

City of Omaha

BUDGET NARRATIVE:

I. Budget Detail:

Measure #1: ENERGIZE OMAHA

TOTAL Direct Costs

1. PERSONNEL: *Personnel costs are anticipated to be included in Contractual Costs (No Request)*
2. TRAVEL: No requests
3. SUPPLIES: No requests
4. CONTRACTUAL: \$25,665,000
5. OTHER: \$14,158,750

TOTAL Indirect Costs:

6. Training and Workforce Development Facility Lease: \$828,223
7. **TOTAL SUM**: **\$26,493,223**

The contractual budget reflects anticipated costs for high measure outcomes associated with weatherization, solar installation, workforce development, and innovation. *Energize Omaha* program design and cost estimates are the result of the City of Omaha Preliminary Climate Action Plan (PCAP) planning efforts awarded in the fall of 2023.

Budget items include: **A)** *LMI Electrification and Solar*; **B)** *Program Administration, staffing competitive wages and compensation*; **C)** *Omaha Climate Solutions Challenge RFP Development and Management*; **D)** *OTHER- Recruitment, Workforce Partnerships, Certification and Outreach*; **E)** *Omaha Climate Solutions Challenge Award*.

The total direct contractual budget of the Energize Omaha program measure is \$25,665,000. The budget includes the cost of service for staff, supply, promotion, and execution of a one-stop workforce training program and weatherization and solar installation hub in Omaha, Nebraska.

The proposed initiative contributes to environmental sustainability with a total 5-year GHG reduction measures of 13,494.7 and a 50-year reduction of 103,459 GHG per ton, but enhances the efficiency and comfort of 1,350 homes located in Justice 40 communities over the initial first five years of the program. Workforce training estimates 150 annual learners entering the hands-on training and mentoring program.

The clean solutions pilot program referred to as Omaha Climate Solutions Challenge Award, will provide seed funding for scalable community focused innovations that result in significant reductions of GHG emissions by generation of renewable energy, innovative or novel solutions

increasing ridership and/or greater accessibility of shared mobility or microtransit platforms, waste reduction, and new jobs. Seed funding will lay a foundation for meaningful climate and risk mitigation efforts by providing eligible projects with the following: technical assistance and data collection, infrastructural improvements and upgrades, stakeholder and public engagement, administrative support, workshops and training.

A. LMI Weatherization and Solar

5-YEAR Retrofit Renovation Construction Costs:

YEAR1: \$60,000.00; YEAR 2: \$210,000.00; YEAR 3: \$210,000.00; YEAR 4: \$210,000.00; YEAR 5:\$210,000.00; **TOTAL :\$900,000**

5-YEAR Electrification Upgrades:

YEAR1: \$400,000.00; YEAR 2: \$1,400,000.00; YEAR 3: \$1,400,000.00; YEAR 4: \$1,400,000.00;; YEAR 5: \$1,400,000.00; **TOTAL:\$6,000,000**

5-YEAR Solar Installation:

YEAR1: \$30,000.00; YEAR 2: \$60,000.00; YEAR 3: \$120,000.00; YEAR 4: \$120,000.00; YEAR 5: \$120,000.00; **TOTAL :\$450,000**

B. Program Administration, Staffing Competitive Wages and Compensation:

The following contractual budget items for Energize Omaha include: **(PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION)**; project management, construction and implementation, and financial analysis for Renewable Energy, Healthy Homes & Energy Audit, Weatherization and Construction program **(NAVIGATORS)**; program mentorship and workforce development **(MENTORSHIP PROGRAM)**.

