

**PY23 Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC)
and Community Scale Pilot Project (CSPP):
Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: What is the goal for SERC funding?

A: To expand the Program for “materials, benefits, and renewable and domestic energy technologies not currently covered.”

Q: What is the goal for CSPP funding?

A: “Community Scale” refers to *complex projects involving multiple tenants and/or building owners and/or funding sources grouped together with one or more of the following characteristics:*

- Specific geographic area,
- Specific housing type(s), and/or
- Specific demographics.

As defined, Community Scale projects can range from a cluster of single-family houses, 2 (or more) small multifamily buildings, or a large multifamily building.

Q: What kind of technologies will SERC funding support?

A: SERC supported technologies, include, but are not limited to:

- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Solar photovoltaic panels
- Solar hot water heaters
- Solar thermal air panels (space heating)
- Distributed energy storage
- Heat pump water heaters
- Geothermal heat pumps
- Super-evaporative cooling systems
- Combination boilers and indirect water heaters
- Small-scale residential wind systems
- Cool roofs
- Masonry spray foam insulation.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for and receive SERC and CSPP funds?

A: Existing Grantees and Subgrantee are eligible to apply for SERC and CSPP. SERC and CSPP funds will pass through the Grantee office to the WAP Subgrantee which can be a nonprofit entity or Community Action Agency, Tribe or other public entity such as a Housing Authority (see [10 CFR 440.3](#) “Local Applicant”). The Subgrantee may partner or contract with other entities such as private contractors, utilities, community-based organizations, etc. Direct Service Grantees (U.S. Territories) are also eligible for funds and may apply without the pass-through to Subgrantees and receive funds directly.

Q: Can SERC be used to install single measures on previously weatherized homes? Such as installing a ductless heat pump or heat pump water heater?

A: Yes, as noted in Memorandum 096, SERC funds may be used for activities on previously weatherized homes without DOE approval if the home was not weatherized with DOE and with DOE approval, if it is a DOE unit. Approval should be sought through the application and state plan revision processes.

Q: Do SERC projects/measures need to adhere to the current SIR and ACPU rules?

A: No, while regular weatherization rules apply, there is an exception with meeting the SIR and ACPU rules.

Q: Do CSPP projects/measures need to adhere to the current SIR and ACPU rules?

A: Yes, CSPP funds must follow the SIR and ACPU requirements.

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Q: Can a Grantee submit proposals for more than one funding opportunity such as SERC and CSPP?

A: Yes, Grantees may submit proposal for any one or multiple open funding opportunities.

Q: What funds can be braided with SERC or CSPP?

A: The typical funds supporting WAP can be braided per any pertinent program rules (i.e., LIHEAP, utility funding, HUD, etc.). Additionally, SERC can be braided with Enhancement and Innovation funds as well as Community Scale Pilot Project funds. While WAP PY23 formula funds can be braided with SERC PY23 funds, BIL funds cannot be braided with PY23 SERC funds.

Q: Would SERC or CSPP be appropriate for deep energy renovations in Multi-Family Buildings?

A: A proposal for deep retrofits could be funded under either open funding opportunity depending on the scope, materials used, partners, and proposal. Consider the funding announcements and submit a proposal accordingly.

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Q: Is there a cap on funding for SERC or CSPP?

A: There is not a cap on funding for either grant and there is no limit on the number of subgrantees within a state that can participate, however there is a limited amount of funding available.

Q: Can SERC be used for maintenance and technical upgrades?

A: SERC should not be used for existing system maintenance. Upgrades could be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Can multifamily building eligibility rules be used when qualifying communities for CSPP?

A: No, the 66% rule applies only to multifamily buildings (see [10 CFR 440.22\(b\)\(2\)](#)).

Q: What is the SERC period of performance?

A: SERC grants will follow the Grantee's PY23 formula period of performance. If you are an April 1 Grantee then the period of performance is April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024.

Q: Would CSPP performance period follow the Grantee's formula program year as well?

A: Yes, because CSPP will be allocated through formula awards, it will also follow the formula period of performance.

Q: Is the Letter of Interest a requirement to apply for the SERC grant?

A: Yes, the Letter of Interest is the first phase of the SERC application process. DOE will either invite the applicant to apply for the SERC grant and not offer an invitation.

Q: Can SERC be used for fuel switching and heat pumps?

A: Heat pumps are an allowable SERC expense, and the fuel switching could be an allowable expense with your formula funds, pending Grantee rules.

Q: Can admin be charged to SERC?

A: Yes, admin costs can be charged to SERC. SERC will be added to the Grantee's PY23 formula state plan and will be subject to existing admin rules.