



Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIP)

Environmental Review Requirements

July 9, 2020



Welcome

Today's Presenters



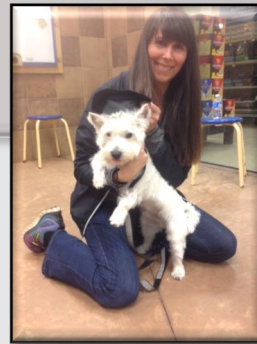
Anthony Crooks
Rural Energy Policy Specialist



Jeff Carpenter
Energy Coordinator



Peggy Wade, Senior



Kelly, Bogle,
Supervisor, RBCS
Program Operation
Office



Brian Sutherland, Senior
Environmental Specialist
and Engineer
Program Support Staff

Learning Objectives

Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP)

1. What levels of NEPA environmental review are likely applicable to HBIIP projects?
2. Which extraordinary circumstances might apply?
3. Intergovernmental and historical review timing concerns

HBIIP's purpose

- USDA designed the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP) to **increase availability of higher blends of ethanol, E15 and biodiesel, B20.**
- Grants to transportation **fueling stations and biodiesel distribution facilities.**
- Applications are being accepted now through **August 13, 2020 11:59 pm EDT.**



Available funding

Under HBIP up to \$100 million is made available to eligible participants.

*Grants for up to, 50 percent of total eligible project costs, but **not to exceed \$5 million, whichever is less.***

Number of Awards

The number of awards will depend on the number of eligible participants and the total amount of requested funds. We intend to make **approximately 150 awards** and provide assistance to **1,500 locations**.

Available funding

Of the \$100 million made available,

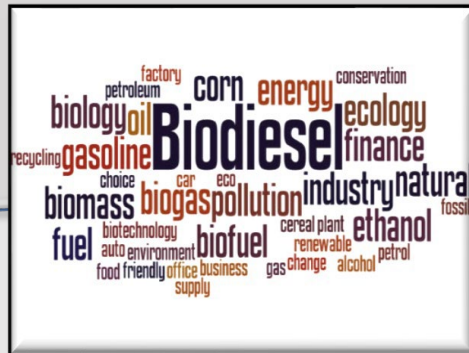
- Approximately \$86 million will be made available to transportation fueling stations;
- Approximately \$14 million will be made available to fueling stations and fuel distribution facilities;

Fueling stations, convenience stores, hypermarket fueling stations, fleet facilities, and similar entities with capital investments) for eligible implementation activities related to Higher Blends of **fuel ethanol greater than 10 percent ethanol**, such as E15 or higher;

Terminal operations, depots, and midstream partners, for eligible implementation activities related to Higher Blends of biodiesel **greater than 5 percent biodiesel**, such as B20 or higher.

Eligible purpose

This program will share the costs related to the **installation/upgrading of fuel dispensers (gas and diesel pumps), related equipment, and infrastructure** required at a location to ensure the environmentally safe availability of fuel containing **ethanol blends greater than 10 percent** or fuel containing **biodiesel blends greater than 5 percent**.



Program requirements

Matching Funds

There is a **Matching Funds** (cost sharing) requirement of at least \$1 for every \$1 in grant funds provided.

- Consist of **CASH** and In-kind contributions
- No in-kind from applicants
- Must have written commitments – Bank statements for cash, Letters of Commitment for in-kind
- Not from Other Federal grants
- Passive tax equity contributions allowed

Program opportunities

Targeted Assistance Goal

Up to 40 percent of funds are available to, **owners of 10 fueling stations or fewer**

Consideration for Geographical Diversity

Afforded to fueling station owners based on the location of facilities:

- Interstate Corridor
- Sole Station
- Western States and U.S. Territories
- New England States

Questions



Environmental



HBIIP and NEPA

Overview of NEPA Requirements

Extraordinary Circumstances

Timing Concerns

Environmental

NEPA in a Nutshell

- Applies to all Federal actions, including direct loans, guaranteed loans and grants.
- All Federal agencies are required to promulgate environmental rules in compliance with NEPA.
- RD Environmental Policy and Procedures: 7 CFR 1970.

Environmental Levels

Levels of NEPA Classification

- Categorical Exclusions
- Environmental Assessments/Finding of No Significant Impact
- Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision

Environmental Levels, What to Expect

What to Expect

- **Tanks** – Categorical Exclusion with report (likely).
Please remember HBIIP is not supporting tank installations at new construction sites.
- **Dispenser Only** – Categorical Exclusion without report (likely).
- **New construction** – likely much more extensive, even considering HBIIP is not supporting tanks in new construction.

