MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MISSISSIPPI

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (EECBG)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Summer 2026

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
Post Office Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205-0849
www.mississippi.org

I. INTRODUCTION

The Mississippi Development Authority – Energy & Natural Resources Division (MDA ENRD) is issuing this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP), under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. EECBG is designed to assist certain Mississippi cities and counties with making energy-efficient upgrades to their facilities to reduce energy consumption & operating costs, and advance long-term energy management practices across public facilities and infrastructure.

This is a competitive grant program with awards made on a rolling basis and not all applicants will receive funding beyond reimbursement up to $2,500 for (at minimum) ASHRAE Level I Energy Audits by a licensed professional. The total funding available for awards under this program is approximately $1.4 Million.

The application and all required attachments should be submitted by the application deadline of Friday, August 14, 2026; 5:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT).

Eligible Applicants
Cities and municipalities located in the State of Mississippi not included in the list of Ineligible Applicants below, or Counties located in the State of Mississippi not included in the list of Ineligible Applicants below, or Non-entitlement local governments not eligible for direct DOE EECBG formula funding. No applicant will receive funding for more than one application. Applications may include activities at multiple locations.

Ineligible Applicants
Private for-profit corporations, businesses, sole proprietorships or partnerships; school districts; Institutions of Higher Learning; community and junior colleges; multi-family housing organizations; casinos; golf courses; swimming pools; zoos and aquariums are ineligible for funding. No funds will be awarded for projects that are already completed.

Based on EECBG program rules the following counties and municipalities were eligible for formula funding under the EECBG program formula, and as such, are ineligible for an award from MDA ENRD.

Ineligible County Applicants

- Lowndes County
- Harrison County
- DeSoto County
- Rankin County
- Jackson County
- Madison County
- Lafayette County
- Lamar County
- Pearl River County
- Jones County

Ineligible Municipal Applicants

City of Jackson
City of Gulfport
City of Southaven
City of Biloxi
City of Hattiesburg
City of Olive Branch
City of Tupelo
City of Meridian
City of Greenville
City of Clinton

Maximum Grant Amount

The maximum grant amount allowed under this program is up to 100% of the total project installation, with the grant award not to exceed $125,000.

Minimum Grant Amount

The minimum amount awarded under this program is $30,000.

Single Application

Eligible cities, counties and municipalities will not be permitted to submit more than a single application for EECBG funding. Applications may include multiple project sites under one application.

Eligible Projects

Funds are available for projects that encompass the purchase and installation of commercially available energy-efficient fixtures, installations, upgrades or systems identified by an ASHRAE Level I or II Energy Audit. Projects must include energy efficiency retrofits, as identified by the energy audit, that reduce the energy consumption of a facility to be considered eligible. If awarded, applicants are encouraged to maximize EECBG grant funding with utility programs or utility rebates available in their area. Measures must be installed in buildings located in the state of Mississippi and used by the applicant. Funding is available only for system/building retrofits on existing properties. New construction will not be funded and is ineligible.

The following energy efficient measures are the only retrofits eligible for EECBG funding:

- Lighting and Daylighting: LED or other new energy efficient lighting fixtures, daylighting measures, and/or technology, e.g., occupancy sensors.
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning: HVAC equipment and/or upgrades specified at a higher energy efficiency rating.
- Building Envelope: Energy efficiency measures including insulation, window film, weather sealing, upgraded doors and windows. No new construction is allowable.
- Water heating: Hot water systems at higher energy efficiency ratings.
- Energy-efficient improvements to industrial systems, such as boilers, water chillers, etc.
- Energy management systems, programmable thermostats, and other control solutions for existing or new equipment/fixtures.
- Other related electrical or infrastructure related equipment that support any of the above measures i.e. (service panels or related electrical components.)

Ineligible Projects
Funds may not be used for the construction of a building. Funds will not be used to purchase equipment not deemed to be energy-efficient based on expert analysis and other guidance from the DOE. This includes improvements that do not reduce the total energy consumption of a facility.

