



ENERGY AND MINERAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE FUND PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Effective upon adoption on August 24, 2020

The following guidelines are designed to assist potential applicants in applying for and receiving funding from the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF or Impact) program. Any organization applying for a grant in this program will be required to describe how the project for which funding is being requested has been well planned, evaluated, and supported by the local governing body.

Potential applicants are required to contact their respective Regional Manager prior to applying for funding. Please visit the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) website at [DOLA Regional Managers](#) where contact information for Regional Managers can be found.

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EIAF Grant Program Purpose

The Department of Local Affairs' Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund program was created to assist political subdivisions that are socially and/or economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels. Funds are derived from the state severance tax on energy and mineral production and from a portion of the state's share of royalties paid to the federal government for mining and drilling of minerals and mineral fuels on federally-owned land. The creation of the fund is outlined in C.R.S. 34-63-102 (Federal Mineral Lease [FML]) and C.R.S. 39-29-110 (Severance Tax Fund). Grant dollars are awarded for the planning, construction, and improvement of public facilities, and for the provision of services by political subdivisions.

DOLA's intent in administering this grant program is to conduct it as outlined in State statutes utilizing a philosophy of supporting rural local governments that need financial and technical resources to promote sustainable community development, and to increase the livability and resilience of communities through strategic investments in asset-building activities. The most successful applications into this program are those that:

- demonstrate urgency and local commitment to complete the project;
- show that the project is a high priority for the community;
- are prepared to start work quickly;
- demonstrate a relationship to, and address, energy and mineral industry impacts;
- demonstrate alignment with Resiliency Prioritization criteria; and
- demonstrate financial need.

Grants are meant to strengthen community governance through technical assistance, planning, and construction. Applicant projects can range from community strategic plans, comprehensive or master plans and land use codes, and the construction of community capital assets.

The following parameters are taken into consideration when assigning severance tax and FML dollars:

- Local governments must disclose whether they can receive severance tax funds without impacting their TABOR limits. If severance funds cannot be used, DOLA may assign FML dollars.
- Counties will not receive FML dollars due to the impact of those dollars on the organization's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments.
- Statewide locations with FML production in the area and enterprise operations are prioritized when assigning FML dollars.
- An enterprise fund may request severance dollars, however, the local government must evaluate the impact of these dollars to the enterprise status before these funds will be assigned by DOLA.

Eligibility

Political subdivisions of the State of Colorado (local governments) and regional Councils of Governments are eligible to apply for grants through this program. Local governments must be in compliance with all laws and provisions governing their operations as well as in compliance with all Department of Local Affairs programs prior to receiving an award.

Educational Institution Eligibility

Given the demand from local governments for limited grant funds, applications from higher education institutions and school districts (K-12) are generally not successful when reviewed with local government applications as there are other grant sources available specifically to them. Prior to any application, requests from K-12 school districts should consider the parameters below:

- School districts should seek funding for design and construction through the Colorado Department of Education or, in the case of energy efficiency projects, the Colorado Energy Office, or other funding sources before applying to this program.
- DOLA will give preference to support facility improvements that create a needed community asset available for broad public use. Collaboration with local governments in the development of these types of project applications is strongly encouraged and an inter-governmental agreement must be in place before grant contract execution. For example, school buildings often function as community centers for social events, as recreational centers, and as community libraries or service centers for outreach assistance for the elderly or at-risk families. The use of the building as a community asset must be formally agreed to by the local government and the school district.
- Applicants requesting support for capital facilities to be used exclusively for K-12 or higher education activities (classrooms, administration buildings and sport complexes) are not competitive.

State Agency Eligibility

State agencies are eligible to apply for and receive assistance from a portion of the Energy and Mineral Impact Fund derived from Federal Mineral Leasing revenues as found in C.R.S. 34-63-102(7). State agencies must have legislative spending authority if an FML grant award is made. However, per statute (C.R.S. 34-63-102(7)(b)), state-supported institutions of higher education that provide job training or facilities related to energy development for counties or communities with energy impacts may expend moneys from the Local Government Mineral Impact Cash Fund without separate legislative authority.

State agency requests must have the support of benefiting local governments and meet one or more of the following conditions:

- The project must have a direct benefit or service to local governments and, if an award is made, an inter-governmental agreement must be in place before grant contract execution;

- The project addresses the impacts of energy and mineral development at the local, regional, or statewide level;
- The state coordinates efforts related to the planning or implementation of mitigation activities that relieve the impacts of energy/mineral development; and
- Communities have identified the need for state involvement in the solution of local problems that may extend beyond municipal, county, or regional jurisdictional boundaries.

Financial Assistance

Local governments applying for a grant are required to consult with their Regional Manager and communicate their intent to seek DOLA funding support prior to the submittal of any application.

Discretionary Grants

Administrative Planning Grants (up to \$25,000; 50/50 match; total project limit \$100,000)

- Applications for administrative planning grants are accepted and approved administratively as long as funds are available. Project types include preliminary design, engineering, or feasibility studies. Project requests are reviewed by the Program Manager who formulates a recommendation for final action by the Executive Director.
- A letter of request signed by the Chief Elected Official is required, addressing the following:
 - The project scope;
 - A budget and timeline;
 - Financial need;
 - Project urgency and readiness to begin work;
 - The energy and mineral impact; and
 - Jurisdiction's financial data.
- Administrative grant requests should be sent directly to the Regional Manager. Do not apply for Administrative Planning Grants through the DOLA Grants Portal.

Tier I Grants (up to \$200,000; 50/50 match)

- Applications for Tier I grants are reviewed, rated, and recommended for funding by Program and Regional staff, reviewed and recommended by the Energy Impact Assistance Committee, and then forwarded to the DOLA Executive Director who makes the final decision on grant awards. Applications are generally due each year on April 1, August 1, and December 1. Please check the [DOLA website](#) for application deadlines as they may have changed.

Tier II Grants (over \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 depending on fund availability; 50/50 match)

- Applications for Tier II grants are reviewed by Program and Regional Staff prior to review in a hearing before the Energy Impact Assistance Advisory Committee where they are scored. The Advisory Committee then makes a recommendation for funding. That recommendation is reviewed by program staff prior to forwarding to the DOLA Executive Director who makes the final decision on grant awards. Applications are generally due each year on April 1, August 1, and December 1. Please check the DOLA website for application deadlines as they may have changed.

