



Affordable Green Neighborhoods Grant Program - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is the cost of the Smart Location & Linkage (SLL) Prerequisite Review waived or discounted off the certification fees?

A. The optional SLL Prerequisite Review fee will not be waived or discounted for grant recipients. Projects electing to submit for the optional review may use the cash award to help cover the cost of the SLL Prerequisite Review and a portion of the certification fee (depending on the size of the project).

Q. Is the cost associated with GIB Prerequisite 1: Green Certified Building included in the certification cost for this affordable housing grant program?

A. No, only the registration fee for the LEED for Neighborhood Development project will be refunded.

Q. Are single-family developments eligible for the grant program??

A. Yes, that project type is eligible for LEED for Neighborhood Development and the grant program.

Q. Is the grant available to non-U.S. projects?

A. No. The grant is intended to support U.S. projects and address the affordable housing issues present in this country.

Q. Can current LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot projects apply for this grant program?

A. No, LEED-ND pilot projects are not eligible. This grant program is only for projects pursuing LEED 2009 for Neighborhood Development because the educational resources and cash award were built around the post-pilot program. A developer of a pilot project is allowed to register a **new** project and apply for this grant.

Q. Can the affordable units be all rental, all for-sale, or must there be a mix of units to be eligible?

A. Grant recipients are not required to have a mix of units in their project. All rental or for-sale projects are eligible.

Q. Is there a dwelling unit or square footage minimum or maximum for the amount of affordable housing or the total project size?

A. There are no minimum or maximum sizes for either.

Q. If my project has both rental and for-sale housing, does the project need to meet both the rental and for-sale affordability thresholds listed in the grant application?

A. No, the project does not. It only needs to meet the thresholds for rental or for-sale.

Q. Can we include existing dwelling units in the affordable housing calculation?

A. Existing units may only be included if they are undergoing major renovations or if they are being turned into affordable housing units. Existing affordable units within the project cannot be included in the calculation. We will be focused on what is being completed as part of your LEED for Neighborhood Development project.

Q. Is the cash award for grant recipients (\$20,000) per project or will it be divided by each of the awardees?

A. It is per project and it is an estimate which is dependent on how many projects receive the award. We plan to award the grant to ten to twelve projects.

Q. Can we register our project for LEED-ND after the grant is awarded?

A. No, projects must register prior to submitting their grant application as it is important to show a commitment to pursuing LEED for Neighborhood Development.

Q. Are there any resources to help my municipality understand the importance of LEED for Neighborhood Development and affordable housing?

A. On the [Neighborhood Development Resources webpage](#), you will find an introductory Powerpoint presentation,

project profiles (including the Jackson Square Redevelopment Initiative, an affordable housing project), and *A Local Government Guide to LEED for Neighborhood Development* (for project teams and local governments). Additionally, LEED for Neighborhood Development and Healthy Neighborhoods, a fact sheet produced by the Center for Disease Control, was created to show how sustainable neighborhoods can have a beneficial impact on the health of your community.

Q. Are there other grants planned for the future?

A. No grants are currently planned but we hope to secure funding for future years.

Q. Will there be geographic (urban/rural) criteria by which projects are evaluated?

A. Variety and diversity are important, relevant to all of the applications. We hope to award projects in different areas of the country and that range from urban, suburban, to small communities.

Q. My project is also pursuing LEED for Homes certification. If my project is a grant recipient, will those registration fees be waived as well?

A. No, only the LEED for Neighborhood Development registration fee is waived for a project that receives the grant award. If your project is also pursuing LEED for Homes certification for some or all of the dwelling units, please visit www.usgbc.org/affordable for information about the LEED for Homes Affordable Housing Grant Program.