

Renew America's Schools

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

December 16, 2022

Agency: Department of Energy (DOE)	Bureau: State and Community Energy Program
Application Deadline: Concept Papers: Due 01/26/23; Full Applications: Due 04/21/23	Max Award: \$15 million

Description

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, DOE received \$500 million for grants for energy improvements at public school facilities from 2022-2026. This program aims to fund projects which address historic inequities in school facilities investments, reduce school energy expenditures, help schools lead the nation in solving the climate crisis, and create well-paying union jobs.

Eligible Recipients

One local educational agency (LEA); and one or more:

1. Schools;
2. Nonprofit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements;
3. For-profit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements; or
4. Community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements.

The proposed prime recipient and subrecipient(s) must be domestic entities. The following types of domestic entities are eligible:

- Institutions of higher education;
- For-profit entities;
- Non-profit entities; and
- State and local governmental entities, and Tribal Nations.

Matching Grant Requirements

Cost share must be at least 5% of the total allowable costs.

Eligible Projects

DOE will encourage eligible applicants to consider projects that enable replicable and scalable impacts, create innovative, sustaining partnerships, leverage funding and economies of scale, focus on disadvantaged communities, improve student, teacher, and occupant health, enrich learning and growth, assist schools that serve as community assets (e.g., disaster recovery shelters), and are crafted thoughtfully within the context of public school facilities (e.g., procurement restraints). Project applicants should select one topic area for their proposal.

Topic Area 1 – High-Impact Energy Efficiency and Health Improvements

Proposals contemplated under this topic area will include energy improvements that result in direct reduction to school energy costs, increased energy efficiency, and lead to improvements in teacher and student health, including indoor air quality. Energy cost savings may be realized by reduced loads and/or by demand flexibility and demand response approaches. These high-impact energy improvements may take the form of repairs, renovations, or installations to the facility envelope, air conditioning system, ventilation system, heating system, domestic hot water heating system, compressed air system, distribution system, lighting system, power system, and/or controls of a building. Applicants are encouraged to package multiple improvements for deeper savings and carbon reductions.

Topic Area 2 - Innovative Energy Technology Packages

Proposals contemplated under this topic include innovative energy technology packages. Applicants may include any improvement, repair, or renovation to a school that incorporates two or more of the following energy improvements:

- Energy efficiency measures, e.g., HVAC, building envelope improvements, lighting retrofits, sensors and controls
- Installation of renewable energy technologies, e.g., rooftop solar or micro wind turbines
- Alternative fueled vehicle infrastructure on school grounds
- Purchase or lease of alternative fueled vehicles to be used by a school

New or Existing Program

New program

Tips for Being Competitive

Applications must include a Community Benefits Plan that describes how the proposed project would incorporate the following four objectives: (1) support meaningful community and labor engagement; (2) invest in America’s workforce; (3) advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and (4) contribute to the President’s goal that 40% of the overall project benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (the Justice40 Initiative).

Labor Requirements

Applicants are encouraged to submit Community and Labor Partnership Documentation from established labor and community-based organizations that demonstrate the applicant’s ability to achieve the objectives of the Community Benefits Plan. Within the Community Benefits Plan, the applicant is encouraged to provide specific detail on how to ensure the delivery of measurable community and job benefits, ideally through the use of using negotiated “Workforce and Community Agreements”, which may include good neighbor agreements, community benefits agreements, community workforce agreements, project labor agreements, and other collective bargaining agreements.

Examples of Prior Award Recipients

N/A

Agency Contact SchoolsFOA@doe.gov

Upcoming Webinars DOE held an informational webinar on December 6, 2022. A webinar recording and presentation slides are available on [EERE Exchange](#).

Types of Partners Required DOE has created a Teaming Partner List, where organizations can express their interest to other applicants and explore potential partnerships. Any organization that would like to be included on this list should submit the following information: Organization name, generic organization contact email, generic contact phone, organization type, geographical area of interest, area of technical expertise (bulleted list less than 25 words), and brief description of capabilities (less than 100 words). Interested parties should email the information to SchoolsFOA@doe.gov with the subject line "Teaming Partner Information."

Total Allocation \$80 million

Anticipated Award Date Fall 2023

Links to Grant Opportunity

- [Funding Opportunity on EERE Exchange](#)
- [Grants for Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities \(DOE\)](#)