

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

# Weatherization Assistance Program

## SERC & Community Scale Pilot Project Grants

### Overview

Katy Kujawski and Sasha Tidwell

January 2022



# Overview

---

- **The Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program released two competitive funding opportunities on December 15, 2021.**
  - Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC)
  - Community Scale Pilot Project (CSPP)

# Overview - SERC

- **Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) Grants are authorized per Title IV of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), Section 411(b). (Pub. L. 110–140, title IV, §411(b), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1600,**
  - *if the WAP appropriated funds exceed \$275 million, the Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary may elect to use up to two (2) percent of the amount of funds made available for SERC Grants.*

# Overview - CSPP

---

- **Community Scale Pilot Project (CSPP) Grants, authorized through P.L. 116-260, which was enacted on December 27, 2020, and**
  - *included a set-aside of \$1.5 million to conduct a pilot on community scale projects within the Program.*

# Overview – SERC and CSPP

## SERC Grants

- \$12.3 million
- Funds will be administered through PY2022 grant.
- Emphasis on Justice40 work

## Community Scale Pilot Project Grants

- \$1.5 million
- Funds will be administered through PY2022 grant.
- Emphasis on Justice40 work

**Application plans will be reviewed and scored based on the following mechanism:**

- 1 – Category is not satisfactorily addressed.
- 2 – Category is addressed but lacks sufficient detail.
- 3 – Category is well described and provides sufficient detail.

# Statutory Language: SERC

## (1) In General

- The Secretary may make funding available to local weatherization agencies from amounts authorized under the amendment made by subsection (a) to expand the weatherization assistance program for residential buildings to include ***materials, benefits, and renewable and domestic energy technologies not covered by the program*** (as of the date of enactment of this Act), if the

**State weatherization Grantee certifies that the applicant has the capacity to carry out the proposed activities** and that the Grantee will include the project in the financial oversight of the Grantee of the weatherization assistance program.

# Statutory Language: SERC

## (2) Priority

- —In selecting grant recipients under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to—
  - (A) the expected *effectiveness and benefits* of the proposed project to low- and moderate-income energy consumers;
  - (B) the *potential for replication* of successful results;
  - (C) the *impact on the health and safety and energy costs* of consumers served; and
  - (D) the extent of *partnerships with other public and private entities* that contribute to the resources and implementation of the program, including financial partnerships.

# Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC)

## **SERC Projects can include, but are not limited to:**

- Solar photovoltaic panels
- Solar hot water heaters
- Solar thermal air panels (space heating)
- Tankless/on-demand water heaters
- 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



# “Community Scale”

- “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.

# Justice40 Initiative

## Project plans must include an explanation on:

- The quality and manner in which the *measures incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion* goals in the project; and,
- The extent to which the project benefits *underserved communities*.

DOE defines “underserved communities” as populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the definition of “equity” (E.O. 13985).

# Justice40 Initiative

---

*A new government-wide initiative to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of federal investments to disadvantaged communities.*

More information: [Executive Order 14008](#); [Office of Management and Budget Memo 21-28](#); [Executive Order 13958](#); [DOE Office of Economic Impact and Diversity](#)

# Plan Application Requirements

---

## Format and submission:

Direct entry or PDF upload into PeerNet

## CSPP Application:

<https://peernet.orau.org/Intake/Submission/f6900185-ce82-ec11-817a-0050568131c9>





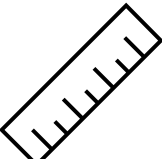
## SERC Application:

<https://peernet.orau.org/Intake/Submission/318c31bd-d282-ec11-817a-0050568131c9>




## Each application must include:

- *Preliminary* review responses.
- Project Plan for the *Secondary* Review
- Letters of Commitment

# Preliminary Review Responses – CSPP Requirements

Preliminary Review Criteria Statements:		CSPP
	Previous experience and ability to pilot or manage complex projects dealing with multiple tenants and/or building owners.	✓
	Integration of diversity, equity and inclusion into the project	✓
	Capacity to expand WAP integration partnerships with state/local counterparts	✓
	Demonstrate experience in delivering services through tested mechanisms to develop, implement, and coordinate a community scale project in a timely manner.	✓
	Verification of capacity and resources – Grantee and Subgrantees information, assurance of monitoring, quality control, etc.	✓

# Preliminary Review Responses – SERC Requirements

Preliminary Review Criteria Statements:	SERC
 <p data-bbox="421 468 1541 572">Ability to pilot or manage complex projects dealing with multiple tenants and/or building owners.</p>	✓
 <p data-bbox="413 739 1580 853">Integration of diversity, equity and inclusion into the project</p>	✓
 <p data-bbox="421 991 1609 1148">Verification of capacity and resources – Grantee and Subgrantees information, assurance of monitoring, quality control, etc.</p>	✓

