

Laurie Mueller

From: Patrick Diedrich <patrick@upper90.info>
Sent: Friday, August 8, 2025 11:29 AM
To: Laurie Mueller
Subject: RE: Grant Opportunity from the WI PSC, RESP Round 2

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Hi Laurie,

It was great speaking with you yesterday. As promised, I wanted to share information about Upper 90 and the Rural Energy Startup Program (RESP) Grant, which I think could be an excellent fit for the Town of Palmyra.

About Upper 90

We are a performance contractor based in Sun Prairie, WI, specializing in helping municipalities and school districts plan, fund, and implement energy efficiency and infrastructure improvement projects. Our work includes facility energy audits, project budgeting, and securing grants or incentives to offset costs. We've recently helped several rural Wisconsin communities secure RESP funding and complete comprehensive energy audits.

About the RESP Grant

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) offers the RESP Grant to rural communities, providing up to \$20,000 (Activity 1: Comprehensive Energy Planning) to fund an Investment Grade Audit (IGA) of municipal facilities and infrastructure.

- No local match required
- Audits identify savings opportunities in lighting, HVAC, building envelope, and more
- Results position communities for future funding to complete the recommended projects

You can learn more here: [PSC RESP Grant Information Page](#)

Timing Considerations

While the original application deadline was July 16, 2025, the PSC has confirmed that the system remains open and applications will be accepted **as long as funds remain available**. Because awards are made on a rolling basis, there is a risk that funds could be depleted before August 18. One option could be to prepare the application now so the board can review and approve it quickly—ensuring Palmyra is in line for funding before money runs out.

Additional Literature on the RESP Grant

- [NASEO News Article](#): Overview of how the PSC received \$2.3M through the EECBG to support rural and disadvantaged communities.
- [PSC Webinar Slide Deck](#): "Energy Funding for Wisconsin Rural Communities" — detailed overview of RESP and EIGP, eligibility, mapping tools, and DOE Blueprints.
- [OEI Newsletter \(Jan 2024\)](#): Includes RESP program summaries, webinar links, slides, and FAQs.
- [PSC GovDelivery Bulletin \(June 2025\)](#): Announces Round 2 and explains the flexible application window and available funding.

References

We've recently helped:

- **Jason Sergeant**, City Administrator, City of Evansville — (608) 882-2266

- **Ramona Flanigan**, City Administrator, City of Edgerton — (608) 884-3341

I'd be happy to connect you with either of them so you can hear firsthand about their experience with Upper 90 and the grant process.

Would you like to set up a brief Zoom or phone call in the next week to review the grant details, walk through past audit examples, and outline the steps so Palmyra is ready when the board meets?

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Best,

Patrick Diedrich

Account Executive

www.upper90.info

<https://centrix-partners.com/locations/wi-mn>

(608) 576-9612

patrick@upper90.info



From: Laurie Mueller <clerk@vi.palmyra.wi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 9:33 AM
To: Patrick Diedrich <patrick@upper90.info>
Subject: RE: Grant Opportunity from the WI PSC, RESP Round 2

9 am right?

From: Patrick Diedrich <patrick@upper90.info>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 9:33 AM
To: Laurie Mueller <clerk@vi.palmyra.wi.gov>
Subject: RE: Grant Opportunity from the WI PSC, RESP Round 2

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Good morning Laurie,

That works for me. I will plan to call you then at the number you provided.

Best,

Patrick Diedrich

Account Executive

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(608) 576-9612

patrick@upper90.info

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OEI Special Edition: Rural Energy Startup Program Grant Period Now Open!



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin sent this bulletin at 06/06/2025 08:59 AM CDT

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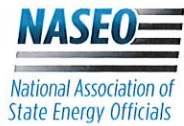
OEI Special Edition June 2025

Rural Energy Startup Program Grant Period Now Open!

