Renew America’s Schools - Informational FOA Webinar

December 6, 2022

2022 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

DE-FOA-0002756
Welcome

This webinar is being recorded and will be published on the EERE eXCHANGE website.

Please note that video and speaking capability has been disabled for attendees.

If you have questions during this webinar, you can use the Q&A feature and all questions and answers will be posted to the Q&A Spreadsheet at a future date to the EERE eXCHANGE website under DE-FOA-0002756.

Live questions will not be answered during the webinar itself.

Please be careful not to submit any language that might be business sensitive, proprietary or confidential.

A copy of today’s slides will be posted on EERE eXCHANGE within 2-3 business days of the webinar.

https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaId06985843-f32c-494e-880a-cb5db6d787a4
 Notice

• NO NEW INFORMATION OTHER THAN THAT PROVIDED IN THE FOA WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE WEBINAR.

• Participation in today’s webinar will not convey any advantages or disadvantages in the application evaluation process.

• Your participation is completely voluntary.
All applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read the Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-FOA-0002756 (“FOA”) and adhere to the stated submission requirements.

This presentation summarizes the contents of the FOA. If there are any inconsistencies between the FOA and this presentation, or statements from DOE personnel, the FOA is the controlling document and applicants should rely on the FOA language and seek clarification by submitting a question to [schoolsFOA@doe.gov].
Renew America’s Schools

Invest in More Efficient, Energy-Saving School Buildings: The Department of Energy (DOE) has launched a $500 million grant program spread across FY22-26 through President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to make public schools more energy efficient.

Renew America’s Schools – Goals

- Facilitate substantial additional investment
- Prioritize schools with high needs
- Minimize administrative burden
- Build enduring capacity in LEAs to maximize impact equitably
Renew America’s Schools – Innovation

Replicable and scalable impacts
Create innovation, sustaining partnerships
Leverage funding and economies of scale
Target disadvantaged communities
Improve occupancy health
Enrich learning and growth
Schools as community assets
Renew America’s Schools

2022 Funding Opportunity Announcement for Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities

DE-FOA-0002756

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOA Issue Date:</td>
<td>November 29th, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission Deadline for Concept Papers:</td>
<td>January 26th, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission Deadline for Full Application:</td>
<td>April 21st, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission Deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments:</td>
<td>May 22nd, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications</td>
<td>Week of June 12th, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations:</td>
<td>June – September 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application.
I. Funding Opportunity Description
II. Award Information
III. Eligibility Information
IV. Application & Submission Information
V. Application Review Information
VI. Award Administration Information
VII. Conclusion
I. Funding Opportunity Description
Background and Context (I.A)

The Office of State and Community Energy Programs is issuing this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). Awards made under this FOA will be funded, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The BIL appropriates more than $62 billion to the Department of Energy (DOE) to invest in American manufacturing and workers; expand access to energy efficiency and clean energy; deliver reliable, clean and affordable power to more Americans; and demonstrate and deploy the technologies of tomorrow through clean energy demonstrations.

This FOA supports the implementation of Section 40541 of the BIL, which provides $500 million for grants for energy improvements at public school facilities for the five (5) year period encompassing Fiscal Years (FYs) 2022 through 2026.
Background and Context (I.A)

The activities to be funded under this FOA to support BIL section 40541:

- enable replicable and scalable impacts,
- create innovative, sustaining partnerships,
- leverage funding and economies of scale,
- target disadvantaged communities,
- improve student, teacher, and occupant health,
- enrich learning and growth,
- prioritize schools that serve as community assets (e.g. neighborhood cooling centers or disaster recovery shelters), and
- are crafted thoughtfully within the context of public school facilities (e.g. procurement restraints, construction windows, etc.).

These projects should maximize the benefits of the clean energy transition as the nation works to curb the climate crisis, empower workers, and advance environmental justice.
Topic Areas (I.B)

Topic Area 1: High-Impact Energy Efficiency and Health Improvements

Topic Area 2: Innovative Energy Technology Packages
Applications Specifically Not of Interest (I.C)

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered (See Section III.D. of the FOA):

- Applications that fall outside the technical parameters specified in Sections I.A. and I.B. of the FOA.
- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the laws of thermodynamics).
- Applications that fall outside the eligible activities described in Section 40541 of the BIL.
- Applications that do not include an LEA and therefore do not qualify as an “eligible entity” under Section 40541(a)(4) of the BIL. See Section III, Eligibility Information for more information.

