MONTANA COAL ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HISTORY

- The Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) was formerly called the Treasure State Endowment Program
- It was authorized in 1992 through a legislative referendum
- The program is administered by the Montana Department of Commerce

PURPOSE

- To help fund infrastructure projects and planning

FUNDING

- The program is funded biennially through legislative action
- The source of funds is Coal Severance Tax interest earnings or bonds
- 2021 Biennium Awards = $31.2 million
- 2023 Biennium Awards = $27.7 million

THREE TYPES OF GRANTS

Construction Grants – See details below and attached timeline
Planning Grants – Accepted on a rolling basis until funds expended
Emergency grants – Accepted on a rolling basis until funds expended

CONSTRUCTION GRANT DETAILS

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Incorporated cities and towns
- Counties
- Tribal governments
- County or multi-county water, sewer, or solid waste districts
- An authority as defined in 75-6-304, MCA (e.g., regional water authority)

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Drinking water systems
- Wastewater treatment facilities
- Sanitary or storm sewer systems
- Solid waste disposal & separation systems
- Bridges

Maximum grant amount available is $750,000, $625,000 or $500,000 dependent on user rates being charged in the project area. Bridge projects are generally limited to $500,000.
APPLICANT PLANS FOR PROJECT
This includes developing a plan and engaging the public. MCEP Planning Grants are available to help fund plans.

APPLICANT SUBMITS APPLICATION
The application deadline for construction grants is typically in May.

COMMERCE STAFF REVIEWS AND RANKS PROJECTS
Staff ranks projects based on seven statutory criteria in 90-6-710, MCA.

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS
The Governor’s Office makes recommendations for funding projects as part of the budgeting process.

LEGISLATURE AUTHORIZES GRANTS
During the legislative session, the legislature authorizes funding for projects.

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE SENDS OUT AWARD LETTERS

APPLICANT COMPLETES START-UP CONDITIONS
Once the applicant has met start-up conditions, Commerce staff work with the applicant to execute a contract.

APPLICANT COMPLETES PROJECT
The applicant completes project activities and administers the grant. Commerce staff provide technical assistance throughout the project. Once the project is completed, the grant is closed.
# Montana Coal Endowment Program
## Tribal Government Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribal Government</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Obligated</th>
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<td>Blackfeet Nation Repair Water Main-EG-2013</td>
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Tribal Government Applications to MCEP, 1993 – Present
(Source: Projects, Grants, and Loans Database, Montana Department of Commerce)