

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

### **I. WHAT IS IT?**

The Village of Oak Park Energy Efficiency Grant Program (“Program”) was established to provide financial assistance to Owner(s)/Applicant(s) who desire to reduce their home’s consumption of energy.

### **II. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The Program is intended to benefit very-low and low income households. Very-low income households are defined as households with income below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area including Cook County, as defined by HUD. Low income households are defined as households with income below 80% of the AMI for the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area including Cook County. Owner(s)/Applicant(s) will self-certify that their household income meets these requirements, which the Village reserves the right to verify in its discretion.

An Owner(s)/Applicant(s) will be considered ineligible for the Program if:

- An Owner(s)/Applicant(s) owe any unpaid taxes or water bills or other debt to the Village;
- If the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) has any unpaid final judgments of liability from the office of Adjudication which are due and owing;
- If there are any unpaid Village liens on any property owned by the Owner(s)/Applicant(s);
- If the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) is not current on any other Village obligations, or otherwise is not in compliance with requirements of the Village Code, including but not limited to multi-family licensing, alarm permit, or vacant building registration requirements; or
- If the applicable property for which an Owner(s)/Applicant(s) seeks a grant has previously been the subject of a grant under the Program.

#### **Eligibility of Village Employees**

Eligible Owner(s)/Applicant(s) who are also Village Employees are eligible for the Program in accordance with the Village’s Conflict of Interest and Ethics Ordinance.

#### **Eligibility For Other Housing Programs**

Participants in the Program are eligible for other Village housing programs provided they meet the eligibility criteria for those programs.

### **III. WHAT PROPERTY TYPES ARE ELIGIBLE?**

- Owner-occupied dwellings in Oak Park

Eligible properties are owner-occupied single family dwellings containing one to four units. For condominium units, improvements can only be made to those areas within a unit which the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) of the unit has authority to change, alter or improve, as defined by the condominium declarations, by-laws, and/or other rules and regulations as issued and adopted by the applicable condominium association or board. Improvements to common elements and limited common elements, including window or door repairs and replacements, are not eligible for the Program. A condominium unit is defined as a single family dwelling.

- Clear title

The Owner(s)/Applicant(s) must have clear title to the owner-occupied dwelling unit, without any cloud on the title, not including any prior recorded consensual liens. The Owner(s)/Applicant(s) must be the sole title holder of the dwelling unit which will undergo project rehabilitation, unless an acceptable release is obtained from any person on the title agreeing to an additional encumbrance.

### **IV. WHAT WORK IS COVERED UNDER THIS GRANT PROGRAM?**

The Village will reimburse Owner(s)/Applicant(s) for items related to the conservation of energy by upgrading a dwelling unit's thermal protection, such as insulation, water saving fixtures and furnaces. An Owner(s)/Applicant(s) may apply for up to a \$10,000 grant under the Program for purposes of increasing building energy efficiency by adding any or all of the following:

- (1) Installation of insulation;
- (2) Installation of energy efficient lighting, including automatic light sensors or timed light sensors;
- (3) Installation or upgrade of heating, venting and air conditioning (HVAC) and high-efficiency shower/faucet upgrades, including thermostat upgrades;
- (4) Upgraded water heater;
- (5) Air sealing; and/or
- (6) Installation of solar panels.

### **V. HOW DO I APPLY?**

#### **A. Steps**

The following are the steps to take to participate in the Program:

- (1) An Owner(s)/Applicant(s) must complete an application and submit it to the Development Customer Services Department;

(2) An Owner(s)/Applicant(s) must apply for any necessary building permits. An applicable general contractor and all subcontractors must be properly registered in the Village of Oak Park and must submit evidence of insurances and licenses; and

(3) An Owner(s)/Applicant(s) is responsible for selecting an applicable contractor. The Owner(s)/Applicant(s) is required to obtain at least three (3) bids for the work. The applicant may select a contractor from any of the bids so long as the differential between the bids is not greater than 50%.

**B. Priority**

Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. The Program will expire when all grant funds are expended.

**VII. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

**A. Application and Eligibility Review**

The Village will review a completed application for an initial determination of eligibility.

**B. Ineligibility**

If the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) is ineligible, the Village will notify the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) of the reason for ineligibility. If the reason for ineligibility is due to an outstanding debt, judgment or code compliance issue, the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) may re-apply after such matters have been satisfied. For purposes of determining priority, the Owner(s)/Applicant(s)'s place in line will be based upon the date of reapplication if initially determined to be ineligible.

**C. Agreement**

Upon approval of an application, the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) will be required to sign a Grant Agreement substantially in conformance with the Grant Agreement attached hereto.

**D. Building Permits**

The Owner(s)/Applicant(s) must obtain permits from the Village before a contractor may begin any work. All work must be properly permitted and inspected by the Village.

**E. Payment of Requests for Reimbursement**

Upon completion of any applicable work, the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) must submit a Request for Reimbursement Form. The form must be accompanied by the following:

- (1) Contractor's mechanics lien waiver;
- (2) A copy of the Owner(s)/Applicant(s)'s proof of payment to the contractor;

(3) A certification from the contractor that the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) paid for the work; and

(4) A final certificate of completion.

