

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007
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Subtitle E--Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

SEC. 541. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

- (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY- The term `eligible entity' means--
 - (A) a State;
 - (B) an eligible unit of local government; and
 - (C) an Indian tribe.
- (2) ELIGIBLE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT- The term `eligible unit of local government' means--
 - (A) an eligible unit of local government-alternative 1; and
 - (B) an eligible unit of local government-alternative 2.
- (3)(A) ELIGIBLE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT-ALTERNATIVE 1- The term `eligible unit of local government-alternative 1' means--
 - (i) a city with a population--
 - (I) of at least 35,000; or
 - (II) that causes the city to be 1 of the 10 highest-populated cities of the State in which the city is located; and
 - (ii) a county with a population--
 - (I) of at least 200,000; or
 - (II) that causes the county to be 1 of the 10 highest-populated counties of the State in which the county is located.
- (B) ELIGIBLE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT-ALTERNATIVE 2- The term `eligible unit of local government-alternative 2' means--
 - (i) a city with a population of at least 50,000; or
 - (ii) a county with a population of at least 200,000.
- (4) INDIAN TRIBE- The term `Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).
- (5) PROGRAM- The term `program' means the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program established under section 542(a).
- (6) STATE- The term `State' means--
 - (A) a State;
 - (B) the District of Columbia;
 - (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(D) any other territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 542. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment- The Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the 'Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program', under which the Secretary shall provide grants to eligible entities in accordance with this subtitle.

(b) Purpose- The purpose of the program shall be to assist eligible entities in implementing strategies--

(1) to reduce fossil fuel emissions created as a result of activities within the jurisdictions of eligible entities in a manner that--

(A) is environmentally sustainable; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;

(2) to reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; and

(3) to improve energy efficiency in--

(A) the transportation sector;

(B) the building sector; and

(C) other appropriate sectors.

SEC. 543. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

(a) In General- Of amounts made available to provide grants under this subtitle for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate--

(1) 68 percent to eligible units of local government in accordance with subsection (b);

(2) 28 percent to States in accordance with subsection (c);

(3) 2 percent to Indian tribes in accordance with subsection (d); and

(4) 2 percent for competitive grants under section 546.

(b) Eligible Units of Local Government- Of amounts available for distribution to eligible units of local government under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall provide grants to eligible units of local government under this section based on a formula established by the Secretary according to--

(1) the populations served by the eligible units of local government, according to the latest available decennial census; and

(2) the daytime populations of the eligible units of local government and other similar factors (such as square footage of commercial, office, and industrial space), as determined by the Secretary.

- (c) States- Of amounts available for distribution to States under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall provide--
- (1) not less than 1.25 percent to each State; and
 - (2) the remainder among the States, based on a formula to be established by the Secretary that takes into account--
 - (A) the population of each State; and
 - (B) any other criteria that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.
- (d) Indian Tribes- Of amounts available for distribution to Indian tribes under subsection (a)(3), the Secretary shall establish a formula for allocation of the amounts to Indian tribes, taking into account any factors that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.
- (e) Publication of Allocation Formulas- Not later than 90 days before the beginning of each fiscal year for which grants are provided under this subtitle, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register the formulas for allocation established under this section.
- (f) State and Local Advisory Committee- The Secretary shall establish a State and local advisory committee to advise the Secretary regarding administration, implementation, and evaluation of the program.

SEC. 544. USE OF FUNDS.

An eligible entity may use a grant received under this subtitle to carry out activities to achieve the purposes of the program, including--

- (1) development and implementation of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy under section 545(b);
- (2) retaining technical consultant services to assist the eligible entity in the development of such a strategy, including--
 - (A) formulation of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and energy usage goals;
 - (B) identification of strategies to achieve those goals--
 - (i) through efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption; and
 - (ii) by encouraging behavioral changes among the population served by the eligible entity;
 - (C) development of methods to measure progress in achieving the goals;
 - (D) development and publication of annual reports to the population served by the eligible entity describing--
 - (i) the strategies and goals; and
 - (ii) the progress made in achieving the strategies and goals during the preceding calendar year; and
 - (E) other services to assist in the implementation of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy;

- (3) conducting residential and commercial building energy audits;
- (4) establishment of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements;
- (5) the provision of grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing energy efficiency retrofits;
- (6) development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, including--
 - (A) design and operation of the programs;
 - (B) identifying the most effective methods for achieving maximum participation and efficiency rates;
 - (C) public education;
 - (D) measurement and verification protocols; and
 - (E) identification of energy efficient technologies;
- (7) development and implementation of programs to conserve energy used in transportation, including--
 - (A) use of flex time by employers;
 - (B) satellite work centers;
 - (C) development and promotion of zoning guidelines or requirements that promote energy efficient development;
 - (D) development of infrastructure, such as bike lanes and pathways and pedestrian walkways;
 - (E) synchronization of traffic signals; and
 - (F) other measures that increase energy efficiency and decrease energy consumption;
- (8) development and implementation of building codes and inspection services to promote building energy efficiency;
- (9) application and implementation of energy distribution technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including--
 - (A) distributed resources; and
 - (B) district heating and cooling systems;
- (10) activities to increase participation and efficiency rates for material conservation programs, including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency;
- (11) the purchase and implementation of technologies to reduce, capture, and, to the maximum extent practicable, use methane and other greenhouse gases generated by landfills or similar sources;
- (12) replacement of traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient lighting technologies, including--
 - (A) light emitting diodes; and
 - (B) any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency;

(13) development, implementation, and installation on or in any government building of the eligible entity of onsite renewable energy technology that generates electricity from renewable resources, including--

- (A) solar energy;
- (B) wind energy;
- (C) fuel cells; and
- (D) biomass; and

(14) any other appropriate activity, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with--

- (A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (B) the Secretary of Transportation; and
- (C) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 545. REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.

