Informational Applicant Webinar: Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program §48(e)

Office of Economic Impact and Diversity September 29, 2023





Welcome!

This webinar is being recorded and will be published on the DOE's Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program website:

www.energy.gov/diversity/low-income-communities-bonus-credit-program





Webinar Presenters



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Disclaimer

- Today's webinar provides an overview of the implementation of the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program. It is not a substitute for official IRS guidance on the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program. This webinar will not cover all requirements of the Program, and as such participants should refer to the official IRS information on eligibility requirements and the application process.
- The information provided in this webinar should not be considered tax advice or tax filing support. Please consult a tax professional, accountant, or attorney if you need tax-related assistance.





Today's Agenda

- 1. Program Overview
- 2. Application Selection Process
- 3. Application Process Overview
- 4. Program Resources
- 5. 2023 Program Year Timeline





Program Overview





2023 Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program

- August 10, 2023: Program Final Regulations and Revenue Procedure for 2023 Program Released
- September 27, 2023: Announcement of Application Openings
- October 19, 2023 through Early 2024: 2023 Program Open for Applications
- Q2 2024: 2024 Program Opens





Highlights of Final Regulations and Revenue Procedure

Definitions

- Definition of Facility
- Energy Storage Technology Installed in Connection with Solar or Wind Facility
- Financial Benefits for Category 3 and Category 4 Allocations
- "Located in"

Program Requirements and Structure

- Project Placed in Service After Allocation Award
- Selection Process
- Additional Selection Criteria
 - Ownership Criteria
 - Geographic Criteria
- Capacity for Residential Behind the Meter Facilities Located in a Low-Income Community
- Application Materials
- Documentation and Attestations to Be Submitted at Application and When Placed in Service
- Post-Allocation Compliance





Program Overview

- The Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program under §48(e) of the Internal Revenue Code provides a process to apply for an allocation of Capacity Limitation that increases the existing §48 energy investment credit by 10 or 20 percentage points for qualified solar and wind facilities < 5 MW-AC.
- DOE will review applications and make recommendations to the IRS, which will allocate up to 1.8 gigawatts (GW) of solar and wind direct-current (DC) capacity per year.





Facility Categories

 For calendar year 2023, the total annual Capacity Limitation of 1.8 GW will be divided among the four categories as follows:

Category	Allocation (megawatts)	Tax Credit Percentage
(1) Located in a Low-Income Community	700	10%
(2) Located on Indian Land	200	10%
(3) Qualified Low-Income Residential Building Project	200	20%
(4) Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Project	700	20%

 Refer to the IRS Publication, Rev. Proc. 2023-27 for the full definition and requirements of each program category.





Program Goals

The program prioritizes the following goals:

- Increase adoption of and access to renewable energy facilities in lowincome and other communities with environmental justice concerns.
- Encourage new market participants.
- Provide social and economic benefits to individuals and communities that have been historically overburdened with pollution, adverse human health or environmental effects, and marginalized from economic opportunities.





Additional Selection Criteria

- For Program Year 2023, at least 50 percent of the total capacity in each program category will be reserved for qualified facilities meeting certain Additional Selection Criteria.
- Facilities may qualify for Additional Selection Criteria based on Ownership or Geography.





Additional Selection Criteria – Ownership Criteria



Ownership criteria
The ownership criteria is based on characteristics of the applicant that owns the qualified solar or wind facility.

- Tribal enterprise
- Alaska Native Corporation
- Renewable energy cooperative
- Qualified renewable energy company
- Qualified tax-exempt entity

 Refer to the <u>IRS Final Regulations</u> for the definition and requirements of ownership Additional Selection Criteria.





Additional Selection Criteria – Geographic Criteria



Geographic criteria
The geographic criteria is based
on the county or census tract
where the facility is located.

- Persistent Poverty County
- Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) Energy Category

• Refer to the <u>IRS Final Regulations</u> for the definition and requirements of geographic Additional Selection Criteria.





