

Questions and Answers for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Adult Education & Vocational School Zero-Emission Vehicle Technology Training Project Applicant Zoom Conference September 6, 2023

Introduction

On September 6, 2023, California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff held an applicant Zoom conference to answer questions regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Adult Education & Vocational School Zero-Emission Vehicle Technology Training Project Solicitation. The questions answered in this document include questions asked during the Zoom conference and questions received via email by 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time), September 1, 2023. Staff encourages applicants to read through this document as CARB provides more detailed responses to stakeholder questions than discussed at the Zoom conference. In the event of any differences, the following written responses take precedence over verbal responses provided at the Zoom conference.

1. **Question:** Could you provide more details about the adult education program focused on clean air vehicles?

Answer: The Solicitation aims to offer and increase access to workforce training, skill development, job readiness, and professional growth, specifically designed to prepare individuals for careers in the clean transportation sector, with a focus on priority populations. Funding for this Project will support new or expanded existing zero-emission vehicle technology training components for at least one zero-emission vehicle technology area such as light-, medium-, and/or heavy-duty vehicles, heavy-duty off-road equipment and vessels, and electric vehicle charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure and components, systems, and/or parts. For more information, please consult Section V. Scope of Work, of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Adult Education & Vocational School Zero-Emission Vehicle Technology Training Project Solicitation.

2. **Question:** What is the process for obtaining assistance to acquire an electric vehicle for both work and leisure purposes?

Answer: The Solicitation does not allocate funds for the procurement of electric vehicles for either work or leisure activities.

3. **Question:** The grant Solicitation mentions fiscal year 2021-22. Is this a mistake?

Answer: The reference to fiscal year 2021-22 in the grant Solicitation is accurate. The grant funding is sourced from the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Funding Plan for Clean Transportation Incentives.

4. **Question:** Can a public charter school accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, exclusively serving students from 7th to 12th grade up to 21 years old, receive grant funding?

Answer: A public charter school accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and exclusively catering to students from 7th to 12th grade up to 21 years old may be an eligible applicant. Projects should support developing new or strengthening existing zero-emission vehicle technology, infrastructure curriculum, and training programs that lead to job and career advancement for adults in priority populations not taking a traditional college career pathway, as outlined in the Solicitation.

5. **Question:** Is a training resource center affiliated with a community college, providing non-credit workforce training, eligible for this grant?

Answer: A training resource center associated with a community college, offering non-credit workforce training, may not be an eligible applicant. However, community colleges may partner with an eligible applicant such as a California-based, accredited, non-profit, adult education or vocational school institution. Workforce training entities supporting zero-emission vehicle and electric vehicle charging and fueling equipment training and development may also partner with an adult education or vocational school institution applicant. For more information, please consult Section IV. Eligibility, of the Solicitation.

6. **Question:** Can projects be combined with other local, state, or federal programs?
Answer: Projects may be combined with other local, state, or federal programs. Match funds and in-kind services are not required for this project. However, projects should include a description of any in-kind services and matching fund commitments. Match funds and in-kind services will not provide any competitive advantage when CARB scores Project Proposals. For more information, please consult Attachment 3: Proposed Budget, in Appendix A - Application, of the Solicitation.
7. **Question:** What is the upper limit for funding that a single applicant can apply for?
Answer: The highest funding amount that a single applicant may request is \$1.5 million. The proposed budget should demonstrate it is justifiable and reasonable to the Project goals and tasks and demonstrates the need for state funding. Project Proposals should include a description and a Proposed Budget for completing the scope of the Project, the Project Proposal, and the requirements of the Solicitation. For more information, please consult Attachment 3: Proposed Budget, in Appendix A - Application, of the Solicitation.
8. **Question:** Will this funding opportunity be available again in the future?
Answer: Additional funding in the future depends on many factors, including funding appropriations provided by the Legislature, and priorities established by the CARB Board through the annual funding plan public process.
9. **Question:** How detailed do the project proposals have to be?
Answer: The level of detail required for project proposals should adhere to the specific Solicitation requirements. Generally, project proposals should be comprehensive and address all relevant aspects of the project. It is important to note that the project proposal should not exceed 25 pages in length, as stipulated in Attachment 4: Project Proposal, in Appendix A - Application, of the Solicitation.
10. **Question:** How many schools can an applicant work with?
Answer: Each applicant is expected to represent an individual school. If an applicant intends to partner with multiple schools as part of the project, it is essential to clearly identify and describe these collaborations in the project proposal. The specifics of working with multiple schools should be well-defined to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the project's scope and objectives.
11. **Question:** Is there a maximum number of partners an applicant can list on the proposals?
Answer: There is no maximum limit to the number of partners an applicant can include in the project proposals. The selection of partners should be based on their relevance to the project and their ability to contribute meaningfully to its success. While there is no specific cap on partners, it is essential to ensure that each partner's role and contribution are clearly articulated in the proposal.
12. **Question:** Does the following statement still stand? At least 75 percent of proposed project funding must benefit adult education or vocational school institutions and up to 25 percent of proposed project funding can be for the Outreach & Awareness

Plan.

Answer: Specifically, at least 75 percent of proposed project funding must be directed towards benefiting adult education or vocational school institutions, and up to 15 percent of proposed project funding should be allocated for the Outreach & Awareness Plan.

13. **Question:** Please describe the history of the grant and the type of applicants in the past, is this the first time this type of funding has been issued?

Answer: This funding opportunity represents the first time that such funding has been made available through CARB to support adult education and vocational schools. While other workforce funds have been issued in the past to support various workforce projects, this funding initiative is unique in its focus on adult education and vocational school institutions.

14. **Question:** What types of support letters should an applicant provide and how many? Who would be most beneficial?

Answer: There is no set limit on the number of support letters an applicant can provide. To strengthen the project proposal, consider including a variety of support letters that attest to different aspects of the project. Beneficial support letters should verify the qualifications of the applicant, showcase community partnerships and engagement, demonstrate project readiness and implementation capabilities, highlight innovation, emphasize community and program benefits, and underscore the applicant's ability to successfully implement the project. For more information, please consult Attachment 2: MSCD/ISB-188, Applicant Information, Qualifications & Resources, in Appendix A - Application, of the Solicitation. Please also refer to Section L. Other Requirements, of the Solicitation, pertaining to conflicts of interest for additional information about who may or may not provide a support letter.

15. **Question:** How can the projects benefit from partnering with Justice 40 Environmental Justice programs at the Federal Level?

Answer: CARB cannot recommend specific partnerships outside of what is outlined in the Solicitation.

16. **Question:** The West Coast Center of Excellence in zero-emission technology had a program like the Solicitation. How does that affect this Solicitation?

Answer: This Solicitation represents a separate opportunity with its own specific objectives, requirements, and evaluation criteria.