



Department of Commerce

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Energy Efficiency through Transportation Planning (EETP) Grants Administered by Growth Management Services

Background

The Energy Efficiency through Transportation Planning (EETP) grant is a new grant funded from the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG). The EECBG program was originally authorized and signed into federal law on December 19, 2007, and was funded through the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009. The purpose of EECBG program is to provide funds to develop and implement projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions. The EETP is a sub-grant created by the Washington State Department of Commerce with funds the state will receive from the EECBG program. The focus of the EETP grants is to reduce transportation-related energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and vehicle miles traveled.

Eligible Entities and Funding Amounts

All cities and counties in the state, regardless of size and whether they received direct EECBG formula funds, will be eligible to apply for EETP grants. A total of approximately \$770,000 will be available for distribution through competitive grants. Maximum grant amounts will be \$75,000 for a single city or county, and \$150,000 for a collaborative proposal. Partner entities may include MPOs/RTPOs, EDCs, COGs, and other special purpose governments, but the lead must be a city or a county.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities may include but are not limited to:

1. Local or local/regional integrated planning activities such as revisions to regional transportation plans, city or county land use or transportation elements, and/or other supporting planning elements.
2. Development of comprehensive plan components addressing compact town or neighborhood centers, station-area plans or other transit-oriented development, growth and transportation efficient centers, satellite work centers, school siting, or co-location of public facilities.
3. Development of, or the review and update of, development regulations which may influence mode choice such as subdivision regulations, public works standards including complete street standards, streetscape and urban design guidelines, zoning, parking reductions, multimodal transportation concurrency mechanisms, or other related regulations.
4. Transportation demand management programs such as incentives, employee flex time, telework, or other programs to reduce commutes by single occupancy vehicles.
5. Improvements in operation and system efficiency of the transportation system such as implementation of intelligent transportation system (ITS) strategies.

Timelines

The Department submitted its application for EECBG grant funds to U.S. DOE on June 22, 2009. Upon approval of the application by U.S. DOE, the Department will issue final application guidelines and notice of competitive application for Energy Efficiency through Transportation Planning grants. The Department of Commerce expects to release applications on September 24th, 2009, and has set the deadline to receive applications as Monday, October 26th, 2009, or four weeks after DOE approves the state's application, whichever is later. Grant recipients must expend all funds by April 30, 2012.

Recovery Act Requirements

Federal EECBG grant guidelines require that activities funded under this grant:

- Maximize fossil fuel use reductions and total energy use reductions;
- Provide for improved coordination of energy-related policies and programs to maximize the impact of the program on long-term priorities;
- Are cost-effective, and leverage state, local and federal funds; and
- Yield continuous benefits over time, including economic benefits and improved environmental and health indicators associated with the reduction of fossil fuel emissions.

In addition, the following requirements will apply to all grants:

- Buy American – Use of Iron, Steel and Manufactured Goods
- Davis-Bacon Act wage rates
- Environmental and cultural review
- Listing Recovery Act jobs with the Employment Security Department
- Attending Department training on Recovery Act requirements
- Quarterly reporting on progress and metrics such as jobs created, emissions reduced, and energy saved.

More on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

See www.eecbg.energy.gov/about/default.html to find out more about this program. Larger cities and counties will receive direct EECBG formula funds from U.S.DOE. The Washington State Department of Commerce will receive \$10,645,000 in EECBG formula funds. In addition to the EETP grant program, these funds will be used to:

1. Provide \$6.4 million in a state-administered EECBG program for competitive grants to small cities with fewer than 35,000 in population, and small counties with fewer than 200,000 in population.
2. Provide \$750,000 to expand the Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) program of the Washington State University (WSU) Extension Energy Program. See the WSU fact sheet on the RCM program at www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/rem/.
3. Support the administration of the EECBG program.

Contact

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