

**Frequently Asked Questions 1: Driving a Cleaner Illinois
Round 1 Funding**

Question	Answer
General	
Will the Illinois EPA notify applicants that their application was received?	No, this is unnecessary. As indicated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), applications must be submitted to the designated electronic mailbox: epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov . The applicant and the Illinois EPA will have a record of the submittal.
When will the Illinois EPA notify unsuccessful applicants that their application was not selected for funding?	Unsuccessful applicants will be notified after review is completed. Reviews will be completed within 45 days after the close of the application period. Per the NOFO, the Anticipated Announcement Date is November 29, 2018.
When will the Illinois EPA notify applicants that their application was rejected because of incompleteness or improper submittal?	Unsuccessful applicants will be notified after review is completed. Reviews will be completed within 45 days after the close of the application period. Per the NOFO, the Anticipated Announcement Date is November 29, 2018.
What date will the awards be announced?	Per the NOFO, the Anticipated Announcement Date is November 29, 2018.
What does the term “improperly submitted application” mean?	It means not submitted to the identified electronic address: epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov .
Who should applicants contact at the Illinois EPA if they have any questions regarding the Uniform Grant Budget Template, Internal Controls Questionnaire, or pre-qualifying through the GATA Grantee Portal?	As indicated in the NOFO, applicants should contact Deirdre McQuillen at Deirdre.McQuillen@illinois.gov . Questions will then be directed to appropriate personnel as necessary.
Is my 20-foot sailboat with a 12HP diesel engine eligible for funding?	Personal watercraft are not eligible for funding under the VW program.
When will other priority areas be allowed to apply for VW settlement funding?	Funding for other priority areas will be made available in future funding rounds through NOFOs. NOFOs will establish priority areas to be funded, eligible projects, eligibility criteria, and application requirements. Signing up for our listserv will notify you of future funding rounds. See the following link for the listserv: https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/air-quality/vw-settlement/Pages/default.aspx#contact
Does Illinois expect there to be a second round for VW funding? If so, is there a rough timeline already established?	As indicated in Illinois' BMP, the Illinois EPA intends to have a minimum of three funding rounds. The timing of additional funding rounds has not been set. Notice of future funding rounds will be posted on the Illinois EPA's VW Settlement webpage and you may sign-up to receive future updates regarding the Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program through the listserv. See the following link for the listserv: https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/air-quality/vw-settlement/Pages/default.aspx#contact .

<p>Is Illinois planning to exercise its DERA option under the VW Settlement plan?</p>	<p>As indicated in Illinois' BMP and the current NOFO, the Illinois EPA is accepting applications for, and intends to fund, public passenger/commuter line haul locomotive rail projects through the DERA option. Illinois' BMP and NOFO are posted on the Illinois EPA's VW Settlement webpage. Please see the following link: https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/air-quality/vw-settlement/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Do we need a separate signed Scrappage Certification form for each vehicle that we are scrapping, or does one signed copy of the form cover all the vehicles we are scrapping for the proposed project?</p>	<p>As indicated in the General Application Instructions at Section 2.5, a scrappage certification template form is included in the application materials that covers all vehicles and/or engines to be scrapped in an application. Therefore, only one signed scrappage certification form is required.</p>
<p>When do existing, replaced vehicle(s)/engine(s) need to be scrapped?</p>	<p>As stated in the NOFO, applicants must scrap the existing vehicle and/or engine within 90 days of the new vehicle and/or engine being placed into service.</p>
<p>Can you please direct me to the instructions/steps for pre-qualification?</p>	<p>Below is a link to the GATA website that has the pre-award requirements and instructions. https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Are there pre-application or application requirements?</p>	<p>As stated in the NOFO, there are pre-award requirements under GATA. Below is a link to the GATA website that lists the pre-award requirements and instructions. https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx In addition to GATA pre-award requirements, a complete and timely application is required. The complete application package consists of 1. Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance; 2. General Application Form; 3. Project Specific Application Forms; 4. Application Instructions; 5. Uniform Budget Template; 6. Overall Project Cost Estimate; 7. Cost Estimate for Infrastructure (if applicable); 8. Certificates of Conformity for Existing Vehicle(s) and Proposed Vehicle(s); 9. Project Management Plan; and 10. Scrappage Certification. Complete applications are due October 15, 2018 by 5:00 pm CST and must be submitted to epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov.</p>
<p>Do applicants need to complete page 5 (FFATA Data Collection Form) of the GATA Uniform Grant Budget Template form?</p>	<p>Only applicants for passenger/commuter line haul locomotive funding should complete this page 5.</p>
<p>In the Project Management Plan, applicants must list "tiers of emission control," for existing and proposed vehicles/engines. What does "tiers of emission control" mean?</p>	<p>"Tiers of emission control" pertain to off-road or non-road vehicle emission standards (e.g. Tier 0, I, II, III, IV). This is not a required component of the Project Management Plan for on-road vehicle applications. It is required for off-road and non-road applications.</p>
<p>In the Project Management Plan, applicants must list the anticipated delivery date of the proposed vehicle. What level of specificity is required?</p>	<p>Applicants may list an actual projected delivery date (e.g. January 2, 2019) or a certain number of days/months after grant award or grant agreement execution.</p>

