



BLACK HILLS ENERGY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM PURPOSE

Black Hills Energy strives to be a valued community partner. At Black Hills Energy (BHE), 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. Requests are solicited through the Business Development Manager and reviewed by Black Hills Power General Manager, Business Development, Public Affairs, and Operations Manager.

SUBMIT GRANT REQUEST TO:

BLACK HILLS ENERGY

Attn: Eric Wolff, Business Development Manager
PO Box 1400
Rapid City, SD 57709

OR

Email: Eric.Wolff@blackhillsenergy.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 the BHE Economic Development Grant Application.

3. After receipt of application, BHE Economic Development Grant Committee will review and determine approval or denial of the grant request during the monthly committee meeting.
4. The economic development grant applicant is required to submit a follow-up economic, sponsored event or program impact report on how the grant dollars were used to benefit the funding request.
5. The local or regional economic development organization is notified of the final decision.
6. If approved, the economic development organization is notified, and payment process is submitted with information requesting appropriate communication to the community be implemented from the economic development organization and Black Hills Energy.

GUIDELINES/CRITERIA

Black Hills Energy will support communities within 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 \$5,000 or pay one-half of the cost of total request | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate recognition is given to BHE. ▪ Sponsorship of events and activities that support but are not limited to community economic development organizations. ▪ Sponsorship of events and activities that are relevant to economic development, including community quality of life that impacts housing, workforce development and job creation. |
| 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 | Pay full request, up to \$5,000 or pay one-half of the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organization is willing to give BHE recognition in their newsletter. |

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| | cost of total request | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 \$5,000 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. ▪ Organization is willing to give BHE recognition in their newsletter. ▪ <u>BHE will be recognized on printed materials.</u> |
| Research/ Development/ Project Incentives | Dependent on the BHE utility service area and economic impact of community | <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. ▪ Includes but not limited to economic feasibility studies pertaining to land, housing, workforce and infrastructure. |
| Shovel Ready Site Readiness Initiatives | Dependent on BHE utility service area and impact related to creating a shovel ready site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site must be located in a BHE service territory. ▪ Project must materially advance the site towards being a shovel ready site. ▪ Organization is willing to give BHE recognition in their newsletter/site marketing efforts. ▪ Includes but not limited to environmental studies, geotech soil analysis, planning/zoning, wetland delineations, and any necessary mitigation work as a result of these studies. |