

Empire State Development

ESD Grants Program

Q. Can my project start before the award is officially announced?

A. Yes, however, expenses incurred before the award announcement are ineligible for reimbursement.

Q. Is the 1% commitment fee netted out at the end of the project? Not at the time of the award, but at the time of funding?

A. The 1% commitment fee is required upon execution of the Grant Disbursement Agreement.

Q. What are the match requirements for the program?

A. ESD may provide up to twenty percent (20%) of the financing for any particular project. ESD requires that the Applicant contribute a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the total project cost in the form of equity contributed after the Applicant's acceptance of ESD's incentive proposal. Equity is defined as cash injected into the property by the Applicant or by investors and should be auditable through the Applicant's financial statements or accounts, if so requested by ESD. Equity cannot be borrowed money secured by the assets in the project or grants from a government source.

Q. Does a village need to sponsor a business that is applying for funding?

A. No, a village does not need to sponsor a business applying for this funding.

Q. How far along is too far along in a project? For example, you have paid for architectural plans, but construction hasn't advanced.

A. A project should not begin and expenses should not be incurred before funding awards have been announced. Expenses incurred prior to submission of a CFA should not be included in CFA project budgets, nor should expenses that will be incurred after submission of a CFA but prior to an award announcement.

Q. How much emphasis is placed on MWBE requirement?

A. If a project is funded, MWBE goals will be established for the project. The goal ascribed depends on eligible expenses as identified by our MWBE team.