



**Remote Alaska Communities Energy
Efficiency Competition –
Implementation Phase (RACEE Phase)
AlaskaCompetition@hq.doe.gov**

**FOA Webinar
DE-FOA-0001567
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Speaker Introductions

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Remote Alaska Communities Energy Efficiency Competition (RACEE)

Implementation Phase 3- DE-FOA-0001567

Anticipated Schedule:

FOA Issue Date:	June 6, 2016
Informational Conference Call:	June 9, 2016
Submission Deadline for Full Applications:	August 31, 2016 5:00pm ET
Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications:	October/Nov- ember 2016
Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations	November 2016/January 2017

Notice to all Applicants

This presentation summarizes the contents of FOA. If there are any inconsistencies between the FOA and this presentation or statements from DOE personnel, the FOA is the controlling document and applicants should rely on the FOA language and seek clarification from EERE.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to:

- Carefully read the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) DE-FOA-0001567;
- Adhere to the stated submission requirements and submit early in case of unforeseen delays; and
- Contact: AlaskaCompetition@hq.doe.gov for all communications about this FOA including

Agenda

- 1) FOA Description
- 2) Topic Areas/Technical Areas of Interest
- 3) Award Information
- 4) Cost Sharing
- 5) Full Applications
- 6) Merit Review and Selection Process
- 7) Registration Requirements

FOA Description

- The RACEE Competition is composed of three Phases.
- DOE executed Phase 1 and 2 with the release of Notice of Opportunity for Technical Assistance (NOTA) for Remote Alaska Communities Energy Efficiency Competition DE-FOA-0001479.
- Eligibility for Phase 1 of the NOTA was restricted to Alaska Native villages, tribes and corporations and remote communities, under 8,000 in population (please see NOTA for details).
- In Phase 1, 64 remote Alaska communities pledged to reduce energy consumption and DOE designated them as Community Efficiency Champions. They became part of a peer network and were then eligible to compete for technical assistance (TA) in Phase 2.
- A total of 13 Community Efficiency Champion communities were selected in Phase 2 to receive technical assistance.
- This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) represents the beginning of Phase 3 of the RACEE Competition. Only the 13 communities selected to receive technical assistance in the RACEE NOTA are eligible to apply to this FOA and to compete for up to \$1.1 million in grant funding (\$3.4 million total) to implement their energy saving measures.

Technical Areas of Interest

- The goal of Phase 3 of the RACEE Competition is to implement one or more energy strategies to help communities meet their pledge of a 15 percent energy use reduction by 2020.
- Communities can achieve the total pledged reduction by implementing energy efficiency and renewable integration projects, in any combination of size and number- so long as the applications demonstrate through feasibility, economic, engineering and other analysis that with implementation, the community will make substantial progress toward the pledged 15 percent energy use reduction.

Technical Areas of Interest-Cont.

- The RACEE competition is focused on developing and implementing effective, reliable solutions that fit the community's needs, not necessarily deploying new technology for the sake of the technology's innovative qualities.
- For the purposes of this FOA, innovation is based on the process and potential for transformative and sustainable impacts on how the community currently uses energy, and/or the potential for replication in other Alaskan communities.
- For example, communities that develop and implement effective strategies not currently in practice, strategies that engage the entire community to implement the energy plan, demand or supply-side projects to achieve the pledged targets, could be considered innovative.

Non-Responsive Applications

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered for an award:

1. Applications that fall outside the parameters specified in Section I.B of the FOA, including but not limited to applications for activities that do not reduce energy use and that propose to add electrical generation capacity (renewable or conventional) or are energy conservation measures.
2. Renewable energy activities are acceptable as integrated generation when replacing existing generating capacity or creating building-integrated energy use reduction.

Non-Responsive Applications-cont.

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered for an award:

3. Applications that propose activities that are exclusive to a specific community and not replicable to other remote Alaskan or Arctic communities.
4. Applications that propose Research and Development activities.
5. Applications that propose product development.
6. Applications that propose technology that is not commercially-proven and warranted.

