

Business Energy Retrofit (BER) Grant Program

Applications open starting July 1, 2026 for Fiscal Year 2027.

Grant Program Overview

Business Energy Retrofit (BER) grants are funded by Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) and administered through a partnership with Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) to assist business owners with energy-efficiency improvements.

Contact Information

Noah Ningen, AEOA noah.ningen@aeoa.org or 218-780-8061.

Funding Availability

- Funded at \$1,500,000 for Fiscal Year 2027.
- The BER program will support and provide a business up to \$25,000 in eligible energy retrofit expenses or 1/3 of the total project cost up to \$75,000.
- Grants range from \$2,500 to \$25,000.
- The number of grants awarded is variable and dependent upon the amount awarded to successful applicants.
- A \$500 AEOA application fee is required to participate in the program at the initial inspection and processed at the time of project closing.
- Work cannot begin prior to approval and site inspection.
- Businesses are encouraged to apply at any time for an opportunity to receive a BER grant. There is no risk to apply. Applications are reviewed twice per year.
- Grant payments are made directly to the awarded contractor or vendor upon completion and final inspection. Prevailing wage must be paid and certified payroll collected.
- One project per applicant per year. If more than one project is proposed, approval will be determined on a case-by-case basis by grant administrator prior to project beginning.
- Verification from the Minnesota Secretary of State that the organization and contractors are active and in good standing.
- Property taxes must be paid and up to date.
- All applications are subject to verification, and funding may be denied or withdrawn if fraudulent or misleading information is identified.

Eligible Applicants

Small business owners with 100 employees or less, Tribal governments and nonprofits located within the IRRR.

Eligible projects

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Lighting and fixtures.
- Building envelope air sealing.
- Appliances, motors and equipment.
- Insulation and ventilation.
- Heating and cooling.
- Windows and door replacements.
- Large generators for business use.
- New construction for remodeling in event of fire or natural disaster.
- Renewable energy:
 - Including new renewable energy installations.
 - Including electric vehicle installations contingent upon proof all other funding sources are exhausted. (State, federal, power companies)

Application

For project questions and additional information: <https://www.aeo.org/programs/business-commercial-services/ber/>

Accessibility Inquiries or Accommodation Requests

Contact: Jordan Metsa, Jordan.Metsa@state.mn.us or 218-735-3061.