

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources

EECBG FAQ Webinar

*Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
February 23, 2024*



Program Overview

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources





EECBG Summary

What: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) allocated to states and communities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

Purpose: EECBG funds are an investment in infrastructure, designed to modernize and upgrade American infrastructure to enhance competitiveness, drive the creation of good-paying jobs, tackle the climate crisis, and ensure stronger access to economic, environmental, and other benefits for disadvantaged communities.

Who: Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)- Lead Distributor

- Funding has been provided directly to select communities by the Dept of Energy (DOE).
- GEFA funding will focus on providing grants to communities who did not receive direct funding.
- J40 requirement with 40% of funding allocated to disadvantaged communities.

State Allocation: \$2,989,230

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



EECBG Summary

Generic Federal Requirement Overviews:

- Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)

Federal funding to use American made products

- Davis Bacon Wage Act (DBA)

All contractors are paid prevailing wages for geographic location

- National Environmental protection Act (NEPA) on a case by case basis

Consideration of environmental impacts

- Historic Preservation

Buildings over 50 years old and in historical districts

- Reporting: Quarterly, Annually etc.

By choosing to pursue a Blueprint, some requirements might not apply. Technical Assistance can assist with identifying metrics and reporting based on Blueprint.



EECBG Program Design

Grant Amount: \$150,000, There is no cost match required.

Design: Communities eligible to apply, will select a Blueprint of interest and pursue an eligible activity, or “key activity ” listed under the Blueprint.

Blueprints: Blueprints are DOE model projects and programs designed to help local and tribal governments achieve high impact results with limited grant dollars.

Blueprint options include:

1. Energy Planning
2. Energy Efficiency- Energy Audits and Building Upgrades
3. Energy Savings Performance Contracts: Energy Efficiency and Electrification in Government Buildings
4. Community Solar
5. Solarize Campaign
6. Electric Vehicles and Fleet Electrification
7. Workforce Development

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



EECBG Program Design

GEFA has divided the funding into two sources- “Prioritized” and “General State”

- Mapping was done in partnership with Southeast Energy Alliance (SEEA)
- Prioritized communities have been identified based on a variety of factors/metrics, including energy burden, sociodemographic and workforce indicators. These communities also fall within the J40 census tract.
- Competitive application process for both groups.
 - Application is open and will **close March 15th, 2024**
 - Application link and application templates are available on the GEFA website and QuickBase Homepage
 - **Application edits can not be saved when working in the QuickBase system. Please review the sample application PDF prior to editing the application in QuickBase.**

Technical Assistance: GEFA has partnered with nonprofit, **Southface**. Southface will provide **free** TA to those interested in applying, application and program design assistance, Blueprint support, along with a menu of other services.

Investing in Georgia’s Energy, Land, and Water Resources



List of Prioritized Counties: Both Municipalities within the county and the county can apply for the prioritized funding.

- Clay County
- Clinch County
- Mitchell County
- Early County
- Calhoun County
- Randolph County
- Ben Hill County
- Quitman County
- Taylor County
- Stewart County
- Wheeler County
- Schley County
- Wilkes County
- Washington County
- Elbert County
- Cook County
- Jenkins County
- Taliaferro County
- Warren County
- Colquitt County

Blueprint Overview





Blueprint Key Activities

Blueprint #1. Energy Planning

- Stakeholder Engagement- setting up supporting staff, possibly consultants or project managers
- Energy data collection and baseline establishment
- Developing energy goals, writing, adopting and publicizing plans

Blueprint #2A. Energy Efficiency- Energy Audits and Building Upgrades

- Building Energy Assessment- gathering data and building benchmarking
- Energy audits- hiring energy auditor
- Building upgrades- With the information provided by the audit, determining whether a building is a candidate for rehab, onsite renewables, resilience projects, electrification and grid-interactivity

Blueprint #2B. Energy Savings Performance Contracts: Energy Efficiency and Electrification in Government Buildings

- Exploring potential financing options
- Procurement of ESPC and legal support- Soliciting and selection of a Qualified Energy Service Company (ESCO)
- Project implementation, post implementation measurements and verification

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Blueprint Key Activities

Blueprint #3B. Community Solar

- Stakeholder Engagement, education and outreach- engagement with utilities, confirm regulatory allowance
- Site assessment and selection
- Procurement of developer, legal and technical support- government can assist with RFP process to select qualified solar developer(s)
- Installation of solar panels- rooftop or ground mounted

Blueprint #3C. Solarize Campaign

- Designing solarize campaign details
- Stakeholder engagement through education and outreach
- Procurement of solar installer/ developer, legal and technical support through RFP process
- Solarize program education, outreach and advertising



Blueprint Key Activities

Blueprint #4A. Electric Vehicles and Fleet Electrification

- Development of fleet replacement plan, including stakeholder engagement and input- fleet assessment, technician training
- Site planning and preliminary assessment- identify charging locations, evaluate charging options, siting cost estimates
- Develop utility data sharing agreement
- Develop charging plan, including cost assessment of electric bills
- Procurement, legal and technical support to purchase EVs- vehicle cost estimate, identifying fleet needs, budget assessment, zoning, compliance, permitting, etc.
- Installation of charging infrastructure

Blueprint #6. Workforce Development

- Workforce needs assessment- labor force gap assessment
- Program design and curriculum development- transition skills training
- Stakeholder engagement- convening clean energy employers, training provided, educational systems, etc. matching trainees with jobs
- Paying trainers and trainees- including wraparound services

