



EmPOWER GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

EXTENSION

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

You can contact Chester Carson at HE-Grants@leidos.com. 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*.

Do I need to purchase equipment to have my application considered for a grant?

No!

It is **not required** that any purchases need to be made to be considered for a grant. The competitive review process for applications will not factor in if purchases have already been made or not.

How much grant funding will I receive?

Applying for a grant does not guarantee applicant will be offered a grant.

If an applicant is selected after the competitive review process to be offered a grant reimbursement award, the amount will be listed on the award letter to be sent to grant awardees upon completion by Hawai'i Energy of its review process.

How do I know if my energy efficiency project is eligible for the grant program?

This year's program has three tiers of eligible equipment types with three different grant funding caps potentially available for each tier. Please visit the grant program's [website](#) for the complete eligible equipment list, including details on the tiers and associated grant funding caps.

Is there an application deadline?

During the temporary extension period for applications, Hawai'i Energy will review and process applications as they are submitted. Program funding may be exhausted at any time, which would end the temporary application extension period.

Please send application packages to Chester Carson at HE-Grants@leidos.com by the deadline as soon as possible to be considered for available program funding.

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 also fall into **one** of the following categories:
 - 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations
 - Small businesses with electric rate Schedule "G"
 - Small business with less than 5,000 sq. ft. facility
 - Restaurant

Not all incentives will qualify for the EmPOWER Grant program. Please consult the **eligible project type list on the [EmPOWER Grant website](#) to confirm eligibility.*



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How do you apply?

There are a few steps to apply for the EmPOWER Grant:

1. Choose an eligible energy efficiency improvement project.
2. Obtain itemized quotes from a few Clean Energy Ally contractors and select one. A full [list](#) of our Clean Energy Allies is available on our website.
3. Complete and submit the following required documents:
 - EmPOWER Grant Application (*available on grant program website*)
 - Hawai'i Energy Commercial Incentive Application (*available on grant program website*)
 - IRS Form W-9 (*blank form available on grant program website*)
 - Itemized quote (*obtain from chosen Clean Energy Ally contractor*)
 - Proposed equipment specification sheets or submittals (*obtain from chosen Clean Energy Ally contractor*)
 - For 501(c)3 organizations only: IRS 501(c)3 Determination Letter

Can I apply for more than one grant?

Yes. Applicants are allowed to apply for up to two (2) grants per facility. Grants cannot be combined.

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

Applications are competitively evaluated by Hawai'i Energy based on, but not limited to, review criteria below. The grant awards will be determined by Hawai'i Energy on a case-by-case basis.

- Probability that the project will be completed by June 1, 2024
- Ability to cover or finance upfront project costs through completion (before receiving any potential grant reimbursement funding)

Preference will be given to:

- Organizations that serve the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) population, rural communities, or other vulnerable communities
- Organizations who have not participated in a Hawai'i Energy commercial incentive program
- Projects that demonstrate potential for significant energy savings

Are the EmPOWER 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?

No. To be eligible for an EmPOWER Grant, you must choose a contractor from our pre-approved [list of Clean Energy Allies](#).



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I completed a project recently. Can I apply for a grant for that project during this application extension period?

Projects are eligible for EmPOWER Grant consideration during this temporary application extension period if invoices are dated on or after October 1, 2023.

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 Hawai'i Energy upon completion of its review process.

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

Funds from the EmPOWER Grant will be disbursed as a reimbursement after the efficiency project is complete. All required documentation must be submitted, verified and approved by Hawai'i Energy 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.

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

Energy Advantage lighting projects are not eligible for the grant program.

If I want to upgrade to new, energy efficient equipment, do I need to provide information about the existing equipment to be replaced?

Yes. Please submit the existing equipment make, model, and approximate age to Hawai'i Energy with your grant application. Photos, especially if they show name plates/labels are always appreciated!