

PRESS RELEASE

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Western Illinois Regional Council announces Local Government Energy Efficiency Retrofit Funding Opportunity

Macomb, Illinois, April 30, 2010—Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) is launching a grant program for local governments in an eight county region in western Illinois. **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS** are units of local government in the counties of Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, Mason, McDonough, Menard and Warren. WIRC is a sub-recipient of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds from the Illinois Association of Regional Councils (ILARC). ILARC has a contract with Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to administer the program throughout Illinois. WIRC will administer the program in this eight county region. The US Department of Energy (DOE) is overseeing the DCEO program that is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

WIRC will disseminate the program applications; inform local leaders; provide technical assistance; intake grant applications; review applications (via a review committee not including WIRC staff or Board); submit recommended projects to ILARC and DCEO; manage the funds, and complete reporting requirements. Based upon the most current census of population, the allocation for the WIRC area is \$622,351.

Approved projects will enhance the objectives set forth by DOE and DCEO and include a strong emphasis on job creation, job retention and economic recovery. Eligible units of local government may apply for EECBG grant funds for projects to improve or enhance their publicly owned property, or for projects that include entities located within their boundaries, such as school districts, park districts, police departments, and fire protection districts. EECBG grant funds cannot exceed 75% of the total project cost.

Since DOE is placing a heavy emphasis on the energy efficiency retrofitting of buildings, requiring that 33 percent of all applications funded are in this category, this is the only project category that is available for funding consideration in this eight county region and is described as follow:

- ✓ Energy Efficiency Retrofits in Buildings and Facilities. Communities may use funds to **administer programs** or **pay for their own building improvement projects**. Only the following projects are allowable under this activity:
- installation of insulation
 - installation of efficient lighting
 - heating, venting, and air conditioning (HVAC) and high-efficiency shower/faucet upgrades;
 - weather sealing;
 - the purchase and installation of ENERGY STAR appliances;
 - installation of solar powered or conventional garbage compactors with improved efficiency,
 - and replacement of windows and doors,
 - An Energy Efficiency Portfolio application must be submitted if utility service is provided by Ameren Illinois.

Completed applications are due to WIRC by 4:00pm on Friday, June 11, 2010. Applications have been mailed to the units of government in the eight county region. The application is also available on the WIRC's website at www.wirpc.org. Local governments may call WIRC with questions at 309/837-3941.