



EMPOWER GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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*.

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, although not all of those incentives will qualify for the EmPOWER Grant program. 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
 - 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.

How do you apply?

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

1. Choose an 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. Fill and submit the following required documents:
 - EmPOWER 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

Is there an application deadline?

Yes, application packages must be submitted to Hawai'i Energy by **October 29, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. HST**. Please send application packages to Chester Carson at HE-Grants@leidos.com by the deadline.

Can I apply for more than one grant?

Yes. Applicants are allowed to apply for up to two (2) grants per facility.



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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?

Grant funding is not guaranteed. An applicant may receive from up to 100% of eligible projects costs with a cap of \$5,000 per facility. The award amount will be listed on the award letter to be sent to grant awardees by October 29, 2021.

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

Applications are competitively evaluated by Hawai'i Energy based on our listed, 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, 2022
- Ability to cover or finance upfront project costs not covered by potential grant reimbursement funding
- 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 available funds from existing budget or other sources
- Organizations who have not participated in a Hawai'i Energy commercial incentive program

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](#).

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

Projects are eligible for EmPOWER Grant consideration if invoices are dated on or after September 1, 2021.

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 29, 2021.

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

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



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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, if the applications are for different projects and different facilities.

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 EmPOWER Grant to cover the copay for the project. You would need to work with your Energy Advantage Clean Energy Ally contractor to fill out the EmPOWER Grant application and submit the required documentation by October 29 to be considered.