

Technical Assistance Overview



Dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions from residential buildings is vital for tackling climate change. Rental homes present an added challenge: they are less energy-efficient than others, on average, consuming 15% more energy per square foot than owner-occupied homes. As a result, many renters often experience needlessly high energy bills. Nearly one-third of renters have high energy burdens, meaning they spend more than 6% of their income on energy costs. ACEEE's *Energy Equity for Renters* initiative is tackling the challenge of reducing energy waste in rental housing. Our goal: protect the climate, reduce energy costs, and preserve affordable neighborhoods.

Participants

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) is offering no-cost technical assistance services to up to 5 local governments and community-based organizations (CBOs) that primarily serve disadvantaged communities and/or individuals. This opportunity will be focused on those seeking to improve the energy efficiency of rental housing while also preserving and/or expanding housing affordability. While either local governments or CBOs may apply for technical assistance, any proposed work must involve CBOs working alongside local governments to ensure that any policies and programs supported as a result of this work are community driven.

Application and Timeline

Applications for this technical assistance will be accepted through January 9, 2026. Applicants will be asked to characterize the following:

- Active or planned local work to advance both rental energy efficiency and housing affordability that will occur during the period of February 2026 to June 2027. Examples could include, but are not limited to, city-utility partnerships to increase renter energy affordability, rental property resident or owner engagement, or development of new rental energy efficiency policies or programs.
- How the proposed technical assistance will supplement or support these current and/or planned activities.
- A scope of work outlining the specific roles and timing of activities for the lead applicant, ACEEE, and their local government or CBO partner. The scope of work may cover a period ranging from 2 to 16 months.

We will announce our selections in late January 2026 and will engage with participating communities over the period of February 2026 – June 2027.

Activities and Deliverables

Aligning with ACEEE's policy guide [A New Lease on Energy](#), our technical assistance services for local governments and CBOs will be available to:

- Guide quantitative and qualitative research assessing rental housing and renters' most pressing needs.
- Support community and stakeholder engagement processes with deliverables such as summaries of best and emerging practices, lists of survey questions, and guidance for identifying and contacting rental property owners and residents.

- Conduct scans of existing government policies/programs to identify new or expanded opportunities for reducing rental home energy use.
- Produce guidance that supports the equitable implementation of rental energy efficiency policies and programs (see our [Energy Equity for Renters Toolkit](#) for examples)

We will be able to provide only very limited support for any grant writing activities. Technical assistance will primarily focus on growing local governments and CBOs' knowledge, resources, planning and evaluation procedures, and information sharing with one another.