

Facility Equity Initiative



School Building Authority Capital Fund Fiscal Year 2023 Application

September 16, 2022

Rhode Island Department of Education – School Building Authority | 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02909

Telephone (401)222-4600 Website: www.ride.ri.gov

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, color, religion, national origin, or disability.

The State of Rhode Island is committed to providing high quality educational opportunities for all public school students. School facilities provide more than a place for instruction. The physical learning environment contributes to the successful performance of educational programs. (RIGL 16-105-1)

Council on Secondary and Elementary Education

Patricia DiCenso - Chair

Michael Almeida, Ed.D.

Mary Barden

Amy Beretta, Esq.

Colleen Callahan, Ed.D.

Karen Davis

Jo Eva Gaines

Marta V. Martinez

Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner

School Building Authority at the Rhode Island Department of Education

Mario Carreño, Chief Operating Officer

Joseph da Silva, Ph.D., School Construction Coordinator

Keelia Kentor, Educational Facility Planner

Joseph McPhee, Educational Facility Planner

William Trimble, Senior Finance Officer

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

Christopher Kearns, Interim Commissioner

George Sfinarolakis, Ph.D., Administrator of Lead by Example Programs

Nathan Cleveland, Programming Services Officer, Energy Efficiency & Municipalities

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Opportunity

Tomás Ávila, Associate Director

Elvis Ruiz, Acting Administrator – MBECO

Ana Pimentel, Programming Services Officer



School Building Authority Capital Fund – Facility Equity Initiative

The state of Rhode Island is committed to providing high-quality educational opportunities for all public school students. The SBA Capital Fund is used to repair and improve public school facilities throughout the State. Funds are distributed on a priority basis to ensure the greatest impact on facility gaps in the State's priority areas. In Fiscal Year 2023, \$50M is available for projects in addition to the \$88.5M allocated for Housing Aid commitments and \$250M Statewide School Construction Bond.

Every child deserves to attend a 21st century learning environment. This is not a reality for many Rhode Island students that enroll in our neediest districts. Consistent with State Priorities, RIDE's Strategic Plan, and Rhode Island General Law, **the Rhode Island Department of Education created a new initiative in FY 2022 to help create facility equity between Rhode Island students.** The \$30M in funding this year allows us to expand the eligibility to the ten LEAs with base reimbursement rates over 45%. These communities enroll most of the State's Free and Reduced Lunch students, Multilingual learners, and Differently Abled students. These resources will allow LEAs to fund projects that otherwise would not advance or would rely on issuing high interest bonds. The focus of this initiative is to provide transformative 21st century learning spaces to students in these communities. Preference is given to community spaces (i.e., library, media center, science labs, cafeteria, auditorium) that are used by most students at each school.

The School Building Authority has partnered with the Office of Energy Resources (OER) and the Division of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (DEDI) to provide LEAs with additional resources. All LED lighting projects will receive *100% State reimbursement*. Any project that achieves a minimum 15% Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) utilization will receive an increase of 10 bonus points on their State reimbursement rate.

Who is eligible?

LEAs with reimbursement rates over 45% that have an active Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approval and that submitted an FY22 asset protection plan are eligible. This includes previous recipients Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket, along with newly eligible recipients Burrillville, Coventry, Cranston, East Providence, and North Providence. In applying, the LEA must also commit to complete the project by June 30, 2024, though additional points will be given to projects that can finish earlier.

If your LEA has an interest in the Facility Equity Initiative, please submit an application(s) by December 1, 2022. Your proposal should identify the school building targeted for each project and list the amount of funding requested by project.

Timeline

<u>Applications Available:</u>	September 16, 2022
<u>Applications Due:</u>	December 1, 2022
<u>Council Meeting:</u>	TBD, January 2023
<u>Substantial Completion*:</u>	June 30, 2024

Submit applications by C.O.B. December 1, 2022 to: SBACapitalFund@ride.ri.gov

*June 30, 2024 is the deadline for substantial completion. However, the SBA Capital Fund will prioritize projects that can complete earlier: either by September 1, 2023 or by December 31, 2023.

Purpose

The objective of FY 2023 School Building Authority Capital Fund is to begin creating Facility Equity within our state, by leveraging existing resources and targeting them to communities with limited financial capacity. The scoring rubric awards incremental points based on the type of project, number of students impacted, wealth of the community, individual building needs, and timeline.