- The Rural Energy Startup Program (RESP) Round 2, funded by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG), opened on May 30, 2025.
- RESP supports communities taking initial steps to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.
- The initial application period will remain open until **1:30 PM CT July 16, 2025**. The grant system may remain open, allowing later filed applicants to submit an application for consideration if funds remain available. The Commission may authorize the awarding of additional grants accepted in the PSC Grants System after the initial due date, as time and funds allow.
- RESP eligible applicants include cities, villages, towns, and counties that were not eligible to receive a direct allocation from the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) and are considered rural for the purposes of this program. Click [here to see EECBG Formula Award Recipients](#).
 - Applicants can use the [OEI Map](#) to check whether their county or municipality is rural by turning on the "Wisconsin Rural Region" layer and searching their project location.
 - Priority will be given to rural applicants that are considered Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) by the [OEI Map](#) by making sure the "Disadvantaged and Tribal Communities" layer is on and visible. While it is not necessary for an applicant to be located within a DAC or have a DAC located within the planned project area, priority will be given to applicants meeting those qualifiers.
- There are three types of eligible activities: comprehensive energy planning, renewable resource planning, and energy audits and building upgrades/retrofits. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$75,000 for comprehensive energy planning and renewable resource planning, and up to \$125,000 for energy efficiency audits and building upgrades or retrofits, with no match required.
- To read more about program eligibility requirements and eligible activities, visit the links below.

[RESP Website](#)

[RESP Application Instructions](#)



NASEO Newsroom

[Home](#) > [Home](#) > [Article](#)

Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation Establishes New Rural Energy Startup Program

🕒 December 21, 2023 👤 By Jasmine Xie, NASEO 🔌 Energy Efficiency 🌱 Renewables 🏡 Rural ⚡ Electricity

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's (PSC) Office of Energy Innovation (OEI) is actively soliciting applications for the inaugural year of their Rural Energy Startup Program (RESP). This innovative single-round grant program is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG), which received a substantial boost in funding from the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA). The Wisconsin PSC received \$2,330,720 in EECBG funds and has allocated 100 percent of these funds towards establishing the RESP. The primary goal of this program is to expand access to clean energy, efficiency, and preparedness for small and rural Wisconsin communities that otherwise face barriers to participating in the clean energy transition. Eligible applicants include municipalities or counties that have not received direct allocations of federal formula funding under the IIJA EECBG Program, with priority for those based in rural locales or disadvantaged communities, as identified by a map developed by OEI and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

RESP will support the following priorities:

Planning and Basic Upgrade Projects: Emphasizing crucial initial steps outlined in U.S. DOE blueprints, laying the groundwork for energy efficiency, and promoting locally led efforts in the transition to renewable energy.

Support for Underserved Rural Communities: Providing assistance to rural communities that did not meet the population threshold for direct federal support under the Federal EECBG program. Priority will be given to projects that are within a [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool-defined Disadvantaged Community \(DAC\)\[SMP1\]](#) or have a DAC located within the planned project area.

Applications for RESP grants will be accepted until Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 1:30 pm CT. More information about the program can be found [here](#).



Source: NASEO

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Rural Energy Startup Program

[< OEI Homepage](#)

Overview

The Rural Energy Startup Program (RESP) is funded by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) and supports communities taking initial steps to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.

To be informed of program developments and opportunities to participate, subscribe to docket 9714-FG-2024 using [EZ e-Subscribe](#).

Who is eligible to apply

To be eligible, applicants must be:

- A unit of local government (city, village, town, county) that was not eligible to receive a direct allocation from Department of Energy (DOE) (see Resources for Applicants below)
- Considered rural for the purposes of this program:
 - Rural municipal zip codes are identified as those within “any area of a State not in a city or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants, not in the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants, and excluding certain populations pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(H) and (I).” OEI has aligned its definition of rural with that use in USDA’s Rural Energy for America Program and the [Focus on Energy program’s rural bonus incentives](#).

- Rural counties are identified by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) using census data to establish a range of rural and urban classifications known as Rural-Urban Continuum (RUC) codes, with RUC of 4 to 9 considered rural. [USDA's Economic Research Service](#) presents this information visually for Wisconsin by county.
- To be given priority, applicants may:
 - Be within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) as shown in the OEI Mapping Tool or have a DAC located within the planned project area.

Additional Grant Details

Currently accepting applications	Yes. The Office of Energy Innovation (OEI) opened a grant round on May 30, 2025. The application period for the initial batch 1 applications was 1:30 PM CT on July 16, 2025. Additional grants applications will be accepted in the PSC Grants System after the initial due date, as time and funds allow.
Matching funds required	No
Docket Number	9714-FG-2024 EZ e-Subscribe
Contact information	✉ OEI@Wisconsin.gov

PSC Grants System

To apply for a PSC administered grant, applicants must submit an application using the PSC Grants System. Use the application material below for details on grant eligibility, instructions on

application responses, and required documentation when submitting an application in the PSC Grants System.