California specific

- **Install E85 Dispensers for California Low Carbon Fuel Standard requirements and tanks (only). No E15 dispensers will be supported.**
- **CEQA** – Only applicable if City or County require it. Not likely in most cases.

Environmental Determination of Classification

Determination of Classification

RD staff determines, based on project description, the appropriate classification

- Usually the State Environmental Coordinator

Most of the HBIIP projects will likely be classified as a Categorical Exclusion

All Categorical Exclusions must undergo a review for Extraordinary Circumstances

Environmental

Likely CEs for HBIP Projects

- Projects where existing tanks/piping/pumps, etc., are being replaced or modified to allow for a higher ethanol content fuels.
- No Environmental Report required but additional documentation may be needed.
- SEC and Program can advise applicants on specific requirements

New installation of tanks on existing sites (no new construction) to accommodate a higher blend fuel.

- Requires Environmental Report.
- RD has an Applicant Guide for Preparing Environmental Reports (1970 Subpart B Exhibit C).

Environmental Extraordinary Circumstances

Extraordinary Circumstances

- Listed in 7 CFR 1970.52
- Impact to a listed resource may elevate level of NEPA review to an Environmental Assessment.
- All projects are subject to an extraordinary circumstance review.

Environmental Extraordinary Circumstances

Extraordinary Circumstances, continued

Three to watch out for:

- Impact to historic properties
- Impact to threatened and endangered species
- Violations of permit conditions

- Even CEs issued under 1970.53 might need additional documentation.
- CEs issued under 1970.54 will include this documentation in the ER.

Environmental CE Documentation

CE Documentation

- 1970 B Exhibit C (1970-1) documents that RD has done an extraordinary circumstance review.
 - This is our NEPA decision document and must be included in RD's environmental file, with supporting documentation, for all HBIIP projects.
 - This is an INTERNAL form and cannot be shared outside of RD.
 - This form cannot be completed by HBIIP applicants or their consultants.
-

HBIIIP Environmental Review Process, What to Expect

What to Expect

What to expect:

- **Tanks** – Categorical Exclusion with report (likely).
Please remember HBIIIP is not supporting tank installations at new construction sites.
- **Dispenser Only** – Categorical Exclusion without report (likely).
- **New construction** – likely much more extensive, even considering HBIIIP is not supporting tanks in new construction.
- Some proposals will have multiple classifications based on scope

California specific

- **Install E85 Dispensers for California Low Carbon Fuel Standard requirements and tanks (only). No E15 dispensers will be supported.**
- **CEQA** – Only applicable if City or County require it. Not likely in most cases.

Environmental Intergovernmental Review

Timing Issue: Intergovernmental Review

Executive Orders 12372/12416 require intergovernmental review of Federal projects.

Some states have semi-automated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) systems.

- Regulatory review period is up to 60 days.

In non-SPOC states, SEC can determine stakeholders with interest in the project.

- Every state will be different.

SPOC list can be found here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/spoc_1_16_2020.pdf

Intergovernmental Review (SPOC List)

In 2018 the Federal Government outlayed approximately \$700 billion in grants to State and local governments. Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," was issued with the desire to foster the intergovernmental partnership and strengthen federalism by relying on State and local processes for the coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. The Order allows each State to designate an entity to perform this function. Below is the official list of those entities. For those States that have a home page for their designated entity, a direct link has been provided below by clicking on the State name.

States that are not listed on this page have chosen not to participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency.

Contact information for Federal agencies that award grants can be found in Appendix IV of the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

*** SPOC List as of February 7, 2019 ***

ARIZONA

Matthew Hanson, GPC
Statewide Grant Administrator
ADOA, Office of Grants and Federal Resources
100 N. 15th Avenue, 4th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (602) 542-7567
Fax: None
Matthew.Hanson@azdoa.gov

CALIFORNIA

Grants Coordination
State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 222
Sacramento, California 95812-3044
Telephone: (916) 445-0613
Fax: (916) 323-3018
state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Pat Henry
Office of Partnerships and Grant Services
441 4th Street, NW (Judiciary Square)
Suite 707 North
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: (202) 727-8900
Fax: None
<http://opgs.dc.gov>