(a) Construction Requirement-

(1) IN GENERAL- To be eligible to receive a grant under the program, each eligible applicant shall submit to the Secretary a written assurance that all laborers and mechanics employed by any contractor or subcontractor of the eligible entity during any construction, alteration, or repair activity funded, in whole or in part, by the grant shall be paid wages at rates not less than the prevailing wages for similar construction activities in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, in accordance with sections 3141 through 3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40, United States Code.

(2) SECRETARY OF LABOR- With respect to the labor standards referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions described in--

- (A) Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. 903 note); and
- (B) section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

(b) Eligible Units of Local Government and Indian Tribes-

(1) PROPOSED STRATEGY-

(A) IN GENERAL- Not later than 1 year after the date on which an eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe receives a grant under this subtitle, the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary a proposed energy efficiency and conservation strategy in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) INCLUSIONS- The proposed strategy under subparagraph (A) shall include--

- (i) a description of the goals of the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe, in accordance with the purposes of this subtitle, for increased

energy efficiency and conservation in the jurisdiction of the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe; and
(ii) a plan for the use of the grant to assist the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe in achieving those goals, in accordance with section 544.

(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT- In developing the strategy under subparagraph (A), an eligible unit of local government shall--

- (i) take into account any plans for the use of funds by adjacent eligible units of local governments that receive grants under the program; and
- (ii) coordinate and share information with the State in which the eligible unit of local government is located regarding activities carried out using the grant to maximize the energy efficiency and conservation benefits under this subtitle.

(2) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY-

(A) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a proposed strategy under paragraph (1) by not later than 120 days after the date of submission of the proposed strategy.

(B) DISAPPROVAL- If the Secretary disapproves a proposed strategy under subparagraph (A)--

- (i) the Secretary shall provide to the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe the reasons for the disapproval; and
- (ii) the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe may revise and resubmit the proposed strategy as many times as necessary until the Secretary approves a proposed strategy.

(C) REQUIREMENT- The Secretary shall not provide to an eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe any grant under the program until a proposed strategy of the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe is approved by the Secretary under this paragraph.

(3) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS- Of amounts provided to an eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe under the program, an eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe may use--

(A) for administrative expenses, excluding the cost of meeting the reporting requirements of this subtitle, an amount equal to the greater of--

- (i) 10 percent; and

(ii) \$75,000;

(B) for the establishment of revolving loan funds, an amount equal to the greater of--

(i) 20 percent; and

(ii) \$250,000; and

(C) for the provision of subgrants to nongovernmental organizations for the purpose of assisting in the implementation of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy of the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe, an amount equal to the greater of--

(i) 20 percent; and

(ii) \$250,000.

(4) ANNUAL REPORT- Not later than 2 years after the date on which funds are initially provided to an eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe under the program, and annually thereafter, the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary a report describing--

(A) the status of development and implementation of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy of the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe; and

(B) as practicable, an assessment of energy efficiency gains within the jurisdiction of the eligible unit of local government or Indian tribe.

(c) States-

(1) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS-

(A) IN GENERAL- A State that receives a grant under the program shall use not less than 60 percent of the amount received to provide subgrants to units of local government in the State that are not eligible units of local government.

(B) DEADLINE- The State shall provide the subgrants required under subparagraph (A) by not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary approves a proposed energy efficiency and conservation strategy of the State under paragraph (3).

(2) REVISION OF CONSERVATION PLAN; PROPOSED STRATEGY- Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each State shall--

(A) modify the State energy conservation plan of the State under section 362 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322) to establish additional goals for increased energy efficiency and conservation in the State; and

(B) submit to the Secretary a proposed energy efficiency and conservation strategy that--

(i) establishes a process for providing subgrants as required under paragraph (1); and

(ii) includes a plan of the State for the use of funds received under the program to assist the State in achieving the goals established under subparagraph (A), in accordance with sections 542(b) and 544.

(3) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY-

(A) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a proposed strategy under paragraph (2)(B) by not later than 120 days after the date of submission of the proposed strategy.

(B) DISAPPROVAL- If the Secretary disapproves a proposed strategy under subparagraph (A)--

(i) the Secretary shall provide to the State the reasons for the disapproval; and

(ii) the State may revise and resubmit the proposed strategy as many times as necessary until the Secretary approves a proposed strategy.

(C) REQUIREMENT- The Secretary shall not provide to a State any grant under the program until a proposed strategy of the State is approved by the Secretary under this paragraph.

(4) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS- A State may use not more than 10 percent of amounts provided under the program for administrative expenses.

(5) ANNUAL REPORTS- Each State that receives a grant under the program shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes--

(A) the status of development and implementation of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy of the State during the preceding calendar year;

(B) the status of the subgrant program of the State under paragraph (1);

(C) the energy efficiency gains achieved through the energy efficiency and conservation strategy of the State during the preceding calendar year; and

(D) specific energy efficiency and conservation goals of the State for subsequent calendar years.