Program Administration 4x FTEs:

YEAR 1: \$210,000; YEAR 2:\$315,000; YEAR 3: \$315,000; YEAR 4: \$315,000; YEAR5: \$315,000;
TOTAL: \$1,470,000

1x FTE Navigator- Renewable Energy:

YEAR 1: \$78,750; YEAR2: \$78,750; YEAR 3: \$78,750; YEAR 4: \$78,750; YEAR 5: \$78,750;
TOTAL: \$393,750

1x FTE Navigator - Weatherization Construction & Electrification:

YEAR 1:\$78,750; YEAR 2: \$78,750 YEAR 3:\$78,750; YEAR 4:\$78,750; YEAR 5: \$78,750;
TOTAL: \$393,750

1x FTE Spanish- Speaking Navigator: YEAR 1:\$78,750; YEAR 2:\$78,750 YEAR 3:\$78,75;
Year 4:\$78,750; YEAR 5:\$78,750;
TOTAL: \$393,750

1x .05 FTE Mentorship Program: YEAR 1:\$25,000; YEAR 2:\$25,000; YEAR 3: \$25,000;
YEAR 4: \$25,000; \$25,000;
TOTAL: \$125,000

TOTAL Staffing and Wage Requirements: YEAR 1:\$550,000; YEAR 2: \$655,000; YEAR
3:\$655,000;
YEAR 4: \$655,000; YEAR 5: \$655,000; **TOTAL: \$3,170,000**

Weatherization, construction, and solar installation talent are critical to the success of the Energize Omaha measure. Energize Omaha enhances the energy efficiency, safety, and comfort of homes and buildings. This initiative not only contributes to environmental sustainability but also significantly impacts the local economy by creating job opportunities. However, the success and sustainability of such programs are heavily dependent on the ability to attract and retain skilled professionals. Competitive wages are crucial in this regard, ensuring that the program can secure the best talent to deliver high-quality work.

Nebraska currently has the lowest employment rate in the country at 2.9%. A skilled labor shortage is impacting the construction industry across the nation. In the 2021 Construction Outlook Survey by the Associated General Contractors, 56% of respondents said, "they are having a hard time filling some or all positions." While there are resources for individuals seeking employment, they are loosely connected and training can be time-consuming, expensive, and lacking cultural competence. A local landscape assessment identified limited workforce training programs specifically targeting construction and property management. A few examples of area construction-relation programs are listed below. The tight labor market and high demands placed on the construction trades due to rapid growth in the Greater Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area requires staffing estimates that are competitive and attractive to future potential partners and responders to opportunities.

*Anticipated fringe benefits for the salaries of the personnel listed above equal \$761,250 and were calculated at a rate of 25% of personnel costs. Fringe benefit calculations for full time year-round workers include consideration of FICA, health, dental and disability insurance, and retirement plan.

C). Omaha Climate Solutions Challenge RFP Development and Management

Omaha Climate Solutions Challenge RFP Development and Management: YEAR 1:\$100,000
YEAR 2: \$50,000 ; YEAR 3:\$25,000; YEAR 4: \$25,000;
YEAR 5: \$25,000; **TOTAL: \$225,000**

D) OTHER- Recruitment, Workforce Partnerships, Certification and Outreach

Marketing Campaign and Translation Services: YEAR 1:\$70,000; YEAR 2: \$70,000; YEAR
3:\$70,000; YEAR 4: \$70,000; YEAR 5: \$70,000; **TOTAL: \$350,000**

Marketing Campaign and Translation Services: YEAR 1: \$100,000; YEAR 2: \$100,000; YEAR 3: \$100,000; YEAR 4: \$100,000; YEAR 5: \$100,000; **TOTAL: \$500,000**

Partner Capacity Grants: YEAR 1:\$200,000; YEAR 2: \$200,000; YEAR 3: \$200,000; YEAR 4: \$200,000; YEAR 5: \$200,000;**TOTAL: \$1,000,000**

BPI Training Package: YEAR 1: \$450,000; YEAR 2: \$450,000; YEAR 3: \$450,000; YEAR 4: \$450,000; YEAR 5: \$450,000 ;**TOTAL: \$2,250,000**

Badging Issuing: YEAR 1: \$750; YEAR 2: \$750; YEAR 3: \$750; YEAR 4: \$750; YEAR 5: \$750; **TOTAL: \$3,750**

Supplemental Micro Credential Creation: YEAR 1:\$50,000; YEAR 2: \$0.00; YEAR 3:\$0.00; YEAR 4: \$0.00; YEAR 5:\$0.00; **TOTAL: \$50,000**

Badge Creation: YEAR 1:\$5,000; YEAR 2: \$0.00; YEAR 3:\$0.00; YEAR 4: \$0.00; YEAR 5:\$0.00; **TOTAL: \$5,000**

Energize Omaha community partnerships will implement targeted outreach and education programs aimed at recruiting individuals from targeted communities to participate in the training program, serve as subcontractor partners, and educate middle school and high school students of the variety of opportunities in construction and property management fields. These activities are central to the success of the more specialized programs' implementation. Participation in job fairs, student awareness activities at schools and afterschool programs, and larger-scale conference presentations are among the activities included in this portion of the work.