ARKANSAS

Gwen Ervin-McLarty
Program Manager
Office of Intergovernmental Services
Department of Finance and Administration
1515 W. 7th St., Room 412
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
Telephone: (501) 682-5252
Fax: (501) 682-5206
Gwen.ervin-McLarty@dfa.arkansas.gov

DELAWARE

Allison Kowalchick
Budget Development, Planning and Administration
Office of Management and Budget
122 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, South
Dover, DE 19901
Telephone: 302-672-5125
Allison.Kowalchick@state.de.us

FLORIDA

Chris Stahl
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Blvd.
Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400
Telephone: (850) 717-9076
Chris.Stahl@dep.state.fl.us
Submissions: State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us

IOWA

Debra Scrowther
Iowa Department of Management
State Capitol Building Room G12
1007 E Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Telephone: (515) 281-8834
Fax: (515) 281-7076
Debra.Scrowther@iowa.gov

LOUISIANA

Terry Thomas
Louisiana SPOC for EPA Grant
Office of Management and Finance
LA Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4303
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4303
Phone (225) 219-3840
Fax: (225) 219-3846
Terry.Thomas@la.gov

MICHIGAN

Ed Hug
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward, Suite 1400
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Telephone: (313) 324-3335
Fax: (313) 961-4869
hug@semcog.org

NEVADA

Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and
Management
Single Point of Contact
406 East 2nd Street, First Floor
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Telephone: (775) 684-5676
Fax: (775) 684-0260
grants@admin.nv.gov

SOUTH CAROLINA

Bonny L. Anderson
Grants Services Coordinator
Executive Budget Office
1205 Pendleton Street
Edgar A. Brown Building, Suite 529
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Telephone: (803) 734-0435
Fax: (803) 734-0645
Bonny.Anderson@admin.sc.gov

KENTUCKY

Lee Nalley
The Governor's Office for Local Development
1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 340
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Telephone: (502) 573-2382 Ext. 274
Fax: (502) 573-1519
Lee.Nalley@ky.gov

MARYLAND

Jason Dubow, Manager
Resource Conservation & Management
Maryland Department of Planning
301 West Preston Street, Suite 1101
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2305
Telephone: (410) 767-4490
Fax: (410) 767-4480
mdp.clearinghouse@maryland.gov
<http://planning.maryland.gov/OurWork/GrantResources.shtml>

MISSOURI

Sara VanderFeltz
Federal Assistance Clearinghouse
Office of Administration
Commissioner's Office
Capitol Building, Room 125
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Telephone: (573) 751-0337
Fax: (573) 751-1212
sara.vanderfeltz@oa.mo.gov

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Wendy Gilman
New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning
Attn: Intergovernmental Review Process
Wendy Gilman
107 Pleasant Street, Johnson Hall
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
Telephone: 603-271-0596
wendy.gilman@osi.nh.gov

UTAH

Ken Matthews
Utah State Clearinghouse
Governor's Office of Planning and Budget Utah State Capitol
Complex
Suite E210, PO Box 142210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2210
Telephone: (801) 538-1149
Fax: (801) 538-1547
stategrants@utah.gov

Environmental Historic Properties

Timing Issue: Historic Properties

- Extraordinary Circumstance: Adverse Effect on Historic Properties
 - Can be buildings, traditional cultural properties or archeological deposits

- Potential adverse impact requires coordination with State Historic Preservation Officers and Tribes per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
 - Any ground disturbance has the potential to impact archeological deposits.
 - RD's Template coordination letter must be used

- The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has paused the regulatory 30-day response timeline for 106 consultations.
 - The pandemic has forced closures of many of our consultations partners.
 - 30d response is paused until the offices re-open.

Environmental Historic Properties

Historic Properties, continued

- RD may not advance a project until 106 consultation is complete, unless the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement is invoked
 - Limited to when all other NEPA requirements have been met;
 - Limited to when driven by financial deadlines;
 - Allows obligation of funds pending 106 completion;
 - Funds may not be released to applicant until 106 is complete;
 - Construction may not begin until 106 is complete.

Questions



HBIIP Environmental Review Process

General Process – Applicant Can begin before SAM/DUNS or E-Authentication access is provided:

1. Applicant provides their Project Description to the Rural Energy Coordinator (REC), who will work with the State Environmental Coordinator (SEC).

