

Vermont Public Service Department & Clean Energy
Development Fund

Questions and Answers on the April 4, 2022

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

To create and operate a residential whole-home clean energy assistance program to benefit Vermont residents with low-income

Updated on 4/25/2022 @ 4:00 PM

Do the applicants' proposed programs need to serve all of Vermont?

One of the goals of the program is to distribute funding in a geographically equitable manner. An applicant that proposes a program that doesn't reach all of the state would likely not receive the full contract unless that program were to include provisions for pairing with other providers to deliver the services and products of the proposed program outside of the defined service territory of the applicant, or if the applicant were to present a compelling reason that the program does not need to serve a particular region.

Will this program be subject to the Davis-Bacon Act requirements?

While prevailing wage rates are encouraged by the US Department of Treasury guidance for programs that are ARPA funded, there is no requirement for compliance with Davis-Bacon Act requirements.

To clarify, the \$1M funding for this program is to be used only for incentives and services provided to households, not for incentives and admin/program delivery costs?

The \$1million in funding for this program may cover the administrative and program delivery costs in addition to the incentives for recipients

As part of the proposal budget and budget narrative, do applicants need to define the budget for the \$1M if only for incentives and services provided?

Any program proposal should include a defined budget and budget narrative describing the nature of the proposed incentives and services even if all program funding (\$1 million) is going to incentives and services.

What home repair measures are eligible for this program relating to health & safety?

Home repair measures can include any of those that can be shown to have a reasonable relation to the energy efficiency improvements or the clean heating technology change-out or upgrade within a residence – e.g. chimney lining; a new hearth to meet fire code setback requirements for wood stoves; etc.

Will in-kind and/or match funding be required for this program?

There is no match funding required from the applicant or the beneficiary - a 100% grant to the recipient is allowable. Fund matching requirements can be part of the program and should be included in the proposal put forward by the applicant if they feel matching funds are important to their proposed program.

Can rebates provided by Efficiency Vermont and the electric utilities for weatherization and clean heating technologies be combined with rebates provided to households for this program?

Efficiency Vermont and electric utility rebates may be combined with rebates provided to households that take part in this program, however this program and its benefits should not be duplicative of, or in competition with, other programs provided by electric utilities or Efficiency Vermont.