

Jurisdictional Subaward Round Two Policy



Introduction

In October 2024, in partnership with local governments across the Denver area, DRCOG secured a \$200 million federal grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. With these funds, DRCOG developed and launched the Power Ahead Colorado program to improve regional air quality and community health by reducing climate pollution from the region's buildings, the largest contributor to the Denver region's climate pollution emissions.

Within Power Ahead Colorado, the Building Policy Collaborative – commonly known as the BPC – supports local governments across the Denver region to advance regionally consistent building codes and policies targeting new and existing buildings that improve building performance. This Building Policy Collaborative consists of a \$34.8 million Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program, a \$2.5 million Building Policy Collaborative, and \$1 million for research on potential policy impacts to support local policy adoption.

The Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program provides subawards to DRCOG jurisdictions to support the implementation of building energy codes and policies. On May 21, 2025 the DRCOG Board adopted the [Jurisdictional Subaward Policy](#), which established the parameters for a first-round subaward program that made formula funding available to all DRCOG jurisdictions. The first round of jurisdictional subawards opened June 2, 2025 and closed October 31, 2025 and provided awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$2,000,000. As a result of round one, 27 jurisdictions — representing 85% of the Denver region's population — received awards totaling \$26,200,000.

Upon completion of the first round of jurisdictional subawards, DRCOG facilitated multiple workshops with local government partners, the Technical Committee, and Oversight Committee to solicit feedback on how best to utilize the remaining \$8.5 million budgeted for the Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program. Through this process, local government staff and committee members identified a desire for DRCOG to:

1. Set aside funds from the Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program to provide additional services to BPC members at the regional level; and
2. Run a competitive second round subaward opportunity to incentivize new participation, increase impact for existing awardees, and allow for more innovative and ambitious applications.



This policy details the parameters for the set-aside programs for the Building Policy Collaborative as well as of round 2 of the jurisdictional subawards. These programs will run through the end of the DRCOG CPRG grant on September 30, 2029.

Building Policy Collaborative Set-Aside Programs

These set-asides represent funding priorities for which the DRCOG Board has determined funding should be allocated off-the-top from the total funding available for jurisdictional subawards and set aside for particular initiatives and programs.

As they are funded through the same federal grant that funds the Jurisdictional Support Subawards, these programs ultimately seek to achieve the same goals, support local governments in adopting and implementing of advanced building energy codes and policies. This policy identifies three key set-asides:

- Facilitation and research services;
- Utility engagement coordination; and
- Regional Building Operations and Technology.

Based on this feedback, of the remaining \$8.5 million, \$2.0 million will be reserved for set-asides and \$6.5 million will be made available through Round Two. The anticipated set-aside schedule for each area is detailed below.

Facilitation and research services

- \$500,000 across 2026-2029 to support additional facilitation, building official engagement, and research services.

Utility engagement coordination

- \$600,000 across 2026-2029 to support coordinated utility engagement.
- New service to assist local governments with utility engagement and coordination.

Regional Building Operations and Technology.

- \$900,000 across 2026-2029 to stand up regional or statewide residential Home Energy Score policy services.
- Provides regional infrastructure to participating jurisdictions pursuing a residential transparency policy.



- EPA has given approval to support this program statewide at minimal cost.

Round Two Jurisdictional Support Subaward

The Round Two Jurisdictional Support Subaward policy (Subaward Policy) establishes the parameters of the upcoming second request for applications to the Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program.

Subaward Goals

The goals of the second round of Jurisdictional Support Subaward are:

- Incentivize new local government participation in the BPC and the Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program.
- Increase subaward impact for local governments that received awards in round one of the Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program, but whose work plans were limited by formula funding.
- Allow for more innovative and ambitious building decarbonization policy applications.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include any jurisdiction within the DRCOG planning area, or partnerships among more than one of those jurisdictions. Each eligible applicant may only participate in one application.

Additionally, applicants must commit to participating in the Building Policy Collaborative to be eligible for any funding allocation. Jurisdictions must meet the two following criteria to qualify for an award. A community must have:

- At least one representative, or their designee, actively engaging in the BPC, with a goal of attending 75% of meetings and meaningfully participating in content review and collaborative discussions.
- A letter of commitment signed by the chief elected official or senior administrative official (e.g., City Manager). DRCOG does not require a formal vote or council approval of any new policy to be eligible.



Partnerships

Applicants are strongly encouraged to partner with other local governments in the region, including counties, to collaborate on Jurisdictional Support Subaward applications that will enable effective policy implementation. Partnerships should submit a single application, with a single jurisdiction as the lead. If a partnership is awarded under this program, **the lead applicant will be responsible** for distribution of pooled funds or services among members of the partnership, fulfilling reporting requirements as defined by EPA, and management of all reporting, engagement and communication with DRCOG on behalf of the partnership.

