



EMA Regulatory Reminder: USDA Accepting New Applications for the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIPP) through September 30th

The USDA began accepting new applications in grants through the [Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program \(HBIPP\)](#). These grants support the infrastructure needed to lower out-of-pocket costs for energy marketers to install and upgrade biofuel-related infrastructure such as pumps, dispensers and storage tanks. The HBIPP funds are available for both retail and wholesale fueling/storage facilities. The application window to distribute the \$90 million in HBIPP grants began July 1, 2024, and ends September 30, 2024.

[Click here](#) to read the full EMA Regulatory Reminder.

How the HBIPP Funds Will be Distributed

HBIPP seeks to increase the availability of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel derived from U.S. agricultural products by sharing the costs to build and retrofit biofuel-related infrastructure.

Grants cover up to 75% or \$5 million of total project costs to help facilities convert to higher-blend fuels. The fuels must be greater than 10% for ethanol and greater than 5% for biodiesel.

Starting July 1, \$90 million will be available to support a variety of fueling operations:

- Approximately \$67.5 million will be made available to transportation fueling facilities, including fueling stations; convenience stores; larger retail stores that also sell fuel; and transportation, freight, rail and marine fleet facilities.
- Approximately \$18 million will be available to fuel distribution facilities, including terminal operations, depots and midstream operations.
- Up to \$4.5 million will be made available to home heating oil distribution facilities.

Important: How to Apply

[Click here](#) for a webinar to provide applicants an overview of the HBIPP program (including recent updates), along with detailed information on how to enroll for access to the HBIPP application system, important dates, and will reserve time to answer questions.

As we continue to pursue long-term small business protections for this program, we have made contact with Growth Energy regarding their grant application assistance resources. For this round of funding, Growth Energy is providing their grant writers to assist a limited number of HBIPP applicants at no cost. Growth Energy's grant writers have written 48 percent of all HBIPP

grants to date. According to Growth Energy, they have never turned down a retailer. In the last round of funding, Growth Energy was successful in getting funding for ~1,500 E15 dispensers, ~500 E85 dispensers, and ~500 biodiesel dispensers and are actively recruiting “mom & pop” retailers via webinars and in-person workdays.

For this HBIPP round, Growth will write grants for ~40 retailers with ~10 being large retailers and ~30 being mom & pops. EMA encourages interested applicants to contact growth with interest ASAP. If interested, please contact grants@growthenergy.org and copy EMA President Rob Underwood at runderwood@emamerica.org

Additional Information

The USDA presented a comprehensive HBIP overview at the EMA Day on the Hill in May. The presentation contains valuable information for energy marketers and can be viewed [here](#) (PPTX download).

For more information, visit the [HBIP webpage](#).