



Application

Access Ethanol Nebraska (AEN) is designed to increase availability of E-85 and other high ethanol blends to motorists in Nebraska. AEN is administered by the Nebraska Energy Office (NEO) in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the Nebraska Corn Board and the Nebraska Ethanol Board. Grant funds from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership (BIP), with matching public and private funds in Nebraska, will be awarded to selected retail fueling stations to reimburse the cost of installing or converting qualified equipment to encourage expanded use of American Ethanol in Nebraska.

The terms of the USDA Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) No. USDA-FSA-2015-22, and the grant agreement between NEO and USDA (USDA Grant) related to the BIP program, will apply to all grant-funded projects. Retailers awarded grants must enter into a Retailer Agreement setting the requirements for reimbursement of eligible costs related to converting or installing qualified fuel dispensers and tanks upon completion of upgrades. The Retailer Agreement will include a six-year commitment to sell ethanol fuels, to promote ethanol blend prices on station signage, and to provide periodic reports regarding volumes and prices of ethanol blends sold. Retailers also must comply with all other federal, state and local regulations applicable to the construction and operation of the project.

Grants will be awarded following competitive scoring of grant applications based on terms of the FOA, USDA Grant terms and applicable USDA requirements. Grant applications must be submitted by **December 31, 2015** to be included in the initial review. Grant awards from the initial round of reviews will be announced **by January 30, 2016**. Notice will be provided of later deadlines if funds are available after the initial round of application reviews.

Awarded projects must satisfy the following requirements to receive grant funds for reimbursement of eligible project costs:

- Retailer/Sub-Grantee Agreement signed by retailer and NEO;
- FSA-850 Environmental Evaluation Form approved by USDA-CCC (see attached);
- Completed Project Reimbursement Request Form with receipts and paid invoices; and
- Evidence of final inspection & certification by the State Fire Marshal on the dispenser/tank installation.

USDA program guidelines DO NOT ALLOW reimbursement of costs for equipment purchased or infrastructure constructed PRIOR TO APPROVAL of grant award, including submission and acceptance of FSA-850 by USDA.

Completed applications should be sent to:

Mail: AEN	
Attention: David L. Bracht, Director	Fax: (402) 471-3064
Nebraska Energy Office	E-mail: david.bracht@nebraska.gov
521 South 14 th Street, Suite 300	
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508	

I hereby certify that all statements and representations made and data furnished to the Nebraska Energy Office related to this application are true and correct in all material respects. I also certify that the renewable fuel infrastructure presented in this application will not be used to store or dispense motor fuel other than E85 fuel or other ethanol blended fuels.

Name and Title (typed or printed) _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Note: USDA Funding Opportunity Announcement No. USDA-FSA-2015-22 is available at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafilms/Energy/Biofuels Infrac Partnrshp RFA.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafilms/Energy/Biofuels%20Infras%20Partnrshp%20RFA.pdf)

EQUIPMENT REQUEST

All awarded grants are subject to the terms and limitations in the FOA, the AEN requirements and other USDA rules and guidelines that establish eligible expenses, including the following maximum prices for equipment and installation.

Equipment Cost Limits	Average Cost (All locations)	Maximum Cost (Any individual dispenser/tank)
Retrofit Existing E15/E25 Dispensers	\$15,000 per dispenser	\$15,000 per dispenser
New E15/E25 Dispensers	\$25,000 per dispenser	\$30,000 per dispenser
Dedicated E85 Dispensers	\$25,000 per dispenser	\$35,000 per dispenser
Blender Dispensers	\$35,000 per dispenser	\$45,000 per dispenser
Underground Storage Tanks	\$100,000 per tank	\$100,000 per tank

* Dispenser cost includes dispenser, hanging hardware, piping, and installation costs.

* Tank cost includes cost of tank, piping and installation and is not included with dispenser.

To maximize use of AEN/USDA Grant funds, projects will be evaluated and scored based on equipment cost, up to above-stated maximum costs. Equipment costs in excess of maximums, and other costs ineligible for reimbursement under FOA and AEN program terms **must be paid** by retailer, but will be scored as retailer contribution described below.

