

BPA Tribal Low-Income Energy Efficiency Grants: FY24 – 25 Updates

Summary of Rate Period Changes

The new rate period is here! The states worked hard all throughout the last rate period to return to work despite facing continued challenges with Covid outbreaks, increasing equipment and labor costs, and supply chain delays.

Over 250 tribal homes received energy efficiency services in FY22 – 23, including weatherizing all home types with windows, doors, insulation and air sealing, and installing standard and high performance ducted and ductless heat pumps, water heating, lighting, and appliances.

Over the upcoming two-year rate period, the BPA team hopes to see an expansion of activity of BPA-funded low-income energy efficiency projects in regional tribal homes. To help mitigate implementation challenges, BPA has made some updates to the how these grants are executed, including but not limited to:

- Updated budget allocations to allow for full coverage of the federally negotiated indirect rate
- Clarified that reasonably-priced lodging associated with training can be covered using training budget, which up to 15% of the overall budget can be spent on
- Made several changes to deemed measures, which do not require an SIR calculation
- Added flexibility on acceptable income qualification; see page two for more details

Full Coverage of Federally Negotiated Indirect Rate

In an effort to reduce barriers to participation in the grant, BPA will now cover the cost of the federally negotiated indirect rate for tribes that must observe this for certain costs. This is intended to relieve some of the burden on the tribe's funding sources. For additional questions on how to build this into your budget, please contact Amy Burke, Tribal Grant Program Manager.



Want Information about Applying for a Grant?

The FY24 – 25 Tribal Grant Application is currently posted on BPA's [Low-Income Energy Efficiency Page](#).

This is an open, continuous application throughout FY 2024-2025. Most grants are between \$15,000 and \$100,000 per fiscal year, but there is no minimum or maximum award size.

Priority applications are due by close of business on December 1, 2023, or you can submit a letter of intent by December 15, 2023. Applicants are encouraged to submit requests for funding by January 1, 2024, to ensure that funding will still be available; however, applications will be accepted throughout the year.

Our grant application process is relatively less cumbersome compared to other federal grants and the review process is straightforward. Grant Manager, Amy Burke, and your BPA Tribal Affairs Executive are available to meet one-on-one, either virtually or in-person, to go over any grant details and discuss the application process with you.

For more information, please reach out to Amy Burke, Low-Income Grant Manager at aaburke@bpa.gov or (503) 230-4364.

New Allowable Income Verification: Signed Self-Attestation of Income

BPA is now allowing state and tribal grantees, as well as utilities who implement BPA's low-income energy efficiency programs, to accept a **signed** self-attestation of income in lieu of verification of official income documentation to participate in this program.

To qualify via self-attestation, the applicant must attest to any one of the following: their gross annual household income falls within 200% of the [federal poverty level](#), the applicant meets their state's or tribe's income guidelines, OR the residents receive assistance from certain federal assistance programs. More details are outlined in the state and tribal LIEE grant language.

[Click here to access the template BPA has created for income verification](#), which includes an option for applicants to sign a self-attestation of income. Contact Amy Burke if you would like this further customized to your program. This document is also located in the [BPA IM Document Library](#).

Updated Terms & Conditions

An additional clause has been added to the Terms and Conditions of many of BPA's contracts, which is Clause 50: Buy America Requirement for Infrastructure Projects (FEB 2023). More information about this condition can be found in the [Bonneville Financial Assistance Instructions \(BFAI\) Manual](#).

Deemed Measure Updates

Language for deemed measures has been updated. The new language refers grantees to the technical and efficiency requirements for all deemed measures, which are housed in the [BPA Implementation Manual](#). Grantees who are implementing weatherization measures can install them according to either the [BPA Weatherization Specifications and Best Practices Guide](#) or the [DOE Weatherization Assistance Program \(WAP\)](#) installation specifications.

Highlighted Changes to Deemed Measures (see page two for more detail):

- Expired all PTCS commissioned heat pump and PTCS duct sealing measures, among others
- Added heat pump measures options without PTCS commissioning requirements for all housing types
- Updated efficiency requirements for both ductless and ducted systems
- Added some commercial HVAC measures for multifamily shared common areas
- Increased payment cost caps for many weatherization, HVAC, and water heating deemed measures

New Deemed Measure Highlight: Commercial Multifamily HVAC

BPA is now offering deemed measure options for commercial deemed HVAC measures that can be installed in shared common areas in multifamily buildings, such as hallways, common event spaces, and shared kitchens. These measures are not available to install in mixed-use retail or office space.

Updated References to Technical and Efficiency Requirements for Deemed Measures

In previous grant language, the pre- and post-condition qualification and efficiency requirements were clarified only for some deemed measures. This was not comprehensive. To clarify the technical and efficiency requirements for each deemed measure and to create more continuity between the deemed measures BPA utilities currently implement and what state and tribal grantees implement, BPA updated the grant language to point grantees to the appropriate deemed measure section in [BPA's Implementation Manual](#). If there are any questions about these measures, please contact Amy Burke at aaburke@bpa.gov or (503) 230-4364.



Increasing payment cost caps for existing deemed measures:

- 40-Gallon Heat Pump Water Heater: up to \$2,800
- Tier 3 & 4 Heat Pump Water Heater: up to \$3,000
- Ductless Heat Pump Conversions: up to \$6,000
 - Update: HSPF2 now only has to meet federal minimum standards at the time of install.
- Prescriptive Duct Sealing: up to \$750
- High Efficiency Prime Windows & Patio Doors: up to \$45/sq. ft.

NEW Residential deemed measure options and updates:

- Clothes Dryers: up to \$800
- Ducted Heat Pump to Non-Variable Speed Conversion: up to \$9,000
 - Update: HSPF2 and SEER2 now only has to meet federal minimum standards at the time of install.
- Ducted Heat Pump to Variable Speed Conversion or Upgrade: up to \$9,000
- Packaged Terminal Heat Pumps: up to \$1,600
- Line Voltage Thermostats: up to \$85
- Communicating Line Voltage Thermostats: up to \$225
- Door Sweeps: up to \$35

NEW Commercial deemed measure options in multifamily shared common areas only:

- Connected Thermostats: up to \$400
- Ductless Heat Pump Retrofit & Upgrade: up to \$2,000 / ton
- Ducted Heat Pump Retrofit & Upgrade: up to \$1,400 / ton

Expiring deemed measures:

- All PTCS Ducted and Duct Sealing measures
- Ducted Forced Air Furnace to Non-Variable Speed Upgrades
- Ductless Heat Pump Upgrades
- Heat Pump Water Heaters Tiers 1 & 2

Questions? Comments?

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