



Efficient & Resilient Public Buildings Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions • September 4, 2026

The Office of Energy maintains this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to share a consolidated and accessible information source to interested parties. This FAQ resource will be updated regularly, so potential applicants should check back for the latest information.

What is an energy efficiency assessment or energy audit, and how can I obtain one for my building?

An energy efficiency assessment, or energy audit, is a report prepared by a qualified energy assessor that evaluates how a building uses energy and identifies opportunities to reduce consumption. Recommendations often include improvements such as adding insulation to attics or walls, sealing and insulating ducts in unheated or uncooled areas, or installing efficient devices such as smart thermostats or ENERGY STAR appliances. The local utility may offer energy efficiency assessments or refer you to a qualified local company. For this program, the assessment or audit report should include information on both the energy savings in kilowatt-hours or therms and the dollar savings for each described energy conservation measure. Applicants are required to upload a copy of the assessment or audit report in the Euna Grants portal.

I received an energy efficiency assessment from my local utility. Can I apply for this program?

Yes. Assessments conducted by a utility are acceptable as long as the energy efficiency measures you intend to pursue are identified in the assessment report. This program will only fund energy efficiency measures identified in an energy efficiency assessment or energy audit.



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How will the Office of Energy select applications for funding?

This is a competitive award program. Applications will be evaluated based on the cost-effectiveness of the project. Cost-effectiveness is defined as the total state dollars invested per estimated kilowatt-hour saved. Total energy savings (can be therms converted to kwh savings) must be from the proposed energy conservation measures identified in an energy audit.

Are school districts eligible to apply for funds?

No. School districts are not eligible to receive funds through this program.

I am a contractor/energy service provider. Can I apply for funds for my clients?

No. Contractors cannot apply for funds on behalf of their clients. Only eligible units of local government may apply. Award recipients will select contractors through their standard procurement process. Contractors are encouraged to share information about the program with clients in Illinois, but only eligible organizations may submit applications.

Are community colleges eligible to apply for funds?

Yes, Community colleges are eligible to apply for this program.

What sort of project activities can be funded under this program?

Only energy efficiency measures identified in an energy efficiency assessment or audit conducted in the last 5 years OR a transfer switch will be funded under this program. Some examples of energy efficiency measures that might be included in an application include, but are not limited to:

- High Efficiency domestic appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, stoves etc (Energy Star, SEER2 ratings or similar performance factors)
- Insulation and air sealing



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- High Efficiency Windows (U factor of 0.30 or lower)
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment (including technologies such as geothermal, advanced inverters, heat pumps, ductless mini-splits etc.)
- LED Lighting
- Programmable thermostats

A transfer switch does not need to be identified in an energy efficiency assessment or energy audit to be included in project activities. Proposed project activities may include both energy efficiency measures and a transfer switch, if desired.

What is a transfer switch?

A generator transfer switch is a key device for safely connecting backup power to your building's electrical system. The transfer switch connects your building to an emergency generator, keeping it separate from utility power. This stops the generator from sending electricity back into utility lines, which helps protect utility workers and equipment. The NEC (National Electrical Code) requires that you use a transfer switch that is listed and approved by your local authority with any permanently installed generator. Using transfer switches helps buildings better handle the challenges of climate change.

Can ERPB projects fund a generator?

No. Generator purchases are not eligible for funding, even if recommended in a building energy efficiency assessment or audit. However, the program can fund the purchase and installation of a transfer switch, which allows a building to safely switch from utility power to a generator during an outage.

Can I include solar installation in my application for funds?

No. Solar installations are not considered an eligible energy efficiency measure under this program, even if it is identified in an energy efficiency assessment or energy audit.



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What is cost match?

Cost match refers to the portion of the project expenses paid by the grantee using their own funds, separate from the program award. Matching funds are typically shown as a percentage of the total award. For more details, check the program information in Euna Grants.

Are new construction projects eligible for funding?

No. Funding is limited to existing buildings with an energy efficiency assessment completed within the last 5 years.

I have read the program details available at the Efficient and Resilient Public Buildings Program webpage but I still have questions. What do I do?

You can send an email to EPA.Energy@illinois.gov.