

Q&A Summary

Technical Assistance Opportunity EEPRC2024

Community Resilience Partnership Energy Efficiency Planning for Rural Communities

Updated September 20, 2024

Can we include a school building as one of the buildings to receive services through this technical assistance opportunity?

The community may select a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of six (6) publicly owned buildings that need energy efficiency improvement. Priority buildings may include buildings that have poor energy efficiency, have high energy costs, are older in age, and/or are highly used by the community. School buildings, libraries, and other similar buildings are eligible and may be considered.

The municipality or local government would be expected to manage involvement in the program and provide a lead point of contact.

Can we include a school building owned by an RSU as one of the buildings to receive services through this technical assistance opportunity?

Priority buildings may include buildings that have poor energy efficiency, have high energy costs, are older in age, and/or are highly used by the community. School buildings, libraries, and other similar buildings may be considered. School districts, water and sewer districts, libraries, and similar public or quasi-public entities are not eligible to be primary applicants but are eligible, and encouraged, to partner with an eligible municipality or other eligible entity.

For the purposes of EEPRC, a school building owned by a Regional School Unit (RSU) is eligible to receive services through this technical assistance offering if the RSU partners with an eligible municipality or other eligible entity who will serve as the primary applicant for this program.

A strong application would include the following:

- Under the “Building Use” section of the “Energy Efficiency Profile” for the building in question, provide detail on how the regional communities use the building (i.e., covered grade levels, number of students served, communities served by the school);
- Under the “Project Management” section of the application, provide a lead contact for the RSU and describe how municipal staff will coordinate with the RSU to provide the required utility data and site access, if needed, for the consultant;
- Under the “Community Engagement” section of the application, describe specific actions that will be taken to engage the broader regional community on this project, including all communities served by the school building proposed in the application; and
- Identify all communities served by the RSU and provide Letters of Support from all communities served by schools included in the application.

Are applicants required to include a school building in the application?

Inclusion of a school building is not a requirement for this technical assistance opportunity. The community may select a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of six (6) publicly owned buildings that need energy efficiency improvement. Priority buildings may include buildings that have poor energy efficiency, have high energy costs, are older in age, and/or are highly used by the community. School buildings, libraries, and other similar buildings are eligible.

Can we include a municipally owned building that is being rented or leased to a nonprofit as one of the buildings to receive services through this technical assistance opportunity?

For the purposes of EEPRC, a building owned by the municipality or community and rented or leased to a nonprofit organization may be considered to receive services through this technical assistance offering.

A strong application would include the following:

- Under the “Building Use” section of the “Energy Efficiency Profile” for the building in question, provide detail on who the renting organization is and how they use the building;
- Under the “Project Management” section of the application, provide a lead contact for the nonprofit organization and describe how municipal staff will coordinate with the nonprofit organization to provide the required utility data and set up site visits for the consultant; and
- Provide a Letter of Support from the nonprofit organization.

The municipality or local government would be expected to manage involvement in the program and provide a lead point of contact.

We have a volunteer fire department for which the town allocates funds every year for its operational costs fire department is a 501(c)3 and owns the building. Would this type of building be eligible to receive services through this technical assistance opportunity?

Priority buildings may include buildings that have poor energy efficiency, have high energy costs, are older in age, and/or are highly used by the community. School districts, water and sewer districts, libraries, and similar public or quasi-public entities are not eligible to be primary applicants but are encouraged to partner with an eligible municipality or other eligible entity.

In this specific example of the nonprofit fire department, this building would be eligible for consideration for the EEPRC technical assistance. However, the building may not be eligible for improvements through a Community Action Grant because it is not publicly owned, so other sources of funding may be required for implementation of energy efficiency projects.

The fire department should provide a Letter of Support and a point of contact. The municipality or local government would be expected to manage involvement in the program and provide a lead point of contact.

If a building is on the historic register, would this pose a problem?

The services provided through this technical assistance offering do not include construction or improvements to buildings and therefore will not trigger historic preservation review. The community is encouraged to consult the State Historic Preservation Office when moving ahead with implementation of recommended improvements.

Would school buses count as a “building”?

No, school buses are not considered buildings and are not eligible for this program.

Has the consultant been selected? If not, will there be an RFP released for the opportunity? And will the consultant be the same for all communities?

The consultant has not yet been selected. The State of Maine currently has an active RFP to seek proposals for a consultant to support this program. For more information regarding the consultant, a copy of the RFP and all related documents can be obtained at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps>

Will the energy audits include blower tests for building leakage and IR tests for insulation issues?

The energy audits may include blower tests and IR tests. The consultant will work with the Community Resilience Partnership team and the community to determine the appropriate energy audit measures for each building.

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What about buildings that are on unmetered well water and don’t have water usage data?

For buildings that are on unmetered well water and don’t have water usage data, include a note about this under the “Project Management” section.

If we have conducted audits in the recent past, how may we take advantage of the energy conservation/ benchmarking opportunities?

Yes, a building with a recent energy audit is eligible for the other services provided by the consultant.

Do you have an expected timeline for the program (from onboarding to technical assistance to offboarding)?

The program is expected to span approximately two years, with an approximate start date in December 2024 or January 2025. Schedule details will be further determined in consultation with the consultant.

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Will the consultant address the need for solar panels and other clean energy siting?

The consultant has not yet been selected. The State of Maine currently has an active RFP to seek proposals for a consultant to support this program. For more information regarding the consultant, a copy of the RFP and all related documents can be obtained at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps>

Will the CRP connect the community with the consultant or will the town do that on their own?

Yes, Community Resilience Partnership staff will connect the community with the consultant.

The consultant has not yet been selected. The State of Maine currently has an active RFP to seek proposals for a consultant to support this program. For more information regarding the consultant, a copy of the RFP and all related documents can be obtained at:

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Does participation, if selected, commit the community to carrying out recommendations made by the consultant?

Participants in the EEPRC may choose which of the recommendations, if any, they pursue for implementation.

