Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
All-Electric Public Transit Buses
October 8, 2024

	Data Field	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
2.	Agency Contact:	Darwin Burkhart at epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov
3.	Announcement Type:	Modification of a Previous Announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	25-1697-07
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Driving a Cleaner Illinois – Volkswagen
7.	CSFA Number:	532-10-1697
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	Driving A Cleaner Illinois - Volkswagen
9.	CFDA Number:	N/A
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	Approximately 40-50 Class 4-8 transit buses
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	$41,000,000 (Round Seven Funding for all three priority areas)
12.	Award Range:	Minimum award amount $300,000
13.	Source of Funding:	☐ Federal or Federal Pass-Through ☐ State ☒ Private/Other Funding
14.	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	Yes
15.	Indirect Costs Allowed:	No
16.	Posted Date:	October 8, 2024
17.	Application Range:	October 8, 2024 to November 25, 2024, 5:00 CT
18.	Technical Assistance Session:	No

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
All-Electric Public Transit Buses

A. Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application Information

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to inform potential applicants of the availability of funds from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement (Trust or Trust Agreement). Under this NOFO, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA or Agency) will fund a portion of the eligible costs associated with the replacement (not repower) of existing diesel public transit buses with new all-electric public transit buses located and operated in any of the three priority areas outlined in the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP) and in this NOFO. In addition to providing funding for new all-electric public transit buses, Illinois EPA will also fund a portion of new electric charging equipment if charging infrastructure is needed to the extent of what is necessary to charge the new buses in this application.

Each application under this NOFO must include:

- One (1) Uniform Grant Application.
- One (1) General Application Form.
- A New All-Electric Public Transit Bus Application Form for each proposed new all-electric transit bus (e.g., if application is for 3 electric transit buses, then 3 forms will need to be included)
- A Charging Infrastructure Form - if funding for charging equipment infrastructure is necessary, provide a separate form for each requested new charging equipment infrastructure location needed to charge the proposed electric transit buses (e.g., if charging equipment is needed at 2 separate locations, then 2 forms will need to be included).
- One (1) Uniform Grant Budget Template.
- One (1) Grantee Conflict of Interest Disclosure.

A transit agency can only be addressed by one application.

- Applications must be complete; applicants must use the above referenced forms.
- Application forms must be signed by an authorized person on behalf of the applicant.

An application must be submitted electronically to epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov.

An application must be received by the Illinois EPA by 5:00 p.m. (CT) on November 25, 2024.

Incomplete applications or applications not on the requisite forms will be denied.

Any questions must be in writing and directed to epa.vwgrants@illinois.gov**.**

In completing projects under this NOFO, applicants must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances and regulations thereunder.

The State of Illinois is not obligated to make an award as a result of this NOFO.

B. Funding Information

Funding is private monies under the Trust for State Beneficiaries established by Volkswagen.

This funding opportunity is consistent with the Trust Agreement and the Agency's existing BMP under the Trust. Illinois is a beneficiary, and the Illinois EPA has been designated the lead agency to administer the funds allocated to Illinois under the Trust Agreement.

Applicants may not use Trust funds to satisfy obligations that are mandated by law or regulation, by any court order or decree, or by other agreement of any kind to acquire electric transit buses.

Applicants may not combine funding from this program with other funding such that they receive in excess of 100% funding for any project.

Applicants may use other funding (federal, state, or other) as part or all of their mandatory cost share, provided such other funding source does not place a restriction on this.

C. GATA Requirements

The Illinois EPA is required by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) to conduct a risk assessment of the applicant. Additional information may be required at that time from the successful applicant.

D. Eligibility Requirements

The Illinois EPA will accept applications:

- For new all-electric Class 4-8 public transit buses and any necessary charging infrastructure. A transit bus includes low-floor buses, high-floor buses, double-decker buses, articulated buses, or midibuses that are used for shorter-distance public transport bus services. Transit buses do not include shuttle buses, which are buses that travel back and forth between two points, typically as transport to an airport or hotel.

- From government applicants/transit agencies that serve the public in operating public transit buses to provide local transportation involving routes in the following priority areas:

  Priority Area 1: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties, Oswego Township in Kendall County and Aux Sable and Goose Lake townships in Grundy County

  Priority Area 2: Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties

  Priority Area 3: Champaign, DeKalb, LaSalle, McLean, Peoria, Sangamon, and Winnebago counties

- From entities that own diesel transit buses and will own the new all-electric transit buses and new charging infrastructure (applicants with leased buses are ineligible).

- Where each existing diesel transit bus to be replaced and scrapped has been in operation in the applicant's fleet since calendar year 2021 and is still operational at the time the application is submitted.
  - Each existing transit bus must be engine Model Year (MY) 2009 or older and be a diesel-powered Class 4-8 transit bus.
  - Each existing bus must be scrapped within 90 days of the new electric transit bus being placed into service.

