



Memorandum

To: Community College Business Officers

From: Karren Bee-Donohoe, Director
Office for Capital Facilities

Date: June 1, 2013

RE: NYSERDA grants as local funding for capital projects

As traditional local sources of funding for the 50% local costs for capital projects become increasingly difficult to obtain, many Colleges and their Sponsors have been seeking new sources of funding to serve as the local share of project costs.

SUNY's Office for Capital Facilities (OCF) received an inquiry from a College as to whether NYSERDA (New York State Energy and Research Development Agency) grants can serve as the local share.

NYSERDA (<http://www.nyserda.ny.gov>) is a public benefit corporation created by statute. NYSERDA's aim is to help New York meet its energy goals: reducing energy consumption, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, and protecting the environment.

Inquiries were made to NYSERDA, SUNY staff and SUNY Counsel, and others to better inform OCF of the potential for these funds to be used.

After review, it was concluded that NYSERDA is funded by state rate payers through System Benefit Charge that appears on utility bills. Therefore, it is the opinion of SUNY Counsel that the funds in question derive from this charge and as such are not part of a state or legislative appropriation to NYSERDA. They are not public (i.e. taxpayer) funds and may be used as the 50% match for community college capital projects.

SUNY hopes this newly identified source of local funding will assist your College and Sponsor in the continuing search for capital funding to serve to match State funds.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself at 518-320-1894, karren.bee-donohoe@suny.edu or Community College Capital Program Manager Rebecca Goldstein at 518-320-1501, rebecca.goldstein@suny.edu. Thank you.

Copy: Rebecca Goldstein
Dona Bulluck
Robert Haelen

To Learn
To Search
To Serve