Examples of Eligible Projects

- Converting Libraries into Media Centers
- Improving Auditoriums
- Creating Project Based Learning Maker Spaces
- Providing Learning Commons or Breakout Spaces
- Common Spaces with Dual Student/Community Use
- Modernizing Science Labs
- LED Lighting & Energy Upgrades that Improve Learning (stand alone projects or combined with above)

As part of an eligible project, associated health & safety upgrades can be included, such as:

- Heating & Ventilation Systems (i.e., providing ventilation to new Media Center)
- Building Envelope (i.e., window replacements when modernizing science labs)
- Hazardous Materials Abatement (i.e., asbestos abatement when improving auditoriums)
- Energy Improvements (i.e., new LED lights in the hallway leading to the Maker Space)

Additional Application Requirement

LEAs seeking Facility Equity Initiative support must have an active Necessity of School Construction approval and commit to completing the project by June 30, 2024. LEAs without a Necessity of School Construction approval can still apply as long as they certify the LEA's commitment to obtain Council approval by May 2023.

Project Prioritization

The application has several mechanisms to identify and prioritize educational enhancement projects by awarding points based on the communities' need, the number of students impacted, commitment to utilizing MBE vendors, and completion date.

Type of Project: preference given to high impact visual enhancements, creation of 21st century learning spaces, and spaces with dual student/community use.

Number of Students Impacted: community spaces will be prioritized over single classroom projects.

Project Schedule: Projects that can complete prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year or by December 1, 2023 are given preference. All projects must complete by June 30, 2024.

Community Wealth: Factors in a community's reimbursement rate.

Building Need: Factors in building deficiencies documented in the 2017 statewide assessment, reduced by any subsequent construction work.

Additional Incentives

Districts' seeking LED lighting upgrades (standalone or part of a larger project) will have their local share paid for by the Office of Energy Resource. As a result, **awarded LED lighting projects will be 100% funded by the State**. Applicants interested in funding for LED lighting should fill out the OER section at the end of this application form.

Districts that utilize at least 15% MBE participation will receive an increase of 10 bonus points on their State reimbursement rate, in addition to any other bonuses the project qualifies for.

We welcome all questions, which can be directed to the School Building Authority or partner agency staff.

School Building Authority:

Mario Carreño, ALEP
Chief Operating Officer
(401) 222-8030
Mario.Carreno@ride.ri.gov

Joseph da Silva, Ph.D.
School Construction Coordinator / Architectural Design Reviewer
(401) 222-4294
Joseph.dasilva@ride.ri.gov

Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity:

Elvys Ruiz
Assistant Administrator – MBECO
(401) 574-8253
Elvys.Ruiz@doa.ri.gov

Office of Energy Resources:

George Sfinarolakis, Ph.D.
Administrator of Lead by Example Programs
(401) 241-4406
George.Sfinarolakis@energy.ri.gov

Nathan Cleveland
Programming Services Officer, Energy Efficiency & Municipalities
(401) 574-9112
Nathan.Cleveland@energy.ri.gov

Funding Options

In this fiscal year, there are two options for School Building Authority Capital Funding. Both choices incorporate progress funding, as invoices are paid upon receipt. **Projects selected for this fund do not have to wait until completion to receive reimbursement.**

Option 1: State Share Project Cost (Grant) – No repayment required

A funding agreement for the State's portion of the project cost will be provided to the LEA. The State's share of the project cost is provided to LEAs via Capital Fund progress payments. LEAs submit signed and verified requisition forms to the SBA on a monthly basis. The SBA reviews the submitted invoices and upon approval directs the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation to release payment to the LEA for the eligible project amounts up to the State's share. The LEA is responsible for funding the local share of the project. **LED lighting projects and/or projects that reach 15% MBE participation will have a reduced/eliminated local share component.**

Example:

LEA X has an 80% share ratio and is considering a \$1M project.

Housing Aid System:

LEA X pays for the \$1M project out of a dedicated Capital Reserve Fund. Upon project completion, the LEA requests reimbursement through the Housing Aid Program. The State then reimburses the LEA 80% of the project cost.

Under the School Building Authority Capital Fund:

The LEA submits invoices to the School Building Authority on a monthly basis. LEA X receives 80% reimbursement on each monthly invoice for a total of \$800,000 during the design and construction stages.

Option 2: Total Project Cost Loan – Local Share repayment required

Successful LEAs selecting this option will sign loan agreements with Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation (RIHEBC) for the **total project costs**. Upon project completion, the LEA will only repay their local share of the loan plus interest to RIHEBC. Per Rhode Island General Laws, this form of indebtedness does not require General Assembly approval. LEAs will forward invoices and verified requisition forms to the SBA on a monthly basis. The SBA reviews the submitted invoices and upon approval, directs the RIHEBC to release payment to the LEA for the eligible project amounts. **LED lighting projects and/or projects that reach 15% MBE participation will have the local share component reduced/eliminated.**

Under the Housing Aid system, LEAs must bond for the entire project cost and complete the project prior to receiving reimbursement. This option allows LEAs to receive progress payments during design and construction and pay back only their local share once a project has completed.