Supplemental Award Requests

Supplemental requests are amendment requests that seek to add additional funds to an existing contract. This funding is not intended for projects that increase the original scope of the award or the number of activities undertaken. No more than one-half of the original award amount may be requested for a supplemental award and any funding will be made on a dollar for dollar match basis except in cases of extreme financial hardship. Supplemental funding may be suspended in times of significant Impact program revenue declines or availability.

Review of these requests will follow either the Tier I or Tier II process depending on the amount of the request. If the requested additional funds take a Tier I project over the Tier I \$200,000 limit, that request will then be processed as a modified Tier II request. For those requests, a group of three Regional Managers, the DOLA Financial Assistance Director, the DOLA Deputy Director and the EIAF Program Manager will review and make a recommendation that will be provided to the Executive Director for final determination. Requests for supplemental funds must be sent to the respective DOLA Regional Manager and:

- detail the applicant’s financial conditions, and
- be in reaction to and address one or more of the following situations:
 - unforeseen, unanticipated, extraordinary circumstances;
 - funding need is exacerbated by regionalized contractor/supplier access barriers;
 - will mitigate an emergency or hardship;
 - need is time-sensitive;
 - applicant has no other funds available to complete project; and
 - applicant has exhausted all other remedies to complete project.

Emergency Funds

Colorado communities experiencing disasters may request emergency grant funding through this program. A local emergency may include the unexpected or early closure of energy and mineral extraction activities.

Written requests for emergency funds must detail the applicant's financial conditions and be provided to the respective DOLA Regional Manager. Requests must include a letter from the Chief Elected Official requesting the funding and must be in reaction to and address one or more of the following situations:

- Significant negative impact on public health, safety, and/or welfare that the requested funding will address;
- A description of the emergency situation resulting from the disaster and the number of people affected;
- Unforeseen or unanticipated circumstances;
- The need for funding is time-sensitive and/or an opportunity to mitigate a future emergency will be missed (not merely delayed) without these funds;
- Local resources to address the emergency have been exhausted;
- Details on a federal, state, or locally declared disaster.

Prior to awarding and contracting emergency funds, DOLA will follow a process for requests up to \$200,000 that includes review and recommendation by the DOLA Financial Assistance Director, the DOLA Deputy Director and the EIAF Program Manager. That recommendation would then be forwarded to the Division of Local Government (DLG) Director prior to review and final determination by the DOLA Executive Director. For requests exceeding \$200,000, the request will be reviewed by Program Staff and the Energy Impact Assistance Advisory Committee for recommendation prior to a funding determination by the Executive Director.

If approved, funding will be provided only up to the amount necessary to address the immediate threat or alleviate the immediate crisis. This allows the local government time to develop a more comprehensive plan to address the situation as well as access other funding resources that may be used to implement project elements outside of the immediate emergency response.

Statewide Initiatives

The requirements for special statewide initiatives are based upon established program criteria and additional criteria that may be established to meet the initiative's intent. Typically, a set-aside of funds is made and criteria for the initiative are posted on the DOLA website. All initiatives are reviewed by the Energy Impact Assistance Advisory Committee before they are adopted. Some initiatives are funded administratively, some require partnership with other state agencies, and some must go through the Advisory Committee for a hearing, depending upon urgency or other program guidelines. Please see Appendix B (page 24) of these Guidelines for details on current statewide initiatives.

For information on current initiatives, please visit the DOLA [website](#) or contact a [Regional Manager](#) for more information.

Matching Dollar Requirements

All Tier I, Tier II and administrative grant requests require 50/50 matching funds from applicants unless extreme financial hardship is demonstrated, or another allowance is made by project type. For example, matching requirements may be reduced for statewide initiatives based on the program purpose. Projects that provide more matching funds receive a higher rating and may be more successful in receiving grant funding. Matching funds are considered to be any cash and/or in-kind dollars brought to the project by the applicant. For further information, review the scoring criteria table on page 11 of this document.

While a cash-only match is considered most competitive, DOLA recognizes the need for in-kind contributions. Please discuss any proposed in-kind match with your Regional Manager prior to submittal of an application to ensure that what is being proposed is eligible. Such in-kind contributions must be included in the project application and have a documentable value. Additionally, an applicant must demonstrate financial need or a significant project savings achieved by using in-kind rather than cash match. Labor costs which are regular employee activities and any administrative time managing the grant **will not** be considered as in-kind match.

In order for in-kind match to be considered:

- An example of an eligible in-kind contribution is an employee who would typically only be performing maintenance duties working on a special road or infrastructure project.
- The request must be part of the application.
- The in-kind match must be included in the contract between the grantee and DOLA.
- The applicant must provide a fee schedule for the activity (staff wage rate, etc.).
- Any in-kind work claimed must be clearly documented and must correspond with the fee schedule.
- Donated or discounted professional services may be considered if the pledge is documented in the application.

Tangible property as in-kind match

- Land purchased within the previous 12 months may be used as in-kind matching funds. Land purchased more than 12 months prior to a grant application cannot be used as in-kind match, but will be considered in the project's "local effort" score. Applicants are encouraged to note land purchases completed in advance of a project to ensure they are ready to complete work, should funding be awarded.
- Indefeasible right of use (IDU) which is a legal agreement for the assignment of property such as strands of fiber optic lines, may be used as a match if purchased within the previous 12 months from the date of application.

Application Form

Applications to this program are made through the Division of Local Government [Online Grants Portal](#). Local governments must create an account on this system and in the event of a grant award, the Grants Portal will be used for contracting, reporting and reimbursements during the life of the contract.

Applications to the discretionary grant cycles for this program will generally be open on the DOLA Grants Portal for a one month timeframe. For example, an application cycle may open on September 1st and remain open through midnight October 1st. Applications can be worked on and “in progress” during that month but applications do need to be submitted by the application closing date/time.

Editable versions of the most current applications for this program are on the DOLA [website](#). Because the application is routinely revised, applicants should first download the Word version of the application from the DOLA website and review it prior to working in the Grants Portal. It is recommended that applicants complete the majority of your application in this downloadable version prior to copying and pasting your work into the Grants Portal.

