



ALLIANCE FOR ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program

2024 Grants

Toolkit for Advocates

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About This Toolkit

On April 24, EPA [opened applications](#) for the [Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program](#). Applications will close on July 25, 2024.

This toolkit was created by the Alliance for Electric School Buses (AESB) for advocates who want to publicize this funding opportunity and ensure school districts benefit from the program. For any questions or comments, please reach out to AESB Coalition Manager Carolina Chacon at carolina@chaconconsulting.com.

About the EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program

Established by the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#), the EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program (CHDVP) provides nearly \$1 billion (\$932 million) in grants to replace Class 6 & 7 vehicles with zero-emission vehicles (ZEV), including 70% of funding for electric school buses. \$400 million of the funding pool will be dedicated to projects in nonattainment for national air quality standards.

EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program At-a-Glance

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Funding Available | \$932 million, with 70% of funding for electric school bus projects |
| Eligible Applicants | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A state, including U.S. territories; 2. A municipality, including public school districts; 3. An Indigenous tribe or intertribal consortium; or 4. A nonprofit school transportation association <p>Applicants may own the vehicles to be replaced, or work with fleet operators to carry out selected projects.</p> |
| Eligible Vehicles | <p>Class 6 or 7 heavy-duty vehicles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Buses • Refuse Haulers/Dump Trucks • Class 6/7 Transit Buses • Delivery Trucks • Utility Trucks • Bucket Trucks • Other Box Trucks |
| Funding Uses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incremental cost of replacing a non-zero-emission Class 6/7 heavy-duty vehicle with a Class 6/7 zero-emission vehicle. • The purchase and installation of fueling infrastructure that will support vehicles replaced under this program. • Driver/mechanic training related to the maintenance and operation of new vehicles and supporting fueling infrastructure, and 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 costs. |
| Applications Open | April 24, 2024 |
| Applications Close | July 25, 2024 at 11:59pm ET |
| Program Structure | School Bus Sub-Program - 70% of funding Vocational Vehicles Sub-Program - 30% of funding |
| Number of Vehicles | 10 minimum for School Bus Sub-Program 3 minimum for Vocational Vehicles Sub-Program <i>Tribes and territories are not subject to vehicle minimums.</i> |
| Priority Applicants | At least \$400 million will go to projects in areas in nonattainment with national air quality standards. EPA anticipates awarding at least 15 grants to eligible applicants from Tribes and territories. Additionally, EPA will prioritize projects that serve disadvantaged communities. |
| Cost Share | Applicants' mandatory cost share must equal 25% of the purchase price of new electric school buses. The EPA will award evaluation points for voluntary cost share and leveraged funding commitments. <i>Tribes and territories are not subject to the cost share requirement.</i> |
| Selection | Applications will be reviewed, scored, ranked, and selected. EPA anticipates that grant awardees will receive notification in November |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 2024, and will receive awards by February 2025. |
| Total Awards | 40-160 grants and/or cooperative agreements, ranging from \$500,000 to \$60 million per award |
| Funding Delivery | Upfront. Funding is dispersed after grant awardees submit proof of purchase orders, but before they make any expenditures. Awardees will have 24 months, up to 36 months if justified, to complete the project. |
| Application Requirements | Applicants must have active GRANTS.gov and SAM.gov accounts. Applicants must apply for the School Bus Sub-Program and Vocational Vehicles Sub-Program separately. |
| Other Requirements | Applicants are required to certify that their school boards are aware of the application. Applicants are also required to certify that they have initiated infrastructure planning with their local utility. Third-party applicants must certify that school districts listed on their application are aware and supportive of the project. |
| Vehicle Scrappage | If the school bus being replaced is engine model year (EMY) 2010 or older, it must be scrapped before the end of the project period. If the school bus being replaced is EMY 2011 or newer, it may be sold or donated, or it may be moved to reduced service with an EMY 2010 or older bus being scrapped in its place. |
| Other Funding | CHDVP funding can be paired with IRA tax credits for electric vehicles and charging stations , and with technical assistance programs, such as EPA Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) and the Joint Office Clean Bus Planning Awards . |
| Labor Considerations | Applications will be evaluated based on applicant demonstrating: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a plan to prepare the workforce for the project, 2. policies and protections to prevent existing workers from being replaced or displaced because of the new vehicles and infrastructure, and 3. activities to incorporate worker voice into the project. |
| For More Information | https://www.epa.gov/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-program/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-grant-program |

