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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY**

**Direct Energy Assistance Loan (DEAL)  
For Local Governments**

**Request for Information**

This is not a funding opportunity. The information may be used to create a Funding Opportunity Announcement under this program at a later date

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Please respond by: April 18, 2016

## ***Executive Summary***

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The Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (GOE) oversees energy programs required through statute and those that help to meet the mission of the office. The mission of the GOE is to ensure the wise development of Nevada's energy resources in harmony with local economic needs and to position Nevada as a national leader in renewable energy production, energy conservation, and the exportation of energy. The GOE implements the laws of the State as defined in Nevada Revised Statutes 701 and 701A; manages energy-related programs; facilitates cooperation between key stakeholders; advises the Governor on energy policy; and collaborates with our local, regional, and federal partners to ensure a reliable and sustainable energy system.

The GOE accelerates the use of performance contracting in government facilities through its Performance Contracting Audit Assistance Program, offers building owners tax incentives to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings through its Green Building Tax Abatements Program, encourages developers to build renewable energy projects in Nevada through its Renewable Energy Tax Abatements, and provides short-term, low-cost loans through its Revolving Loans Program. In 2014, GOE launched the Home Energy Retrofit Opportunities for Seniors Program.

Most recently, the GOE launched the Direct Energy Assistance Loan (DEAL) Program to state employees as part of Governor Brian Sandoval's effort to promote energy efficiency in the State. The GOE developed the program to help State of Nevada employees fund energy efficiency measures in their homes. Funded by NRS 701A.450, DEAL provides State of Nevada employees an interest-free loan for energy efficiency upgrades that is paid off via a monthly payroll deduction. The GOE would like to offer the program to employees beyond the State of Nevada, and would offer monetary assistance for the establishment of such programs.

Through this Request for Information (RFI) the GOE is seeking information regarding the level of interest from local government employers to establish their own DEAL program. The following Program Details outline the project goals, requirements, terms, and other information that will ultimately be addressed in a formal Grant Application. This RFI is simply to solicit interest from employers in order to ultimately draft the Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA is anticipated to be released in the spring/summer of 2016.

## Program Details

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The source of funds for the DEAL program is established in NRS 701A.450 and must be used specifically to “offset the cost of electricity or the use of electricity by retail customers of a public utility that is subject to the portfolio standard established by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada...” *What does this mean?* The funds may only be used to benefit electric customers of NV Energy (Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific Power).

Based on the responses to this RFI, the GOE anticipated making grants in amounts up to \$300,000 per employer. However, the requested grant amount must be relative to the size of your organization (example: A small local government with 1,000 employees might request \$50,000, while a local government with 5,000 employees might request \$250,000).

### Program Goals

The overall goal of the Program is to create a benefit to your employees by reducing their energy costs while also creating jobs, offsetting fossil fuel imports and emissions, and creating safer and healthier homes. Statistics from other energy efficiency programs administered by the GOE show energy upgrades resulted in an average energy reduction of 30% in each home creating significant cost savings; an average of \$800 per year.

### Grantee Requirements

- A **Program Management Plan** will be required. The plan will describe how you will handle overall management, accounting, contractor work, and quality assurance.
- Must use licensed energy auditors for inspections and address that cost in the Program Management Plan.
- Must be willing to provide a match. The match has not yet been determined, but is addressed later in this RFI.
- The Grantee must provide quarterly reports to the GOE which will include details regarding the loans given.
- Loans must be made for energy efficiency or battery storage purposes only.
- Must be willing to work with GOE staff to inspect/audit a percentage of upgrades to ensure compliance.
- Should not charge the employee an interest rate.

### Program Objectives

Your self-administered DEAL program will have the primary objective of establishing a loan program that meets all of the program requirements while achieving the overall goal.

### Partnerships

The GOE will provide a list of licensed auditors in the state of Nevada which you are free to hire as part of your program. The GOE will also provide a list of contractors that perform energy upgrades under other GOE programs.

### Eligible Upgrades

1. Duct Sealing and Shell Sealing
2. Air Conditioner/Evaporative Cooler Covers
3. Exhaust Fan w/Dampers
4. Broken Window Repair
5. Water Heater Blanket
6. Dual Pane Windows
7. Solar Screen
8. CFL or LED Retrofits
9. Energy Star Rated Refrigerator from Approved Contractor
10. Air Conditioner Replacement
11. Furnace 95% AFUE Replacement
12. Air Conditioner Clean & Tune or repair, and Furnace Clean & Tune or repair
13. Heat Pump Replacement
14. Water Heater Replacement
15. Heat Pump Clean & Tune or repair
16. Low Flow Showerhead or Faucets
17. Water Heater Pipe Wrap and Water Heater Blanket
18. Elastomeric Coating & Polyisocyanurate foam for Mobile Homes
19. Floor, duct, and attic insulation
20. Heat Pump Water Heater
21. Programmable thermostat installation
22. Home Battery Storage

## ***Request for Information***

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Please address the following questions in your response to the GOE. Your answers may be used to create the final Request for Applications (Funding Opportunity Announcement).

1. Is your organization interested in applying for DEAL program funding? Why or why not?
2. Based on your organization size, how much would you request in a grant to provide an average loan of \$3,000-\$6,000 per employee?
3. Do you feel that you can adequately address the Grantee Requirements in a grant application? Please explain current staffing abilities, ability to provide reporting, etc.
4. Would your organization incur new costs or added costs to manage or provide the DEAL program to your employees? The program will require the establishment of the terms, marketing, payroll staff assistance, contractor payments, and reporting to the GOE.
5. Would your organization be able to provide a match for this grant? If so, of 10%, 20%, or 30%? Example: You request a grant of \$100,000, could you provide an additional \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000.
6. Does your organization offer a program such as this to its employees currently?
7. Does your organization have the capability to add an employee loan deduction under your payroll system? Describe any current loan programs offered to employees and any special or unique details which may be of interest to the GOE.
8. Do you see this program as a benefit to your employees? Why or why not?
9. Do you feel that the terms allow you to draft a comprehensive plan? What other terms would you seek to establish?
10. Please list questions you would have or details you would like to see in the final RFA that would be necessary to properly respond to the final RFA.

More about the GOE DEAL program can be found at: <http://energy.nv.gov/>