

Vermont Public Service Department & Clean Energy
Development Fund
School Heating Assistance with Renewables & Efficiency
(SHARE)

Questions and Answers on November 1, 2022

Request For Proposals For repairs or upgrades to and installation of clean-heating HVAC systems to Vermont public elementary and secondary schools

Updated on 11/1/2022 @ 4:35 PM

1. How do we determine what Tier level we would be considered for?

The cost share tier is based on data from the Agency of Education. The Department is less concerned about this at this stage of the process – most applications have come in as though they were in the 10% category. The determination of cost share will be made when applicants are notified after their initial application has been submitted and their comprehensive application has been requested.

2. Are new school construction projects eligible? If so, do you have a sense of how competitive such a request might be, relative to projects at existing buildings?

New construction projects are not expressly ineligible based on our understanding of ARPA guidelines. At the time of the posting of these answers for submitted questions (11/1/2022) we are in the process of verifying that our understanding is accurate. We will update the answers when this has been appropriately reviewed.

3. ARPA funds are currently being sought for a ventilation project in the school, would this disqualify the school for seeking funds from this program for a furnace replacement project?

Funding from other ARPA programs does not automatically disqualify your application/project for the use of the ARPA funding for the SHARE Program. It would be advisable to make sure that funding from this program doesn't disqualify funding from the other source. We do understand that ESSER funds, however, are NOT eligible for use as matching funds based on the rules of that program.

4. Is this grant program for high poverty schools subject to the same reporting requirements as other federal funding sources? e.g., Davis Bacon wages

Our understanding of the ARPA rule and the fact that the school is classified as a beneficiary in this program leads us to believe that the answer is no, that schools will not need to adhere to Davis Bacon wage reporting. At the time of the posting of these answers for submitted questions (11/1/2022) we are in the process of verifying that our understanding is accurate. We will update the answers when this has been appropriately reviewed. There will be other federal and State reporting requirements.

5. The RFP states that this program is for, “Repairs and upgrades of HVAC systems (including controls) for health and safety reasons and for energy cost reductions.” The next section lists the Clean Heating Technologies allowed. Does this mean that the repairs and upgrades allowed would only be allowed on those systems listed?

Repairs and upgrades that improve the safety and efficiency for heating systems of any technology are qualify for this program. This funding was appropriated to the PSD with the requirement that it be spent “consistent with parameters of the Clean Energy Development Fund,” and therefore requests that improve the efficiency of a heating system and reduce the use of fossil fuel are eligible.

6. We have an HVAC project already approved for one building that will be partially funded by ESSER, and Efficiency VT Indoor Air Quality. Can this funding be blended into that same project and does the other funding qualify for matching funds, or would we need to be using that percentage of other non-grant funding for the match? (The project has not gone out for RFP yet)

For this program, we allow matching funds from several sources, but it is our understanding that ESSER funding specifically CANNOT be used as matching funds for our program. IAQ funding as a match may be allowed, but we would suggest checking in with EVT to be sure.

7. Our school district has a stand-alone preschool facility that is in need of a boiler replacement. What would we need for information to determine if the project would be eligible with VT Dept of Public Service funding?

ARPA defines school eligibility based on Title-I eligibility. Unfortunately, as we understand Title I, it does not apply to preschools but only elementary and secondary schools. Please feel free to reach out to the PSD contact for this program at christopher.heine@vermont.gov for additional options that may be available outside of this program.