

EPA Discretionary Grant Opportunity Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) offering \$932 million in funding to replace existing non-zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emission vehicles, support zero-emission vehicle infrastructure, and train and develop workers. The Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles (CHDV) Grant Program application deadline is 11:59 pm ET on July 25, 2024. EPA anticipates notifying selectees by November 2024 and awarding the grants by February 2025.

Eligible expenditures for the 2024 CHDV Grant Program include:

- The incremental cost of replacing a non-zero-emission Class 6/7 heavy-duty vehicle with an eligible Class 6/7 zero-emission vehicle
- The purchase and installation of refueling infrastructure that will support vehicles replaced under this program
- Driver/mechanic training related to the maintenance and operation of new technologies, as well as vehicle warranties
- Costs directly related to the implementation, management and oversight of the project, including recipient and subrecipient personnel and benefits, contractual services, consulting on vehicle deployments, travel, supplies and indirect cost

This summary describes this grant opportunity. More information, including the complete NOFO, is available on <u>Grants.gov</u> and from the <u>EPA grant funding program webpage</u>.

Minimum Project Cost and Award Size

EPA anticipates awarding a total of approximately 40 to 160 grants and/or cooperative agreements, ranging from \$500,000 to \$60 million per award. EPA intends to award a minimum of \$400 million for projects serving air quality nonattainment areas. Approximately 70% of the total funding is anticipated for projects replacing school buses under the **School Bus Sub-Program** and approximately 30% of the total funding to projects replacing non-school bus Class 6/7 heavy-duty vehicles under the **Vocational Vehicles Sub-Program**. Additional details about the number and amount of awards under each sub-program are provided below. EPA also anticipates awarding funding to each of the EPA's 10 regions to ensure geographic diversity of projects, subject to the availability of funds, the quantity and quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations described in this document.



APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Thursday July 25, 2024 11:59PM EDT

Grant Program Summaries:



May 17, 2024



EPA anticipates awarding at least 15 awards to eligible applicants from Tribes and territories. The actual award amounts and number of projects awarded under this set-aside may differ from the estimated amounts for many reasons including the number of meritorious applications received and other applicable considerations described in the NOFO. In addition, EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease (including decreasing to zero) the total number and amount of awards under this set-aside.

Expenditure Timeframes

The estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation will be up to 24 months. However, initial project periods of up to 36 months will be allowed where justified by the activities, timeline and milestones detailed in the workplan. The estimated project start date for awards is January 2025.

Eligible Recipients

The following entities are eligible to receive funding under the 2024 CHDV Grant Program:

- States, including U.S. territories
- Municipalities, including public school districts
- Indian Tribes
- Nonprofit school transportation associations

Note that while third party contractors, such as transportation service providers and vehicle and charging equipment manufacturers, are not eligible to apply directly, they may still participate in the CHDV Grant Program by encouraging potential applicants to apply and working with grantees through the bidding process after grants are awarded.





Evaluation Factors

Based on the eight merit criteria listed below and consideration ratings, an overall application merit rating of "Highly Recommended," "Recommended," or "Not Recommended," will be assigned as a result of evaluation team consensus discussion.

- 1. Project Summary and Approach (20 points)
 - a. Overall project approach
 - b. Applicant fleet description
- 2. Environmental Results Outputs, Outcomes and Performance Measures (20 Points)
 - a. Expected project outputs and outcomes
 - b. Performance measures and plan
 - c. Timeline and milestones
- 3. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (15 points)
 - a. Past performance
 - b. Reporting requirements
 - c. Staff expertise
- 4. Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities (20 points)
 - a. Prioritized counties containing Disadvantaged Communities: Nonattainment Areas
 - b. Prioritized counties containing Disadvantaged Communities: areas with Air Toxics Concerts
 - c. Community engagement

- 5. Project Readiness (10 points)
- 6. Project Sustainability (5 points)
- 7. Climate Resilience (5 points)
- 8. Job Quality and Workforce Development (10 points)
- 9. Funding Beyond the Mandatory Cost Share (5 points)
- 10. Budget (20 points)
 - a. Budget detail
 - b. Expenditure of awarded funds
 - c. Reasonableness of costs

Application Requirements

Mandatory Documents:

- Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance
- Standard Form 424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs
- EPA Form 4700-4, Pre-Award Compliance Review Report
- EPA Form 5700-54, Key Contacts Form
- Project Narrative Attachment Form, Project Narrative

HDR's Infrastructure Finance and grant writing professionals stand by ready to support project sponsors applying for funding from the CHDV program.

If you need any assistance or have questions, please contact: Nathan Macek | <u>nathan.macek@hdrinc.com</u> | Rob Mowat | <u>robert.mowat@hdrinc.com</u>

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