Non-Responsive Applications-cont.

The following types of applications will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be reviewed or considered for an award:

7. Applications proposing building audits, community education activities, feasibility planning, policy and regulatory planning, tools, modeling, engineering and design assistance, and other project development assistance. Major construction (i.e., construction of new buildings, major renovations, or additions to existing buildings). Note that installation of energy efficiency measures are not considered major construction.

Award Information

Total Amount to be Awarded	\$3.4M*
Average Award Amount	EERE anticipates making awards that range from \$200,000 to \$1.1M*
Types of Funding Agreements	Financial Assistance Grants
Period of Performance	36 months
Cost Share Requirement	10% of Total Project Costs

*Subject to the availability of appropriated funds

Special Funding Eligibility for Indian Tribes

- Funding for this FOA comes from both EERE and IE. A portion of the funding is only available to applicants who are eligible for IE funding, specifically Indian tribes (including Alaska Native villages, regional or village corporations) or Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations, as those terms are more fully defined below.
- To qualify for this portion of the DOE funding, (1) the applicant (and/or a community partner) must be eligible to receive IE funding; and (2) the proposed project or a specific sub-set of activities under the project is on Indian Land.
- (Refer to Section III.B of the FOA for details)

Cost Sharing Requirements

- ***Cost Share Reduction:*** EERE has reduced the Recipient Cost Share Requirement to **10%** for this Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Cost Share Contributions

- Contributions must be:
 - Specified in the project budget
 - Verifiable from the Prime Recipient's records
 - Necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the project
- Every cost share contribution must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Contracting Officer and incorporated into the project budget before the expenditures are incurred

Allowable Cost Share

- Cost Share must be allowable and must be verifiable upon submission of the Full Application
- Refer to the following applicable Federal cost principles:

Entity	Cost Principles
For-profit entities	FAR Part 31
All other non-federal entities	2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles

Allowable Cost Share

- Cash Contributions
 - May be provided by the Prime Recipient, Sub-recipients, or a Third Party
- In-Kind Contributions
 - Can include, but are not limited to: personnel costs, indirect costs, facilities and administrative costs, rental value of buildings or equipment, and the value of a service, other resource, or third party in-kind contribution

Unallowable Cost Share

- The Prime Recipient may not use the following sources to meet its cost share obligations including, but not limited to:
 - Revenues or royalties from the prospective operation of an activity beyond the project period
 - Proceeds from the prospective sale of an asset of an activity
 - Federal funding or property
 - Expenditures reimbursed under a separate Federal Technology Office
 - Independent research and development (IR&D) funds
 - The same cash or in-kind contributions for more than one project or program

Cost Share Payment

- Recipients must provide documentation of the cost share contribution, incrementally over the life of the award
- The cumulative cost share percentage provided on each invoice must reflect, at a minimum, the cost sharing percentage negotiated
- In limited circumstances, and where it is in the government's interest, the EERE Contracting Officer may approve a request by the Prime Recipient to meet its cost share requirements on a less frequent basis, such as monthly or quarterly. See [Section III.B.7](#) of the FOA.

Registration Requirements

- To apply to this FOA, Applicants must register with and submit application materials through EERE Exchange: <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>
- A “control number” for the application will be issued by EERE Exchange when the Applicant registers for the FOA.
 - This should be done at least 24 hours before the submission deadline
- Although not required to submit an Application, the following registrations must be complete to received an award under this FOA:

Registration Requirement	Website
DUNS Number	http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform
SAM	https://www.sam.gov
FedConnect	https://www.fedconnect.net
Grants.gov	http://www.grants.gov

Means of Submission

- Full Applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov>
 - EERE will not review or consider applications submitted through other means
- The Users' Guide for Applying to the Department of Energy EERE Funding Opportunity Announcements can be found at <https://eere-Exchange.energy.gov/Manuals.aspx>