High Performance Certification Program

Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S. 24-30-1305.5) requires all new facilities, additions, and renovation projects that meet the following criteria to conform to the High Performance Certification Program (HPCP) policy adopted by the Office of the State Architect (OSA):

- The project receives 25% or more of state funds; and
- The new facility, addition, or renovation project contains 5,000 or more gross square feet; and
- The building includes an HVAC system; and
- In the case of a renovation project, the cost of the renovation exceeds 25% of the current property value.

The HPCP requires projects that meet the criteria to achieve third party verification with the target goal of LEED Gold or Green Globes-Three Globes. Projects that meet the criteria must complete the DOLA registration and tracking process. Please visit DOLA’s HPCP web page at [High Performance Certification](#). In instances where the achievement of LEED Gold or Green Globe-Three Globes certification is not possible, an applicant may request a modification of the HPCP policy or a waiver, if certain conditions exist. DOLA staff will work with applicants to identify workable solutions to meet the program’s intent to maximize energy efficiencies.

Local government applicants must review and complete the HPCP Section of the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund application. If the proposed project meets the HPCP criteria, the applicant should also complete and submit the HPCP registration form and checklist along with the grant application.

State Historic Register-Listed Properties

All applicants requesting funds for projects listed on the State Register of Historic Properties must indicate in their application that History Colorado, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) is engaged in the project before applying for a grant. Prior to awarding a grant for a state-listed site, DOLA will seek a determination of effect

from the OAHF via official board action—no grant dollars can be awarded by DOLA without a determination of effect being completed first.

Application Deadlines

Administrative Planning Grants

Administrative Planning grants are accepted throughout the year while funds are available. All Administrative Planning grant requests must be submitted to the respective Regional Manager. If awarded, DOLA staff will enter the project into the DOLA Grants Portal.

Discretionary Grant Program

Generally, Tier I and Tier II applications are due each year on April 1, August 1, and December 1. Please review the current Tier I and Tier II application cycles on the [DOLA website](#) as the application cycle is subject to change.

Statewide Initiatives and Emergency Funds

Application deadlines for initiatives and emergency funds are as shown below:

- Emergency requests: no application deadline, available upon request
- Supplemental requests: as requested by a grantee with an active DOLA contract
- Broadband requests: no application deadline, available year round
- Councils of Governments: within discretionary Tier I and Tier II cycles
- Renewable and Clean Energy Initiative requests: within discretionary Tier I and Tier II cycles

Potential applicants should visit the DOLA website for details or contact a Regional Manager for further information.

Application Development, Review and Rating

Program Staff and Regional Managers

It is important to involve your area's Regional Manager in the early stages of any project for which you expect to submit a grant application; in fact it is a requirement to contact your Regional Manager prior to submission of any application. DOLA Regional Managers are available to assist in project development and application preparation. Upon receipt of an application, the Regional Manager and DOLA staff may meet with the applicant to discuss the project and assist in preparing an evaluation of the application against program rating criteria.

Energy Impact Assistance Advisory Committee

The Energy Impact Assistance Advisory Committee reviews recommendations for Tier I applications and conducts a review of Tier II applications at a public hearing. At Tier II hearings, applicants present their grant request and respond to questions from the Committee. Following the presentation, the Committee will make its recommendation to

DOLA's Executive Director who is responsible for the final funding decision. Hearings are typically held annually in March, July, and November. Please review the current application cycles on the DOLA [website](#) as they are subject to change.

The Committee is an advisory body. Applicants should not assume a grant is awarded or denied solely on the basis of the Committee's recommendation. The Executive Director makes all final funding decisions taking into consideration the recommendation from the Committee and DOLA staff.

By statute, the Committee consists of:

- Executive Director, Colorado Department of Local Affairs (Chair) or designee;
- Colorado Commissioner of Education or designee;
- Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation or designee;
- Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources or designee;
- Executive Director, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment or designee; and
- Seven residents of areas impacted by energy conversion or mineral resource development.

The residents of impacted areas are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor for terms not exceeding four years. Members are eligible for one reappointment. State department directors serving on the Committee may designate agency representatives to act on their behalf.

Grant Program Rating Criteria

All applications are summarized by DOLA staff with applicant input, into a project summary that evaluates the merits of the grant request in line with the project scoring criteria. Applications for Tier II grants are evaluated and scored by the Energy Impact Assistance Advisory Committee and DOLA staff based on alignment with program criteria.

Applications are rated on the following criteria:

- **Demonstration of Need:**

The problem is clearly identified and quantifiable need is adequately described and documented.

- Maximum demonstration of need score: 20

- **Priority, Community Goal, Outcome:**

The project is clearly a priority of the applicant, has been well planned, and has well-defined outcomes. It addresses an identified community need or problem and is specified in documents such as a capital improvement plan, community master plan, engineering report, annual budget, and/or other related planning and development resource publications adopted or otherwise approved by the local governing body. The applicant has adequately compiled and reviewed the goals of

the community at-large and has identified the project as a highly-ranked need against other initiatives.

- Maximum priority, community goal, outcome score: 10

- **Local Effort:**

The amount of local government cash contribution and/or revenue generated from debt financing is of primary importance in demonstrating the importance of the project to the applicant. In addition, the amount of funding confirmed versus pending from all sources is considered. While dollar-for-dollar cash match from the local government applicant is strongly encouraged to improve the application's success, the minimum local match requirement (which can be composed of local government cash and other sources described above) is 50% of the total project cost. If a 50% match cannot be committed, the applicant must provide appropriate documentation and justification for its current fiscal constraints that limit the ability to meet the program's minimum matching requirements. Up to 5 points are assigned based on the amount of cash match.

The Committee will also assign up to 15 points based on whether: 1) the cash match is reasonable based on review of the applicant's financial information; 2) in-kind match is appropriately leveraged given the low unrestricted fund balance; 3) the applicant attempted to or succeeded in raising rates, fees, or has a voter initiative to raise revenues; 4) the applicant has made every effort to contribute as much as possible to the project; 5) if applicable, how the rank of applicant water and sewer rates or fees compares to statewide averages; 6) the applicant has exhausted all matching partner options (when applicable); and 7) the project was deferred due to lack of funding.

