

FAQs on Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) Funding

What is RECI?

RECI is a competitive awards grant program created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that supports sustained cost-effective implementation of updated energy codes. The program will provide \$45 million a year for 5 years (\$225 million total through Federal Fiscal Year 2026). On December 19th, 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released a [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) (FOA), covering the first installment of the \$225 million, which will support state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) governments' eligible energy code activities.

What are the dates and deadlines for this funding opportunity?

Applicants must submit a concept paper by 5:00 pm ET on January 31, 2023, to be eligible to submit a full application which is due by 5:00 pm ET on March 27, 2023.

FOA Issue Date	December 19, 2022
Submission Deadline for Concept Papers	January 31, 2023 by 5:00pm ET
Submission Deadline for Full Applications	March 27, 2023 by 5:00pm ET
Expected Submission Deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments	April 17, 2023 by 5:00pm ET
Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications	June 26, 2023
Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations	June 26 through August 2, 2023

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Concept Papers, Full Applications, and Replies to Reviewer Comments at least 48 hours (about 2 days) before the deadline.

How do I apply for this program?

You can review the application requirements and apply through DOE's [EERE-Exchange](#). Due to the high demand for Unique Entity ID UEI requests and System for Award Management (SAM) registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration process as soon as possible. If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process, they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue.

What is a concept paper and what do I need to include?

A concept paper provides DOE with a preliminary indication of the type of project you are proposing. Concept papers must be submitted to allow applicants to submit a full application. Once submitted, DOE will review the concept papers and provide the applicant with a recommendation on whether to proceed with a full application. The applicant can then decide whether to proceed with a full application.



The concept paper should be 6 pages, including a cover page (1pg), project description (3pg), and an addendum (2pg), and include the following characteristics:

- A clear description of the proposed project, including its impacts, and how it will advance the FOA goals and achieve the targeted outcomes, savings, and benefits
- Identified risks and challenges associated with the project work, including mitigation strategies, and the impact that EERE funding and the proposed project would have
- The applicant's capacity to carry out the proposed project, including necessary qualifications, experience, capabilities, and other resources
- The ability and intent to leverage other federal and non-federal funding sources, and how much funding would be used to avoid duplicative efforts and maximize the impact
- A clearly demonstrated need for the proposed project

Additional discussion of eligibility criteria, evaluation of impacts, targeted outcomes, and other crucial factors are further discussed in Section I.A.ii of the FOA.

How much money is available?

The Resilient Energy Codes Implementation (RECI) federal funding is expected to make \$45,000,000 available for new awards in the coming year. This funding is expected to equate to 10-30 awards, with a target for each award between \$500,000 and \$10,000,000.

It is important to note that cost sharing is encouraged, but not required under this FOA. Each project team is free to determine how best to allocate the cost share among the team members. The amount contributed by individual project team members may vary. Project teams may provide cost share in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Cost share may be provided by the prime recipient, sub-recipients, or third parties (entities that do not have a role in performing the scope of work). Vendors/contractors may not provide cost share. Any partial donation of goods or services is considered a discount and is not allowable.

What is the anticipated period of performance for successful projects?

DOE anticipates making awards that will run from 1 to 5 years, comprised of one or more budget periods.

What qualifies for this funding?

Although DOE has not provided an exhaustive list, RECI provides broad flexibility on eligible projects. Jurisdictions would be able to use the funding to support these energy code activities:

- **Adopt** a new code or update their current energy codes, including code development consulting services and publication/**e-publication** costs (including stretch codes)
- **Training** and certification achievement for code officials, designers, and contractors on code provisions, compliance studies to tailor training and certification efforts
- **Seek building department accreditation**, a process that ensures high-quality building department operations
- **Develop and implement software tools**, like electronic permitting
- Enhance **plan review capacity**



DOE provides broad flexibility in the types of solutions that could be funded and how the project team is organized. Communities can use the funding during or after the adoption or update process. For example, in communities on older editions updating to the latest code edition is encouraged but not required. Any improvement in energy codes is covered through this funding opportunity, although DOE may prioritize applicants based on the anticipated level of savings above the existing code. The legislation also encourages communities to leverage the funding to meet additional community priorities around resilience, water conservation, workforce development and equity.

Who can apply for this program?

The FOA requires the involvement of a relevant state agency (for example the buildings, housing or environment departments, or the state energy office). The state agency does not need to be the prime applicant or even in the state where local government team members are located. The FOA encourages the formation of partnerships that include at least one of the following: code development organizations (like the Code Council); local building code agencies; builder, designer and contractor organizations; efficiency program administrators; consumer, energy efficiency and environmental advocates or other stakeholders. DOE views effective, strategic partnerships as essential to supporting impactful and lasting change. Recognizing that in many states code implementation falls to local governments, DOE has taken an approach that would allow support to flow to local governments and help meet their specific needs. Regional efforts or common challenges that cut across communities in multiple states can form the basis for an application.

