THANK YOU
Renewable Fuels Association

Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP) grant program

Cassie Mullen
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We are the leading trade association for America’s ethanol industry, working to advance development, production, and use of ethanol as a beneficial renewable fuel.

Since 1981, the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) has been helping Americans have more affordable, efficient, and environmentally friendly fuel for their cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles and engines of all kind.

With the most experienced staff in the industry, the RFA provides timely, comprehensive industry information to our members, Congress, federal and state government agencies, fuel marketers and retailers, strategic partners, the media and other industry leaders.

Our mission is simple

Drive expanded production and use of American-made renewable fuels and bio-products worldwide.
USDA designed the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP) to increase availability of higher blends of ethanol, such as E15 and E85 as well as biodiesel (B20).

USDA will provide grants to transportation fueling and biodiesel distribution facilities. These grants will lower the out-of-pocket costs for businesses to install and/or upgrade fuel dispensers, infrastructure (including storage tanks and systems) and related equipment.
• Expanding the availability of higher-blend biofuels will provide consumers with more choices when they fill up at the pump, including environmentally friendly fuel with decreased emissions. This will drive demand for our farmers and improve air quality.

• Today are over 2000 stations are selling E15 in 30 states throughout the U.S., and over 5000 selling E85. Also, greater than 95% of the vehicles sold in the U.S. are legally approved for E15.

• Since the federal government approved E15 in 2011, consumer use has grown consistently, and especially so since the Environmental Protection Agency approved E15 for year-round use in 2019.
E15 is offered at more than 190 terminals nationwide
USDA has made 100 Million dollars in competitive grants available

$86 million will be made available for eligible implementation activities related to higher blends of fuel ethanol; greater than 10 percent ethanol, including E15 and E85.

$14 million will be made available for eligible implementation activities related to higher blends of biodiesel greater than 5 percent biodiesel, such as B20 or higher.

Qualified recipient's include Fueling stations/C Stores, Travel centers-Truck stops, Fleet facilities, Hypermarkets fuel stations, and similar entities with capital investments.
In March, USDA made the commitment to use more ethanol in their fleet.

This will include E15 for all 2001 and newer vehicles and E85 for all FFVs. Obviously, the fuel needs to be available where these vehicles reside.

USDA predicted that this move could increase E15 use by 9 million gallons and E85 use by 10 million gallons. USDA currently owns 16,000 FFVs and 14,000 E15-approved vehicles.
Awards to successful applicants will be in the form of cost-share grants up to 50% of total eligible project cost but not to exceed 5 million dollars per organization

- **For new to industry sites** a 50% match is available for Purchase, installation of fuel dispensers related equipment and infrastructure to support HB fuel sales – this can include construction related costs for improvements as well as fees such as construction permits, and licenses related to the project. New to industry sites cannot receive funding for tanks and piping as those are considered compatible regardless and would not therefore expand the market for higher blends

- **For existing locations** the cost share breaks down in two ways. Retrofit equipment related to existing fueling stations that require upgraded, and/or retrofitted and/or additional underground storage tanks may request assistance of up to 25 percent of total eligible project costs or up to $1,250,000, whichever is the lesser. They are eligible for any required equipment including, but not limited to, the tank, piping, piping containment sumps, underground pumping equipment, including the submersible pump or suction pump, release detection equipment, spill equipment (spill buckets), overfill equipment, fuel dispensers/pumps, or other equipment. Items other than the tank and the piping is eligible for matching funds up to 50%
Important dates

5-15-20

Application process open

• Review checklist for online application
• Applicants submit request to participate
• ORGANIZE – PREPARE AND EXECUTE!

8-13-20

Application window close

• Agency Review for Eligibility and Completeness
• Evaluation Panel and Competition

Mid September

Awards announced

• Selection
• Written Communication to All Participants
• Public Announcement of Awards/Obligation
• Grant Agreement/Contracts Execution
• Project Executions
• Execution of projects to be completed in 18 months
USE CHROME AS YOUR BROWSER
Getting started

How do we get started?

1) https://rd.usda.gov/hbiip; Click the “Apply Now” button;
2) Click the “To Apply” tab;
3) Open the Checklist.
To apply for the Higher Blends Grant program, please review the online application checklist below to determine the important documents you will need. You must also submit your completed Access Request to higherblendsgrants-access@usda.gov to gain access to the online application system.

**Important Documents**

- [Checklist for Online Application System](#)
- [HBIIP EAuthentication](#)
- [HBIIP Online Access Request](#)
- [HBIIP Online Application Instructions and Users Guide](#)
  - [Single Point of Contact List for Executive Order 12372 requirements](#) (sec: 7.3.1.)
  - [Dispensers and Fueling Equipment Reference Guide](#) (sec: 7.5.6. and 7.5.7.)
  - [HBIIP Project Technical Report Guide](#) (sec: 7.8)
  - [Environmental Review Documents Guide](#) (sec: 7.8)
  - [Matching Funds Verification/Certification Guide](#) (sec: 7.7.2 and 7.8)
  - [SF 424 D Assurances - Construction Programs](#) (sec: 7.8)

**Other Resources**

- [Fuels Institute Retailing Biofuels Federal Regulations](#)
- [Handbook for Handling, Storing, and Dispensing E85 and Other Ethanol-Gasoline Blends](#)
- [Biodiesel Handling and Use Guide (Fifth Edition)](#)
A Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS)/Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number is required, unless the applicant is an individual. A DUNS/UEI number can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1–866–705–5711 or online at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.

