



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



July 23, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy-Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable John Kennedy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy-Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Kennedy,

On behalf of the nation's mayors and cities, towns and villages, we write to urge you to enact a multi-year reauthorization of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program administered by the U. S. Department of Energy Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) and to appropriate annual funding of \$3.5 billion beginning in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) through the Energy-Water Development appropriations bill.

The EECBG program is a vital tool that can be used by cities, counties and states throughout the United States to promote energy efficiency, increase energy independence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Given the tremendous challenges cities face in their efforts to reduce carbon and achieve a clean energy future, the program facilitates local development of renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation projects, and creates vendor service demands and jobs that support economic growth and opportunities.

The EECBG program provides both flexibility and speed in funding these types of projects that will not only help meet the nation's long-term energy goals, but also help communities mitigate and prepare for near-term impacts of natural disasters and extreme weather events, including extreme heat. Local leaders urge Congress to continue the EECBG program because it has been demonstrated to be effective in curbing emissions from buildings and transportation systems, and offers financial aid directly to cities to develop and pursue local strategies and actions to create certainty in the community's energy and supply and strengthen community resilience.

The EECBG program was established through the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (PL 110-140) to support local and state efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy deployment. The program was authorized for \$10 billion, and in FY 2009, Congress appropriated \$3.2 billion, which included \$2.8 billion for formula grants to cities, counties and states.

In 2015, Oak Ridge National Laboratory released a study, *National Evaluation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant*, that determined the program was effective and that local

governments, using FY 2009 EECBG funding, achieved an estimated \$1.75 return for each \$1 in funding. The Lab also reported the program:

- Saved 409 million Btu of energy;
- Generated 4.2 million Btu of renewable energy;
- Created 62,902 jobs;
- Avoided 25.7 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Saved \$1.7 billion in social costs of carbon; and
- Reduced local government energy bills by \$5.2 billion.

Local governments aim to build on that success. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (PL 117-58) reauthorized EECBG for one year (FY 2022) and appropriated \$550 million for another round of EECBG grants. It is a priority energy goal of cities across the country to continue to pursue clean energy goals with active strategies that need financial support. The EECBG program, along with other clean energy local government programs under SCEP, helps cities implement projects under their local sustainability or climate action plans. Combined with local resources, the funding supports thousands of local projects across the nation that are necessary to create a clean energy economy.

In addition to seeking continued annual appropriations for the EECBG program, we urge Congress to reauthorize the program. We are pleased to support the bipartisan legislation (H.R. 1520) sponsored by Representatives Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Marc Veasey (D-TX) and Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ) that would reauthorize EECBG at \$3.5 billion per year for FY 2024 through FY 2028.

As the Senate moves forward with its FY 2025 appropriations bills, we urge you to include funding for programs that support local energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy projects, including the EECBG program.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, you may reach out to our staff: Rich Anderson (USCM) at 703-980-9770 or randerson@usmayors.org and Carolyn Berndt (NLC) at 202-626-3101 or berndt@nlc.org.

Sincerely,



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy-Water Development