

Welcome to the DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Blueprint Cohorts OSS

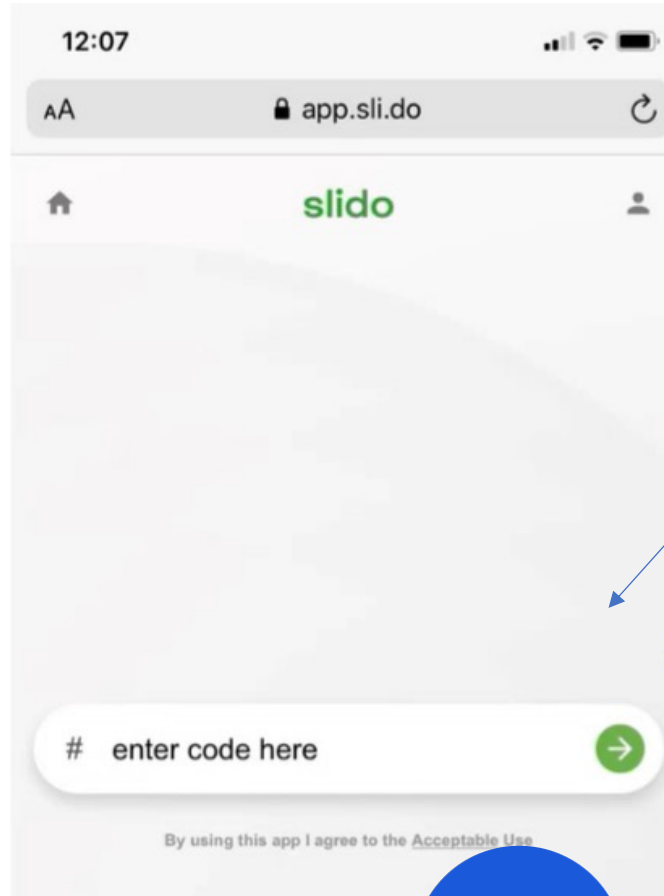
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Please mute your phones and we'll begin momentarily



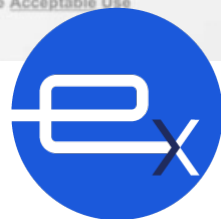
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SCEP

STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

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

Objective Strategic Session: Organization (s) Application

Community Innovation & Technical Assistance, State and Community Energy Programs

January 30, 2024



Agenda

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. ENERGYWERX Overview
... and How it WERX**
- 3. DOE: Energy Efficiency
Conservation Block Grant
Blueprint Cohorts Program**
- 4. Application Overview and
Materials**
- 5. Open Forum Q&A**

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Introductions

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How it WERX

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State and Community Energy Program (SCEP) Overview

Mission Statement

To accelerate the deployment of clean energy tech and practices **through place-based strategies** involving state, local, and Tribal governments, community orgs, academia, and business stakeholders that catalyze community economic development, create high-quality jobs, and improve the lives of Americans.

Guiding Vision

The bridge that connects the federal government to community serving institutions. SCEP manages the main community-facing funding and technical assistance programs and serves as the common touch point and navigator through DOE and other applicable programs across the government.



Community Innovation and Technical Assistance Vision

The vision of the Community Innovation & Technical Assistance team is to:

- 1** Support local governments and tribes, particularly disadvantaged communities, in accessing and benefitting from DOE resources to boost their equitable clean energy transition.
- 2** Direct funding towards high impact practices, build local partnerships to sustain work beyond grant periods, and provide technical assistance to increase local capacity and knowledge.
- 3** Collaborate across DOE programs to identify innovative and successful tactics for maximizing community benefits through our investments. With a portfolio that includes a unique mix of program types (formula, competitive, TA) and a variety of funding sources (BIL, annual funding, cross-agency), collaboration and innovation are key.

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program Overview

\$550M

Total Allocation

Formula and competitive grant program for state, local, and tribal governments to **implement strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy use, and improve energy efficiency.**

Grant Eligibility

- **\$431.2M in formula grant funding** available to:
 - 50 states, 5 territories, and DC (\$123.2M).
 - 1,878 local governments (\$299.2M).
 - 774 Indian tribes (\$8.8M).
- **\$8.8M in competitive grant funding** available to all other local and state-recognized tribal governments.

