

THE LOCAL IMPACT ACCELERATOR

Local Implementation, Mitigation, and Policy Adoption (Local IMPACT) Accelerator



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COLORADO
Energy Office

MAKING AN IMPACT!

The Accelerator will **provide \$50M to support local government policy adoption** in four sectors: Buildings, Transportation, Land Use, and Waste.



TRANSFORMATIVE POLICY ADOPTION

The goal of the program is to **build local resilience and reduce emissions through transformative policy adoption** that extends beyond state requirements.



COLORADO
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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Eligible Applicants: Local governments (cities, counties, and cohorts led by cities/counties) and Colorado's two federally recognized Tribes.

Ways to apply:

1. Policy adoption funding.

OR

2. Policy adoption with project funding.

NOTE: Applicants cannot apply for project funding alone.



FUNDING AMOUNTS

- Suggested \$2M grant maximum approximately split between:
 - **Policy: \$200,000** suggested maximum.
 - **Project: \$1.8M** suggested maximum.
- CEO will consider requests that exceed these amounts.
- Applicants will be asked to submit a constrained, standard, and vision budget.

CONSTRAINED

\$500K

25% of standard

STANDARD

\$2M

Up to the full expected amount

VISION

\$5M

Amounts up to \$5M

ELIGIBLE POLICIES

GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Local IMPACT Accelerator

Calling All Cities and Counties Across Colorado!

The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) is launching the Local Implementation, Mitigation, and Policy Action (Local IMPACT) Accelerator. The Accelerator will provide \$50 million to support local government policy adoption in four key sectors: Buildings, Land Use, Transportation, and Waste. Eligible applicants include local governments (cities, counties, and cohorts led by cities/counties) and Colorado's two federally recognized Tribes.

Make an IMPACT in Your Community

The goal of the Accelerator is to support local governments with policy adoption to bolster local resilience, reduce emissions, and advance other state priorities such as improved air quality. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate local buy-in for policy adoption during the application process, such as a letter from City Council, County Commissioners, or a similar elected body.

Two Grant Rounds in 2025 for Work in 2026

There will be two application rounds in 2025. Each begins with a required Letter of Intent (LOI). The LOI provides applicants with an opportunity to receive feedback on a lower effort version of a grant proposal before submitting the full application. Applicants cannot skip the LOI process and must submit in one of the following LOI rounds:

FIRST ROUND
Opens June 16, 2025. Due August 1, 2025.

SECOND ROUND
Opens October 1, 2025. Due November 17, 2025.

CEO will review all LOIs and inform applicants whether or not they are encouraged to submit a full application. Applicants who receive an "encouraged" decision from CEO can submit a full application between October 1, 2025 and November 5, 2025 for Round One and between January 16, 2026 and February 18, 2026 for Round Two.

To learn more about the Accelerator, email russ.sands1@state.co.us.



Updated May 2025



Sector	Accelerator Policy Adoption Areas
Buildings	Policies that promote building energy codes that exceed the forthcoming Model Low Energy and Carbon Code (due statewide by July 2026), energy performance standards, and energy efficiency incentives.
Land Use	Policies that promote compact housing, parking management, EV charging, renewable energy, and discourage greenfield development.
Transportation	Policies that encourage high quality active transportation infrastructure, transit prioritization, transportation demand management, and fee-based vehicle registration incentives.
Waste	Policies that increase waste diversion, promote reuse, and help convert refuse trucks to zero-emission vehicles.

Learn more at: energyoffice.colorado.gov/local-impact-accelerator

ELIGIBLE COSTS

What types of policy and project funding can you apply for?

The Accelerator was designed to support local governments in adopting new policies that maximize long-term impact. Applicants can apply for policy funding alone or apply for both policy funding and project funding together. Applicants cannot apply for project funding alone. Policy and project funding do not need to be in the same sector. Because contracts will not be finalized until 2026, a sizable amount of the policy work should occur in 2026.

In all cases, policies must go beyond state requirements. Policies that promote early adoption of a forthcoming state mandate or which aim to opt-in to a state directive that is not required may be considered. Additional detail about eligible policies and projects will be available in the Local IMPACT Accelerator Grant Guidance (posted online June 2025). Examples of eligible policy and project funding costs are shown below.

Sector	Accelerator Policy Adoption Areas
Buildings	Policies that promote building energy codes that exceed the forthcoming Model Low Energy and Carbon Code (due statewide by July 2026), energy performance standards, and energy efficiency incentives.
Land Use	Policies that promote compact housing, parking management, EV charging, renewable energy, and discourage greenfield development.
Transportation	Policies that encourage high quality active transportation infrastructure, transit prioritization, transportation demand management, and fee-based vehicle registration incentives.
Waste	Policies that increase waste diversion, promote reuse, and help convert refuse trucks to zero-emission vehicles.

Funding Areas	Eligible Costs for Accelerator Policy and Project Funding
Policy Funding	Efforts that relate to supporting, developing, or adopting one or more sector policies such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder outreach, education, and facilitation • Consultant support for technical analysis or policy development • Studies that inform policy adoption • Small pilot projects*
Project Funding	Projects that implement or advance one or more sector policies including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related equipment purchases, rebate programs, or reduced fee programs • Consultant support for project implementation • Studies that proceed or advance project implementation • Larger pilot projects* • Other incentives or similar efforts to increase policy impact

*Generally, projects that include construction, hiring staff, and long timelines will be less competitive.