In addition, activities intended to reach community leaders and influencers will support their decision making as it pertains to the workforce development needs of the individuals and businesses served. A combination of one-on-one meetings, participation in and organization of community convenings, and public relations and marketing activities will support successful efforts in this area.

Potential Partner Organizations Include:

City of Omaha Small and Emerging Business Program (SEB):

Started January 01, 2010, the purpose of the SEB program is to stimulate the growth of small and emerging businesses in Omaha with special attention to stimulating economic growth in areas having high levels of poverty.

Heartland Workforce Solutions:

Heartland Workforce Solutions is an American Job Center and a non-profit workforce resource serving Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Our partners, programs and services are dedicated to strengthening the Nebraska workforce and connecting people to opportunities, whether you're a career seeker or employer.

Hard Hat in Hand:

Meta's national training program was developed by Sarah Hansen from Turner Construction Omaha for ages 18-30. In partnership with Metropolitan Community College, students receive 18 college credit hours in basic construction through an 8-week paid training program and on-the-job experience. Meta has adopted this program for all of their large warehouses nationwide. While Meta maintains all rights to the curriculum and program design, Turner is incredibly open and supportive with local construction partners about their learnings and experiences with developing this program.

Nebraska Center for Workforce Development and Education:

A partnership with United Way of the Midlands, UNO's William Brennan Institute, and the AFL-CIO, that offers mentoring and placement services for formerly incarcerated individuals interested in the trades. Their TOOLS program is a collaborative program geared towards seventh through twelfth graders and provides year-round construction career exploration activities.

Reach Initiative:

The Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Reach Initiative serves the small and emerging construction businesses with training and education in business practices. Conversation with Reach's Director, Winsley Durand, indicated an interest in adding construction training to their program offerings, but lacking in fundraising, capacity, and possibly interest from the Chamber's leadership.

ABC Cornhusker (Associated Builders and Contractors):

ABC promotes and defends the merit shop philosophy. This philosophy encourages open competition and a free-enterprise approach to construction based solely on merit, regardless of labor affiliation. ABC offers safety trainings, apprenticeship opportunities, and placement services for employers

E. Omaha Climate Solutions Challenge Award

Omaha Climate Solutions Challenge Award: YEAR 1: \$2,000,000; YEAR 2: \$8,000,000; YEAR 3:\$0.00; YEAR 4: \$0.00; YEAR 5:\$0.00; **TOTAL: \$10,000,000**

Measure #2: Omaha Saves

TOTAL Direct Costs

1. PERSONNEL: Personnel costs are anticipated to be included in Contractual Costs
2. TRAVEL: No requests
3. SUPPLIES: No requests
4. CONTRACTUAL: No requests
5. OTHER: - Subaward for expansion of Omaha Public Power Rebate Program for Energy Efficiencies. Total cost: **\$3,000,000**: Budgeted items include OTHER - Subaward for expansion of Omaha Public Power Rebate Program for Energy Efficiencies : **A) EEAP Program Expansion; B) Residential Weatherization Rebates, C) Smart Thermostats**
6. INDIRECT COSTS: No Requests
7. **TOTAL COSTS: \$3,000,000**

The Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) serves the thirteen county area with our power and lighting needs and oversees a variety of energy efficiency initiatives designed to serve the individual user. OPPD has proposed a partnership with the City of Omaha for an expansion of their residential weatherization programs, their EEAP program, and their Smart Thermostats program.

The residential weatherization program currently provides \$500 for attic insulation and \$1,000 for window replacement intended to provide improvements of energy efficiency in older housing stock. The requested increases of this initiative doubles the total capacity of the program, allowing 2,600 homes, primarily located within LMI neighborhoods, to benefit from these improvements.