- Where each new electric transit bus will operate in the applicant's fleet within the priority area for at least five years from its in-service date.

- Where each new electric transit bus must be from the engine model year in which the project occurs (or later) or one engine model year prior

- Where each new electric transit bus is in the same vehicle class as the replaced transit bus.

- That satisfies qualification requirements through the GATA Grantee Portal at www.grants.illinois.gov prior to being offered an award.

- GATA qualification requirements prior to receiving a Notice of State Award include:
  - Possession of a valid Unique Entity ID (UEI) from the System for Award Management (www.SAM.gov).

- Current and valid registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) (www.SAM.gov).
- Approved FY 2025 or more current year Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ).
- In good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State.
- Not currently debarred by the State of Illinois and/or federal government.
- Not on the Federal Excluded Parties List.
- Not on the Illinois Stop Payment List.
- Not on the sanctioned party list of the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services.
- Not on the SAM.gov exclusion list.

E. Eligible and Ineligible Costs for Reimbursement

Eligible Costs

- The base price of the new Class 4-8 all-electric public transit bus including the necessary equipment typical for a transit bus.
- Electric charging infrastructure needed to the extent of what is necessary to charge the new buses in this application.

Ineligible Costs

- Options, add-ons, upgrades, taxes, title, license, and items unrelated to the purchase of the new all-electric transit bus and equipment that is not typical for a transit bus.
- Infrastructure if it is already available and adequate to support the new bus.
- Options, other equipment, labor, taxes, other fees, or make-ready improvements related to the purchase and installation of the charging infrastructure.
- Cost to scrap the existing diesel transit bus.
- Applicant's administrative costs.
- Incurred costs prior to the execution date of the grant agreement.
- Indirect costs.

F. Award Amount

- The grant award is 75% of the eligible cost per electric transit bus and necessary charging equipment infrastructure.
- In-kind contributions are not acceptable for meeting the required cost share.

G. Application Review and Selection

All applications will be reviewed by Illinois EPA for administrative completeness and against criteria identified in this NOFO, in compliance with GATA and 2 CFR 200 Uniform Requirements.

The administrative completeness review assesses whether the requirements in this NOFO, as further addressed in the application forms, have been met. The application will be denied if any requirements are not met as required in this NOFO or the related forms. **Failure to satisfy eligibility requirements, or to use or to fully and appropriately complete the forms, will result in a denial of the application.**

Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed and selected on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The email date and timestamp will determine the order in which applications are to be selected in the event there is insufficient funding to select all eligible applications received on the same day.

Treatment of Cost Sharing

Cost-sharing is mandatory under this program but will not be considered in any other way in the application evaluation.

Agency Review and Error Correction

If the Agency determines that an applicant incorrectly calculated or indicated the project cost, applicant cost-share, and/or total funding request based on the applicable cost estimate, required cost shares, or eligible costs, and the Agency can correct the error, the application will not adversely affect completeness. If the applicant is selected for a grant, the Agency will contact the applicant and request a decision from the applicant as to whether it will accept the award based on the Agency's determination of the project cost, applicant cost-share, and/or total funding requested.

Appeal Process

An appeal for a denied application is available to applicants but is limited to the evaluation process. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the following address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Driving a Cleaner Illinois Program #40
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Appeals must be received within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published by the Illinois EPA to grants.Illinois.gov. The written appeal should include at a minimum the following: the name and address of the appealing party, identification of the grant, and a statement of reasons for the appeal. The Agency will acknowledge receipt of an appeal within 14 calendar days from the date the appeal was received. When an appeal is received, the execution of all grant agreements that the Illinois EPA intends to make under this NOFO shall be stayed until the appeal is resolved, unless the Illinois EPA determines the needs of the State require moving forward with execution of the grant agreements. The State need determination and rationale shall be documented in writing.

The Agency will respond to the appeal within 60 days or supply a written explanation to the appealing party as to why additional time is required. The appealing party must supply any additional information requested by the Illinois EPA within the time period set in the request. The Illinois EPA will resolve the appeal by means of written determination, which shall include, but not be limited to, review of the appeal, appeal determination, and rationale for the determination.

H. Award Administration Information

Notice of State Award

Each successful applicant will receive a Notice of State Award ("NOSA"), which specifies the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from pre-award risk assessments. The NOSA will be distributed through the Grantee Portal; it must be accepted through the portal before a Grant Agreement can be sent to the applicant.

A NOSA is NOT an authorization to begin project activities and incur costs.