34 CFR 303.23
General. Local educational agency or LEA means a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties as are recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.
II. Award Information
## Award Overview - (II.A)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Amount to be Awarded</strong></td>
<td>• Approximately $80,000,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Award Amount</strong></td>
<td>• SCEP anticipates making awards that range from $500,000 to $15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types of Funding Agreements</strong></td>
<td>• Cooperative Agreement (a type of grant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anticipated Period of Performance</strong></td>
<td>• 24 to 60 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost Share Requirement</strong></td>
<td>• At least 5% of Total Project Costs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Subject to the availability of appropriated funds*
III. Eligibility Information
Who is Eligible to Apply? (III.A)

As described in Section 40541(a)(3) of the BIL, an eligible entity is a consortium of:

(a) one local educational agency (LEA) and
(b) one or more schools; nonprofit organizations; for-profit organizations; or community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements.
This FOA has a cost share of at least 5% of the total allowable costs.

- **Cash Cost Share**: Encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient or subrecipient(s), for costs incurred and paid for during the project. This includes when an organization pays for personnel, supplies, equipment for their own company with organizational resources. If the item or service is reimbursed for, it is cash cost share.

- **In-Kind Cost Share**: Encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient or subrecipient(s) that do not involve a payment or reimbursement and represent donated items or services. In-Kind cost share items include volunteer personnel hours, donated existing equipment, donated existing supplies.

- **Funds from other Federal Sources**: MAY NOT be counted as cost share. This prohibition includes FFRDC subrecipients. Non-federal sources include any source not originally derived from federal funds. Cost sharing commitment letters from subrecipients must be provided with the original application.

- **Fee or Profit**: Are not allowable as project costs (including cost share) under any resulting award. The project may only incur those costs that are allowable and allocable to the project (including cost share) as determined in accordance with the applicable cost principles prescribed in FAR Part 31 for For-Profit entities and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.
Appendix A – Cost Share Information

How Cost Sharing is Calculated
As stated above, cost sharing is calculated as a percentage of the Total Project Cost. FFRDC costs must be included in Total Project Costs. The following is an example of how to calculate cost sharing amounts for a project with $1,000,000 in federal funds with a minimum 20% non-federal cost sharing requirement:

**Formula:** Federal share ($) divided by federal share (%) = Total Project Cost

**Example:** $1,000,000 divided by 80% = $1,250,000

**Formula:** Total Project Cost ($) minus federal share ($) = Non-federal share ($)

**Example:** $1,250,000 minus $1,000,000 = $250,000

**Formula:** Non-federal share ($) divided by Total Project Cost ($) = Non-federal share (%)

**Example:** $250,000 divided by $1,250,000 = 20%

FFRDC – Federally Funded Research and Development Center aka National Laboratory
Cost Sharing – Types & Allowability (III.B.iii)

Cost share contributions must be:

- Specified in the project budget,
- Verifiable from the prime recipient’s records,
- Necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project.

As all sources of cost share are considered part of total project cost, the cost share dollars will be scrutinized and subject to the same federal regulations as federal dollars to the project. Every cost share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Contracting Officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred.

Additional information will be shared on Cost Sharing under agenda item IX – Appendices.
Compliance Criteria (III.C)

All applicant submissions must:

- Comply with the applicable content and form requirements listed in Section IV. of the FOA;
- Include all required documents;
- Be successfully uploaded in EERE Exchange https://eere-exchange.energy.gov, including clicking the “Submit” button; and
- Be submitted by the deadline stated in the FOA.

DOE will not review or consider submissions submitted through means other than EERE Exchange, submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, or incomplete submissions.
IV. Application and Submission Information
Application Process (IV.A)

The application process includes multiple phases: a Concept Paper phase and a Full Application phase.

