

## **Inquiries**

### **Michigan Energy Efficiency Grant – Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs for Schools (Request for Proposal dated October 27, 2010)**

**1. Are schools eligible to apply for this grant?**

The applicant must be a non-profit organization and must currently have programs in place and operating that are substantially similar to those outlined in the RFP.

**2. The RFP references the desire to fund projects that "will continue currently operating programs developed by the applicant....." Based on this statement, is the MPSC interested in funding proposals from any party that currently has a program which aligns with the objectives of this RFP OR are you specifically seeking proposals from those who were previously funded through the MIEEG-Renewable Schools program to continue that work? The RFP references extension of existing projects to other schools in several places which implies that.**

The Commission welcomes proposals from nonprofit organizations that currently have programs in place and operating that are substantially similar to those outlined in the RFP. Past receipt of a MIEEG-Renewable Schools grant is not a requirement.

**3. Would plug-in hybrid electric vehicle charging at a school/college qualify for consideration?**

PHEV technology does not qualify for this program. Please refer to Section 9(i) of Michigan Public Act 295 of 2008.

**4. Are start-up organizations eligible for funding?**

The Commission is seeking applications from organizations that already have an administrative mechanism in place to carry out the tasks and objectives of the RFP. The Commission does not intend to fund a project that is not already in place and operating.

**5. Per Section V-H (1) Personnel - Is it intended that legally required Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment compensation be included in the maximum 25% of employee's salary as fringe benefits?**

Yes, legally required Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment compensation are included in the maximum 25% of each employee's salary as fringe benefits.

- 6. If the grants are not restricted to former grant holders, is the primary purpose of this grant to to expand the number of schools and colleges taking part in the program, or is the primary purpose of this grant to offer schools and colleges already in the program continued support?**

This RFP seeks to expand the number of schools receiving services. It is not intended to solely offer continued support to schools already participating in a program.

- 7. Do applicants for this grant have to be current grantees of the MPSC with a similar program, or can it be an applicant that has a similar program, but is funded by another source currently (such as through a utility energy optimization program)?**

Past receipt of a MIEEG-Renewable Schools grant is not a requirement. The proposed project can be one that is currently funded from another source.

- 8. If any applicant with a similar program can apply, does the program have to be operating currently in Michigan, or can it be a similar program that is being implemented in another state?**

The applicant should have programs in Michigan that are currently in place and operating that are substantially similar to those outlined in the RFP. RFP Section I-A, Statement of Purpose outlines the following:

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain proposals for projects that will continue currently operating programs developed by the applicant that design and facilitate the installation and operation of small scale, on-site energy systems using renewable energy sources as defined in 2008 PA 286; MCL 460.10g(g)1 and energy efficiency upgrades at multiple Michigan public and private K-12 schools, community colleges, junior colleges and universities. Proposals should include implementation of educational and community outreach measures developed in conjunction with the applicant's currently operating programs.

- 9. Is a public community college that offers training programs in renewable energy eligible to apply (although we currently don't design and install those systems)?**

The Commission welcomes proposals from nonprofit organizations that currently have programs in place and operating that are substantially similar to those outlined in the RFP. For the purposes of this grant, a public community college is considered a public organization and thus ineligible for funding.

- 10. Our proposal would be for a mobile training vehicle that would provide training in renewable energy installation maintenance. Would that be an eligible project under this RFP?**

It is the responsibility of each organization to determine whether the tasks and objectives of the proposed project are congruent with those outlined in the RFP.

**11. Per V-H Budget (2) Partnering Organizations - Is there information that is required to be provided in letters of commitment?**

There is no specific requirement for the content of the letters of commitment. However, at a minimum the letter should identify the organization's intention to partner with the applicant on the project, discuss the partner's role(s), and indicate the level of financial commitment, if any.

**12. Is the provision of cost share in the budget part of the proposal evaluation?**

Refer to RFP Section VI: Selection Criteria to review the proposal evaluation criteria.

**13. If a public or private organization is not eligible to be the lead grantee, can it partner with another organization that is eligible?**

The prime applicant must be a nonprofit organization that currently has programs in place and operating that are substantially similar to those outlined in the RFP; however, partners may be public or private organizations.

Ultimately, the applicant is required to determine whether they are eligible for funding based on the information included in the RFP.

**14. Is it more beneficial to submit a collaborative RFP response from all potential organizations working together than each individual organization submitting separately?**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine the most efficient or beneficial method for responding to this RFP.