Comparing EPA's Programs

EPA now has two major programs for which electric school buses are eligible, the Clean School Bus Program and the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program. Here are differences between the two:

Clean School Bus Program (CSBP)

- Part of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- \$5 billion through FY 2026
- Available through multiple rounds
- Electric, propane or CNG
- School buses only
- Does not require cost-share
- Prioritizes low-income, rural and Tribal applicants

Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program (CHDVP)

- Part of Inflation Reduction Act
- \$1 billion through FY 2031
- Available through only one round
- Electric or zero-emission vehicles only
- Open to Class 6 & 7 vehicles, such as vans, trucks and school buses
- Requires 25% cost-share
- Prioritizes areas in nonattainment of air quality standards

There are also some similarities between CSBP and CHDVP. Both programs (a) include relatively the same eligible applicants; (b) distribute funding in the form of grants and rebates; (c) provide funding for the same activities, including the new vehicle and its charging station, workforce development, and technical assistance; (d) require a vehicle to be replaced, and do not expand fleets; (e) can be combined with elective payment for applicable IRS tax credits.

Who Should Apply?

Please note that this applies specifically to electric school buses, although other vehicle types are eligible for CHDVP funding:

1. **Public school districts in counties identified by EPA as disadvantaged or polluted.** At least \$400 million is dedicated to projects in areas in nonattainment with national air quality standards, which are included in EPA's list above. Applicants can receive additional points in the grants scoring criteria for projects located within these counties.
2. **Public school districts serving the communities most harmed by transportation pollution.** Using EPA's Environmental Justice Screening tool, WRI has developed a list of 1,508 school districts in the communities with the highest levels of poverty, non-white residents, or particulate matter/ozone pollution. Tribal school districts are also included. This list is a great starting point for outreach.
3. **Public school districts waitlisted in previous rounds of the EPA Clean School Bus Program.** These school districts already have experience applying for EPA grants and can submit a competitive application. For CSBP 2022 waitlisted applicants, check here. For CSBP 2023 grant rejected applicants, check here. *(You may need to request access to these AESB files -- if so, please include your full name and organization when requesting access.)*
4. **Tribes and territories.** Both are exempt from cost-share and vehicle-minimum requirements.

Key Messages

- **Applications are now open for electric school bus funding!** Nearly \$1 billion is available, with up to \$652 million available for school districts to replace non-zero-emission school buses with clean, electric models.
- **We welcome more funding for electric school buses.** EPA funding for electric school buses is improving air quality in communities across the country and protecting the health of children who are exposed to deadly diesel pollution riding in diesel buses.
- **The Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program will help meet overwhelming demand for electric school bus funding.** EPA's Clean School Bus Program has been consistently oversubscribed, receiving around \$6 billion in applications for \$1.8 billion in funding offered over the past two years. School districts want to invest in electric school buses and are seeking federal support. The Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program answers that call.
- **The Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program can be paired with other funds and programs.** CHDVP funding can be combined with tax credits for purchasing electric commercial vehicles (like school buses) and their charging infrastructure, now available to tax-exempt entities like school districts through a new provision called elective (or direct) pay. CHDVP funding can also be combined with free technical assistance from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) via the Clean Bus Planning Awards.

- **Federal investments are delivering for communities.** The EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program is another way federal climate plans like the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 are making clean technologies accessible and available to the communities most affected by pollution -- especially for schools, who serve our most vulnerable population.
- **Electric school buses are the best choice for school districts and students.** Electric school buses produce zero tailpipe pollution, which is healthier for students and drivers. Thousands of school districts across the country have invested in electric school buses and are finding that they perform well on all kinds of terrain and climates from Alaska to Arizona, have a lower total cost of ownership and save thousands of dollars a year on fuel and maintenance, and provide a healthier environment for their communities.
- **There's never been a better time to replace aging diesel buses with a clean ride for kids.** With billions in available funding from EPA and robust technical support from [National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Clean Bus Planning Awards](#), the Biden-Harris administration is ready to help school districts invest in the cleanest ride possible. Don't let your community pass up this chance to bring the benefits of electric school buses to your community!

