

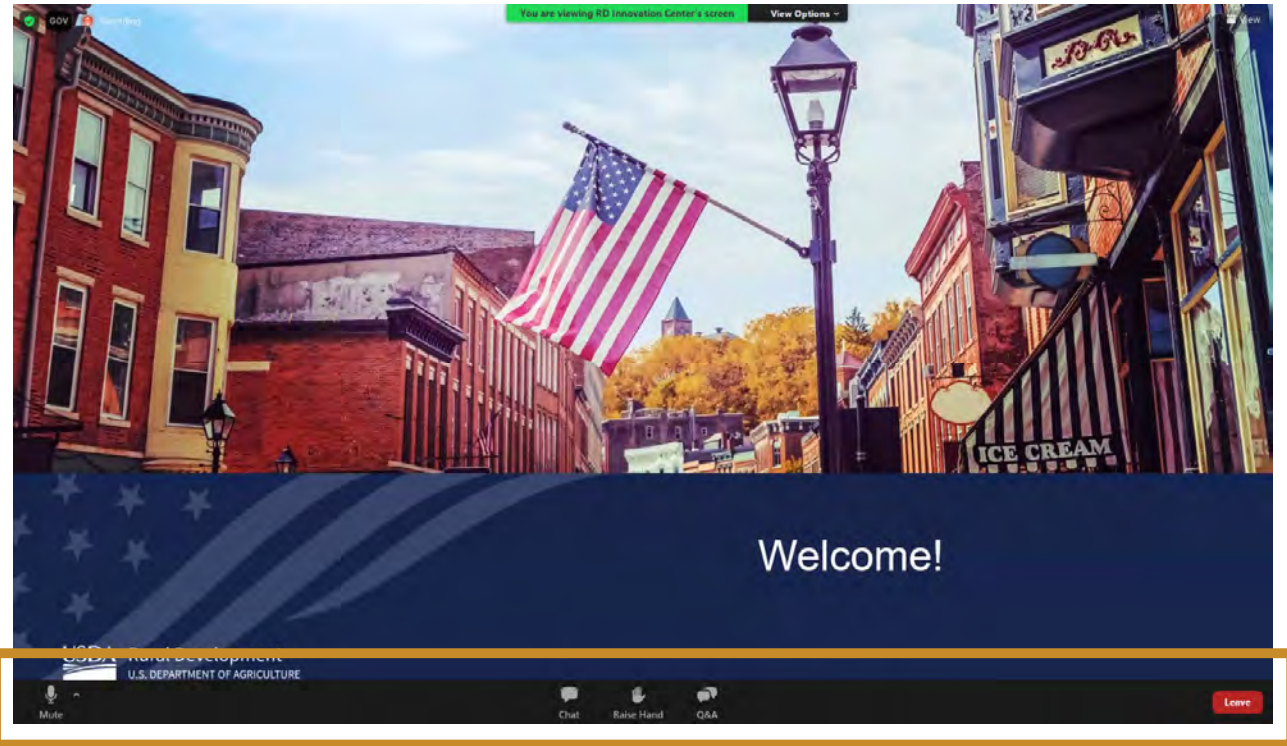


# Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP) Overview and Enrollment Orientation

August 30, 2022

# Housekeeping

- 1 Mute**  
Attendees are in listen-only mode unless unmuted by host
- 2 Chat**  
Attachments and messages from panelists will show here
- 3 Raise Hand**  
To be unmuted and provide verbal comments during the Q&A session, raise your hand
- 4 Q&A**  
Submit your questions to the presenters and panelists here
- 5 Leave**  
You may exit the event here



1

2

3

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# HBIP Overview and Enrollment Orientation

## *Agenda*

- What's New?
- Overview
- Enrollment Orientation
- What's Next?
- Questions
- Additional Opportunities



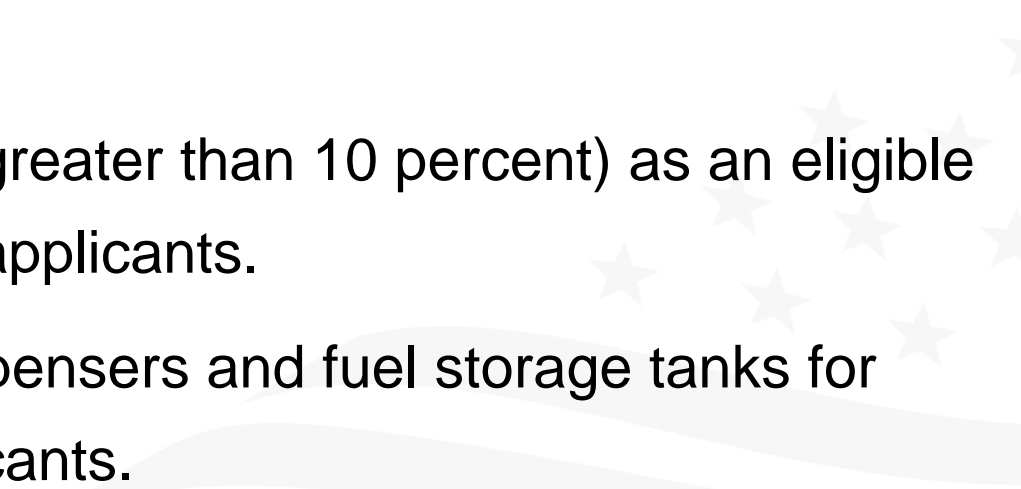


# What's New?

Jeff Carpenter



## HBIP – What's New?

- Make approximately \$75 million available to transportation fueling facility applicants and approximately \$25 million to fuel distribution facilities
  - Include rail and marine as eligible fleet facility applicants under transportation fueling facilities.
  - Include higher blends of ethanol (greater than 10 percent) as an eligible project for fuel distribution facility applicants.
  - Updated capped costs for fuel dispensers and fuel storage tanks for transportation fueling facility applicants.
- 

## HBIP – What's New? (continued)

- Increase Federal cost share for replacing or installing fuel storage tanks at existing transportation fueling facilities from 25 percent to 50 percent.
- Allow costs to be incurred once a complete application is submitted, however no construction can begin until the Agency completes its environmental review(s).
- Streamlined the environmental review process for applications containing multiple site locations.
- Increase grant disbursement period from 18 months to 36 months.