- Maximum local effort score: 20

- **Readiness:**

The project can be implemented in a reasonable period of time, i.e., within 6 months following grant award. Funding sources beyond the Impact Assistance grant are pledged and ready for expenditure. The applicant has demonstrated through past performance that it possesses the appropriate professional and technical capacity to initiate and complete the project successfully and within the planned implementation schedule. Preliminary engineering has been completed and plans and permits are approved and the plan is ready for bid. In the case of design/build projects, a project contractor has been selected by the applicant.

- Maximum readiness score: 10

- **Resiliency Criteria:**

In 2018, the Colorado Legislature passed [HB 18-1394](#), an update to the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act which was signed into law on May 24, 2018. Section 24-32-122(1)(a)(V) Duties and Powers includes the requirement to "Integrate Resilience Criteria into Existing Competitive Grant Programs". Section VII of that citation also

includes language to “Develop Metrics and Targets to measure the short and long-term success of resilience efforts and actions” .

As a competitive grant program, the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program is required to integrate resilience criteria into the competitive grant program. By integrating resiliency considerations into project planning and implementation, projects should be better poised to see benefits across a number of sectors (economy, health, infrastructure, etc.), minimize long-term risks, and anticipate or be better prepared to respond to changing conditions faced by Colorado communities.

The 2015 [Colorado Resiliency Framework](#) provides nine resiliency criteria that can be used by communities to develop a focused approach to incorporate these measures into all, or most projects. The criteria below are meant to serve as a guide to better understand how a project can be planned, developed and strengthened to enhance its long-term resilience. The criteria are:

- **Adaptive capacity:** Does the project include flexible and adaptable measures that try to consider future unknown situations such as changing climate, shifting economic conditions, and social trends? Over the life of the project, can it adapt to changes in the community?
- **Co-benefits:** Can the project deliver solution(s) that address problems across multiple sectors and create the maximum possible benefit? To what extent does the project provide benefits to sectors including the: economy, health care, different social groups, housing sector, civic infrastructure and the local watershed and natural resources?
- **Economic benefit-cost:** Is the proposed financial investment an economic benefit to the broader community both through direct and indirect returns? Does the project have a positive economic benefit-cost ratio and can project benefits be sustained during changing conditions?
- **Harmonize with existing activity:** Does the project expand, enhance, or leverage work already underway or does it build on existing or recently completed efforts? Is the project compatible with existing community activities, plans, or policies? Have the relevant stakeholders been consulted to maximize community efforts or reduce potential conflicts?
- **High risk and vulnerability:** Does the project work to reduce the risk to human well-being, physical infrastructure, and natural systems? Does the project identify areas of high risk or vulnerability and include strategies to address those areas? Do those strategies take into account the impact to specific vulnerable populations and/or communities?
- **Innovation:** Are new approaches and techniques used that will encourage the advancement of best practices that can serve as new models for Colorado and beyond? Does the project incorporate new designs or methods that improve upon the way things have been done in the past or provide a new solution to the problem?

- **Long-term and lasting impact:** Are long-term gains for the community created with the project solutions and are those solutions replicable and sustainable? Do they create benefits for present and future generations?
- **Social equity:** Is this project inclusive and does it consider populations that are often more fragile and more vulnerable to disruptions? How does the project address inequities, remove barriers, or benefit different populations in the community? Is the project designed to support people with access or functional needs and are economic benefits equitably distributed? For more information on social equity and justice resources, see the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website at [CDPHE Health Equity Resources](#).
- **Technical soundness:** Do the solutions used reflect best practices that have been tested and proven to work in similar context? If the project is introducing a new design or method that goes beyond established best practice, is the approach based on studies that provide a road map for success? Does the project incorporate measurable indicators to assess performance and success (i.e., metric and timeline benchmarks)? Are the indicators directly connected to the desired project outcomes?

For clarification or further guidance on how the Resiliency Prioritization Criteria can be incorporated into projects, visit the Resiliency Prioritization Criteria expanded section of the [Colorado Resiliency Playbook](#). The [Colorado Resiliency Framework](#) site can also be used by communities to develop a focused approach to incorporate these measures into all, or most projects. Project scoring for this criteria is based on whether or not the project incorporates these long-term resiliency measures into the planning, development and implementation of the project.

- Maximum resiliency criteria score: 15

- **Energy and mineral impact:**

The applicants' energy and mineral relationship is reviewed in two criteria looking at the degree to which the applicant is socially or economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of fuels and minerals. The first criteria (10 points available) is based on current energy and mineral impacts as determined by agreed-upon metrics (energy worker residency, permits issued and mineral production levels).

The second criteria (15 points available) looks at whether or not the project directly addresses or mitigates industry impacts, or helps to diversify the local economy in order to prepare for a post-industry future.

- Maximum energy and mineral relationship score: 25

EIAF Application Review and Scoring Criteria		
Criteria	Committee* or Pre-score (pts. avail.)	Description
Demonstration of Need	Committee Scored (1-20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Problem, opportunity or challenge is clearly identified ● A quantifiable need is well described and documented ● Urgency and severity of need may increase the score ● Health and safety projects may increase score ● Project is a mandatory priority that must be completed
Priority, Community Goal, Outcome	Committee Scored (1-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The project is identified in comprehensive or other plan ● Project is the local priority ● Completing the project solves the problem ● Expected outcomes are identified
Local Effort	<i>Pre-scored</i> (1-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cash match is worth a potential 5 points: (50% match required, unless financial circumstance warrants reduction) ● % are rounded to nearest whole number <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Less than 25% match, 1 point ○ 25% - 35% match, 2 points ○ 36% - 49% match, 3 points ○ 50% - 74% match, 4 points ○ 75% or higher match, 5 points
	Committee Scored (1-15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cash match is appropriate given unrestricted fund balance ● In-kind match is appropriate leverage given the low unrestricted fund balance ● Attempted/succeeded to raise rates, fees or voter initiative to raise revenues ● Have made every effort to contribute as much to the project as possible ● Rates are higher than statewide average ● Exhausted all matching partner options (when applicable) ● Has been deferred due to lack of funding
Readiness	<i>Pre-scored</i> (1-10)	<p>Pre-scored based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project financing secured ● Preliminary engineering, plans, permits, zoning, final design etc. has been or are being completed, has not begun at all, etc.
Resiliency Criteria	Committee Scored (1-15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project incorporates long-term resiliency measures into planning, development and planned implementation of the project
Energy/Mineral Impact	<i>Pre-Scored</i> (1-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre-scored using industry impact metrics
	Committee Scored (1-15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project directly addresses or mitigates industry impacts (current or historic) ● Project diversifies economy or prepares for post industry economy
Maximum Possible Score = 100 TOTAL SCORE =		
* Note: Committee for Tier I applications: DOLA Regional and Program Staff Committee for Tier II applications: Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Advisory Committee		