Application Options

Category and Application Option	MW	MW
(1) Located in a Low-Income Community - Eligible Residential Behind-the-Meter (BTM)	245	
(1) Located in a Low-Income Community - Eligible Residential BTM – Additional Selection Criteria	245	
(1) Located in a Low-Income Community - Other Eligible LI Community Project	105	700
(1) Located in a Low-Income Community - Other Eligible LI Community Project – Additional Selection Criteria	105	
(2) Located on Indian Land	100	200
(2) Located on Indian Land - Additional Selection Criteria	100	200
(3) Qualified Low-Income Residential Building Project	100	
(3) Qualified Low-Income Residential Building Project - Additional Selection Criteria	100	200
(4) Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Project	350	
(4) Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Project - Additional Selection Criteria	350	700





Application Selection Process





Application Selection Process

- The 2023 Program Year begins on October 19, 2023, at which time applications may be submitted for all four categories via the Applicant Portal: www.eco.energy.gov/ejbonus
- Applications submitted within the first 30-days will be treated as submitted on the same date and at the same time.
- If at the conclusion of the 30-day period any category sub-reservation is oversubscribed, a lottery will take place.

Rolling application submissions continue until Initial 30-day Lottery determines the 30-day application close of program year period **Applicant Portal** order applications window closes submitted during 30opens 9am EDT midnight EST day window are 10/19/23 11/18/23 reviewed





Application Selection Process – Category 4 Example

Category and Application Option	MW	MW
(4) Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Project	350	700
(4) Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Project - Additional Selection Criteria	350	700

- Applications for Category 4 are submitted within the first 30 days:
- **Scenario 1**: Fewer than 350 MW of ASC applications are submitted. The 350 MW carve-out is maintained for future ASC application submissions within the program year. If non-ASC applications exceed 350 MW, a lottery will take place for those applications to determine review order.
- Scenario 2: More than 350 MW but less than 700 MW of ASC applications are submitted. ASC takes review priority over non-ASC applications and a lottery will take place for non-ASC to determine review order if the combined capacity is over 700 MW.
- Scenario 3: More than 700 MW of ASC applications are submitted. ASC takes review priority over non-ASC applications and a lottery will take place for ASC to determine review order.





Application Selection Process- Category 4 Example

days	Review Order	Ownership ASC	Geographic ASC	Explanation
30	1	Yes	Yes	Applications meeting both Ownership and Geographic criteria will be prioritized ahead of applications meeting only Ownership or Geography.
Initial	2	Yes	No	Ownership and Geography are weighted equally. No
4	3	No	Yes	prioritization is given for applications that meet more than one qualifier for Ownership or Geography (i.e.,
Category 4	4	Yes	No	owner is an Alaska Native Corporation <i>and</i> a Renewable Energy Cooperative).
ate	5	No	No	Applications that do not purport to meet additional
S	6	No	No	selection criteria are ranked last and reviewed only if there is remaining capacity.

• REMEMBER, this ordering is only done if there is oversubscription within the first 30 days. All applications that are received after the initial 30-day window are ordered based on their submission timestamp.





Program Capacity Dashboard

 A publicly available Program Capacity Dashboard will be available on the Applicant Portal after the initial 30-day period to show the remaining capacity for each Application Option.

Category Type Application Option Total Capacity (MW) Approved Allocations (MW) Applications Pending Allocation (MW) Capacity Remo				Capacity Remaining (MW)		
rategory type		Application option	Total cupacity (mm)	Approved Anocations (mirr)	representation of change relocation (mrs)	Capacity Namaning (mrs)
Category 2		Located on Indian Land	100	1	21	7
Category 2		Located on Indian Land - Additional Selection Criteria	100	13	19	6
Category 3		Qualified Low-Income Residential Building Projects	100	2	108	(
Category 3		Qualified Low-Income Residential Building Projects - Addt'l Selection Criteria	100	4	10	8
Category 4		Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Projects	350	3	12	33
Category 4		Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Projects - Addt'l Selection Criteria	350	6	13	33