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources

Frequently Asked Question





FAQ Review- Eligibility

- 1. Eligibility:** Local government, a unit of government/public authority recognized within a state under the constitution. This includes: Cities, counties, municipalities, towns, school districts, public authorities- development authority.
- 2. If you are not a “Priority Community” can you still apply for the funding?** Yes! There will be a number of awards for the “priority” communities and a number of awards for the “general” communities.
- 3. Blueprint 2A: Energy Efficiency- Energy Audits and Building Upgrades Eligibility:** Energy Audits and/ or building upgrades can be made to government buildings or commercial buildings. Commercial buildings are limited to schools, libraries, correctional institutions, and community centers



FAQ Review- Funding

4. **Grants sizes:** Communities can apply for up to a \$150,000 grant, there is no minimum amount and there is no community cost match required. The funding can not be used for reimbursement of a previous project.
5. **How will we receive the funds?** Funds will be in the form of reimbursement, however, a recipient does not need to provide upfront payments, recipients can bill upon receipt of an invoice, GEFA can then pay the recipient and then recipient can pay the vendor.
6. **Can you fund multiple projects with the grant?** Yes, you can pursue multiple key activities under the Blueprint. You can also fund multiple Blueprint projects, if funding remains (you will need to provide reporting/metrics for both projects). Applying for multiple projects does not give you an advantage in the application process.
7. **Can we use outside funding on a project?** Yes, if your community has money to put towards the grants that is allowable, if it is a separate federal funding source please delineate what each federal source will fund. ex.) If retrofitting a building and have two federal sources, have one source pay for the energy audit and the other pays for the retrofit measures.

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



FAQ Review- Application

8. **What is a UEI?** The Federal government uses a unique identifier to track entities applying for grants and cooperative agreements. On April 4, 2022, the unique identifier used across the federal government changed from the nine-digit Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) to the 12-character alphanumeric Unique Entity ID (UEI). All applicants must register with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) and receive a UEI.
9. **Where can I find detailed explanations of Blueprints and Key Activities?** GEFA has provided an [application guidance document](#), discussing application details and extensive blueprint details, including key activities. Posted on GEFA's website.
10. **How long will the application take to fill out?** The application for “priority” communities is 4 narrative questions and for “general communities” it is 5 narrative questions. The application should take around 1-2 hours to fill out. We encourage a paragraph response to each question.

Application Review





Application Walkthrough

Application link will be post on the GEFA website:

<https://gefa.georgia.gov/energy-resources/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-block-grant>

Home Landing Page:

BIL EECBG Program Applcation 202... > Home Page

Application Guidance Documents

[Application Guidance](#)

[Sample Application: Priority Communities](#)

[Sample Application: General Communities](#)

Welcome to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Application Home Page!

To apply for the EECBG funding, click the link below.

[New Application](#)

Once you click "save" the application will be submitted.

*Reminder- responses typed into the QuickBase application can not be saved and revisited at a later date.

Please contact for application assistance or technical assistance:

Nathan Bessette

Southface Technical Services

email: nbessette@southface.org

Please contact for issues with your application submission:

Leah Lord

GEFA Program Manager

email: llord@gefa.ga.gov



Application Walkthrough

Application Guidance Documents: Listed on GEFA website and Application Home Page

- **Application Guidance and Blueprint details- including key activity descriptions**
- **Sample Application- Priority Communities**
- **Sample Application- General Communities**

Community Name *

Point of Contact Name *

Point of Contact Title

Point of Contact Email *

Community UEI

Point of Contact Phone Number

 +1 (201) 555-0123 ext.

Are you located within one of these counties? Ben Hill, Calhoun, Clay, Clinch, Colquitt, Cook, Early, Elbert, Jenkins, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Taliaferro, Taylor, Warren, Washinton, Wheeler or Wilkes?*

No

Yes

DOE Blueprint Program Selection *

Select one

Requested Funding Amount

\$ 0.00

Additional Application Files

or drag and drop



Application Walkthrough

Application Narratives:

or drag and drop

> **Prioritized Communities Application Narrative- Use the space below to provide a written response.**

✓ **General Application Narrative- Use the space below to provide a written response.**

1. Applicants will choose the specific blueprint(s) they would like to pursue and describe reasoning for their choice. Statement provides a concise description of the community's problem, who in the community is affected and why they chose this Blueprint to address this problem. They outline a path to successfully managing the Blueprint project, including project tracking, milestones, budgeting etc.

2. Communities will provide a narrative explaining the past experience of the community, or of an individual involved in the project, implementing a project

Technical Assistance Opportunities

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources





Southface Technical Assistance

Southface will provide **FREE** Technical Assistance to all interested in applying.

Technical and/or Application Assistance includes:

- **Blueprint selection**
- Planning and hosting Workshops on topics such as **Budget** and Community Engagement, **Program Design** and Workplans
- Technical Assistance Hotline
- Building **energy audits, benchmarking**, and upgrade bid support and review
- Stakeholder presentations
- Electric Vehicle charger selection and incentive support
- Curriculum Development
- Photovoltaic selection and incentive support
- Physical and digital marketing assets
- Outreach research and support
- J40 community mapping and review
- **Application review**

Contact:

Nathan Bessette

Email: nbessette@southface.org

Phone: 404-604-3618

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources



Sample Technical Assistance

Southface is currently working with communities on:

- Solar energy assessments
- Program design:
 - Assisting with blueprint selection best suited for community's wants and needs
 - 1 on 1 community stakeholder convening- ensuring appropriate staff are involved
- Application reviews prior to submitting

Contact:

Nathan Bessette

Email: nbessette@southface.org

Phone: 404-604-3618

Application deadline is March 15, 2024

Investing in Georgia's Energy, Land, and Water Resources

Questions?

Leah Lord

Energy Resources Division
Program Manager
llord@gefa.ga.gov

47 Trinity Ave SW
Fifth Floor
Atlanta, GA 30334

gefa.georgia.gov

