

S U S A N

C O M B S

TEXAS COMPTROLLER *of* PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

P.O. Box 13528 • AUSTIN, TX 78711-3528



September 22, 2009

Dear County Judge:

I am pleased to inform you that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is providing more than \$45 million to the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), a part of the Comptroller's office, for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. This money will be available to small cities and counties that did not receive a direct allocation from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under this program.

In an effort to ensure that the 1,127 cities and 244 counties in Texas that are not receiving direct dollars from DOE are able to benefit from this funding, the money will be redistributed based on a population formula. As a result, it is currently anticipated that your city/county may be eligible for \$«Grant_Amt».

The EECBG program, authorized in Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and signed into Public Law (PL 110-140) on Dec. 19, 2007, will be funded for the first time under ARRA. The purpose of the program is to provide funds to units of local and state government, Indian tribes and territories to develop and implement projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions in their communities. At the federal level, the program is administered by the Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of DOE.

A comprehensive list of the 1,127 cities and 244 counties that are eligible for these funds can be found on our Web site at www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/arra/eecbg/index.php. In the event that there are eligible communities that chose not to accept the funds, we will reallocate those dollars to the participating cities and counties. Your final potential grant will be outlined in a letter that will arrive when the application is sent to you.

Enclosed are several documents for your review:

- A list of eligible activities a city or county can undertake quickly and cost effectively to achieve maximum benefit;
- Program Resources;
- An Allocation Notification of Intent Form;
- Sample Resolution; and
- Preliminary Recipient Reporting Requirements

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The timeline for the Block Grant program will be as follows, from date of announcement packet:

- Notice of Intent Form due within 45 days;
- Resolution due within 60 days;
- SECO Stimulus will send out a final allocation letter and an application to accepting communities within 75 days;
- Application due within 90 days;
- Within 180 days, the Comptroller and the city/county will execute a grant agreement that contains all the requirements and obligations related to expending EECBG funds;
- EECBG funds must be obligated within six months of the effective program award date; and
- EECBG funds must be expended within 36 months of the effective program award date.

If you have any questions, comments or need assistance in preparing for the application, please feel free to contact us by phone at (800) 531-5441, ext. 3-7392, or by e-mail at secostimulus@cpa.state.tx.us. You can also visit our Web site at www.secostimulus.org for forms, sample documents and additional program details.

Sincerely,



Susan Combs

Enclosures