

Economic Development Programs Criteria 2022

Currently, Economic Development offers 9 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. Retail Strategies Downtown Strategies Program (matching)
6. Strategic Economic Development Plans
7. Downtown Revitalization Grants
8. Site Assist Program
9. Customized City Projects

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: December 1 each 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 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 born 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: Submissions due by November 1 of each year in order to be included in that calendar year.

5. Retail Strategies Downtown Strategies Program is a 3-year program fully matched by member (\$20,000 in year 1/\$12,500 in year 2/\$12,500 in year 3).

- The program is for any power agency member that choose to participate with a limited number each year, depending on funding.
- The program consists of revitalizing and rejuvenating downtowns. The program will help identify and create a tailored strategy to enhance, revitalize, and mobilize the community's efforts.
- All members that agree to participate in the program must have matching funds.
- The member pays the full cost to 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 born 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. 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.

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*
- Deadline: The grant cycle will be Spring and Fall. Notification will be sent to the city/town managers when the application process is open. It will remain open for three (3) weeks. Once the process closes, the Economic Development staff will review all applications. Notification will be made in writing to the winner and to the other applicants within 60-90 days.

8. Site Assist Program

- The Site Assist Program is designed to help cities/towns identify and prioritize a site(s) for development and recommend developmental steps.
- Staff will work with the economic and/or planning department to identify general areas for proposed future development. This engagement will ensure that sites identified align with land use plans and long-term development goals.
- A virtual meeting will be facilitated to review potential development areas with city/town staff. This will allow research to be conducted on potential areas before the on-the-ground site visit.
- Will use GIS to further refine the study areas. The city/town will approve site(s) before evaluation begins. GIS reviews to identify red flags and development hurdles and review site features include:

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| + Acreage | + Watershed |
| + Flood plain | + Transportation access |
| + Zoning | + Ownership |
| + Topography | + Tax value |
| + Location of water bodies | + Adjacent land use |
| + Current use | + Other factors that impact site development |

- Non-Power Agency members are eligible for this program at the ElectriCities discounted rates. All costs are borne by the members.
- Deliverables: all research and analysis in a written, electronic summary report. The report will show the site(s) considered, matrix of evaluation criteria, recommended priority site, if any, and next steps for development. Staff will provide a marketing collateral piece for the site to the city/town.
 - > 3 sites Per Power Agency (*Fewer than 5,000 Customers; 5,000 to 10,000; 10,000+*)
- **OPTIONAL SERVICE:** A site plan to develop a high-level conceptual plan can be completed at the request of the city/town.
- **OPTIONAL SERVICE:** Economic Impact Analysis to show the potential return on the investment in product development at the request of the city/town.
Deadline: The grant cycle will be Spring and Fall. Notification will be sent to the city/town managers when the application process is open.

9. Customized City Projects – Administered by Corporate Communications for up to 3 members for each agency

- Member must be a power agency member and not been awarded a Customized City Project in the past 3 years.
- Member applicant can commit to completing the Customized City Project within the calendar year for which they apply.
- Proposed project must **promote the value** the member utility provides through education, branding, communication assets, etc.
- Services are provided through the Corporate Communications department. Funds cannot be applied to outside agencies or paid directly to a member community.
- Members awarded Customized City Projects will sign a scope of work detailing the project deliverables, responsibilities of parties, timeline, and completion date.