Register the DUNS/UEI# at www.sam.gov. Include the CAGE code & expiration date as part of a complete application.


A Company may request access to HBIIP Online Application System by emailing a written request and a completed HBIIP Access Request to, HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov

- Please allow at least 2 business days to process your request;
- Upon approval, a Company’s authorized/rightful users will each receive an email from, RD.AdminAppsSupport@usda.gov, with, a URL and instructions to access the system.
- Copy the URL and paste it into the address bar of a Google Chrome internet browser and hit enter.
- Bookmark the URL for future use.

NOTE: Depending on your specific email client settings, the email may be placed into a Spam folder.
Enrollment

1. USDA E-Authentication, SAM CAGE code, DUNS/UEI, TIN

2. Requesting access to the Online Application System

3. Obtaining access to the Online Application System
Enrollment

USDA E-Authentication, SAM CAGE code, DUNS/UEI, TIN

https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/
https://www.sam.gov/SAM/
https://www.eauth.usda.gov/home/
A Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS)/Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1–866–705–5711 or online at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.

Register the DUNS/UEI# at www.sam.gov. Include the CAGE code & expiration date.

Enrollment

Requesting access to the Online Application System
**Important Documents**

**Checklist for Online Application System**

**HBIIP Online Access Request**

- Select: Create both Company Account and User Account.
  - Company’s Legal Name
  - Company TIN
  - DUNS/UEI Number
  - SAM CAGE code

- **Applicant Type (Select One):**
  - Owner of 10 fueling stations or fewer
  - Owner of greater than 10 fueling stations
  - Fleet facility
  - Fuel Distribution Facility

- Information for at least one Authorized User
Obtaining access to the Online Application System
To request access to *HBIIP Online Application System*:

1. Send an Email attached with a **completed and encrypted** HBIIP Online Access Request to, [HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov](mailto:HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov)
   
   Please allow at least 2 business days to process your request.

2. Send second email immediately with encryption password
Important Documents

Checklist for Online Application System

HBIIP Online Access Request

HBIIP Online Application Instructions and Users Guide

- Single Point of Contact List for Executive Order 12372 requirements (sec: 7.3.1.)
- Dispensers and Fueling Equipment Reference Guide (sec: 7.5.6. and 7.5.7.)
- Environmental Review Documents Guide (sec: 7.8)
- Matching Funds Verification/Certification Guide (sec: 7.7.2 and 7.8)
- SF 424 D Assurances - Construction Programs (sec: 7.8)
➢ Upon approval, a Company’s authorized/rightful users will each receive an email from, RD.AdminAppsSupport@usda.gov with,

A URL and instructions to access the system.

Copy the URL and paste it into the address bar of a Google Chrome internet browser and hit enter.

Bookmark the URL for future use.
The average time to complete the HBIIP application is estimated at 78 hours; accounting, for the large retail convenience store chains; much less for “Owners of 10 stations or fewer.”

You may also begin reviewing/completing these necessary application elements while you await access:

- Single Point of Contact List for Executive Order 12372 requirements (7.3.1.)
- Dispensers and Fueling Equipment Reference Guide (7.5.6. and 7.5.7.)
- HBIIP Project Technical Report Guide (7.8)
- Environmental Review Documents Guide (7.8)
- Matching Funds Verification/Certification Guide (7.7.2 and 7.8)
- SF 424 D Assurances - Construction Programs (7.8)
A priority score will be afforded to complete applications deemed eligible to compete. Given the purpose of the HBIIP, higher priority will be afforded to projects deemed to increase significantly the sales and use of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel on a gallons per dollar of requested funds, basis. Priority scoring and ranking of applications will be based on the following criteria:
(a) Annual sales volume for the past 3 years (2017-19) or projected sales for fueling stations constructed during the grant period, for all fuels including E10 and/or B5;
(b) The incremental increase in HB fuel volume attributed to:
   (i) The proposed change in percentage of refueling positions offering E15 and/or B20 or higher blends (the greater percentage of HB fuel refueling positions, the greater the HB fuel volume attribution);
   (ii) The proposed new ratio number of fueling positions offering E15 and/or B20 relative to the number of fueling positions offering E10 and/or B5 (the greater the ratio of HB fuel refueling positions relative to E10 and/or B5, the greater the HB fuel volume attribution);
   (iii) The proposed ratio number of fueling positions offering E85 relative to the number of fueling positions offering E10 (the greater the ratio of E85 refueling positions relative to E10, the greater the HB fuel volume attribution);
   (iv) The proposed change in the number of fueling stations with at least one E15 fueling position (the greater the number of fueling stations, the greater the HB fuel volume attribution);
(v) Whether the applicant is an owner of 10 fueling stations or fewer (if yes, a Targeted Assistance Goal, HB fuel volume attribution);
(vi) The proposed number of fueling stations located along an interstate highway corridor;
(vii) The proposed number of fueling stations located as the sole station (within a 1-mile radius) in an area;
(viii) The proposed number of fueling stations located in areas under consideration for Geographic Diversity:
1. The New England States of -- Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island; and/or
2. The Western States of -- Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming;
(ix) A “Matching Funds” investment/commitment to higher blends signage and/or marketing is proposed (non-zero investment yields greater HB fuel volume attribution);
(c) The total amount of requested funds.
The HBIIP online application, “Project Worksheet with Priority Scoring Criteria for Transportation Fueling Stations/Facilities,” is interactive and designed to indicate an applicant’s priority score based on -- HBIIP activities (e.g., fuel dispensers, related equipment and infrastructure installations), Administrator’s geographic diversity priorities, Targeted Assistance Goals (if applicable), and the amount of requested funds.

