

Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Solutions

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ([Sec. 40511](#)) includes \$225 million, \$45 million per year (FY22 through FY26), for the new Department of Energy (DOE) Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) program. This competitive awards program supports “sustained cost-effective implementation of updated energy codes.” DOE released its [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#) for \$45M in funding, the first installment of the \$225M. See more application details below.

DOE will prioritize implementation of current codes (e.g., the 2021 IECC) but will also support significant updates to older editions and stretch codes, like the International Energy Conservation Code’s (IECC) net zero appendices and the International Green Construction Code (IgCC). The FOA will prioritize overall impacts as a function of energy, emissions, and cost savings. The sections below highlight eligible activities and how the Code Council can help communities develop a strategy that meet their needs.

1. State and Local Code Adoption

Example activities: technical assistance on code updates for energy and resilience, conducting impact studies to better understand benefits, and aligning updates with broader energy, sustainability, resilience, equity or climate goals.

- ICC develops the nation’s most widely-used model building codes, which ensure resilience, energy conservation, and sustainability. Our team of technical and policy professionals, located across the country, have an unprecedented level of expertise in the development, adoption and implementation of codes including through consulting services on development and implementation; the engagement of key stakeholders; the deployment of support services including plan review, department management software (including permitting, plan review and inspection digitization), and personnel training and certification.
- The Code Council serves nearly 400 chapters and 63,000 members. Government Relations (GR) staff attends 800 chapter meetings annually.
- As an illustration of these activities, the Code Council partnered with ASHRAE and Massachusetts DOER to publish the State’s base and stretch energy code, the 2020 Massachusetts Energy Code.

2. Workforce Development

Example activities: training and other incentives to encourage training for practitioners, certification of code officials and code users, training modules for post-secondary schools, and development of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

- ICC is a national leader in the development and deployment of education and training and certifications of energy professionals through ICC Training, Assessment Center, Technical Training and Safety 2.0 Programs leading high school and post-secondary students to the building safety profession, and the Military Families Career Path Program.
- ICC’s Revised National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards program prepares new construction industry entrants to become journey-level professionals in their respective trades.

- Through the first half of 2022, the Code Council has administered more than 30,000 certification exams and offered close to 40,000 live, self-paced, and virtual courses. In 2021, ICC provided 700 training events for more than 40,000 participants, in addition to nearly 40,000 self-paced course enrollments.

3. Implementation and Compliance

Example activities: development of code implementation plans, developing code compliance software tools, state and local energy code implementation and compliance collaboratives.

- ICC offers a Model Program for E-Permitting, Plan Review and Remote Virtual Inspections; digital code access across codes and their referenced standards (600+ titles so far); custom code publishing; checklists; protocols; plan review and inspection; product evaluation services; accreditation; electronic permitting; and virtual inspection resources.
- ICC with RESNET, offers the IECC/HERS Compliance Specialist Designation to strengthen residential energy code compliance.
- General Code provides municipal code solutions to more than 3,800 clients from coast to coast. ICC Community Development Solutions installed or enhanced code department software systems across more than 100 jurisdictions and organizations in 2021.

4. Innovative Approaches

Example activities: development and implementation of custom, stretch, and zero energy codes, support for circuit rider programs, development and implementation of performance-based energy codes, or development of compliance verification tools.

- ICC's Energy, Resilience, and Innovation Center of Focus comprises staff with diverse technical and policy expertise in building energy codes, including model, stretch, and zero codes, sustainability, resilience, renewable energy, energy storage, grid-interactivity, electrification, decarbonization, off-site construction and other related disciplines both in the U.S. and globally.
- ICC continues its partnership with ASHRAE, IES and USGBC on the development of the IgCC. ICC and ASHRAE provide an IgCC-focused certification, the Certified Commercial Green Construction Professional.

5. Equity, Energy and Environmental Justice

Example activities: partnerships with disadvantaged communities and underserved populations, providing scholarships to help disadvantaged or underserved interests participate in code development, adoption and implementation processes, and implementation of education and training programs targeting and benefitting disadvantaged populations.

- ICC's Energy, Resilience and Innovation Center of Focus has extensive knowledge in energy equity issues including the role of energy codes in reducing energy poverty, energy burdens, and energy insecurity. ICC can also support building energy code development and implementation, and workforce development programs targeting and benefitting disadvantaged populations.

6. Partnerships

Example activities: establish energy codes compliance collaboratives, technical assistance bodies which can support and inform states and local resilience planning, and a consortium of energy code training programs.

- ICC has partnered with Performance Systems Development (PSD), NMR Group and Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) to form the Strategic Energy Code Implementation Team (SECIT), a multi-functional project team of leading energy experts with specialized building energy code knowledge. SECIT energy code expertise includes training and education, certification programs, code development and digital codes, remote virtual inspection, accreditation, grant administration and application development, marketing and outreach, enforcement and compliance support, project administration, program development, resource development, software/tool development, compliance studies, program evaluation, and optimization analysis.

Eligible Entities, Application Structure, and Timeline

Applications must include a state agency and be submitted by an agency or partnership. Applications from partnerships are preferred. Under a partnership, a state agency is not required to serve as the prime applicant or prime recipient, and funding does not need to flow through a state agency. A local government is not required to apply with the state from which it resides, but the local government must apply as part of a partnership with a state. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately 3-5 years.

DOE anticipates making approximately 10-30 awards under this FOA, with individual awards varying between \$500K and \$10M. Concept papers are due January 31, 2023 and full applications are due March 27, 2023.

The Code Council is interested in partnering with jurisdictions, regions, and other entities to support projects that leverage the expertise and solutions outlined above.

Additional Information

The Code Council will have a dedicated staff member to work with jurisdictions on developing grant applications. For additional information, please contact us at energygrants@iccsafe.org and visit iccsafe.org/federalgrants.