#

**Clean Energy Fund 2, Reappropriation in 2018**

# Grants to Nonprofit Lenders

# Program Summary

## SUMMARY

The State Energy Office will be accepting applications for the funding opportunity from nonprofit lenders in Washington to establish or expand revolving loan programs to support the widespread use of proven energy efficiency and renewable energy, including transportation electrification technologies, now inhibited by lack of access to capital.

Commerce is requesting qualifications from eligible nonprofit lenders who have experience in providing credit for energy efficiency and/or renewable power. Commerce will select one or more lenders that meet the selection criteria to manage the program.

## REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program was created by the Washington State Legislature through the Clean Energy Fund to support the widespread us of proven energy efficiency and renewable energy now inhibited by lack of access to capital.

Funds awarded to nonprofit lenders must be loaned to qualified borrowers developing eligible projects, with no more than 50 percent of the loan amount from grant funds. Grant funds may not be used to pay the administrative or support costs of the nonprofit lender.

Projects that are eligible to receive loans include, but are not limited to:

* Residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural energy retrofits,
* Residential and community-scale solar installations,
* Anaerobic digesters to treat dairy and organic waste,
* Combined heat and power projects using woody biomass as a fuel source,
* Transportation electrification technologies including:
	+ Electric vehicle charging infrastructure and equipment for cars, trucks, and buses,
	+ Upgrades to facilitates such as equipment and infrastructure, and
	+ Acquisition of zero-emission buses and class 4-8 vehicles, including but not limited to trucks and passenger shuttles.

Commerce encourages proposals that will extend the Clean Energy Fund loan program to new market sectors.

**ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

* There will be one round of funding.
* $3,104,000 will be available. Solicitation will be announced in June 28, 2018.
* Solicitation is open to nonprofit lenders that must be licensed to do business in the state of Washington.
* Contracts will be performance based, with negotiated milestones, tasks, and deliverables.
* Budgets must be specifically tied to the deliverables for purposes of reimbursement.
* Provide at least one to one dollar match of private funds to the CEF 2 revolving loan fund grant to Non-Profit Lenders program funds.
* Disclose all sources of public funds invested in the project.

**APPLICATIONS**

Applicants:

* Must submit applications through the process determined by Commerce.
* Will download the documents that are required to accompany the application from the Commerce website.

Awardees must:

* Conform to all state laws, regulations and policies.
* Report on all pass-through funding using the provided reportable expense template under the Governor’s Diverse Spend Initiative.
* Comply with State Cultural and Historic Resource requirements and Tribal consultation as required by Governor’s Executive Order 05-05.
* Complete a Risk Assessment Survey.
* Comply with audit and monitoring requirements, including scheduled site visits.
* Utilize the online invoicing process for reimbursement.
* Must report to Commerce no less than quarterly regarding progress of the funded project, project outcomes upon completion of the project, a final Fact Sheet summarizing successes and lessons learned and other information upon request by Commerce.

Pursuant to chapter 42.52 RCW, the applicant must identify in the application any state of Washington Employees or former state employees employed by the firm or on the firms governing board during the past twenty-four months. If a determination is made by the department that a conflict interest exists, the applicant may be disqualified from further consideration for award of funding. The information in the application regarding former state employees must:

* Identify the individual by name
* The agency previously or currently employing the individual
* The job title or position held and
* The separation date, if any.

**MATCH (IF REQUIRED BY PROGRAM)**

State funds may not exceed fifty percent of the estimated cost of a project, and funding preference must be provided to projects that offer a higher percentage of non-state match funds.

**MANDATORY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Applicants, must:

* Have current registration with the state’s Department of Revenue and Secretary of State, as applicable.

Projects must:

* Develop or acquire capital asset(s) with a lifespan of 13+ years,
* Be located in the state of Washington.
* Demonstrate benefit to Washington State and its citizens.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

The applicant acknowledges that Commerce is subject to the Public Records Act and that the application and any future contract is a public record as defined in Chapter 42.56 RCW. Any specific information claimed by the applicant to be Proprietary Information must be clearly identified as such by the applicant. “Proprietary Information” means information owned by the applicant to which the applicant claims a protectable interest under law. Proprietary Information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by copyright, patent, trademark, or trade secret laws. To the extent consistent with Chapter 42.56 RCW, Commerce will maintain the confidentiality of all such information marked Proprietary Information. If a public disclosure request is made to view the applicant’s Proprietary Information, Commerce will notify the applicant of the request and of the date that such records will be released to the requester unless the applicant obtains a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction enjoining that disclosure. If the applicant fails to obtain the court order enjoining disclosure, Commerce will release the requested information on the date specified.

## DISCLAIMER

This solicitation does not commit Commerce to award any funds, pay any costs incurred in preparing an application, or procure or contract for services or supplies. Only responses meeting all Mandatory Eligibility Criteria and Program Specific requirements will be considered. Commerce reserves the right to determine at its sole discretion whether proposer's response to Mandatory Eligibility Criteria and Program Specific requirments is complete. Commerce reserves the right to modify award amount from that requested, negotiate with qualified applicants, cancel or reissue at any time without obligation or liability, or change the application guidelines for subsequent funding rounds. If there are changes to the proposed award notification schedule, applicants will be notified via email.

Grant and application guidelines will be posted electronically using Commerce’s [Clean Energy Fund website](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/clean-energy-fund/). Any amendments and addenda to this document will be posted on the same site.

This solicitation will be distributed electronically to subscribers for Energy [email updates](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOC/subscriber/new?pop=t) and by posting on Commerce’s [Clean Energy Fund website](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/clean-energy-fund/). It is the sole responsibility of proposers to check the website for updates, amendments, and addenda. Commerce accepts no liability and will provide no accommodation for applicants who submit an application based on an out-of-date solicitation document.

##  CONTACT INFORMATION

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Please submit all questions via email to energy\_policy@commerce.wa.gov. “RLF Question” should appear in the subject line. Answers will be posted on the [Clean Energy Fund website](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/clean-energy-fund/). CO