Prohibited Expenditures
EECBG does not allow expenditures or for the following:

- Construction, such as construction of mass-transit systems and exclusive bus lanes
- Construction or repair of building structures;
- Use of funds for any casino or other gambling establishment, aquarium, zoo, golf course, or swimming pool;
- Purchase of land, a building structure or any interest therein;
- Research, development or demonstration of renewable energy techniques or advanced vehicle technologies; and
- Supplanting of state or local funds already committed to projects.

Structural Eligibility
A structure, which is identified for energy-efficient equipment installation or system upgrades, shall be considered eligible only if it is an existing structure that is at least one year old and is located in the State of Mississippi. Funds will not be used for properties that are:

- Classified as condemned or scheduled for demolition.
- Leased or rented by the Applicant from another party unless the landlord has given the tenant specific written permission to proceed with the installation;
- Encumbered by a real estate transaction or purchase option;
- Included on the National Register of Historic Landmarks and Sites maintained by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, unless approval from the Mississippi Department of History and Archives to perform the work has been received; or,
- Encumbered by any type of lien which would call into question the ownership of the property.

Cost Share/Match Requirement
There are no cost share or matching requirements, however, applicants are encouraged to leverage other non-federal funds or utility incentives where available. Applicants must take careful consideration to ensure that costs are not reimbursed by both EECBG and any other source.

Any committed non-federal match may be leveraged through a cash or in-kind contribution from the Applicant. Leveraged match funds are contributions to a project that satisfy the following:

- They are verifiable from the recipient's records;
- They are not included as contributions for any other federally assisted project or program;
- They are necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project or program objectives;
- They are not paid by the Federal Government under another award;

- They are provided for in the approved grant budget; and
- They conform to other provisions of this program, as applicable.

Period of Performance
Period of performance will begin upon the execution of a grant agreement, and the project must be completed by the date as specified in the grant agreement. If there is no activity within four weeks of the award date, the award may be terminated, and funds reallocated.

Method of Payment
Payments are made on a cost-reimbursement basis only. Only the cost of actual charges incurred and paid over the course of the grant period, and as specified in the grant agreement will be reimbursed by MDA-ENRD. Reimbursements are only made to the entity awarded funding.

NOTE: ***Successful Applicants will receive written notice if the grant application has been approved by MDA-ENRD. Grants will not be awarded or reimbursed for projects that began or were completed prior to the grant award date. The applicant must not begin work on the proposed project until a grant agreement has been fully executed.***

Energy Audit Requirement
Applicants must submit at minimum an ASHRAE Level I Energy Audit that details and verifies the proposed energy efficiency measures, cost savings, scope of work and implementation costs. Only audits that meet ASHRAE requirements and are performed by an appropriately-licensed individual will be accepted. To be as flexible as possible, a wide range of energy auditor credentials are acceptable in satisfying this requirement. Following is a summary of qualifications recognized by MDA-ENRD for providing energy audit services:

	Certification or License
(1)	Licensed Engineer (PE) With at least 2 years' experience performing energy efficiency audits or commissioning of existing buildings; OR Any certification listed in #2 below.
(2)	One of the following certifications: • ASHRAE Building Energy Assessment Professional (BEAP); • Association of Energy Engineers Certified Energy Manager (CEM); • Association of Energy Engineers Certified Energy Auditor (CEA); • Association of Energy Engineers Existing Building Commissioning Professional (EBCP); • Association of Energy Engineers Certified Building Commissioning Professional (CBCP) • Energy Management Professional (EMP) • ACG's CxA Certification

The Applicant may also submit an existing ASHRAE Level I or II audit if it is no more than three years old from the date of the application. If an existing audit was completed by an individual who does not meet the required auditor experience, the ASHRAE Level I or II audit must be signed by a qualified auditor. MDA at its sole discretion reserves the right to confirm data submitted as part of the audit with reviewers of MDA's choice. MDA-ENRD intends to reimburse EECBG applicants for the cost of a new ASHRAE Level I, II or III energy audit up to 100% of the total cost of the audit, not to exceed $2,500. To be eligible for reimbursement, the audit must comply with the expected standards of an ASHRAE Level I energy audit and be performed by an appropriately licensed individual. The Applicant also must meet all the eligibility requirements. Reimbursement for audit costs is not contingent on a grant award. Any applicant that fails to meet all the eligibility requirements will not be reimbursed. MDA-ENRD reserves the right to reject an energy audit it deems inadequate and not meeting ASHRAE standards.

