

Official Responses to Questions

April 14, 2026

CORE & HVIP Solicitation Workshop

Question 01

Scope Titles - CORE RFP Scopes C and D do not appear to include title names. Can CARB confirm whether formal titles are intended for Scopes C and D, or if they were omitted intentionally?

Response 01

The solicitation's Scope of Work parts C and D do not have titles as intended.

Question 02

Match / In-Kind Funding Requirements - Is match or in-kind funding required in order to receive a score of 11-20 points in the budget evaluation criteria? If so, please clarify the minimum expectations and acceptable sources of match or in-kind contributions.

Response 02

Each CARB scorer will be free to exercise their own judgement as to the weighting of individual aspects of the scoring rubric. That said, a full score of 20 points will require an applicant's commitment to provide match/in-kind funding. See Response 14 for examples of match funding and in-kind services.

Question 03

Personnel Listing in Attachment 3 - Does every employee who will bill time to CORE or HVIP need to be listed in Attachment 3, or only key personnel? Please clarify the level of detail required for staffing disclosures.

Response 03

Please complete this form for key personnel. For non-key positions with multiple staff proposed, please indicate the number of staff proposed in the Expected Duties field and do not attach their resumes.

Question 04

Zero Emission School Bus Map Scope Clarification - CORE Section B, Public Outreach and Workforce Development, item 4.g. requests a zero-emission school bus map. Since school buses are not typically included within CORE funded activities, can CARB please clarify the intent of this requirement?

Response 04

This provision in the CORE solicitation will not be required of the selected grantee.

Question 05

Please outline the approval workflows, points of review, and typical turnaround times for website content, marketing collateral, and paid advertising campaigns. In addition, clarify whether the level of oversight and review is expected to evolve over time as the awardee gains program familiarity, or whether a standardized approval process will apply for the full term of the contract.

Response 05

Public program media are reviewed by both CARB program staff as well as public-information office staff. Depending on the complexity of the media, program staff may take days to weeks for review. The public-information office typically takes about a week for their review. The level of grantee oversight may change with time, but review of public media will always be conducted before release.

Question 06

Please describe the anticipated handover process for the HVIP website, digital platforms, dashboards, backend platform access and associated communication channels. Specifically, please clarify: What digital assets will be transferred to the selected Grantee, including but not limited to website content, data systems, dashboards, mapping tools, images, videos, outreach materials, and downloadable resources. Whether CARB or the current administrator retains ownership and/or licensing rights to these assets, and whether any assets may need to be recreated, replaced, or relicensed due to ownership, intellectual property, or access constraints. Additionally, please describe the expected transition approach for any existing communication channels (e.g., email lists, newsletters, social media accounts), including whether these will be transferred, reassigned, or newly established by the incoming Grantee, and identify any known risks, dependencies, or limitations associated with the transition.

Response 06

Previous and new grantees will work closely to ensure continuity of program administration. CARB is the owner of all program data and infrastructure, and the previous grantee is committed to the transfer of all program data and infrastructure to any new grantee. The manner of the transfers shall be determined by mutual agreement between the two grantees. CARB is aware of the complexities of such a transfer and anticipates there will be a period of time where there are two grantees administering a program; it would not be an instant transition.

Question 07

To better align our approach with CARB's expectations for program performance, could you please clarify the key performance indicators (KPIs) or success metrics used to evaluate the HVIP administrator? Specifically: What quantitative and qualitative measures does CARB use to assess whether the program is being effectively administered (e.g., voucher processing timelines, fund utilization rates, outreach effectiveness, equity outcomes, stakeholder satisfaction)? Are there established benchmarks or targets for these metrics? How frequently are these performance indicators reviewed, and how do they inform ongoing program management or potential corrective actions?

Response 07

CARB expects the grantee to comply with the terms and conditions listed in the executed grant. CARB expects frequent, open, and frank dialogue with the grantee throughout their administration of the program.

Question 08

Could CARB please clarify expectations regarding the transfer and continuity of existing stakeholder networks? Specifically: Will the current administrator be required to provide access to or transfer established relationships and contact lists, including community-based organizations (CBOs), vehicle dealers, and other program partners? Are there any restrictions related to data ownership, privacy, or usage that would affect the transfer or use of these stakeholder lists by the incoming Grantee? How does CARB envision ensuring continuity of engagement with these stakeholders during the transition period?

Response 08

All program data and infrastructure are the property of CARB, including stakeholder networks, dealer lists, and other program partners. All program data and infrastructure will be transferred directly from the current grantee to the new grantee. Continuity of stakeholder engagement should be managed through communication between the two grantees of past and planned activities.

Question 09

As CARB evaluates proposals for the next phase of HVIP administration, are there specific areas of the program where CARB is seeking innovation, enhancements, or new approaches? For example, this may include (but is not limited to) program operations, marketing & outreach and engagement strategies, data systems, equity outcomes, or stakeholder experience.