I'm at a local government with different priorities than my state. Is my jurisdiction eligible?

Local governments are eligible for funding if they are included in an application submitted by a state government agency or in a partnership with a state government agency. The local jurisdiction does not need to be in the same state as the state organization. For example, a regional initiative may include localities from multiple states but requires only one state agency on the application.

Can an ICC chapter apply directly or be the lead on an application?

ICC chapters can apply for funding in collaboration with a state agency or as part of a partnership that includes a state agency. ICC Chapters can be the primary applicants but must demonstrate sufficient capacity to administer the grant.

We adopted the suite of I-Codes, including the IECC, can we use this funding towards full building code adoption implementation or just energy codes?

The FOA recognizes that in many cases codes are adopted as a suite and that there are key community priorities associated with energy codes beyond energy savings. Applications can include projects related to the intersection of energy codes and improved resilience, health and safety; water savings and other environmental impacts; equity, energy and environmental justice; and economic impacts of energy codes including labor market and domestic manufacturing.

Is this money only available if we are updating to the most recent edition of the energy code (i.e., 2021 IECC)?

No, according to DOE an updated code includes: Any update to a building energy code, including an amendment that results in increased efficiency compared to the previously adopted building energy code, even if it is not the most recent updated code available. However, DOE has indicated that applications will be evaluated based on the extent of savings achieved.



Are we disqualified from funding if we amend the IECC?

No. As indicated above, only an increase in efficiency over the previously adopted code is required. DOE also anticipates more nuanced scenarios where a state or local government does not undertake a comprehensive update (i.e., updating from one code edition to a more recent edition), but makes updates via specific amendments to their code (e.g., adding provisions for electric vehicle charging).

What are the priorities of DOE for this grant?

The areas of interest targeted under the current FOA include state and local code adoption, workforce development, implementation and compliance, innovation, equity, energy and environmental justice, and partnerships.

In addition, DOE has identified several key outcomes targeted under the FOA:

- Developing the next-generation workforce
- Facilitating energy code updates
- Improving energy code compliance
- Advancing new and innovative policies and tools
- Increasing equity in code-related policies and planning

What will lead to a successful application?

A successful application will include a variety of components such as:

- Overall impacts of the project as a function of energy, emissions, and cost savings
- Activities supporting the adoption and implementation of the latest model energy codes (i.e., the 2021 IECC and 90.1-2019)
- Innovative and advanced concepts which exceed the latest model codes, including zero energy codes and building performance standards
- Codes that demonstrate significant impact and improvement over currently adopted codes or existing activities supporting code implementation.

Additionally, they will want to see the long-term sustainability of measures and savings and the ability to leverage other funding sources beyond the IIJA, such as building energy codes technical assistance and funding via the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), state or localized funding, State Energy Program funding, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG), utility partnerships, and other private sources along with a cohesive implementation plan that shows how all the funding sources will together address the climate, energy, and policy goals of more-efficient buildings.

What does a successful grant partnership consist of?

To drive sustained improvements, the IIJA emphasizes the importance of strategic partnerships, which must include a state agency, and may include other organizations, such as state or local building departments, builders, contractors, architects, engineers, other design and construction professionals, academia, research, trade organizations, consumer advocates, regional energy efficiency organizations, and other stakeholder interests who play an important role supporting the successful implementation of building codes



How can ICC help me?

As the principal organization representing SLTT governments and officials that adopt and implement energy codes, the International Code Council is prepared to collaborate with communities to develop proposals that incorporate traditional implementation resources or develop innovative approaches.

The International Code Council co-leads a **Strategic Energy Code Implementation Team** (SECIT), which the Code Council established to partner with RECI applicants by providing wrap-around energy code services. Our team can also assist jurisdictions in developing applications and identifying potential partners for RECI grants.

To join any of these efforts, or to learn more about RECI funding in general, visit iccsafe.org/federalgrants or contact **Stella Carr**, the Code Council's Energy and Resilience Project Manager, for assistance.

How is the RECI program different from programs in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)?

The IRA establishes grant programs to support the adoption and implementation of energy codes that meet or exceed the 2021 IECC or achieve zero-energy buildings. DOE has not released details on these funding programs yet, but they anticipate aligning future rounds of RECI funding with the IRA programs. ICC will provide details as more information is available.

What if I am not prepared to apply this year, what can I do to prepare for future application opportunities?

Please contact **Stella Carr** to discuss ways that ICC can help you prepare before the next round of funding for this program. The essential goals will most likely remain the same, and now that the program is established it will be easier to prepare for future years.