Only applicants who have submitted an eligible Concept Paper will be eligible to submit a Full Application.
Concept Papers (IV.C)

Each Concept Paper must be targeted to a specific topic area. The Concept Paper must conform to the requirements listed in the FOA, including the stated page limits.

DOE makes an independent assessment of each Concept Paper based on the criteria in Section V. of the FOA. DOE will encourage a subset of applicants to submit Full Applications. Other applicants will be discouraged from submitting a Full Application. See Section VI.A.

“Statement of Need”

- Community Need
- Facility Needs Assessment
- Fiscal Need Capacity

Concept Papers must be submitted by **5PM ET January 26th, 2023** through EERE eXCHANGE
DOE has developed the “Energy Justice Mapping Tool for Schools” ([https://energyjustice-schools.egs.anl.gov](https://energyjustice-schools.egs.anl.gov)) to help applicants derive relevant needs information on a school-by-school basis.

Applicants must use this tool to generate a report for each facility of the proposed project. All reports should be included with the concept paper and full application submission as a standalone attachment.

DOE has compiled a variety of tools that can be used to assess needs that can be found on the DOE webpage ([https://www.energy.gov/bil/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities](https://www.energy.gov/bil/grants-energy-improvements-public-school-facilities)) under “Related Resources”. Applicants can either utilize these tools to generate a facility needs assessment(s) or include a facility needs assessment(s) performed by a certified professional. Regardless, applicants must include a facility needs assessment for each school addressed in the proposal. All assessments should be included with the concept paper and full application submission as a standalone attachment.

Each Full Application must be limited to a single concept. Full Applications must conform to the following requirements and must not exceed the stated page limits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Required/ Optional</th>
<th>File Format</th>
<th>Page Limit</th>
<th>File Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ii.</td>
<td>Project Narrative including Community Benefits Plan</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF or MS Word</td>
<td>15 pages (max)</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_ProjectNarrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii.</td>
<td>Budget Justification Workbook (SF-424A)</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>MS Excel Workbook</td>
<td>2 pages (including instructions)</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Budget_Justification</td>
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<td>iv.</td>
<td>Resumes</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>2 pages (max)</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Resumes</td>
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<td>v.</td>
<td>Letters of Commitment</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>1 page each (max)</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_LOCs</td>
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<tr>
<td>vi.</td>
<td>Energy Justice Mapping Tool Report(s)</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Energy_Justice_School_Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>vii.</td>
<td>Facility Needs Assessments</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_Facility_Needs_Assessment</td>
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<td>viii.</td>
<td>Community Partnership Documentation</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_CPD</td>
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<td>ix.</td>
<td>SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_App424</td>
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<td>x.</td>
<td>Summary for Public Release</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>1 (max)</td>
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<td>xi.</td>
<td>Summary Slide</td>
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<td>MS Power-point</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>xii.</td>
<td>SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_SF-LLL</td>
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<td>xiii.</td>
<td>Current and Pending Support</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_CPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>xiv.</td>
<td>Authorization for non-DOE/NNSA or DOE/NNSA FFRDCs (if applicable)</td>
<td>Required if applicable</td>
<td>PDF</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_FFRDCAuth</td>
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Full Application must be submitted by 5PM ET April 21st, 2023 through EERE eXCHANGE
Applicants are encouraged to use the “Project Narrative Template” provided. If applicants do not use the template, the Project Narrative must conform to the following content and form requirements. This volume must address the technical review criteria as discussed in Section V.A.ii of the FOA. Save the Project Narrative in a single PDF file using the following convention for the title: “ControlNumber_LeadOrganization_ProjectNarrative”.

1.0 Project Overview

1.1 Background

The applicant should describe the development of their organization, including the history and role of the organization, including the projects and the community involvement.