Example:

LEA X has a 80% share ratio and is considering a \$1M project.

Housing Aid System:

LEA X issues a bond for \$1M project. The project is then completed and reimbursement is requested through the Housing Aid Program. The LEA then receives 80% of the project costs, with payments tied to the debt service schedule.

School Building Authority Capital Fund:

LEA X receives a \$1M loan from RIHEBC for the project (as Capital Fund Progress Payments). The project is then completed and LEA X pays back 20% (200,000) of the project costs with interest over a multi-year period.

Facility Equity Initiative Application
Due December 1, 2022

Local Education Agency:	
Contact Person:	
Title:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Project Location:	

Project Description:
(Please submit one application per project and attach supporting documentation)

Project cost:

Board of Education approval date:*

*LEAs with no existing approvals, should enter "Stage II application was submitted 9/15/22" OR "...will be submitted 2/15/23" as appropriate. LEAs with no existing approvals and no Stage II application in process are not eligible for funding.

Did the LEA submit an Asset Protection Plan in FY 22? **

**LEAs that did not submit an Asset Protection Plan in FY21 will not be eligible for SBACF funding in FY23.

Can the LEA complete this project by June 30, 2024?

Funding Option (select one)

1. **State Share Project Cost** – No Repayment Required

2. **Total Project Cost Loan** - Local Share Repaid Upon Completion

Scoring Criteria

The Facility Equity Initiative is intended to support projects in high need communities across the State. High need communities are defined as those with a base share ratio (Housing Aid reimbursement rate) of more than 45%. High impact educational enhancements are the focus of this initiative to provide transformative spaces to all students.

Type of Project

**Maximum Points Available
(10 points)**

Educational Enhancements

- The primary purpose of the project must be to improve student outcomes. The municipality/LEA has provided an Educational Enhancement Certification signed by an appropriate professional and the superintendent.

High Impact, High Use

(30 points)

- Project will be visible to the entire school community and used by the majority of students. This includes auditoriums, libraries, media centers, maker spaces, science labs or other similar spaces.
- October 1, 2022 enrollments for the schools in which the project will occur will be used in scoring the SBA Capital Fund applications. LEAs are awarded 10 points for each 100 students. Community spaces such as libraries and auditoriums would receive the full allocation of points, whereas individual classrooms (such as kindergarten) would only be scored by the number of students that will use the space.

Minority Business Enterprise Commitment

(10 points)

- Project commits to utilizing 15% Minority Business Enterprise.

LEA Project Prioritization

(10 points)

- If the LEA is submitting more than one high priority project, these must be prioritized by urgency. LEAs should only submit project prioritization on one application. The LEAs highest five (5) priority projects will receive points. Please list the projects below in order of urgency, with the highest priority at number 1:

1. _____ **(10 points)**

2. _____ **(7 points)**

3. _____ **(5 points)**

4. _____ **(3 points)**

5. _____ **(1 point)**

Project Schedule

(10 points)

- Project can be completed by September 1, 2023 **(10 points)**
- Project can be completed by December 31, 2023 **(5 points)**

Housing Aid Share Ratio and Facility Need

(20 points)

- In addition to the scoring criteria listed above, all projects will receive points based on the LEA's Housing Aid share ratio (reimbursement rate) and the Facility Need of the individual school. LEAs will receive points based on their overall Housing Aid Share Ratio as well as on the building deficiencies documented in the 2017 statewide assessment, reduced by any subsequent construction work.

Student & Community Engagement

(10 points)

Projects that demonstrate a commitment to engaging the community stakeholders and students in the decision making and design process. Provide a visioning and engagement schedule for the project that encompasses the planning, design and construction phases.

Assurances (please initial on each line):

The LEA must assure that:

- _____ Funds will be used exclusively for the project described above, in accordance of the guidelines of funding request.
- _____ Projects must comply with School Construction Regulations and RIGL 16-7-41.1.
- _____ **Project will substantially complete by June 30, 2024.** If the project is not complete by this date, the project amount will be deducted from the LEA's FY 2025 Housing Aid.
- _____ The project complies with all requirements set forth in the most recent Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools Protocol (NECHPS)
- _____ Project will receive all required design review prior to commencing with construction.
- _____ All other things being equal, the services of qualified and capable vendors with offices in Rhode Island, or those who propose a joint venture with a Rhode Island firm, should be utilized.

