



ENERGY RELIEF GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

I have a question about the grant program. Who can I talk to?

You can contact Eileen Lacaden at Eileen.D.Lacaden@leidos.com or by phone at (808) 848-8576. You can also reach out to your Energy Advisor for guidance. Don't know who your Energy Advisor is? Visit our [team page](#) for a list under *Program Delivery - Commercial*.

Is there someone at Hawai'i Energy who can help me identify an energy efficiency upgrade?

Check out our website for a list of business incentives that might apply to you. You can also reach out to your Energy Advisor or any of the Clean Energy Allies (contractors) also listed on our website.

Who can apply?

To apply, a business must meet the following requirements:

- Both the applicant and project must be eligible for the Hawai'i Energy commercial incentive program (see "Eligibility" on the Hawai'i Energy [Commercial Incentive Application](#)). Visit the Hawai'i Energy website for [currently available incentives](#).*
- Applicant must fall into one of the following categories:
 - 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations
 - Obtained relief funding from one of these programs:
 - Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)
 - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
 - City & County of Honolulu Small Business Relief and Recovery Fund
 - Maui County Micro Business Loan
 - Hawai'i County Emergency Resilience Loan
 - Hawai'i Energy-defined group
 - Energy Advantage customer
 - Small businesses with electric rate Schedule "G"
 - Small business with solar PV using less than 25 kW or 5,000 kWh per month
 - Small business with less than 5,000 sq. ft. facility
 - Restaurant
 - Multifamily affordable housing property (occupants with up to 100% of Area Median Income)
 - Past or current EmPOWER or Strategic Energy Management (SEM) participants**

*Electric vehicle charging stations are ineligible for this program.

**Commercial businesses and 501(c)(3) organizations only

How do you apply?

There are a few steps to apply for the Energy Relief Grant:

1. Choose an energy efficiency improvement project.



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2. Obtain itemized quotes from a few contractors and select one. Check out our [list](#) of Clean Energy Allies if you need ideas.
3. Fill and submit the following required documents:
 - Energy Relief Grant Application
 - Hawai'i Energy Commercial Incentive Application
 - IRS Form W-9
 - Itemized quote
 - Proposed equipment specification sheets or submittals
 - For 501(c)3 organizations only: IRS 501(c)3 Determination Letter
 - For those qualified under a relief fund or loan only: Loan/funding approval documentation

Is there an application deadline?

Yes, applications must be submitted to Hawai'i Energy by September 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. HST for this first round of funding. Please send application packages to Eileen Lacaden at Eileen.D.Lacaden@leidos.com by the deadline.

What if I can't get quotes in time for the September 30 deadline?

There will be a second round of funding available in October 2020. Second round applications will be due on November 30, 2020. More information will be available on the second round in October.

How much grant funding will I receive?

Grant funding is not guaranteed. An applicant may receive from \$0 up to a maximum of \$25,000. The award amount will be listed on the award letter to be sent to grant awardees by October 30, 2020.

How will Hawai'i Energy determine how much funding I will receive?

Applications are evaluated by Hawai'i Energy based on our review criteria listed below. The grant awards will be determined by Hawai'i Energy on a case-by-case basis.

- Applicant experienced hardship regarding energy consumption due to COVID-19
- Probability that the project will be completed by June 30, 2021
- Ability to cover or finance remaining project costs not covered by the grant
- Projects that demonstrate potential for significant energy savings

Preference will be given to:

- Organizations that serve the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) population, rural communities, or other vulnerable communities
- Projects with matching funds from existing budget or other sources
- Projects requesting lower amounts of funding
- Organizations who have not participated in a Hawai'i Energy commercial incentive program



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Are the Energy Relief Grant funds taxable?

Based on your tax status and grant amount, you may receive IRS Form 1099 from Hawai'i Energy showing tax eligible grant amounts.

Can I work with any contractor?

Yes, you may work with any contractor you choose. If you are looking for ideas, you can check out our [list of Clean Energy Allies](#).

I completed a project recently. Can I apply for a grant for that project?

You may apply if the invoice is dated on or after July 1, 2020.

When will I know if I received a grant or not?

Applicants who are awarded a grant will be sent an award letter by email by October 30, 2020.

When will I receive the grant money from Hawai'i Energy?

Funds from the Energy Relief Grant will be disbursed once the efficiency project is complete. All required documentation must be submitted, verified and approved before the check can be mailed.

Can I use the grant money to pay my contractor directly?

Yes. The grant funds may be sent directly to the contractor. Please fill out the contractor's information on the Commercial Incentive Application under the Rebate Payment Information section if you would like us to mail the check directly to them.

Can I submit more than one application?

Yes, a business may submit applications for different efficiency projects.

I have an Energy Advantage project. Can I still apply for a grant?

If you are a customer with an Energy Advantage project, you may apply for an Energy Relief Grant to cover the copay for the project. You must fill out the grant application and submit the required attachments to Hawai'i Energy by the deadline in order to be considered.