

## Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0002544

### Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0002543

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Building Technologies Office (BTO), a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Advanced Building Construction (ABC) – 2021.”

Desirability, convenience, and cost are the three greatest barriers to deep energy building retrofits. The goal of this planned FOA is to fund research that enables faster renovation and construction of affordable, appealing, and energy efficient buildings. This FOA directly supports goals of a carbon-neutral building economy no later than 2050 by focusing on three specific topics areas in need of desirable, convenient and affordable solutions to transform the United States’ building stock. This FOA builds on BTO’s current Advanced Building Construction work: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/advanced-building-construction-initiative>. Information about the latest ABC goals and strategic organization can be found in the factsheet: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2021/03/f83/bto-abc-fact-sheet-030321.pdf>

The ABC Initiative uses a multi-pronged approach to address research, development, and market challenges with the goal of integrating highly efficient and low-carbon innovations into the construction industry’s broader modernization efforts. Through competitively awarded R&D projects and cutting-edge building technologies research at DOE’s national laboratories, and the establishment of an ABC Collaborative with key industry partnerships, workforce training, and other strategic activities, the ABC Initiative works to not only drive development of new technologies, practices and approaches but also ensure that these solutions are widely deployed in the market – thus helping the U.S. expand job opportunities, develop a stronger building infrastructure, improve energy affordability.

A key objective of the planned 2021 Advanced Building Construction FOA is to fund R&D that will benefit underserved communities by contributing to the following goals:

- Highly energy-efficient buildings with low-carbon footprints and lower energy bills
- Faster renovation and construction, with less disruption to building occupants
- Affordable to developers and consumers
- Improved indoor air quality, improved comfort, and reduced maintenance.

As part of a forthcoming FOA, BTO will be seeking applications aimed at developing deep energy retrofit and new construction technologies suitable for environments with extremely

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high or low temperatures that tackle a combination of envelope, heating, cooling, and water heating issues, and hold appeal for both building owners and occupants. Priority shall be given to those with prior experience serving low-income residents living in extremely hot or cold environments. It is anticipated that the FOA may request proposals for the following topics:

**Area of Interest 1** Quick and Inexpensive Process to Zone Central Air Systems in Existing Homes, focusing on solutions that maximize zoning and minimize distribution losses for central systems in single family and multifamily homes with forced air systems.

**Area of Interest 2** Quick and Inexpensive Hidden-Issue Detection Methods for Retrofits, to develop tools and/or a process to both detect the presence of substantial moisture, mold or mildew without removing a substantial amount of the existing cladding *and* identify a path towards mitigating any problems that were found.

**Area of Interest 3** Quick, Low Cost & Reliable Connections for New Construction and Retrofits, focusing on finding low-cost solutions that speed up the connection process of modules, panels and equipment on site (even if they were constructed in a factory).

EERE envisions awarding 6-15 financial assistance awards up to \$2M each in the form of cooperative agreements for a total of \$15M in Federal funding. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately 2-3 years.

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the EERE's intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA on or about July 2021 via the EERE Exchange website <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this FOA, they should register in EERE Exchange. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE Exchange.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in EERE Exchange at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to register for any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE Exchange. It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission.

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Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: [EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov)

- Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (including the plus 4 extension, if applicable) at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually.
- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at [https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect\\_Ready\\_Set\\_Go.pdf](https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf)
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE Exchange.

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