

Large-Scale Energy Efficiency Program

What is the Empowerment Grant Program?

Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility–Energize Delaware was selected to facilitate the Empowerment Grant Program and funded by the merger of Delmarva Power with Exelon. This program will provide funding to organizations to administer energy efficiency programs that directly benefit Delmarva Power customers, whose households earn 60 percent or below the Delaware State median income.

With direct guidance from the Delaware Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee and its Low-Income Working Group, Energize Delaware will manage and distribute all low-income settlement funds through a grant-making process that serves two distinct energy efficiency programs including a large-scale low-income energy efficiency grant program(s) as well as a small-scale community-based low-income energy efficiency grant program(s). To accomplish this goal the Energize Delaware Empower Program has been created to implement a competitive grant program.

These funds are being provided to support capable organizations in delivering energy efficiency programs to low-income ratepayers located in Delmarva’s Delaware electric and gas service territory. Applicant(s) receiving a grant award will accomplish one or more of the following in the Delmarva Power Service Area (Link here to Territory Map): <http://arcg.is/C89WD>

How will the funds be used?

- Increase energy efficiency for low-income Delaware households
- Engage with and inform households about the benefits of efficiency and strategies available
- Develop a comprehensive community-based approach to address energy efficiency issues in low-income housing by mobilizing public and private sector resources, including grassroots, community-based, non-profit, and faith-based organizations
- Ensure to the greatest extent feasible that job training, employment, contracting, and other economic opportunities generated by this grant will be direct to low-income persons in Delmarva’s service area

Eligible Applicants, Beneficiaries, and Activities

Eligible applicants include Delaware-based for-profit companies with a valid State of Delaware business license, non-profit organizations, and local governments.

Eligible beneficiaries include:

- Low income individuals or households who live within Delmarva’s Delaware Service Area. (See table below for 2020 program year).
- Individuals or households within Delmarva’s Delaware Service Area who reside in a target area where evidence shows that more than 50% of the residents are low income.

- Individuals or households within Delmarva’s Delaware Service Area who reside in one of the prescribed census blocks where census data shows that more than 50% of the residents are Low Income.

Eligible activities include any activities either tangible or non-tangible that can be shown to save electric or natural gas energy. **Renewable energy projects are not eligible.** Any weatherization or pre-weatherization program would need to address areas that current programs don’t address and need to be seen as an additive and not a duplication of services. Delmarva “Gas Only” customers will only be eligible for program where the principal savings are targeted for natural gas.

Available Funds

The Empowerment Program Fund has been awarded \$4 million. It is envisioned that half will be dedicated to the community scale programs and half to the large-scale programs, these ratios may vary depending on demand for each program. The initial amount of funds available for the large-scale programs for this offering is \$1 million. **The maximum amount of the Low-Income Energy Efficiency Large-Scale Program funds is not to exceed \$1 million. The minimum award amount is to be no less than \$100,000.**

Ineligible use of Funds

You may not use grant funds for any of the following activities:

- Purchase of real estate property.
- Demolition of housing units or detached buildings.
- Funds received under must not be used to replace existing community resources dedicated to any on-going project.

Grant dates

- **Estimated Grant Announcement Date: April 19, 2021**
- **Length of Project Periods: Up to a 36-month total project period with annual budget periods.**
- **Projected Proposal Due Date: June 30, 2021**

Contact Information

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For More Information about this grant opportunity please read the [Grant Program Application Guidance Document](#).