Funding Decisions

An award letter from the DOLA Executive Director announcing a decision to provide project funding is not a formal obligation of funds by the State, but rather it is an offer to enter into a grant contract for the dollar amount and project specified. Conditions, such as the formation of a taxing district, increased local government matching funds, or the development of necessary plans may be stated as a contingency in the letter. Such conditions must be met either prior to, or during the project performance period at the discretion of DOLA.

The grant award offer is valid for *up to one year*. In unforeseeable circumstances when the grantee is unable to execute the contract within the one year period, the grantee *must request an extension of the award prior to its expiration through the respective Regional Manager*. There is no guarantee that an extension request will be granted, and if denied, the award offer will be withdrawn.

Applicants are notified of award decisions via letter to the Chief Elected Official and staff of the applicant jurisdiction. Tier I applications will generally receive award notifications within eight weeks of application. Tier II applications will generally receive award notifications within 3 months of application. Please review the current application and award timeframes on the DOLA [website](#).

For application requests that are not limited to submittal as part of the competitive grant program cycles including Administrative, Supplemental, Emergency and Broadband applications; review processes and any award decisions will be made as expeditiously as possible.

NOTE: Grantees cannot begin work on a project that has been awarded grant funds until after receiving an executed grant agreement from DOLA. An executed grant contract is one that has been signed by the State Controller.

Appendix A: Program policies related to project type

Administrators/Managers

DOLA works to promote the professional local government management field and to increase the management capacity of local governments in Colorado through the placement of professional managers in organizations who have not employed one in the past. These jurisdictions must work with their Regional Managers to determine the most appropriate path forward to hire a professional manager.

Grant funding for local government administrators/managers will constitute a three year commitment by DOLA to the jurisdiction. This commitment could include salary, benefits, and new operational expenses incurred in establishing a new position. In the first year, DOLA will provide 75% to a local 25% match; the second year is a 50% DOLA and 50% local match; and the third year is a 25% DOLA and 75% local funding match. Successful grantees must work with their Regional Manager to establish a plan to move to a 100% locally-funded position in year four.

Hazardous Waste, Hazardous Materials and Contaminated Properties

DOLA does not fund projects that occur on contaminated properties or that will result in a potential liability to DOLA as the responsible party. While it is understood that at times a project may require disposal of hazardous waste or the transportation of hazardous material, DOLA will not fund these activities.

Housing

Due to the immense deferred maintenance of critical local government infrastructure, this program is not intended to be used as funding for housing related projects. The program funds public facilities open to the general public that are seen as a community-wide asset. If an application is submitted for a housing project, the applicant will first be asked to contact DOLA's [Division of Housing](#). This program will fund community-wide housing needs assessments; however, assessments to prepare development plans for a neighborhood may not be successful. Additionally:

- Affordable housing projects are the only projects supported through this program.
- The program will only fund infrastructure below ground and off-site for utilities like storm drainage, and will not fund actual housing construction.
- Applications for housing projects must be a top priority of all participating local governments and demonstrated as such in their comprehensive plan or a related community plan.
- Affordable housing projects funded must be owned by the local government or housing authority and/or have an appropriate deed restriction.

Comprehensive Plans and Land Use Regulations

Historically, DOLA has funded comprehensive plans and land use regulations submitted by municipalities and counties. A preferred scenario is the completion of a comprehensive plan immediately followed by a review and update of the community land use regulations or land use code. DOLA is willing to support these combined efforts with longer contract

timeframes and the opportunity for applicants to commit local match funds over additional budget cycles. The department uses best practices to support improved long-term community development outcomes.

When funding comprehensive plans, the department requires that the following project components be included in the scope of work:

- A plan for three miles outside municipal boundaries also known as the three mile plan per C.R.S. 31-12-105(1)(e)(I).
- The plan must identify the risks and vulnerabilities of natural and human caused hazards and goals, strategies, and/or actions to address these hazards. (This is not to be confused with the county's hazard mitigation plan, but would take information from that plan and consider how to address that information in the comprehensive plan's goals and strategies for future development).
- The plan must assess and address housing needs and affordability.
- A water component that describes the community's goals and values related to water supply, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, water quality, and water conservation. Water policies can either be gathered in a stand-alone water element or integrated throughout the plan. Communities should contact their Regional Manager to discuss applicability of the water conservation element and funding options that can support this work. Per HB 20-1095: Local Governments Water Elements In Master Plans, communities with a water element in their comprehensive plan must consult with the entities that supply their water "to ensure coordination on water supply and facility planning" and "identify water supplies and facilities sufficient to meet the needs of the public and private infrastructure reasonably anticipated or identified in the planning process." Water conservation policies (ideally tied to the Colorado Water Plan) must also be included in the water element. In addition to the required topics called out by HB 20-1095, communities may choose to include policies related to:
 - the relationship between land use and water demand;
 - watershed health and environmental resources;
 - water-based recreation;
 - floodplain and other fluvial hazards;
 - stormwater management; and
 - water equity.
- Intergovernmental agreement(s) (IGA) with neighboring jurisdiction(s) to establish the mutually agreed upon area outside the municipality's boundaries that would be subject to a joint review process for development proposals to ensure consistency with plans. In addition, the IGA will address how infrastructure will be provided or upgraded and maintained in areas of mutual interest and engage major service providers/special districts, as applicable.
- Identify recommendations for land use code updates that will conform to an updated comprehensive plan. As stated above, the department may also fund those land use code updates.

The department **strongly encourages** the following be included in any comprehensive plan application:

- Land use code updates: Because the land use code implements a comprehensive plan, a complete land use code update is strongly recommended and may be required in the grant contract to accompany or immediately follow a comprehensive plan update.

