties will apply directly to DOE for the grants, based on the general criteria and the funding allocations.

The remainder of Montana counties and smaller cities and towns may apply for the block grants through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The tribal grants will be administered separately at the federal level based on similar criteria.

Montana's 10 Largest Cities The allocations to Montana's ten largest cities:	
City	Allocation
Billings	\$1,003,000
Missoula	\$680,400

Great Falls	\$570,100
Bozeman	\$175,500
Butte-Silver Bow	\$138,700
Helena	\$138,600
Kalispell	\$ 96,700
Anaconda-Deer Lodge	\$ 50,000
Havre	\$ 50,000
Miles City	\$ 50,000

Montana's 10 Largest Counties The allocations to Montana's ten largest counties:	
County	Allocation
Flathead	\$274,200
Gallatin	\$198,700
Ravalli	\$167,400
Yellowstone	\$151,800
Missoula	\$151,000
Lewis & Clark	\$120,400
Lake	\$119,500
Cascade	\$ 94,400
Lincoln	\$ 80,000
Park	\$ 67,100

The formula to determine allocations to these communities and counties was based on resident population (70 percent) and daytime commuter population (30 percent).

Montana's Allocation to Reservations

The allocations to Montana's seven reservations:

Blackfeet Indian Reservation: \$335,900
Crow Indian Reservation: \$261,200
Flathead Indian Reservation: \$283,400
Fort Belknap Indian Reservation: \$122,100
Fort Peck Indian Reservation: \$262,500
Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation: \$177,000
Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation: \$137,500

The formula to determine allocations to the reservations was based on a 2 percent set-aside.

General Funding Criteria

Grant funding may be used to:

conduct energy audits
perform energy efficiency retrofits
implement more efficient energy distribution technologies
develop or install renewable energy technologies
incentivize energy efficiency improvements in the private sector, and more.

Formula EECBG

Grantees may use **up** to \$250,000 to establish revolving loan funds. The full listing of 14 criteria is available

at the websites listed below. Up to \$250,000 can be used to provide subgrants to assist non-government organizations. Sub-recipients receiving grant funds greater than \$25,000 must also apply for a DUNS number and must meet certain reporting requirements.

Program Principles

DOE has developed the following core principles to guide local governments and other entities during the program and project planning process:

Prioritize energy efficiency and conservation first as the cheapest, cleanest, and fastest ways to meet energy demand.

To maximize benefits over the longest possible terms, entities should look for ways to link their energy efficiency efforts to long-term priorities (especially community economic development, community stabilization and poverty reduction efforts).

Invest funds in programs and projects that create and/or retain jobs and stimulate the economy while meeting long term energy goals.

Target programs and projects that will provide substantial, sustainable and measurable energy savings, job creation and economic stimulus effects.

Give priority to programs and projects that leverage federal funds with other public and private resources, including coordinated efforts involving other Federal programs targeting community development funded through the Recovery Act such as the Community Development Block Grant program, HOME, and job training programs.

To the extent possible, develop programs and strategies that will continue beyond the funding period.

Ensure oversight, transparency, and accountability for all program activities.

Enact policies that transform markets, increase investments, and support program goals.

Develop comprehensive plans that benchmark current performance and set aggressive goals.

Specific Activities Eligible for Funding

A wide range of specific projects are eligible for funds, including:

Development of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and Technical Consultant Services to assist in the development of such a strategy.

Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits.

Financial Incentive Programs and Mechanisms for energy efficiency improvements such as energy savings performance contracting, on-bill financing, and revolving loan funds.

Grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing Energy Efficiency Retrofits.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities.

Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs to conserve energy.

Building Codes and Inspections to promote building energy efficiency.

Energy Distribution Technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including distributed resources, combined heat and power, and district heating and cooling systems.

Material Conservation Programs including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency.

Reduction and Capture of Methane and Greenhouse Gases generated by landfills or similar waste-related sources.

Energy efficient Traffic Signals and Street Lighting.

Renewable Energy Technologies on Government Buildings.

Any Other Appropriate Activity that meets the purposes of the program and is approved by DOE.

The DOE encourages applicants to leverage other public and private resources and to prioritize projects that persist beyond the funding period.

Formula grant applicants must provide DOE with a proposed energy efficiency and conservation strategy (EECS) either at the time of application or within 120 days after the effective date of the award. DOE must approve the proposed plan within 120 days or return it to the community for revision. Grantees must provide DOE with a report detailing the implementation of its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, as well as realized energy efficiency gains, no later than two years after the date on which funds were initially provided.

Application Deadline

Applicants for formula EECBGs must file with DOE by **June 25th, 2009**, 8:00 p.m. (Eastern). Applicants are encouraged to submit early. Directions to apply are available at: www.eecbg.energy.gov. Applications must be submitted through FedConnect.

Registration Requirements

Applicants must obtain:

a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number
register with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR)
register with FedConnect

Applicants who are not registered with CCR and FedConnect, should **allow at least 10 days** to complete these requirements. It is suggested that the process be started as soon as possible.

A DUNS identification application can be accessed at: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>

The Central Contractor Registry (CCR) is available at: <http://www.ccr.gov/>

The Fed Connect registration site is available at: <https://www.fedconnect.net>

The DOE's office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) will administer the block grants. To monitor developments, visit the EERE website at: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/block_grants.cfm

To reach the EERE Information Center via phone, e-mail or website:

Phone: 1-877-EERE-INFO (1-877-337-3463) (Toll-free)

Hours of operation – 9 am - 7 pm EST, Mon – Fri

E-Mail: eereic@ee.doe.gov

Website: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter/>

In addition, it may be helpful to subscribe to EERE's Progress Alerts:

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/subscribe.cfm>.

Questions

Questions relating to the system requirements or how a formula application form works must be directed to Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

Questions regarding the content of the announcement must be submitted through the FedConnect portal. More information is available at <http://www.compusearch.com/products/fedconnect/fedconnect.asp>. DOE will try to respond to a question within three business days, unless a similar question and answer have already been posted on the website.

Questions pertaining to the submission of applications through FedConnect should be directed by e-mail to support@FedConnect.net or by phone to FedConnect Support at 800-899-6665.

Also, this Montana DEQ website will maintain current information about formula EECBGs.