

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRUST FUND GRANT PROGRAM

## Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) FAQs

**I am a homeowner that receives housing assistance through a local, state or federal program. I want to make energy efficiency improvements in my home. Am I eligible to receive these funds?**

No. Only public housing authorities, units of local government or nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive funds through the Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant program.

Under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) the Illinois EPA Office of Energy will administer two programs focused on home efficiency rebates and home electrification and appliance rebates. These programs are not yet operational as funding from the U.S. Department of Energy is still being processed. Details about these programs will be published to the [Energy Rebates webpage](#). Homeowners are encouraged to visit the webpage to sign up for the Illinois IRA Home Energy Rebates listserv to receive email updates as these programs become available.

**What is an energy efficiency assessment and how do I obtain one?**

An energy efficiency assessment is a report produced by a professional energy assessor that reviews a property's current energy usage and makes recommendations to reduce energy consumption. Common recommendations include adding insulation to attics or walls, sealing and insulating ducts in unconditioned spaces or installing efficient technologies like smart thermostats or ENERGY STAR appliances. Local utilities may conduct energy efficiency assessments or help you identify a local company with qualified assessors. An energy efficiency assessment must be completed prior to application for the Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Grant Program. A copy of the assessment report is a required part of the application materials submitted to Illinois EPA Office of Energy. Review the Notice of Funding Opportunity for more detailed information.

**What is a "dwelling unit"?**

A dwelling unit means a house or apartment used to provide living accommodations in a building or structure. Dwelling units differ from accessory units (such as a laundry room or media center) in a structure because they are intended for sleeping and living by a single family. Please refer to the NOFO for more details about eligibility criteria related to dwelling units.

**My property is in an area served by ComEd or Ameren. Is my property eligible to participate in this grant program?**

There are no restrictions for properties inside any particular utility's service area. All properties meeting the eligibility criteria may apply for funds. The Illinois EPA Office of Energy encourages applicants to check with their utility provider for utility rebate opportunities to increase efficiency or to obtain an energy efficiency assessment.

**I am a private landlord that accepts section 8 housing vouchers for my single-family properties. Am I eligible to receive these funds?**

No. Only public housing authorities, units of local government or nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive funds through this grant program.

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**How are funds distributed for this grant program?**

Grantees will retain contractors to perform work for the proposed project. Grantees will then submit detailed invoices from the retained contractor to Illinois EPA Office of Energy once a month for payment directly to the grantee. The grantee will then use these funds to pay contractors. Proof of payment from the grantee to the contractor must be submitted to Illinois EPA. Proof of payment may include a canceled check or similar documentation from the grantee's financial institution.

**What is the "communication plan" requested as part of the application?**

Applicants are asked to provide a structured plan for communicating with residents about the proposed project. Communication plans should outline how you intend to inform residents about the project, what benefits residents will receive as a result of completion of the project, what is required of residents and when project activities will take place. Communication methods may include holding an in-person meeting, posting flyers on doors or sending recorded phone messages to residents alerting them of impending construction or limited use of parts of the property. It is suggested that grantees utilize multiple methods of communication at documented intervals to ensure all residents are aware of the project and its impact.

**Do I need to comply with Prevailing Wage laws to participate in this program?**

Yes. Funds awarded by this program must comply with the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 *et seq.*). All contracts for construction must require that no less than prevailing wage be paid to all workers.

**I have additional questions about the application process or eligible projects.**

Contact Rebecca Luke with the Illinois EPA Office of Energy at 217-558-8145 or via email at [Rebecca.j.luke@illinois.gov](mailto:Rebecca.j.luke@illinois.gov).