*If installation sites are located in **different States** or different from the business Headquarters location, please choose the State where the majority of the application sites are located. If a majority cannot be established, please choose the State where the business is headquartered.*

Project Description at a minimum should include: Project Site description with need, purpose & present use; description of surrounding lands with applicable parcel or regional maps and site plans; information on wetland, flood plains & aquifers with applicable maps; and any relevant archaeological or cultural historic preservation information.

2. The REC will prepare the USDA Rural Development Environmental Checklist (1970-1) with supporting documents, and SEC signs when applicable.

Signatures:

- Program (REC) can sign 1970-1 for Categorical Exclusions listed under 1970.53 (minimal or no disturbance).
- SEC signs 1970-1 for Categorical Exclusions issued under 1970.54 (environmental report needed)

HBIIP Environmental Review Process, continued

3. REC emails 1970-1 and supporting documents to the National Office - Jeff Carpenter (Jeff.Carpenter@usda.gov) in Lincoln, Nebraska. Jeff is managing environmental reviews for the Rural Business Cooperative Service (RBCS) National Office.

Supporting Documents:

- *All documents (flood maps, SHPO/THPO letters, environmental report, etc.) tied to the environmental review.*
 - *Contact email information for the applicant, REC and SEC.*
4. The RBCS Administrator's Office will sign for approval and this completes the environmental review requirements.
 5. Jeff Carpenter/RBCS National Office will provide email notification of environmental review completion to the applicant, with a courtesy copy on the email to the REC and SEC.

Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program

HOME > PROGRAMS & SERVICES > HIGHER BLENDS INFRASTRUCTURE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- Home
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- Programs & Services
- Newsroom
- Resources
- Contact Us

- Overview
- To Apply**
- Guidance
- Other Requirements
- Events
- Contact

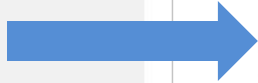
To apply for the Higher Blends Grant program, please review the online application checklist below to determine the important documents you will need. You must also submit your completed [Access Request](#) to higherblendsgiants-access@usda.gov to gain access to the online application system.

Important Documents

- [Checklist for Online Application System](#)
- [HBIIIP EAuthentication](#)
- [HBIIIP Online Access Request](#)
- [HBIIIP Online Application Instructions and Users Guide](#)
 - [Single Point of Contact List for Executive Order 12372 requirements](#) (sec: 7.3.1.)
 - [Dispensers and Fueling Equipment Reference Guide](#) (sec: 7.5.6. and 7.5.7.)
 - [HBIIIP Project Technical Report Guide](#) (sec: 7.8)
 - [Environmental Review Documents Guide](#) (sec: 7.8)
 - [Environmental Checklist](#)
 - [Matching Funds Verification/Certification Guide](#) (sec: 7.7.2 and 7.8)
 - [SF 424 D Assurances - Construction Programs](#) (sec: 7.8)

Other Resources

- [Fuels Institute Retailing Biofuels Federal Regulations](#)
- [Handbook for Handling, Storing, and Dispensing E85 and Other Ethanol-Gasoline Blends](#)
- [Biodiesel Handling and Use Guide \(Fifth Edition\)](#)
- [FAQs](#)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

The purpose of this document is to assist RD staff in collecting adequate information to determine what level of environmental review is necessary. Depending on the information provided, the Agency may request additional information. All answers need to be supported by appropriate documentation, check marks are not sufficient support. Potentially helpful links are provided in blue, these are not an exhaustive or comprehensive list of resources.

Yes	No

1. APPLICANT NAME:

--

2 . ADDRESS: Physical location of the property (include legal description if farmland):

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3. MAP. Please provide an aerial map showing the building /lot/exact location for all project types, please indicate on map any potential trenching or other ground disturbance. Is map attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Describe how proposed funds will be used. If project involves construction, whether interior or exterior or renovations, please describe in detail. For renewable energy systems such as solar panels be specific on type of system (fixed tilt, tracking, mounting & structure, i.e. ballasted, 3" pile driven, concrete, screws, etc.):

--

5. SIZE OF THE PROJECT & SITE: Please indicate the size (acres) of your project and how the project will impact the site including roads, right of ways, utilities, or other impacts. Example: Renewable energy solar project should include sq. ft, linear ft, number of installed units/panels/buildings, and details regarding any trenching or ground disturbance to be completed.

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6. Will the project involve construction without any ground disturbance? (i.e. roof mounted solar)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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6a. If no ground disturbance, please provide land use, land ownership, & description (i.e. industrial, residential, wooded, grasslands, etc.).