# Overview





# Overview

## *Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIIP)*

### What does this program do?

The purpose of the HBIIIP is to **increase significantly** the sales and use of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel,

by **expanding the infrastructure** for renewable fuels derived from U.S. agricultural products.

### Who may apply?

Owners of –

#### **Transportation fueling facilities:**

Fueling stations, convenience stores, hypermarket fueling stations, fleet facilities (including rail and marine), and similar entities with capital investments;

#### **Fuel distribution facilities:**

Terminal operations, depots, midstream partners, and similarly equivalent operations.

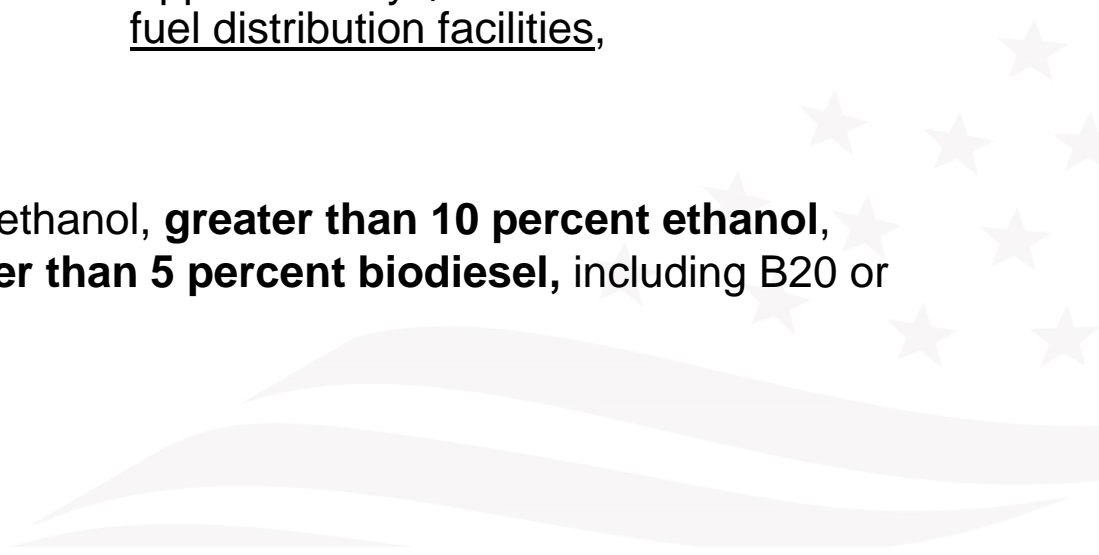
# HBIP Overview (continued)

## What funding is available?

Up to **\$100 million** is available to eligible participants/owners:

- Approximately **\$75 million** is available to transportation fueling facilities, and
- Approximately **\$25 million** is available to fuel distribution facilities,

for activities related to higher blends of fuel ethanol, **greater than 10 percent ethanol**, including E15 and E85, and biodiesel **greater than 5 percent biodiesel**, including B20 or higher.





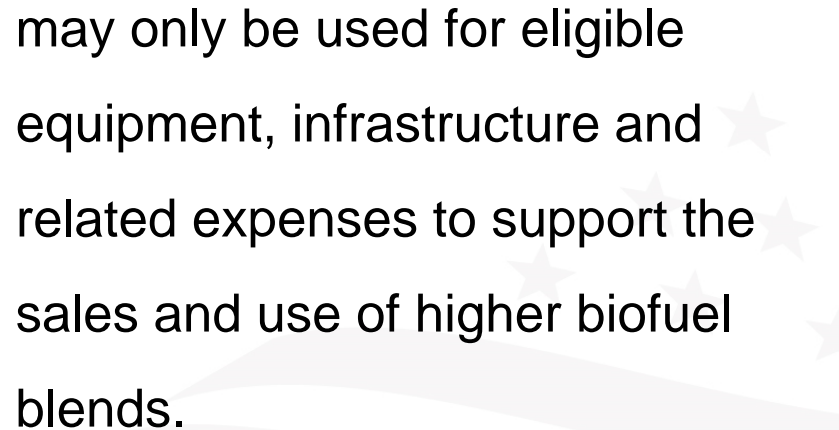
## HBIIIP Overview (continued)

### What are the terms?

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

### How must funds be used?

Funds made available under HBIIIP may only be used for eligible equipment, infrastructure and related expenses to support the sales and use of higher biofuel blends.



## HBIIIP Overview (continued)

### Eligible Project Costs:

- Incurred after a **complete application is submitted**;
- Purchase, installation, and/or retrofitting of fuel dispensers related equipment and infrastructure to support higher blend fuel sales;
- Construction, replacement, improvements;
- Fees – construction permits, and licenses;
- Professional service fees.

### Ineligible Project Costs:

- Renewable diesel projects;
- Used equipment and vehicles;
- Construction or equipment costs that would be incurred regardless of the HBIIIP project;
- Purchase of real property or land;
- Lease payments;
- Expenses associated with applying for HBIIIP; and
- Expenses associated with reporting, disbursement, performance and service of HBIIIP.



