

*Maine*  
Cumberland **County**  
POSITION PAPER FOR AGENDA ITEM

<b>TO:</b>	Board of County Commissioners
<b>FROM:</b>	Travis Kennedy
<b>DATE:</b>	December 9, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Acceptance of Federal Department of Energy Block Grant

**Requested Action:**

Acceptance of up to \$79,760 in preapproved formula rebate funds through the Federal Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Block Grant program.

**Background & Purpose of Request:**

The United States Department of Energy announced in 2023 that eligible state, local and Tribal governments could apply for formula funding through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The funds are allocated for projects and programs that cut carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and reduce energy use.

The Office of State and Community Energy Programs allocated up to \$79,760 in one-time funds to Cumberland County for eligible projects. The application period to claim rebate funds closed at the end of October.

The County Commissioners have expressed an interest in installing a solar array on the roof of the new County Executive Office building at 27 Northport Drive. This project qualifies for EECBG funding, and County staff has earned approval from DOE to spend funds on a rooftop solar project.

County staff is seeking approval from the Commissioners to accept this rebate for its preapproved use: to install a solar array on the new County Administration building. While funds will not arrive until after such a project is completed, this approval will provide reassurance to interested contractors and County staff that funding for the project is secured and guaranteed.

**Funding Amount and Source:**      **Acceptance of Federal DOE Block Grant – Up to \$79,760**

**Attachments:**              Background information off DOE website