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**North Central IL Council of Governments announces
Local Government Energy Efficiency and Conservation Opportunities**

The North Central IL Council of Governments (NCICG) is launching a grant program for local governments in a seven (7) county region in northern Illinois. **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS** are units of local government in the Counties of Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam, and Stark. NCICG is a sub-recipient of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds from the IL Association of Regional Councils (ILARC). ILARC has a contract with the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to administer the program throughout Illinois. NCICG will administer the program in this region.

NCICG will disseminate the program; educate local leaders; provide necessary staff assistance; intake grant applications; review applications (via a review committee); submit recommended projects to ILARC and DCEO; manage the funds, and complete reporting requirements. Based upon the most current census of population, the allocation for the NCICG area is \$906,527.

EECBG grant funds cannot exceed 75% of the total project cost. Minimum grant requests of \$5,000 and maximum grant requests of \$100,000 will be considered. An independent review team will be tasked with ranking applications prior to forwarding to ILARC, DCEO and DOE for further review and determination. The US Department of Energy (DOE) is overseeing the DCEO program that is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Approved activities will enhance the objectives set forth by DOE and DCEO and include a strong emphasis on job creation, job retention and economic recovery. Eligible units of local government may apply for EECBG grant funds for projects to improve or enhance their publicly owned property, or for projects that include entities located within their boundaries, such as school districts, park districts, police departments, and fire protection districts. The unit of local government may also use EECBG funds to administer programs (i.e. energy audits, or rebates) that would benefit businesses, residences and not-for-profits located within their boundaries. EECBG grant funds cannot exceed 75% of the total project cost.

What specific activities are eligible for use of funds?

- ✓ Residential and Commercial Building Energy Audits.
- ✓ Energy Efficiency Retrofits in Buildings and Facilities. Communities may use funds to **administer programs** or **pay for their own building projects**. Only the following projects are allowable under this activity:
 - installation of insulation
 - installation of efficient lighting
 - heating, venting, and air conditioning (HVAC) and high-efficiency shower/faucet upgrades;
 - weather sealing;
 - the purchase and installation of ENERGY STAR appliances;
 - installation of solar powered or conventional garbage compactors with improved efficiency,
 - and replacement of windows and doors.

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- ✓ Development and implementation of transportation programs to conserve energy.
 - Applicants may use funds to encourage purchase of hybrid, electric, or alternative-fueled vehicles for local government or school fleet vehicles. The rebate or grant shall not exceed \$5,000 for each vehicle purchased.
 - Applicants may also use EECBG funds to pay for part of the cost of plug-in charging stations for electric plug-in vehicles. Any such charging station should include solar or other renewable energy supply. **It is important to note that the EECBG funds can only provide for 50% of the total project cost for the plug-in charging stations.**
- ✓ Building code revisions and inspections to promote building energy efficiency and or training of enforcement officials or the local building industry.
- ✓ Material conservation programs including source reduction, recycling and recycled content procurement programs that lead to documented energy savings.
- ✓ Energy efficient traffic signals and street lighting.
- ✓ Government building renewable electricity - Onsite renewable energy projects that generate electricity from solar, wind, fuel cells, or biomass are eligible.

Completed applications are due to NCICG by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 11, 2010. Local governments may call NCICG with questions or resource/assistance ideas at 815-875-3396.