

CENTERS OF ENERGY EXCELLENCE (COEE) PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE

To promote the development, acceleration, and sustainability of energy sectors in Michigan.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications to the program are to be led by one or more qualified for-profit businesses, as grants through this program can only be awarded to for-profit companies. The application must also include the participation of at least one institution of higher learning or a national lab, who may be a subcontractor on an award. Applications must show that they promote new and developing industry sectors in the energy field in the state, where the state has a competitive advantage and where there are barriers to the commercialization of technology within the new and developing industry sector.

GRANT DETAILS

Thirty million dollars in total has been authorized from the 21st Century Jobs Trust Fund. Grants shall only be awarded to for-profit companies for all of the following purposes:

1. Providing a match for federal funding of up to 50% of the total project costs. Eligible federal funding is funding provided by a federal agency directly in support of the COEE project, with the direct recipient of the federal funding being the for-profit COEE applicant or the university/national lab partner. Subcontracted federal funds are not eligible for consideration under this program for the federal funding match requirement.
2. Supplementing in-kind contributions provided by a person or entity other than this state.
3. Accelerating the commercialization of an innovative energy technology or process that will be ready to market within three years of the effective date of the agreement.
4. Activities of the center, including, but not limited to, workforce development and technology demonstration.

All funds allocated to the COEE program shall be used to match federal funding. Not more than 15% of any grant awarded can be used for administrative costs or overhead by the grantee or any subcontractor. Grants shall be disbursed pursuant to a timeline and progress disbursement schedule included as part of a formal agreement.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The following review criteria shall be considered in making awards under the COEE program:

1. The potential that in the absence of an agreement the development, acceleration, and sustainability of energy excellence sectors addressed by the proposed center of energy excellence will occur in a location other than this state.
2. The extent to which the proposed center of energy excellence will promote the development of energy excellence sectors in this state.
3. The extent to which the proposed center of energy excellence will promote economic development or job creation in this state.
4. The extent to which the proposed center of energy excellence could attract private investment or encourage commercialization in energy excellence sectors in this state.
5. The extent to which the proposed center of energy excellence may leverage skills or resources in which this state possesses a competitive advantage, including, but not limited to, skills of workers, intellectual property, and natural resources.
6. The extent to which the proposed center of energy excellence may encourage collaboration on commercialization and technology transfer among qualified entities in this state.
7. The extent to which the proposed center of energy excellence may attract additional federal funding to this state or persons or entities within this state.

8. The financial viability of the proposed center of energy excellence and the proposed business plan for the center of energy excellence, including, but not limited to, commitments of financial and other support for the proposed center and the potential availability of federal funding for the proposed center.
9. The financial resources available to the fund board for operation of the centers of energy excellence program under this section.
10. Other recommendations from the MEDC as centers manager for the program, including, but not limited to, strategic fit for the state, strength of management team, merit of technology, and overall probability of success.

AWARD PROCESS

Interested applicants can begin by submitting a non-proprietary abstract by e-mail to coee@michigan.org. That nonproprietary abstract will be used to determine eligibility of the project. An oral interview will be conducted following receipt of the nonproprietary abstract. The oral interview can be conducted over the phone or in person, and will include questions about the business, energy technology, federal funding opportunity, and university or national lab partner involved in the proposed project. Following the oral interview, eligible applicants will be invited to submit documentation for formal review. That documentation will consist of the following items:

1. Cover letter explaining the request.
2. Business plan or proposal to a federal agency.
3. University or national lab support letter(s).

The full application would then be reviewed and scored by a technical and business panel, considering the review criteria outlined above. Scored proposals with recommendations for approval would then be presented and evaluated by the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board and its COEE subcommittee. Decisions on approval can only be made by the MSF Board. Decisions would be made at the monthly meetings of the MSF Board, details of which can be found at www.TheMEDC.org/Boards-Committees/MSF-Board/Default.aspx. Awards are contingent upon successful due diligence and contract negotiation, as well as the availability of funds appropriated to the program.

Additional details on application format, process, and the procedure for marking information as confidential can be found at www.MichiganAdvantage.org/coee.

CONTACT

For additional information, contact the MEDC Customer Contact Center at 517.373.9808, e-mail coee@michigan.org, or visit www.MichiganAdvantage.org/coee.