



## Assistance for the Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes

### Department of Energy Competitive Grant Program

On December 18, 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) has issued a [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#) for \$530 million in competitive grant funding to support the adoption and implementation of the 2021 and forthcoming editions of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the IECC's zero energy appendices, and other codes that deliver equivalent or greater energy savings, including innovative approaches to decarbonize existing buildings through measurable and enforceable requirements. DOE will prioritize local capacity building, multi-year investments in workforce and education, and long-term improvements in building energy codes through multi-cycle adoption.

This funding opportunity complements the [\\$400 million in formula funding](#) available for eligible States under the [Assistance for the Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes](#) program.

### Estimated Funding and Period of Performance

Of the \$530 million in federal funding available for new awards, between 40 and 200 awards will be made, with funding varying between \$1 million and \$20 million. Cost sharing is not required. For jurisdictions adopting a base code, projects may run for up to 3 years. For jurisdictions aiming to adopt a zero energy code with interim code adoption, awards may run a maximum of nine (9) years.

### Eligible Applicants

Eligible grantees are defined as States (including D.C., Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the U.S) and units of local government that have the authority to adopt building codes.

### Eligible Activities

Eligible activities are divided into three topic areas:

**Topic Area 1:** Provides funding to units of local government to adopt and achieve full compliance with the 2021 IECC (commercial or residential), the 2021 IECC zero energy appendix (commercial or residential), ASHRAE 90.1-2019, or subsequent editions of these codes that DOE has determined will improve energy efficiency. Applications must commit to adopting unamended versions of these codes. DOE prohibits amendments beyond those spelled out in Appendix C of the FOA. DOE will make up to 20 awards to support adoption/implementation of the listed base codes and 20 awards to support the listed zero energy codes, with up to \$5 million provided per award, and up to \$90 million available in total—\$45 million for base code awards and \$45 million for zero energy code awards.

**Topic Area 2:** Provides funding to states and units of local government for the adoption and implementation of a building energy code with combinations of strengthening and weakening amendments that achieves equivalent or greater energy savings as compared to the 2021 IECC, 2021 IECC zero energy appendix (Appendix RC or CC), ASHRAE 90.1-2019, or subsequent editions of these codes that DOE has determined will improve energy efficiency. DOE will make up to 10 state and 10 local



awards to support adoption/implementation of amended listed base codes and up to 20 state and 20 local awards to support amended listed zero energy codes, with up to \$10 million provided per base code award and up to \$20 per zero energy code award. \$240 million is made available in total—\$20 million for base code awards for states and \$20 million for local governments, and \$100 million for zero energy code awards for states and \$100 million for local governments.

**Topic Area 3:** Provides funding to states and units of local government for the adoption and implementation of “innovative” building codes, including building performance standards (BPS) for existing buildings or stretch codes for new and renovated buildings. Codes eligible under this Topic Area must be measurable, verifiable, and enforceable and must achieve equal or greater energy savings as compared to the listed base building energy or zero energy code. DOE will make up to 10 awards for state **and** local governments, worth up to \$10 million per award—with \$45 million available in total—for the adoption and implementation of innovative codes that meet or exceed the listed base energy codes. DOE will make up to 100 awards for state **and** local governments, worth up to \$20 million per award—with \$420 million available in total—for the adoption and implementation of innovative codes that meet or exceed the listed zero energy codes.

### **Relevant Deadlines**

Applicants must submit a Concept Paper by February 9, 2024 at 5pm ET to be eligible to submit a Full Application. Entities may submit up to one Concept Paper and Full Application per Subtopic Area. Applications will be accepted in three rounds, but DOE may elect to allocate all available funding in the first round of proposals. The first Full Application submission deadline is April 30, 2024 at 5pm ET.

### **Additional Resources**

DOE is hosting an information webinar on these grants January 17, 2024, at 11:00 AM PT. [Click here](#) to register.

Additional information is available within the associated [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#), an [Q&A Spreadsheet](#), and DOE-provided [Application Forms and Templates](#). The Code Council will post additional code official-specific factsheets and guidance at [iccsafe.org/federalgrants](https://iccsafe.org/federalgrants). Please reach out to us at [federalgrants@iccsafe.org](mailto:federalgrants@iccsafe.org) for additional assistance.