# Preliminary Responses– Requirements, cont.

Verification of entities' capacity and resources:	SERC	CSPP
a. Name of Grantee, Address of Grantee, and Name of Grantee's Weatherization Director	✓	✓
b. Grantee certification to provide necessary oversight to have the ability to make decisions about local providers that are performing well.	✓	✓
c. List of local weatherization providers/Subgrantee(s) that the Grantee has certified are interested and capable of undertaking projects and have historically met performance goals and resumed WAP operations safely since the onset of the pandemic.	✓	✓
d. Provide certification that Grantee will include the local provider's project(s) in the financial oversight of the Grantee's Weatherization program. <i>See specific certification language in memo.</i>		✓

# Secondary Review Requirements - CSPP

---

---

Focus on equitable accessibility and/or distribution of program allocations to disadvantaged communities;

---

Demonstrates resources to provide the required expertise for the combination of multiple funding sources, Training & Technical Assistance to pilot project partners, if applicable (e.g., braiding funds, eligibility criteria);

---

Demonstrates replicable project design that can be used by the larger Weatherization Assistance Program



# Secondary Review Requirements - CSPP

---

---

Includes clarity and specifics on how the project outcomes and metrics will be collected and measured;

---

Identifies the potential positive impacts for the community to be served (e.g. energy savings, lower energy burden, healthier housing environment, create local job opportunities, etc.)

---

Includes letters of commitment from partners (formed/accessed) in furthering this effort

# Secondary Review Requirements: SERC

Applications that meet the **minimum requirements** will be reviewed and evaluated based on the following criteria.

- Detail how your project(s) will address the **SERC priorities, identified within EISA Section 411(b)(2)**:
  - The expected effectiveness and benefits of the proposed project to low- and moderate-income energy consumers;
  - The potential for replication of successful results;
  - The impact on the health and safety and energy costs of consumers served; and
  - The extent of partnerships with other public and private entities that contribute to the resources and implementation of the program, including financial partnerships.
- **Detail how your project(s) are expanding the Program for materials, benefits, and renewable and domestic energy technologies not currently covered under the WAP.**

# Secondary Review Requirements: SERC

## Additional criteria:

- **Demonstrates a focus on equitable accessibility and/or distribution of program allocations to disadvantaged communities;**
- **Includes clarity and specifics on how the project outcomes and metrics will be collected and measured;**
- **Identifies the potential positive impacts for the community to be served (e.g. increased energy savings, lower energy burden, create local job opportunities, etc.)**
- **Includes letters of commitment from partners (formed/accessed) in furthering this effort.**

# Project Plan Structure | Cover Page

SECTION	SERC	CSPP
<p>Cover Page (pg. limit 1)</p> <p>The cover page must include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project title</li><li>• WAP Grantee point(s) of contact and local weatherization provider/Subgrantee(s) identified for SERC projects</li><li>• Any statements regarding confidentiality</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project title</li><li>• Specific community being addressed</li><li>• WAP Grantee and/or Subgrantee points of contact</li><li>• Names of all pilot project team member organizations</li><li>• Any statements regarding confidentiality</li></ul>

# Project Plan Structure | Project Overview & Goals

## SECTION

## SERC

## CSPP

### Project Overview & Goals (pg. limit 4)

Provide a brief overview of each SERC project, including specifics on why the project(s) is/are a good candidate.

Please include details such as:

- Subgrantee
- Subgrantee's point of contact
- Location of project (urban, suburban or rural)
- Targeted buildings (single family, multifamily or manufactured housing)
- Demographics/population to be served
- Specific Materials/technologies to be installed and why
- Specify any geographic or environmental factors (e.g., isolated community, etc.)
- Goals (e.g., improve buildings, reduce energy costs, etc.)

**DOE Impact:** Discuss the impact DOE funding would have on the proposed project. Explain how DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.

**Project Team:** Include a list of project members and provide evidence that the prime applicant is an existing WAP Grantee or Subgrantee.

**Background:** Discuss the background of your organization, including the history, successes, and any past or current weatherization projects underway which are relevant to community scale projects.

**Project Overview and Goals:** Provide a briefing overview of your community scale pilot project, including specifics on why this community is a good candidate. Please include details such as:

- Location (urban, suburban or rural)
- Targeted buildings (single family, multifamily or manufactured housing)
- Demographics/population
- Geographic or environmental factors (e.g., isolated community, etc.)
- Goals (e.g., improve buildings, reduce energy costs, etc.)

**DOE Impact:** Discuss the impact DOE funding would have on the proposed project. Applicants should specifically explain how DOE funding, relative to prior, current, or anticipated funding from other public and private sources, is necessary to achieve the project objectives.

# Project Plan Structure | Technical Description & Impact

## SECTION

## SERC

## CSPP

### Technical Description and Impact (pg limit 6)

**Feasibility:** Describe the technical feasibility of the proposed SERC project(s) and the identified materials and/or technologies to be used and capability of achieving the anticipated outcomes, including a description of previous work done and prior results.

