

Champlain Hudson Power Express Green Economy Fund: Request For Proposals

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I. Background

As part of the Champlain Hudson Power Express project (CHPE), Hydro-Québec and Transmission Developers created the Green Economy Fund (GEF), a \$40 million fund designed to support disadvantaged communities, low-income individuals, and transitioning fossil fuel workers (the “target population”) in accessing and building careers in New York State’s green economy. The GEF was developed in close consultation with local workforce development experts, labor unions, housing authorities, community-based organizations, business groups, environmental non-profits, academics, and other leading organizations.

Funding will be disbursed over the course of 20 years, and grants in this first round are expected to amount between \$50,000 and \$250,000. Funds will be paid in multiple disbursements based on grantees’ individual needs and spent within one year of that award. Grantees may be considered for additional funding in the future grantmaking cycles based on the performance of their first grant.

Using GEF funds in addition to other funding sources is encouraged but not mandatory. **GEF funding may be used as matching funding for the grant programs offered by the [Empire State Development's Office of Strategic Workforce Development \(OSWD\)](#) and used to support the program opportunities offered by the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority \(NYSERDA\)](#).**

II. Objectives

The GEF is focused on funding green jobs training programs and wraparound services associated with programs that prepare participants for careers in the green economy. Applicants that serve communities in counties¹ intersected by the CHPE Project Route (see Appendix A) are given some priority, as well as individuals with the greatest barriers to employment within the target population.

The GEF is designed to mitigate the most pressing challenges facing green workforce development, and the GEF administrators will work with potential grantees to design individualized reporting metrics to track impact.

Acceptable areas of funding include, but are not limited to:

- training costs (e.g., instructors, curriculum development, materials, equipment),
- wraparound services (e.g., transportation, case management, addition of professional development curriculum, childcare),
- costs of recruitment from disadvantaged communities, and
- participant stipends or wage supports for graduates placed in jobs.

III. Definitions

The RFP seeks to fund organizations that connect New Yorkers in the target population to good jobs in the green economy.

- The "target population" includes New Yorkers that are in disadvantaged communities, low-income individuals, or transitioning fossil fuel workers.
- "Disadvantaged communities" is defined by New York's 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act as "communities that bear burdens of negative public health effects, environmental pollution, impacts of climate change, and possess certain socioeconomic criteria, or comprise high concentrations of low- and moderate-income households." Disadvantaged Communities are identified based on geographic, public health, environmental hazard, and socioeconomic criteria. Please visit [NYSERDA's](#)

¹ These counties include Clinton, Essex, Washington, Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany, Greene, Columbia, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, Bronx and Queens.

[Disadvantaged Communities website](#) for more information and to identify whether your organization serves individuals in a disadvantaged community.

- The GEF uses the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD’s) definition for “low-income”. HUD sets the lower income limits at 80% of the median income for the county or metropolitan area in which you choose to live. Income limits vary from area to area. More information can be reviewed [here](#).
- “Transitioning fossil fuel workers” is defined as individuals seeking to transition into jobs in the green economy from jobs in the fossil fuels industry.

“Jobs in the green economy” include skilled trade and manufacturing jobs in renewable energy, energy efficiency, green buildings, sustainable transport, and other jobs created to counter climate change.

A “good job” is defined as a job that exceeds the minimum living wage² as defined by the [MIT Living Wage Calculator](#), includes basic benefits (e.g., paid leave, health insurance, retirement/savings plan) and/or is unionized, and helps the employee develop the skills and experiences necessary to advance along a career path. Understanding that some populations with the greatest barriers to employment have limited work histories, jobs that lead to a high-quality career path but don’t start at the minimum living wage will be considered.

IV. Minimum Eligibility Criteria

All applicants must serve members of the target population in accessing good jobs in the green economy. Grantees will be asked to demonstrate in their reporting that they serve members of the target population.

Eligible organizations	Ineligible organizations
<p>Nonprofit organizations (501(c)(3)s), chambers of commerce (501(c)(6)s), and unions (501(c)(5)s), such as but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development nonprofits • Community-based organizations • Building trades unions • Nonprofit pre-apprenticeship programs • Community colleges, career and technical education schools, and adult education programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For-profit organizations • Government entities • Advocacy organizations (501(c)(4)s)

² The living wage for 1 Adult with 0 Children as specified by the [MIT Living Wage Calculator](#) will be considered the minimum living wage for the county where individuals served by the program reside.

V. RFP Questions and Submission Structure

Please briefly answer the questions below with the information currently available to you. Submissions should be a maximum of five pages. For questions or clarification/advice, please reach out to gef@transmissiondevelopers.com.

A. Applicant Information

1. Name of organization
2. Mailing address and phone number
3. Organizational website
4. Name, title, phone number and email address of contact person
5. If applicable, Federal Employer ID # and/or NY Charities Registration #

B. Narrative

1. Description: Please describe your organization. If you are requesting funding for a specific program, please also describe the primary purpose of that program.
 - a) Mission statement
 - b) Overview of organization or program
 - c) What are your organization's or program's primary challenges?
 - d) What aspect of your initiative is most difficult to raise funding for?
 - e) What is the vision for the future of your organization?
2. Fit with the GEF's objectives: How does your organization or program meet the challenge of preparing the target population for good jobs in the green economy?
3. Grant amount requested including proposed budget and timeline for use of funds. All funds must be spent within one year.

