

Funding Round 3 Information: Solar on Public Buildings Program

Solar on Public Buildings Program: Funding Round 3 Basics

In 2023 the Minnesota Legislature established the Solar on Public Buildings (SPB) Grant Program ([Minn. Stat. § 216C.377](#)). The purpose of this program is to provide grants to stimulate the installation of solar energy systems on public buildings. The Department of Commerce will administer \$4.3M in grants to local governments in Xcel Energy electric service territory through at least two funding rounds.

Eligible applicants for this grant program are local units of government including a county, statutory or home rule charter city, town, or other local government jurisdiction, excluding a school district eligible to receive financial assistance under section [216C.375](#); or a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Minnesota. ([Minn. Stat. § 216C.377, subd. 1](#)).

Grants will be awarded for up to 70% of the project costs (dependent on the government's financial capacity) for a solar array that is built on or adjacent to a public building and is the lesser of 40kW system capacity or 120% of the building's annual energy consumption.

Funding Round 3 application timeline

Step 1: Notice of Intent: Public Building Readiness Assessment

- Date of Issue: Monday, May 19, 2025
- Public Building Readiness Assessment due Monday, June 30, 2025
- Public Building Readiness Eligibility Notification: Monday, July 28, 2025

Step 2: Full Grant Application

- Application Open: Upon Notification
- Application Due: Monday, November 17, 2025
- Final Notification: Monday, December 15, 2025

State Grant Funding 2025

The Department of Commerce has been instructed to consider the financial capacity of the LUG when determining the amount of the grant award. For counties, cities, and townships, the department will use a tiered system of financial capacity, assessed by the Adjusted Net Tax Capacity / capita, determined with data from the MN Department of Revenue. Other local government jurisdictions such as Watershed Districts and Housing Authorities will be assessed based on the counties or cities' ANTC/Capita within the respective jurisdiction. Tribal Nations, designated as "disadvantaged communities" by the federal government, are eligible for a Tier 1 grant award of up to 70% system cost.

For questions about the program and application process, email Energy.Contracts@state.mn.us. Please indicate "Solar on Public Buildings Round 3" in the subject line.

Maximum Allowable Grant			
Tier	Adjusted Net Tax Capacity / Capita	Up to % System Cost	Not to Exceed
Tier 1	Under \$1,000	70%	\$84,000
Tier 2	>\$1,000	60%	\$72,000
Tier 3	>\$2,000	50%	\$60,000
Tier 4	>\$3,500	40%	\$48,000
Tier 5	>\$4,500	30%	\$36,000
	Tribal Nations	70%	\$84,000

Questions and additional information

For questions about the program and application process, email Energy.Contracts@state.mn.us.

Please indicate “Solar on Public Buildings Round 3” in the subject line.

All questions will be answered in the Solar on Public Buildings FAQ and updated weekly, available on the [Solar on Public Buildings webpage](#).