

Currently, Economic Development offers 7 programs:

1. Smart Communities Grants (matching)
2. Smart Sites Shovel Ready Certification Program
3. Retail Strategies Full-Service Program (matching)
4. Retail Strategies Retail Academy Program (matching)
5. Strategic Economic Development Plans
6. Customized City Projects
7. Downtown Revitalization Grants

1. Smart Communities Grants - Up to \$5,000 and must be matched by the member.

- For economic development related activities to help members attract and retain retail, commercial and industrial customers, including, but not limited to:
 - Feasibility studies, brownfield remediation, façade grants, grant writing, rail studies, website design, signage, downtown revitalization/upfits, business retention, building/parcel layouts, tourism activities and marketing materials.
- Not eligible until any previous grant is closed out.
- Grant must come from the city/town and approved by manager.
- Must document proposal, including pictures if applicable and source of matching fund – funds can also be matched with another grant received.
- Funding will be awarded to qualified applications on a first come, first serve basis.
- Deadline: Rolling program throughout the year.

2. Smart Sites Shovel Ready Certification Program - up to \$25,000 per site

- Smart Sites program is a shovel ready site qualification program designed to support economic development opportunities for members. Smart Sites makes its member communities more competitive for recruiting projects and existing business expansions.
- Sites must be a minimum of 25 acres in the site submission and must remain at least 25 acres after engineering work completed
- Must be served by municipal electric service
- Have water and sewer service within 500 feet of the property
- Submissions require the completion of a detailed Request for Information with a copy of the property deed, tax map, archeological reports, and environmental phase 1 report and other due diligence materials
- The proposed site must pass a review by engineering and consulting firms and the Economic Development staff
- Site and RFI information are to be updated annually and the project must undergo recertification every three years to remain as a Smart Site. The cost of recertification is covered by ElectriCities.
- Non-Power Agency members are eligible for this program at the ElectriCities discounted rates. A contract is required between ElectriCities and the member for management of the program. All costs are borne by the member.
- Funding will be awarded to qualified applications on a first come, first serve basis. Applications that cannot be funded in one year are moved to the head of the line for the next year.
- Deadline: Spring and Fall of each year. Notifications will be sent to city/town managers. Full description and details for submission will be included in the email to members.

3. Retail Strategies Full-Service Program is a 3-year program fully matched by member (\$20,000/\$12,500/\$12,500)

Retail Strategies is a full-service consulting firm that develops and implements long-term retail real estate strategies for our members. The process involves a team of experienced experts making connections between the public and private sector.

- The program is for any power or non-power agency member that chooses to participate with a limited number each year, depending on funding.
- All members that have agreed to participate in the program must have matching funds.
- The member pays the full cost for Retail Strategies if the member continues the program after the 3-year program ends.
- Non-Power Agency members are eligible for this program at the ElectriCities discounted rates. A contract is required between ElectriCities, Retail Strategies, and the member for management of the program. All costs are borne by the member.
- Funding will be awarded to qualified applications on a first come, first served basis. Applications that cannot be funded in one year are moved to the head of the line for the next year.
- Deadline: Rolling Program throughout the year.

4. Retail Strategies Retail Academy is a 6-hour training program for those members with a population under 10,000 and matches a member's \$5,000 expense.

- The program is for any power agency member that choose to participate with a limited number each year, depending on funding.
- Non-Power Agency members are eligible for this program at the ElectriCities discounted rates. A contract is required between ElectriCities and the member for management of the program. All costs are borne by the member.
- Funding will be awarded to qualified applications on a first come, first served basis. Applications that cannot be funded in one year are moved to the head of the line for the next year.
- Deadline: This program is new for 2019. The program information will be updated once the 2020 Budget is approved.

5. Strategic Economic Development Plan Programs

- The program is to update strategic economic plans originally prepared during 2004-2009 time frame. The program provides a member with an overview of demographics, a synopsis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis from member staff and community.
- Cost ranges from \$20,000 - \$24,000 and covered completely by ElectriCities.
- The program is for any power agency member that chooses to participate with a limited number each year, depending on funding.
- Non-Power Agency members are eligible for this program at the ElectriCities discounted rates. A contract is required between ElectriCities and the member for management of the program. All costs are borne by the member.
- Funding will be awarded to qualified applications on a first come, first served basis. Applications that cannot be funded in one year are moved to the head of the line for the next year.
- Deadline: Rolling program throughout the year.

6. Customized City Projects – Administered by Corporate Communications for 3 members for each agency (\$10,000)

- The program is for projects that create long-term impact for Power Agency members' utility and/or city.
- Past projects have consisted of websites, videos and city signage, such as welcome signs.
- “Temporary” projects like funding for an event are not eligible.
- Funds for this program come from the Corporate Communications budget and are approved by the Corporate Communications Department, with some input from Economic Development.
- Six project slots available each year – three per agency on a first come, first served basis. Applications that cannot be funded in one year are moved to the head of the line for the next year.

7. Downtown Revitalization Grants (\$10,000)

The program was initiated in 2018 and consists of a non-matching grant to assist a Power Agency member in revitalizing their downtowns.

- Proceeds from the Downtown Revitalization Grant may be used for a wide range of purposes so long as that purpose advances the downtown revitalization goals of the member community and has the approval of the city/town manager. Examples of grant funding priorities include downtown revitalization studies/action plans, streetscape plans, building reuse studies and attraction or retention programs.
- The program is available to a member once every three years.
- In any calendar year that a member receives the \$10,000 grant, the member community is not eligible for the \$5,000 Smart Communities Grant.
- Two grants are available for each power agency, for a total of four grants per year.
- The Economic Development Grants are awarded using scoring matrix that has a maximum of 10 points starting at 1 point for the following categories:
 - Project development – well thought out and addresses established priority of community
 - Project budget – budget for project is appropriate and any additional funds required to complete project beyond the grant are available.
 - Project impact – project/program is part of a downtown revitalization initiative and will benefit the town/city by increasing tax base, electric load, quality of life and/or will help create new jobs.
- Rating Factors:
 - *High @ 3 points*
 - *Medium @ 2 points*
 - *Low @ 1 point*
 - *Automatically get 1 point for submission*
 - *Average score must be 8 points or higher*