

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions about grant eligibility

Q: Am I eligible to receive grant funding simply by virtue of having received an IAC and/or CHP TAP assessment?

A: No, having received an assessment is only one of several eligibility criteria. Please review the "Initial Eligibility" section of the attachments above in regard to several eligibility factors.

Q: How do I receive an assessment from an IAC or CHP TAP?

A: To inquire about receiving an IAC assessment, please visit <https://iac.university>. To inquire about receiving a CHP TAP assessment, please visit <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/chp/chp-taps>.

Q: If I didn't receive an IAC or CHP TAP assessment, can I still qualify for IAC Implementation Grants Funding?

A: Potentially, if you've received an assessment from a qualified third-party assessor, then you are eligible to receive IAC Implementation Grants Funding.

Q: Am I eligible to receive grant funding if I meet 1 or 2 out of the 3 elements of the definition of a 'small- and medium-sized' manufacturer?

A: No, you must meet all three elements to qualify for this funding round: 1) gross annual sales of less than \$100 million; 2) fewer than 500 of employees at the assessed plant site; and 3) annual energy bills between \$100,000 and \$3.5 million. Please review the "Initial Eligibility" section of the solicitation announcement in regard to several eligibility factors.

Q: Are additional assessment recommendations (AARs) or appendix recommendations made in an IAC assessment eligible for grant funding?

A: Yes, AARs and appendix recommendations made in IAC assessments are eligible for grant funding.

Q: If my entity is a majority foreign-owned company but has a U.S. subsidiary, can we apply?

A: No, per the solicitation announcement, "To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be organized, chartered or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States; have majority domestic ownership and control; and have a physical place of business in the United States."

Q: My facility is an individual LLC under a larger umbrella company - is eligibility based on the LLC or the parent company?

A: If the manufacturer/facility is an individual LLC that pays separate taxes from the parent company, then the eligibility is based on the LLC. If the manufacturer/facility does not pay separate taxes from the parent company, then the eligibility is based on the parent company.

Q: For the "fewer than 500 employees at the plant size," are part-time employees included or is it solely full-time employees?

A: Full-time, part-time, and temporary employees, as well as employees obtained from a temporary employee agency, are all included in the facility eligibility count.

Q: Is eligibility based on domestic sales or international sales?

A: Eligibility is based on gross annual sales, so the combined total of both domestic and international sales.

Q: Are you considering expanding eligibility to assessments before 2018 in future rounds?

A: At this time, we cannot speculate on future rounds. For more information or latest detail on the IAC Implementation Grants Program, please visit [Industrial Research and Assessment Center Implementation Grants | Department of Energy](#).

Q: If I am ineligible for this grant opportunity, what are other opportunities that may pertain to my company?

A: There are several webpages that list the many other DOE funding opportunities that your company could be eligible for; please reference <https://www.grants.gov/>, <https://infrastructureexchange.energy.gov>, <https://oced-exchange.energy.gov/>, and <https://eereexchange.energy.gov>

Q: If my facility is recently built/developed, am I allowed to use projected energy usage to meet the annual energy bills eligibility requirement?

A: No, the facility must have demonstrated annual energy bills within \$100,000 - \$3.5M to be eligible for the annual energy bills criteria.

Q: Am I allowed to receive funding for recommendations that are already implemented?

A: No, IAC Implementation Grant funding is for recommendations that have not yet been implemented from qualified assessments.

Q: If I have another facility that is very similar to the one assessed, can I apply the IAC report to that facility and get a grant to implement at both facilities?

A: To be a covered project, the project must have been recommended in a qualified energy assessment. As such, only if the energy assessment's recommendation applied across both facilities, then that facility would be eligible to use another facility's IAC report.

Q: Can the university entity that manages an IAC, apply to be a third-party assessor itself for other assessments?

A: Yes, a university that manages an IAC can apply to be a third-party assessor for other assessments.

Q: Are projects that are not listed on the IAC, CHP TAP, or Qualified Third-party assessment report eligible for grant funding?

A: Projects must be listed in the relevant assessment report. Please contact the relevant IAC, CHP TAP, or qualified third-party assessor assessment provide for follow-up assessments or updates to assessment reports.

Q: What companies of a CHP system are eligible for funding?

