

Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP) Grant

What does this program do?

The Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP) offers grant assistance to Rural Energy Community Partnerships (RECPs) to develop renewable energy to help meet our nation's energy needs and combat climate change while prioritizing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity.

Who may apply for this program?

As eligible applicants, RECPs are partnerships established to provide community-scale renewable energy benefits and assistance to underserved rural communities. RECP partnerships can be comprised of the following entities:

- Nonprofit organizations
- State organizations
- Federally-recognized Tribes
- Municipalities and other public bodies

How may funds be used?

REPP grant funds can be used to support:

- Community energy planning, capacity building, and technical assistance
- Community efficiency and weatherization
- Installation and equipping of community-scale renewable energy technologies and systems

What is an eligible area?

A REPP partnership must serve a rural community as specified in the REPP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) published in the *Federal Register*. Priority is given to distressed and high energy-burden communities, in which households spend a greater proportion of their income on energy costs compared to the average U.S. household.

What is the maximum grant amount?

Awards to successful applicants will be in the form of cost-share grants for up to 80 percent of total eligible project costs, not to exceed \$2 million.

What are the terms of the grant?

The grant term is three years.

How do we apply?

Interested applicants are encouraged to review the materials – including application deadlines – found in the NOFO.

Application guides and submission instructions are on the Rural Energy Pilot Program website under the “To Apply” tab, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/x2WR>.

What governs this program?

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116 – 260) – available at this link: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/133/text> - provides the Secretary of Agriculture \$10 million until expended to carry out a pilot program to offer financial assistance for rural communities to develop renewable energy. The REPP is governed by a Notice of Funding Opportunity originally published January 19, 2022.

Why does USDA Rural Development do this?

The REPP meets a recognized need for federal support to further develop renewable energy to help meet our nation's energy needs and combat climate change while prioritizing environmental justice, racial equity, and economic opportunity.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please contact your state-based energy coordinator (a list is available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtBaj>) for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.