Eligible Subaward Uses

Round two of the Jurisdictional Support Subawards can be used in several ways to implement building decarbonization policies at the local level. It is up to the applicant(s) how they want to be supported by this award opportunity. For the purposes of this subaward, building decarbonization policies are defined as policies addressing climate pollution from buildings by addressing the efficiency of space heating and cooling and water heating systems, rather than through renewable energy generation. Eligible subaward uses include all uses previously approved in the round one [Jurisdictional Subaward Policy](#), including:

1. **Staff capacity.** Adding new staff to expand the jurisdiction's capacity to accomplish new policy adoption, assist educational efforts for building permit applicants, ensure policy compliance, and achieve emissions reductions in either or both areas.
2. **Training and certification.** Institutionalizing in-house energy policy expertise among existing staff to allow them to effectively implement advanced building policy.
3. **Permitting technology and systems support.** Emissions goal tracking systems to verify effectiveness of policy.
4. **Technical assistance.** Technical assistance for specific projects related to building decarbonization policy development, coordination, piloting and implementation. This technical assistance include localized policy research, policy implementation



support, and support for developing or updating sustainability plans, strategic plans, comprehensive plans or long-range plans related to building decarbonization efforts.

5. **Community Engagement.** Community and stakeholder engagement and education on advancing building policies to ensure policy is supported and feasible to implement, resulting in higher compliance rates and emissions reductions.

New eligible uses for round two of the Jurisdictional Support Subawards include the following:

6. **Non-capital costs associated with demonstration projects.** These include planning and design costs associated with building decarbonization improvements for municipal buildings. All applications identifying this use must articulate how the applicant(s) intend to build community support for building decarbonization and building decarbonization policies.
7. **Permitting and other process to promote electrical equipment.** Permitting and administrative processes play an important role in how quickly building equipment can be upgraded or replaced. This second round of the jurisdictional support subaward will fund project costs associated with modernizing, clarifying, and streamlining permitting and related processes to promote timely installation of electric equipment and support local building decarbonization goals.
8. **Participant support costs to incentivize compliance with new building policies.** New building policies targeting building improvements in existing buildings may create new requirements and costs for building owners. Local governments pursuing the adoption of these policies within the CPRG grant period may apply to utilize round 2 subaward funds to subsidize building owners' compliance with such policies.
9. **Policy and program costs necessary to address preconditions or externalities associated with advancing building efficiency and electrification policies.** This use is intended to support costs associated with activities applicants identify as necessary for successful building decarbonization policy adoption and



implementation. Applicants should identify what building decarbonization policies they are working towards and why the activities identified in the application are necessary for successful building decarbonization policy adoption and implementation. Such activities may focus on either preconditions for building policy adoption and implementation, such as building owner outreach and education, or on addressing and alleviating potential challenges that may result from the adoption of building decarbonization policies.

- 10. Costs associated with exploring other building electrification transition and "fully electric building" resiliency policies.** Climate change, housing quality, public health, resiliency, and housing and energy affordability are deeply interconnected challenges in the Denver region. Buildings sit at the intersection of these challenges and represent one of the most immediate and effective opportunities for local governments to protect residents, improve quality of life, and reduce air pollution at the same time. This eligible use is intended to support applications aimed at addressing how building decarbonization efforts intersect with other challenges impacting the building sector.

This subaward is intended to support the adoption, implementation and enforcement of **local building policies**. Subaward funds should not be used in a manner that duplicates the work being done by other aspects of Power Ahead Colorado.

Application Process

A Request for Applications (RFA) will be issued by DRCOG, and the DRCOG contact listed in the RFA will be the sole point of contact concerning this RFA. During the solicitation process for the RFA, all applicant questions regarding RFA requirements should be submitted to gmiao@drcog.org.



Application Materials

Interested applicants should submit their applications via the Webgrants link posted to the [Building Policy Collaborative website](#). Materials and information required for this form include:

- Identifying the applying entity.
- Point of contact information.
- A narrative proposal summarizing the goals and objectives of the proposal; the need the proposal responds to; and how the funds will help achieve goals and objectives.
- A brief narrative description of how each proposed activity will be implemented.
- Information on collaborations between jurisdictions (optional).
- Project budget and timeline (template available on the [Building Policy Collaborative website](#)).
- Letter of commitment from an elected official or senior administrative official (City Manager, Mayor, etc.). Applications for jurisdictions that received an award in round 1 do not have to submit this again.

Award Tiers

Round Two of the jurisdictional subawards shall consist of three funding tiers.

Tier	Award Size	Maximum number of Awards	Total
Tier 1	\$500,000- \$750,000	Up to 4	\$2,250,000
Tier 2	\$250,000- \$499,999	Up to 8	\$2,000,000
Tier 3	\$100,000-\$249,999	Up to 22	\$2,250,000
Total		Up to 34 awards	\$6,500,000

Award applications should specify the intended funding level for each eligible use applied for, broken down into one-year intervals over a period of performance that ends on September 30, 2029. Applicants are encouraged to apply only for those costs reasonably necessary to accomplish the activities identified.

The funding tiers and maximum number of awards identified in this policy are intended to



guide the distribution of available funds. However, they do not constitute fixed allocations. Based on the quality, feasibility, and comparative merit of submitted applications, the project review panel may recommend adjustments to the funding amount requested by an applicant and/or awarding fewer or more projects within a given tier than initially identified, provided that the total recommended awards do not exceed the total funding available for Round Two.

