

Applicant Teleconference Questions and Answers for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Hybrid and Zero- Emission Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) Solicitation for Third-Party Administrator

June 29, 2023

Introduction

On June 29, 2023, California Air Resources Board (CARB or Board) held an Applicant ZOOM webinar to answer questions regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Solicitation for the HVIP third-party administrator (Solicitation). The solicitation is for an administrator to implement \$587.7 million of funding allocated to HVIP in the FY 2022-23 Funding Plan for Clean Transportation Incentives (Funding Plan) approved by the Board in November 2022.

HVIP is the cornerstone of CARB's advanced technology heavy-duty incentives, providing funding since 2010 to support the long-term transition to zero-emission trucks and buses. HVIP offers point-of-sale discounts for zero-emission trucks and buses statewide. HVIP is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment, particularly in overburdened communities. These investments accelerate the transition to low carbon freight and passenger transportation with a priority on providing health and economic benefits to California's most disadvantaged communities. Since its inception, over 60 percent of awarded HVIP funding has benefited disadvantaged and low-income communities.

The questions answered in this document include those received via email before the ZOOM webinar and questions raised during the teleconference. The following written responses take precedence over verbal responses provided during the ZOOM webinar.

Applicant Submission

Please follow the instructions listed in the body of the solicitation to submit an application. The application package must be received by CARB no later than 5 p.m. PT on August 29.

Questions and Written Responses

Questions have been edited or combined to improve clarity. The content below reflects the substance of all questions received before or during the Applicant ZOOM Conference.

1.

Q: Could this solicitation fund a new incentive program or *ad hoc* project separate from HVIP? Can this solicitation directly pay for vehicle incentives?

A: No. This is a solicitation for a grantee to administer a program that is already defined (see the [HVIP Implementation Manual](#)) and has been in operation since 2010. The Grant Solicitation outlines the scope of the solicitation, eligible applicants, and grantee expectations.

2.

Q: Is the purpose of the solicitation to change or replace the current administrator?

A: The purpose of this solicitation is not specifically to change the project administrator. CARB is required to re-solicit HVIP at least every three years. The best-scoring applicant will be chosen to administer the project.

3.

Q: Is the intent to maintain the HVIP program as it is currently being run? Is there a possibility through this solicitation to change how the program is structured, funding categories, eligible technologies, or other project criteria?

A: This solicitation itself will have no impact on the substance of HVIP. Changes to project criteria and policy happen through the [annual Funding Plan process](#) (which is approved by the CARB Board in the fall) and revisions to the HVIP Implementation Manual, usually following the approval of policy changes in the Funding Plan. Interested stakeholders can visit the Low Carbon Transportation Investments website to learn more about the Funding Plan process and how to get involved.

4.

Q: In which attachment of the application will an applicant include Letters of Support?

A: Letters of Support can be included in Attachment 10: References. This is found in Appendix A of the solicitation package.

5.

Q: What is the definition of Community-Based Organization (CBO) as used in this solicitation?

A: The solicitation and sample grant agreement directs the selected grantee to work with CBOs for the purpose of public outreach, education, and other partnership to improve HVIP outcomes. CARB does not have a standard definition, but a CBO is generally defined as an organization that is place-based, with an explicit geographic focus area. Often, the organization's staff members, volunteers, or board members reside in the community where the CBO is located. CBOs also usually hold tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.