DEPARTMENT OF SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONTRACTOR SUPPORT GRANT

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 applications for the Fiscal Year (**"FY"**) 2026 Residential Energy Contractor Support Grant ("**RECS Grant"**). **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 RECS Grant on or about March 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time ("**ET**").

RECS grants will be awarded to eligible District-based businesses that can deliver targeted development training and back-office support to DC Sustainable Energy Utility ("**DCSEU**") Train Green program participants as well as District-based businesses engaging in other energy efficiency training opportunities or "green" energy contracting opportunities. In partnership with the Department of Energy and Environment ("**DOEE**"), DSLBD seeks to position eligible-businesses to deliver trainings and prepare District-based business for subcontracting opportunities through back-office support (i.e., proposal/grant writing, marketing, customer recruitment, and account management).

The Department intends to award up to two (2) grants to District-based businesses in the amount of $50,000, from the $100,000 in total available funding for FY26.

The competitive application will open on March 2, 2026 and close on April 1, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. ET. Applications will only be accepted through the online application system listed in the corresponding RFA that will be posted on DSLBD's website.

Who Can Apply?
To be eligible for this grant opportunity, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a District-based business, 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, business property lease (premises address), and DC tax returns.
- Complete at least two (2) Train Green sessions by the RECS Grant application deadline.

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 and 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 March 2, 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 business expenses incurred from the effective date of the relevant grant agreement through September 30, 2026 for cost directly related to providing back-office and training services to District-based businesses: (1) participating or registered to participate in DCSEUs Train Green program offerings or other energy efficiency training opportunities, as well as those (2) looking for or sourcing other viable green energy contracting opportunities.

How Will Awardees Be Selected?
Grant awardees will be selected through a competitive application process. DSLBD staff will review complete and timely submitted applications for eligibility. A panel will review applications deemed eligible and score them using the criteria discussed in detail within the RFA.

The Director of DSLBD will approve grant awards at the final stage. Announcements of selected awards will be made on or around May 16, 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 March 2, 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 March 2, 2026. DSLBD will not respond to questions over the phone. All questions must be submitted no later than March 13, 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.