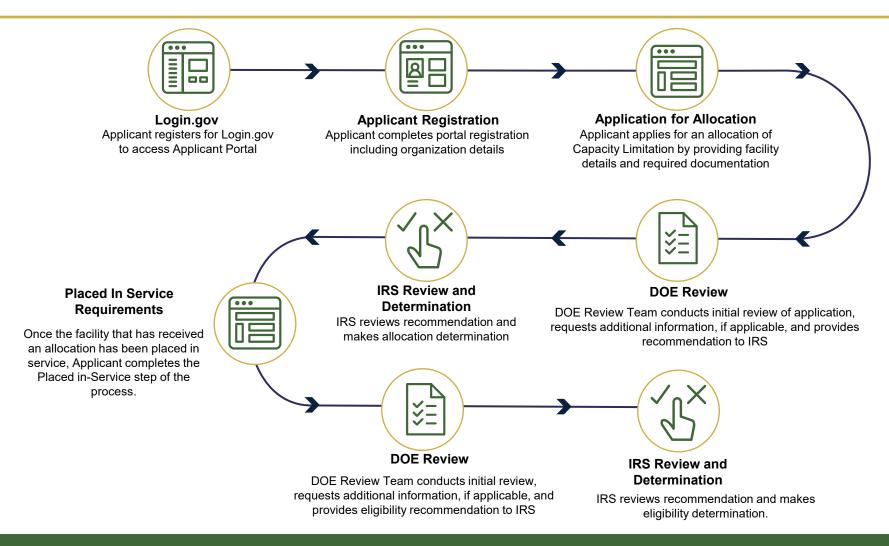


Application Process Overview





Application Process Overview

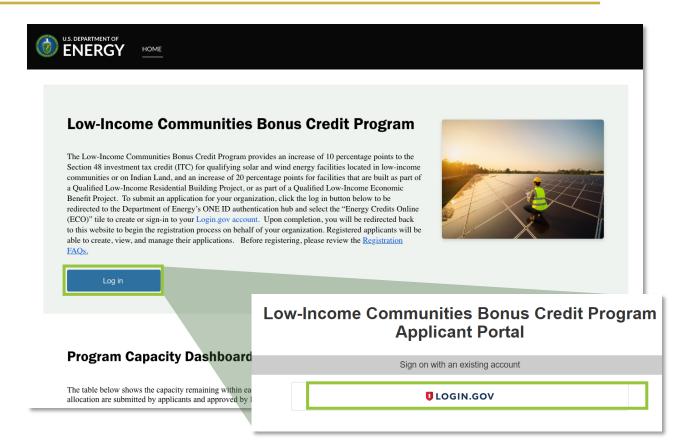






Registration Requirements

- The applicant must be the organization that owns the solar or wind facility.
- The individuals who apply for an allocation of Capacity Limitation on behalf of their organization must have the legal authority to do so.
- To register for the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program, applicants must create a Login.gov account. Dual-factor authentication setup is required.
- Navigate to the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program Applicant Portal landing page and select Log In to begin account setup and registration.
- It is highly recommended to use an email address associated with the organization for which you are applying.







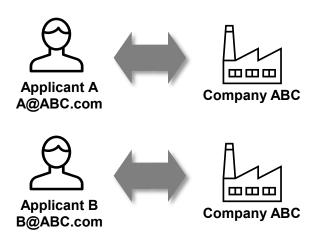
Registration Requirements

- Upon logging into the Portal for the first time, you will agree to the Privacy Notice and complete the registration process.
- Required Information includes:
 - First and Last name of organization contact
 - Secondary organization contact
 - Legal organization name and contact information
 - Parent Organization (if applicable)
 - Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) that you plan to use for tax filing purposes
 - Organization Address
 - Organization Type
 - Confirm if your organization is eligible for elective payment

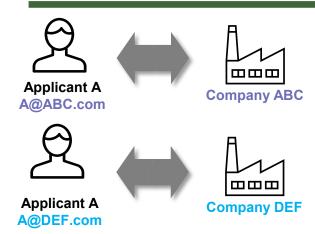




Important Registration Information



- Multiple registered applicants can create and submit different applications on behalf of one organization, but individuals from the same organization currently cannot access each other's applications.
- Organizations submitting multiple applications for different facilities should carefully coordinate to ensure duplicate applications for the same facility are not submitted.