The smart thermostats program currently provides a \$75 rebate for OPPD customers who install a smart thermostat in their residence. The requested increase would allow a \$100 rebate for participants, and double the number of rebates available from 1,500/year to 3,000/year. All OPPD customers, including those located within LMI neighborhoods, can benefit from expansion of this rebate and service, while simultaneously reducing energy demand across the grid.

The energy efficiency assistance program (EEAP) currently provides \$2,500 per home to cover the cost of retrofits and upgrades in older housing stock that reduce energy usage and costs to homeowners. The requested increases of this initiative would provide \$5,000 per home to cover these costs. This program is specifically targeted to households falling below 200% of Federal Poverty Level guidelines and, as such, specifically benefits communities in low income and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Measure #3: Renew Omaha

TOTAL Direct Costs

PERSONNEL: Personnel costs are anticipated to be included in Contractual Costs

TRAVEL: No requests

SUPPLIES: No requests

CONTRACTUAL: \$300,000

OTHER: \$8,450,000

INDIRECT COSTS: No Requests

TOTAL SUM: \$8,750,000

Renew Omaha provides additional rebate and financial tools for residential and commercial solar. Residential solar group purchase campaign with competitively bid contractor(s) offering base solar rates and sliding scale discounts to all program participants based on the total number of households/KW sold through the program. Participants will be reached through a community-wide communication campaign and a series of 10 Power Hour presentations on solar benefits, rebates and incentives, resources available to community members, and the group purchase campaign program design. Community members will have the opportunity to sign up for a free, no obligation solar feasibility assessment including solar array cost proposal and payback illustration provided by the selected contractor(s).

This program will include an income-qualified solar rebate of \$7,000 in addition to the program cost reduction benefits. Commercial solar group purchase campaign with contractor(s) offering base solar rates and sliding scale discounts to participants based on the total number of KW sold through the program. Sites will be identified through outreach and engagement with key institutional and commercial properties with significant solar potential. These sites will be provided with a solar feasibility assessment and illustration of potential array financial performance and a presentation on solar benefits, resources available to community members, and the group purchase campaign program design.

Henry Doorly Zoo Solar Arrays: A keystone project included in the ReNew Omaha! commercial solar group purchase campaign with a total of 2 MW of solar arrays covering the public parking areas of the Henry Doorly Zoo (located in census tract 31055002500) to provide power for onsite use and shade for visitor parking, EV charging stations, and electrification of landscaping equipment and service vehicles for the zoo. As a substantial solar array, this project offers a robust seed project to start the commercial solar group purchase campaign and a requirement to illustrate local workforce training and employment opportunities by bidders for the commercial group purchase program. It will feature structured arrays over parking areas and represent a highly visible public solar project supporting solar PV interpretive opportunities.

Measure #4: Green Omaha

TOTAL Direct Costs

PERSONNEL: No Requests

TRAVEL: No requests

SUPPLIES: No requests

CONTRACTUAL: \$1,309,500

OTHER: \$1,960,200

INDIRECT COSTS: No Requests

TOTAL SUM: \$3,269,700

Grasslands Unlimited and the City of Omaha currently maintains four pocket prairies in Omaha, with five more scheduled for restoration in 2024. With this grant, we hope to establish and grow these habitats throughout the city. GU seeks to expand capacity to convert as many areas as possible to pocket prairie and urban habitat. Based on an objective to install 75 acres of prairie habitat a year, upgrades in equipment and increases in seed-stock are necessary. The seed drill will be utilized to ensure efficient and consistent planting techniques are utilized city-wide, while the tractor and trailer are necessary for transportation and operation. Requests for the boom sprayer and herbicide are critical for preparation and maintenance of the soil. In order to protect and identify native prairie habitat, signage is required to notify the public of ongoing restoration efforts and to provide contact information.

Beyond reductions in greenhouse gasses, pocket prairies and urban prairie habitats can restore crucial ecosystem services to the City of Omaha. Even small strips of pocket prairies have been shown to reduce nitrate infiltration from runoff (Schulte et al., 2017). Indeed, pocket prairies can reduce water runoff overall, which can help control floods and manage stormwater. Pocket prairies also improve habitat for important pollinators, including the monarch butterfly (found to warrant federal endangered status). These prairies serve multiple roles: fighting climate change, filtering and controlling stormwater runoff, and providing valuable habitat for urban wildlife.