Parks, Recreation, and Trail Projects

Due to the limited amount of funds available in this program, local governments interested in funding for outdoor recreation projects will be directed toward other outdoor recreation funding sources, such as [Great Outdoors Colorado](#) (GOCO) or foundation funding. Local governments should coordinate their applications and any awards with those other funding sources prior to applying to this program. Grant applications to this program are more successful when they leverage other funding sources and are shown to be a community priority.

Energy Projects with Power Purchase Agreements

DOLA will consider the use of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) in certain circumstances. The benefit of the PPA must support a qualified government and the equipment must eventually be owned by the qualified government. In the event the qualified local government will not own the equipment used to create the PPA, DOLA may consider funding under the following conditions:

- The PPA must benefit a qualified government; and
- The term of the PPA between the vendor and the qualified local government must generate savings equal to or greater than the grant award.

Fire Departments

Volunteer Firefighter Departments

Per C.R.S. 39-29-110 (1) (b) (IV), the DOLA Executive Director may allocate money to privately organized volunteer fire departments serving areas that are socially or economically impacted by energy and mineral development. Given the demand among local governments for limited grant funds, applications from Volunteer Fire Departments are generally not successful.

It is strongly recommended that Volunteer Fire Departments first pursue funding through the Local Firefighter Safety and Disease Prevention Fund (in 24-33.5-1231), administered by the Division of Fire Prevention and Control with the guidance of the Fire Service Training and Certification Advisory Board. To be considered eligible, the Volunteer Fire Department must:

- Have been organized under C.R.S. 24-33.5-1208.5;
- Have been in existence for three years;
- Be able to provide three years of financial data; and
- Be registered with the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

In alignment with C.R.S. 24-33.5-12.08.5(6)(c), Volunteer Fire Departments requesting funds must first consider inclusion of the proposed service area into one or more existing fire protection districts, metropolitan districts, or an adjacent or nearby fire department.

Governmental Fire Departments

Prior to any application, requests from governmental fire departments should consider the parameters below:

- Departments should seek other funding sources before applying to this program.
- DOLA will give preference to support facility improvements that create a needed community asset available for broad public use. Collaboration with other agencies in the development of these types of project applications is strongly encouraged and an intergovernmental agreement must be in place before grant contract execution. For example, fire stations may often function as community centers for social events and community service centers for outreach and community assistance efforts. The use of the building as a community asset must be formally agreed to by the local government and the fire department.
- Applicants requesting support for capital facilities to be used exclusively for traditional fire station uses are not competitive.

Definitions:

Fire Department means the duly authorized fire protection organization of a town, city, county, or city and county, a fire protection district, or a metropolitan district, or county improvement district that provides fire protection. Fire Department also includes volunteer fire departments organized under C.R.S. 24-33.5-1208.5.

Volunteer Fire Department means a nongovernmental unit organized in accordance with C.R.S.24-33.5-1208.5 as a nonprofit organization with a primary purpose of firefighting, fire protection, or other emergency services to a defined service area recognized by the appropriate governmental entity with jurisdiction for the area the unit serves.

Road, Bridge and Street Improvements

The construction or replacement of a bridge or culvert is considered a major infrastructure project. Applications are more successful when there is a strong connection to industry activity. The total volume of vehicle traffic, also known as an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) count, is required from applicants for all road, bridge, and street improvement projects.

Road, bridge and street improvements and maintenance are the responsibility of the local government. DOLA may fund a local government road, bridge or street project under these circumstances:

- Paving projects on county roads and municipal streets directly impacted by the energy and mineral industry. NOTE: Projects on roads and streets with little

relationship to the impacts of the energy and mineral industry are not considered competitive.

- Hard surface road projects must utilize a permanent material such as concrete, chip seal or asphalt.
- Applicant demonstrates that any paving projects are improvements, rather than maintenance.
- Road or street paving projects are important to economic development including those identified in Main Street Program project areas.
- Engineering of the road and street improvement being requested must be completed before application submission to DOLA to ensure that projects will be successful once implemented. Unsigned reviews or estimates by an engineer are not sufficient to satisfy this requirement.
- Submittal of road and street applications as design-build projects with guaranteed maximum prices is allowed with an applicant certification stating that any cost overruns will be borne solely by the applicant.
- Residential and/or private roads not constructed or maintained by local governments are not eligible for grant applications.
- Drainage improvement projects directly related to roads impacted by the energy and mineral industry or with an identified safety hazard will be considered. Curb, gutter, valley pans, culverts, etc. are eligible when coordinated with street and road projects.
- Sidewalk improvements related to road and drainage funded projects must implement a sidewalk management plan or study with an implementation schedule before any grant award.
- Grant applications will not be accepted for work on federal or state highways.

Rolling Stock Requests

DOLA, on an extremely limited basis, may invest Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund dollars in rolling stock for local governments based on an adopted fleet replacement plan that includes a budget for the necessary maintenance and replacement of vehicles and equipment over time. It is the position of the department that local governments should be planning for and building into their budgets the necessary funds to replace vehicles and equipment on an ongoing basis.

Circumstances in which DOLA may consider funding for vehicular or rolling stock requests are limited to:

- An initial purchase to begin the capitalization of a fleet replacement plan or to stabilize an ongoing fleet plan,
- Documented evidence of firefighting apparatus shortages in past response to, or in preparation for, response to wildfires, or
- Situations wherein road maintenance or emergency response capabilities directly related to energy or mineral impact activities require equipment purchases that might otherwise exhaust local financial capability and local revenue-raising has been insufficient.

Short-Term Equipment and Assets Replacement

DOLA does not provide funding for short-term equipment (tools, generators, small maintenance equipment, etc.) purchased for local governments. It is the position of the department that local governments should be planning for and building into their budgets the necessary funds to replace short-term assets and equipment on an ongoing basis. However, DOLA may assist a local government with the establishment of a short-term equipment and assets replacement plan through an Administrative Planning Grant Award.

