



ALLIANCE FOR ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program 2024 Grants Toolkit for Policymakers

About this Toolkit

This toolkit has been created by the Alliance for Electric School Buses to **help policymakers educate constituents and stakeholders about the EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program**. On April 24, EPA [opened applications](#) for the [Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program](#). Applications will close on July 25, 2024.

This toolkit includes:

- Key Facts About the Program
- Topline Messages
- Sample Social Media Posts
- Sample Email to School Districts

The [Alliance for Electric School Buses \(AESB\)](#) is a coalition of not-for-profit advocacy groups dedicated to transitioning the nation's nearly 500,000 mostly-diesel school buses to electric models that will clean up the air 20 million children breathe. We are committed to ensuring that this transition starts in the highest-need school districts in the most polluted areas and creates good careers for U.S. workers. The AESB works with policymakers, impacted communities, and fellow advocates to support the successful and equitable implementation of federal funding for electric school buses.

For any questions, please contact Carolina Chacon, AESB Coalition Manager, 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) will provide \$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. Eligible applicants can apply now through July 25, 2024 at 11:59 pm ET.

Grant applications are competitive. Awards will be announced in November 2024.

The information below is a summary of EPA's [CHDVP Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#).

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.

Who Can Apply?

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

Applicants may own the vehicles to be replaced, or work with fleet operators to carry out selected projects.

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.

EPA will also set aside at least 15 grants for Tribes and territories.

What Can Funding Cover?

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

- The 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 Buses Are Eligible for Funding?

New Class 6 or 7 electric school buses, engine model year 2023 or newer.

Repowered electric school buses are not eligible for funding at this time. Buses must be purchased, not leased or leased-to-own.

How Much Funding Per Bus?

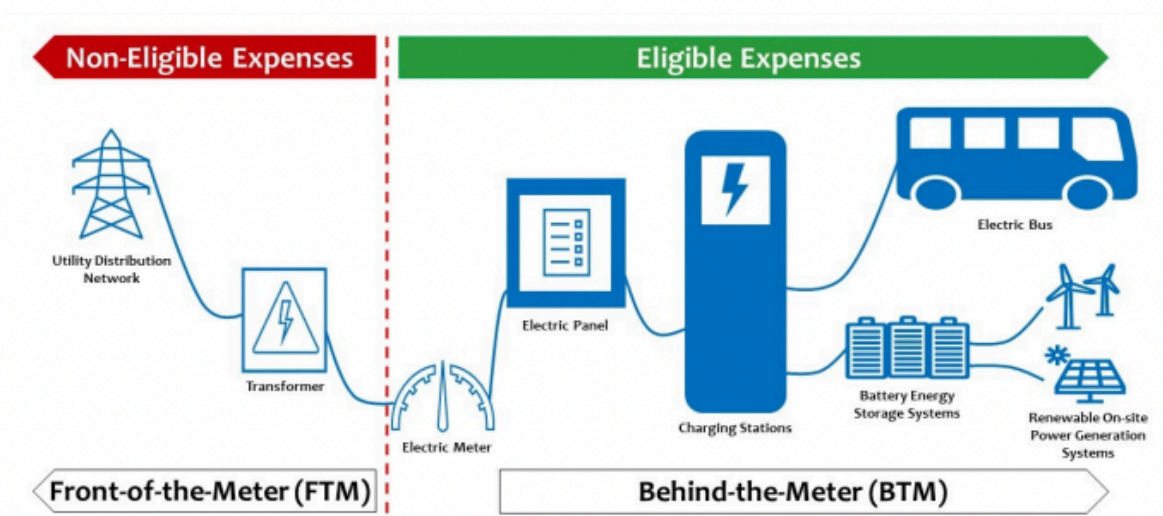
EPA will provide a combined funding amount to cover both bus and infrastructure costs. Winners will decide how they split the funding between bus and charger.

Applicants will need to cover 25% of the cost, which can include in-kind administrative costs. Tribes and territories are waived from the cost-share requirement.