1.2 Project Goals

The applicant should specify the target for the project and the potential for the project to be replicated elsewhere.
The following is a summary of the Project Narrative. The Project Narrative to the Full Application may not be more than 15 pages, including the cover page, and all citations, charts, graphs, maps, photos, or other graphics, and must include all of the information in the table below. The applicant should consider the weighting of each of the technical review criterion (see Section V.A.ii of the FOA) when preparing the Project Narrative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 Project Overview (~20% of Project Narrative)</td>
<td>The Project Overview should contain Background, Project Goals, and Technical Project Description (Workplan).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 Statements of Need (~20% of Project Narrative)</td>
<td>The Statements of Need should contain: Community Need, Facility Needs Assessment, and Fiscal Need Capacity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 Benefits and Impact (~20% of Project Narrative)</td>
<td>The Benefits and Impact should contain: Benefits Metrics and Community Benefits Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0 Innovation and Scalability (~20% of Project Narrative)</td>
<td>The Innovation and Scalability should contain: Project Innovation and Leveraging Funds and Investments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 Qualifications and Workforce (~20% of Project Narrative)</td>
<td>The Qualifications and Workforce should contain: Qualifications and Expertise, Operation and Maintenance Workforce Training, and Project Management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To foster equitable implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), DOE requests that Community Benefits Plans accompany all agency funding opportunity announcements (FOAs).

The Community Benefits Plan is included within the Project Narrative of the full application. The Community Benefits Plan is based on a set of four core policy priorities:

- Investing in America's workforce;
- Engaging communities and labor;
- Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and
- Implementing Justice 40.
### Full Application – Budget Workbook SF-424A

**Budget Information - Non Construction Programs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Program Function or Activity</th>
<th>Assistance Listing Number</th>
<th>Estimated Unobligated Funds</th>
<th>New or Revised Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Federal (c)</td>
<td>Non-Federal (d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Budget Period 1</td>
<td>81,086</td>
<td>$611</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Budget Period 2</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Budget Period 3</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Budget Period 4</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Budget Period 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Totals</td>
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<td>$6,11</td>
<td>$5</td>
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### Object Class Categories

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grant Program, Function or Activity</th>
<th>Budget Period 1</th>
<th>Budget Period 2</th>
<th>Budget Period 3</th>
<th>Budget Period 4</th>
<th>Budget Period 5</th>
<th>Total (g)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>a. Personnel</td>
<td>$6,16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Fringe Benefits</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Travel</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Equipment</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Supplies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Contractual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 7a-7h)</td>
<td>$6,16</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$6,16</td>
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<tr>
<td>j. Indirect Charges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>k. Totals (sum of 7i-7j)</td>
<td>$6,16</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$6,16</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Program Income</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B – Buy America Requirements

In accordance with Section 70914 of the BIL, none of the project funds (includes federal share and recipient cost share) may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;

2. all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and

3. all construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.
DOE will provide applicants with reviewer comments following the evaluation of all eligible Full Applications. Applicants have a brief opportunity to prepare a short Reply to Reviewer Comments (Reply). **The Reply must not exceed three (3) pages. If a Reply is more than three (3) pages in length, DOE will review only the first three (3) pages and disregard any additional pages.** Applicants may use the Reply to respond to one or more comments or to supplement their Full Application. The Reply may include text, graphs, charts, or data.

DOE will post the reviewer comments in EERE Exchange. The expected submission deadline is on the cover page of the FOA; however, it is the applicant’s responsibility to monitor EERE Exchange in the event that the expected date changes. The deadline will not be extended for applicants who are unable to timely submit their Reply due to failure to check EERE Exchange or relying on the expected date alone. Applicants should anticipate having approximately three (3) business days to submit a Reply.
V. Application Review Information
Review Criteria - Concept Papers (V.A.i)

Concept Papers are evaluated based on consideration of the following factors. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

**Concept Paper Criterion: Overall FOA Responsiveness and Viability of the Project (Weight: 100%)**
This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

The proposed work, if successfully accomplished, would clearly meet the objectives as stated in the FOA including:

- Facility/Facilities demonstrate a facility needs assessment;
- Facility/Facilities serve a community considered high-need;
- Applicant demonstrates a large discrepancy between facility need and fiscal capacity;
- Proposed energy improvements will likely result in significant energy cost savings;
- Proposed energy improvements will likely result in health and safety improvements;
- Project represents an innovation and scalability of technology packages partnership structures and/or financing options; and
- Applicant articulates a feasible plan to execute and maintain improvements.
For Full Applications, applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