 A Login.gov account can only be tied to one organization in the Portal. To submit applications on behalf of multiple organizations, an individual must create separate Login.gov accounts and have separate email addresses for each organization.





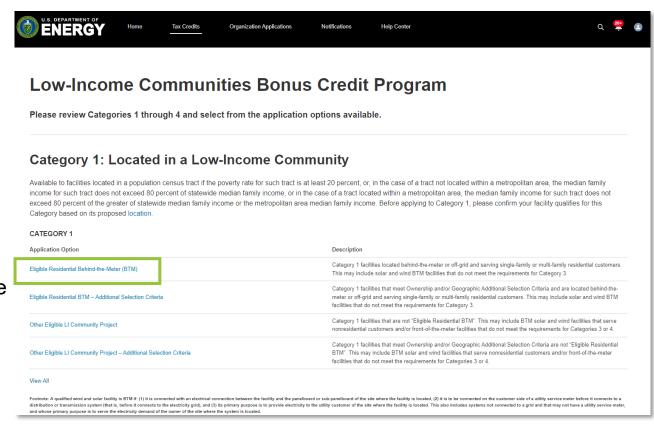
Application Process Overview

Application for Allocation



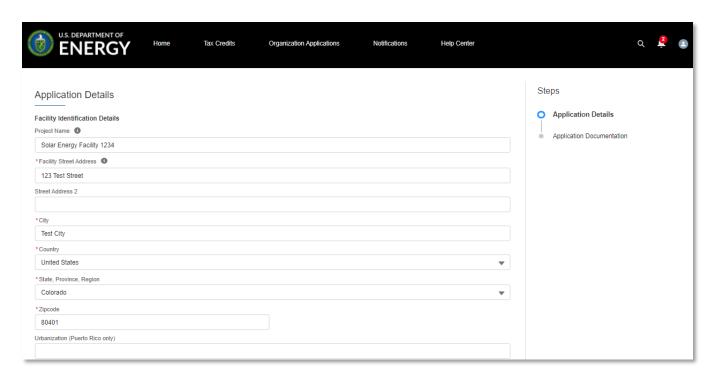


- Once registered, Applicants may view descriptions of each category:
 - Category 1: Located in a Low-Income Community
 - Category 2: Located on Indian Land
 - Category 3: Qualified Low-Income Residential Building Project
 - Category 4: Qualified Low-Income Economic Benefit Project
- Each category has application options (e.g., Eligible Residential Behind-the-Meter (BTM), Eligible Residential Behind-the-Meter (BTM) – Additional Selection Criteria, etc.).
- Applicants will select the applicable category and application option link for their energy facility.





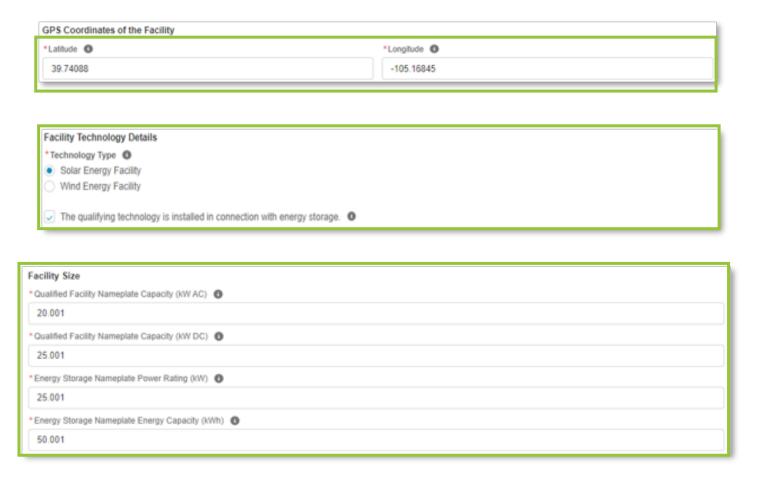




- Each application must be for an individual facility, and facility identification details must be provided.
- If an applicant's solar or wind facility does not have a physical street address at the time of application, they should enter "NA" in the Facility Street Address field. Applicants are still required to enter City, State, Country, and Zip code.







