EECBG Frequently Asked Questions

July 6, 2026

Eligibility:

1. **Who is eligible to receive EECBG grant funds?**
   - 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.

   Note: No applicant will receive funding for more than one application, but applications may include activities at multiple locations.

   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

2. **What kinds of projects are eligible for funding?**
   - 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. Funding is available only for system/building retrofits on existing properties.
   - Projects must, therefore, only include energy efficiency retrofits, as identified by the energy audit, that reduce the energy consumption of a facility to be considered eligible. Measures must be installed in buildings located in the state of Mississippi and used by the applicant.
   - Applicants are encouraged to maximize EECBG grant funding with utility programs or utility rebates available in their area.

3. **Does State Purchase Law apply to projects funded by EECBG?**
   - Yes, all applicants will be required to follow the state of Mississippi purchase laws established primarily in Mississippi Code Annotated 1972 31-7-13 for all project expenditures.
   - The OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR provides cities, municipalities, counties and non-entitlement local governments guidance in the state's "PURCHASE LAW" (July 1, 2024) see **https://www.osa.ms.gov/sites/default/files/Resources/Purchasing/Purchase_Law_Update.pdf**
   - It is recommended that applicants and awardees consult with their city attorney prior to conducting any purchasing activity to ensure close alignment with the associated requirements.

4. **What kind of projects are ineligible?**
   - Funds may not be used for the construction of a building or any new construction.
   - Funds will not be used to purchase equipment not deemed to be energy-efficient based on expert analysis and other guidance from the DOE or not identified in the proposer's ASHRAE Level I or II Energy Audit. This includes improvements that do not reduce the total energy consumption of a facility.

5. **Are power poles deemed an eligible project?**
   - No, generally power poles are not deemed to be an eligible project for EECBG funding -- only improvements to the actual lighting fixtures would be deemed eligible. If the pole is an integrated fixture, then it may be considered eligible.
   - MDA-ENRD will select applications that demonstrate maximum energy cost savings while also contributing significant economic impact using the grant funds. Applications are evaluated competitively based on overall project merit, energy savings, and program alignment.

6. **Are ballpark or recreation field lighting upgrades eligible projects?**
   - Park and recreation-related projects (e.g., ballfield lighting or similar facilities) may be considered if they meet all program requirements, including demonstrating measurable energy savings and being supported by an energy audit. Applications are evaluated competitively based on overall project merit, energy savings, and program alignment.
   - However, consistent with the program's focus on improving energy efficiency across existing public facilities and infrastructure, projects involving core government operations (such as administrative buildings, public safety facilities, and essential service buildings) are generally more aligned with program objectives.

Application:

7. **What must be included for an application to be complete?** For an application to be deemed complete it must contain the following:
   1. Applicant information
   2. Project Site(s)
   3. Project description
   4. Project Timeline
   5. Funding Request
   6. EECBG Application Certification
   7. Audit Reimbursement Form

   For more information on each requirement of an application please refer to the FOA posted https://mississippi.org/community-resources/office-of-energy/.

8. **Can you submit multiple applications for funding?**
   - No, eligible cities, counties and municipalities will not be permitted to submit more than a single application for EECBG funding. However, applications may include multiple project sites under one application.

9. Can you list multiple project sites in a single application?

- Yes, based on the EECBG program requirements, eligible applicants are limited to submitting a single application; however, that application may include multiple project sites.

10. Will I be reimbursed for the required energy audit?

- MDA-ENRD will reimburse the cost of a new ASHRAE Level I energy audit up to 100% of the total cost, not to exceed $2,500. However, the audit must meet the eligibility requirements of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), and any applicant that fails to meet all the eligibility requirements will not be reimbursed. Furthermore, MDA-ENRD will only reimburse the cost of audits for applications submitted by eligible entities.
- MDA-ENRD reserves the right to reject an energy audit it deems inadequate and not meeting ASHRAE standards.

11. What happens if I conduct an energy audit and decide not to apply, will I be reimbursed?

- No, reimbursement is reserved only for eligible entities that complete the EECBG application process. Furthermore, MDA-ENRD reserves the right to reject an energy audit it deems inadequate and not meeting ASHRAE standards.

12. What is required for a sufficient energy audit?

- 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 Level I Energy Audit requirements and are performed by an appropriately-licensed individual will be accepted and deemed responsive.

To be as flexible as possible, a wide range of energy auditor credentials are acceptable in satisfying this requirement. The following is a summary of qualifications recognized by MDA-ENRD for providing energy audit services:

Certification or License
(1) A Licensed Engineer (PE) - With at least 2 years' experience performing energy efficiency audits or commissioning of existing buildings; - OR with 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 submit an existing ASHRAE Level I or II audit only if it is no more than three years old from the date of the application. Furthermore, If an existing audit was completed by an individual who does not meet the required auditor experience (above), the audit could be signed by a qualified auditor and submitted. 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.

Review and Selection Process:

13. Is the EECBG Grant Program a competitive grant opportunity?

- Yes, the EECBG program is a competitive program with awards made on a rolling basis. 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.
- Please refer to section III of the FOA which describes scoring criteria which states projects will be evaluated based on the energy savings (i.e. payback for a project and energy consumption, project readiness and the cost effectiveness of the project).