

Main Street Energy Grant Fund Round II
Solicitation No. 2010MainStreet2:
“Providing energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives for
small businesses and industries
with the North Carolina ‘Main Street’ program”
Questions and Answers
July 19, 2010

1. **Question:**
Are buildings located outside a Main Street district, but within a municipality’s corporate limits eligible for Program assistance?
Answer: No. Only energy efficiency initiatives inside the designated Main Street district are eligible.
2. **Question:**
Are previously awarded EECBG grant funds eligible as match funding?
Answer: No. However, other state or federal funds for the project may be used as match.
3. **Question:**
May a municipality be reimbursed for pre-grant expenditures from a NC Main Street Energy Grant Round II award?
Answer: Expenditures prior to award are not eligible for reimbursement.
4. **Question:**
If a municipality pays for application preparation or strategic energy plans, etc., prior to an application award, would these fees count as part of the match requirement for that municipality?
Answer: No, you cannot use application preparation and strategic energy plan preparation as a match. These fees would not be considered a part of the project, but rather they are fees associated with making application.
5. **Question**
Are the preparation of Strategic Energy Plans a pre-requisite to funding?
Answer: Strategic Energy Plans are not a pre-requisite, but having a strategic energy plan does allow for a higher score.
6. **Question:**
If so, and they are to be prepared by one of the SEO List of Technical Assistance providers, how quickly could one of the providers begin work?
Answer: Technical Assistance providers are scheduled daily. How long it takes to do the work would depend on the square footage and type of assistance requested.

7. Question:

Would building renovations to designated historic properties (such as HVAC, energy efficient window replacement, etc.), be deemed categorically excluded from NEPA?

Answer: Historical properties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for both NEPA and SHPO determinations depending on the scope of the project. The NEPA ES1 that is required to make application will assist in that determination early on in the process. Page 10 of the Funding Opportunity outlines eligible projects. For instance, building projects that affect the building envelope, in most cases, would require SHPO Section 106 review, but not necessarily require NEPA approval.

8. Question:

If the Main Street gets a grant under this solicitation, can the investor get the State tax credits?

Answer: You would need to consult with your tax attorney for your particular situation. The Main Street Program or municipality would apply for the grant on behalf of the building owner. The building owner could then apply for the tax incentives available for their particular project. (Senate Bill 388 / S.L. 2010-4)

9. Question:

May the Town submit multiple grants? I would like to submit each Main Street business site and the town hall as separate applications. Is this permissible?

Answer: This round is going to accept one application per Main Street/Town. Separate the projects out in the application ie a separate budget for each project.

10. Question:

Are there restrictions on recipients of Round 1 grants applying for Round 2?

Answer: Round I recipients may apply for Round II. Each application for Round II cannot exceed \$250,000 and the money cannot be used for the same activities within the same project.

11. Question:

I would like to figure out if for Solar Photovoltaics the Main Street Energy Grant allows the Energy to be sold back to the grid (energy production) or if the energy must be used on site via net metering (energy conservation)?

Answer: The energy must be used on site.

12. Question

Are solar hot-water systems considered eligible projects under the Round II? Under Round I it was our understanding that these systems were permitted. However, under the Round II notice the eligible projects list includes reference of only “non-thermal solar photovoltaic panels”. Does this indicate that solar hot-water is ineligible under this notice?

Answer: Based on the language on page 10 of the Solicitation, solar hot-water systems are not eligible under this Round.

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