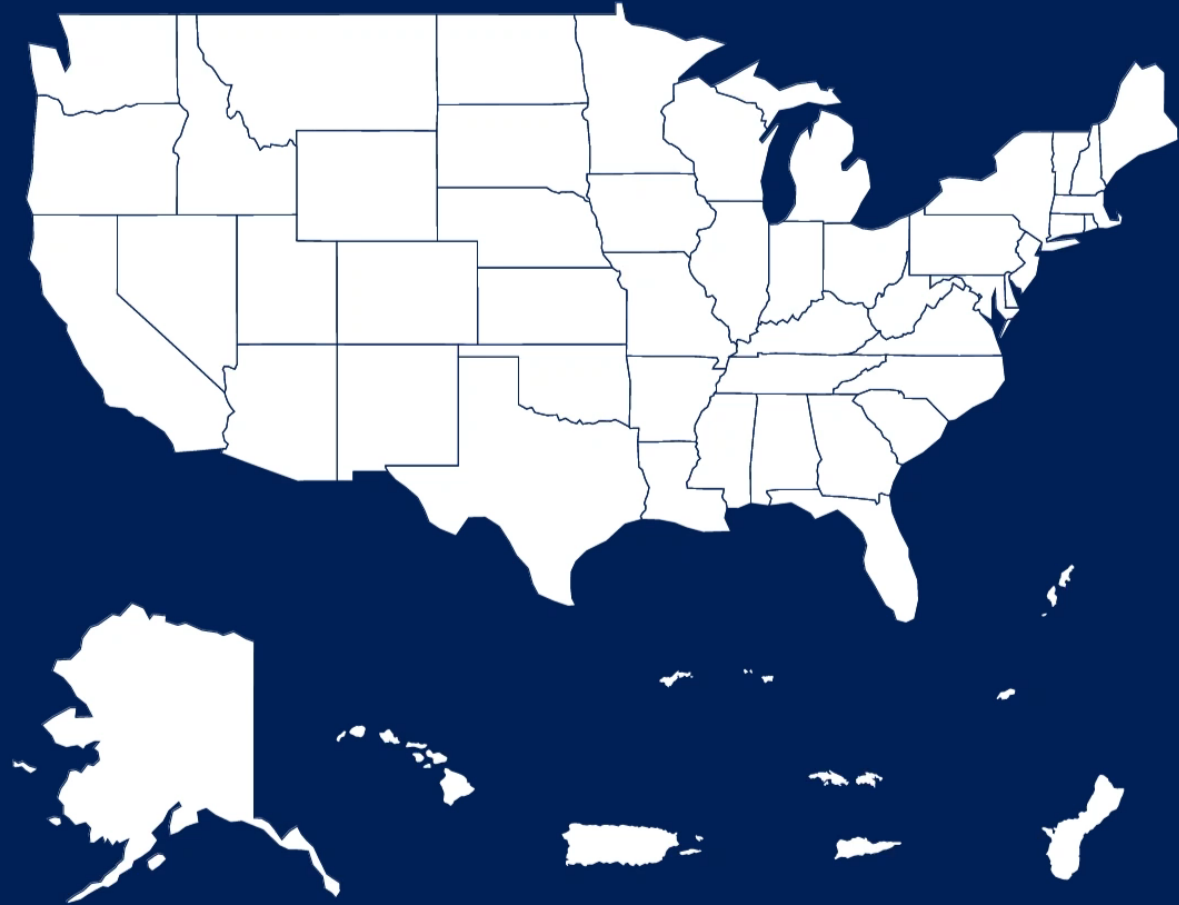
Eligible Activity Areas

- **Flexible funding** allows diverse activities including
 - energy planning,
 - building audits & retrofits,
 - EVs & EV infrastructure,
 - community solar, renewable energy installations,
 - workforce development

Grantee Application Timeline

- Pre-Award Information Sheet due **ASAP**.
- Applications for states were due **July 31, 2023**.
- Competitive program selectees announced **October 12, 2023**.
- Applications for locals & tribes due **April 30, 2024**.

EECBG Program Directly Invests in **Over 2,700 Communities** Across U.S.