When do new vehicles need to be delivered?	There is not a set deadline for new vehicles to be delivered. However, for on-road vehicle replacements, the Illinois EPA generally expects the grant project to be completed within one year. For the anticipated delivery date of a proposed vehicle in the Project Management Plan, applicants may list an actual projected delivery date (e.g. January 2, 2019) or a certain number of days/months after grant award or grant agreement execution.
How long does an applicant need to own/operate a qualifying vehicle to have it qualify as an existing vehicle for scrappage? If an applicant does not have an existing vehicle to scrap, could they buy a qualifying vehicle with the sole intention of scrapping it?	As indicated in the NOFO, the applicant must be the owner of the existing vehicle, the vehicle must meet all the eligibility requirements contained in the NOFO, and the applicant must provide operational information as identified in the application.
If an entity wants to lease a proposed vehicle from the owner (e.g. dealer, etc.), would the owner need to apply for funding and scrap the existing vehicle?	Yes, only the owner is eligible to apply as stated in the NOFO. Leases do not constitute ownership. The existing and proposed vehicles must meet all eligibility criteria contained in the NOFO and applicants must provide operational information as identified in the application. Applicants for all-electric school bus pilot projects must provide the school to be served by the proposed all-electric school bus and only one school may be listed.
Can an applicant propose a vehicle demonstration project as a sales tool?	As indicated in the NOFO, the applicant must be the owner of the existing and proposed vehicle, the vehicles must meet all the eligibility requirements contained in the NOFO, and the applicant must provide operational information as identified in the application. Applicants for all-electric school bus pilot projects must provide the school to be served by the proposed all-electric school bus and only one school may be listed.
If applicants are awarded less funds than they applied for, will the number of vehicles that need to be scrapped and purchased decrease to match the grant award?	Yes, if less funds are awarded to an applicant than applied for, the number of vehicles to be purchased and scrapped would be reduced accordingly.
Can applications cover projects that span multiple years (e.g., buses purchased over more than one year)?	Yes. However, for on-road vehicle replacements, the Illinois EPA generally expects the grant project to be completed within one year.
Are applicants allowed to include ineligible costs in the total project cost if those ineligible costs are covered by the applicant's cost share?	No, the NOFO and General Application Instructions specify that applicants must itemize and separate any ineligible costs from eligible costs in cost estimates. Also, the application instructions indicate that when providing answers to the following application fields, only eligible costs should be included: total project costs; applicant cost share; total funding requests; individual vehicle costs; and charging equipment costs. In addition, the application instructions indicate that applicants are responsible for payment of any ineligible costs.
When a grant is awarded, will the grantee purchase the new vehicle or engine and seek reimbursement?	Yes, as indicated in the NOFO, the grant is a reimbursement.

If I lack information to put in any given application field, what do I put in that field?	All application fields should be completed. As stated in the NOFO, all application fields must be completed, or the application will not be considered for funding.
Class 4-7 Local Freight Trucks	
When will a NOFO be released for funding the replacement of private trucks?	As indicated in Illinois' BMP, the Illinois EPA intends to have a minimum of three funding rounds. The timing of additional funding rounds has not been set. Notice of future funding rounds and NOFOs, which will identify eligible projects, will be posted on the Illinois EPA's VW Settlement webpage. You may sign-up to receive future updates regarding the Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program through the listserv. See the following link for the listserv: https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/air-quality/vw-settlement/Pages/default.aspx#contact .
Class 7 & 8 Diesel Trucks: Is there a usage or operation (time, miles, or percentage) requirement for the existing truck to be eligible?	NOFOs will set forth the eligibility criteria for existing and new vehicles. You may sign up for notices of future funding cycles and NOFOs on the VW website listserv. See the following link for the listserv: https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/air-quality/vw-settlement/Pages/default.aspx#contact .
Will apportioned trucks be eligible for funding? If so, what will be the parameters for usage within the state?	NOFOs will set forth the eligibility criteria for existing and new vehicles. You may sign up for notices of future funding cycles and NOFOs on the VW website listserv. See the following link for the listserv: https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/air-quality/vw-settlement/Pages/default.aspx#contact .
Will emergency vehicles (ambulances) be included in future funding rounds?	Under the VW Trust Agreement, "Class 4-7 Local Freight Trucks" are eligible for funding. Unfortunately, emergency vehicles (ambulances) do not fit this definition under the Trust Agreement.
Forklifts and Port Cargo Handling Equipment	
Are propane or spark ignition forklift engines eligible for replacement with electric?	As stated in Illinois' BMP, Illinois will consider funding airport ground support equipment and forklifts and port cargo handling equipment separately through its Clean Diesel Grant Program. Eligibility requirements under CMAQ or DERA would apply.
Are warehouse/distribution center forklifts eligible for funding or just those used at ports?	As stated in Illinois' BMP, Illinois will consider funding airport ground support equipment and forklifts and port cargo handling equipment separately through its Clean Diesel Grant Program. Eligibility requirements under CMAQ or DERA would apply.
School Bus	
Are other counties eligible for school bus funding in this first funding round?	No, as stated in the NOFO, all-electric school bus pilot projects include replacement of existing diesel school buses with all-electric school buses in Cook County. The existing and proposed school buses must operate at least 80% of the time in Cook County.
Do all-electric school bus applicants need to fill out the general application form and the	Please see Section D.2. of the NOFO (pgs. 13-14). Section D.2. itemizes the forms and documents necessary for a complete application. Regarding charging infrastructure, please see the