Applicants are required to provide:

- Latitude and longitude coordinates of their facility to at least five (5) decimal places.
- Facility Technology Details
- Facility Size
- Some fields are conditionally required based on the user's selections.





- Applicants will complete the Facility
 Usage section by selecting the
 applicable Customer/Offtaker Type, Ownership Model, and Point
 of Interconnection.
- Customer/Off-taker Type and Point of Interconnection selections are dependent on the category and application option selected.
- If an applicant selects an application option with Additional Selection Criteria, you will be prompted to select the eligible ownership and/or geographic type.

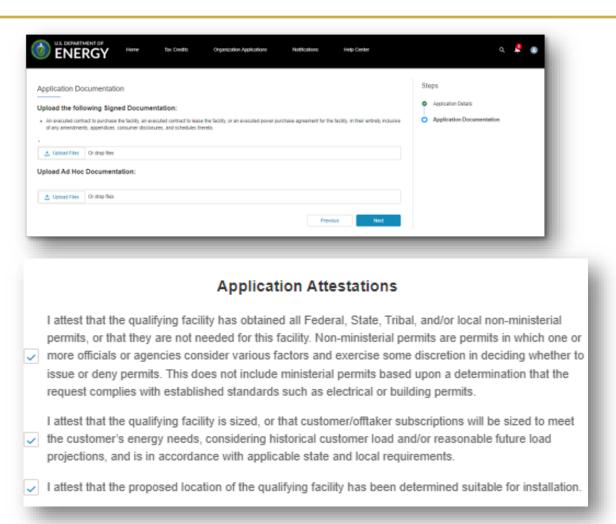
Facility Usage	
*Customer/Off-taker Type Single Family Residential	
Multifamily Residential	
Ownership Model The applicant is the owner of the energy facility and will not have contracts or subscriptions with separate c	ustomore/offtakore
The applicant is the owner of the energy facility and will have contracts or subscriptions with separate customers. The applicant is the owner of the energy facility and will have contracts or subscriptions with separate customers.	
Point of Interconnection (1)	
Behind the meter Off-grid	
*Additional Selection Criteria	
Facility is owned by a Tribal Enterprise	
Facility is owned by an Alaska Native Corporation	
Facility is owned by an Alaska Native Corporation Facility is owned by a Renewable Energy Cooperative	
Facility is owned by a Renewable Energy Cooperative	

Facility is located in an eligible CEJST census tract





- Applicants will complete the Application Documentation section by uploading all required documents.
- The last step is to select each checkbox for each required attestation and submit the application.
- Documentation and attestation requirements are dependent on facility type. Refer to the Program Guidance for details.

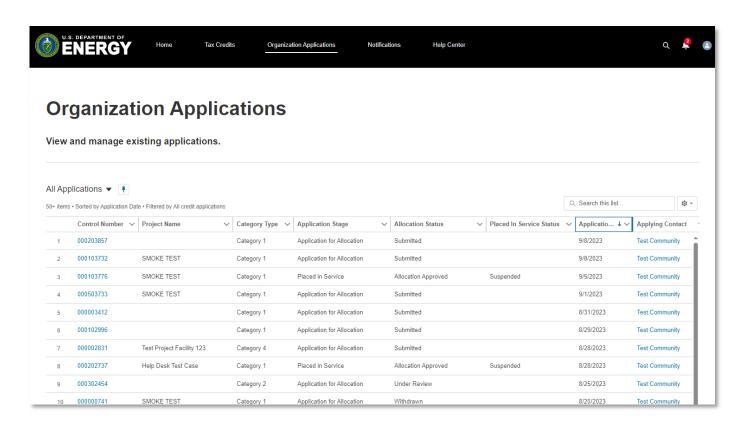






Application Process Overview - List View

- Every application that an individual creates will show up in a searchable list view under the "Organization Applications" tab of the Portal.
- A unique Control Number is assigned to each application.