No costs can be incurred by the applicant until the Grant Agreement is signed by both the Grantor and Grantee. Also, a request for reimbursement cannot be submitted until after the full project is completed.

Grant Agreement

Once all the final requirements have been completed, the Grant Agreement between the Illinois EPA and the applicant will be sent to the applicant for signature. Once the agreement is fully executed by the Illinois EPA, a copy of the fully executed agreement will be returned to the Grantee.

Reporting Pre-Project Completion and Annual Certifications

All grantees will be required to submit quarterly reports to the Illinois EPA describing the progress of the projects and costs incurred. Specific reporting requirements will be identified within the Grant Agreement. Grantees will also be required to submit a close-out report including task completion with dates and costs incurred and supporting information.

In addition, grantees will be required to provide an annual certification to the Agency regarding transit bus and infrastructure operation and maintenance. Templates of reports and annual certifications will be provided to the grantees.

Uniform Grant Application		
State Agency Completed Section		
1.	Type of Submission	□ Pre-application □ Application □ Changed / Corrected Application
2.	Type of Application	□ New □ Continuation (i.e. multiple year grant) □ Revision (modification to initial application)
3.	Date / Time Received by State	
4.	Name of the Awarding State Agency Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	
5.	Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) Number 532-10-1697	
6.	CSFA Title Driving A Cleaner Illinois - Volkswagen	
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) X Not applicable (No federal funding)		
7.	CFDA Number	
8.	CFDA Title	
9.	CFDA Number	
10.	CFDA Title	
Funding Opportunity Information		
11.	Funding Opportunity Number Funding Round Seven	
12.	Funding Opportunity Title Funding Round Seven	
Competition Identification X Not Applicable		
13.	Competition Identification Number	
14.	Competition Identification Title	

Applicant Completed Section		
Applicant Information		
15.	Legal Name	Name used for DUNS registration and grantee pre-qualification
16.	Common Name (DBA)	
17.	Employer / Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN, TIN)	
18.	Organizational DUNS number	
19.	GATA ID	Assigned through the Grantee Portal
20.	SAM Cage Code	
21.	Business Address	Street address, City, County, State, County, Zip + 4
Applicant's Organizational Unit		
22.	Department Name	
23.	Division Name	
Applicant's Name and Contact Information for Person to be Contacted for *Program* Matters involving this Application		
24.	First Name	
25.	Last Name	
26.	Suffix	
27.	Title	

28.	Organizational Affiliation	
29.	Telephone Number	
30.	Fax Number	
31.	Email address	
Applicant's Name and Contact Information for Person to be Contacted for *Business/Administrative Office* Matters involving this Application		
32.	First Name	
33.	Last Name	
34.	Suffix	
35.	Title	
36.	Organizational Affiliation	
37.	Telephone Number	
38.	Fax Number	
39.	Email address	
Areas Affected		
40.	Areas Affected by the Project (cities, counties, state-wide)	
41.	Legislative and Congressional Districts of Applicant	
42.	Legislative and Congressional Districts of Project	

Applicant's Project		
43.	Description Title of Applicant's Project	New All-Electric Public Transit Bus
44.	Proposed Project Term	Start Date: End Date:
45.	Estimated Funding (include all that apply)	□ Amount Requested from the State: □ Applicant Contribution (e.g., in kind, matching): □ Local Contribution: □ Other Source of Contribution: □ Program Income: Total Amount $
Applicant Certification: This certification must be signed by a responsible official. Applications without a signed certification will be deemed incomplete. I certify under penalty of law that, based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the statements and information contained in this Application are true, accurate, and complete. Any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent material statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA may be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties pursuant to 415 ILCS 5/44(h) or 18 USC § 1001, as applicable. □ I agree		
Authorized Representative		
46.	First Name	
47.	Last Name	
48.	Suffix	
49.	Title	
50.	Telephone Number	
51.	Fax Number	
52.	Email Address	
53.	Signature of Authorized Representative	
54.	Date Signed	

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funding

General Application Form

SECTION ONE	***Contact Information***	
Applicant/Owner		
1) Applicant Name:		2) Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN):
3) Street Address:		
4) City:	5) County:	6) Zip Code:
7) Contact Name:	8) Contact Title:	9) Contact Phone Number:
10) Contact Email Address:		
11) Applicant is a government entity/transit agency:	☐ Yes	☐ No
12) Applicant will be the Owner of the Proposed All-Electric Transit Buses in this Application:	☐ Yes	☐ No
Operator (if different from owner)		
13) Operator Name:		14) Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN):
15) Street Address:		
16) City:	17) County:	18) Zip Code:
19) Contact Name:	20) Contact Title:	21) Contact Phone Number:
22) Contact Email Address:		

