

## EE Kickstarter Competition NOFA Responses

Below are questions (#1-19) received during the open question period of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Questions are listed in BLACK text, and answers are listed in Red. Where appropriate, small grammatical changes to the questions were made for clarification purposes.

1. This question is regarding the ineligibility of RACEE Phase III applicant communities: If RACEE winners are announced before the November 4th Kickstarter Competition deadline, could the ones that are not receiving funding be considered eligible?  
Yes, Remote Alaska Community Energy Efficiency (RACEE) phase 1 and Phase 2 recipients are eligible for the EE-Kickstarter award, Phase 3 recipients are ineligible.
2. If the tribe and the city join forces on a project, how is the funding split?  
The funding is assigned by facility/(ies) owner on a cost reimbursable basis. For example, an auditor may bill a city for certain buildings, and a tribe for other buildings. Each facility owner would submit invoices to AHFC for reimbursement.
3. What is covered under this grant?  
Section A states: “the Energy Efficiency Kickstarter Competitive Award is meant to be used by eligible applicants to accelerate implementation of energy efficiency projects, including gap funding for potential projects identified in energy audits or technical assistance.”  
The intent is to create a construction/finance ready project. Grant funds shall be used to cover the costs associated with developing an energy efficiency retrofit project. Grant funds may also be used to help cover the costs associated with hiring an Energy Efficiency Project Developer (EEDP). AHFC and Alaska Department of Transportation have prequalified EEDP’s to provide these services. A list of EEDP’s can be found at: <https://www.ahfc.us/efficiency/non-residential-buildings/pre-qualified-project-developers/>  
This grant shall NOT be used to pay for materials used in an energy efficient retrofit.
4. In the, EE-Kickstarter\_NOFA\_10.12.16\_FINAL.pdf, on page 4, under section C. Eligible Applicants. It states, “This Kickstarter award is not open to the State of Alaska, the State of Alaska Court System, or Boroughs”. The Kodiak School District Island Borough is a borough. Which tells me, the Award is not open to Kodiak School District Island Borough. My question is, do we qualify for this award? School districts, even borough based school districts, may apply for a specific school selected for given community, not for a district as a whole.
5. Eligible applicants are described as “School Districts, Regional Education Attendance Areas (REAs), Federally Recognized Tribe, and Municipalities with a population base of 20,000 or less according to the latest decennial Census of the United States.”

Does the grammatical sentence structure mean that to be eligible, Schools Districts, REAAs, and Federally Recognized Tribe must also be in a community with a population base of 20,000 or less..., or is it that only Municipalities are only eligible if in a community with a population base of 20,000 or less? **Tribes or school districts are eligible to apply for a specific school if that school is in a community with a population of less than 20,000.**

6. When doing a joint application, do both entities have to do an application or just one? **One application identifying both entities is acceptable. Each entity will be funded independently with their own grant.**
7. Can we use AEA master meter reading for the community kilowatts used for the year? **It is preferable to have the energy data at each building; however, if a master meter is the *only* source of data, it is acceptable.**
8. Can the Tribal and City entities file a joint application? If so, do we submit joint application and joint resolution? **A joint application or two separate applications are acceptable. If a joint application is submitted, a resolution from each body is needed.**
9. I am confused on "10,000 per FACILITY owner" Can you please explain, I'm used to being directed as a Tribal entity. And I have in my mind a facility is a building such as a water sewer facility. [Something (such as a building or large piece of equipment) that is built for a specific purpose]. **A facility owner may own more than one building. For example, a municipal facility owner may own a public safety building, community hall, shop, and several offices. A project can be one or more buildings owned by that facility owner. If a school district and a tribe want to partner on a school and water treatment plant, there would be two facility owners and two projects under one application.**
10. If the city and Traditional Council (two different entities wrote the joint application, one would have to write the single application correct? And both would submit the Threshold requirements with one Primary contact? **Yes, one application is needed, but both entities need to meet the threshold requirements to be considered.**
11. Can we submit the application early, and if it needs to be revised by you, would you be able to do that? **AHFC will not review any applications before the deadline. An application must be submitted before the deadline. If an application needs to be revised, the revision must be submitted prior to the deadline. If a revised application is submitted, AHFC will only review the revised application.**
12. The award amount is small compared to the potential investment communities may need to make to apply. If a community has to pay for grant application assistance or design and engineering, it will quickly eat into the award amount. Does award or application for this grant provide prioritization or exclusivity on award for larger grants? **The intent of this award is to develop a potential project into something that is construction/finance ready (See answer to question #3). It is not intended to pay for the**

retrofit itself. Analysis of energy audits has shown that improvement measures are cost effective even if financed by loans, paid with existing budgets, or other funding sources are used.. Energy audits along with design and engineering costs are eligible expenditures that would help determine project feasibility.

13. "Page 4, Section C Eligible Applicants" excludes Boroughs, but includes School Districts. Please confirm that in the situation of a Borough School District the funds would go directly to the School District even though the Borough owns the facility the work would be completed upon. **School districts can apply for a specific school located in a community of less than 20,000. Funds would go to the designated applicant.**
14. "Page 4 Acceptance of Terms," several Alaska Codes are noted as attached, but they are not attached and are not linkable from the electronic file of the announcement. Please provide attachments. **Links to attachments have been provided on the website** [https://www.ahfc.us/files/4514/7699/7389/EE-Kickstarter\\_154\\_Grant\\_Programs.pdf](https://www.ahfc.us/files/4514/7699/7389/EE-Kickstarter_154_Grant_Programs.pdf)
15. I have downloaded the REAL Benchmark data form, however I do not see on any of the tabs a place to enter monthly utility information for example. Our districts do keep track of all energy usage in our own excel spreadsheets so this isn't a problem but should I create an additional worksheet to add this information? **Once the tab is opened, scroll down. You will see a series of tables and charts for natural gas, electricity, number 1 and number 2 fuel oil, and further down for other fuels.** [https://www.ahfc.us/index.php/download\\_file/view/2292/2426/](https://www.ahfc.us/index.php/download_file/view/2292/2426/)
16. So just to be clear, each applicant entity (not just community) could be awarded up to \$10,000, is that correct? In Sand Point, for instance, we've had recent energy audits performed on our school and many other public buildings around town, and some of those buildings are owned by various groups, i.e., the City, the tribe, the Borough, etc. So in theory each entity could apply for their own upgrades- am I understanding that right? **City, tribe, and school district – not the borough – are eligible. Each entity within an application may receive up to \$10,000. For example, one application can have one facility owner for up to \$10,000, or one application can have up to three facility owners for up to \$30,000. There may be additional points awarded under AC 7 and AC 8 for multiple facility owner applications.**
17. "AC #6," should I take this question to mean energy needs in your school district rather than community? If I answer for community, I might check almost all these choices, whereas some do not apply to a small school district. **If a school district is applying, it should be for a specific school in a specific community, and whatever is applicable to that school.**

18. "AC #10" I presume I need to respond to this as technical assistance received by our district since 2009? If a school district is applying, it should be for a specific school in a specific community, and whatever is applicable to that school.
19. We won't have a city council meeting again for another month, so a resolution authorizing my signature authority won't happen. Can a letter from the Mayor suffice? The purpose of a resolution is to authorize the applicant to receive an award. If the rules for receiving an award can be authorized by the mayor, such a letter is acceptable. If and when the grant is issued, only an authorized person for the entity will sign the grant award.