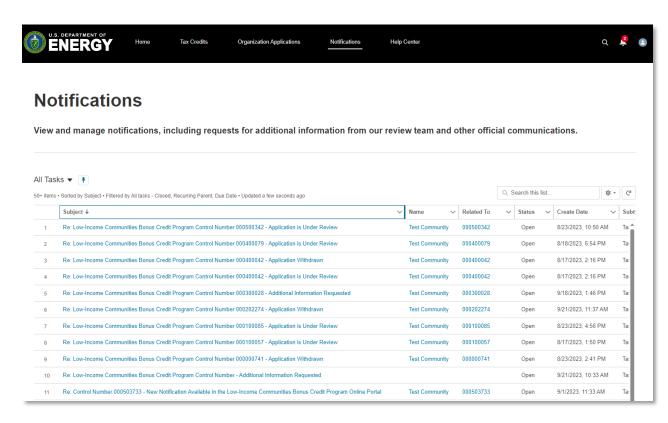






Portal Notifications

- Applicants will receive an email each time that they have a new notification in their Applicant Portal.
- The Notifications link on the navigation bar is used to view and manage all notifications for applications created by the applicant.
- DOE may issue a request for additional information. Information and/or documentation satisfying the request must be submitted via the Applicant Portal no later than 21 business days from the date of the notice or the application may be withdrawn.

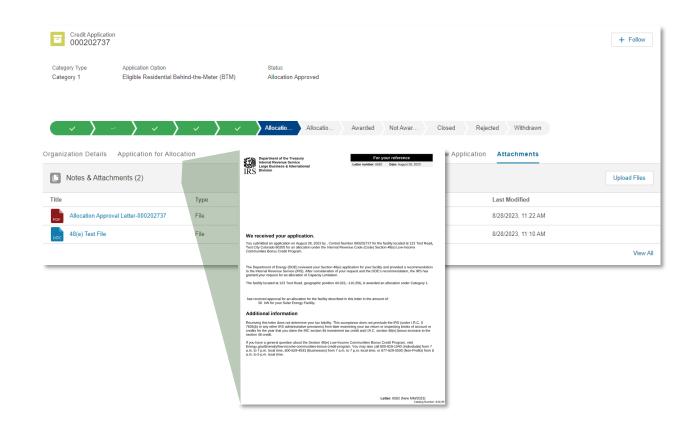






IRS-Issued Letters

- Applicants will receive a notification when the IRS has made a determination on their application.
- Applicants can view any official IRS allocation approval or denial letters in the Attachments tab of their Application for Allocation record.
- IRS approval or denial letters are only available in the Portal – they are not mailed.







Successor in Interest

- A Capacity Limitation allocation award applies only to the facility included in the application, and taxpayer who applied for and received an allocation award for that facility.
- If taxpayers want to request a transfer of an allocation to a new owner of the same facility, they may email the program administrator to initiate this request and provide required documentation including but not limited to the ownership transfer agreement.
- The successor taxpayer must be registered in the Applicant Portal.
- Transfers of the 48e Capacity Limitation may only occur after the facility has been allocated a Capacity Limitation award and before the facility is placed in service.
- A Capacity Limitation allocation award may not be transferred to a different facility.