Project implementation costs are NOT subject to the per-vehicle cap.

	EPA Cost Share Percentage of New Vehicle	Per Vehicle Funding Cap (Vehicle + Infrastructure)
School Bus	75%	\$280,000
ADA-Compliant School Bus	75%	\$300,000

Figure 1: Eligible and Non-Eligible Infrastructure Expenses



Build America, Buy America requirements may apply to charging equipment

Each expense must be clearly identified by line-item in the application.

- Electric school bus
 - Including delivery and warranty costs
- Electric school bus charging equipment
 - Alternative Current Level 2 Chargers
 - Direct Current Fast Chargers
 - Bidirectional Chargers - V2G-enabled
- Charging equipment installation from the electrical meter to the charging station
 - Design and engineering
 - Trenching, wiring, and electrical upgrades
 - Labor and permitting
 - Telematics and charge management software
 - Battery energy storage systems or renewable power generation systems
- Workforce development
 - Training for drivers, mechanics, electricians and other essential staff
 - Consulting services

Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program funding cannot be combined with other federal funding, but can be paired with Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credits and other state, local, and private funding.

What's the Application Process?

- Applicants will need active GRANTS.GOV and SAM.GOV accounts that provide Unique Entity Identifiers to submit their application packages.
- Applicants will submit several required forms, a project narrative and budget (15 pages max), as well as optional supporting materials.
- Once applications are submitted, they will be reviewed, scored, and ranked, with separate teams for each sub-program.

How Are Awards Selected?

This is a competitive process. Submitted applications will be reviewed, scored, ranked and selected by evaluation panels according to evaluation criteria. EPA anticipates selecting 40-160 awards, \$500,000 to \$6 million per award. EPA may provide full or partial funding.

Awards will be announced in November 2024. Funding will be distributed December 2024; projects are expected to begin January 2025.

What Happens After Selection?

Awardees will have 24 months, up to 36 months, to complete the requirements. Additional reporting will be required. Selectees are required to scrap 2010 or older diesel buses, or scrap, sell, or donate 2011 or newer internal combustion engine buses.

What's the Difference Between the EPA Clean School Bus Program and EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program?

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

What Can My Office Do?

We need help spreading the word about this funding opportunity!

Policymakers can help by:

1. **Sharing news of the program on social media.** Making stakeholders and community members aware of the program is important to ensure the program's success, as well as to highlight Congressional and administrative accomplishments.
2. **Sending information to school districts in your district or state.** Share key program details and encourage them to apply, directly or through a third party, before the July 25, 2024 deadline. Prioritize outreach to school districts on EPA's disadvantaged communities county list.
3. **Hosting or joining events with electric school buses.** If possible, schedule an electric school bus tour or demonstration so that community members and stakeholders can see and experience this innovative technology firsthand. Contact Clean School Bus [rebate winners from 2022](#) or [grant winners from 2024](#) to see what buses are available nearby.
4. **Contacting electric utilities in your district or state.** Ask them if they plan to support school districts and school bus operators in applying for funding, or how they will help them implement the funding if selected.

Key Links

Environmental Protection Agency (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 O&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](#)

Alliance for Electric School Buses (AESB)

- [Comparing EPA Programs for School Buses](#)
- [Decision Tree - Which EPA Program is Best for My School District?](#)
- [Answers to Electric School Bus FAQs](#)
- [Resources Directory](#)
- [Fact Sheet - Tax Credits for Electric School Buses](#)

