

COMMUNITY ENERGY EFFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT (CEED) PROGRAM

2025 Request for Applications (RFA) - Questions and Answers

1. What is the maximum amount ECAM plans to fund per application?

There is currently no maximum per application limit. Based on past awards, we expect to make awards between \$600,000 and \$2 million per application.

2. Are applicants allowed to attach studies or reports to the application?

Yes, Applicants can provide attachments in addition to their application. They should be emailed to EMNRD-CEED@state.nm.us

3. Do applicants need to have a partnership with Community Based Organization (CBO) to apply for this grant?

It is not a requirement to have a partnership with a CBO to apply for a CEED Program grant. However, as part of the application, the applicant will need to be able to describe the type and/or ideal characteristics of a community partner.

4. My community isn't considered a disadvantaged community; however, we have many households that are considered LI. Would we qualify for this grant?

The whole city/county/municipality doesn't have to be underserved, an area within that body can be considered the community that is underserved.

5. Are there any restrictions on what Applicants can use the CEED Program funding for?

The CEED Program funding must be used to create and implement an efficiency program that provides improvements to residential buildings in underserved communities for low-income New Mexicans.

Projects will serve one or more goals of the CEED Program for residential buildings in underserved communities, including:

- reduce energy consumption;
- reduce energy-related operating costs;
- reduce the carbon intensity of energy consumption; or
- a combination of the above.

Each applicant is responsible for demonstrating how the proposed projects meet at least one of these goals and must engage impacted communities in the development of the application.

For more information, please visit [CEED Program - Energy Conservation and Management](#)

6. Can Applicants vet ideas with ECAM staff before applying?

Grantees may reach out to ECAM staff to discuss potential project plans and receive feedback. Any question and response that is presented during the proposal collection period could be published as part of the FAQs.

7. Can the existing CEED Program be run in tandem with the new funding? How does that impact the grant funding timeline?

If existing Grantees apply for new funding before the end of their existing program's term, the programs will be run concurrently. Grantees can apply for up to 25% of their current award to expand their current grants. Grantees can expand their scope of work with the new funding or simply use the funds to increase the number energy efficiency projects they can complete.

8. Is the per unit cap applied to the new funding only?

The per unit cap of \$25,000 will be applied to the new program funding only. As a reminder, the cap represents an average. An individual project may exceed the \$25,000 amount if the average project cost ends up below the maximum amount at the end of the project term. In addition, grantees may request a variance to the cap from ECAM.

9. What can the planning grants be used for?

The planning grant is a great stepping-stone to apply for a CEED Program grant. It is meant for municipalities and counties that would like to eventually apply for CEED Program funding and implement a residential energy efficiency program, but are not currently ready.

The funding for this planning grant will be used to develop a community energy efficiency plan for low-income residential households. The funding can be used to hire technical consultants to assist in the development of the plan and/or hire auditors to do certified audits for pilot projects. Additional uses of the funding include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting outreach and education around residential energy savings;
- Initiating certified energy audits for selected households to gauge the breadth and scope of energy retrofits needed;
- Meeting with community stakeholders and partners;
- Working out the goals for the local CEED Program and the metrics that will be employed to gauge program success.

If a planning grant sounds like a more appropriate grant for your community, please contact Ed McIlvain at Edward.mcilvain@emnrd.nm.gov.

10. Do we [existing grantees] have to keep the same title as our first awarded project?

Grantees are not required to keep the same title as that of their first project. The new funding allows for an expanded scope of work. If the old title of the project is not appropriate for the new scope of work, then grantees can change to a new title for their project.

11. Can existing grantees ask for more than 25% with the expectation that there may be additional funds?

The cap on additional funding for existing grantees is set at 25%. Applicants that are current grantees of the CEED Program can apply for up to 25% of their current award.

12. Can ECAM confirm if there is a word limit on the application? If so, what is that word limit?

There are no word limits for responses in the application with the exception of the Community Benefits Plan section on page 6. It is recommended that the responses for this section, questions 35-40, be between 300-500 words.

13. Do the existing grantees who apply for new grants have to pass new ordinances every time they are awarded a new CEED Program grant?