Applicants may directly influence their priority score by the activities they select in the worksheet and by the amount of grant funds they request.

BOTTOM LINE: THE BETTER THE SCORE, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCES
The old Wisconsin rule through the Department of Ag, Trade, and Consumer Protection required gas pumps installed after February 1st of 2009 to dispense mixtures greater than E10 through separate fueling nozzles and hoses. The new law allows blends up to E15 to use the same dispensing equipment. The new law also requires retailers to have at least one fueling nozzle and hose that dispenses only gasoline containing 10% or less ethanol, and new stickers on fuel pumps clarifying where the E15 blends may be used.

Your responsibility

After grant approval and through grant completion, grantees will be required to provide periodically the following, as indicated:

1. A “Federal Financial Report,” (SF-425) and a project performance report will be required on a semiannual basis (due 30 working days after end of the semiannual period). (semiannual periods end on March 31st and September 30th.) The project performance reports shall include the elements prescribed in the Grant Agreement; which for fueling stations will include point of sale reporting for up to 5 years post project completion and for fuel distribution facilities will include reporting of throughput volumes of all fuels including HB fuels.

2. A final project and financial status report, as required per 2 CFR 200.343 “Closeout”, within 90 days after the expiration or termination of the grant.

3. Provide project outcome/performance reports and final deliverables. Reported data will be used for program and policy evaluation. The proprietary nature and confidentiality of information collected from program participants is specified in 7 U.S. Code § 2276.
RFA is the only organization with an approved Mis fueling Mitigation Plan (MMP), which is required to sell E15. Information can be found via link above or at www.ethanolrfa.org

RFA has an E15 Retailer Handbook, available online, which walks through all the steps to offer E15 at the state and federal levels.

Mobile options for promotion including E85prices.com, E15 and E85 Station locator via E85 prices website, and yearly promotions to encourage users to post prices and update site info.
Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Tax Credit

NOTE: This incentive originally expired on December 31, 2016, but was retroactively extended through December 31, 2020, by Public Law 116-94.

Fueling equipment for natural gas, propane, liquefied hydrogen, electricity, E85, or diesel fuel blends containing a minimum of 20% biodiesel installed through December 31, 2020, is eligible for a tax credit of 30% of the cost, not to exceed $30,000. Permitting and inspection fees are not included in covered expenses. Fueling station owners who install qualified equipment at multiple sites are allowed to use the credit towards each location. Consumers who purchase qualified residential fueling equipment prior to December 31, 2020, may receive a tax credit of up to $1,000. Unused credits that qualify as general business tax credits, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), may be carried backward one year and carried forward 20 years. For more information about claiming the credit, see IRS Form 8911, which is available on the IRS Forms and Publications website. (Reference Public Law 116-94, Public Law 115-123, Public Law 114-113, 26 U.S. Code 30C and 38, and IRS Notice 2007-43(PDF))

Point of Contact
U.S. Internal Revenue Service
Phone: (800) 829-1040
http://www.irs.gov/
With the help of our partners at The National Corn Growers Association we are prepared to help in more ways than ever before. With their generous financial support RFA can assist retailers in more ways than ever. Assistance includes:

- Grant Writing
- Site Survey’s
- Equipment evaluations
- Feasibility study information

https://www.ncga.com/
The clock is ticking, and time is of the essence!

There are only 70 days left before the application deadline.

In order to participate you must organize, prepare and execute.

You are not alone – through the years RFA has assisted marketers with similar programs and has successfully aided in obtaining millions of dollars in awards for those seeking to join the crusade for higher blends of ethanol.

Once again, we are prepared to walk with you every step of the way.
If you recall when I started this presentation, I stated our mission:

**Drive expanded production and use of American-made renewable fuels and bio-products worldwide.**

It is our mission, our responsibility and our pleasure to assist you in any way we can. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Thank You!

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