Scoring Process

After the RFA closes, DRCOG staff will review submitted applications for eligibility and initiate the scoring process. For Round Two of the Jurisdictional Support Subaward, DRCOG will establish a project review panel to assist with scoring and evaluating projects. Participants may include staff from Power Ahead Colorado and local government sustainability, energy, and/or building staff participating in the BPC. Each member of the panel will review the applications and assign points to the criteria based on information contained in the project application forms. The panel will convene to discuss the applications and reach consensus on the final criteria points and total score for each project as outlined in the Evaluation criteria table.

Evaluation Criteria

Each criterion in the table below will be scored on a scale from 0-5. These will then be multiplied by the weighted percentage and totaled to create a weighted average score.

Category	Description	Scoring	Weight
Benefits to low-income or otherwise vulnerable communities	The extent to which the project benefits low-income or otherwise vulnerable communities.	0 – No demonstrated benefit. 5 – Clear, targeted benefit.	10%
Feasibility and Replicability	The extent to which the project can be accomplished, scaled and replicated to other jurisdictions, contexts and/or situations within the DRCOG boundaries.	0 – The concept or approach is unlikely to succeed and has no application beyond the defined project scope and timeline. 5 – The concept or approach is likely to succeed and offers great	25%



		potential to be replicated in part or in whole across the region.	
Innovation	The extent to which the project involves an innovative and/or new practice(s), policy, or technology; the extent to which the project replicates/scales a demonstratively successful innovative project.	0 – Project does not utilize a new practice(s), policy(ies), or technology(ies) nor is it a replication or scaling of a demonstratively successful innovative project. 5 – Project utilizes or is related to new practices, policies, or technologies and/or is a replication or scaling of a demonstratively successful innovative project.	20%
Pollution reduction	The extent to which the project will address building-related climate pollution in the applying jurisdiction(s).	0 – Project does not make a significant impact on local building-related climate pollution. 5 – Project will significantly reduce local building-related climate pollution.	25%
Demonstrated Need / New Participation	The extent to which new or additional financial support for the project will support policy adoption and implementation in the applying jurisdiction.	0 – Funding is not necessary for successful policy adoption or implementation. 5 – Funding is necessary for successful policy adoption or implementation.	20%

Approval process

DRCOG requires a formal recommendation to be developed consisting of a list of the projects recommended for funding which total an amount equal to or less than the



amount of funding available. In addition, the recommendation should include a ranked wait list of projects that are unable to be funded or fully funded at this time but could be funded should additional funding become available. For Round 2 of the jurisdictional support subaward, the project review panel which scored projects will also convene to discuss the applications and scoring and reach consensus on the list of recommended projects to be funded.

Once the recommended project list and associated wait list have been developed, they will be considered by the Power Ahead Colorado Technical Committee, Oversight Committee and the DRCOG Board of Directors. The Board of Directors' action represents final project selection.

Should additional funding become available (such as through project cancellations or return of unused funding), applications placed on the wait list will be contacted in rank order and will have the opportunity to accept funding. If the applicant declines (for instance, if the amount of available funding is not enough to deliver their project, the applicant no longer wishes to move the project forward, the project is being completed with other funding sources, etc.) they will remain on the wait list pending future additional funding opportunities, unless the applicant instructs DRCOG staff for the project to be removed from the list.

It is anticipated that applications will be reviewed in early June 2026 and that the project review panel will make recommendations for the Committees and Board to consider in July 2026.

Post-award process

Following Board action, DRCOG staff will issue an award notification to applicants to inform them of their award. This notification should include the amount of funding awarded by fiscal year, next steps for the applicant, who the DRCOG point of contact will be for future coordination and any expectations of continued DRCOG involvement in the project.

Project delays

Project delays occur when an element of a proposal has not been initiated or is delayed during a given reporting period. For proposals that identify more than one year of funding, each element of the proposal will be reviewed during project coordination meetings with DRCOG staff to determine whether the objectives for that element have been initiated within the identified timeline. If an element of a proposal is delayed by



more than six months, subawardees will be requested to appear before the Power Ahead Colorado Technical and Oversight Committees to explain the reasons for the delay(s). These committees will make a recommendation to the DRCOG Board, which may take actions including, but is not limited to:

- Establishing a deadline for initiating the project element.
- Canceling the funding for the project element and returning it to DRCOG for reprogramming.

Reporting and Meetings

Every applicant that is selected for subaward funding will be required to meet quarterly with DRCOG staff and submit quarterly reports to DRCOG with information required by both U.S. EPA and DRCOG. These reports' content and their regularity will be defined in the final program participation document agreed to by the subaward applicant(s) and DRCOG.

Reimbursement for subawards

DRCOG is limited by EPA fiscal rules to pay only for work that has been performed. Thus, subawardees will be required to invoice DRCOG monthly for costs related to this subaward as reimbursement.