Key Submission Suggestions

- Applicant should check their entry in EERE Exchange
 - Submissions could be deemed ineligible due to an incorrect entry
- EERE strongly encourages Applicants to submit 1-2 days prior to the deadline to allow for full upload of application documents and to avoid any potential technical glitches with EERE Exchange
- Make sure you press the submit button
 - Any changes made after you hit submit will un-submit your application and you will need to hit the submit button again
- For your records, print out the EERE Exchange Confirmation page at each step, which contains the application's Control Number

Applicant Points-of-Contact

- Applicants must designate primary and backup points-of-contact in EERE Exchange with whom EERE will communicate to conduct award negotiations
- It is imperative that the Applicant/Selectee be responsive during award negotiations and meet negotiation deadlines
 - Failure to do so may result in cancellation of further award negotiations and rescission of the Selection

Full Applications

- All submissions must:
 - Conform to the following form and content requirements, including maximum page lengths (described below)
 - Be submitted via EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>, unless specifically stated otherwise.
 - Include the control number must be included with all Application documents.
- **DOE will not review submissions submitted through means other than EERE Exchange, submissions submitted after the applicable deadline, and incomplete submissions.**
- DOE will not extend deadlines for applicants who fail to submit required information and documents due to server/connection congestion.

Full Applications

- The Full Application includes:
 - **Technical Volume:** The key technical submission - info relating to the technical content, project team members, etc.
 - **SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance:** The formal application signed by the authorized representative of the applicant.
 - **EERE 335 Budget & Budget Justification:** a detailed budget and spend plan for the project.
 - **Summary for Public Release**
 - **Summary Slide**
 - **Administrative Documents:** E.g., FFRDC Authorization (if applicable), Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, etc.

Full Applications- cont.

- The Full Application includes:
 - Statements of Commitment and Cost Sharing File
 - A Statement of Commitment by the Applicant and all other project participants (excluding vendors) is required as part of the application.
 - Statements of Commitment by the Applicant must not only authorize the submittal of the application, but must also include:
 - 1) A commitment to the proposed project;
 - 2) A description of building(s) and/or land proposed for use as part of the proposed project;

Full Applications- cont.

- 3) Identify whether the building(s) and/or land is held in Trust, held in fee simple (owned) and by whom, or under a long-term lease (at least 20 years) and from whom;
- 4) If the owner or lease holder is not the eligible entity, a commitment in writing from the building and/or land owner or lease holder authorizing the Applicant's use of those building(s) and/or land for the proposed project must be provided; and
- 5) If the Applicant will not own or control the project, a description of the benefits gained under the proposed financing structure should be provided.

Letters of support by anyone not participating in the proposed project are not required or desired, and should not be provided as part of the application.

Full Applications: Technical Volume Content

- Technical Volume: the key technical component of the Full Application

Content of Technical Volume	Suggested page length
Cover Page	1
Project Overview	3
Project Description, Innovation and Impact	12
Workplan	10
Technical Qualifications and Resources	5

Full Application Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must submit a Full Application by August 31, 2016
- Full Applications are eligible for review if:
 - The Applicant is one of the 13 eligible communities, per FOA Section III.A;
 - The Cost Share requirement is satisfied FOA Section III.C;
 - The Full Application is compliant with FOA Section III.D; and
 - The proposed project is responsive to FOA Section III.E
 - The Full Application meets any other eligibility requirements listed in FOA Section III.

Who's Eligible to Apply?

EERE and IE restricted eligibility for this Funding Opportunity Announcement to Communities who meet the following criteria:

- Submitted a valid pledge during Phase 1 of the competition; and
- Submitted a valid application to the NOTA, which was then selected for Technical Assistance.
- As the language of the restriction suggests, communities which submitted a valid application to the NOTA but whose applications were **not** selected to receive RACEE technical assistance are not eligible to apply to this FOA. Any applications that do not meet the criteria of this part will not be reviewed or considered.