SCEP
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

EECBG Technical Assistance Resources

Community Energy Fellows

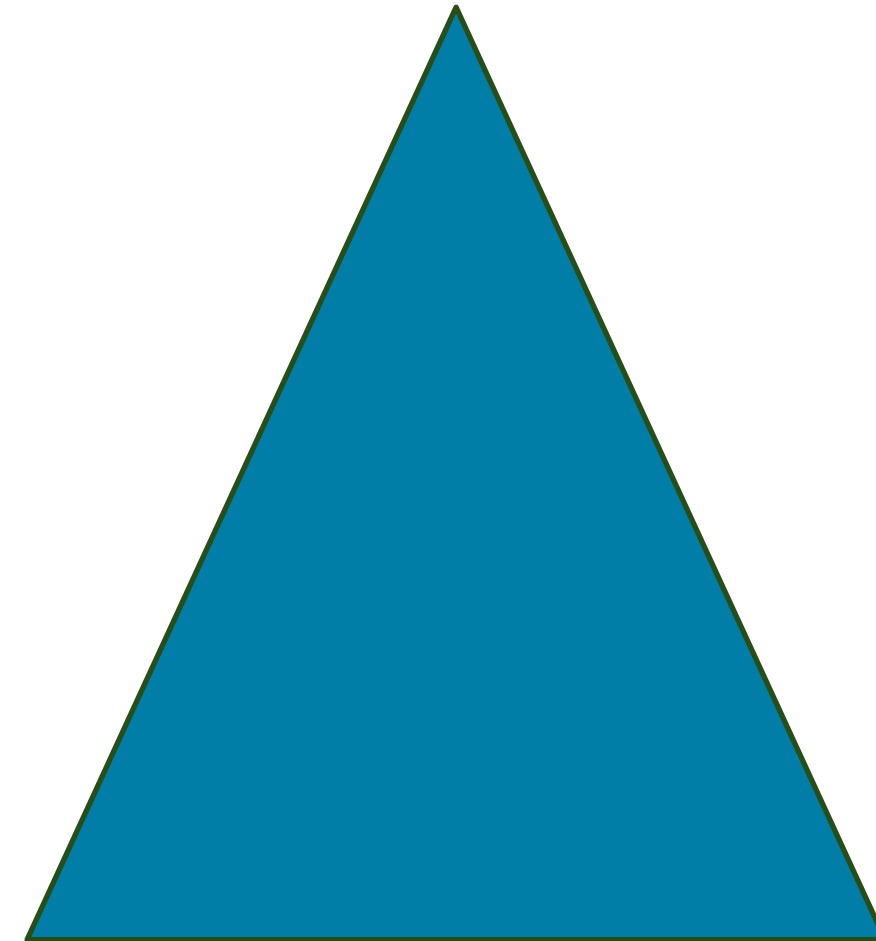
Arctic Energy Ambassadors

EPA EJ TCTACs

One-on-one strategy support with NREL

Skills Trainings: Webinars and In-person
Events

Blueprints & Blueprint Cohorts



Number of grantees
served

EECBG Technical Assistance Resources

Blueprint & Blueprint Cohorts:

- Blueprints are model programs and projects to achieve high impact. Blueprint users will meet in cohorts and be able to access additional technical support

TCTACs:

- EPA Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) can provide support to recipients with strategy development, community engagement, capacity building, and more

Community Energy Fellows:

- DOE-sponsored staff based in communities to increase the capacity and impact of EECBG-funded projects
- Will be provided on a competitive basis for tribes and local governments not using vouchers and are disadvantaged communities and/or using their EECBG funds to serve disadvantaged communities
- Priority will be given to teams and those using Blueprints
- **Arctic Ambassador program participation** will also bring capacity to recipient communities in Alaska

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy (EECS) support

- Applicants to the EECBG formula program will need to submit to DOE an EECS. The National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) is available to help applicants develop their EECS and their strategies in using the EECBG grant. This support will include establishing a baseline of understanding and energy planning basics.
- Support is available to EECBG grantees for 10-20 hours or more upon request

Other Technical Assistance Requests:

- DOE will work to provide some amount of guidance to every request, within budgetary constraints

Webinars & Trainings:

- DOE will organize webinars and trainings based on the needs and interests of EECBG recipients

<https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program-technical-assistance-opportunities>



Blueprints cover a wide range of efficiency, clean energy and sustainable transportation projects and programs.



EECBG Program Blueprints

1. **Inspire** high-impact and effective projects and programs based on best practices
2. **Summaries** on how to implement each topic with step-by-step approach
3. **Highlight** tools, resources, and technical assistance opportunities
4. **Suggestions** for incorporating Justice40 and equity goals into your project
5. **Spotlights other grants** to leverage from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) investments
6. **Streamline** the application review and approval process for eligible entities with a signed NEPA statement of work

Blueprint Cohorts will be administered virtually throughout the full EECBG grant period (2.5+ years), and will include peer-to-peer learning, troubleshooting around common challenges, information sharing among grantees, and Q&A.