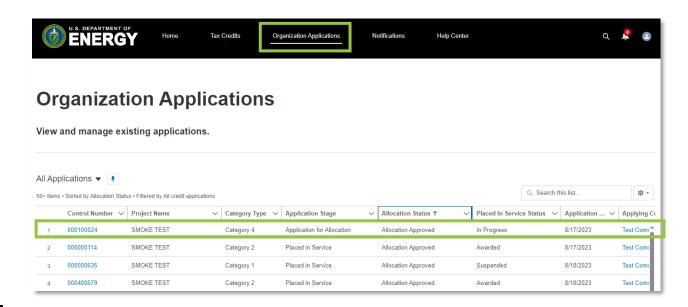
Placed in Service Requirements





Application Process Overview - Placed in Service

- Applicants are required to submit additional information once their energy facility is placed in service.
- Navigate to Organization
 Applications and select the
 Control Number of the facility
 that has been placed in service.

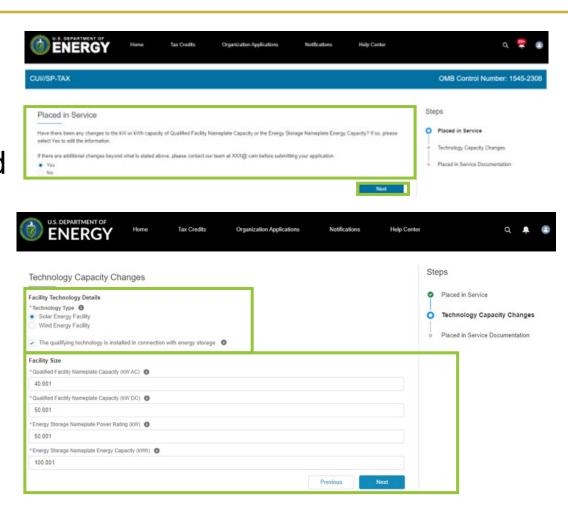






Application Process Overview - Placed in Service

- Applicants will be instructed to review their original application.
- All final nameplate capacity values provided must correspond with the required supporting documentation (i.e. PTO letter) and should not be rounded.
- Only certain non-material changes are allowed at the Placed-in-Service stage.







Application Process Overview - Placed in Service

- Applicants will complete the documentation section by uploading all required documents.
- The last step is to check each required attestation and submit the information for review.
- When IRS has completed its review, applicants will receive a notification that IRS has issued an eligibility or disqualification letter that can be found within the Applicant Portal.
- If the IRS issues an eligibility letter, the applicant may claim the energy percentage increase on their applicable tax filing form.
 - To make an elective pay election, additional steps are required. See IRS.gov/electivepay for more information.





Capacity Modifications at Placed in Service

• Capacity Increase: If the facility size is larger than the allocated capacity (but still below 5 MW AC), the 10 or 20 percentage point increase will be reduced by a reduction factor.

% Reduction Factor = Capacity Limitation Allocated (kW) / Total Nameplate Capacity Installed (kW)

Example:

A Category 1 facility with a \$300,000 cost basis receives an allocation for 100kW and 125kW is placed in service.

Reduction Factor = 100 kW / 125 kW = 80%

Credit increase based on original allocation = \$300,000*10% = \$30,000

Adjusted Credit increase = \$30,000*80% = \$24,000

Capacity Decrease: The percentage award is maintained if the facility size is reduced by
no more than the greater of 2 kW or 25% of the allocated capacity, however larger
reductions will result in disqualification.





Disqualification at Placed in Service

The application may also be disqualified after receiving an allocation if any of the following occurs:

- Facility location changes;
- Facility cannot satisfy the financial benefits requirements for Category 3 or Category 4;
- Facility is not placed in service within four years of allocation award;
- Facility received an allocation based on meeting the Ownership Criteria and the ownership of the facility changes prior to the facility being placed in service such that the Ownership Criteria is no longer satisfied (see the <u>IRS</u> <u>Final Regulations</u> for certain exceptions).