Digital Trunked Radio (DTR) Communications

DOLA will consider funding the purchase of DTR communication consoles for local governments under the following conditions:

- The DTR communications console equipment is compatible with the current State DTR communications system. The equipment proposed for funding in this program should be consistent and compatible with the area's regional communications interoperability plan.
- The local government must demonstrate that they cannot acquire this equipment through other funding mechanisms such as a lease purchase agreement, local financial institutions, or with cash.
- The local government must provide a 50% cash match.
- If the jurisdiction is dispatching for other entities within its region (i.e. fire districts, EMS, municipalities etc.), they must establish a charge-for-service for dispatch service.
- The local government must demonstrate that the requested funding for equipment is one time funding and that the local government has a fiscal and operational model in place that is self-sufficient, sustainable, and locally funded for the future. If such financial planning is not in place, the local government will be required to implement a fee to ensure future replacement as a condition of the grant.
- The local government must demonstrate that the funding assistance requested is the only method available to secure safe and reliable communications for their region and that all cooperative and regional solutions have been investigated and eliminated as unworkable.

E-911 Policy

If a local government can demonstrate that they have established their E-911 tariff at the maximum allowable charge through the Colorado Public Utilities Commission waiver process, the application for E-911 related projects will be more successful.

Uranium Mill Tailings

Per 39-29-110 (1)(b)(III)(C), up to \$50,000 is made available each state fiscal year to political subdivisions that include mill sites designated for cleanup pursuant to federal Public Law 95-604 for reimbursement of actual, documented costs related to the cleanup of uranium mill tailings. To ensure appropriate documentation, applicants for these funds must submit their request for reimbursement through the appropriate Tier I application cycle. Funds awarded will be outside of the cycle award amount and these applications

will not need to compete against other applications submitted. However, all documented costs related to the cleanup must be provided as an attachment to the application.

Alternative Fuels

The objective of this type of application is to support local government efforts in the use of alternative fuel vehicles, and the construction of alternative fueling stations. Before submitting an application, local governments are required to consult with DOLA partner agencies including the Colorado Energy Office and the Regional Air Quality Council regarding fueling stations and the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles. DOLA partners with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) [Clean Energy Programs](#), and the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) [RAQC](#) to support the use of alternative fuel vehicles throughout the state by assisting with the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling station infrastructure.

Applications will follow the regular discretionary grant amounts, cycles, and timelines. Funding opportunities include:

- Increment upgrade on the replacement of a vehicle to one that is alternative fuel.
- Alternative fueling station infrastructure for publicly-owned fleets.
- Matching fund requirements for alternative fuel vehicles are the primary replacement cost. In the case of fueling stations, matching funds required are 50% unless an applicant can show that their financial conditions are such that only 25% match is available.
- School districts are generally not competitive applicants when reviewed with local government applications as other grant sources are available specifically to them.

Municipal and county governments wishing to diversify fleet fuels, build aggregated demand for private investment in fueling stations, or that have adopted fleet sustainability goals may request funding for the increment upgrade costs associated with replacement of fleet vehicles to alternative fueled vehicles (AFV). AFV's may include compressed natural gas (CNG), CNG bi-fuel, propane, or plug-in electric vehicles. The local government is required to provide a financial match that is equivalent to 100% of the cost of a standard vehicle and demonstrate the ability to build replacement of the alternative fuel vehicle into its fleet management program. School districts are not eligible for this program.

Appendix B: Statewide Programs and Initiatives

Please contact your Regional Manager for current information on these programs and initiatives or visit the DOLA [website](#). The following is a summary and does not cover all programmatic or initiative requirements.

Cathy Shipley “Best and Brightest” Program

This two-year program places Master’s Degree students in small and/or rural governmental jurisdictions in Colorado. The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in partnership with the University of Colorado Denver’s Center for New Directions (Political Science), CU Denver’s School of Public Affairs and Adams State University, facilitates placement of selected students with the following objectives:

- to provide a cost effective way to help support the increasing administrative needs of small and/or rural jurisdictions in Colorado,
- to provide a unique opportunity for students to complete their graduate degree while, at the same time, gaining invaluable learning experiences,
- to develop potential local government managers, and
- to provide a way for DOLA to support small and/or rural jurisdictions in meeting their need for administrative staff in the most cost effective way possible.

Funding opportunities and considerations include:

DOLA Regional Managers identify potential jurisdictions and work with local managers to determine possible participation. Each jurisdiction will determine its own job requirements for the student. Local government managers considered for the program must develop a work plan and job description as well as a mentorship plan.

Participating towns and counties will be provided with a full time (40 hours per week) general resource person for two years. Each jurisdiction will match DOLA’s award with \$40,000 (\$20,000 annually) toward each student’s annual salary and benefit package. Students will receive an annual salary and benefits package totaling at minimum \$42,000. In addition to the salary and benefits costs, DOLA will include \$2,000 in each contract for training and travel for the intern. These funds can be spent on various conferences, workshops or other local government approved training opportunities as well as the annual program meeting. The total grant award will equal \$46,000, with the local government minimum match totaling \$40,000. Students who are accepted into the program will complete a master’s degree in Public Administration or Political Science with emphasis in politics and public policy. Each jurisdiction, student, University partner and DOLA Regional Manager will also sign a four-party roles and responsibilities document.

Colorado Main Street Program

This program strengthens local governments and downtown organizations through a nationally-proven process that implements community needs and ideas to create a downtown revitalization strategic plan. If accepted into the [Main Street Program](#) communities are eligible for financial and technical support. While the program focuses on the participating Main Street communities, other communities may benefit by joining as Affiliates or attending trainings to learn the methodology and lessons learned from other communities.

Funding opportunities include: Mini-grants offered to communities participating in the Main Street program based on their annual work plan. Through a prequalified consultant pool, financial assistance is offered for extensive technical expertise and assistance.

University Technical Assistance Program

In collaboration with the University of Colorado, the University Technical Assistance (UTA) program provides rural local governments with planning and preliminary design assistance. The UTA program engages higher education interns in real-world projects that benefit rural communities, save local governments money, and provide students with valuable work experience. All projects and interns are supervised by university professionals.

Local governments interested in assistance must contact the University of Colorado Technical Assistance group through their area Regional Manager. Opportunities the program provides includes:

- public engagement;
- planning and preliminary project development assistance; and
- the completion of preliminary plans and designs that can be used to inform and engage community members in a project and to apply for project implementation grants.

Once a project is identified, a scope of work, timeline, and budget are created and approved by the community, UTA, and DOLA. The local government receiving technical assistance will provide 50% of the project costs and 50% of the cost will be provided through the program.