## HBIP Overview (continued)

**When can I start ordering equipment and scheduling contractors?**

***Costs incurred prior to the submission of a complete application are not eligible project costs.***

*Award Announcements, Obligations, Grant Agreement executions are expected to begin approximately 90 days after the application window closes.*

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide, featuring a series of light gray stars arranged in a curved pattern above several wavy, horizontal stripes, reminiscent of the American flag.

## HBIP Overview (continued)

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

Estimated Funding:	Cash	In-kind value	All
Federal			
Applicant			
State			
Local			
Other			
TOTAL			

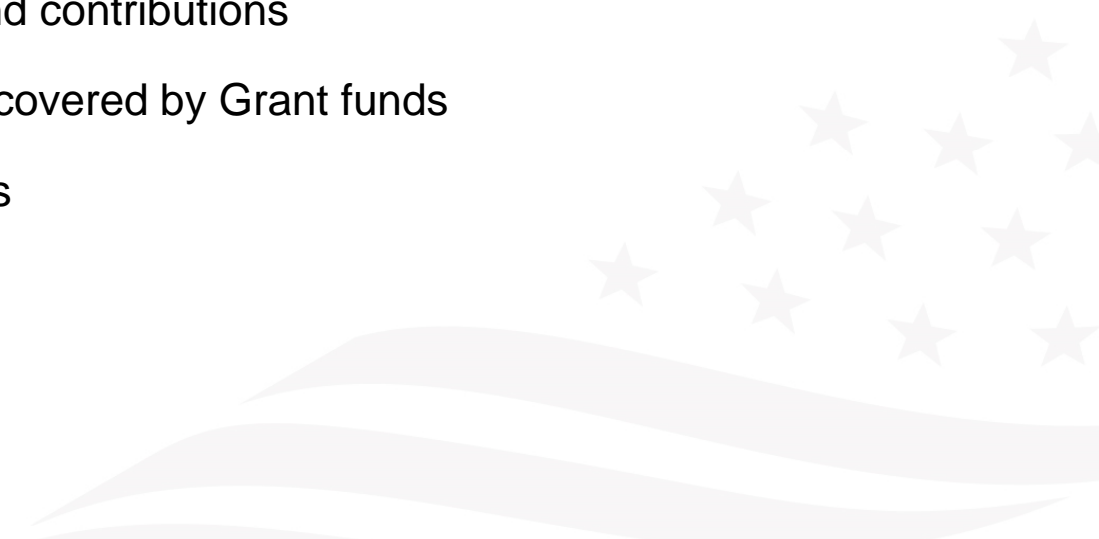
- Arrangements with private entities
- Commercial vendors of fuels
- Agricultural commodity/renewable fuel promotional organizations
- State-led programs and private sector efforts



## HBIIIP Overview (continued)

### Matching Funds:

- Required to receive HBIIIP grant
- Secured by applicant – must have written commitments, such as bank statements for cash and Letters of Commitment for in-kind contributions
- Remainder – All eligible project costs not covered by Grant funds
- Consist of **CASH** and In-kind contributions
- No in-kind from applicants
- Not from Other Federal grants
- Passive tax equity contributions allowed



## Targeted Assistance Goal

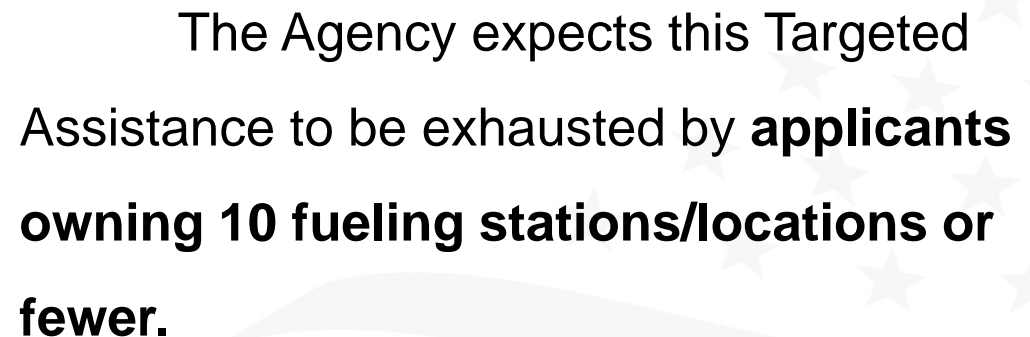
### A Targeted Assistance

**Goal** is established for applicants owning the fewest number of transportation fueling stations (and owning at least one).

**40 percent of funds are available,**

For activities/investments involving transportation fueling facilities.

The Agency expects this Targeted Assistance to be exhausted by **applicants owning 10 fueling stations/locations or fewer.**



## Consideration for Geographical Diversity

A **Consideration for Geographical Diversity** is afforded to

Transportation fueling station owners based on the location of the proposed facilities.

- ☐ Interstate Corridor
- ☐ Sole Station
- ☐ Western States
- ☐ New England States



## Other Considerations

A **Consideration for First Time Applicants** may be given to those without a prior acceptance of an HBIIP Letter of Conditions.

A **Consideration of Rural Development Key Priorities**, including:

- Assisting rural communities recover economically from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly disadvantaged communities.
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to RD programs and benefits from RD funded projects.
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

Please visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/priority-points> for additional information.



## Number of Awards

- The number of awards will depend on the number of eligible participants and the total amount of requested funds.
- Approximately 200 awards covering almost 1,000 locations were made during the previous offering of the program.

