

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: Community Innovation and Technical Assistance (State and Community Energy Programs) **STATE:** DC

PROJECT TITLE : Request for Implementation Support for the U.S Department of Energy: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Blueprint Cohorts

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number EECBG Blueprint Cohort Initiative	Procurement Instrument Number PIA	NEPA Control Number GFO-EECBG-BPCohort-001	CID Number
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Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

- | | |
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| A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination | Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.) |
| A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations | Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations. |

Rationale for determination:

-A8 AWARDS OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS: Awards of contracts for technical support services, management and operation of a government-owned facility, and personal services.

In November 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Broad Agency Announcement indicating an interest in entering into one or multiple agreements with partnership intermediaries to work with DOE's Office of Technology Transfer, other DOE offices and programs, and DOE National Laboratories and Facilities. Through one or more Partnership Intermediary Agreements (PIAs), DOE would expand its capabilities to connect and engage with the broader energy and national security ecosystem and address gaps facing companies, organizations and communities seeking to engage with DOE and/or develop, scale, commercialize, deploy, and adopt technologies relevant to DOE's mission.

DOE is proposing to execute a PIA with one or more third parties to manage and administer the DOE Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program Blueprint Cohort Initiative. The third-party administrator(s) would manage the administrative details and execution of the Initiative, which would organize and implement EECBG Blueprint Cohorts workshops for over 2,700 grantees. The cohorts would facilitate peer-to-peer learning, troubleshooting, and information sharing. The third-party administrator(s) would be tasked with developing and delivering curriculums for the EECBG blueprint cohorts, including addressing questions and identifying the needs of grantee applicants. The third-party administrator(s) would ensure success of the EECBG Blueprint Cohort Initiative, executing necessary tasks including but not limited to market research, soliciting applications from interested and eligible applicants, conducting public outreach, executing project management and administrative activities, tracking performance, and record keeping and reporting.

No laboratory or field work would be involved. Curriculum would be developed and administered virtually. The proposed work would not result in the modification of existing facilities or new construction projects. Based on the types of activities proposed, DOE does not anticipate any adverse impacts to sensitive resources as a result of the execution of this PIA.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)
NEPA review completed by Amy Lukens, 01/02/2024.

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By: Andrew Montano Date: 1/2/2024
NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager