



Renew America's Schools Prize



Application due¹: 4/3/2025



Available funding for 2025: \$90M²

1. For Phase 1 (Prize)
2. Across 3 phases

Source: <https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize>

Note: This fact pack has been created with the program NOFO as of January 24th, 2025. NOFOs may be subject to change. Please monitor [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and source material for additional information

DOCUMENT INTENDED TO PROVIDE INSIGHT BASED ON CURRENTLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION AND NOT SPECIFIC ADVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Renew America's Schools grant will fund capital projects that result in a reduction in schools' energy costs and increased efficiencies



Goals and merit criteria for Renew America's Schools grants:

Goal is to partner with public school stakeholders to:

- facilitate investment
- prioritize schools with high needs
- minimize administrative burden
- build enduring capabilities in local educational agencies and states to maximize impact equitably and efficiently

Applications will be evaluated against the 5 technical review criteria with equal weights

- Need for planning and energy assessments
- Team composition, capability and experience
- Implementation plan for phase 2
- Impact and replicability
- Community Benefit Plan

Renew America's Schools Prize Details

Selected awardees will receive funding based on portfolio size¹

Match funding
requirement: 0-25%

Direct Pay
applicability: Yes²

		Phase 1³ Prize (Portfolio + team)	Phase 2 Cooperative agreement (Strategic plan + energy audits)	Phase 3 Cooperative agreement (Implementation)
10-14 Schools and School facilities	<i>Funding amount</i>	\$300K	\$500K-\$1M	\$7M - \$14M
	<i>Cost sharing</i>	NA	5% (\$26K)	25% (\$2.3M)
	<i>Example scenario</i>	Portfolio identifies 10 schools in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) with high energy costs	All 10 schools receive an energy analysis, details of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs), and a financial analysis for pay back through IRS Elective Pay	LEAs pay a 25% cost share for solar and geothermal securing private sector bridge financing. Schools receive support in applying for elective pay to receive the tax credit to pay down the private loan quickly. DOE shares the process for direct pay with schools nationwide
15-19 Schools and School facilities	<i>Funding amount</i>	\$300K	\$750K	\$10.5M
	<i>Cost sharing</i>	NA	5% (\$39K)	50% (\$10.5M)
	<i>Example scenario</i>	Portfolio identifies 15 schools that are 70 years and older in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)	All 15 schools receive Level 2 ASHRAE energy audits to identify cost-saving Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) for an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC)	Through an ESPC, a 50% cost share for geothermal heat pumps, building controls, and electric vehicle chargers is provided. Schools see a 35% energy cost savings, schools may receive additional funding through elective pay to buy down the loan
20+ Schools and School facilities	<i>Funding amount</i>	\$300K	\$1M	\$14M
	<i>Cost sharing</i>	NA	5% (\$52K)	25% (\$4.6M)
	<i>Example scenario</i>	Portfolio identifies 21 schools with high energy costs and failing systems	All 21 schools receive an energy analysis, details of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) and a financial analysis for pay back through IRS Elective Pay	LEAs pay a 25% cost share for efficiency retrofits, solar and geothermal through private sector bridge financing. LEA applies for elective pay to receive the tax credit to pay down the private loan quickly. DOE shares the process for direct pay with schools nationwide

1. Portfolio must have 10 or more schools/school facilities

2. Direct Pay (also called "elective pay") may be applicable for projects related to renewable energy or energy efficiency.

3. Only winners from the Phase 1 Prize will be eligible to negotiate with DOE to receive a Cooperative Agreement for Phase 2 and Phase 3 funding

Source: <https://www.herox.com/renewschoolsprize>

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High level requirements to apply for a Renew America's Schools grant

Community grant applications are open to government entities and require a thorough application package



Eligible Entities

An eligible entity is described as a consortium of: One local educational agency, and one or more

- Schools;
- Nonprofit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements
- For-profit organizations that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements
- Community partners that have the knowledge and capacity to partner and assist with energy improvements



Key Grant Application Components

Templated is available for selected sections

Section	Page/Size limit
Team Name	NA
Technical narrative	10 pages maximum including cover page, text should be at least 11-point font
Energy Justice Mapping Tool Reports	A single PDF document to HeroX that includes the one-page summary report per school/school facility
School Energy Assessment (SEA)	1 Excel File SEA form for each school/school facility, Combine all Excel files into a Zip folder to upload to HeroX
Community Benefit Plan (CBP)	5 pages maximum including cover page, text should be at least 11-point font
Resumes	One page maximum per individual, combined into a single document
Letters of commitment	One page maximum per letter, combined into a single document
Summary Slide	1 slide maximum, designed for conference room projection, text should be at least 14-point font

Phase 1 winners will be invited to negotiate Cooperative Agreements with DOE

- Winners from Phase 1 will receive a schedule for award negotiations from DOE for Phase 2 and 3
- During negotiations, each Selectee will work with Project Officers (POs) from DOE's SCEP to create a Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) and other selection documents.

Examples of past winners from Michigan and the Midwest



Charter Schools Development (Discovery Creative Pathways, MI) - 2024

Applicant: Charter Schools Development Corporation

Impacted locality: Harper Woods, MI¹

Funding: \$15.3M

Project description: This project will reduce spend on facilities operations, advance access to greener facilities, provide workforce development, and/or climate/sustainability education in 21 buildings at 13 schools

RAS goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Financial savings will be achieved reduced spend on facilities cost through clean and efficient energy renovations
- Charter Schools Development Corporation will engage community organizations through internships/mentorships and workforce development programs
- The project will replicate and scale learnings on charter-specific equitable green building practices and climate/sustainability education resources through webinars, conference presentations, and creation of an information hub



Canton City School District (Canton, OH) - 2024

Applicant: Canton City School District

Impacted locality: Canton, OH

Funding: \$11.5M

Project description: This project will revitalize and restore 15 of CCSD's buildings through energy upgrades, also creating a healthier learning environment

RAS goals and merit criteria addressed:

- CCSD will reduce energy costs through an anticipated 15-17% reduction in electricity usage and an anticipated 12-15% reduction in gas usage, enabling funds to be redirected into preventative maintenance and enhancement of vulnerable infrastructure
- Energy improvements will also lead to improved indoor air quality and improved overall comfort and health of students and teachers, with potential to positively impact focus and classroom productivity
- CCSD will partners with Johnson Controls, Inc. to develop a training program to operate new equipment and enhance staff self-sufficiency while also utilizing shadowing experiences as part of career technical education (CTE) programming



Omni Energy Partners LLC (Southern IL) - 2024

Applicant: Omni Energy Partners LLC

Impacted locality: Southern IL²

Funding: \$15.3M

Project description: This project will fund the development of a model to improve energy resilience and reduce carbon footprint through strategic use of available tax credits and funding

RAS goals and merit criteria addressed:

- Implementation of model will enable schools to reduce energy and operating costs and create healthier learning environments
- Omni Energy Partners' (OEP) model will enable schools in rural and small community districts to access funding
- OEP's approach will engage locally owned and resourced contractors, local workforce trades, and women/minority owned businesses and will utilize inclusive hiring practices

1. Grant awarded to 13 schools across US including Albuquerque Public Schools (NM), Bella Academy of Excellence (OH); Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School (NY); D.E.L.T.A. Steam Academy (GA), Discovery Creative Pathways (MI); Escuela Exitos Charter Schools (MN); Glen Canyon Outdoor Academy (AZ); James & Rosemary Phalen Leadership Academy Middle School (IN); The Leadership School (MO); McCurdy Charter School (NM), Monte del Sol Charter (NM), Rooted School Foundation (NV); Sankofa Montessori (GA)

2. Impacted school districts include Beardstown Community Unit SD #15, Benton Community CSD #47, Belleville PSC #118, East Alton Elementary SD #13, East Alton - Wood River Community High SD #14, Hustonville Community Unit SD #1, Nauvoo-Colusa Community Unit SD #325, Triopia Community Unit SD #27, Villa Grove Community Unit SD #302

Source: US Department of Energy 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize and Grant