

Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program Fuel Distribution Facilities Questions and Answers

Question 1	Answer 1
Do you have a transcript of answers to questions asked in these webinars posted somewhere on this site?	We're working to up load it this week.
Are Terminal grants eligible for Ethanol related projects?	No, Higher Blends Grants to fuel distribution facilities/terminal operations are implementation activities related to biodiesel blends of greater than 5 percent; B20 or higher.
For companies with multiple entities/affiliates or joint ventures, who should the 'applicant' be? The parent company or the joint venture company?	You must determine the most appropriate entity to apply for HBIIIP. Only one application may be submitted by a company and all affiliates/joint ventures, etc.
Please clarify - if a regional convenience store chain wanted to create a bulk blending facility, can they apply through this portion of the program for that blending facility?	Yes, provided that the regional convenience store chain decides to apply as a fuel distribution facility to build/retrofit a bulk blending facility for higher blends of biodiesel greater than 5 percent, B20 or higher. Be advised however, that one and only one application may be submitted by a Company and all affiliates. So if a fuel distribution facility application is submitted, a fueling station application may not.
afternoon. on the annual throughput volume - should we provide annual throughput for all products or just the product we are looking on expanding the renewable fuels blends. for example, do we need to include gasoline sales if we are looking a project for ulsd blending.	Throughput should be for diesel and biodiesel if applicable. Incremental throughput should be Higher Blends biodiesel, greater than 5 percent such as B20 or higher.
Is there a requirement to use made in America steel?	No such requirement is specified in the NOFA published, 5/5/20.
Do you look for the SPOC for the project location or the company HQ location?	Company headquarters location. But advise the SPOC (if identified) of any involved project states.
We are an operator of 4 sites. We have partners who we distribute fuels to to who are interested in the grant but they want us to administer it. Do we Register as a owner of less than 10 or more than 10?	If you intend to distribute to your partners Higher Blends of biodiesel, greater than 5 percent, such as B20 or higher, then you may apply as a fuel distribution facility. But fuel distribution facility Implementation activities for Higher Blends of fuel ethanol is not an eligible purpose under HBIIIP. You must be an owner of fueling stations or have have a significant ownership position to apply for a Higher Blends Grant for fueling stations; whether as an owner of 10 or fewer, or greater than 10 greater than 19.
If we have multiple fueling stations and fuel disribution stations, can we apply for the grant for both types of facilities?	No you may not. A Company and all affiliates/joint ventures may submit one and only one application. You may indicate one and only one Applicant Type on your HBIIIP online application Access Request.
if you are awarded a grant and you are over time do not meet projections in your application is there a required payback to the USDA.	The grant/project execution period is for up to 18 months. There is also upon request and consent by the Agency an available extension of up to 12 months beyond the 18 month execution period to complete the project. If you are not able to complete the terms of your agreement during the 30 months allowed,