On the CHDVP specifically:

- **Grants are competitive but comprehensive.** They offer higher amounts of funding for worker training, technical assistance and project management, and charging infrastructure.
- **Funding is delivered upfront.** If awarded a grant, your school district will receive grant funding without having to spend money first.
- **Projects in areas with the worst air quality are prioritized and should apply.** Electric school buses will bring the most benefits to the children and communities breathing the dirtiest air.

Key Resources & Materials

EPA

- [Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program website](#)
- [CHDVP Launch Press Release](#)
- [CHDVP Fact Sheet](#)
- [CHDVP Disadvantaged Community County List](#) (receives priority for funding)
- [CHDVP Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)
- [CHDVP Applicant Resources](#)
 - [Sample Project Narrative](#) (requires download)
 - [Supplemental Application Template](#) (requires download)
 - [Electric Utility Partnership Template](#)
 - [School Board Awareness Certification](#) (requires download)
 - [Third Party Approval Certification](#) (requires download)
- [CHDVP Q&A Doc](#)
- [CHDVP 4/30 Webinar](#)
- [CHDVP Newsletter Sign-Up](#)

Joint Office of Energy & Transportation / National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

- [Clean Bus Planning Awards](#)
- [Electric School Bus Analysis Tool](#) [requires download]
- [Electric School Bus Charging Station Planning Form](#) [requires download]

- [Cold Weather Impacts on Electric School Buses](#)
- [Electric School Bus Education](#)

AESB

- [CHDVP Cheat Sheet](#)
- [CHDVP Slide Deck](#)
- [Comparing EPA Programs for School Buses](#)
- [Which EPA Program is Best for My School District?](#)
- [Directory of Case Studies](#) - by state and scenario
- [FAQs](#)
- [Contacts Directory](#)
- [Resources Directory](#)
- [EPA Regional School Bus Contacts Directory](#)
- [Guide to EPA TCTACs for Grant Technical Assistance](#)
- [Fact Sheet - Tax Credits for Electric School Buses](#)
- [Guidance for Advocates - Tax Credits for Electric School Buses](#)
- [Notes of EPA Webinars on CHDVP](#)
- [Best Practices for School District Outreach on Federal Funding](#)

What Should Advocates Do?

1. **Share the news on social media.** [See sample posts below.](#)
2. **Send out a media statement urging school districts and other eligible applicants to apply.** [See template below.](#)
3. **Reach out to school districts directly and share information about the funding opportunity.** [See template below.](#)

Sample Social Media

Customize your social media posts to make sure they get seen, and don't forget to use the **#CleanRide4Kids** hashtag -- that's how AESB will amplify your posts.

- HUGE NEWS! @EPA has opened \$1 billion in new funding for clean trucks and buses, including up to \$700 million for electric school buses! This is a great opportunity to bring a #CleanRide4Kids to your community. Share with your school district today!
<https://www.epa.gov/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-program/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-grant-program>
- 📢 JUST ANNOUNCED 📢 @EPA has opened applications for a \$700 million opportunity to help school districts deploy electric school buses. Now is the time to invest in a #CleanRide4Kids!

Share the news with school districts in your community:

<https://www.epa.gov/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-program/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-grant-program>

- **[@tag or name of your school district]**, did you see the great news!?! @EPA just opened applications for nearly \$1 billion to replace aging fossil fuel trucks and buses, and school districts can now apply for funding to purchase #electricschoolbuses! ⚡🚌

- Exciting news! @EPA just opened up to \$700 million in grants for school districts seeking to electrify their school bus fleets.

Is the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program the right opportunity for your school district to support a #CleanRide4Kids?

<https://www.epa.gov/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-program/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-grant-program>

- As a member of @alliance4esb, we're thrilled to see a new funding opportunity for school districts to invest in a #CleanRide4Kids! @EPA's \$1 billion Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle Program, with \$700 million for #electricschoolbuses, will improve children's health.