**Criterion 1: Need (20%)**

- Degree to which the school facility demonstrates a high need for renovation, repair or improvement due to lack of capital funding;
- Extent to which the project demonstrates a large discrepancy between facility needs and fiscal capacity and ability to fund improvements; and
- Degree to which the project is based in and serves a community of high need (e.g. rural, high percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced priced lunch, tribal, disadvantaged communities (DAC), etc.).
Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion 2: Benefits and Impact (40%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Degree to which the proposed project will likely result in significant energy and cost savings;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Degree to which the proposed project will likely result in health and safety benefits;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Degree to which the proposed project will likely result in significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Degree to which the proposed project will likely result in improvements to student learning and growth; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Extent to which applicant’s Community Benefits Plan illustrates project viability and social risk mitigation through community and labor engagement; investment in the American workforce; diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) goals, and “Justice 40 Initiative” benefits to DAC.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

**Criterion 3: Innovation and Scalability (20%)**

- Extent to which the proposed technology, process, or project is innovative;
- Extent to which the project is scalable both within the applicants LEA as well as how this could be replicable in other LEAs; and
- Extent to which the project leverages additional funds.
Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

### Criterion 4: Qualifications and Workplan (20%)

- The capability of the Project Manager(s) and the proposed team to address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success;
- The qualifications, relevant expertise, and time commitment of the individuals on the team;
- Adequacy, reasonableness, and soundness of the project schedule, as well as annual Go/No-Go decisions prior to a budget period continuation application, interim milestones, and metrics to track process;
- Soundness of a plan to expeditiously address environmental, siting, and other regulatory requirements for the project, including evaluation of resilience to climate change;
- The likelihood that the partnering local educational agency or eligible entity will maintain, in good condition, any school and school facility that is the subject of improvements.
The evaluation process consists of multiple phases; each includes an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review. Rigorous technical reviews of eligible submissions are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the FOA.

The Selection Official may consider the technical merit, the Federal Consensus Board’s recommendations, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available in arriving at selections for this FOA.
VI. Award Administration Information
Registration Requirements (VI.B.i)

There are several one-time actions before submitting an application in response to this FOA, and it is vital that applicants address these items as soon as possible. Some may take several weeks, and failure to complete them could interfere with an applicant’s ability to apply to this FOA, or to meet the negotiation deadlines and receive an award if the application is selected. These requirements are as follows:

1. EERE Exchange
Register and create an account on EERE Exchange at https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov. This account will then allow the user to register for any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE Exchange.

On July 29, 2022*, eXCHANGE was updated to integrate with Login.gov. As of September 29, 2022*, potential applicants are required to have a Login.gov account to access EERE eXCHANGE. As part of the eXCHANGE registration process, new users will be directed to create an account in Login.gov. Please note that the email address associated with Login.gov must match the email address associated with the eXCHANGE account. For more information, refer to the Exchange Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Quick Guide in the Manuals section of eXCHANGE.

- Applicants must designate primary and backup points-of-contact in EERE eXCHANGE with whom EERE will communicate to conduct award negotiations
- It is imperative that the Applicant/Selectee be responsive during award negotiations and meet negotiation deadlines
Registration Requirements (VI.B.i)

2. System for Award Management (SAM)
Register with the SAM at https://www.sam.gov. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called a Marketing Partner ID Number (MPIN) are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.

3. FedConnect
Register in FedConnect at https://www.fedconnect.net. To create an organization account, your organization’s SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf.

4. Grants.gov
Register in Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) to receive automatic updates when Amendments to this FOA are posted. However, please note that Letters of Intent, Concept Papers, and Full Applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Requirement</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td>SAM</td>
<td><a href="https://www.sam.gov">https://www.sam.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>FedConnect</td>
<td><a href="https://www.fedconnect.net">https://www.fedconnect.net</a></td>
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VII. Conclusion
Amendments to this FOA will be posted on the EERE Exchange website and the Grants.gov system. However, you will only receive an email when an amendment or a FOA is posted on these sites if you register for email notifications for this FOA in Grants.gov. DOE recommends that you register as soon as possible to ensure you receive timely notice of any amendments or other FOAs.
Teaming Partner List (I.A.iii)

DOE is continuing to gather information for the “Teaming Partner List,” first presented in the Notice of Intent (DE-FOA-0002858), in order to facilitate the formation of new project teams for this FOA. The Teaming Partner List allows organizations who may wish to participate on an application to express their interest to other applicants and to explore potential partnerships.