[PSC GRANTS SYSTEM LOGIN](#)[GRANTS SYSTEM USER'S GUIDE](#)

Types of Eligible Activities

Applicants must demonstrate that their projects fall into one of the following eligible activities. Grant awardees will be expected to use U.S. DOE's EECBG Blueprints specific to these activities to guide their project implementation. U.S. DOE EECBG Blueprints serve as a step-by-step guide with tools and resources to support energy project implementation. Note, the OEI provides the U.S. DOE EECBG Blueprint PDFs below for applicant use but is not responsible for maintaining the links found in them.

- **Comprehensive Energy Planning** | [Blueprint 1: Energy Planning](#)
Evaluate current energy use and sources, determine potential for generating energy locally, and create goals for energy savings and generation.
- **Renewable Resource Planning** | [Blueprint 3D: Renewable Resource Planning for Rural and Tribal Communities](#)
Assess renewable resource potential, set a collective vision with stakeholders for optimal renewable energy deployment, and create an action plan for formal adoption and implementation.
- **Energy Audits and Building Upgrades** | [Blueprint 2A: Energy Efficiency - Energy Audits and Building Upgrades](#)
Identify potential energy saving opportunities in buildings and the technical and financial information (such as upfront costs, ongoing costs, projected energy savings, return on investment) in order to evaluate and approve energy efficiency, electrification, and grid interactivity retrofits. Additionally, energy efficiency projects associated with a proposed energy audit, an existing energy audit, or a comprehensive energy plan are also eligible for funding.

Application Materials

The following are the materials required to apply for the RESP Round 2:

- [Rural Energy Startup Program Round 2 Application Instructions](#)

- [📄 9714-FG-2024 Applicant Metrics.xlsx Document](#)

Webinars

- [📄 Part 1: Overview of the OEI and RESP](#)
- [📄 Part 2: Eligible Applicants and Activities](#)
- [📄 Part 3: Accounts and Application Content](#)
- [📄 Part 4: OEI Map Overview and Demo](#)
- [📄 Part 5: Review Criteria](#)
- [📄 Part 6: Federal Flowdown Requirements](#)
- [📄 RESP Round 2 Webinar Slides.pdf](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

- [📄 Rural Energy Startup Program Round 2 Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

Resources for Grant Applicants

OEI Map

The OEI Map provides applicants with relevant information as they prepare OEI Grant Applications. The available map layers include:

RESP Specific Layers:

- 2010 Census Tracts
- Disadvantaged and Tribal Communities
- Wisconsin Rural Counties and Zip Codes

Additional Available Layers:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Risk Index
- Electric Utility Service Territories
- Municipal and County Boundaries

[📄 OEI MAP](#)[📄 NAVIGATE THE OEI MAP: PDF HANDOUT](#)

Energy Planning Consultant List

 [Focus on Energy](#) maintains a list of consultants who have made themselves known to Focus on Energy as providing energy planning services.

The OEI and Focus on Energy have not independently verified this list nor do they endorse those consultants listed. The OEI provides this list for the convenience of applicants only. Consultants who wish to be listed should  [submit a trade ally application](#) to Focus on Energy.

 ENERGY PLANNING TRADE ALLIES

U.S. DOE Formula-Eligible Applicants

For reference, the entities that were eligible to receive a direct allocation from DOE, and therefore are not served by this program. If you are interested in this list, please contact the OEI ( OEI@Wisconsin.gov).

Resources for RESP Grant Award Recipients

Onboarding Materials for Grant Awardees

-  [Link to Onboarding Questionnaire](#)
-  [Link to Environmental Screening Tool](#)

RESP Grant Recipients – All reports are to be filed through Grants Management System

 PSC GRANTS SYSTEM LOGIN

GRANTS SYSTEM USER'S GUIDE

-  [Davis Bacon Wage Report and Instruction](#)
-  [Instructions For Completing Payroll Form, WH-347 | U.S. Department of Labor](#)
-  [DOE Required Property Equipment Inventory](#)

RESP Grant Awards

Federal Fiscal Year	Number of Grantees	Available Funds	Docket
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