A: There are no limits on eligibility of CHP providers. Applicants for funding to help procure and implement CHP systems, however, are limited by the same eligibility criteria as those seeking to implement IAC assessment recommendations.

Q: Which criteria are specific to the facility versus the entire business entity?

A: According to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, codified at 42 U.S.C. 17116(a)(6), the less than \$100 million in gross annual sales and annual energy bills of \$0.1-3.5M pertains to the "manufacturing firm," not just to the manufacturing facility of interest. The 500 employees limit, conversely, pertains only to the facility of interest. Note that these requirements are currently codified in law, not determined by the program team.

Q: For the site energy bills, does this include all forms of energy (e.g., electricity, gas, diesel, fuel oil, propane, etc.)?

A: Yes, this includes all forms that the site procures externally to support the facility's energy requirements

Q: Does an assessor that charges for assessments be eligible to qualify as a third-party assessor?

A: Yes, even if an assessor charges to execute assessments for a manufacturer, they can apply to qualify as a third-party assessor for future funding rounds

Q: Can wastewater treatment facilities apply for this funding opportunity?

A: Yes, wastewater treatment facilities can apply provided they meet the eligibility criteria in 42 U.S.C. 17116(a)(6).

Q: Will you have a requirement of "prevailing wage" and what does that mean?

A: All funding opportunities subject to Section 41101 of the IJA (which includes the IAC implementation grant program) must ensure compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act wage rate requirements, which ensure that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work be paid rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the located as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Davis-Bacon Act.") For additional guidance on how to comply with the Davis-Bacon Act wage rate provisions and clauses, please visit: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/governmentcontracts/construction> and <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/governmentcontracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>.

Q: Will manufacturers who received assessments from third-party assessor be eligible for future funding rounds?

A: Yes if those assessors are qualified as "IAC equivalent," per workstream 2 of the solicitation.

Q: Can the host organization of a CHP TAP apply as a third-party assessor?

A: Yes, the host organization of CHP TAP can apply to be a potential qualified third-party assessor.

Questions about the cost share requirement

Q: What are eligible financing options for the required 50% Cost Share?

A: Examples of eligible financing options include: internal capital, Small Business Administration-guaranteed (SBA) loans, loans from private lenders (e.g., banks, VC firms, Community Development Funds), utility rebate programs, and state and local programs in which the funding does not originate from a federal source. For more examples and information, feel free to visit <https://betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov/financing-navigator>.

Q: If an entity/applicant desires to build to implement desired recommendations using a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan, is this an eligible cost share?

A: Yes, SBA-guaranteed loans are an eligible cost share, as long as the lender and SBA also deem it eligible for their lending programs.

Q: Will I be able to use tax credits as a form of cost share?

A: It depends on how the tax credit is realized: if the tax credit is paid out in cash, the tax credit can count towards cost share. However, if the tax credit is a cost avoidance, then it is considered a forgone cost and will not count as cost share.

Q: Regarding the required 50% Cost Share, at what point does an entity/applicant need to assure that cost share is securely in place?

A: The entity/applicant is required to provide written assurance of its proposed cost share contributions in its application. If selected for an award, applicants will be required to provide documentation showing that they will meet cost share requirements. If not, DOE retains the prerogative to rescind award selections.

Q: What are unrecovered indirect costs, and can those be claimed for cost share?

A: Unrecovered indirect cost is "the difference between the amount charged to the Federal award and the amount which could have been charged to the Federal award under the non-Federal entity's approved negotiated indirect cost rate," per 2 C.F.R. 200.306(c). Unrecovered indirect costs may be included as part of cost sharing or matching only with the prior approval from DOE.

Questions about the grants

Q: Is the \$300,000 maximum grant per individual recommendation, assessment, facility or company/manufacture?

A: The \$300,000 maximum grant is per company/manufacture, though it can be spread across several individual projects totaling \$300,000.

Q: Are payments distributed before, during, or after project implementation?

A: Payments are distributed after the 50% cost-share is verified and other program requirements are met, as set out by Statement of Effort (SOE) agreements with awardees.

Q: How will you follow up to ensure project implementation?

A: As laid out in the Statement of Effort, the selectees will be required to fill out reporting documentation regarding progress of funded projects.