Updates to the Teaming Partner List will be available on the EERE Exchange website under this funding opportunity. The Teaming Partner List will be regularly updated to reflect new teaming partners who provide their organization’s information.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Any organization that would like to be included on this list should submit the following information: Organization name, generic organization contact email, generic contact phone, organization type, geographical area of interest, area of technical expertise (bulleted list less than 25 words), and brief description of capabilities (less than 100 words). Interested parties should email the information to SchoolsFOA@doe.gov with the subject line “Teaming Partner Information.”

DISCLAIMER: By submitting a request to be included on the Teaming Partner List, the requesting organization consents to the publication of the above-referenced information. By facilitating the Teaming Partner List, DOE is not endorsing, sponsoring, or otherwise evaluating the qualifications of the individuals and organizations that are self-identifying themselves for placement on this Teaming Partner List. DOE will not pay for the provision of any information, nor will it compensate any applicants or requesting organizations for the development of such information.
Key Submission Reminders

1. Check entries in EERE eXCHANGE
   Submissions could be deemed ineligible due to an incorrect entry

2. DOE strongly encourages Applicants to submit 1-2 days prior to the deadline to allow for full upload of application documents and to avoid any potential technical glitches with EERE eXCHANGE

3. Make sure you click the “submit” button
   Any changes made after you hit submit will un-submit your application and you will need to click the submit button again

4. For your records, print out the EERE eXCHANGE page at each step, which contains the application’s Control Number

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Concept Papers must be submitted by 5pm ET
January 26th, 2023
(Note – Concept Papers are required in order to submit for a full application)

Full Application must be submitted by 5PM ET
April 21st, 2023

https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaId06985843-f32c-494e-880a-cb5db6d787a4

DE-FOA-0002756
Questions (VII)

Upon the issuance of a FOA, DOE personnel are prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with applicants regarding the FOA except through the established question and answer process as described below.

Specifically, questions regarding this FOA must be submitted to: schoolsFOA@doe.gov. Questions must be submitted not later than 3 business days prior to the application due date and time. Please note, feedback on individual concepts will not be provided through Q&A.

All questions and answers related to this FOA will be posted on EERE Exchange at: https://eere-exchange.energy.gov. You must first select this specific FOA Number to view the questions and answers specific to this FOA. DOE will attempt to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar question and answer has already been posted on the website.

Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov.
### Question 1.1

**Question:** What types of projects are eligible?

**Answer:**
- See FOA Section 1.B.
- Projects contemplated under this topic area will include energy improvements that result in direct reduction to school energy costs, increase energy efficiency, and lead to improvements in teacher and student health, including indoor air quality. Energy cost savings may be realized by reduced loads and/or by demand reduction and demand response approaches.
- These high impact energy improvements may take the form of whole schools or portions of schools improved on a topic by topic, whole facility envelope, air conditioning systems, ventilation systems, heating systems, HVAC systems, hot water heating, distribution systems, lighting, power systems, and/or controls. Applicants are encouraged to package multiple improvements to benefit savings and carbon reductions (Section 1.A.5 Topic Areas 2).

### Question 1.2

**Question:** Where can we receive guidance on the types of projects that are appropriate to our buildings, and which would strengthen our applications?

**Answer:**
- For an overview of application expectations, see FOA Section 1.A.
- The proposed work, if successfully accomplished, would clearly meet the objectives we outlined in the FOA, including:
  - Existing or new facilities demonstrate a facility needs assessment.
  - Applicant demonstrates a community commitment.
  - Proposed energy improvements will likely result in significant energy cost savings.
  - Proposed energy improvements will likely result in significant energy cost savings.
  - Project demonstration innovation and scalability of technology packages for building structures and financing options.

To identify site-specific impacts of specific upgrades, see the School Needs and Benefit Assessment Resources page.

### Q&A Spreadsheet

[Q&A Spreadsheet](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx#FoaId06985843-f32c-494e-880a-cb5db6d787a4)

DE-FOA-0002756
THANK YOU

Renew America’s Schools – FOA Webinar

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)