Topline Messages

- **\$932 million is available in upfront funding for states, municipalities, public school districts, Tribes and others to invest in electric heavy-duty vehicles.**
 - EPA is accepting applications through July 25, 2024 and is offering up to \$280,000 per electric school bus and charger, plus project implementation costs.
 - Grants are competitive but comprehensive.
 - 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.
- **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](#).
- **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, with over 1,500 applications not funded.
- The Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program answers that call.
- **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.
 - The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 created the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program to ensure school districts can transition to buses that are clean, healthy, and better for our students and communities.
- **Electric school buses are the best choice for students, drivers, and the communities they drive through.**
 - Electric school buses produce zero tailpipe emissions, protecting students, drivers and communities from harmful air pollutants that can lead to asthma, cancer, and other heart and lung illnesses.
 - Studies show that diesel pollution can also impact students' [academic performance](#) and [even school attendance](#). Children are particularly vulnerable to this pollution because their lungs and brains are still developing.
 - Electric school buses also generate [fewer climate emissions than diesel and propane](#) buses over their lifecycle. As the electric grid gets cleaner, with new renewable resources coming online, electric school buses will be powered by clean energy.
 - With fewer parts and an electric drivetrain, electric school buses can [save school districts thousands of dollars](#) in maintenance and fuel costs -- which can then be repurposed by schools for other expenditures.
 - Students and drivers love electric school buses. Electric school buses are quiet, making it easier to hear students and other noises inside and outside the bus. They are smooth to drive and responsive, especially praised for their acceleration and regenerative braking. Drivers that get trained on electric school buses gain valuable skills with electric vehicles, and don't endanger their health breathing in toxic diesel fumes.
- **With new federal funding, state support, and community demand, there's never been a better time to choose a #CleanRide4Kids.**

Sample Social Media

You can repost content from the EPA and add your own comments, or post your own.

Easy Links to Reshare

X/Twitter Posts

- [EPA](#)
- [EPA](#)

Sample Content

- Applications are now open for @EPA's Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Grants! \$932 million is available, including \$652 million for school districts to invest in electric school buses. We won't miss this opportunity to bring funding to [STATE].

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

- In 2022, I was proud to vote for the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which created the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program. @EPA just opened a \$932 million grants opportunity for public fleets to invest in electric vehicles and improve air quality..

My office is ready to work with public fleets in [STATE] to apply!

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

- Did you know school buses are the #1 of public transportation in the country? The EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program has \$652 million to upgrade our nation's school bus fleet to electric models that are cleaner for students, healthier for communities, and better for our environment.

School districts and other eligible applicants can apply now through July 25, 2024. Learn more about this program:

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

Sample Email to School Districts

Hello,

On behalf of [OFFICE], I wanted to be sure you saw the good news: **\$932 million is now available through Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program Grants.** EPA is now accepting applications from states, municipalities, Tribes, school districts and nonprofit transportation associations seeking to replace aging diesel heavy-duty vehicles with zero-emission models. This includes school buses, box trucks, delivery trucks, utility trucks, and other Class 6 & 7 vehicles.

EPA is accepting applications through July 25, 2024 and is offering funding to cover vehicle replacement, charging infrastructure, workforce development, and other applicable project implementation costs.

Has your school district considered electric school buses? If you're looking at how to achieve cost savings in maintenance and fueling, test out the latest clean technology, or simply clean up your fleet, this could be your opportunity.

OR

We see from the [EPA website](#) that **[SCHOOL DISTRICT]** applied for rebate funding in 2022 and was waitlisted. We strongly encourage you to consider applying again.

Proposals for projects in [disadvantaged communities or areas with air quality issues](#) will be prioritized, receiving more points in their application. \$400 million is allocated specifically for projects in communities in nonattainment of national air quality standards. There is also a set-aside of 15 awards for Tribes and territories.

For more information, please visit the [Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program website](#) or attend an [upcoming informational webinar](#).

Our office would be glad to be a resource for you as you consider this funding opportunity. We are committed to helping schools, counties, and communities invest in zero-emission technology, and to bringing federal funding to **[STATE/DISTRICT]**. Please let me know what questions you have and how we can help **[ENTITY]** apply.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

Attach:

- [CHDVP Launch Press Release](#)
- [CHDVP Fact Sheet](#)
- [CHDVP Disadvantaged Community County List](#)
- [CHDVP Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)
- [CHDVP Applicant Resources](#)
- [CHDVP Newsletter Sign-Up](#)