Multiple Applications

Each eligible Community Efficiency Champion community may only submit one Full Application for consideration under this FOA. If an applicant submits more than one Full Application, DOE will only consider the last timely submission for evaluation. Any other submissions received listing the same applicant will be considered noncompliant and not eligible for further consideration. This limitation does not prohibit an applicant from collaborating on other applications (e.g., as a potential Subrecipient or partner) so long as the entity is only listed as the prime applicant on one Full Application submitted under this FOA.

Merit Review and Selection Process (Full Applications)

- The Merit Review process consists of multiple phases that each include an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review
- Rigorous reviews are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the FOA
- Ultimately, the Selection Official considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as program policy factors, to make the selection decisions

Technical Merit Review Criteria

Criterion 1: Project Merit, Innovation, and Impact (50%)

Project Merit and Innovation

- Extent to which the proposed project is innovative over the current practice and has the potential to significantly reduce energy use in the community
- Quality of the analysis of the current state of the community's energy use
- Extent to which the application specifically and convincingly demonstrates how the applicant will advance the community's energy reduction goals
- Sufficiency of detail in the application to assess whether the proposed work is viable, meritorious and impactful, including relevant data, plans, and analysis that supports the viability of the proposed work

Technical Merit Review Criteria - Continued

Criterion 1: Project Merit, Innovation, and Impact (50%)

Project Impact

- Degree to which the project supports the community's pledge to reduce energy use by 15% by 2020
- The potential of the project to impact and drive replication in other Alaskan and arctic communities, including consideration of plans to share data gathered and lessons learned
- The potential for the project impacts to be sustained and maintained beyond the completion of the project has been explained. This includes planned activities to address maintenance or confirmation that community has the expertise and/or training to maintain projects that are implemented in this FOA.

Technical Merit Review Criteria - Continued

Criterion 2: Project Approach and Workplan (25%)

Project Approach and Workplan

- Degree to which the project approach is clearly described
- Degree to which the project approach is realistic and appropriate to the community relative to community energy use, economic, cultural and climate considerations
- Degree to which the project task descriptions are clear, detailed, and reasonable, resulting in a high likelihood that the proposed Workplan will succeed in meeting the project goals

Technical Merit Review Criteria - Continued

Criterion 2: Project Approach and Workplan (25%)

Identification and mitigation of Risks

- Discussion and demonstrated understanding of the potential risk areas involved in achieving the proposed outcomes, and the quality of the mitigation strategies to address them

Baseline, Metrics, and Deliverables

- The level of clarity in the definition of the energy baseline, metrics, and milestones, including a clear description of how measurements will be made and reported

Technical Merit Review Criteria - Continued

Criterion 3: Qualifications, Capabilities and Partnerships (25%)

Qualifications, Capabilities and Partnerships

- Appropriateness of the qualifications, capabilities, relevant expertise, and time commitment of the project team, key personnel and partners, and the degree to which the roles of the team members are clearly identified
- The ability of the proposed team to address all aspects of the proposed work with a high probability of success
- Quality of the management approach for the successful implementation of the proposed project
- Level of commitment by project participants as evidenced by letter(s) of commitment
- Reasonableness of budget and spend plan for proposed project and objectives.

Selection Factors

The Selection Official may consider the merit review recommendation, program policy factors, and the amount of funds available in arriving at selections for this FOA

Program Policy Factors

In addition to the above criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors in determining which Full Applications to select for award negotiations:

- The degree to which the proposed project, including proposed cost shares, optimizes the use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives;
- Technical, organizational, and environmental risks associated with the project;
- Whether the proposed project is likely to provide local employment opportunities;
- Geographic diversity

Questions

- Questions about this FOA? Email AlaskaCompetition@hq.doe.gov.
 - All Q&As related to this FOA will be posted on EERE Exchange
 - You must select this specific FOA Number in order to view the Q&As
 - EERE will attempt to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar Q&A has already been posted on the website
- Problems logging into EERE Exchange or uploading and submitting application documents with EERE Exchange? Email EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov.
 - Include FOA name and number in subject line
- All questions asked during this presentation will be posted on EERE Exchange