Payback Period

The payback period is the time required for the cost savings resulting from the project to cover the total project cost. MDA-ENRD will only fund those projects that can demonstrate a combined payback period of 10 years or less.

$$Simple\ Payback\ Period = \frac{\text{Total Project Cost}}{\text{Estimated Annual Energy Cost Saving}}$$

Informational Webinar

MDA-ENRD will publish an informational webinar after the initial FOA release on MDA's website at the Office of Energy or https://mississippi.org/community-resources/office-energy/

Metric Reporting Requirements

Once the project is completed, the Applicant will be required to enter actual data from utility bills on a monthly basis for one year.

National Environmental Policy Act Requirements

Because the list of potential project activities described in this FOA fall under the bounded categories stipulated as categorical exclusions. All funded projects are subject to the stipulations of the programmatic agreement between the U.S. DOE, MDA-ENRD, the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Projects funded under EECBG are subject to review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The list of Eligible Projects described in this FOA have been categorically excluded from further NEPA review; therefore, these are the only types of projects that MDA-ENRD will fund under this program. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, it is the responsibility of MDA-ENRD to ensure that projects funded under EECBG do not conflict with NEPA and comply with the standards for treatment of historic properties.

Build America, Buy America (BABA)

The Buy America Requirement or BABA is applicable to financial assistance awards made by DOE on or after May 14, 2022, in accordance with the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), Title IX of Division G of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58. DOE grant award recipients and subrecipients, must comply with the domestic content procurement preference for Federally funded public "infrastructure projects". All iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the infrastructure project must be produced in the United States.

For purposes of EECBG, BABA does not apply based on a granted programmatic waiver of awards that do not exceed $250,000. Applicants proposing to receive the maximum award amount and provide cost sharing such that the total award (including cost sharing) exceeds $250,000 shall consult with MDA-ENRD prior to submission of application to ensure that appropriate compliance plans are in place.

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts

Projects funded under the EECBG Program that involve construction, alteration, or repair activities that exceed $2,000 are subject to the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141–3148) and related U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) regulations. Applicants must be prepared to ensure that all contractors and subcontractors pay laborers and mechanics employed on the project wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction projects in the locality, as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor. Awardees will be responsible for complying with all applicable Davis-Bacon labor standards requirements, including but not limited to the use of appropriate wage determinations, maintenance and submission of certified weekly payrolls, recordkeeping, and worker classification requirements. Applicants should be aware that compliance with Davis-Bacon requirements is a condition of award, and failure to comply may result in corrective actions, withholding of payments, or other remedies as permitted under federal law and grant terms.

Procurement Standards

All governing authorities subject to the Mississippi Code Annotated of 1972 are required to conduct procurement activities in accordance with applicable state procurement laws, rules, and regulations governing the acquisition of goods and services using public funds. When expending grant funds, recipients must follow the same procurement policies and procedures that apply to the use of non-federal funds under state law, including requirements related to competition, cost reasonableness, transparency, and avoidance of conflicts of interest. In addition, where federal funds are involved, recipients must ensure compliance with applicable federal procurement standards under the Uniform Administrative Requirements at 2 CFR Part 200, as amended, to the extent such requirements are applicable. Failure to adhere to state and federal procurement requirements may result in the disallowance of costs, repayment of funds, or other enforcement actions as permitted by law.

Standards and Regulations

All proposed activities must meet DOE and MDA-ENRD standards and regulations including, at a minimum, NEPA requirements, other requirements listed in this FOA, as well as applicable Federal, state and local requirements. MDA-ENRD will review all applications to ensure compliance. If selected, MDA-ENRD will then negotiate a grant agreement with the Applicant to execute the activity. Upon execution of a grant agreement, MDA-ENRD will provide a sub-

recipient manual to awardees for use in their day-to-day administration of EECBG funding awards. MDA-ENRD is authorized to receive Federal monies on behalf of the State of Mississippi and promulgate reasonable general or special rules, regulations, and procedures it deems necessary concerning the use of these funds, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §57-39-9.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)

Recipients of federal funds must use administrative and financial policies and procedures that follow GAAP and in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards 2 CFR Part 200. Applicants that receive funding will be required to demonstrate effective control over and accountability for all grants, property, and assets under this award. This includes financial policies and procedures that ensure that receipts and disbursements can be tracked as an effective control to prevent mistakes and safeguard against any unauthorized uses.