Broadband Planning and Infrastructure Set Aside

To support local government efforts to provide public institutions, private businesses, and local citizens with access to reliable broadband service at affordable costs.

- Applications for Broadband planning and implementation projects may be submitted at any time during State fiscal years 2021 and 2022 (July 2020 through June 2022). Funding opportunities and considerations include regional interconnectivity and planning as well as middle-mile infrastructure.
- Because of the technical complexity of these grant applications and the ability to apply outside of the primary grant program timeframe, review by DOLA staff will be conducted as follows:

- Tier 1 Broadband Planning or Implementation: Applications will be reviewed by applicable Regional Manager and Broadband Team prior to review by Program and Regional Staff following Tier I processes prior to recommendation to the DOLA Executive Director for action.
 - Tier II Broadband Planning or Implementation: Applications will be reviewed by applicable Regional Manager and Broadband Team prior to being presented to Program and three Regional Staff. That combined review will be presented to the Advisory Committee for review and recommendation to the DOLA Executive Director.
- Applicants must contact their Regional Manager prior to submitting a grant application.
 - A 25% match is required for regional planning grants.
 - A 50% match is required for sub-regional (local) plans.
 - A 50% match is required for middle-mile infrastructure.

Fiscal Stability Initiative

This initiative supports local government efforts in implementing financial management best practices. Applications follow the discretionary grant application cycles, amounts and timelines. Funding opportunities and considerations include:

- Five-year capital project planning
- Financial capacity analysis
- Financial checkup
- Asset inventory and management
- Fiscal health diagnostic tool
- Program costing
- Matching funds at t 50% are required unless extreme financial hardship is demonstrated

Renewable and Clean Energy Set Aside

Projects funded by this set aside should develop both planning and implementation projects in the renewable energy field. Energy efficiency and energy conservation projects should develop innovations in renewable energy; achieve multiple objectives and/or serve those with the greatest need. Plans, studies, and policies that further long-term, large-scale renewable energy generation and energy conservation are encouraged. Strong applications will be those that respond to needs and opportunities as identified by the local government.

Tier I Renewable & Clean Energy Planning Grants

DOLA will support efforts by local governments and regional collaborations to engage in planning to create strategic roadmaps and to determine optimal projects that will advance the goal of 100% renewable energy. Planning activities may be undertaken by individual local governments, multi-jurisdictional collaboration, or on a regional basis to identify opportunities, infrastructure needs, and to identify potential partnerships among public and private entities to achieve this renewable energy goal. Any new applications for regional planning activities should take into account and coordinate with any recently completed or currently in-process regional plans.

Applications for Renewable and Clean Energy planning projects must meet the following criteria:

- The planning process must assess the current needs of the community and include an analysis of how the proposed project will help move the community or region towards 100% renewable energy. It should also include prioritization of needs and possible options for implementation.
- Once plans have been completed, DOLA will support efforts to develop more detailed applications for implementation grant applications.
- Local governments must contribute a minimum of 25% match.
- The request amount is limited to the Tier I cap of \$200,000.

Renewable & Clean Energy Implementation Grants

Implementation grants will emphasize funding large scale demonstration projects that will serve as models for future projects throughout the state. Applications for implementation grants should consider the following in project development:

- How does the project advance the governor's 100% renewable energy by 2040 goal?
- What specific, measurable outcomes will the project achieve? For example:
 - Energy reduction over baseline (energy efficiency) in kwh, therms
 - Energy offset over baseline (renewable energy generation) in kwh, therms.
 - Greenhouse gas reduction over baseline in total CO2 equivalent
 - How innovative is the project?
 - Is it multi-jurisdictional?
 - Does it achieve multiple objectives?

A minimum match of 25% of the project cost is required. There will be no cap on implementation grant request amounts while Renewable and Clean Energy set aside funds are available but budgets must be reasonable and defensible. Unless additional funds are added to the set aside, future Renewable and Clean Energy implementation projects will be subject to funding and match requirements in the discretionary grant cycles.

Regional Councils of Government (COG) Set Aside

The COG grant program exists to facilitate regional efforts to increase economic stability and to support key regional community development activities. COG activities must align with EIAF general policies, eligibility requirements, etc. and may include collaborative technical assistance projects or programs for activities such as GIS services, organizational facilitation and support, retreat facilitation and support, support for Local Technology Planning Groups and project specific support (e.g. grant writing, project development, and documentation) and some COGs offer mini-grant programs in their areas. Funding is **not** available for general administration or operations.

Even though there continues to be \$500,000 set aside each state fiscal year for regional councils of governments (up to \$50,000 per COG), there is no longer a one-time COG set

aside cycle limiting when those dollars can be accessed. Instead, COG's are required to apply in the discretionary grant program cycles unless applying for a special statewide program initiative grant such as Broadband. Application into a discretionary cycle allows a COG to gain access to the \$50,000 reserved for each. Review and award of the COG grants is managed within discretionary grant program application cycles.

Eligible applications may include the following:

- Mini-grant programs, capped at \$5,000 per project, on a cost-sharing basis between local governments and COG's;
- Technical assistance projects or programs such as: GIS services, organizational facilitation, retreat facilitation, special project staff, support for planning efforts such as Broadband Local Technology Planning Groups, and project-specific support (e.g., grant writing, project development, and documentation);
- Regional studies and plans; and
- Applications for a special statewide program initiative grant (e.g.: Broadband).

Health: Saving Coloradans Money on Health Care

In 2019 Colorado launched a new initiative to lower the costs of healthcare for residents of the state. DOLA, through EIAF, has a role in reducing those costs with the funding of improvements to hospitals and clinics. DOLA will also work with other partners to keep existing healthcare facilities operating and reduce costs for citizens. While there is no dedicated funding set aside for these projects, the program has reduced the match requirement to 25% per project to incentivize eligible activities. Applications may be made in the discretionary grant cycles.

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

The purpose of this program is to incentivize eligible entities with a reduced match requirement of as low as 25% per project on grants to improve access to early childhood education in communities. Projects considered will be those that respond to needs and opportunities identified by the local government. Examples of projects include: planning, design, engineering or construction for ECE projects including those in a community center. Applications may be made in the discretionary grant cycles.