

565—18.5(473) Eligibility. All residents of the state of Iowa are eligible to propose program measures and to receive the benefits and services provided by the state energy program. Assistance shall be provided in the form of program measures that will have an immediate and substantial effect in reducing the rate of growth in Iowa energy demand.

18.5(1) Proposals. To be eligible to receive a financial grant for the development and implementation of a program measure, an applicant must submit a proposal that meets all of the requirements specified in a Request for Proposals. To accomplish the goals and purposes as set forth in the plan, proposals will be solicited statewide from the greatest number of individuals and organizations that can be identified, or the request for proposal will be published in newspapers.

Project proposals will include:

1. A description and cost estimate of the proposed program measure(s);
2. An explanation of the benefits to be gained from the projects;
3. An explanation and justification of need for the programs;
4. A proposed schedule of when funds will be needed;
5. A proposed plan with an activity time schedule and sources of funds.

18.5(2) Criteria for selection. The environmental services division shall review each proposal and shall select the projects to be recommended for approval by the department. Criteria for evaluating proposals and awarding contracts are included in each Request for Proposal. These criteria are pertinent to specific objectives targeted by each RFP and include a point system for evaluation. Criteria may include, but will not be limited to, proposals which:

1. Foster coordination among Iowans;
2. Enhance economic development;
3. Increase investments to energy conservation;
4. Extend service/assistance to the disadvantaged or areas/sectors not served before;
5. Document estimated energy savings;
6. Provide for matching funds.

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel of not fewer than three persons with general knowledge of the applicable energy management field but without personal interest in the proposal or the applicants.