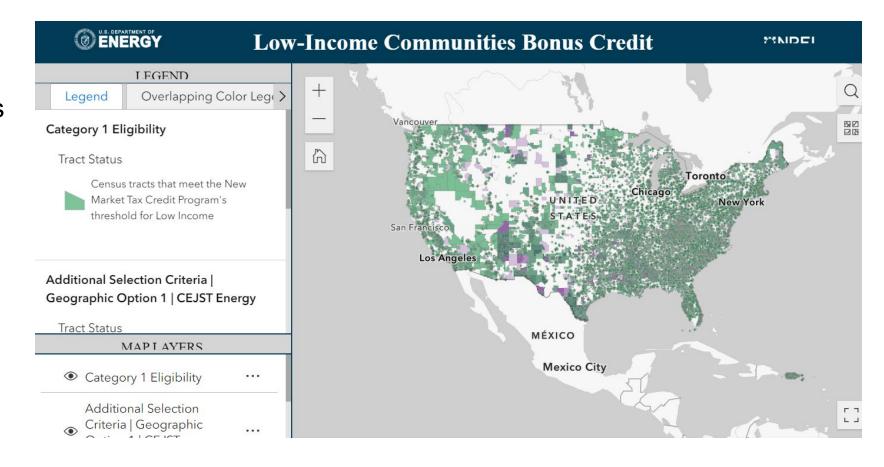
Program Resources





Program Resources – Public Mapping Tool

A public mapping tool has been created showing census tracts that meet Category 1 Low-Income Community eligibility and geographic Additional Selection Criteria: Persistent **Poverty Counties and** the CEJST "Energy" Category.







Program Resources – Public Mapping Tool

- The Category 1 maps are identical to the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) maps.
- Program provided mapping resources are not available for Category 2.
- The CEJST map includes 8 categories of burden. Only the "Energy" category is eligible for Additional Selection Criteria.
- Data from all three sources are updated over time.
- DOE will publish the underlying shapefile layers of the map and an excel data file of census tracts to increase program information accessibility.

Disclaimer: The mapping tool is intended for geolocation purposes. It should not be relied upon by taxpayers to determine eligibility for the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program.





Program Resources – Support Desk

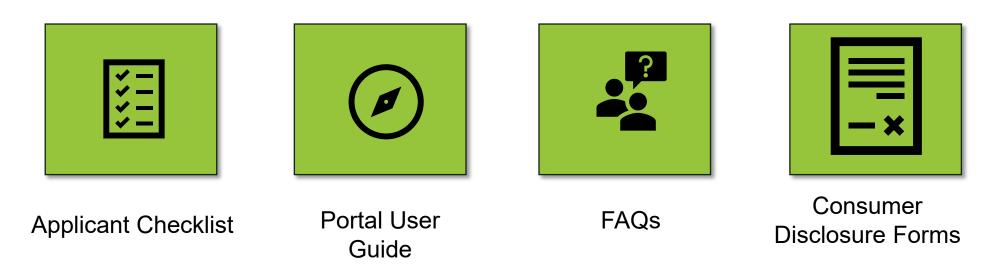
- Applicants and interested stakeholders may email the program administrator for program related questions and Applicant Portal assistance at EJBonusSupport@hq.doe.gov
- There is no dispute process for capacity allocation denial decisions or for determinations of ineligibility at the placed in-service stage.
- The DOE and/or IRS will not provide tax advice. Any questions requesting tax-related guidance or tax filing support should be directed to the applicant's tax professional, accountant, or attorney.





Program Resources – Additional Documents

 DOE's Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program website will host a variety of helpful program resources, including:



www.energy.gov/diversity/low-income-communities-bonus-credit-program





Program Timeline





2023 Program Timeline

9/29

- Informational Webinar
- Applicant Checklist published

9/29

Support Desk Opens



 FAQs, User Guide, and webinar recording published



- Applicant Portal Opens
- Initial 30-day application window begins

11/18

- Last day of 30-day application window
- Rolling application submissions may continue

11/20

- Lotteries are conducted (if applicable)
- Program Capacity Dashboard published

IRS Allocation letters will begin to be issued as soon as possible this calendar year.





Thank you!

We look forward to your participation in the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program.

EJBonusSupport@hq.doe.gov