Q: Do I report the estimated cost of recommendation implementation from the IAC or CHP TAP report, or should I propose an estimated cost of implementation?

A: Please cite the estimated cost of project recommendation implementation reported in the IAC or CHP TAP assessment. The application includes space to explain additional and updated cost estimates. For any adjusted costs, please refer to the application on how to adjust.

Q: Can Implementation Grants fund implementation labor costs that include members of an IAC team?

A: If the member is simultaneously funded by other federal funding (e.g., the base IAC program funding), then Implementation Grant funding cannot be used to fund that member. However, if the member clearly delineates which hours are spent on implementation labor, the Implementation grants will fund those hours.

Q: Can this grant funding be coupled up with other federal funding opportunities (e.g., REAP)?

A: The IAC implementation grant program does not prohibit applicants from pursuing other federal funding opportunities. However, to receive an IAC implementation grant, applicants must furnish at least 50% of the cost of the covered project, and other federal funds cannot count toward the applicant's share.

Q: Are expenses incurred for eligible projects spent prior to the grant award eligible to be considered under the cost sharing?

A: Expenses that are incurred prior to the award of a grant are considered "preaward costs." Pre-award costs are not generally allowable but can sometimes be authorized by the funding agency during the award negotiation.

Questions about the application process

Q: Does this grant opportunity require a traditional FOA application form?

A: No; the application form is much shorter than a traditional FOA application and will be collected by ENERGYWERX, a partnership intermediary supporting the DOE. You can access the [Workstream 1 \(Implementation Grants\) Form Here](#) and the [Workstream 2 \(Third-Party Assessor Qualification\) Form Here](#)

Q: Can I apply for multiple rounds of grants (e.g. \$150,000 in one round and \$150,000 in a future Round)?

A: Yes; the manufacturer is eligible to receive a maximum of \$300,000 of total grant funding. Therefore, as long as received grant totals across all rounds does not exceed \$300,000, the manufacturer is eligible to apply for multiple rounds of grants.

Q: I understand that IACs should not be filling out the applications directly, but what about vendors or ESCOs that applicants will be using to implement?

A: We require that the manufacturer fill out and submit the application for themselves. However, the SMM is allowed to receive any technical assistance when filling out their applications from any necessary party (e.g., IACs, EnergyWerx)

Q: What is the definition of payback period?

A: Payback period is defined as the amount of time it takes to recover the cost of an investment. In other words, it is the length of time an investment reaches a breakeven point, and is calculated by dividing investment cost by investment savings.

Q: What is the community benefits plan?

A: The community benefits plan is a section of the Project Narrative component of the Workstream 1 application, summarizing the degree to which the proposed project/s will provide a positive environmental and economic benefit to the surrounding community.

Questions about ENERGYWERX

Q: What is ENERGYWERX?

A: ENERGYWERX is a neutral facilitator as a result of a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with the Department of Energy. ENERGYWERX will be coordinating the collection of applications, disbursement of grant funds, and grant management for the Implementation Grant Program.

Q: Why is ENERGYWERX involved?

A: The intent is for selectees to receive a formal Business-to-Business (B2B) Research and Development Agreement (RDA) and Statement of Effort (SOE) as a sub-award (15 U.S. Code, Section 3715) from ENERGYWERX. However, after discussions with the Government, successfully negotiated awards may fall under (but are not limited to) alternate mechanism of awards/interactions with any combination of these categories:

- Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (15 U.S. Code, Section 3710a)
- OTA for research or prototype projects (10 U.S. Code Sections 4021, 4022)
 - An award under 10 U. S. Code, Section 4022 may result in the further award of a follow-on production agreement without additional competition based on successful prototype completion. The Government may make this follow-on production award even if
 - all successful prototype criteria are not fully met during the prototype project.
- Procurement for experimental purposes (10 U.S. Code Section 4023)
- Prizes for advanced technology achievements (10 U. S. Code Section 4025) and/or prize competitions (15 U.S. Code 3719)
- FAR-based procurement contract

Q: What is an ENERGYWERX Objective Strategic Session (OSS)/Office Hours?

A: Interested participants join a virtual, open forum session to engage with Government Partners, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), and other potential applicants regarding the Government's desired focus area(s) of interest.
