

**2023 Zero Energy for the Ocean State (ZEOS) Project RFP**  
Questions and Answers

April 10, 2023

**RIHousing, along with OER, would like to encourage any ZEOS retrofit applicants in this current round of funding to also apply for the “Buildings UP Prize.” (New Construction not eligible for Buildings UP).**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Buildings Upgrade Prize (“Buildings UP”) aims to build capacity to rapidly and equitably transform U.S. buildings. Buildings UP is offering cash prizes to community-based organizations, local governments, tribes, building owners, utilities, nonprofit organizations, energy efficiency program implementers, and/or partnerships of these organizations, awarding \$200,000 for concepts to deliver scalable and replicable energy upgrades to buildings or \$400,000 for building energy upgrade concepts that focus on disadvantaged communities, low- and moderate-income households, and underserved buildings.

Building upgrades may include transitioning to efficient electric equipment, including heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, and improving building efficiency through insulation and air sealing measures.

**Full prize application submissions are due on July 18th, 2023**, where winning teams will gain access to trainings, technical assistance, and one-on-one regional experts to assist with deployment and access to additional funding in future phases of Buildings UP, subject to program funding availability. Moreover, an Application Support Prize is also available for any applicants that may be new or face barriers to applying for federal funding from DOE, which includes a \$5,000 cash prize and up to 10 hours of technical assistance for the program application. The Application Support Prize has been awarded on a rolling basis and will accept submissions for **its last round of awards until April 26th, 2023, at 5:00 PM ET**. For more program details please visit the [HeroX program application website](#).

If you are applying to ZEOS for a retrofit project, we recommend that you also apply to the Building Upgrade Prize and supply proof of submittal with your application to RIHousing. If you do not believe your project will qualify, or if this application would place an undue burden to the project team, **please state so in your project application**.

March 24, 2023

Q: Could you provide our names, as well as other teams who have experience building Zero Energy buildings, to the list of developers for them to do their own due diligence? I think it would be helpful that developers knew what resources were out there to help make this important initiative successful.

A: Please submit an AIA Qualification Form

Q: Would ground source heat pumps be allowable for this RFP for multi-family units?

A: Yes, ground source heat pumps (GHPS) are eligible.

March 16, 2023

Q: We just learned of the ZEOS RFP and wanted to know if you could share the list of developers that showed interest, as we are very experienced architects, and Passive House consultants focusing entirely on Net Zero Energy multifamily projects.

A: Unfortunately, we cannot share the list of developers showing interest and will discuss internally what, if any, information we can provide.