Certification of Eligibility:

I certify under penalty of perjury that to the best of my knowledge, the information in this proposal is true and correct and is in compliance with statutes and administrative provisions of the Rhode Island Department of Education. The governing board of the above named school LEA has authorized me to sign this application on its behalf, and has certified through a resolution that the LEA has met the criteria contained in this proposal.

Signature of Superintendent

Date

Signature of School Committee Chair

Date

Signature of Municipal Finance Director

Date

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Participation

RIDE Facility Equity Initiative



The RI Department of Administration, Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity (ODEO) is delighted to partner with the RI Department of Education School Building Authority on the School Building Authority Capital Fund – Facility Equity Initiative to ensure equity in school construction projects.

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 37-14.1, it is the policy of the State of Rhode Island to support the fullest possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities and women (MBEs) in state funded public construction programs and projects. A minimum ten percent (10%) MBE participation requirement has been established per R.I.G.L. § 37-14.1. In order to encourage LEAs to maximize MBE participation on project, under the new Facility Equity Initiative RIDE will fund an additional 10 points on the state share of projects that achieve at least fifteen (15%) MBE participation.

MBE participation is applicable to all phases of the school construction project, including design, owner's project managers, construction managers and general contracting activities. LEAs are strongly encouraged to meet with ODEO's Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office (MBECO) early on during the development of a project to gain an understanding of the MBE program and to ensure the incorporation of MBE requirements and pertinent language in all applicable documents.

MBE Utilization Plans must be submitted to ODEO/MBECO for review and approval prior to commencement of work, and periodic project utilization reports are required for the duration of the project. MBE participation credit shall only be granted for firms duly certified as MBEs or WBEs by ODEO. The current directory of firms certified as MBEs or WBEs may be accessed at <http://odeo.ri.gov/offices/mbeco/mbe-wbe.php> or by contacting Elvys Ruiz at ODEO/MBECO at (401) 574-8253 or via email at Elvys.Ruiz@doa.ri.gov.

LEAs are further encouraged to partner with ODEO in their solicitation outreach efforts to ensure full and equitable dissemination of bid opportunities for all phases of the school construction project.

School Lighting Accelerator Program Overview

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) is pleased to partner with the Rhode Island Department of Education School Building Authority as part of the Facility Equity Initiative to combine resources and provide additional financial and technical support to public schools in need of LED lighting upgrades through its School Lighting Accelerator. The adoption of LED lighting and integrated controls by schools offer the potential to generate long term energy savings, reduce energy price volatility, shrink carbon footprints, improve the learning environment, and support the local clean energy economy.

This additional incentive offering is being made pursuant to the State's "Lead by Example" Initiative. Eligible LEAs can access these LED lighting incentives either as a component of a comprehensive project or as a standalone project. These enhanced incentives are being offered in addition to any other applicable state and/or federal grant or tax incentives that the applicant may be eligible for and represents a unique project cost savings opportunity for public sector entities.

Program Objective

OER's financial incentives are designed to accelerate the adoption of LED lighting technologies across public-school facilities, thereby reducing public sector energy consumption and costs, improving the quality of lighting in public buildings and learning environments, and support the equitable distribution of resources. Participating schools will receive technical assistance, procurement documents, and project oversight as well as financial incentives, which provides start to finish support to accelerate the transition to LED lighting.

Eligibility

- Rhode Island public school facilities
- A qualified agency must submit complete the application information requested below, in addition to the application information required in the above section(s).
- Each application will be reviewed for eligibility and other criteria by OER staff. OER reserves the right to request additional information directly from the applicant prior to making its final award determination.
- If approved, OER will notify the applicant electronically or in writing.

Application Information

	School Name	Electric Utility Account Number	Facility Square Footage	LED Lighting Cost Estimator	Estimated Lighting Project Cost*
1				x \$3.30 sq. ft.	\$
2				x \$3.30 sq. ft.	\$
3				x \$3.30 sq. ft.	\$
4				x \$3.30 sq. ft.	\$
5				x \$3.30 sq. ft.	\$

* Total estimated cost; example (100,000 sq. ft. x \$3.30 per sq. ft. = \$330,000). This cost estimator is for approximate budgeting purposes only. The awarded amount will be identified through a public, competitive procurement process.

Contact Nathan Cleveland (Nathan.Cleveland@energy.ri.gov) or George Sfinarolakis (George.Sfinarolakis@energy.ri.gov) with any questions about this LED program.