According to the CEED Program statute, the ordinance must adopt the terms of the grant. If it is a new grant, with new terms, then it could require at least an amendment to the ordinance. (See below.) Since the RFA for 2025-2026 includes

new terms related to the Community Benefit Fund and possibly an updated scope of work, an amendment to the existing ordinance or a new ordinance will be required.

“62-17A-5. Required grant of authority.

A. The Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant Act is enacted to allow the state, a county or a municipality to provide or pay the costs of financing infrastructure necessary to support affordable housing projects as provided by Article 9, Section 14 of the constitution of New Mexico.

*B. Prior to the department's final approval of an application for a grant pursuant to the Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant Act, an applicant that is a county or a municipality shall provide the department with a copy of the ordinance enacted by the county or municipality that provides the county's or municipality's formal approval for a specific community energy efficiency development block grant and **includes in the ordinance the terms and conditions of the grant approved by the department.** The department shall not approve an application for a community energy efficiency project if the county or municipality fails to enact an ordinance **that gives formal approval for the terms and conditions approved by the department for the community energy efficiency development block grant and includes in the ordinance those exact terms and conditions.***

C. Prior to the department's final approval of an application for a grant pursuant to the Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant Act, an applicant that is an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo shall provide the department with a copy of a resolution enacted by the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that provides the Indian nation's, tribe's or pueblo's formal approval for a specific community energy efficiency development block grant and includes in the ordinance the terms and conditions of the grant approved by the department. The department shall not approve an application for a community energy efficiency project if the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo fails to enact a resolution that gives formal approval for the terms and conditions approved by the department for the community energy efficiency development block grant and includes in the resolution those exact terms and conditions.”

NMSA 1978, § 62-17A-5 (CEED Block Grant Act)

9/3/2025

14. Does the ordinance have to be enacted and the Community Benefits Plan have to be negotiated with the community in advance of applying for the funding?

Applications must include a draft Community Benefits Plan using the template provided. Prior to releasing funds to a successful Applicant, the Applicant must fulfill the obligations to secure a Grant of Authority and finalize the Community Benefits Plan/Agreement. The latter may involve public meetings or some other path for negotiating that agreement with the community. [[NMSA 1978, 6-4-37, Community Benefit Fund \(CBF\) Act](#)]

Regarding the ordinance: the Applicant must demonstrate sufficient proof of progress as noted in the RFA instructions.

Examples of sufficient proof of progress may include:

- *Draft Ordinance or Resolution language*
- *Municipal or Tribal Council agenda*
- *Governing body meeting minutes*
- *Official letter or memo of intent*
- *Public notice of Ordinance or Resolution consideration*
- *Legal review confirmation*
- *Council Work Session materials*

15. The RFA and the website do not match when it comes to how to submit an application. Please advise.

ECAM had to make some last-minute changes to the application submission process. Please follow the instructions [here](#), to use the "paper" application form, and combine it with the other forms into one PDF that is submitted to EMNRD-CEED@state.nm.us

16. If we are hiring a contractor to do energy efficiency retrofits, which budget category should we use?

For any energy efficiency work that you plan to hire a contractor for, you should use the "Contractors and Consultant Services" budget category on the budget template provided by ECAM.

17. Is there a cap on budget allocation for health and safety measures or incidental repairs per project?

Yes, per the RFA [CEED-Program-RFA-7.29.25.pdf](#) under GSA Subpart 1, the cost for incidental repairs is limited to \$1000, and the costs for residential Health and Safety (H&S) measures are limited to 20% average cost per unit.

Examples of Incidental Repairs include: Sealing of cracks, repair of broken windows, exterior door repair, electrical repair for lighting retrofits, repair of building envelope to maintain the integrity of ECMs.

Examples of Health and Safety Measures include: Kitchen Exhaust fans, Smoke detectors and CO monitors, heating and cooling system safety checks, mold and moisture mitigation, combustion gases, and unsafe electrical wiring.

9/19/2025

18. In GSA Subpart 1, Section 2B, it says that the cost of high efficiency heat pump water heaters is limited to \$1,750. Is that the CEED Program cost that can be applied or the entire cost of the unit? We have had trouble finding appropriate heat pump water heaters below that threshold. We have the same question on the other cost caps in that section.

