Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program Subgrant Application Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the administrative cap on funding?**

   Per U.S. DOE, the administrative cap on spending subrecipient funds is 10% of the award. Many expenses can be directly attributed to the community's project. Administrative activities are those that cannot be identified with any single program but are necessary to the general conduct of the activities of the entity organization; this could include such items as the overall direction of the organization, record keeping, budgeting, and business management (to include the community's indirect rate). Grantees should use their established definitions of "administrative expenses."

2. **Can a community pay for staff from the grant?**

   EECBG funds may be used for compensation of employees or contractors. Whether the administrative cost cap applies depends on the nature of the responsibilities of the staff hired.

3. **Are hybrid vehicles an allowable investment with the EECBG funding?**

   According to program guidance, eligible alternative fuel vehicles can span a range of transportation fuel conservation technologies and fuel types (e.g., light and medium duty electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles).

4. **Is my community eligible for an EECBG subaward through ODOE?**

   Eligible entities must be an Oregon unit of local government who were not otherwise eligible for a direct EECBG award from U.S. DOE. This includes cities, counties, and other local government entities, per ORS 174.116, such as multi-jurisdictional regional governments and special service districts. The definition of special service districts can be found in ORS 198.010 and 198.335.

5. **Can my community combine these EECBG funds with other program funds (e.g. like ODOE's Community Heat Pump program)?**

   Yes! EECBG funds can be used to supplement projects funded with other program funds – federal or state – as long as funds are separately tracked and there is no duplication of incurred expenditures. Recipients should be able to separately account for and report on the activities paid for by each source to ensure no duplication or "double dipping."