Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants – Community and Corridor (CFI)

INTRODUCTION

CFI grants provide funding to deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure and other alternative fueling infrastructure in communities and along designated transportation corridors. CFI includes two grant types: Corridor Charging and Community Charging grants. These grants support the development of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging or alternative fueling infrastructure, assistance for operating costs, and the implementation of traffic control devices. CFI projects must address environmental justice.

GRANT APPLICATION BOOTCAMP GOALS

- Provide clear, actionable, and user-centered information on funding opportunities available to all local governments as part of the IIJA
- Raise cities' ambition for how they can leverage funds to deliver a big impact for their residents, specifically in relation to racial wealth equity, climate, and other important policy areas
- Provide focused support to resource-constrained communities to help them submit competitive applications and win more federal funds
- Elevate the collective efforts of local governments, philanthropic and civic sectors in their efforts to leverage federal infrastructure dollars for high-impact, outcomes-driven efforts

BOOTCAMP MODULES

Module 1, Orientation and Grant Overview: Cities will be introduced to the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) program and the federal grant process. Cities will also receive an overview of the bootcamp content and structure.

Module 2, Charging and Fueling Round 1: Cities will identify trends from the FY2023 CFI program, particularly the priorities and successful projects. Cities will also begin designing potential project ideas.

Module 3, Managing Partnerships: Cities will understand how to approach other cities and potential partners to emphasize a regional approach to their project idea. Cities will also discuss site planning necessary for EV infrastructure.

Module 4, Engaging the Community: Cities will learn about how to effectively engage with their communities and devise an asset map to build a community narrative.

Module 5, Incorporating Data: Cities will gain familiarity with data collection tools and analysis methods for understanding barriers to equity in their community. Cities will dissect the NOFO (either the FY24 or FY23 version depending on the NOFO release date) and utilize data to cover required topics.

Module 6, Building a Narrative: Cities will develop the story of their city through the information gained from previous modules. Cities will draft a sample narrative that can provide readers with a deep insight of the community and the importance of the EV project.

Module 7, Funding Cycle and Budgeting: Cities will understand the CFI program funding cycle, analyze the funding formula and matching requirements, and develop a draft project budget.

Module 8, Planning for Grant Applications & Capacity Building: Cities will identify best practices for developing a compelling grant narrative and how to demonstrate capability of carrying out the project in a competent manner and in compliance with all applicable laws. Cities understand the next steps in positioning themselves competitively for grant application opportunities.

WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN EACH SESSION?

Mayor: Participates in selective modules to spearhead goals and advocacy, review the impact story of draft applications, and implement long-term capacity-building measures
Grant Lead: Participates in all modules and is the primary point of contact for each participating city team
Community Engagement Lead: Participates in selective modules to help design community engagement strategies
Finance Lead: Participates in budget and capital stacks module

BOOTCAMP MEETING STRUCTURE

Peer Learning Sessions (Webinars): Interactive sessions featuring subject matter experts on the policy and grant approach.
Coaching Sessions: Smaller sessions that continue to build on specific application questions identified in the peer learning session.
One-on-One Consultations: Support in the form of designated time slots with our Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and your team to address specific questions about your grant application.

SUPPORT DURING THIS BOOTCAMP

Navigator Team: Our Navigator is available to help answer the following kinds of questions:

- Bootcamp timelines
- Bootcamp schedules
- Participation expectations

Our Navigator for this grant is Jan Mangana. She can be reached at: mangana@nlc.org.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for both grants include state or political subdivisions of states, metropolitan planning organization (MPOs), local governments, special purpose districts or public authorities with a transportation function, Tribal governments, and territories. For more information, please access the DOT website by Clicking Here.

PREPARING FOR THE BOOTCAMP

- Create an account at login.gov if you do not already have one.
- Register at SAM.gov or update registration to obtain a DUNS number.
    - Note: It can take almost a month after an applicant submits the SAM (System for Award Management) registration before the registration is active in the system. Please keep this in mind and create your account as early as possible.
    - Note: Existing SAM.gov registrants should check annually to confirm that their registration is active. Please ensure that your city's name, address, and EIN are up to date.
        - Getting started with your UEI:
            1. Sign in to SAM.gov.
            2. Go to Workspace (top right corner).
            3. Locate the Entity Management widget to find your UEI.
            4. Once you have the UEI, validate your entity's legal business name and physical address under Profile.

BOOTCAMP WEBSITE

The Charging and Fueling Website has all the information you need. The Modules and Resources section provides the dates/times and links for peer learning sessions, recordings, and slide decks from previous sessions, and office hours/coaching session info. To access the website, please Click Here.

- In each Module section, you will find relevant information and resources for that Module.

BOOTCAMP PEER SESSION REGISTRATION

You can register for all the peer learning sessions by Clicking Here.