A partnership with Omaha Public Schools will provide an opportunity for restoration and applied science education in disadvantaged and low income communities. According to Omaha Public School's 2023 Annual Report, it is the most diverse school district in the state with an ethnical composition of over 75% of students as identifying as something other than "white" (most notably 39% Hispanic, 24.1% Black or African American, 7% Asian, 6.2% two or more races), and in addition, 67.1% of students are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch (Omaha Public Schools, 2023). Partnering with Omaha Public Schools to replace portions of turf grass with pocket prairies would not only reduce the marginal, unused spaces around Omaha, but it would also provide a valuable hands-on educational opportunity for students (our future leaders) to learn all about native plants and pollinators.

Measure #5: Sustain Omaha

TOTAL Direct Costs (1xFTE)

1. PERSONNEL: \$763,051
2. FRINGE BENEFITS: \$175,000 (25% of annual Salary)
3. TRAVEL: No requests
4. SUPPLIES: No requests
5. CONTRACTUAL: \$168,000
6. OTHER: \$340,000
7. INDIRECT COSTS: No Requests
8. **TOTAL SUM**: **\$1,446,051**

In 2021, the Mayor of Omaha announced support for a climate action plan. This was followed by the Omaha City Council's resolution supporting creating a climate action plan. Metro Smart Cities had been tasked with issuing a request for proposals and selecting a consultant. Metro Smart Cities is a coalition that includes the City of Omaha and regional community partners. Formed in 2016, the group focuses on developing and implementing pilot projects to solve mobility and accessibility challenges. Regional strategies for multimodal transportation are already well underway through the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) Heartland 2050 initiative, Greater Omaha Chamber ConnectGO, Metro Transit MetroNEXT, Nebraska Community Energy Alliance (NCEA), Metro Smart Cities, and the support of community partners. The City of Omaha seeks to align these efforts in technology and transportation with our key energy partners, Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) and Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD), to support climate action and community resilience across multiple sectors.

Personnel costs will enhance the City of Omaha's in-development Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and guide the implementation of PCAP and CCAP goals, act as coordinators and public liaisons for permitting and general navigation relating to residential and commercial renewable infrastructure investments, assist the Mayor's office in grant reporting, and provide publicly available data

Expenditure of Awarded Funds:

The City of Omaha will be responsible for the preparation of revenue and cost data for the current and immediate past fiscal years of the grant program. The City of Omaha will provide fiscal grant management; submit progress reports; initiate and maintain subrecipient agreements and conduct subrecipient monitoring; and will be responsible for all statutory, fiscal and programmatic requirements, including those of 2 CFR Part 200. The City of Omaha Finance Department has written accounting and grant management procedures. Subrecipient agreements will outline the responsibilities of grant partners as indicated in the grant application, budget detail workbook, and partnership agreement. Compliance with subrecipient agreements, and the [City of Omaha Grants Management Handbook](#), will be monitored by the City of Omaha Finance Department and Grant Administration Division.

The City's Grant Management Division staff have attended both Department of Justice Financial Management Training, and training on the new grant's management and monitoring requirements as outlined in 2 CFR Part 200. The City of Omaha Finance Department, and Grant Administration Division have extensive experience managing Department of Justice grant awards.

The following items are accessible to the public on the City's Finance Department website and provide guidance and expectations for budget, accounting, and grant compliance.

- Appendix A - Programmatic Desk Review Form
- Appendix B - Fiscal Desk Audit Form
- Appendix C - Subaward Risk Assessment Questionnaire
- Appendix D - Audit Certification
- Appendix E - FFATA Reporting Form
- Appendix F - Quarterly Reimbursement Request Templates
- Appendix G - Civil Rights Declaration
- Appendix H - USDOJ FFY19 Special Conditions
- Grant Funded SUBRECIPIENT Travel
- Grants Funded NON-CITY SUBRECIPIENT Travel
- Grants Funded CITY EMPLOYEE Travel