Blueprint Topics

1. **Comprehensive Energy Planning**
2. **Energy Efficiency**
 - 2A - Energy Assessments and Building Upgrades,
 - 2B - Energy Savings Performance Contracts,
 - 2C - Building Electrification Campaign,
 - 2D - Building Performance Standards & Stretch Codes
3. **Renewables**
 - 3A - Solar PPAs and Direct Ownership,
 - 3B - Solarize Campaign,
 - 3C - Community Solar,
 - 3D - Renewable Resource Planning for (rural and tribal) communities
4. **Transportation**
 - 4A - Electric Vehicles for Fleets & Fleet Electrification,
 - 4B - EV Charging Infrastructure for the Community
5. **Financing Solutions – Revolving Loan Funds**
6. **Workforce Development**

<https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program-blueprints>

Blueprints | Where to Find Them

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Blueprints | Department of Energy

<https://www.energy.gov/scep/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant-program-blueprints>



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Blueprints

Office of State and Community Energy Programs

Office of State and Community Energy Programs » Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Blueprints

The EECBG Program Blueprints are model projects and programs designed to help local and tribal governments achieve high impact results with limited grant dollars. Blueprints offer ideas in energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation electrification, clean energy finance, and workforce development.

Key activity areas under each blueprint serve as a step-by-step guide for communities to follow. Each activity is accompanied by relevant tools and resources that go into much more detail. EECBG Program grantees are encouraged to consider blueprints as inspiration for ways they could use their grant dollars.

Read the Blueprints Here

ENERGY PLANNING

- [Blueprint #1. Energy Planning](#)

EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

Icons Used in
the Blueprints

Blueprint Cohort Goals

- ✓ **Convene** EECBG Formula Grantees in an **interactive and collaborative space** to share and network with one another
- ✓ **Support** grantees with questions and troubleshooting as they navigate their Blueprints and EECBG projects
- ✓ **Provide practical and technical trainings** to build capacity and make EECBG projects more effective
- ✓ **Adopt a flexible curriculum** that is tailored AND adaptable, reflecting how specific needs will change over the grant period



The Long-Term Vision for Blueprint Cohorts

Educational Webinars, Tool Trainings, and Expert Presentations



- Access to National Renewable Energy Laboratory and other technical Tools Training Series
- Curriculum tailored to your blueprint cohort topic area and needs

Interactive Cohort "Seminars" Led By Subject Matter Experts



- Monthly cohort meetings to learn from peers, troubleshoot roadblocks, and build community
- Dedicated subject matter expert assigned to lead each blueprint cohort

Additional 1-on-1 EECBG Project Support from DOE Outside of Regular Meets



- 15 minute 1-on-1 sessions with DOE to get your EECBG questions answered
- Access to a communications tool to connect outside of regular meetings

EECBG Program Updates, Federal Announcements, & Events



- Real-time program updates and Q&A with EECBG staff
- Streamlined information on other federal funding opportunities, technical assistance, events, and resources

Blueprint Cohorts | Ramping up support

Phase 1: Application Development

- Getting input on your needs and desires
- Application submission and troubleshooting
- Aligning EECBG projects with Blueprint topic areas
- Project planning support in areas that apply across-cohorts

Phase 2: Implementation

- More tailored project implementation support in smaller groups, for each individual blueprint topic
- Resource development and sharing
- Monthly peer to peer learning opportunities
- Dedicated subject matter experts assigned to your cohort



Sep 8, 2023

Cohorts Introduction



We are here!