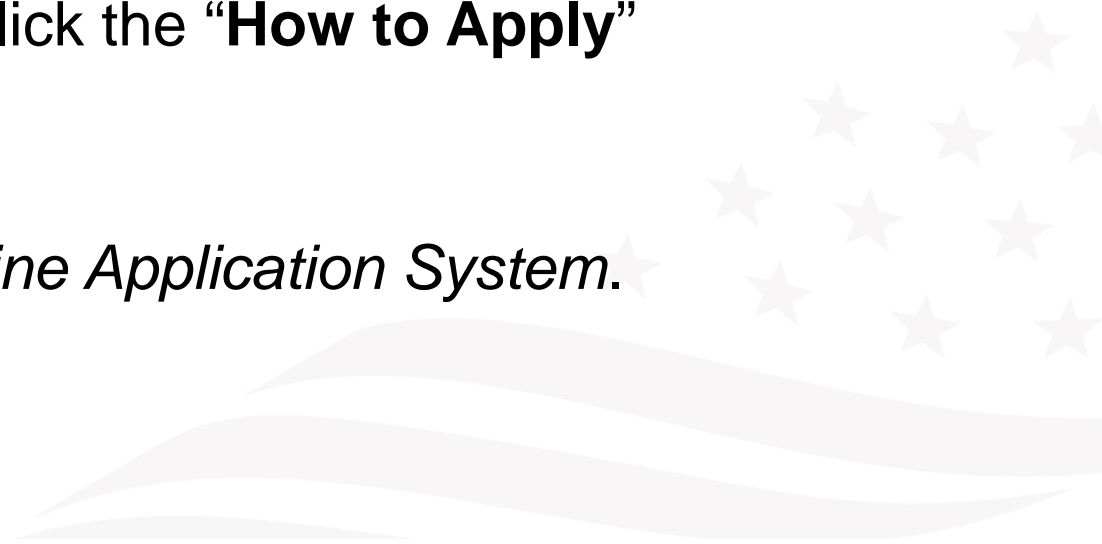


## HBIP Overview (continued)

**Sounds great!**

**How do we get started?**

- 1) <https://rd.usda.gov/hbiip>; Click the **“How to Apply”** button;
- 2) Click the **“To Apply”** tab;
- 3) Open the *Checklist for Online Application System*.



## HBIIIP Overview (continued)

### What is the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program?

The purpose of the HBIIIP is to increase significantly the sales and use of higher blends of ethanol and biodiesel by expanding the infrastructure for renewable fuels derived from U.S. agricultural products. The program is also intended to encourage a more comprehensive approach to market higher blends by sharing the costs related to building out biofuel-related infrastructure.

[How to Apply](#)[NOSA FY 20](#)[NOSA FY 21](#)[Press Release](#)[Subscribe to Updates](#)[Factsheet](#)[Hoja Informativa del Programa](#)

Contact [HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov](mailto:HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov) for more information.

# To Apply

## *Application Checklist*

Overview

To Apply

Other Requirements

Contact

Events

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 [higherblendsgrants-access@usda.gov](mailto:higherblendsgrants-access@usda.gov) to gain access to the online application system.

### Important Documents

- [Checklist for Online Application System](#)
- [HBIIP EAuthentication](#)
- [HBIIP Online Access Request](#)
- [HBIIP Online Application Instructions and Users Guide](#)



