

## \$750M in funding available for school HVAC systems and water fixtures and appliances.

### What is AB841?

In September 2020, Governor Newsom signed AB 841, authorizing the Schools Energy Efficiency Stimulus (SEES) Program. Approximately \$750M will be available over three years (2021-2023) for schools to test, repair and upgrade HVAC systems, and to replace inefficient water fixtures and appliances. The program will be administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC) with statewide Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). At least 25% of the funds must be directed to schools located in underserved communities.

### \$750M in Two New SEES Grant Programs

#### School Reopening Ventilation and Energy Efficiency Verification and Repair (SRVEVR) Program

- Grants available for assessments, assessment reports, general maintenance, adjustments of ventilation rates, filter replacements, and CO2 monitoring.
- 20% contingency can be requested to pay for repairs, upgrades, and replacements of HVAC systems.

#### School Noncompliant Plumbing Fixture and Appliance (SNPFA) Program

- Grants available for fixture and appliance replacements that are not in compliance with efficiency standards (grants include labor and recycling costs).
- Eligible fixtures include toilets, urinals, showerheads, and faucets. Eligible appliances include dishwashers, commercial ice makers, and commercial clothes washers.

Applications will be reviewed in the order received. The CEC will begin accepting grant applications on April 1, 2021.



For more information,  
contact your Project  
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# School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program Details

## Can I request SoCalREN Public Agency Programs' support with the SEES Program application?

The first draft program guidelines released in January 2021 state that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) cannot use grant funds to pay third-party consultants to prepare the application. SoCalREN is still a no cost energy efficiency resource for schools and will closely monitor program developments to evaluate how we can help schools access the SEES Program grants.

## What is the timeline for submitting a SEES Program application?

April 1, 2021 is the target date for the CEC to start accepting grant applications. The CEC will begin approving SRVEVR Program applications on May 1st and SNPFA Program applications May/June 2021. Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Incomplete applications will be rejected. School districts can only submit one application per funding round and applications must include verified contractor estimates.

## How will the \$750M budget be split between the programs?

The \$750M amount is expected to be available for the two grant programs over a period of three years (2021-2023). 75% of the funding will be allocated to the SRVEVR Program and 25% of the funding will be allocated to the SNPFA Program. For 2021, the expected total funding is \$275M.

## Who is eligible to apply?

In the first round of funding, LEAs can only include school sites located in "underserved communities" in their application. The SEES Program defines "underserved communities" as a community that meets one of the following criteria:

1. Is a "low-income community" as defined by AB 1550 (median household income less than 80% statewide or local average);
2. Is a "disadvantaged community" as identified by CalEnviroScreen (top 25% DAC tier);
3. Is a community in which at least 75% of public school students in the project area are eligible to receive Free or Reduced Price Meals (FRPM), or;
4. Is a community located on lands belonging to a federally recognized California Indian tribe.

School sites must also be served by one of the four participating utilities: Pacific Gas & Electric, (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), Southern California Gas (SoCalGas), or San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).

## How long after application approval does project implementation need to be completed?

Approved projects will have 18 months to complete implementation and 3 months upon project completion to fulfill all reporting requirements.

## Can I apply for projects that have already been contracted and performed?

Yes. School sites can request reimbursement for eligible projects that have been contracted and performed after August 1, 2020 for the SRVEVR Program. The SNPFA Program will also allow retroactive funding, however the Program has not released the project date criteria.

*Note: the CEC is still in the process of drafting the guidelines so details of the Program may change.*

*The information in this fact sheet is based on the draft guidelines released on 1/20/2021 and the workshop held on 1/22/2021.*

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The SoCalREN Public Agency Programs are administered by the County of Los Angeles and funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission