Prosperity Ag

DEFINING THE USDA REAP GRANT

THE USDA REAP GRANT SUMMARY

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Grants for the purchase, installation and construction of a renewable energy system or energy efficiency upgrades. REAP creates opportunities for economic development for rural small businesses, farmers and ranchers by supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. REAP grants provide 50% of the total system costs, with a maximum grant of $1,000,000 for renewable energy systems and $500,000 for energy efficiency systems.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

- Grant must go towards the purchase of a renewable energy system or energy efficiency upgrades
- Chosen technology must be commercially available
- Project must have technical merit
- Project must be located in a designated rural area
- Applicant must be the owner of the project
- Sites must be controlled by the applicant

Quick Look
Want to know if your business qualifies?
*All agricultural producers are eligible
*You can determine if you have a qualifying small business by using the SBA's size standard tool online or contact us today for assistance

The USDA provides each region a set amount of grant money to distribute to the applicants within their region. The funding is awarded based upon each grant's score. Grants that are requesting $20,000 or less receive preference and are awarded first. Grants requesting higher amounts are scored competitively against each other and the higher the score, the more likely the grant will be awarded. Grant funds are awarded as a direct reimbursement once the energy project has been completed and been placed in use.

Timeline:

Grant applications are due quarterly based on the government's fiscal year:

December 31st   March 31st   June 30th   September 30th

GRANT PROCESS

➢ Application Preparation

All documentation that is required for submitting the grant must be sent to Prosperity (See Required Documents section). Documents must be obtained by Prosperity four weeks prior to submission deadline in order to ensure a properly completed application.

➢ Application Submission

The USDA requires electronic copies of each application to be submitted to their regional office or through grants.gov. The earlier the application is submitted, the more feedback the USDA is able to give the applicant to help improve their scores. Once the USDA has received the application and deemed it as complete, the applicant is permitted to begin the project if desired. Projects that have started prior to application submission are deemed non-eligible.

- ➢ Application Review

    The USDA reviews the applications and begins notifying applicants of their awards. The review process can take as long as six to eight weeks to complete. Once all applicants are notified, there will be a press release detailing how much funding was awarded throughout the US.

- ➢ Project Commencement & Reporting

    After notification that the project has been approved for funding, the applicant may begin their project if they have not already done so. The USDA requires quarterly reports to be submitted to document the progress of the project. Prosperity can aid in the filing of these reports, as well as various other reporting. Once the project has been completed and has been approved by the local agencies, final paperwork will be submitted to the local office for review. Upon approval of the final paperwork, funds will be reimbursed to the applicant into the bank account that was designated at the beginning of the application process. Yearly reports are required to be submitted to the USDA to document the energy savings to the applicant.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS & ACTIONS

The REAP grant requires a substantial amount of supporting documentation. Prosperity will act as the grant writer and will compile all of the required documentation as well as complete all the required forms and technical review.

The following items are required to be sent to Prosperity for the USDA REAP Grant Application:

- ➢ Sam.gov Registration
- ➢ FED ID #
- ➢ Electronic copy of signature(s)
- ➢ Applicant Name
- ➢ Contact Name/Title
- ➢ Physical and Mailing Address
- ➢ Phone Number
- ➢ Email address

- ➢ Articles of Incorporation
- ➢ Feasibility Study (if applicable)
- ➢ Organization's financials
- ➢ Operation Description
- ➢ Evidence of Site control (deed or lease)
- ➢ Matching funds commitment (letter from bank, loan or investor funds)
- ➢ Evidence of number of employees (W-2s)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please do not hesitate to contact Prosperity with further questions or concerns. We are looking forward to hearing about your project.

PROSPERITY AG, LLC

Christi Southerland, Senior Managing Partner

Email: csoutherland@prosperityag.com

Website: www.prosperityag.com/reap-introduction

Phone: 317-650-7069

Address: 13277 N Illinois St, Suite 110, Carmel, IN 46032