



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 or has a direct impact to a community within BHE service area.

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. The BHE Economic Development Grant Committee will consist of the following positions:

BHE-SDE Sr. Manager Community Affairs – Project Manager and Administrator
BHE-SDE Director of SD Electric Operations
BHE-SDE Operations Manager – Black Hills area
BHE-SDE Operations Manager – Rapid City
BHE-Business Finance Manager

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 the Economic Development Grant application form.
3. The economic development grant applicant is required to submit a follow-up economic development sponsored event, program and/or impact study report on how the grant dollars was used to benefit the funding request.
4. After receiving the application, BHE Economic Development Grant Committee will review and determine approval or denial of the grant request.
5. The local or regional Economic Development organization is notified of final decision.
6. If approved, a check is delivered with a letter requesting appropriate recognition for Black Hills Energy.

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	Pay full request, up to \$2,500 or pay one-half of the cost of total request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate recognition is given to BHE. ▪ Sponsorship of event/activity is relevant to economic development.
Professional Development Scholarship	Pay full request, up to \$1,000 or pay one-half of the cost of total request of tuition or educational conference fees	<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	Pay full request, up to \$2,500 or pay one-half of the cost of total request	<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	Pay full request, up to \$3,000 or pay one-half of the cost of total request	<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.