



BLACK HILLS ENERGY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM PURPOSE

Black Hills Energy strives to be a valued community partner. At Black Hills Energy, we believe our future success is dependent upon the growth of the communities and businesses we serve.

Oftentimes communities and economic development organizations are not able to fully fund projects and may need partners to be successful in their economic development activities. One of the key factors of supporting economic development activities is to support the creation of new job opportunities within the communities that are within BHE service territory.

BENEFIT

Contributions will help create a favorable operating environment in the BHE-served communities with potential to grow through new business attraction and job opportunities.

BHE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT COMMITTEE

Grant applications will go through a review and approval process on a monthly basis.

SUBMIT GRANT REQUEST TO:

BLACK HILLS ENERGY

Attn: Mutch Usera, Sr. Manager Community

Affairs PO Box 1400

Rapid City, SD 57709

OR

Email: mutch.usera@blackhillscorp.com

PROCESS

1. Local or regional economic development organization will present the proposed project or activity to the BHE economic development manager for an initial review.
2. If economic development request meets the basic criteria, the local/regional economic developer is asked to fill out an on-line application located at BHE Community Giving page.
3. After recipient of application, BHE Economic Development Grant Committee will review and determine approval or denial of the grant request.

4. The local or regional Economic Development organization is notified of final decision.
5. If approved, a check is delivered with a letter requesting appropriate recognition for Black Hills Energy.



BLACK HILLS ENERGY PROGRAM FOR THE GREAT PLAINS RAIL

THANK YOU LETTER

Dear [Name],

We are pleased to hear that you have been notified of the final decision regarding the Black Hills Energy Program for the Great Plains Rail. We appreciate your interest in the program and your support for the rail project.

The program is designed to provide a variety of benefits to the rail industry, including access to low-cost energy, improved safety, and increased efficiency. We hope that you will find these benefits valuable and that you will continue to support the program in the future.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [Phone Number] or [Email Address]. We are happy to assist you.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]

THANK YOU

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If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [Phone Number] or [Email Address]. We are happy to assist you.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]

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If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [Phone Number] or [Email Address]. We are happy to assist you.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Dear [Name],

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Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]

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If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [Phone Number] or [Email Address]. We are happy to assist you.

Sincerely,
[Name]
[Title]

GUIDELINES/CRITERIA

Black Hills Energy will support communities with its service territory. Below are types of grants that may be submitted for funding support:

Types of Grants	Amounts	Considerations/Policies Relevant to Investment
Sponsorships	Up to \$2,500 or one-half of the cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate recognition is given to BHE. • Sponsorship of event/activity is relevant to economic development.
Professional Development Scholarship	Cost of tuition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development related education, e.g. Basic Economic Development course, IEDC training classes and Institute for Organizational Management. • One scholarship per local/regional professional economic developer. • Proof of completion of course or workshop must be presented prior to receiving reimbursement of tuition. • Only one scholarship annually to an organization. • Organization is willing to give BHE recognition in their newsletter. • Professional state economic developers are not eligible.
Organizational Development	Up to \$2,500 or one-half of the cost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHE should never have more than 50 percent of the cost of the project or activities. • Organization is willing to give BHE recognition in their newsletter. • If vendor (Consultant) involved, BHE Grant Committee will review qualifications of vendor as well as program content.
Cooperative Marketing Assistance	Up to \$3,000 or one-half of the cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes advertising and communication materials (print, broadcasting & digital media) related to new business attraction, regional partnerships, branding and ED organization marketing. • BHE should never have more than 50 percent of the cost of the project or activities. • Organization is willing to give BHE recognition in their newsletter. • BHE will be recognized on printed materials.
Project Development/Incentives	Dependent on the BHE utility usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment is dependent on the feasibility of serving potential customers. • Opportunity for new job creation from the project should be identified within development plan.