# Questions



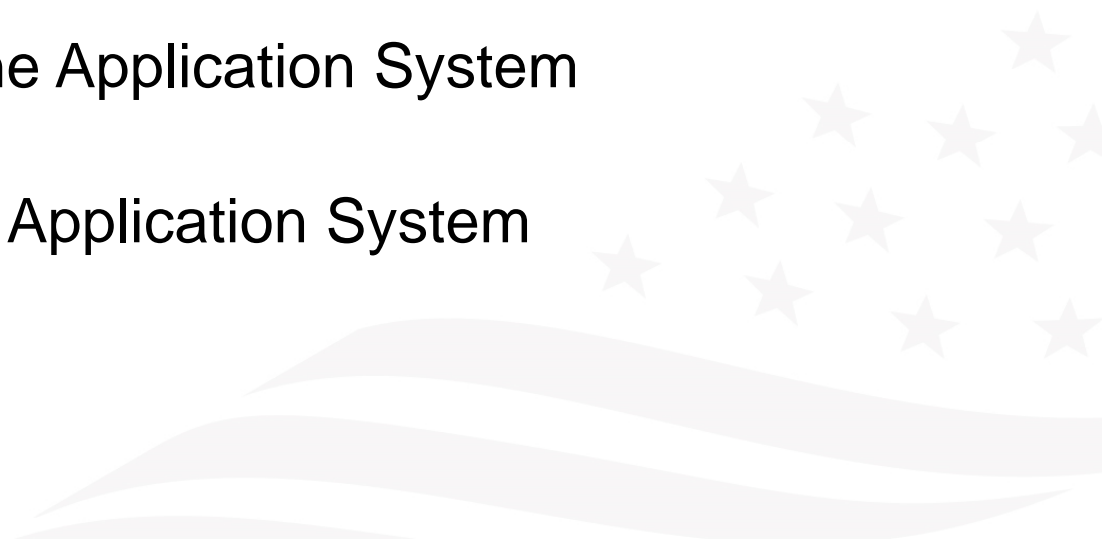


# Enrollment Orientation



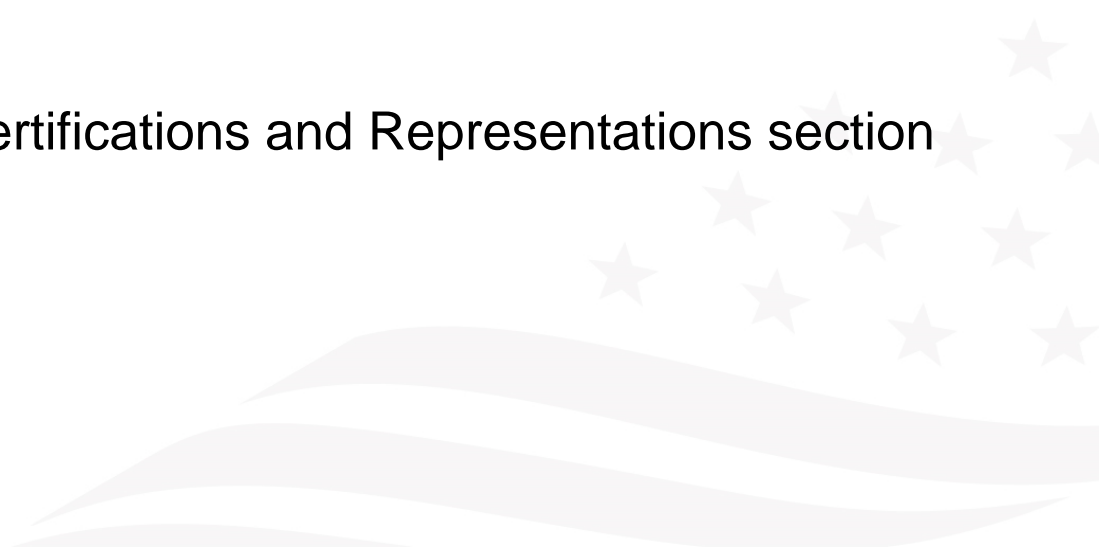
# HBIP Enrollment

- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- USDA Level 2 eAuthentication
- Requesting access to the Online Application System
- Obtaining access to the Online Application System



## HBIP Enrollment

- Register entity with the System for Award Management (SAM) at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and expiration date.
  - Make sure you complete the Certifications and Representations section when registering your entity.







# To Apply


## System for Award Management (SAM) Registration

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

**Login.gov Scheduled Maintenance** [Show Details](#)  
Aug 4, 2022




**Entity Validation Delays** [Show Details](#)  
Jul 5, 2022



[See All Alerts](#)

[Sign In](#)

[Home](#) [Search](#) [Data Bank](#) [Data Services](#) [Help](#)



**The Official U.S. Government System for:**

- Contract Opportunities**  
(was fbo.gov)
- Contract Data**  
(Reports ONLY from fpds.gov)
- Wage Determinations**  
(was wdol.gov)
- Federal Hierarchy**  
Departments and Subtiers
- Assistance Listings**  
(was cfda.gov)
- Entity Information**  
Entities, Disaster Response Registry, and Exclusions
- Entity Reporting**  
SCR and Bio-Preferred Reporting


[Learn More](#)


### Register Your Entity or Get a Unique Entity ID


Register your entity or get a Unique Entity ID to get started doing business with the federal government.

[Get Started](#)


[Renew Entity](#)

 [Check Registration Status](#)


 **Official U.S. Government Website**  
100% Free





Already know what you want to find?

Select Domain...


e.g. 1606N020Q02







[Sign In](#)

 **Official U.S. Government Website**  
100% Free


## HBIP Enrollment

- Create a USDA eAuthentication Customer Account, <https://www.eauth.usda.gov>.
  - Level 2 access is required.




# To Apply

## USDA eAuthentication

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▼


**USDA eAuthentication**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



HOME | CREATE ACCOUNT | MANAGE ACCOUNT ▼ | HELP ▼

### eAuth Home

Delivering easy to obtain, secure and private online access to USDA programs and services.




### More Access with Fewer Passwords

USDA eAuthentication(eAuth) is the system used by USDA agencies to enable individual customers and employees to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet.


A single eAuth account saves time and reduces the number of passwords for users by providing effortless access to multiple online resources, programs and benefits to view or conduct official business via the Internet with USDA. This includes submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of USDA accounts.

# To Apply

## USDA eAuthentication

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▼

**USDA eAuthentication**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



HOME | CREATE ACCOUNT | MANAGE ACCOUNT ^ | HELP ▼

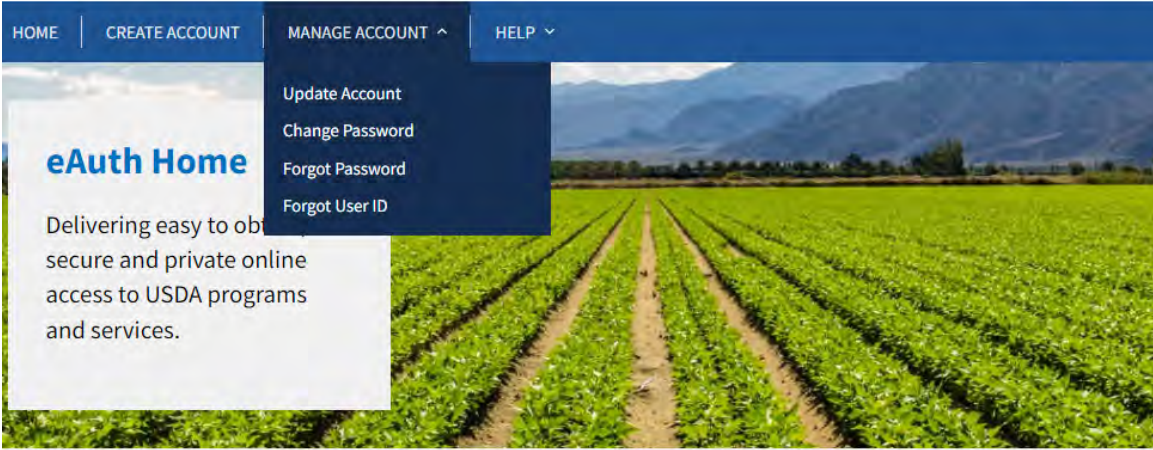
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A single eAuth account saves time and reduces the number of passwords for users by providing effortless access to multiple online resources, programs and benefits to view or conduct official business via the Internet with USDA. This includes submitting forms electronically, completing surveys online, and checking the status of USDA accounts.






