



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
15013 Denver West Parkway
Golden CO 80401

September 4, 2024

Zachary Allen
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells Street, Room 603
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3559
zallen@milwaukee.gov

SUBJECT: Selection of Application for Negotiation Under Funding Opportunity
Announcement Number DE-FOA-0003229, Local Government Energy Program:
Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy

Dear Zachary Allen:

We are pleased to provide this update on your application. The State and Community Energy Program (SCEP) within the Department of Energy (DOE) has completed its evaluation of your application submitted in response to the subject Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). The application below has been recommended by the State and Community Energy Programs Office for negotiation of a financial award (**Note: This notification does not guarantee federal government funding, as funding will only be obligated upon completion of successful negotiations.**):

Application: Milwaukee's All-Electric Affordable Net-Zero Energy Homes Project, 3229-1583,
Award Number: DE-SE0001527

Please note: DOE requests all information regarding this selection be kept confidential until DOE has made a public announcement of the selection decision. This selection should not be discussed outside of your immediate project team, and do not disclose this information to anyone else until authorized in writing by DOE. At the time of the announcement, we will provide you with a link to the announcement and inform you that the embargo has officially been lifted via subsequent email. You will then be free to announce your award publicly.

Please note that your award was selected for a reduced funding amount of the proposed award project as follows: federal share \$3,400,000, cost share \$190,000, total project costs \$3,590,000. You may contact the FOA Manager, Mark Jackson, at mark.jackson@hq.doe.gov for additional information.

Receipt of this letter does not authorize the applicant to commence with performance of the project. DOE makes no commitment to issue an award and assumes no financial obligation with the issuance of this letter. Applicants do not receive an award until award negotiations are complete and the Contracting Officer executes the funding agreement. Only an award document signed by the Contracting Officer obligates DOE to support a project.

The award negotiation process may take up to 60 days. The applicant must be responsive during award negotiations (i.e., provide requested documentation) and meet the stated negotiation deadlines. Failure to submit the requested information and forms by the stated due date, or any failure to conduct award negotiations in a timely and responsive manner, may cause DOE to cancel award negotiations and rescind this selection. DOE reserves the right to terminate award negotiations at any time for any reason.

Please submit the information and forms listed below to the Grants Management Specialist, Tameka Colden, at tameka.colden@ee.doe.gov by September 20, 2024. Failure to submit the requested information and forms by the stated due date, or any failure to conduct award negotiations in a timely and responsive manner, may cause the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) to cancel award negotiations and rescind this selection.

Please complete each of the following required forms, which are available on the EERE Financial Opportunities Resources page at <https://energy.gov/eere/funding/eere-funding-application-and-management-forms>. All forms should include the award number in the header.

1. Pre-Award Information Sheet
2. Statement of Project Objectives
3. Budget Justification
4. Letters of Commitment from third parties contributing to cost share, if applicable
5. Copy of your approved Indirect Rate Agreement or a Rate Proposal, following the guidelines in the Sample Indirect Rate Proposal – Pre-Award
6. Copy of the most recent independent Single Audit (for non-profits, states, local governments, and educational institutions) or independent Compliance Audit (applicable to for-profit entities)

Your organization must have an adequate accounting system in place prior to expenditure of any award funds. Please see Accounting System Requirements on the EERE Financial Opportunities Resources page at the link provided below.

For more information on the negotiation process and relevant regulations, please review the “Recipient’s Guide to Negotiating with EERE,” available on the EERE Financial Opportunities Resources page at <https://energy.gov/eere/funding/eere-funding-application-and-management-forms>.

Please note, SCEP’s decision on whether and how to distribute federal funds is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and SCEP must conduct a NEPA review for all proposed project activities prior to authorizing the use of federal funds. Based on information available, SCEP has not issued a final NEPA determination for this project. You should carefully consider and should seek legal counsel or other expert advice before taking any action related to the proposed project that would have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to SCEP completing the NEPA review process.

You may not incur pre-award costs without prior approval of DOE. All pre-award costs are incurred at your risk (i.e., DOE is under no obligation to reimburse such costs if for any reason you do not receive an award or if the award is less than anticipated and inadequate to cover such costs). All costs must be allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the applicable cost principles.

SCEP does not guarantee or assume any obligation to reimburse costs where the costs were incurred prior to receiving written authorization from the Contracting Officer. If you elect to undertake activities that may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to receiving such written authorization from the Contracting Officer, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share. Nothing contained in the pre-award cost reimbursement regulations or any pre-award costs approval letter from the Contracting Officer override the NEPA requirements to obtain the written authorization from the Contracting Officer prior to taking any action that may have an adverse effect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives.

If you are unable to provide the information by the date requested or have any questions concerning the requested information, please contact the Grants Management Specialist listed above.

You will be contacted with a separate invitation to attend an informational webinar regarding federal award requirements and negotiations.

On behalf of SCEP, I would like to congratulate you on your selection for award negotiations. I look forward to working with you to successfully complete award negotiations.

Sincerely,

Laura Merrick
Contracting Officer

cc: Erick Shambarger, Principal Investigator
cc: Brooke Martin, DOE Technical Project Officer
cc: Tameka Colden, DOE Grants Management Specialist