April 30, 2024

EECBG Application Deadline

Blueprint Cohorts Program: The First Few Months

Date	Host	Event
Sep 8th	DOE	Blueprint Cohorts Kickoff: About the Cohorts & Cohort Intros
Sep 18th	NREL	LEAD Tool Training
Oct 3rd	NREL	SLOPE Tool Training
Oct 13 th	DOE	Blueprint Cohort Session #2: EECBG Project Planning 101 • Key considerations when developing your EECBG project idea
October 19th	NREL	<u>REopt Web Tool Training</u>
November 3rd	NREL	<u>System Advisor Model (SAM) Tool Training</u>
November 13th	NREL	<u>Engage Modeling Tool Training</u>
November 17th	DOE	Blueprint Cohort Session #3: Community Engagement
November 28th	NREL	<u>Jobs and Economic Development Impact (JEDI) Models Training</u> • <i>Estimates the economic impacts of constructing and operating power generation and biofuel plants at the local and state level</i>

Blueprint Cohorts | Where we're going

Monthly Theme	Date (2024)	Host	Event
Financing	Thurs. Jan 18 th	DOE	Blueprint Cohorts Session #4: Financing 101 & Federal Funding Roundtable
	Thurs. Jan 25 th	NREL	Financial and Development Pathways Training.
	Thurs. Feb 8 th , 2-3:30 ET	NREL	Financing Upfront Capital and Revenue,
Building Electrification & Efficiency	Thurs. Feb 15 th , 2-3:30 ET	DOE	Blueprint Cohorts Session #5: Buildings
	Thurs. Feb 22 nd , 2-3:30 ET	NREL	ResStock Analysis Tool Training
Tax Credits & Elective Pay	Thurs March 14, 2-3:30	DOE & NREL	Blueprint Cohorts Session #6: Tax Credits and Direct Pay
EECBG Technical Assistance Workshop at the 2024 Better Buildings Summit April 2, 2024 – Washington DC.			
EV Planning & Infrastructure	April	DOE & NREL	Details TBD
Community & Energy Resilience	May	DOE & NREL	Details TBD

Blueprint Cohort Support Via the Partnership Intermediary Agreement

SCEP aims to utilize the Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with Energywerx to engage external organizations to:

- **Develop a Blueprint Cohorts curriculum** and content across the 13+ blueprint topic areas, including:

- Technical discussions
- Interactive small group sessions and activities
- Tool trainings
- Key resources (templates, worksheets, guides, etc.)
- EECBG program announcements and other federal updates
- Other creative offerings (expert speakers, etc)

- **Administer the entirely virtual Blueprint Cohorts and deliver the curriculum**, convening grantees 1-2 hours per month over the full duration of the grant period (2.5+ years).

- **Identify and assign each Blueprint Cohort a “Cohort Lead”** to serve as a subject matter expert who will support the delivery of the curriculum and associated content.

- **Establish avenues for grantees to communicate** and ask questions outside of regular meetings, such as setting up an online communications or networking platform (e.g., Slack, Teams, etc.), facilitating regular 1 on 1 office hours between grantees and DOE, and other creative offerings.

- **Address any requested specialized needs** for additional cohort groups or curriculum development (e.g., for Tribes, rural communities, environmental justice communities, and more)

Possible organization types for Blueprint Cohort PIA:

- Non-profit organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Environmental justice networks
- Local or tribal government networks
- Private organizations
- Academic institutions
- Civic and philanthropic organizations
- Think tank and policy organizations

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Eligible Applicants

An eligible applicant is an organization or team of organizations, including but not limited to the following:

- Non-profit organizations
- Community-based organizations or networks
- Environmental justice organizations or networks
- Local or tribal government networks
- Private organizations
- Academic institutions
- Civic and philanthropic organizations
- Group or coalition of the above entities

Ineligible entities for this solicitation are:

- Individuals
- Foreign Entities

For application purposes, if you're applying as a team, please designate a lead organization to apply as the primary applicant on behalf of the team.