	you will be notified of the possibility of Termination and/or Recovery, as will be specified in your Signed Grant Agreement.
Just to clarify., The Federal Register on May 5 in the summary states this grant will also apply to facilities raising the blend of Ethanol as well. I thought I just heard you say Ethanol Distribution facilities were not eligible. Is an Ethanol Distribution facility eligible? Not A Production Plant .	NO. To be clear, an ethanol distribution facility is NOT an eligible purpose under HBIIIP. Fuel distribution facilities are for Higher Blends of Biodiesel, greater than 5 percent, such as B20 or greater.
What is a "certified" letter? and who signs the matching funds document; whose signature is notarized? The applicant or the person providing match?	Certification requirements are explained in the Matching Funds Verification/Certification Guide located here, https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Matching_Funds_Verification_and_Certification_Guide.pdf .
For the terminal grant, Is there a preference given to companies of a certain size, similar to how there is with the Retail applications?	No there is not. Fuel distribution facilities are competed based on the throughput volumes of fuel (diesel and biodiesel) and Incremental contribution of Higher Blends of Biodiesel per dollar of requested funds.
Do I need to submit before 8/13 to have USDA submit a notice of incomplection, or can I submit on 8/13 and USDA will give me an opportunity to respond to any notice of incomplection?	The HBIIIP application window closes at 11:59 pm EDT on August 13, 2020. After which, the online application system will be rendered inoperative and No other applications may be submitted or will be accepted. Also at that time, any unsubmitted applications will be deemed INCOMPLETE and will not receive any further consideration.
Are higher level blends of ethanol and biodiesel allowed?	Yes, of course. The program title is Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program.
I know you answered this, but to be clear, a terminal is only allowed to apply for a grant related to increasing biodiesel to B20 and adding biodiesel to home-heating oil. Is that correct?	Correct on all points.
Where do you include a company profile ? Can you include in an introductory section at the beginning of the technical report?	The Technical Report Attachment provides/allows up to 5 MB of file space to include a company profile among the required information if you so choose.
are letters of project support encouraged for uploading as attachments	Letters of support are neither required nor necessary. Far more important to the success of an application are the Matching Fund Certifications and Letters of Commitment. Matching Funds are Fundamental requirements to HBIIIP.
What if you have three, ethanol, bio and bio bulk plant	Ethanol related Higher Blends activities for fuel distribution facilities is not an eligible purpose under HBIIIP.
Does the technical report serve as the project narrative for your HBIIIP grant request	Yes, as well as providing important project evidentiary documentation. The Technical Report Guide is available here, https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/HBIIIP_Project_Technical_Report_Guide.pdf
Info for authorized user-does that person need an e-auth and DUNS and SAMS too	Every Authorized User must have a unique eAuthentication ID/account. A Company TIN, DUNS/UEI, SAM CAGE code may be used by as many Authorized Users as the Company so chooses.
3rd party user auth-do they need	Grant writers may assist more than 1 Company to complete an HBIIIP application. The Company must choose to include them among the Authorized Users on the Access Request.

<p>Does an authorized 3rd party added, installers, grant writers need their own DUNS, SAMS and E-Auth id account too? Please address this question. Thanks.</p>	<p>Third parties wanting to assist a Company/ more than one Company with completing their application, will need an eAuthentication unique to the third party and must be included as an Authorized User on each Company Access Request requiring third party assistance.</p>
<p>Where do bulk biodiesel terminals apply under?</p>	<p>Fuel Distribution Facility</p>
<p>Is there a support # to call for trouble with sam.gov. We have clients who are having trouble getting their CAGE #.</p>	<p>Sam.gov has a Help Desk. https://sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/help/samQUserGuides.jsf</p>
<p>My client is having issues getting their company registered, unable to authenticate - they cannot get to the point of waiting for the CAGE code. Any support here would be appreciated. Thank you</p>	<p>Sam.gov advises that CAGE is experiencing intermittent service interruptions. Registrants are encouraged to keep trying.</p>
<p>Is renewable diesel eligible?</p>	<p>NO! HBIIP is for Higher Blends of Ethanol, Biodiesel, and Home Heating Oil only.</p>
<p>How do we get in to see the forms and application before we have a SAM, etc.</p>	<p>You must have a TIN, DUNS/UEI, and SAM CAGE code, to request Access to the HBIIP Online Application System. Incomplete Access Requests will be returned.</p>
<p>Does the feasibility study need to be done by a third party?</p>	<p>Recommended but not specified in the Notice of Funds Availability published on 5/5/2020. Please be advised that your application will be evaluated by your industry peers in accordance and the evidentiary supporting documentation provided in the Feasibility and Business Planning Documents are instrumental to higher scoring application.</p>
<p>Are there page limits or formatting requirements to the Technical Report and the Feasibility Report?</p>	<p>No page limitation or formatting requirements are specified. Each attachment has file size upload limitation of 5 megabytes.</p>
<p>Can revisions be made to the application after it has been uploaded/submitted if it is before the August deadline?</p>	<p>When submitted, the HBIIP Application is a Signed and Dated Federal Form. Prior to submission, the Authorized User must also attest to the application's veracity and accuracy. Please be advised, there is NO user provision to revise the application after it has been submitted.</p>