

# Public Service Department Federal Funds Implementation

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# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) *November 2021*

Formula Funding - \$21.5M

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**\$3 M IIJA** funds through State Energy Program (over 5 years) to be used for:

Workforce training

Innovation grants to RPCs, municipalities, energy committees, and small utilities

Equity and engagement work



**\$1.6 M IIJA** Funds directed by Legislature to BGS State Energy Management Program for financing for Municipal Energy projects



**\$900K Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds** to be sub-granted to eligible municipalities.



**\$16Million** (over 5 years) for utility grid investments that reduce the frequency & duration of outages

# Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG)

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The Department expects to receive roughly \$900K in EECBG funds from the Department of Energy in the coming weeks.



Funds will be sub-granted to municipalities that did not receive direct EECBG allocations from DOE under BIL.



Funding will be deployed within 180 days of receipt.



Supplement incentives provided to cities and towns under the *Municipal Energy Resilience Program* run by Buildings and General Services pursuant to Act 172.

Inflation  
Reduction Act  
(IRA)  
*August 2022*

## DOE funding for Home Energy Rebates

- \$29 M for weatherization and comprehensive energy efficiency projects (HOMES or HER)
- \$29 M for rebates for electric appliances (HEAR)

## EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

- *Solar for All* Competitive Solicitation
  - Targeted to low-income households
  - Vermont applied for **\$100 Million**

# Home Energy Rebates (HER and HEAR)

## \$58 Million in *formula funds* to Vermont

- Up to 20% of funds can be spent on planning, administration, and technical assistance

## Applications due January 2025; funds must be expended by September 2031.

- Public engagement anticipated in early 2024
- Funds expected to flow *late 2024/2025*

## \$1 M for contractor training to help expand the workforce

- Application due in January
- Funds expected in 2024

# Home Efficiency Rebates (HER)

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- ❖ \$29 Million in *formula funds* to Vermont
- ❖ Incentives for *comprehensive* energy saving/weatherization projects
- ❖ Tiered incentives based on **income level** and **energy savings** range from \$2,000 to \$8,000 per household.
  - Minimum of 20% energy savings required
  - Higher incentives for savings above 35%
  - Higher incentives for households with incomes below 80% AMI
- ❖ Expect to prioritize funding the existing *Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)* overseen by the State's Office of Economic Opportunity
  - 5 Community Action Agencies deliver comprehensive weatherization for income-eligible customers
  - Vermonters below 80% AMI with prioritization for households below 60% AMI
  - Consistently underfunded when compared with need

# Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR)

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- ❖ \$29 Million in *formula funds* to Vermont
- ❖ Point of purchase rebates for households earning up to **150% of Area Median Income**
  - Up to 100% of cost for HH earning up to 80% AMI
  - Up to 50% of cost for HH earning 80-150% AMI
- ❖ Per household maximum of \$14,000 for the installation of electrification and supporting technology including:
  - heat pumps
  - heat pump water heaters
  - electric stoves and ovens
  - heat pump clothes dryers
  - electric load service upgrades and wiring
- ❖ The Department is in conversations with the Energy Efficiency Utilities about how these funds could integrate with and supplement existing programs.



## EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - *Solar for All*

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Vermont applied for \$100 M for 3 programs

- Response expected by April

Affordable pathways for low-income Vermonters to access the benefits solar power

Households below 80% AMI are eligible



# Solar for All

## **RAISE – Residential Assistance in Solar Energy - \$25 M**

- Direct ownership of net-metered solar installations (up to 5kW) on the residences of homeowners
- Enabling upgrades such as roof repairs, structural improvements, electric service enhancements are eligible for funding
- Can be paired with battery storage in some instances

## **MASH - Multi-Family Affordable Solar Housing - \$40 M**

- Grants and/or loans to affordable housing developers to construct solar to benefit residents
- Prioritize rooftop space and on-site land

## **ACRE - Affordable Community Renewable Energy - \$35 M**

- Expands the existing ARPA-funded program with utilities
- Provides electric bill reductions through special utility tariffs tied to the production of energy from solar installations

# A Note on Federal Funds

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Funding Takes Time

Federal Restrictions on Eligible Use

Significant funding but won't meet all needs

Money Isn't Free:

- Significant resources dedicated to securing, distributing, and reporting on funds while meeting Federal requirements.
- Even Formula Funding Requires Applications, Engagement, Reporting, etc.