

Above Building Code Grant

Inquiries

Grant close date: September 15, 2010

The GEO will only provide information regarding best practices and RFA guidelines. All written inquiries should be emailed to grants@state.co.us by 5:00pm on **Friday, August 27, 2010 (extended from Tuesday August 24, 2010)**. The GEO will be unable to answer any questions pertaining to individual project proposals. Responses will be answered in writing and posted on the GEO website at www.rechargecolorado.com by 5:00pm **September 3, 2010 (extended from September 1, 2010)**. Applicants should not rely on any other statements, either written or oral, that alter any specification or other term or condition of this application during the open solicitation period. Applicants should not contact GEO staff or any other state office or individual regarding this application. Applicants are responsible for monitoring the GEO's website for publication of modifications to this grant solicitation.

Q: The Above Building Code grants appear to be available to only local communities/governments, cities, counties, non-profits and/or utilities. Is it possible to get a list of potential bidders to inquire if we can support the programs around Colorado? Or, can you send out our information to bidders as a potential supporting partner?

A: No, the GEO does not recommend or require entities who intend to submit an application/proposal to notify prior to the response deadline, therefore the GEO does not have such information during this competitive process. Any collaborative efforts must be formed without the GEO's involvement and must meet all ARRA requirements.

Q: Can groups build partnerships to submit an aggregated application and request a higher amount?

A: Yes, the "lead" organization would be considered the fiscal agent for the grant/contract and would be responsible for completing all grant activities. If that organization proposes to pay other groups to execute the project, they must meet all ARRA requirements (specifically adhering to a competitive process when applicable; exceptions may include legal partnerships). There is no funding cap established. The targets and *anticipated* awards are noted in the RFA as a guide not a requirement:

"The GEO has up to \$137,000 in funding available for these competitive grants and anticipates awarding 9-14 grants with amounts not to exceed \$15,000.

Q: Do the grant recipients have to adopt an Above Code program?

A: No, as noted in the RFA, the intention of the funding is to provide funding toward the administration, marketing and training costs associated with the implementation of the voluntary or mandatory, local ABC program which promotes a nationally recognized standard (similar to the GEO's ENERGY STAR New Homes Program model).

Q: If the grant applicant is a jurisdiction, does the grant have to be used only in the jurisdiction that applied?

A: No.

Q: There is no required match listed, but is there a specific percentage that GEO is looking for? I want to confirm that EECBG funds CANNOT be used as match for this grant.

A: No, there is no specific percentage required; however, the leveraging of GEO funds is often weighed as a positive attribute by the evaluation committee. Federal funds cannot be leveraged to obtain additional federal funds, in this case ARRA funds.

Q: Is it possible for SWEEP to submit an application on behalf of a group of local jurisdictions for an amount larger than \$15,000 or would it make more sense for jurisdictions to submit individual applications even if we intend to host joint training workshops around the metro area.

A: Yes, one entity could apply on behalf of a group of local jurisdictions though that entity would be the fiscal agent, responsible for the delivery of all grant activities; any distribution of funds to other organizations and must meet all ARRA requirements (specifically adhering to a competitive process when applicable; exceptions may include legal partnerships). Proposals should be written to best meet the needs of the applicant and/or jurisdiction.

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Q: Some communities have put a lot of time and energy into their own “green” or above code requirements (some voluntary) for their towns, and while not a national standard, they are very attached to their specific guidelines. Is there any chance that grant money could be awarded to applicants to promote/incentive builders to meet these locally oriented “green” or above code policies that are already in place?

A: No, while community efforts to promote local “green” codes are commended, the ABC Grant is specific to implementing/promoting a nationally recognized standard or program.