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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | RFA # 202506092 – Clean Energy Partnership: Residential Energy Efficiency Workforce Training Grants |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Governor’s Energy Office |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | August 8, 2025, no later than 11:50 p.m., local time |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | August 27, 2025 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | September 17, 2025, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov) |
| **Unless specifically addressed below, all other provisions and clauses of the RFA remain unchanged.** | |
| **DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES IN RFA:**   1. The application page requirement has been removed from Part V of the RFA. 2. The scoring criteria in Part IV of the RFA has been revised. 3. The Budget Worksheet within the Application Form has been amended to correct a cell formatting issue. | |
| **REVISED LANGUAGE IN RFA:**   1. ~~The application must be 20 pages or less.~~ Letters of support are not included in the page limitation. 2. Scoring Weights: The score will be based on a 100-point scale and will measure the degree to which each application meets the criteria and instructions described in Part V of the RFA and in the Budget Worksheet.  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Scoring Criteria** | **Points Available** | | Eligibility | Pass/Fail | | Organization Qualifications and Experience | 25 | | Proposed Project | 20 | | Proposed Outcomes | 15 | | Implementation – Work Plan | 10 | | Budget | 25 | | Partnerships Table | 5 | | **Total Points** | **100 points** |  1. The Budget Worksheet within the Application Form has been amended. Please double click on the icon below to open the embedded file to review the changes. | |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the responses provided at the Informational Session.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section C. Eligibility to Submit Applications, Page 6 | Is a municipal school unit (nonprofit but not 501c3) eligible to apply? |
| **Answer** | |
| A municipal school unit meeting the eligibility criteria would be eligible to apply. Applicants must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States, and be capable of providing the proposed services sought by this RFA at a location within the State of Maine. | |

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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part III, Section D. Application Submission, Pages 13-14 | When submitting the application does everything have to be on the application form or can you submit the sections as appendix |
| **Answer** | |
| Applicants must submit a completed Application Form (found in Part V of the RFA) and all required information and attachments as stated in the form. The Application Form must be submitted as a single, typed, PDF file. Applicants are not to provide additional attachments beyond those specified in the RFA or Application Form for the purpose of extending their response. Materials not requested will not be considered part of the application and will not be evaluated. Letters of support may be provided and are not included in the page limitation. | |

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| **3** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, Section G. Scoring Weights, Page 15 | Is there any programmatic preference between cost efficiency per person served vs. impact on those served (e.g., serve more people well for less $ or serve fewer people but increase individual impact for more $) |
| **Answer** | |
| It is at the Applicant’s discretion to determine the activities they will propose in their application. Applicants are encouraged to propose cost efficient projects to attract, train, certify, place, and retain current and potential energy efficiency workers and residential energy contractors. Additionally, proposed costs must be reasonable and necessary for the project and adhere to the Uniform Cost Principles detailed in [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-E), and [2 CFR Part 910](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-910) (Department of Energy-specific). | |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A. Required Activities, Pages 8-10 | Would energy coaching for consumers/residents be an in-scope programmatic activity? |
| **Answer** | |
| Qualified individuals and entities are encouraged to submit proposals to attract, train, certify, place, and retain current and potential energy efficiency workers and residential energy contractors. It is at the Applicant’s discretion to determine the activities they will propose in their application. Without additional detail the State cannot determine whether this proposed activity will meet the eligibility criteria of the RFA. | |

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| **5** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section D. Reporting Requirements, Pages 11-12 | Are there any additional details available on reporting requirements, beyond what’s listed in the RFA? |
| **Answer** | |
| Applicants are encouraged to review RFA Part II Activities and Requirements and Application Form, Proposed Outcomes. Awarded Applicants will be required to execute a State of Maine Service Contract with the appropriate riders including as determined by the issuing Department. | |

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| **6** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section C. Eligibility to Submit Applications, Page 6 | Could a non-profit be the lead applicant with a group of training organizations or does the lead applicant need to be the training provider? |
| **Answer** | |
| A non-profit meeting the eligibility criteria would be eligible to apply. Applicants must be organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a particular state or territory of the United States, and be capable of providing the proposed services sought by this RFA at a location within the State of Maine.  Applicants may list details of subcontractors in the Application Form. If using subcontractors, a letter of support from each proposed subcontractor stating their role and contribution to the project is also required. Additional partnerships may be listed in the Partnerships Table in the Application Form. | |

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| **7** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B. Allowable Use of Funds, Pages 10-11 | Can funds be used for training equipment? |
| **Answer** | |
| Proposed costs must be reasonable and necessary for the project and adhere to the Uniform Cost Principles detailed in [2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-E), and [2 CFR Part 910](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-910) (Department of Energy-specific). Applicants may propose reasonable and necessary equipment purchases. Equipment is defined as an item with an acquisition cost greater than $10,000 and a useful life expectancy of more than one year (see [2 CFR 200 Part 200.1](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-A/subject-group-ECFR2a6a0087862fd2c/section-200.1) for the definition of equipment.). Equipment purchases must be pre-approved by the Department and the US Department of Energy. The request to purchase equipment does not guarantee approval. | |

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| **8** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part V, Application Form, Page 17 | When completing the budget form do you have to list all expenses for the entire project or just the expenses you will be using the grant funding for? |
| **Answer** | |
| Applicants must complete each tab of the Budget Worksheet, as applicable, detailing only the amounts requested for the proposed project. | |

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| **9** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part V, Application Form, Page 17 | Is there a cost share requirement? |
| **Answer** | |
| There is no match or cost-share requirement. | |

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| **10** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section F. Applicable Legislation, Page 7 | I believe this funding is coming from the IRA. Is there any risk that this might be clawed back? |
| **Answer** | |
| This program is funded under Section 50123 of the Inflation Reduction Act ([PL 117-169](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376/text)). In December 2024, the Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) was approved for a $1.3 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy to administer the Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC) program. Visit this page for more information: <https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/infrastructure/contractor-training-grants>. | |

**Below are submitted, written questions from bidders and the Department’s responses.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section E. Contract Terms, Page 7 | The RFA states that the contract period of performance begins November 1, 2025. Our organization is currently funded through a Clean Energy Partnership grant through June 30, 2026. We are interested in applying for this new grant to continue our programming without overlapping funds. Is there any flexibility in the contract start date? |
| **Answer** | |
| Projects will have a total period of performance of 24 months, including an initial one-year period of performance and a renewal period. The renewal period is subject to satisfactory performance following the initial period of performance and available funds. The initial period of performance for all awards is estimated to be 11/01/2025 – 10/31/2026.  No organization or partner receiving an award under this RFA may supplant other state or federal funds with these funds that assist with similar services. | |

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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section E. Contract Terms, Page 7 | Is it permissible to begin limited activities, such as research, planning, and curriculum development, on a consultancy basis during the period of overlap with a current grant, while deferring full program implementation until a previous grant cycle ends? |
| **Answer** | |
| Applicants must provide an Implementation – Work Plan in the application detailing strategies/activities, timeline, responsible actors, and expected outcomes for the period of performance. The initial period of performance for all awards is estimated to be 11/01/2025 – 10/31/2026, and the total period of performance is 24 months including a renewal period. The renewal period is subject to satisfactory performance following the initial period of performance and available funds. | |