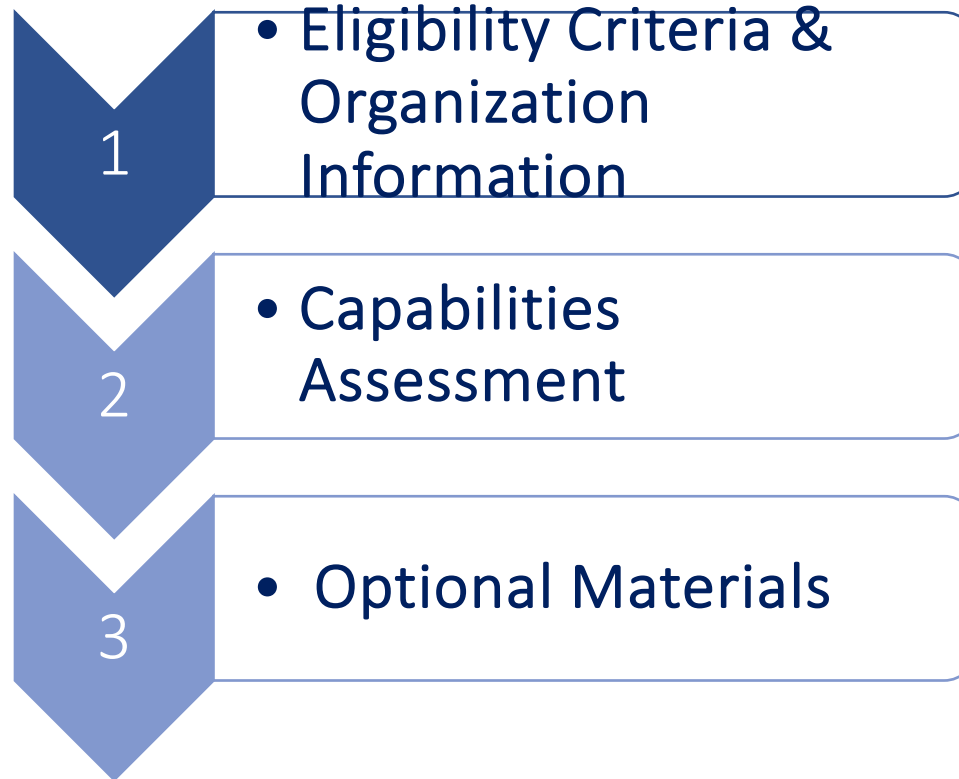
Evaluation and Review Criteria

- ❖ Substantial expertise and a successful track record working with and/or engaging local and tribal governments and possesses strong existing networks within local or tribal governments
- ❖ Demonstrates substantial expertise and experience with clean energy topics across all 13 Blueprint topic areas
- ❖ Demonstrates substantial expertise and a successful track record of administering and facilitating interactive virtual meeting series and building community through peer learning opportunities
- ❖ Ability to train and teach technical information to local/tribal government practitioners with varying abilities and limited capacity and create easy-to-understand materials, resources, and presentations

Evaluation and Review Criteria cont.

- ❖ Possesses additional specialized experience or skills that would support the delivery of the Blueprint Cohort Program, including but not limited to regional, tribal, or environmental justice expertise
- ❖ Whether the applicant has access to and/or can offer specialized networks and/or communications platforms for grantees to engage with peers undertaking similar projects
- ❖ The extent to which the applicant offers additional creative and innovative offerings that would increase the value and impact of the Blueprint Cohort Program
- ❖ The extent to which the applicant understands and has experience with grant management processes, especially at the federal level
- ❖ The indicated willingness of the team to work in close collaboration with DOE for the estimated duration of the full grant period (2+ years).

Application Overview: Submittable



- Eligibility Criteria & Organization Information

Lead organization (s) must:

- Be based in the United States or its territories

Additional organization (s) information:

- Organization type
- Contact information
- Organization webpage
- *(If applying as a team)* contact information for the lead from each organization

• Capabilities Assessment

1. Organizational (Team) Expertise
 - Substantial expertise/experience working on clean energy topics
2. Stakeholder Knowledge & Leadership
 - Significant experience with local, tribal and state governments
 - Knowledge of critical challenges facing environmental justice communities
3. Organizational Core Capabilities and Capacity
 - Facilitation, project management, collaboration, training and cohort-based technical assistance, virtual communication platforms

Submit a document (PDF) describing how your organization or team of organizations will approach this work, expected outputs and deliverables, timeline and any additional creative and innovative offerings that would increase the value and impact of the Blueprint Cohort Program. For teams, make sure to define the role that each team member will take in implementing the Blueprint Cohort Program.

- Optional Materials

Applicants are encouraged to share one (1) example of similar or related work your organization/team has completed to illustrate capabilities (pdf).

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Open Forum Q&A

Next Steps

START YOUR APPLICATION:

ENERGYWERX Submission Manager - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Blueprint Cohorts (EECGB) ([submittable.com](https://energywerx.wufoo.com/forms/r1wdc8t81fj1d5w/))

ATTEND OFFICE HOURS:

February 6, 2024, 3:00pm-4:00pm ET

<https://energywerx.wufoo.com/forms/r1wdc8t81fj1d5w/>

KEY DATES:

Applications are due *Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern)*

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions, please contact ENERGYWERX info@energywerx.org