

## **Request for Expression of Interest:**

### **Response to DOE Funding Opportunity DE-FOA-000148, “Retrofit Ramp-up Program”**

#### **Purpose**

Through this Request for Expression of Interest (REI), the Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG) seeks comments from potential partner communities for an application for funding to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Topic 1, Retrofit Ramp-Up Program, in funding opportunity announcement DE-FOA-000148 (FOA). The DELEG is requesting information from communities interested in serving as pilot locations and partnering with the DELEG in the grant application. This document will be the primary vehicle through which communities can present DELEG their information for consideration. However, it is not a formal request for proposals. The DELEG will use the information gathered through this REI process to inform on-going discussions with public and private sector collaborators, and final selection of community partners.

#### **Background**

The DOE, under its Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, issued a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) on October 12, 2009, to award a total of \$390.04 million under Topic 1, which is for the Retrofit Ramp-Up Program. The DOE anticipates making 8 to 20 awards, with individual award sizes of \$5 million to \$75 million. The goal of this competitive FOA is to stimulate activities that move beyond traditional public awareness campaigns, program maintenance, demonstration projects, and other one-time strategies and projects. The DOE intends to fund programs that stimulate activities and investments that: fundamentally and permanently transform energy markets; sustain themselves beyond the grant monies and grant period; highly leverage grant funds; achieve broader market participation and greater efficiency savings from building retrofits; serve as pilot building retrofit programs demonstrating economy of scale; and serve as examples of comprehensive community-scale energy efficiency approaches that could be replicated in other communities. The DOE is specifically targeting these funds to enable “large-scale programs of ongoing energy efficiency retrofits on residential, commercial, industrial, and public buildings in geographically focused areas” (FOA at 8). The funding announcement can be found at [www.fedconnect.com](http://www.fedconnect.com). For more information on the EECBG Program, visit [www.eecbg.energy.gov](http://www.eecbg.energy.gov).

On behalf of the state of Michigan, and in collaboration with public and private sector partners, DELEG is seeking to develop a statewide framework that is piloted in a limited number of target communities in response to Topic 1 in the funding announcement.

#### **Program Description**

##### ***Partnership and Program Structure***

DELEG envisions a multi-party, collaborative approach to the FOA. The program will leverage programs such as the Weatherization Assistance Program, No Worker Left Behind, Michigan Saves, utility energy optimization plans, and other state and community-level programs in order to coordinate and expand the on-going work to update and upgrade Michigan’s residential, commercial and institutional building infrastructure, build up the skill base, and create jobs.

Other leverage will include contributions from the program participants, and investment by private and public sector partners. The exact format of the application and framework of the partnerships will be formalized once communities and partners have been identified and can participate in the development.

In order to avoid imposing the artificial distinction of “eligible” or “non-eligible,” as defined by the EECBG program, on this long-term program, the state will not consider EECBG status when selecting partner communities. Rather, each community will be considered based on its ability to effect rapid, successful deployment of the program and the opportunity for significant impact and leveraging within that community. The program will be structured so that with time all Michigan communities have access to the funding according to their ability to effectively and efficiently contribute to the objectives of the program through use of the program resources.

## **Community Benefit and Contribution**

Partner communities will benefit from targeted and intensive investment in existing infrastructure in residential properties, businesses, and public facilities. This program approach also offers communities a strategy for coordinating other on-going retrofit, training, and job creation programs, in order to optimize the benefit of each to the communities.

To be considered: communities must identify neighborhoods with mixed income levels and mixed customer class, with significant opportunity to realize energy conservation and savings from energy efficiency upgrades. The communities or their representatives must be capable of organizing and implementing comprehensive neighborhood sweeps, to include low and no-cost energy efficiency adjustments, and home energy evaluations by trained personnel, among other criteria to be determined by the program administrator and project partners.

## **Response Format**

Communities that are interested in partnering with the consortium on the response to the FOA, or collaborating at a later time with the program, are invited to submit an expression of interest that adheres to the prescribed format.

### **Key Information**

Community

County

Authorized Person with contact information Are you currently engaged in preparing an application under this FOA?

Bullets and brief narrative in response to each of the identified categories:

Demographics /Geography

- Description of potential mixed income/sector neighborhoods
  - Urban
  - rural
- Contribution to geographic diversity of the applications

### Integral Characteristics

- Interest and Capacity
- Certified Contractors, and/or training program that certifies, i.e. BPI.

### Partners/Engaged Stakeholders

- Community partners that may help in stimulating uptake
- Partners with programs that may contribute funding or leveraging.

### Deployment Readiness

- Past, existing, or planned relevant energy efficiency projects and activities;
- preliminary steps already take, for example identification of neighborhoods, households or commercial entities signed up
- marketing/ education/outreach campaigns or programs regarding energy efficiency.

Other Input/Characteristics/Ideas that should be considered (no more than ½ page, bullets and/or narrative).

Entire submittal shall not exceed 5 pages in 12 pt font type.

## **Timeline**

The DELEG will accept responses to the REI from November 12, 2009 through November 19, 2009, at noon. Responses may be submitted via email to: Pat Hudson at [HUDSONP1@michigan.gov](mailto:HUDSONP1@michigan.gov).

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact DELEG at any point between now and noon on November 19, 2009, Pat Hudson can be reached by telephone at 517-241-6154.