

2022 Met-Ed / Penelec Clean Energy Workforce Development Grant

Berks County Community Foundation

Grant Description

The Met-Ed / Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund seeks to award one grant of up to \$100,000 to support clean energy workforce development programs within the Met-Ed and Penelec territories (see map).

The clean energy sector is a growing source of employment within Pennsylvania. The state has commissioned numerous studies that report past employment, project future job growth, and address needs and gaps in workforce development within the sector. This includes several recent reports:

- 2020 Pennsylvania Energy Employment Report and Clean Energy Employment Report
- 2021 Pennsylvania Energy Employment Report and Clean Energy Employment Report
- 2021 Pennsylvania Clean Energy Industry Workforce Development Needs Assessment & Gap Analysis

With these and other relevant studies in mind, requests for this funding opportunity should focus on implementation of a workforce development program that can be deployed in 2023. A successful program will contribute to a clean energy economy within the context of workforce challenges affecting the broader economy.

Preference will be given to programs that:

- Expand existing, proven programs or extend such programs into the territories.
- Focus on expanding the overall workforce by directly benefitting unemployed or underemployed individuals or by increasing skills of existing clean energy workers.
- Include hands-on or on-the-job training.
- Align with existing certifications in demand by employers.
- Directly benefit historically marginalized communities such as low-income neighborhoods and black, indigenous, or people of color communities.
- Are located in or specifically serve rural or economically distressed communities.

Funding may be provided as a one-time grant or over multiple installments as appropriate for the program. Grant progress reports will be assigned and effective programs may be considered for additional future funding.

Applicants should clearly explain the proposed program, how it addresses workforce development needs within the territory, and expected outcomes of the program.

Applications are due August 31, 2022 with decisions expected by December 31, 2022.

FAQs

Who is eligible to apply?

All applicants must be located in Pennsylvania and be a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, educational institution, governmental entity, economic development agency, or religious institution.

If selected, when will funding be available and how will it be distributed?

Funding will be available no later than December 31, 2022. Funding will be distributed in three equal phases (beginning, middle, and end of project) based on a timeline and metrics mutually agreed to by the Met Ed Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund Advisory Committee and the grantee.

What is the timeframe for expenditure of the grant?

The project must begin in late 2022 or in 2023. Grant funds should be expended within two years of the award date unless another timeframe is mutually agreed-upon by both the Met Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund Advisory Committee and the applicant.

What is involved in the application process?

Organizations must complete an online application by August 31, 2022 to be considered for funding. After all applications are received, the review process will be administered in four stages. The fund reserves the right to discontinue the review process at any stage for any reason. This timeline is tentative and subject to change:

- Stage 1: Staff review, which may include technical assistance support from a third party, during which time applicants may be asked to respond to additional questions or provide additional materials regarding their application. (August 31 – September 30, 2022)
- Stage 2: Met Ed Penelec Advisory Committee review (October 2022). If, after thorough review, no proposals receive committee approval to move to the next stage, a second request-for-proposals will be issued.
- Stage 3: Select applicants will be invited to present their proposal to the Met Ed Penelec Advisory Committee (December 2022).
- Stage 4: Decisions will be made and communicated to the recipient no later than December 31, 2022.

Who should I contact for more information?

You may contact one of the following staff members. Please select the staff member whose location is closer to your organization and/or project:

Angie Berzonski
Community Foundation for the Alleghenies
Johnstown, PA
aberzonski@cfalleghenies.org
814.315.2982

Kevin Lugo
Berks County Community Foundation
Reading, PA
kevinl@bccf.org
610.685.2223

Apply online at <https://bccf.link/grants>