SECTION TWO	***Project Information***		
		Yes	No
1)	Are you mandated by law or regulation, by any court order or decree, or by other agreement of any kind to acquire electric transit buses?	☐	☐
2)	The existing diesel transit buses to be replaced are operational and engine MY 2009 and older.	☐	☐

SECTION THREE	***Overview of Proposed Project***	
1) Number of New All-Electric Public Transit Buses in the Application: _____		2) A separate New All-Electric Public Transit Bus Application Form is included for each proposed bus ☐ Yes ☐ No
3) There is adequate existing charging infrastructure for this proposed project. If "No," include a Charging Infrastructure Form for each location needing charging.		☐ Yes ☐ No
4) Have you already purchased any of the proposed electric transit buses or charging infrastructure in this Application?		☐ Yes ☐ No
5) Total Eligible Project Cost: $	6) Applicant's Cost Share: $	7) Total Eligible Funding Request: $

Signature Block

This certification must be signed by a responsible official. Applications without a signed certification will be deemed incomplete. I certify under penalty of law that, based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the statements and information contained in this Application are true, accurate, and complete. Any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent material statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA commits a Class 4 felony. A second or subsequent offense after conviction is a Class 3 felony (415 ILCS 5/44(h)).

BY:

_____ _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE TITLE OF SIGNATORY

_____ _____ / _____ / _____

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF SIGNATORY DATE

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funding

New All-Electric Public Transit Bus Application Form

SECTION ONE	***Cost Information***	
1) Eligible Transit Bus Cost: $	2) Eligible Applicant Cost Share: A) $ B) %	3) Eligible Funding Request: A) $ B) %

SECTION TWO	***Existing Diesel Transit Bus Information***	
General Information		
1) Vehicle Class: ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8		
2) Manufacturer:	3) Model:	
4) Engine Model Year:	5) Vehicle Identification Number (VIN):	
6) Bus is fueled with diesel fuel: ☐ Yes ☐ No	7) Bus will be scrapped as required: ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Operational History		
8) Annual Mileage: ☐ 2021 _____ miles ☐ 2022 _____ miles ☐ 2023 _____ miles		
9) Annual Fuel Usage: ☐ 2021 _____ gallons ☐ 2022 _____ gallons ☐ 2023 _____ gallons		

Location of Operation-Existing Diesel Transit Bus

10) Existing Diesel Transit Bus has operated in the identified county/counties for the past three years:

Priority Area 1 (Chicago Area):

☐ Cook County ☐ DuPage County ☐ Kane County ☐ Lake County ☐ McHenry County

☐ Will County ☐ Aux Sable Township-Grundy County ☐ Goose Lake Township-Grundy County

☐ Oswego Township-Kendall County

Priority Area 2 (Metro-East Area):

☐ Madison County ☐ Monroe County ☐ St. Clair County

Priority Area 3:

☐ Champaign County ☐ DeKalb County ☐ LaSalle County ☐ McLean County

☐ Peoria County ☐ Sangamon County ☐ Winnebago County

SECTION THREE *Proposed Electric Transit Bus Information*

General Information

1) Vehicle Class: ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8

Note: The vehicle class of the new all-electric transit bus must be of the same class as the existing diesel bus indicated in Section 2.1 above.

2) Manufacturer:	3) Model:	4) Engine Model Year:

Engine Information

5) Fuel Type: ☐ All-Electric

Location of Operation-Proposed Transit Bus

6) Proposed Electric Transit Bus will operate in the identified county/counties for at least 5 years from its in-service date:

Priority Area 1 (Chicago Area):

☐ Cook County ☐ DuPage County ☐ Kane County ☐ Lake County ☐ McHenry County

☐ Will County ☐ Aux Sable Township-Grundy County ☐ Goose Lake Township-Grundy County

☐ Oswego Township-Kendall County

Priority Area 2 (Metro-East Area):

☐ Madison County ☐ Monroe County ☐ St. Clair County

Priority Area 3:

☐ Champaign County ☐ DeKalb County ☐ LaSalle County ☐ McLean County

☐ Peoria County ☐ Sangamon County ☐ Winnebago County

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funding

Charging Infrastructure Form

Complete a separate form for each location for the requested infrastructure

SECTION ONE	***Proposed Location***	
1) Street Address:		
2) City:	3) County:	4) Zip Code:
5) Applicant will be the owner of this proposed new electric charging equipment. ☐ Yes ☐ No		
Infrastructure Costs		
6) Eligible Charging Equipment Cost: $	7) Eligible Applicant Cost Share: A) $ B) %	8) Eligible Funding Request: A) $ B) %

SECTION TWO	***Adequacy of Charging Infrastructure***
There will there be adequate charging capability with the addition of the proposed infrastructure detailed on this form. ☐ Yes ☐ No	