# To Apply

## USDA eAuthentication

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▼

**USDA eAuthentication**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



HOME | CREATE ACCOUNT | MANAGE ACCOUNT ▼ | HELP ▼


---

### Account Information ? Logout

#### Login Information

**i** Your User ID is [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Password: \*\*\*\* 

**Verified Identity**

#### Personal Information

Name: [REDACTED]

Date of birth: [REDACTED]

# To Apply

## *HBIIIP Online Access Request*

Overview

To Apply

Other Requirements

Contact

Events

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 [higherblendsgrants-access@usda.gov](mailto:higherblendsgrants-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](#)

# Request to Participate

**HBIIIP Online Access Request**  
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 Tax ID Number (TIN)

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

UEI Expiration Date

Applicant Type   
(Select One)

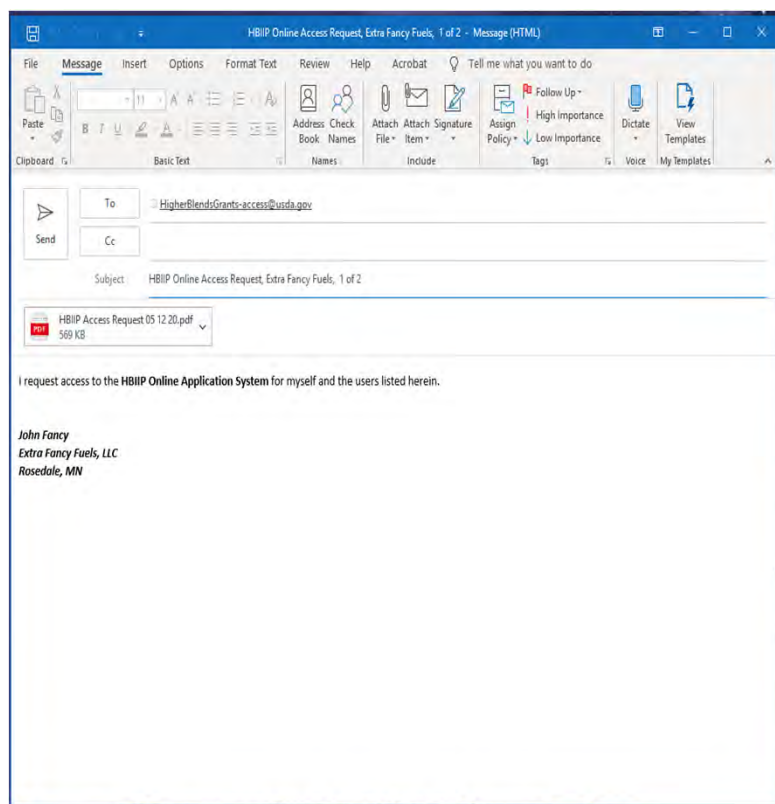
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**Authorized User Information**

	Last Name	First Name	Email	eAuth ID
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

- Select: Create both Company Account and User Account
- Company's Legal Name
- Company TIN
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- UEI Expiration Date
- **Applicant Type (Select One):**
  - ☐ Owner of 10 or fewer fueling stations
  - ☐ Owner of more than 10 fueling stations
  - ☐ Fleet facility
  - ☐ Fuel Distribution Facility

# Request to Participate

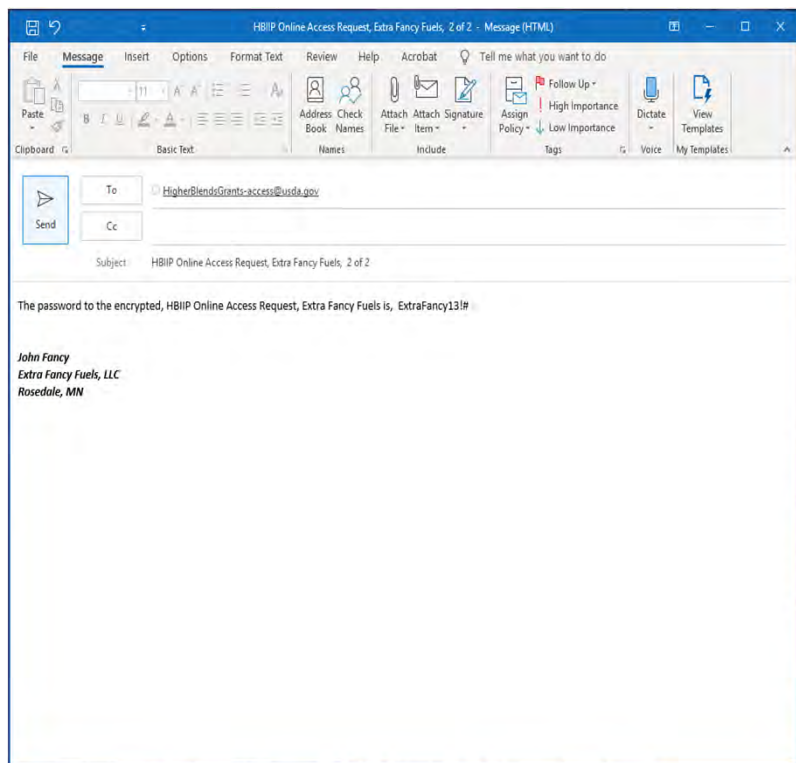


To request access to *HBIIP Online Application System*:

1. Send an Email attached with a completed and encrypted HBIIP Online Access Request to, [HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov](mailto:HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov)

Please allow at least one week to process your request. If you do not receive a response after one week, please resubmit your request.