In those cases where the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) requests that payment be made directly to a contractor, the Owner(s)/Applicant(s) must sign a payment authorization form and provide applicable mechanics' lien waivers. The Village will agree to pay a contractor directly upon proof that the Village's payment is the only outstanding payment to be made to the contractor.

If a Request for Reimbursement is completed in conformance with the Program requirements, payment will be made by the Village within thirty (30) days of approval of an invoice.

**VILLAGE OF OAK PARK**

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM  
HOMEOWNER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**  
(Submit in Duplicate)

**THIS ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM HOMEOWNER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT** (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") is made on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_\_ between the Village of Oak Park, 123 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois (hereinafter referred to as the "Village") and \_\_\_\_\_ (name) and \_\_\_\_\_ (name) at \_\_\_\_\_ (address) in Oak Park, Illinois (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Homeowner").

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Village has adopted an Energy Efficiency Grant Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Program") to assist Village residents in their efforts to reduce energy consumption by installing solar energy facilities and other energy saving improvements (hereinafter referred to as the "Improvements"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Program provides a grant to homeowners for the installation of such Improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of the Program Guidelines is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, the Homeowner is the owner and occupant of the residence set forth above; and

**WHEREAS**, the Homeowner has applied to participate in the Program and the Village has determined that the Homeowner is eligible to participate in the Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the above and the terms and conditions set forth below, the parties hereto agree as follows:

**Section 1. Recitals Incorporated.** The above recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth.

**Section 2. Definitions.** The following terms shall have the following meanings when used in this Agreement unless the context clearly indicates a contrary meaning:

2.1. "Contractor" shall mean an Illinois licensed contractor who is registered to do work in the Village and has obtained the necessary licenses and permits from

the Village and any other applicable agency to perform work under the Program.

2.2. "Permit" is a Village permit which the Homeowner must obtain before any improvements can be installed by a Contractor.

2.3. "Program" is the Village's Energy Efficiency Grant Program, operated in accordance with the Program Guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park.

2.4. "Proposal" shall mean a Contractor's detailed bid for equipment, material and labor, with quantities itemized.

**Section 3. Village Approval.** The Homeowner shall submit to the Village all required documentation to obtain applicable permits prior to the installation of the Improvements. No work shall begin until the Village approves the Homeowner's plans, the Homeowner pays the applicable permit fee and the Village issues a building permit. If any work is performed without obtaining the necessary permits, the Homeowner shall not be entitled to reimbursement for the work under this Agreement.

**Section 4. Contract for Work.** Any applicable contract for the Improvements shall be between the Homeowner's contractor and the Homeowner. The Village shall not be a party to any such contract and shall have no liability for breach of contract, damages or any other claim as a result of work improperly performed by the Homeowner's contractor. The Village does not assume any duty to the Homeowner or the Homeowner's contractor for the performance of any work, the quality of any work or the condition of the Homeowner's property. The Village shall only be responsible to make a grant payment when there has been strict compliance with the Program Guidelines and this Agreement.

**Section 5. Permit Required.** The installation of the Improvements shall require a permit issued by the Village's Department of Customer Services Permit Division.

**Section 6. Inspections.** The Homeowner must notify the Department of Development Customer Service Permit Division to inspect the work as required.

**Section 7. Reimbursement Items.** The Village shall reimburse the Homeowner for those items which are considered eligible costs at their actual cost. The maximum amount of reimbursement is \$10,000.00 per property.

**Section 8. Payment of Reimbursement.** The Village will reimburse the Homeowner for eligible items at approved amounts when all work is completed, inspected and approved by the Village. To receive reimbursement, the Homeowner must follow all requirements of this Agreement and submit a claim pursuant to the Village's "Request for Reimbursement Form." Eligible costs include the following:

- 8.1. Cost of installing building insulation and conducting air sealing, and associated work;
- 8.2. Cost of installing energy-efficient lighting, automatic light sensors, and timed light sensors, and associated work;
- 8.3. Cost of upgrading to energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems and thermostats, (HVAC) and associated work;
- 8.4. Cost of upgrading to high-efficiency shower heads and faucets and associated work;
- 8.5. Cost of upgrading to energy-efficient water heater and associated work and;
- 8.6. Cost of installing solar panels and associated work.

**Section 9. Homeowner's Responsibility.** The Village shall not reimburse the Homeowner for any of the following costs:

- 9.1. Future maintenance of any Improvements and all other related equipment;
- 9.2. Use of materials that do not meet the requirements of the Village's specifications or codes; or
- 9.3. Ancillary improvements installed by the Homeowner unrelated to the Improvements authorized to be installed pursuant to this Agreement and the Program Guidelines.