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6b. If ground disturbance is expected, provide descriptive info, including if the project site was previously disturbed (i.e. previous structure, excavation, cultivation).

Environmental Contacts

- RD SECs will be the primary resource.
- Peggy Wade and Brian Sutherland RD NO will assist and advise SECs.
 - Peggy: Midwest (orange) and Southern (yellow) states.
 - Brian: Northeast (red) and Western (blue) states.



Questions



What's next?

HBIIP Application Window Opened, 5/15/20, for 90 days.

HBIIP Online Application System Live!

HBIIP Application Window Closes, 8/13/20, 11:59pm EDT;

After which, HBIIP applications no longer accepted; Submit button unavailable.

August:

Agency Reviews for Eligibility and Completeness

Evaluation Panel and Competition

September:

Selection, Written Communication to All Participants

Public Announcement of Awards/Obligation

Grant Agreements/Contracts Execution

Project Executions

Enroll

Request to Participate

HBIIP Company/Account and User Creation Request

Request Type

1. Create Company Account only

2. Create User Account only

3. Create both Company Account and User Account

Company Information

Company Legal Name

Company TIN

DUNS/EUI Number

SAM/CAGE Code

Applicant Type (Select One)

Authorized User Information

	Last Name	First Name	Email	eAuth ID	Company TIN	Company DUNS Code	Company SAM/CAGE Code
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							

- Select: Create both Company Account and User Account.
- Company's Legal Name
- Company TIN
- DUNS/UEI Number
- SAM CAGE code
- **Applicant Type (Select One):**
 - Owner of 10 fueling stations or fewer
 - Owner of greater than 10 fueling stations
 - Fleet facility
 - Fuel Distribution Facility
- Information for at least one Authorized User

HBIIP Company/Account and User Creation Request

Request Type

- 1. Create Company Account only
- 2. Create User Account only
- 3. Create both Company Account and User Account

Company Information

Company Legal Name

Company TIN

DUNS/EUI Number

SAM/CAGE Code

Applicant Type (Select One)

Authorized User Information

	Last Name	First Name	Email	eAuth ID	Company TIN	Company DUNS Code	Company SAM/CAGE Code
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							

HBIP Company/Account and User Creation Request

Request Type

1. Create Company Account only
2. Create User Account only
3. Create both Company Account and User Account Yes

Company Information

Company Legal Name Extra Fancy Fuels, LLC

Company TIN 55-55555555

DUNS/EUI Number 555AAA555

SAM/CAGE Code 5AA55

Applicant Type Owner of 10 or fewer fueling stations; or (Select One)

Authorized User Information

	Last Name	First Name	Email	eAuth ID	Company TIN	Company DUNS Code	Company SAM/CAGE Code
1.	Fancy	John	jfancy@effllc.com	jfancy@effllc.com	55-55555555	555AAA555	5AA55
2.	Fancy	Fran	franfancy@effllc.com	franfancy@effllc.com	55-55555555	555AAA555	5AA55
3.	Writer	Grant	gwriter@grantsrus.com	gwriter@grantsrus.com	55-55555555	555AAA555	5AA55
4.							
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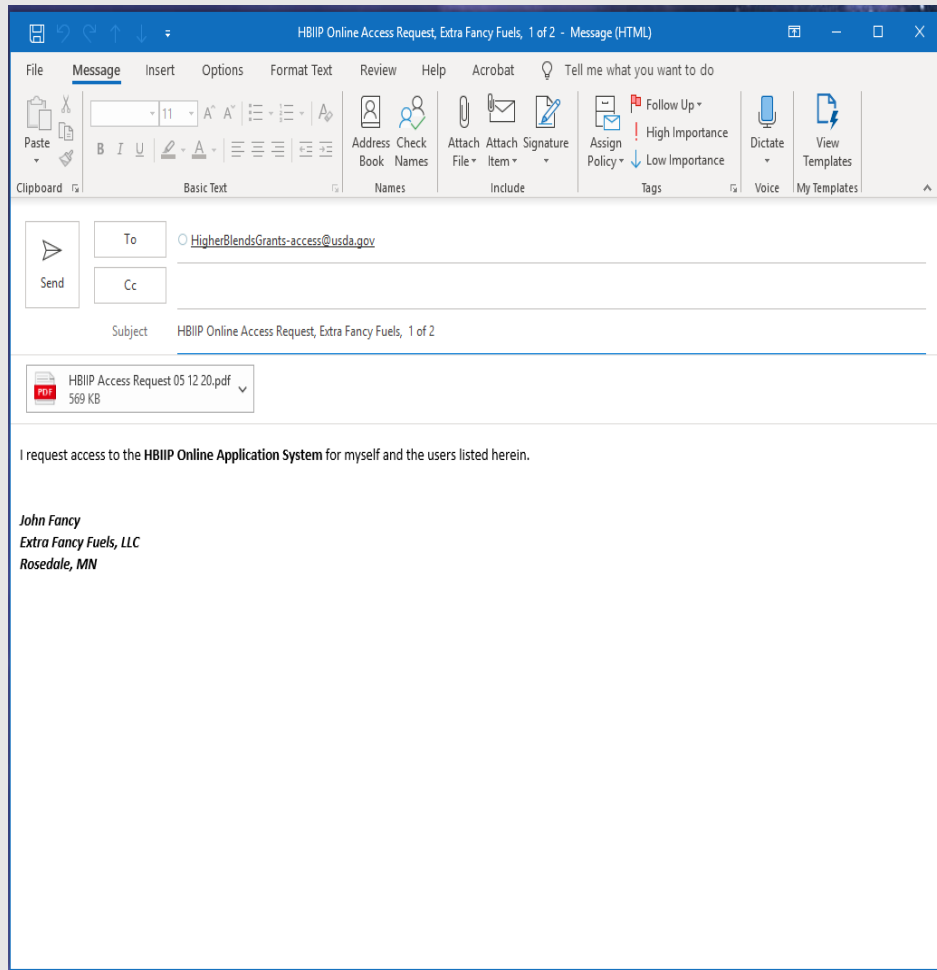
1