Updated May 2025

Funding Areas

Eligible Costs for Accelerator Policy and Project Funding

Policy Funding

Efforts that relate to supporting, developing, or adopting one or more sector policies such as:

- Stakeholder outreach, education, and facilitation
- Consultant support for technical analysis or policy development
- Studies that inform policy adoption
- Small pilot projects*

Project Funding

Projects that implement or advance one or more sector policies including:

- Related equipment purchases, rebate programs, or reduced fee programs
- Consultant support for project implementation
- Studies that proceed or advance project implementation
- Larger pilot projects*
- Other incentives or similar efforts to increase policy impact

*Generally, projects that include construction, hiring staff, and long timelines will be less competitive.



APPLICATION PROCESS

1

Submit a “Letter of Intent.” that includes the policy/policies you will adopt, a policy funding request, and any additional project dollars.

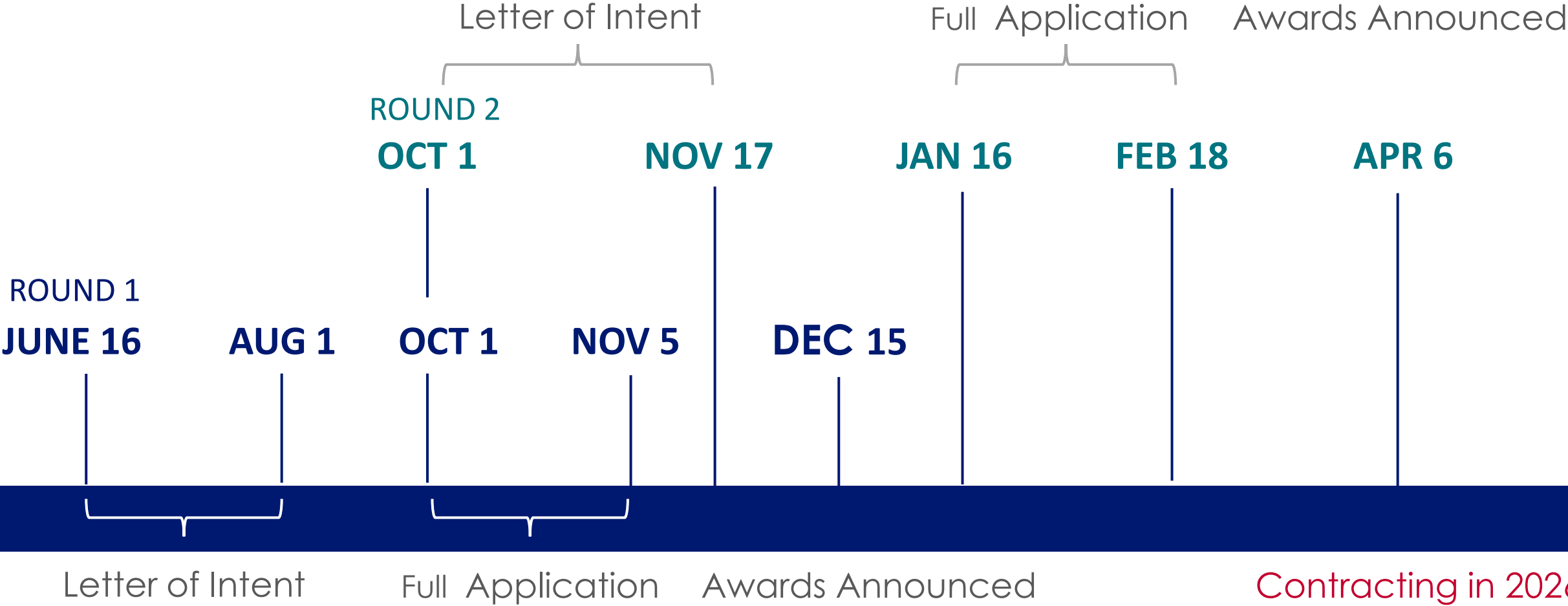
2

If “encouraged,” submit your full application. Contracts for awarded applications expected in Q1 - Q2 of 2026.

3

Have a 2026 kick-off meeting with the Colorado Energy Office, advance your policy, and start your project work thereafter.

2025 APPLICATION TIMELINE











Contracting in 2026



COORDINATING WITH DRCOG

Can I apply to the Accelerator If I'm getting funds from DRCOG?

SECTOR	POLICY	PROJECT
Buildings		
Land Use		
Transportation		
Waste		

Why is this a Question?

- CEO will consider funding efforts to support the adoption of a new building policies that are not funded by DRCOG.
- CEO will not fund post-policy adoption project efforts in the building sector in the DRCOG region.
- CEO will not fund projects alone (in any sector).



PROGRAM LAUNCH

- Accelerator Guidance posted June 2, 2025.
- **CEO Round 1 opens on June 16, 2025!**
- Upcoming events:
 - Launch Webinar on June 17, 2025.
 - Q&A Session Webinar July 1, 2025.



Learn more at: energyoffice.colorado.gov/local-impact-accelerator

QUESTIONS?



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