C. Pathway to Careers

1. Describe the jobs and careers you prepare, or support in preparing, participants for. Include any information you have on wages, benefits, room for advancement. Jobs should meet the [MIT Living Wage](#) definition for 1 Adult and 0 Children in your respective county, initially or in the future.
2. Why did you choose to train or support participants for this type of job? Describe any regional demand, local employers, or predicted growth of the sector.
3. Describe any partnerships you have with employers, including ways employers help shape your activities. If you are seeking this funding to help establish a new employer partnership, describe the benefits of the envisioned partnership and why it's achievable. Letters of support are optional.

D. Equitable impact

1. Confirm that the population you serve includes members of the GEF's target population. You may further describe the population you serve and their barriers to employment by including information such as education level, race, gender, or employment history.
2. What is the geography of the population you serve? Please note if you are active in any of the counties intersected by the CHPE Project Route. (See Appendix A.)
3. Equity lens:
 - a) Which expertise does your organization have in addressing the challenges facing the community it serves?
 - b) How is the community included in your organization's decision making? For instance, do any senior staff or Board Members come from or reside in the community?

E. Measures of Success

1. What are the primary ways you measure and track your organization's or program's impact? If you are launching a new initiative, describe how you plan to measure and track your progress and on what timeline you expect to show results.
2. Please provide the key metrics of your program or organization **that you already collect, quantitative and qualitative**. Below is a list of metrics that are typical for workforce development and wraparound services organizations.

Example Workforce Development Metrics	
<u>Program Inputs</u>	<u>Program Outputs</u>
Participants' demographic information and barriers to employment	Training graduation rates
Any screening criteria for applicants, such as education, income level or employment history	Job placement rates
Number of participants who start training annually	Graduates' earnings and benefits data
Cost of program per participant	Job retention rates

Example Wraparound Services Metrics	
Program Inputs	Program Outputs
Type of wraparound service offered and number of participants served	How that service mitigates barriers to employment. Evidence-based information is preferred, with an understanding that some wraparound services are more effectively reported qualitatively.
Demographic information on population you work with	
Cost of services per participant	

F. Organization Information

1. Financials: Attach your two most recent IRS Form 990s and audited financial statements.
2. Leadership: Attach short biographies, and ideally the length of service, of staff in leadership positions and key staff on the project. List Board Members. (Optional: Include Board Members' current occupations.)
3. Attach your IRS determination of your non-profit or union status.

VI. Evaluation Overview

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Notes
Narrative & Measures of Success	30%	Evaluation of the organization's or program's alignment with the GEF's objectives, and assessment of its measures of success.
Pathway to Careers	25%	Assess the likelihood of the organization or program placing participants into good jobs in New York's green economy.
Equitable Impact	20%	Population served: Confirm that the organization or project serves the target population. Equity lens: Assess the organization's or program's focus on equity and the representation of the target population in its decision making.
Geography	10%	Organizations serving the target populations anywhere in New York are eligible, with priority given to those serving individuals in a county intersected by the CHPE project route. (See Appendix A.)
Organizational Information	15%	Health of the organization's financials and leadership.

VII. Timeline and Submission Information

Please email one PDF document containing all application materials to gef@transmissiondevelopers.com.

Milestone	Date*
RFP released	February 28, 2023
Submissions due	April 28, 2023
Interviews with finalists**	June 2023
Grantees selected	July 10, 2023

**Dates are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in places where the RFP is publicized.*

***Interviews will be conducted as needed and on a rolling basis.*

Questions may be directed to gef@transmissiondevelopers.com. Answers will be made public to all applicants and on [the RFP website](#).

Please note: The Green Economy Fund reserves the right to modify or cancel the RFP and/or make administrative or award decisions in its sole and absolute discretion.

VIII. GEF Round 1 Reporting Requirements

Overview

CHPE will work with potential grantees to refine and confirm their proposed milestones from Section IV, E: Measures of Success as a condition of receiving a grant award. The purpose of these milestones is to establish metrics that track and report progress towards the overall goal of the grant. Please see Section IV, E for examples and use the Reporting Template attached to submit your proposed metrics (and targets, if available). Please note:

- Payments will be tied to successful demonstration of progress made towards the agreed upon milestones, and
- Grantees should be prepared to engage with the GEF regularly (with specific frequency determined for each grantee) throughout the grant period and potentially further to report on impacts.

Additional support for establishing best practice impact metrics and milestones will be provided to grantees as part of this process.

Reporting Template

Please fill out and submit the Reporting Template to satisfy the requirements of Section E.

**CHPE Green Economy Fund
Reporting Template**

Please fill this section out to submit with your application

Goal: Please provide 1-2 sentences describing your goal for using the overarching for the GEF funding.

For example: This proposal seeks to support careers for workers in the target population by providing childcare vouchers and stipends to trainees in a green jobs program that links graduates to good jobs.

Milestones (Provide the milestones that best reflect how your organization or program will achieve this goal)	Anticipated Milestone Completion Date. (Payments are tied to milestones)	Proposed Funding Amount for Each Milestone
Milestone 1		
Milestone 2		
Milestone 3		

IX. Appendices

A. CHPE Project Route Maps

Appendix A: CHPE Project Route Maps

Counties intersecting the CHPE Project Route include Clinton, Essex, Washington, Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany, Greene, Columbia, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, Bronx and Queens. The neighborhoods of Astoria and the South Bronx are priority within the Bronx and Queens counties.