**Section 10. Indemnification.** The Village and its officers and employees are statutorily immune from liability for failing to inspect the condition of any property, including the Homeowner's property, other than its own. In addition, the Village does not guarantee the quality or the performance of the work to be performed with the grant funds to the Homeowner under this Agreement. Inspections performed by the Village for the Program shall be conducted in the same manner as inspections performed by the Village for any other permitted work in the Village. As such, the Village has no liability for the performance or non-performance of the work performed on behalf of the Homeowner work, or the quality of the work performed by the Homeowner's contractors, or the condition of the Homeowner's property. The Village is not a party to the agreement between the Homeowner and any of its contractors and therefore, the Village is not liable for a breach of any contract or damages caused by the Homeowner's contractors. The Village assumes no duty whatsoever to the Homeowner under the Program. The Homeowner shall indemnify, defend and hold the Village, its officers, officials, employees, agents and volunteers harmless against any and all claims whether in tort, contract or under any

other theory of liability for any property damage, personal injury, economic damages, contractual damages or any other damages or loss of any other kind as a result of the work performed by the Homeowner's contractors or for the Homeowner's participation in the Program.

**Section 11. Covenant Not to Sue and Waiver.** The Homeowner forever releases and discharges the Village, its officials, officers, agents, employees and volunteers from all losses, claims, demands, damages, liabilities, actions or causes of action which arise out of the Village's performance of this Agreement. The Homeowner covenants and agrees to pay for or reimburse the Village and its officials, officers, employees, volunteers and agents for any and all costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, liabilities or expenses incurred in connection with investigating, defending against, or otherwise in connection with any such losses, claims, demands, damages, liabilities actions or causes of action. The Village shall have the right to select legal counsel and to approve any settlement in connection with such losses, claims, demands, damages, liabilities actions or causes of action. The provisions of this section shall survive the completion of the work to be performed by the Homeowner under this Agreement with the Village's grant funds. The Homeowner covenants not to sue or otherwise bring any action in law or equity against the Village, its officials, officers, agents, employees or volunteers for any losses, claims, demands, damages, liabilities, actions or causes of action, expense, debt or liability of any nature whatsoever which the Homeowner may sustain arising out of the Village's performance of this Agreement or the Homeowner's participation in the Program.

**Section 12. Disclaimer.** The Program is designed to assist homeowners in reducing energy consumption and to install solar energy facilities. However, energy upgrades do not assure cost savings or risk reduction. Cost savings depend on variables including weather, utility prices, building performance, occupant behavior, operations and maintenance practices, and cost and quality of the contractor work. There is always a risk of electrical service interruption as a result of power line damage, obstruction, extreme weather conditions, or other unforeseen factors. The Homeowner agrees to assume the risk of loss of any future property damage after installation of any Improvements under this Agreement.

**Section 13. Homeowner Responsible for Corrective Work.** Asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, and other hazardous materials, such as mercury and PCBs in lighting ballasts, may be present in building materials. Licensed, insured, and experienced professionals should be retained to test, manage, remove, and dispose of all hazardous materials in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The Homeowner is responsible to test, inspect, and perform any corrective work that may become necessary for the Improvements.

**Section 14. No Village Reimbursement Obligation.** If the Homeowner fails to comply with all requirements of this Agreement or to complete any installation of the Improvements as provided in this Agreement, the Village shall have no obligation to reimburse the Homeowner for eligible expenses.

**Section 15. Termination; Suspension.** During the term of this Agreement, the Village may terminate the agreement for cause or suspend payments of grant funds due to: (1) use of

funds in a manner inconsistent with this Agreement; (2) the Homeowner's failure to submit required documents pursuant to this Agreement; or (3) the Homeowner's failure to perform in accordance with this Agreement. The Village shall provide written notice of said termination to the Homeowner by regular mail to the address listed on page 1.

**Section 16. Entire Agreement.** This Agreement sets forth all the covenants, conditions and promises between the parties, and it supersedes all prior negotiations, statements or agreements, either written or oral, with regard to its subject matter. There are no covenants, promises, agreements, conditions or understandings between the parties, either oral or written, other than those contained in this Agreement.

**Section 17. Non-Waiver of Rights.** Any failure on the part of the Village to exercise any right under this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of that right.

**Section 18. Governing Law and Venue.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois both as to interpretation and performance. Venue for any action brought pursuant to this Agreement shall be in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois.

**Section 19. Binding Authority.** The individuals executing this Agreement on behalf of the Consultant and the Village represent that they have the legal power, right, and actual authority to bind their respective parties to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**Section 20. Non-Assignment.** This Agreement shall not be assigned, sublet, or transferred by the Homeowner without the express written consent of the Village.

**Section 21. Headings and Titles.** The headings or titles of any provisions of this Agreement are for convenience or reference only and are not to be considered in construing this Agreement.

**Section 22. Counterparts; Facsimile or PDF Signatures.** This Agreement shall be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original and together shall be one and the same Agreement. A facsimile or pdf/email copy of this Agreement and any signatures thereon will be considered for all purposes as an original.

**Section 23. Effective Date.** This Agreement shall take effect on its last date of its execution by one of the parties as set forth below.

**[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK –  
SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed by their duly authorized representatives on the dates set forth below.

**VILLAGE OF OAK PARK**

**HOMEOWNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Lisa Shelley  
Its: Interim Village Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_