

Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) and Community Scale Pilot Project (CSPP):
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the goal of the Community Scale Pilot Project (CSPP) funding?

A: “Community Scale” refers to *complex projects involving multiple tenants and/or building owners and/or funding sources* grouped together with one or more of the following characteristics:

- Specific geographic area,
- Specific housing type(s), and/or
- Specific demographics.

As defined, Community Scale projects can range from a cluster of single-family houses, 2 (or more) small multifamily buildings, or a large multifamily building.

Q: What is the goal of SERC funding?

A: To expand the Program for *“materials, benefits, and renewable and domestic energy technologies not currently covered.”*

Q: What kind of technologies will SERC funding support?

A: Project ideas, include, but are not limited to:

- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Solar photovoltaic panels
- Solar hot water heaters
- Solar thermal air panels (space heating)
- Distributed energy storage
- Heat pump water heaters
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Super-evaporative cooling systems
- Combination boilers and indirect water heaters
- Small-scale residential wind systems
- Cool roofs
- Masonry spray foam insulation.

Q: What happens if a project goes over budget?

A: DOE only awards a certain amount of money for each project; any overage would not be covered by the grant. In a situation where a budget might be exceeded, Grantees and Subgrantees could reduce the number of units or scope based on the costs issue.

Q: Can projects be single measure projects on previously weatherized homes? Such as installing a ductless heat pump or heat pump water heater?

A: As noted in [Memo 085](#), Community Scale funding is intended to support *“complex projects, combining multiple funding sources for a holistic approach...”*. Single measure projects would not appear to meet this definition. However, it would depend upon the rest of the project and other funds and activities under the proposal.

Q: Do projects/measures need to adhere to the current SIR stipulations and energy modeling?

A: While all regular weatherization rules apply, there is an exception with meeting SIR. SERC does not need to meet the SIR; specifically SERC is for technologies that do not meet the SIR. CSPP does not have this exemption and will still need to adhere to current SIR stipulations.

Q: Can a Grantee submit proposals for more than one funding opportunity such as SERC and E&I?

A: Yes, Grantees may submit proposal for any one or multiple open funding opportunities.

Q: If a Subgrantee lacks experience in a particular technology that one of their partners has experience with, should they submit an application?

A: Yes, a project will be evaluated as a whole.

Q: The Community Scale Pilot Project (CSPP) appears to have \$1.5 million of funding available. Is this the amount available for each Grantee or the total for the entire nation? If for the entire nation how many grants are expected to give?

A: The \$1.5 million is available to fund the total number of CSPP projects for all Grantees combined.

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Once all submitted projects are reviewed, the Department will make their selections based on the highest total score. Then, the Department will determine allocations based on the total number of selected pilots and each project's requested funding level and scope. Upon approval of a response, the Department will amend the Grantee's Program Year 2022 grant to reflect the additional allocations. The number of grants given will depend on the number of applications and projects received.

Q: Can funds from these grants be blended or braided together with other federal funding like LIHEAP?

A: Yes, funding can be blended or braided per any pertinent program rules.

Q: Can SERC funds be used to purchase or build a more robust data system?

A: The purpose of the SERC is *"to expand the Program for 'materials, benefits, and renewable and domestic energy technologies not currently covered."* The purchase or build of a data system would not appear to meet this definition. However, it might be a piece of a larger project and/or a tool that allows for the expansion of materials and renewable energy.

Q: Would SERC or CSPP be more appropriate for deeper energy renovations in Multi-Family Buildings? For example, going to R-40 walls that address thermal bridging at the studs in addition to insulating the wall cavities or installing solar photo voltaic systems.

A: A proposal for deep retrofits could be funded under any open funding opportunity depending on the scope, materials used, partners, and proposal. Consider the funding announcements and submit a proposal accordingly.

Q: Which of funding opportunity is most appropriate for a proposal for home repair/ weatherization readiness type of activities?

A: Weatherization readiness is not included in either SERC or CSPP.

Q: Do these funds require that we use non-profits to deploy projects/pilots?

A: There is no requirement in the SERC or CSPP funding announcement that non-profits are to be used.

Q: Are SERC/CSPP relegated to CFR 440 regulations?

A: SERC and CSPP must follow WAP rules. However, SERC does not need to meet SIR rules or utilize materials in Appendix A.