

EECBG Q&A Round 4

September 6, 2024

Q1: Is it possible for a single municipality to apply for a program that would serve the region, such as an application to buy and manage a bike sharing program that would have locations throughout the region. Would each municipality that would have a location need to sign on to the application or is one municipality willing to manage the whole program sufficient?

A1: Per the RFP, “Municipalities may only submit or participate in one application either through a multi-municipal initiative or their own project. Municipalities cannot participate in both a multi-municipal initiative and single application, regardless of the funding amount(s), and cannot participate in more than one multi-municipal initiative. Multi-municipal initiatives may receive funding up to \$100,000 per town participating in the funding request. For example, a 5-town planning process may request up to \$500,000 of EECBG funding. Multiple municipalities may submit one application to reach the \$50,000 minimum requirement for the EECBG solicitation. For example, five towns may request \$10,000 each for a planning project for a total award of \$50,000. See the Application Template section for more information. PSD reserves the right to set the total amount of funding for multi-municipal awards based upon considerations of all applications submitted to the Department under the EECBG solicitation. All funding will be awarded to the lead municipality that will oversee fund distribution and project coordination.”

Therefore, a combined municipality application is allowed. However, one municipality must be the project lead, which means one municipality completes and submits the application, while listing all other municipalities that will also be involved. The application must include letters from all participating municipalities. The lead municipality would receive the funding that would then be distributed to the other involved municipalities.

Note: If multiple municipalities would be served by the project they would need to sign on to the application and would not be able to submit their own separate project.

Q2: The RPF notes that the funding can be used for “development and implementation of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy” or “development of the energy efficiency and conservation elements of an energy-related plan such as a climate action plan or local government’s sustainability plan (e.g., Vermont Municipal and Regional Energy Plans)”. What is an energy efficiency and conservation strategy and how is it different from an energy-related plan? What type of implementation is eligible since it “may not include

actual weatherization work, equipment purchases or installations”? Examples would be helpful.

A2: An energy efficiency and conservation strategy describes an approach taken by a community or unit of government intended to reduce energy consumption. An EECS can be specific to one area or domain, such as buildings, or may be broader and more inclusive including multiple areas or domains and approaches to energy use reduction. Multiple EECS would typically be embedded in a municipal or regional plan.

One energy efficiency and conservation strategy might be to conduct energy audits at all municipal buildings. Those audits could also be conducted/implemented with EECSBG funding. This strategy may also be included in a town energy plan so they may not be separate things.

Another energy efficiency and conservation strategy would be to electrify a municipal transportation fleet by replacing diesel and gas fueled equipment with electric vehicles.

A third example might be for a municipality to conduct a community outreach process to engage disadvantaged communities and learn about strategies what would effectively reduce energy consumption.

Q3: The RFP notes that the funding can be used to “develop and implement energy efficiency and conservation programs specifically for buildings and facilities within their area of authority”, but “may not include actual weatherization work, equipment purchases or installations or planning for implementation of those activities”. Again, we are having a hard time understanding what this allows for. Examples would be helpful.

A3: See example above.

Q4: The RFP notes that funds can be used for “micromobility programs, devices, and associated facilities, including conventional bicycles, e-bicycles, e-scooters, and other personal transport devices for public use”. Would it be appropriate to use funds for something like things like grocery trolleys in order to make purchasable to community members? Do the products themselves have to remain publicly useable for the entirety of their lifetime or can we run programs for people to purchase such products?

A4: An eligible municipality may run programs to provide incentives for people to purchase such products.