

# Advice to Local Governments Interested in the EE&CBG Program

The Region 8 PDC is providing the following information to local governments interested in better understanding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. While this information is drawn from official documents and meetings with state officials, it is advisory and does not replace formal program guidelines from the WV DOE.

## FUNDING

The WV DOE has allocated \$682,430.97 to the Region 8 PDC to allow it to fund energy efficiency retrofit projects in the Potomac Highlands. WV DOE has allocated additional funds to allow the PDC to administer the program and to participate in quarterly EE&CBG meetings. State guidelines limit funding to any one project to a maximum of \$200,000. The PDC expects the program to be highly competitive and it is extremely unlikely that a single local government will receive funding for more than one project. Direct local government participation in the funding of EE&CBG activities will greatly enhance a project's competitiveness. EE&CBG is a reimbursement program and local governments should be prepared to interim finance all construction activity.

## TIMING

The Region 8 PDC will consider formally authorizing participation in the EE&CBG program on March 18 and activity in the Potomac Highlands will kick off with a conference call at 2:00 pm on Tuesday March 23. The WV DOE has established June 30, 2010 as the deadline for local governments to submit project application to the Region 8 PDC. The WV DOE has reserved the third quarter of this calendar year for the evaluation of applications. As currently scheduled, grant award activities will not begin before October 1, 2010 and it is very unlikely that construction activities will occur before January 1, 2011. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requires that the program end on October 25, 2012. The Region 8 PDC is committed to promptly conducting program activities, but local governments must recognize that this is a complex program with many timing elements beyond the PDC's influence.

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The agreement between the WV DOE and the Region 8 PDC requires the PDC to use implementation funds for energy retrofit projects to city and county government buildings in the Potomac Highlands. The program design further requires that the PDC assign priority to County Courthouses and City/Town Halls. Projects are limited to the installation of insulation, installation of efficient lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and high-efficiency shower/faucet upgrades; weather sealing; the purchase and installation of ENERGY STAR appliances; installation of solar powered appliances with improved efficiency; and replacement of windows and doors. The program can also fund the development, implementation, and installation on or in a local government building of on site renewable energy technology that generates electricity from renewable resources. These

projects are limited in size and to specific locations at the local site. WV DOE officials have expressed that a preference will be shown for well documented proven commonsense efficient approaches to reducing energy consumption at local government buildings. Applications proposing such projects will have a significant competitive advantage when evaluated.

### STRINGS

Local governments must understand that the EE&CBG program, like all Stimulus Programs, has unprecedented levels of reporting and scrutiny. The EE&CBG program contains requirements that will impact cost and timing. Local governments must meet these requirements or face the prospect of repaying grant funds. Program requirements include compliance with Buy American regulations, Davis Bacon/State prevailing wage regulations, Historic Preservation requirements, and the National Environmental Policy Act. Local governments must document many aspects of each project including energy savings, greenhouse gas reduction, job creation, and appropriate waste disposal. While the EE&CBG program can participate in projects with a total scope beyond EE&CBG activities, the program's funds cannot be co-mingled with other programs and the local government must separately track program funds.

### REGION 8 PDC

WV DOE will implement the EE&CBG program in the Potomac Highlands through the Region 8 PDC. The PDC will execute agreements with local governments that will allow funds to flow to local projects. The WV DOE will provide funds to the PDC for project administration and assistance to local governments. While the PDC will assist local governments with the submission of applications, the applications will require technical information that the PDC cannot develop. Successful applications will require local governments to work with local contractors, engineers/architects, or WVU's Industrial Assessment Center to develop technical data in a timely manner.

The Region 8 PDC will assist all local governments interested in seeking funds. The PDC will keep local governments informed through correspondence, meetings, conference calls, and Internet web sites. The PDC will provide application forms and will help with their preparation. The regional council will assist local governments with project implementation and EE&CB compliance. The Council will also collect and forward information to the WV DOE that will allow the Division to comply with federal reporting requirements.