<p>infrastructure form if they do not have an electric bus in their current fleet?</p>	<p>General Application Form Instructions at Section 3.2 (page 10) and the Infrastructure Form Instructions (page 1). These instructions state that the applicant must complete and include the Infrastructure Form as part of its application and is eligible to receive funding for one charging station if adequate charging infrastructure is not available to support the proposed project. If adequate charging infrastructure already exists (the applicant has it or has access to it) to support the project or adequate charging comes with the purchase of the new all-electric vehicle, the applicant should not complete and include the Infrastructure Form and is not eligible to receive funding for charging infrastructure. In addition to a complete application, GATA pre-qualification (pre-award) requirements must be completed as itemized on page 11 of the NOFO. See the following link for GATA pre-award requirements: https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Are both public and private schools eligible for all-electric school bus funding?</p>	<p>Round one of the Driving a Cleaner Illinois grant program includes \$1,000,000 for the replacement of existing diesel school buses with all-electric school buses in Cook County, Illinois. All potential applicants (government and non-government) (public and private) are eligible to apply for all-electric school bus pilot projects in Cook County, Illinois.</p>
<p>For all-electric school bus projects, is funding available for infrastructure, and who is eligible to receive funding?</p>	<p>As indicated in the NOFO, all-electric projects are eligible to receive funding for charging infrastructure where charging infrastructure is necessary to support the proposed project. The applicant, who must be the owner of the existing and proposed school buses, is eligible to receive funding for charging equipment and must also be the owner of the charging equipment.</p>
<p>Does a private entity (non-government applicant) under contract with a public school district apply as a government or non-government applicant?</p>	<p>The General Application Instructions indicate the Trust Agreement and the Illinois BMP set forth differing cost shares depending on whether the applicant is a "government" or "non-government" entity. However, as indicated in these instructions, Illinois' BMP and the NOFO, privately-owned school buses under contract with a public-school district will be treated as a government-owned school bus for purposes of the required cost share. Despite this, the applicant's status as a "government" or "non-government" applicant does not change, only the required cost share may change. Therefore, as indicated in the first sentence of the General Application Instructions, applicants should indicate whether they are "government" or "non-government" applicants consistent with how those terms are defined. In the Electric School Bus form, applicants are required to indicate whether the school bus is under contract with a public-school district.</p>
<p>Can an application be submitted by a utility, school bus, aggregator, project manager or contractor serving multiple school districts?</p>	<p>The NOFO states the applicant must be the owner of the existing and proposed school bus. Applicants are allowed one application per project type per funding round. Only one school should be identified as being served by all proposed all-electric school buses</p>

	in an application. No applicant may receive funding for more than one all-electric school bus unless the number of applications allows for an applicant to receive funding for more than one all-electric school bus.
Does an application from any organization that is not a school need to be made on behalf of a school or with a school?	No, but any applicant must list the school to be served by the proposed school bus. As indicated in the NOFO, the applicant must be the owner of the existing and proposed school bus.
If the applicant has not yet determined the school to be served by the proposed school bus, should the applicant list more than one school?	No. The NOFO requires the applicant to name the school to be served by the proposed bus, and only one school may be listed.
Public Transit (locomotive)	
The form instructions state that in Section 1, the applicant “must provide the identification number of the existing locomotive.” What box should this be provided in?	The instructions state in section 1.1, which refers to Section One (General Project Information), field 1) Project Identification, that the applicant must provide the identification number of the existing locomotive in that field.