Unique Entity Identifier

If funded, Applicants are required to register with SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). If awarded, subrecipients are expected to maintain an actively registered UEI throughout the entire period of performance of the award.

II. APPLICATION CONTENTS

The application packet should, at minimum, include the following forms, attachments and exhibits as prepared by the Applicant. All applications will be submitted through the provided online web form posted at:

https://mississippi.org/community-resources/office-of-energy/.

The contents of the application submissions will follow the format below:

1. **Applicant Information**
   The application must outline the identifying information of the applicant including the legal name of the applicant, the mailing address of the applicant, identification of a point of contact, and designation of an organizational authorized representative.

   The applicant must provide sufficient information to demonstrate eligibility to participate in the program.

2. **Project Site(s)**
   The applicant must provide information regarding the location(s) at which the energy efficient measures will be implemented. This will include ownership information as well as key building details.

3. **Project Description**
   The applicant must provide an executive summary of the application including a description of the proposed activities to be undertaken utilizing the federal funding.

   The applicant must provide a narrative that demonstrates alignment with EECBG Eligible Activities. The applicant must describe the existing conditions and the baseline of the facility for which upgrades are proposed.

   The Applicant must provide an ASHRAE Level I or II energy audit performed by an appropriately licensed individual. The audit should detail and verify the proposed energy efficiency measures, consumption savings (kWh/therms/gallons/BTUs/etc.), cost savings, scope of work and implementation costs, as well as an assessment of all building systems impacted by the proposed project. A sample ASHRAE Level I or II report template will be published along with other application materials on MDA's website.

   The applicant must also describe the projected energy savings following completion of the project as well as the methodology utilized to arrive at such assumptions.

4. **Project Timeline**

   The applicant must provide a detailed and realistic implementation timeline and describe the entity's procurement readiness, organizational capacity to undertake the project and the identification and mitigation plans for risks associated with the project.

5. Funding Request

The Applicant must explain how the cost estimates in the application were developed and why they are reasonable and justified. To the extent possible, the applicant should provide vendor quotes, engineering assessments or other documentation supporting the costs and reasonableness of the proposed energy efficiency measures.

6. EECBG Application Certification (*Exhibit A*)

7. Audit Reimbursement Form (*Exhibit B*)

III. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Award of Funds: This is a competitive program with awards made on a rolling basis and not all Applicants will receive funding beyond reimbursement for energy audits up to $2,500 at MDA's sole discretion. MDA-ENRD will select those applications that demonstrate maximum energy cost savings while also contributing significant economic impact using the grant funds. Subject to the availability of funds, MDA-ENRD reserves the right to distribute funds in an equitable manner that ensures that qualified Applicants statewide are awarded.

Qualifications of Applicants: Prior to receiving a notice of intent to award, the Applicant will be required to show that it has the necessary facilities, capabilities, and financial resources to complete the proposed activity. MDA-ENRD reserves the right to reject any the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the Applicant fails to satisfy MDA-ENRD that the Applicant is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the activity described therein.

<u>All applications will be subject to the review and evaluation process as described below:</u>

Step I: MDA-ENRD shall review all applications to assure compliance with the minimum required information listed in Section II of this FOA. Applications that do not meet the minimum specifications may be rejected immediately.

Step II: Applications that satisfactorily complete Step I will be reviewed and analyzed by a selection committee to determine if the application and ASHRAE Level I or II energy audit adequately meet the application requirements. Funding decisions will be made on a weekly basis as applications are received until funding availability runs out. In cases where multiple applications are received on the same day and available funding amounts do not allow for award of all all received applications, MDA-ENRD will use the following factors in reviewing and scoring competing applications:

Projected Energy Savings **45 Points**

- Combined simple payback for total project (10 years or less); and
- Energy consumption (kWh/therms/gallons/BTUs/etc) and energy cost savings, as verified by an ASHRAE Level I, II energy audit.