Save

Cancel

Enroll

Request to Participate



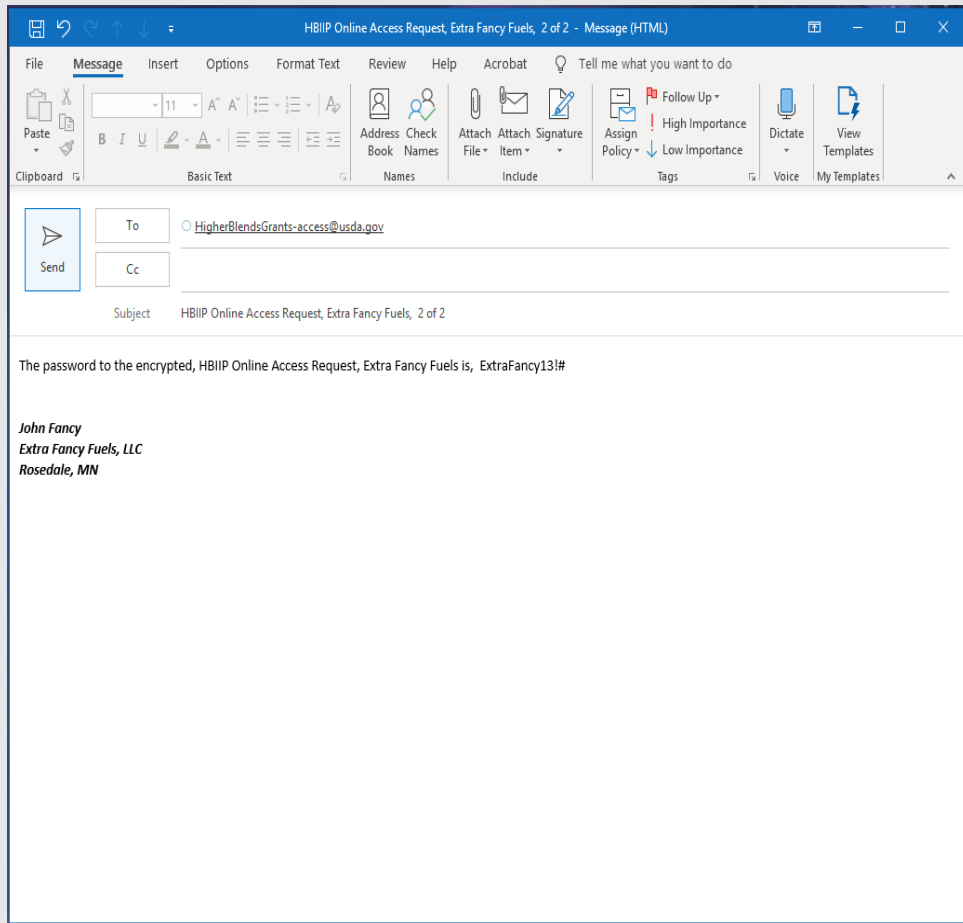
To request access to *HBIIP Online Application System*:

1. Send an Email attached with a **completed** and **encrypted HBIIP Online Access Request** to, HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov

Please allow at least 2 business days to process your request.