Response 09

When scoring applications, CARB evaluators will judge applicants as outlined in Section XI - Evaluation and Scoring. This judging includes areas such as program operations, marketing, and outreach. In a change from past solicitations and in an effort to invite innovation, enhancements, and new approaches, proposed budgets are allowed an increase of up to 10% of funding for administration, support, and services.

Question 10

Your example format to summarize the proposed budget does not include a FY-specific break-out. Would you prefer that we provide three separate annual summaries to clearly distinguish spending between FY 26-27, and optional FY 27-28 and FY 28-29 or would you like us to roll all three potential contract year budgets into a single summary budget?

Response 10

The sample budgeting table is not necessarily a high-scoring clear and detailed table. In whatever format submitted by an applicant, the proposed budget should be for completing all tasks of HVIP or CORE through the entire grant term that has been extended to include three fiscal years of funding.

Question 11

Can you please provide an estimated date for grant execution? We understand that the preliminary grantee selection is estimated in June 2026. How soon do you expect to have the grant execution completed? If you don't have a specific date, can you estimate whether it will be Q3 or Q4 of 2026, or not until Q1 of 2027?

Response 11

We anticipate grant executions to happen in Summer 2026.

Question 12

In the transition from current administrator to new administrator, can you provide an estimated timeframe for the transition period? Do you expect it to be limited to up to three months that the current administrator will continue to process vouchers, or would you expect it to be longer than that?

Response 12

The transition between administrators is not expected to last more than three months.

Question 13

In the question above regarding the estimated date for the grant execution, the solicitation indicates that the Grant Term is through June 30, 2032, but section VII of the scope of work indicates that there is a three-year term of the grant agreement. Is your assumption that the term to expend the initial FY funding will take an estimated 3 years, regardless of additional FY funding? Any clarity you can provide on the funding terms would be helpful.

Response 13

The June 30, 2032, date in the CORE solicitation is a hypothetical grant end date with other potential end dates listed in the same sentence. The *three-year term* phrase is also hypothetical and any initial term could be changed with grant extensions or amendments. Both the June 30, 2032, date and the *three-year term* phrase were used because of estimated timeframes between FY funding allocation and the FY funding being paid out to voucher redemptions.

Question 14

Can you provide examples of in-kind services and/or match funding provided by the current administrator for this program, if they have committed any?

Response 14

An example of match funding would be for the administrative grantee to pay for voucher redemptions with their own money. An example of in-kind services would be for the administrative grantee to perform program work specified in the grant without compensation with grant funds.

Question 15

Your proposed budget format does not appear to include any option to include profit on labor. Does this grant agreement allow for a modest margin to be added to labor costs? If a subcontractor is a for-profit entity, can they include a modest profit?

Response 15

This solicitation is only open to public agencies and non-profit organizations. The grantee and any grantee subcontractors are not to make profit from the grant. They are only to receive grant disbursements for the actual cost of work performed for the grant.

Question 16

Section VII.A.9: Standardized Data Collection Scheme. Section VII.A.15: Heavy-Duty Three-Year Plan. Would this preclude the HVIP Administrator from later applying for project funds when future GFO solicitations are released?

Response 16

The HVIP administrator cannot apply for project funds from the very program it is administrating. The HVIP administrator may apply to administer and/or participate in other CARB programs.

Question 17

Section VII.B: Public Outreach and Workforce Development. Would there be a conflict of interest if the Administrator were to also become a consultant to the "California Transit Training Consortium"?

Response 17

No, this would not be a conflict of interest.

Question 18

Section VII.A.13: Support infrastructure solutions, including providing mobile and temporary charging equipment as requested by CARB. Please clarify what you mean by "providing"? We're assuming this doesn't actually mean providing the equipment.

Response 18

This means facilitating the purchase or leasing, installation, and servicing of temporary charging equipment, backed by grant funds.

Question 19

We are looking forward to being in the HVIP catalog. We heard at the beginning of your presentation that the deadline is in May. Is it?

Response 19

This HVIP solicitation with the May deadline is not for getting your vehicle into the HVIP catalog. The May deadline of this HVIP solicitation is for applying to be the third-party administrator of HVIP. Applying for a vehicle to be in the HVIP catalog is open on a continual basis.

Question 20

I notice that there is \$100 million available. Are buses in the HVIP catalog eligible for that funding?

Response 20

There is currently about \$100 million available for HVIP Standard vouchers, and these vouchers can be for purchasing buses.

Question 21

Is there a normal timeframe that we can figure on getting an answer or review completed on an attestation letter? We are dealing with some different things on model years and our catalog submission from last time.

Response 21

There is a 60-day review process for manufacturers entering their vehicles into HVIP.

Question 22

Do we have an application form or document that we would need to fill out by the deadline? If yes, where would I be able to find it?

Response 22

As listed and described in Appendix A to these solicitations, there are 13 Attachments (parts) to a complete application. Some of these parts include forms that need to be filled out by the applicant. Other parts are documents to be created by the applicant.