Equipment Cost Estimate**	Total Number	Average Cost*	Total Eligible Cost \$	Total Ineligible Cost	Total Cost
Retrofit Existing E15/E25 Dispensers			\$	\$	\$
New E15/E25 Dispensers			\$	\$	\$
Dedicated E85 Dispensers			\$	\$	\$
Blender Pump/Dispensers			\$	\$	\$
Underground Storage Tanks			\$	\$	\$
Total Dispensers		n/a	\$	\$	\$
Total Tanks		n/a	\$	\$	\$
Total Stations		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* Dispenser cost includes hanging hardware, piping, and installation costs.
 * Tank cost includes cost of tank, piping if not included with dispenser, and installation.
 ** Cost estimate for application must be based on vendor quote or other good faith estimate of cost.

BIP program terms require that Nebraska provide a minimum of \$1 for \$1 match. AEN has identified potential sources of the required match from various public and private sources. However, applicants are encouraged to include potential matching funds for this project provided by or on behalf of retailer. Applications will be scored based on retailer contribution, including ineligible costs, commitments for ethanol-related marketing, and other site specific costs not eligible for reimbursement under FOA and AEN program terms. Commitments from applicant for a portion of eligible costs will improve application scoring.

Cost/Contribution Summary	Total Costs	Total AEN Grant Request	Total Applicant/ Other Sources
Total for Dispensers and Tanks (USDA BIP eligible costs)	\$	\$	\$
Total for Dispensers and Tanks (costs above USDA BIP maximum)	\$	n/a	\$
Total engineering and site preparation	\$	n/a	\$
Marketing Costs	\$	n/a	\$
Other Costs	\$	n/a	\$
Total Project Cost	\$	\$	\$
Percent of Project Costs	n/a	%	%

Cost Summary above should include costs for all sites proposed under location. If multiple locations, attach additional pages with site specific costs including eligible and ineligible costs for dispensers and tanks, and engineering and site preparation.

STATION LOCATION / VOLUME INFORMATION

To comply with USDA BIP objectives and AEN requirements, projects will be evaluated and scored based on potential for increased ethanol sales and improved ethanol infrastructure for added availability of E-85, E-15 and other high-ethanol blends. AEN will score applications based on the information supplied below for each station location (complete additional copies for each additional location). Categories will be scored on the prioritization set forth in the Nebraska grant application submitted under the BIP program.

1. Station Location:

- a. City or town station located in _____
- b. Population of city or town station located in _____
- c. Population of county station located in _____

2. Market Area Population

- a. Proximity to city or cities over 20,000 pop. (increments to 1/4 mile) _____ miles
- b. Proximity to I-80 (increments to 1/4 mile) _____ miles
- c. Proximity to four-lane Nebraska Highway (increments of 1/4 mile) _____ miles
- d. Proximity to Intersection of two Nebraska Highways (increments of 1/4 miles) _____ miles

3. Station Volume / Traffic

- a. Total fuel volume sold annually at station location _____
- b. Dept. of Roads Traffic #s for closest two highways or major street
 - i. Highway/Street _____ Traffic #s _____
 - ii. Highway/Street _____ Traffic #s _____
- c. Number of competing fueling stations within 25 mile radius:
(If in a larger community, provide competing fueling stations within distance considered market area of _____ mile radius.) _____

4. Ethanol Availability

- a. Current ethanol products at the proposed site:
 - i. E85 (% of 2014 total volume sold) YES NO _____
 - ii. E15 (% of 2014 total volume sold) YES NO _____
 - iii. E10 (% of 2014 total volume sold) YES NO _____
- b. Number of fueling sites within 25 mile radius that offer:
 - i. E85 _____
 - ii. E15/E25 _____

5. Ethanol Marketing / Promotion

- a. Check type of ethanol marketing / promotion previously (if ethanol offered) and planned:

	<u>Current / Within past 12 months</u>	<u>Planned/Part of Project</u>
i. Print advertising	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ii. Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
iii. Digital	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
iv. Billboard	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
v. TV	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
vi. Flyers	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

- b. Pricing signage at site for ethanol fuels (current if offered and planned as part of project):

	<u>Current / Within past 12 months</u>	<u>Planned/Part of Project</u>
i. E85 Prices	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ii. E15 Prices	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
iii. E10 Prices	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO