

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

**CERTIFIED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GRANTS**

Fiscal Year 2026

This Notice of Funding Availability (“**NOFA**”), in combination with the Request for Applications (“**RFA**”), which will be released when the grant opens, constitutes the full set of instructions to assist applicants with completing eligibility applications for the Fiscal Year (“**FY**”) 2026 Certified Business Enterprise (“**CBE**”) Sustainable Energy Grants. **Applicants are required to read both documents in their entirety before applying.**

The District of Columbia (“**DC,**” **D.C.,**” or “**District**”) Department of Small and Local Business Development (“**DSLBD**” or “**Department**”) is pleased to announce that it will begin soliciting applications for the FY26 CBE Sustainable Energy Grants on or about February 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time (“**ET**”).

CBE Sustainable Energy is a DSLBD initiative to support CBEs in the energy efficiency/reduction, electrification, renewable energy and other related “green energy” markets. In partnership with the Department of Energy and Environment (“**DOEE**”), DSLBD supports CBEs by helping them prepare for opportunities with DOEE, the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (“**DCSEU**”), and other market opportunities. **Each grant program is discussed below.**

- A. **CBE Energy Contract Services Grants.** These grants will enable CBEs to support other CBEs as they prepare and compete for energy efficiency/reduction, electrification, renewable energy and other related “green energy” industry opportunities. The CBEs selected to provide supportive contract services must be registered with DSLBD as small, resident-owned, or disadvantaged. DSLBD seeks CBEs that can provide direct marketing, back-office, and training services to strengthen CBE preparedness and competitiveness for “green energy” related procurement opportunities. DSLBD intends to award up to two (2) grants of up to \$60,000 from \$120,000 in available funding for FY 26. These grant awards will provide a mix of marketing, back-office, and training services for at least thirty-five (35) CBEs pursuing “green energy” procurement opportunities.
- B. **Energy Expansion Grant.** This grant will be awarded to up to four (4) District-based businesses that successfully submit a funding proposal relating to “green energy,” energy efficiency/reduction, electrification, and/or renewable energy ”projects. The Energy Expansion Grant is an opportunity for a DC-based business to enhance its “green energy” business model, helping it make environmentally conscious decisions and promote sustainability. DSLBD intends to award up to four (4) grants up to \$50,000 from \$100,000 in available funding for FY 26.
- C. **CBE Energy Business Support Lottery Grants.** DSLBD intends to award up to nine (9)

grants up to \$7,000 from \$56,000 in available funding, by way of a lottery for CBEs registered with DSLBD as small and resident-owned. The grant funds will reimburse eligible businesses for expenses incurred to maintain business operations and viability while pursuing contracts with DCSEU and similar entities.

The competitive application will open on February 16, 2026, and close on March 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET. Applications will only be accepted through the online application system listed in the corresponding RFA posted on DSLBD’s website.

Who Can Apply?

To be eligible for the CBE Energy Contract Services grants and CBE Energy Business Support Lottery grants, applicants must be active CBEs registered with DSLBD.

To be eligible for the Energy Expansion grants, applicants must be District-based businesses, verified through a DC Business address. An applicant’s business address must be consistent with the address associated with the applicant’s DC corporate registration file number, Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (“**DLCP**”) business license ‘Premise Address’, business property lease, and DC tax returns.

Applicants are also required to provide, among other items, a current Certificate of Clean Hands (“**CCH**”) from the District’s Office of Tax and Revenue (“**OTR**”), proof of an active DLCP business license, and a signed affidavit attesting to compliance with applicable program conditions.

How Do I Apply?

Instructions are included in the RFA, which will be available for download on DSLBD’s website on or before February 16, 2026. Applicants are required to read the full RFA at: <https://dslbd.dc.gov/service/current-grant-opportunities>.

How Can the Funds Be Used?

Grant funds may be used to cover and or reimburse business expenses incurred from the effective date of a grant agreement through September 30, 2026 for direct services, training, grant program expenditures and expenses related to awardees’ business operations and viability while pursuing “green energy” or environmentally sustainable contracting opportunities.

How Will Awardees Be Selected?

Grant awardees will be selected through a competitive application process. A panel will review timely submitted and complete applications from eligible applicants and score them using the criteria discussed in detail within the RFA, as well as the applicant’s past performance and submitted program plans and resumes.

The Director of DSLBD will approve all grant awards at the final stage. Announcements of selected awards will be made on or around May 1, 2026.

Questions?

DSLBD will hold virtual information sessions concerning the grant program. Details on information sessions will be provided in the RFA along with a registration link, and they will also

be listed on DSLBD's Eventbrite page on or around February 16, 2026. Applicants are highly encouraged to attend an information session.

Questions asked outside of the virtual information sessions must be submitted in writing to DSLBD at Business.Opportunities@dc.gov. DSLBD will begin answering questions after the grant opens on February 16, 2026. DSLBD will not respond to questions over the phone. All questions must be submitted no later than February 27, 2026.

Reservation of Rights

DSLBD reserves the right to issue addenda, modifications, and/or amendments after the issuance of this NOFA or the corresponding RFA, or to rescind the NOFA or RFA at any time.