Let's bring electric school buses to [LOCATION]:

[<https://www.epa.gov/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-program/clean-heavy-duty-vehicles-grant-program>]

Sample Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[DATE]

Media Contact: [NAME, CONTACT INFO]

EPA Opens \$1 Billion Program for Clean Trucks and Buses, Including \$700 Million for Electric School Buses

[State/City/County] School Districts Can Apply Now to Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program

[CITY, State] -- Today/Yesterday/On April 24, EPA launched applications for a \$1 billion new program, created by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, to replace fossil fuel trucks and buses with zero-emission models.

The EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program (CHDVP) will allocate up to 70% specifically for electric school buses, meeting the overwhelming demand experienced by EPA's program for clean school buses. The CHDVP will also dedicate \$400 million of the total pool to projects in communities not meeting national air quality standards.

"[COMMUNITY] are breathing dirty air polluted by diesel trucks and buses, and the EPA's Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program can improve our air quality by helping [STATE] invest in clean trucks and buses," said [NAME, TITLE]. "We are especially excited to help school districts apply for electric school bus funding to protect the health of XXX,XXX school children riding diesel school buses. Electric vehicles are also cleaner for the environment and have a lower total cost of ownership, saving fleets thousands of dollars each year. We can't let this chance pass us by to bring the benefits of clean heavy-duty vehicles to our [COMMUNITY]."

OR

"There's never been a better time to replace fossil fuel trucks and buses with clean vehicles, thanks to federal funding from the Biden-Harris Administration," said [NAME, TITLE]. "This is

the perfect opportunity for school districts to secure funding to invest in electric school buses, the best choice for students and the communities buses drive through. We urge states and municipalities to apply for the EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program by [DATE].”

The deadline for grant proposals is July 25, 2024. Throughout the application period, EPA will host a number of informational webinars and is accepting questions at cleanhdvehicles@epa.gov. Grant recipients will be announced in November 2024,, with awards distributed in February 2025. School districts that are interested in applying are encouraged to contact their electric utility immediately to begin planning their electric school bus charging needs.

As a member of the [Alliance for Electric School Buses](#), a national coalition of not-for-profit organizations committed to an equitable electrification of the nation’s school bus fleet, [ORGANIZATION] has advocated for federal funding for zero-emission, electric school buses since 2019.

Over 20 million U.S. children ride nearly 500,000 school buses, most which run on diesel, whose exhaust is a known carcinogen that can lead to or worsen respiratory illnesses like asthma. Low-income students and Black, Indigenous, Latinx and students of color are more likely to ride in school buses and be exposed to harmful pollution. Advocates throughout the country are calling for a full transition to zero-emission school buses that won’t pollute the air our children and communities breathe. [include more information about asthma rates/advocacy efforts/other local details]

For more information on the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program, visit the EPA’s [website](#). School districts can also receive technical assistance through the Joint Office’s [Clean Bus Planning Awards](#).

###

Sample Email to School District

Subject: Choose one of the options below

- Please apply to EPA Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle Program for electric school bus funding
- [SCHOOL DISTRICT] should take advantage of EPA program for new school vehicles
- Federal funding for [SCHOOL DISTRICT] now available!

Dear [Superintendent/School Board Member/Etc]:

I wanted to share this opportunity to save [SCHOOL DISTRICT] money through federal funding that will cover the upfront cost of new school buses. The EPA Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle Program just opened applications for nearly \$1 billion in grants for school districts to purchase electric school buses and other school vehicles. Applications are due on July 25, 2024. Additional information can be found [here](#).

As a [parent/community member/student], I’m concerned about the negative effects diesel fumes have on children who ride the school bus daily. Studies show that diesel exhaust:

- Can be 4-12 times more polluting than ambient air
- Worsens or leads to asthma, heart and lung diseases, and even cancer
- Impacts students’ cognitive abilities and performance in school tests
- Pollutes our environment and worsens air quality

Electric school buses produce zero tailpipe emissions, improve air quality for children and drivers, and are saving school districts money on fueling and maintenance costs. Other school districts in [STATE] have found them to perform well in a variety of conditions, better than diesel.

