

# 2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

April 26, 2023

<u>Agency:</u> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<u>Bureau:</u> Office of Transportation and Air Quality
<u>Application Deadline:</u> August 22, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> Not listed

## Description

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing \$400 million in grants to incentivize and accelerate the replacement of existing school buses with clean and zero-emissions school buses through the 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Grant Program.

## Eligible Recipients

- **Local or State governmental entities** responsible for:
  - Providing school bus service to one or more public school systems, or
  - The purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses;
- **Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and tribally controlled schools** that are responsible for:
  - Providing school bus service to one or more Bureau-funded schools, or
  - The purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses; nonprofit school transportation association; and eligible contractors;
- **Public charter school districts** responsible for the purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses for that charter school
- **Eligible contractors** that have the capacity:
  - To sell, lease, license, or contract for service clean school buses, zero-emission school buses, charging or fueling infrastructure, or other equipment needed to charge, fuel, or maintain clean school buses or zero emission school buses, to individuals or entities that own, lease, license, or contract for service a school bus or a fleet of school buses; or
  - Arrange financing for such a sale, lease, license, or contract for service;
- **Nonprofit transportation associations** that:
  - Are operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable or similar purposes in the public interest;
  - Are not organized primarily for profit; and
  - Use their net proceeds to maintain, improve and/or expand their operations.

## Matching Grant Requirements

None required

## Eligible Projects

CSB grants provide funding to eligible recipients so that they may replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission models. Eligible activities include the replacement of existing internal combustion engine (ICE) school buses with electric, propane, or compressed natural gas (CNG) school buses, as well as the purchase of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) infrastructure and EVSE installations.

The CSB grant program has two separate sub-programs:

1. School District Sub-program: For school district and Tribal applicants, targeting large single-fleet turnovers that may have been limited by the 25-bus maximum in the rebate program
  - a. Applicants in the School District Sub-Program must request a minimum of 15 school buses and can request up to a maximum of 50 school buses
2. Third-Party Sub-program: For third-party applicants to apply in partnership with school districts, particularly small, rural, Tribal, or low-income beneficiaries that may benefit from third-party technical support, grant administration and coordination. Third-Party Sub-program applicants must serve at least four school district beneficiaries to be eligible for funding under this program
  - a. Applicants in the Third-party Sub-Program must request a minimum of 25 school buses and may request up to a maximum of 100 school buses

A single application may target multiple fleets, school districts, and/or bus types. EPA anticipates awarding a total of 25-50 grants under this program.

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## New or Existing Program

New

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## Tips for Being Competitive

As a Justice40-covered program, the CSB program will target communities with environmental justice concerns, including communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental, climate change, and human health harms or risks, and support a broad geographic distribution of funds. “Disadvantaged communities” must meet one or more of the following prioritization criteria:

- High-need school districts and low-income areas
- Rural school districts
- Bureau of Indian Affairs-funded school districts
- School districts that receive basic support payments for children who reside on Indian land

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## Labor Requirements

None specified

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## Agency Contact

[cleanschoolbus@epa.gov](mailto:cleanschoolbus@epa.gov)

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**Upcoming Events**

- [Wednesday, May 10 at 3:00PM ET](#): NOFO Information Session
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**Partners Required**

Applicants may optionally submit documentation of partnership with the utility to demonstrate engagement with their utility on electric buses and charging infrastructure. In addition, letters of support that demonstrate strong, long-term involvement throughout the project from a variety of project partners are encouraged, but not required.

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**Total Allocation**

\$400 million

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**Anticipated Award Date**

February to March 2024

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**Resources**

- [Clean School Bus Grant Program - EPA](#)
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity - EPA](#)
- [Grant Opportunity - Grants.gov](#)