Project Readiness **25 Points**

- Timeline to completion of measures taken

Cost Effective Approach **30 Points**

- The budget is reasonable and cost effective;
- The budget is justified through the inclusion of reasonable quotes;
- The budget components are all eligible under this FOA;

Step III: MDA-ENRD will contact Applicants selected for a grant award and will initiate the process to execute a grant agreement with the Applicant. **Work may not begin until the awardee is in receipt of a fully executed grant agreement.**

MINIMUM EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF APPLICATION

Applications are required to remain in effect for at least six months from the date submitted to MDA-ENRD. All submitted applications become the property of MDA.

EXPENSES INCURRED IN PREPARING OFFERS

Unless otherwise expressly stated, MDA-ENRD accepts no responsibility for any expense incurred in the preparation and presentation of an application beyond reimbursement of energy audit at MDA's sole discretion. The Applicant exclusively bears such expenses.

FOA DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION

The release of this FOA does not require the acceptance of any application, nor does such release in any way obligate MDA-ENRD to award funds. Additionally, the submission of an application does not constitute an award. MDA-ENRD reserves the rights to accept, reject or negotiate any or all applications on the basis of the evaluation criteria contained within this document.

REJECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications that do not conform to the requirements set forth in this FOA may be rejected by MDA-ENRD. Applications may be rejected for reasons that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The application is conditional;
- The application is incomplete or contains irregularities that make the application indefinite or ambiguous;
- The application is not received by the deadline;
- The application is not signed by an authorized representative of the party;
- The application does not include energy efficiency measures that will reduce the energy consumption of the entity; or
- The application contains false or misleading statements or references.

EXCEPTIONS AND DEVIATIONS

Applicants taking exceptions to any part or section of the solicitation shall indicate such exceptions on the application and shall fully describe the exception. Failure to indicate any exception will be interpreted as the Applicant's intent to comply fully with the requirements as written. Conditional applications, unless specifically allowed, shall be subject to rejection.

NON-CONFORMING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applications that include terms and conditions that do not conform to the terms and conditions in the FOA are subject to rejection. MDA-ENRD reserves the right to permit the Applicant to withdraw nonconforming terms and conditions from its application prior to a determination by MDA-ENRD of non-responsiveness.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AMENDMENTS

MDA-ENRD will provide written notice of all changes to this FOA in the form of an amendment to this FOA prior to response deadlines. Amendments will be provided to all Applicants who submitted a Notice of Intent, as well as posted on MDA's website at mississippi.org.

Applicants shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this FOA by signing and returning the amendment with the application and by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on the application form or by letter.

DEBARMENT

By submitting an application, the Applicant certifies that it is not a person or entity currently debarred from submitting applications for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi or the Federal Government.

IV. GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

Applications must be received no later than *Friday, August 14, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. CDT.* Timely submission of the application is the responsibility of the Applicant. Applications received after the specified time shall be rejected and returned to the Applicant unopened.

Task	**Timeline**
Release of Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)	June 2026
Deadline for submission of written questions to MDA-ENRD	Friday, June 12, 2026; 5:00 P.M. CDT
Deadline for MDA-ENRD to respond to written questions	Friday, July 3, 2026
Application window opens	Monday, July 13, 2026
Application Deadline	***Friday, August 14, 2026; 5:00 P.M. CDT***
Awardees notified	By Thursday, September 7, 2026
Grant awards executed	September 2026
Projects Concluded & Final Reports Due	December 2026

V. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Unless otherwise provided in the Grant Application, all application materials must be submitted through the web-based portal located on: https://mississippi.org/community-resources/office-of-energy/

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions concerning this FOA must be submitted in writing. Questions will be received through ***Friday, June 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CDT***. Questions received after this deadline will not be answered. Applicants are cautioned that any statements made by the contact person that materially change any portion of this FOA shall not be relied upon unless specifically ratified by a formal written amendment to this FOA.

Questions regarding this FOA must be submitted to:

Email: eecbgms@mississippi.org

Applicants must enter the following in the subject line of the email:
"Question re: EECBG 2026 "

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

MDA-ENRD will publish an informational presentation after the initial FOA release on MDA's website at the Office of Energy.