**Equity Impacts and Benefits:** Identify the projected impacts and benefits on the disadvantaged communities for each project, including social and environmental impacts and how diversity, equity, and inclusion objectives will be incorporated in the project.

**Cost Savings:** Identify what processes/calculations will be used to determine the projected return on investment or payback, and any non-energy benefits included in the calculation.

**Feasibility:** Describe the technical feasibility of the proposed pilot project and capability of achieving the anticipated outcomes, including a description of previous work done and prior results.

**Equity Impacts and Benefits:** Identify the projected impacts and benefits on the disadvantaged communities, including social and environmental impacts and how diversity, equity, and inclusion objectives will be incorporated in the project.

**Cost Savings:** Identify what processes/calculations will be used to determine the projected return on investment or payback, and any non-energy benefits included in the calculation.

# Project Plan Structure | Project Management Workplan

SECTION	SERC	CSPP
<b>Project Management Workplan (page limit 8)</b>	<p><b>Project Objectives:</b> Provide a clear and concise (high-level) statement of the goals &amp; objectives of the project as well as the expected outcomes.</p> <p><b>Tasks and Milestones:</b> For each project goal/objective, identify the specific tasks that need to be accomplished to achieve the objective as well as milestones. Recommend organizing goals/objectives by quarterly performance periods that are separated by discrete, approximately annual milestones. The applicant should describe the specific expected tasks and milestones of each performance period.</p> <p><b>Project Management:</b> Provide the project's proposed management plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The overall approach to and organization for managing the work.</li><li>• The roles of each project team and members.</li><li>• Any critical handoffs/interdependencies among project team members.</li><li>• A description of how project changes will be handled</li><li>• Quality Assurance/Control.</li><li>• Communications strategy among project team members.</li></ul>	<p><b>Project Objectives:</b> Provide a clear and concise (high-level) statement of the goals and objectives of the project as well as the expected outcomes.</p> <p><b>Tasks and Milestones:</b> For each project goal/objective, identify the specific tasks that need to be accomplished to achieve the objective as well as milestones. Recommend organizing goals/objectives by quarterly performance periods that are separated by discrete, approximately annual milestones. The applicant should describe the specific expected tasks and milestones of each performance period.</p> <p><b>Project Management:</b> Provide the project's proposed management plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The overall approach to and organization for managing the work.</li><li>• The roles of each project team and members.</li><li>• Any critical handoffs/interdependencies among project team members.</li><li>• A description of how project changes will be handled.</li><li>• Quality Assurance/Control.</li><li>• Communications strategy among the project team members.</li></ul>

# Project Plan Structure | Technical Qualifications & Resources

SECTION	SERC	CSPP
<b>Technical Qualifications &amp; Resources (page limit 6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Describe each Subgrantee/local weatherization provider's project team's unique qualifications and expertise to implement a SERC project, including those of key team members.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The roles and the work to be performed by each organization.</li><li>Provide copies of letters of commitment or collaboration or any agreements or contracts in place between organizations.</li></ul></li><li>Describe the time commitment of the key team members to support the SERC project(s).</li><li>Describe the project team's existing and leveraged resources that will facilitate the successful completion of the SERC project(s); include a justification of any new equipment requested as part of the project.</li><li>This section should also include relevant, previous work efforts, demonstrated innovations, and how these enable Subgrantee to achieve the project objectives.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Describe the project team's unique qualifications and expertise, including those of key team members.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The roles and the work to be performed by each organization.</li><li>Provide copies of letters of commitment or collaboration or any agreements or contracts in place between organizations.</li></ul></li><li>Describe the time commitment of the key team members to support the project.</li><li>Describe the project team's existing and leveraged resources that will facilitate the successful completion of the proposed pilot project; include a justification of any new equipment requested as part of the project.</li><li>This section should also include relevant, previous work efforts, demonstrated innovations, and how these enable the applicant to achieve the project objectives.</li></ul>



# Q&A

---

## Question:

**Do the projects/measures for SERC or CSPP need to adhere to the current SIR stipulations, weatherization rules, energy modeling, etc.?**

---

## Answer:

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.

---

## Question:

**Can submitted project proposals be for single measure projects on previously weatherized homes? Such as installing a ductless heat pump or heat pump water heater?**

---

## Answer:

**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.**

# Submission

## Deadline:

March 1, 2022

11:59 p.m. Eastern

## PeerNet Submission Links:

### CSPP Application:

<https://peernet.orau.org/Intake/Submission/f6900185-ce82-ec11-817a-0050568131c9>

### SERC Application:

<https://peernet.orau.org/Intake/Submission/318c31bd-d282-ec11-817a-0050568131c9>

Questions?

**QUESTIONS? Email them to [WAPTA@doe.gov](mailto:WAPTA@doe.gov)**