COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Questions & Answers

State Competitiveness Fund: Matching Funds Program
Rolling Application (Round 5 +)
RFP Reference Number: COMM-SCF05 -20251103

Response Date 12/10/2025

#	Question	Response	Date Responded
	SECTION I. Grant Overview		
	SECTION II. Eligibility		
	Would programs of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture (FFAR) be a fit for the competitiveness fund match program	**Only funding that comes from a federal agency is eligible. Federal funds that are managed by another entity (I.E. a Minnesota state agency, a nonprofit organization, etc.) are eligible, but the original funding source must come from a U.S. government federal agency.**	**12/3/25**
	Our Federal Funding Opportunity is not listed in Attachment 2. We have submitted the request form to have this funding opportunity considered. Are we still eligible to apply for this round of SCF funding?	**Only federal funding opportunities that are listed in Attachment 2 are eligible to apply for an SCF Matching Fund award. New requests will be reviewed and added to the list regularly throughout the course of the current funding round. Submit new federal funding programs for consideration to be added here: https://forms.office.com/g/GC3CTi0jma**	**12/3/25**
	In past rounds, only federal programs funded by IRA and IIJA - is that still the case for this current round?	**Any entity pursuing a federal funding opportunity that helps to meet the State of Minnesota Clean Energy Goals listed in Attachment 4 of the RFP is eligible to apply. Previous rounds of SCF were restricted to only IRA & IIJA funding sources; the MN legislature approved a change to the statute in the 2024 legislative session.**	**12/3/25**
	I'm currently working on a project that is partially funded by a federal program. Am I eligible to apply for an SCF Matching Fund award?	**Yes. However, only activities funded under the federal award are eligible for SCF Matching Funds in your application. Project costs covered by other sources are ineligible to be matched with SCF award funds.**	**12/3/25**
	I haven't submitted an application for a federal grant program yet. Am I eligible to apply for an SCF Matching Fund award?	**Yes. Applicants do not need to have submitted or received a federal award application to apply for and be approved for an SCF Matching Fund award. Interested parties with eligible**	**12/3/25**

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		projects are welcome to apply at any point of the federal award application process.	
	SECTION III. Application Review		
	SECTION IV. Competitive Priorities		
	How does Commerce locate and define what a low income area is?	**Minn. Stat. § 116M.14.Subd. 4 defines "low-income area" as:** **"Low-income area" means:** **(1) Minneapolis, St. Paul;** **(2) those cities in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2, that have a median income for a family of four that is below 80 percent of the median income for a four-person family as of the latest report by the United States Census Bureau; and** **(3) the area outside the metropolitan area.**	**12/3/25**

	SECTION V. Grant Application List of Questions		
	SECTION VI. Questions from Applicants		
	Are Q&As from previous rounds available? And if so, where can they be found?	**The Q&A for Round 4 is available on the Commerce RFP page: https://mn.gov/commerce/business/rfp.jsp**	**12/3/25**
	SECTION VII. Application Submission Instructions		
	SECTION VIII. Notifications and Next Steps		

	If my project is approved for an SCF Matching Funds award, when can I receive those funds? What is the payment process?		
	SECTION IX. Exhibits and Attachments		
	SECTION X. RFP Timeline		
	SECTION XI. General Requirements		
	If awarded, is there a deadline for when SCF funds need to be spent?	**SCF Matching Fund awards should be expended when the federal award project is complete or when the term ends, whichever is first. All unspent SCF funds by June 30, 2034 will be returned to the general State of MN fund, per Minn. Stat. § 216C.391 Subd. 2.a.**	**12/3/25**
	Can an entity who has already been allocated SCF funds for a 40101d grant award (conditional) apply for this round for additional funding (i.e. can they stack SCF awards for the same grant)?	**Yes, although awardees might only be eligible for funds to match unspent, remaining federal award dollars.**	**12/3/25**
	I have submitted my federal award application. Should my request for SCF Matching Funds correspond with the projected costs in my federal award application, or my new projected project costs?	**Your SCF Matching Funds application should correspond with the project costs in your federal application. If you anticipate a change in project costs that will result in an increase in your federal award, you can apply for additional funding with SCF after your revised federal award is approved.**	**12/3/25**