# 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](mailto:HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov)

Please allow at least one week to process your request. If you do not receive a response after one week, please resubmit your request.

2. Send second email immediately with encryption password



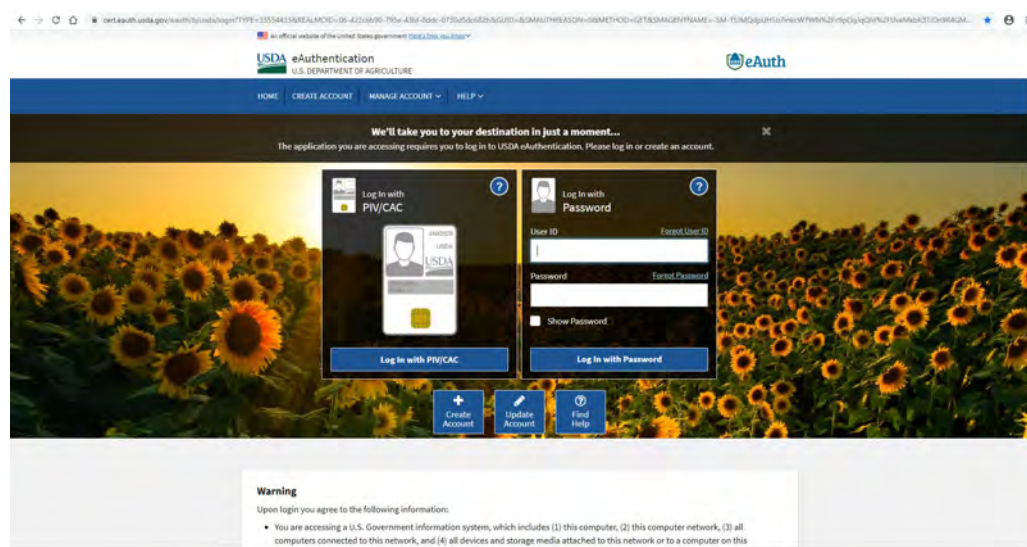
# Obtaining access to the Online Application System

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

A URL and instructions to access the system.

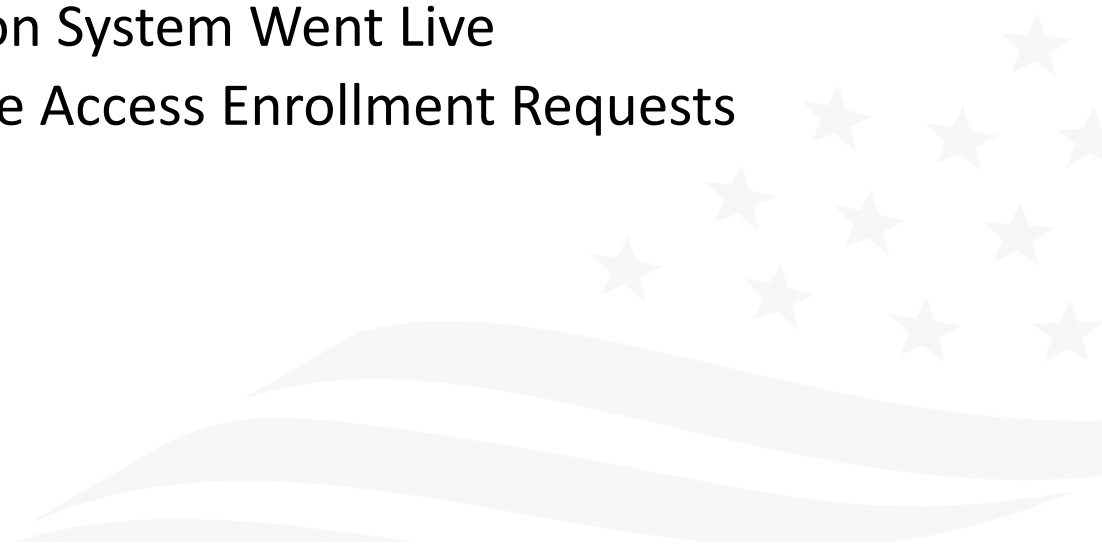
Copy the URL and paste it into the address bar of a **Google Chrome** internet browser and hit enter.

Bookmark the URL for future use.



August 23, 2022

- A ***Notice of Funding Opportunity*** (NOFO) published in the *Federal Register*
  - HBIIP Application Window Opened for 90 days
  - HBIIP Online Application System Went Live
  - Began Accepting Online Access Enrollment Requests



# To Apply

## Important Documents

### Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program

Application Window:  
**OPEN**

Program Application Period:  
**Open on August 23, 2022, and Program  
Application Period to Closes November  
21, 2022, 4:30 p.m. ES**

Fact Sheet

Federal Register Notice

Overview

**To Apply**

Other Requirements

Contact

Events

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 [HBIIIP Online Access Request](#) to [HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov](mailto:HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov) to gain access to the online application system.