The EPA Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle Program is providing grants to cover the incremental cost of electric trucks and buses and their charging stations, as well as driver/mechanic training and project management. Public school districts are eligible to apply now through July 25. If you're interested in exploring this exciting opportunity, please check out [EPA's comprehensive website](#), attend an [upcoming informational webinar](#), and [sign up to receive program announcements](#).

We would be happy to share resources, connect you with other school districts who've electrified, and answer any questions you have about this program or electric school buses. If you're available to meet, please let us know and we can arrange a call at your earliest convenience.

We urge you to apply for EPA funding and bring electric school buses to [SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME]!

Thank you,

[NAME, ADDRESS]

Sample Email to State or County Agency

Hello,

I wanted to ensure you saw the announcement: EPA has just opened the new [Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program](#). This historic \$932 million program opens the door for states, municipalities, and Tribes to receive federal grants to deploy electric school buses, transit buses, garbage trucks, delivery trucks, and other heavy-duty vehicles.

[NAME OF COUNTY or XX OF COUNTIES IN STATE] is included in [EPA's list of communities that will receive priority for awards](#). This is a great opportunity to bring clean, efficient transportation to [STATE] at subsidized rates. Program funding can be used to purchase new vehicles and their warranties; install and maintain their charging infrastructure; train workers; and cover project implementation costs, including personnel, benefits, travel, supplies, and more. Electrifying heavy-duty vehicles would reduce pollution, improve air quality, and make our communities healthier.

[OUR ORGANIZATION] would be happy to share resources or connections that would facilitate [STATE or COUNTY] applying for this program. Grant proposals are due on July 25, 2024.

We can't let this chance at more resources for our community pass us by. Will [AGENCY] consider applying for this \$932 million program? [OPTIONAL: Add if you've spoken to school districts in their county/state that would like to pool together an application with other school districts under a state/county applicant.]

Please let us know what questions you have and how we can be helpful.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[NAME]

Frequently Asked Questions

For FAQs on electric school buses, see [this document](#).

Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants include states (including territories), municipalities, Indigenous tribes, and nonprofit school transportation associations. School districts are subdivisions of a state.

Which Vehicles Are Eligible?

Class 6 & 7 vehicles, such as:

- Class 6 and Class 7 school buses (such as Type C school buses)
- Other Class 6 and Class 7 vehicles, including (but not limited to):
 - Refuse Haulers/Dump Trucks
 - Class 6/7 Transit Buses
 - Delivery Trucks
 - Utility Trucks
 - Bucket Trucks
 - Other Box Trucks

Who Is Prioritized?

Communities with the worst air quality. At least \$400 million of the total funding for this program will be used to fund projects serving one or more communities in areas designated as in nonattainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Additionally, the program will also prioritize projects in counties with at least one census tract where the 2019 Air Toxics Screening Assessment is above the 80th percentile for census tracts nationwide.

EPA will prioritize projects that serve disadvantaged census tracts as identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and census block groups at or above 90th percentile for EJScreen's Supplemental Indexes, as well as any geographic area within Tribal lands as included in EJScreen.

How Much Funding Is Available?

EPA is offering \$932 million for this funding round. Of total funding, EPA is making available 70% exclusively for electric school buses, approximately \$652 million. The other \$280 million is reserved for vocational vehicles.

What Can Funding Cover?

Funding can support zero-emission vehicle adoption and deployment. Eligible activities include:

- The incremental cost of replacing a non-zero-emission Class 6/7 heavy-duty vehicle with a Class 6/7 zero-emission vehicle.
- The purchase and installation of fueling infrastructure that will support vehicles replaced under this program.
- Driver/mechanic training related to the maintenance and operation of new vehicles and supporting fueling infrastructure, and 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 costs.

What Are the Application Requirements?

Applicants need an active GRANTS.GOV and SAM.GOV accounts. Registration for these accounts take a month or more to process, and SAM.GOV accounts can expire after a year of inactivity.

Applicants must submit grant proposals (15-page max) including a project narrative and budget, as well as multiple required and optional forms.

How Are Awards Selected?

This is a competitive process. Submitted applications will be reviewed, scored, ranked and selected by evaluation panels.

What Happens After Selection?

Awardees will have 24 months, up to 36 months, to complete the requirements. Additional reporting will be required, as well as the scrappage, donation or sale of older vehicles.