

DOE IRA Funding: Technical Assistance for the Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes or Standards

A future funding opportunity from the Department of Energy (DOE) aims to provide funding and technical assistance to support the adoption and implementation of the base 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) or its zero energy appendices. DOE issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) and Request for Information to announce funding opportunity DE-FOA-0003056, titled "[Technical Assistance for the Adoption of the Latest and Zero Building Energy Codes or Standards](#)." DOE seeks to assist potential applicants in understanding the objectives and benefits of this funding opportunity.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) made two types of funding available to states and units of local governments with authority to adopt building codes and standards:

\$330 million to adopt the latest building energy code, which are the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for residential and commercial buildings or other codes and standards that achieve equivalent or greater energy savings; and \$670 million to adopt a building energy code that meets or exceeds the zero energy provisions in the 2021 IECC code, or other codes and standards with equivalent or greater energy savings.

The sections below highlight eligible activities and how the Code Council can help communities develop a strategy that meets their needs.

- 1. Technical Assistance:** The funding opportunity aims to provide technical assistance to entities interested in adopting and implementing the latest and zero energy building codes or standards. The DOE intends to support selected applicants in navigating the process and overcoming challenges associated with the adoption of the 2021 IECC or similar energy codes, and the zero energy appendices of the 2021 IECC.

For example, The Zero Energy Home Appendix is a convenient way for states and cities to adopt a net zero code now. The appendix is an optional add-on to the 2021 IECC that—if adopted—will result in residential buildings having net zero energy consumption over the course of a year. That is, a home will produce as much energy as it consumes, achieving zero energy usage. Adopting the appendix supports policy goals related to improving energy efficiency, renewable energy use, and our climate.

- 2. Focus on 2021 IECC: The funding opportunity emphasizes the adoption of the 2021 IECC:** The DOE recognizes the importance of this updated code version in promoting energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and improving building performance.
- 3. Benefits of Adoption:** Applicants who receive technical assistance can unlock numerous benefits, including energy savings, reduced utility bills, enhanced building comfort, improved indoor air quality, enhanced resilience, and reduced environmental impact. Additionally, adopting the latest energy codes can drive economic growth, job creation, and local industry development.
- 4. Expert Guidance:** Selected applicants will have access to expert guidance and resources from DOE and the National Laboratories. This support will help applicants understand the technical aspects of the 2021 IECC, including the zero energy appendices, and develop strategies for successful adoption and implementation.
- 5. Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:** The funding opportunity encourages collaboration among stakeholders, such as state and local governments, energy offices, building departments, and industry partners. Knowledge sharing and collaboration can foster best practices, innovative approaches, and successful energy code implementation.



Eligible Entities, Application Structure and Timeline

Potential applicants should carefully review the forthcoming Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for detailed application instructions, eligibility criteria, and deadlines. The FOA will provide specific guidance on how to submit applications for technical assistance under this funding opportunity. The International Code Council can help jurisdictions navigate the application process and formulate implementation projects.

Next Steps

This upcoming grant resources present an opportunity for entities seeking to adopt and implement the latest building energy codes (2021 IECC) or standards, and the 2021 IECC's zero energy appendices to receive significant federal resource support to do so. By participating in this program, potential applicants can benefit from expert guidance, gain a deeper understanding of energy codes, and drive energy efficiency improvements. The adoption of the 2021 IECC and/or zero energy appendices can deliver significant energy savings, economic advantages, and environmental benefits. Stay tuned for the official FOA to take advantage of this opportunity and make a positive impact on the energy efficiency of buildings.

Additional Information

If you are interested in developing a proposal for this or other federal funding opportunities from DOE related to energy codes please contact Stella Carr, Energy and Resilience Project Manager with ICC at energygrants@iccsafe.org to discuss how you can get grant ready and prepare for the right funding opportunity to suit your building and energy code needs.