#### Important Documents

- [Checklist for Online Application System](#)
- [USDA eAuthentication](#)
- [HBIIIP Online Access Request](#)
- [HBIIIP Online Grant Application Instruction 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)
  - [Preliminary Environmental Information Survey](#) (sec: 7.8.)
  - [Matching Funds Verification/Certification Guide](#) (sec: 7.7.2 and 7.8)
  - [SF 424D Assurances - Construction Programs](#) (sec: 7.8)
    - [SF 424D - Assurances - Construction Programs Instructions](#) (sec: 7.8.)

# Online Application Instructions Guide



## Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP)

## Online Grant Application Instruction Guide

United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Revised – August 2022

### Table of Contents

1. Introduction .....	5
2. Overview .....	5
2.1. Purpose .....	5
2.2. Assumptions .....	5
2.3. Additional Support .....	5
3. Preparing to Apply .....	5
3.1. What will you need .....	5
3.2. Internet Browser .....	6
3.3. Confidentiality .....	6
4. Indicating Intent to Participate & Requesting Access .....	7
4.1. Gather the information needed .....	7
4.2. Request to Participate .....	7
4.3. User Access Next Steps .....	7
5. Accessing the HBIIP Grant Application System .....	8
6. Navigating the HBIIP Grant Application System .....	8
6.1. Menu Options .....	8
6.2. Required Data .....	9
6.3. Saving Your Data .....	9
6.4. Application Tracking Progress .....	9
7. Completing the Application .....	10
7.1. Applicant Types .....	10
7.2. Company Information .....	11
7.2.1. Applicant Information .....	11
7.2.2. Company Contact Information .....	13
7.2.3. Company Authorized Representative Information .....	14
7.3. Application Information .....	16
7.3.1. Is Application Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372? (Required) .....	16
7.4. Project Information .....	17
7.4.1. Proposed Project Start Date (Required) .....	17
7.4.2. Proposed Project End Date (Required) .....	17
7.4.3. Descriptive Title (Required) .....	17
7.5. Fueling Station Information .....	17
7.5.1. Creating a Fueling Station .....	17
7.5.2. Fueling Station Basic Information .....	20

# Project Technical Report Guide

## Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP)

### Project Technical Report

The technical requirements specified in this report apply to HBIIP Transportation Fueling Facility Projects and to HBIIP Fuel Distribution Facility Projects. This Report is to be submitted concurrently with the HBIIP Application.

#### Information to be included in an HBIIP Project Technical Report

- (a) **Applicant.** Provide detailed information about the applicant entity, including history, ownership and/or operator agreements, ownership structure (if applicable), marketing area, and service area.
- (b) **Scope of work.** Provide detailed information about the proposed project. This should include, but is not limited to:
  - i. Information about each location (transportation fueling facility applicants, such as fueling stations, convenience stores, and fleet facilities). This should include address, brief project description that identifies the major components (including whether existing equipment will be used and verification that newly installed equipment will be compatible with existing equipment), and images of the project location(s) with drawings indicating the location of existing equipment and where newly installed equipment will be located.



# Preliminary Environmental Information Survey

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT



# Questions





# Important Dates

## What's Next?



# What's next?

- HBIIP Application Window Closes – November 21, 2022, at 4:30 pm Eastern
  - Applications No Longer Accepted; Submit button unavailable
- November 2022 through February 2023
  - Agency Review for Eligibility and Completeness
  - Evaluation Panel and Competition
- March 2023 (or sooner) and Ongoing
  - Selection, Written Communication to All Participants
  - Public Announcement of Obligations
  - Grant Agreement Execution
  - Project Completion/Reimbursement



# What's next?

## Training

- Planned Training Webinars – See **Events** tab
  - *HBIIIP Environmental Review Process for Applicants*
  - *HBIIIP Transportation Fueling Facility Applicant Deep Dive*
  - *HBIIIP Transportation Fueling Facility Applicant (Rail/Marine) Deep Dive*
  - *HBIIIP Fuel Distribution Facility Applicant Deep Dive*
  - *HBIIIP Applicants and Stakeholders Check In/Office Hours (tentative)*



# Questions





# Additional Opportunities



## Additional Opportunities

- Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)
  - Provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to make energy efficiency improvements or to install renewable energy systems
  - Types of funding
    - Guaranteed loans
      - Covers up to 75% of the eligible project costs for up to \$25 million
    - Grants
      - Covers up to 25% of the eligible project costs
      - For energy efficiency improvements, there is a \$1,500 minimum and \$250,000 maximum
      - For renewable energy systems, there is a \$2,500 minimum and a \$500,000 maximum
  - Eligible applicants
    - Small business is eligible rural areas
    - Agricultural producers with more than 50% of their income coming from agricultural operations

## Additional Opportunities (continued)

- Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) (continued)

### Examples

- Energy Efficiency Improvements
  - Refrigeration/Freezer upgrades
  - Commercial kitchen, food prep equipment upgrades
  - Lighting upgrades
  - Heating and Ventilation (HVAC) systems
- Renewable Energy Systems
  - Solar Array
  - Geothermal System
- Contact your State Energy Coordinator for more information

[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/RBS\\_StateEnergyCoordinators.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/RBS_StateEnergyCoordinators.pdf)

## Additional Opportunities (continued)

- **Business & Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loans**

- Provides financial assistance to rural businesses for things like business expansion, purchase of machinery and equipment, debt refinance, etc.
- Types of funding
  - Guaranteed loans for up to \$25 million
- Eligible applicants
  - Businesses located in rural areas (population of 50,000 or less)
- Contact your local USDA Rural Development Office by using the link below and selecting your state in the drop-down menu

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/business-industry-loan-guarantees>





*Thank you!*

*Jeff Carpenter*

*HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov*

*402-318-8195*

A recording of this Webinar, “HBIIIP Overview and Enrollment Orientation” with Q&A Document will be made available at:

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

Under the **Events** tab