These amounts refer to the maximum amount the CEED Program grant will pay for the equipment. However, it is allowable and recommended to leverage other incentives such as rebates to help cover the entire cost of the measure and maximize CEED Program incentives. In addition, it is possible to request a variance for an item. A variance will be granted as long as the justification follows the requirements of the GSA Subpart 1.

19. In GSA Subpart 2, Section 2G, it says that unallowable rehabilitation activities include “repairing or replacing plumbing or electrical systems.” In some cases, the installation of electric appliances will necessitate a new breaker box, or a health and safety measure may require replacing a toilet. Can you clarify the scope of “systems” that are not permitted?

Health and Safety measures are allowed up to 20% of average cost per unit. Incidental repairs can be made up to \$1000 per unit/household. Certain electric and plumbing upgrades could fall into these categories. Please contact ECAM with any specific questions or concerns about a specific retrofit project.

20. Do the Grant of Authority requirements of the CEED Block Grant Act and the community benefit requirements of the Community Benefit Fund Act need to take place prior to the application due date of 9/30/25 or can it take place post award?

These requirements are addressed in the RFA, ‘Section V. Application Package Contents, H. Grant of Authority Progress’ and ‘Attachment 3, Community Benefit Plan Template’. They require the progress outlined, but do not need to be completed by the application due date.

21. Are food and beverages for community meetings an eligible cost?

Generally, funding may not be used to purchase food or beverages for any meeting/conference/training/other event, as it is difficult to prove as a necessary expense for the execution of the program. Exceptions may be available in very rare circumstances with the approval of the awarding office.

22. As a current grantee, should I include the timelines for our current award or ONLY the items I am requesting funds for in the new application?

If a current grantee is awarded additional funds, the end date will be extended to the new 3-year timeline. Applications should be written to express this new date.

23. As an existing grantee, the additional funding we are applying for is to expand only specific portions of the current program scope of work and not others. Should we include the grant milestones from our current CEED Program in the application?

You should include milestones and measures from the current scope of work to provide context. However, please add a note to identify which measures are in the current scope of work but not part of the new funding.

24. May a college or university apply to the CEED Program?

A college or university is not eligible to apply for CEED Program funding. Only county; municipality; Indian Nation, Tribe, or Pueblo governments; or Housing New Mexico–MFA are eligible to apply.

25. What buildings count as residential?

Typical residential buildings include single family homes, mobile homes, and multifamily homes.

Per the CEED Act,

"residential housing" means:

(1) a building, structure or portion thereof that is primarily occupied or designed for or intended primarily for occupancy as a residence by one or more households, including congregate housing, manufactured homes and other facilities

<https://nmonesource.com/nmos/nmsa/en/item/4407/index.do#62-17A-2>

26. Is advance pay an option?

The CEED Program does not allow for advance payment.

27. Is all \$15 million that was appropriated being released through this RFP or will more CEED Program funding be available next year?

ECAM intends to award the \$15M appropriation through the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) Act to this RFA. Additional CEED Program funding is anticipated in the next funding cycle.

28. The application requires the identification of a community partner and service providers; how does ECAM expect procurement for these partners to happen in the event of an award?

The application requires a description of community partners and service providers. This could be an organization with a current relationship with the Applicant or could be a description of an organization to be determined, that will be procured through an RFP or equivalent process.

29. The agreement for the last round included a prevailing wage requirement. Will the same requirement apply to this round of funding?

Yes, prevailing wages will be a requirement with this round of CEED Program funding as indicated in the GSA Subpart 2, number 10.

Every award granted through the CEED Program over \$60,000 (for construction, alteration, demolition, or repair work) is subject to prevailing wage requirements. The CEED Program is funded through the State as a Public Works program.

This award is funded as a Public Works program. All laborers and mechanics employed by the Entity, subcontractors, contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work in excess of \$60,000 on an award

30. Regarding prevailing wage requirements, is the \$60K threshold per contractor or per project?

The \$60K threshold is in reference to the entire contract/agreement between EMNRD and the Entity. Please see [NMAC 11.1.2 'Public Works Minimum Wage Act Policy Manual'](#) for more details.

31. Will Davis-Bacon Act requirements be applied?

This round of funding will be fully covered through the State of New Mexico, so the federal Davis Bacon Act requirements do not apply.