

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Higher Blends Infrastructure Investment Program Information for Underground Storage Tank System Owners and Operators

EPA Office of Underground Storage Tanks
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U.S. Department of Agriculture Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program

Program website: www.rd.usda.gov/HBIIP

Background

The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) and the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) provided significant funding for federal grant programs. Several of these grant programs have goals related to OUST program concerns.

This info sheet provides an overview of a federal grant program related to higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel that may be of interest to Owners and Operators wishing to upgrade or replace their UST infrastructure. Please consult with USDA for the most accurate and up to date information.

UST Owners and Operators may also wish to inquire with their [UST implementing agency](#) about state-specific programs for biofuels infrastructure.

The following EPA webpages related to aging UST systems provide information to O/O as the UST universe ages and the transportation sector evolves.

- **Aging UST Systems:**
www.epa.gov/ust/resources-ust-owners-and-operators#aging.
- **Considering Transitions for Aging UST Systems:**
www.epa.gov/ust/resources-ust-owners-and-operators#transitions.

Description: The purpose of the HBIIP is to increase the sales and use of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel by sharing the costs related to expanding the infrastructure for renewable fuels derived from U.S. agricultural products.

General eligibility: Most Underground Storage Tank Owners and Operators including retail stations and others such as fleet fueling operators are likely eligible to apply for upcoming announcements, if not already dispensing E15 or E85 or biodiesel blends greater than B5.

Eligible applicants for past announcements included fueling stations; convenience stores; hypermarket fueling stations; fleet facilities (including transportation, freight, rail and marine; and similar entities with capital investments). Refer to U.S. Department of Agriculture for specific details.

Potential benefits: Owners and Operators may be able to leverage this program to simultaneously upgrade their existing UST systems with newer equipment and add the capability to dispense lower carbon and cleaner burning fuels.

Which UST Owners and Operators should apply? Any UST Owner or Operator with aging infrastructure or those with USTs of any age interested in storing higher blends of biofuels.

Amount available: \$450 million in new funds will be available quarterly starting July 1. Each quarter, \$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.

Application Timeframe: The program application window is open on July 1, 2023 for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024. Application windows close at 4:30 pm Eastern on September 30, 2023; December 31, 2023; March 31, 2024; June 30, 2024, and September 30, 2024.