Enroll

Request to Participate



To request access to *HBIIP Online Application System*:

1. Send an Email attached with a completed and encrypted HBIIP Online Access Request to, HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov

Please allow at least 2 business days to process your request.

2. Send second email immediately with the encryption password

Enroll

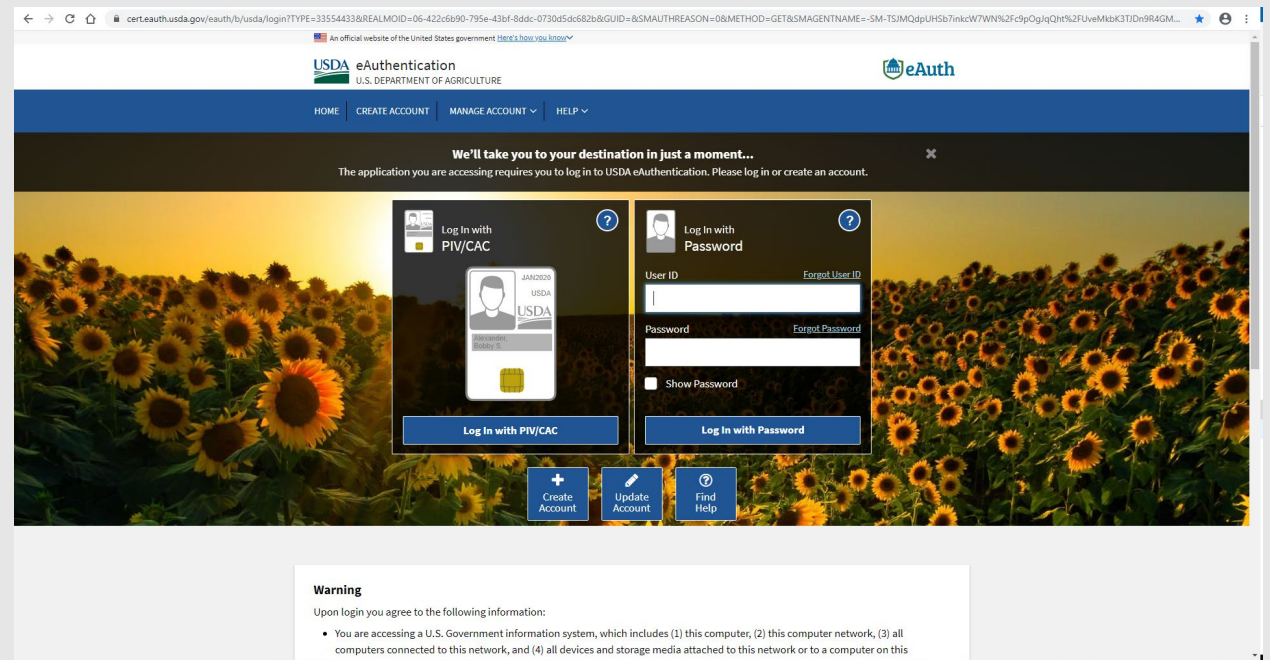
Obtain access to the Online Application System

- Upon approval, a Company's authorized/rightful users will each receive an email from, RD.AdminAppsSupport@usda.gov with,

A URL and instructions to access the system.
<https://higherblendsgrants-apply.rd.usda.gov>

Copy the URL and paste it into the address bar of a **Google Chrome** internet browser and hit enter.

Bookmark the URL for future use.



Wrap up

Contacts/Links

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Jeff Carpenter
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Jeff.Carpernter@usda.gov

Anthony Crooks
Rural Energy Policy Specialist

Anthony.Crooks@usda.gov

Brian Sutherland, Senior Environmental Specialist and Engineer
Program Support Staff

Brian.Sutherland@usda.gov

Peggy Wade, Senior Environmental Specialist
Program Support Staff

Peggy.Wade@usda.gov

Application <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/higher-blends-infrastructure-incentive-program>

