

Level Three Direct Current Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Program

FAQs:

1)I was wondering do I need a location leased already, or just an idea of where?

DC Fast Charging Station Installation Requirements/Workplan The grant application must address the following charging station installation requirements. Providing additional project information beyond these requirements is encouraged. The site map will include demonstration of compliance with the station requirements below. This grant cannot be used to fund the purchase of or for renting or leasing of real estate. 1. Host site selection a. Proposed host site location information. (1) Host site name(s) and address(es). Host sites must be located within the state of New Mexico to be eligible.

2)I was hoping to apply for the grant but didn't see my community/city in the list of applicable towns. Can you please let me know if my application for the EV charging station grant would be considered?

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) has \$6 million to distribute to any public, private, or tribal business interested constructing and maintaining an Electric Vehicle (EVCS) Charging Station in prioritized rural locations and low to moderate income areas of New Mexico to help alleviate economic and racial disparities. The funds are available through an Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant provided through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds were appropriated to the NMDOT through House Bill 2 in the 2021 Second Special Session for planning, engineering services, design, and installation of electric vehicle direct current fast charging stations across New Mexico. The proposed charging station projects will address equity and cost effectiveness where the EVCS will be located. The EVCS site must be accessible to the public and any State Fleet Vehicle for use 24-hours per day and seven days per week, have dusk to dawn lighting, and be within a short walking distance, not to exceed a quarter mile to retail or service establishments. The programs' goal is to restore investments in rural and disadvantaged communities while providing drivers access to publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure across the state. The following communities are eligible for this grant opportunity:

Alamogordo, Angel Fire, Artesia, Carlsbad, Elida, Fort Sumner, Hondo, Hobbs, Roswell, Ruidoso, Tatum, Tucumcari, Vaughn, San Jon, Elephant Butte, Des Moines, Cuba, Chama, Tierra Amarilla, Peñasco, Espanola, Jemez Pueblo, Truchas, Pecos, Taos, El Prado, Questa, Red River, Ojo Caliente, El Rito, Zuni, Reserve, Quemado, Farmington, Picuris Pueblo, Los Lunas, Belen, Columbus, Santa Teresa, Anthony, Williamsburg, Sunland Park.

This EV Charging Station Grant is only the first funding opportunity of a 5-year multiphase approach from NMDOTs statewide implementation strategy. Federal funding for electric vehicle infrastructure will be made available from several other sources. For example, last month DOT submitted a \$38M proposal to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program which will support EV charging infrastructure installation every 50 miles along the state's portion of the Interstate Highway System within at least 1 travel mile of the Interstate. Another funding opportunity will be the Charging and

Fueling Infrastructure Community Grant Program. This grant will provide \$2.5 billion in discretionary funds over the next five years to deploy additional electric vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure in rural, disadvantaged communities with low ratios of private parking, or high ratios of multiunit dwellings nationwide. Guidelines are under development, and our federal partners will establish a grant program by November 15, 2022, for all eligible communities. Additionally, several other funding opportunities will be made available under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). We encourage all communities who have interest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure to provide information directly to the Department of Transportation to make sure funding opportunities are maximized for electric vehicle infrastructure.

3)Who can I contact regarding EV charging station placement?

New Mexico Department of Transportation. Paul Montoya, Program Director.
paul.montoya@state.nm.us.

4)Is a public higher-education institution with a fleet of non-EV vehicles eligible to apply?

Eligible Applicants Organizations that own or operate a host site in an eligible location may submit proposal applications to participate in the DC Fast EV Charging Program. Eligible applicants include: a. Incorporated nonprofit – an organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended. The organization must be incorporated under NM law or registered with the NM Secretary of State’s Office. b. Public school districts. c. County and municipal governments and authorities. d. NM State government agencies. e. Tribal government agencies. f. Metropolitan or rural planning organizations, as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 U.S.C. § 5303(b), located in New Mexico. g. Private businesses, to include corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, limited liability companies, business trusts or other legal business entities incorporated in or registered with the NM Secretary of State’s Office. h. Air quality or transportation organizations – local or regional air quality or transportation organization that: 1. owns or operates a fleet located or operating predominately in New Mexico, or 2. has partnered with or is acting as a project manager for another eligible entity listed in this section. i. Federal Government Agencies – Federal agencies that have ownership, trusteeship, control, or management of land within or contiguous to the territorial boundaries of New Mexico.

5) In reviewing the application, it appears that I would have to have a company lined up to install the charger as part of the application process. Am I understanding this correctly?

Recipients must have and use documented procurement procedures that are consistent with the standards outlined in 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.320. The Uniform Guidance requires an infrastructure for competitive bidding and contractor oversight, including maintaining written standards of conduct and prohibitions on dealing with suspended or debarred parties. Your organization must ensure adherence to all applicable local, State, and federal procurement laws and regulations.

6) Is this a 100% funded project, or is match required?

Matching funds will be viewed positively, but there may be an opportunity for 100% funding. It will depend on various factors, as we review the proposals and the total amount of the grant we have to distribute.

7) I wanted to see if you have a list of preferred vendors for this type of equipment?

NMDOT does not have a preferred vendor list. Please refer to page 8 of the policy for equipment requirements.

8) I had a few questions about funding amount and number of projects that can be applied for by a single entity.

An applicant may apply for up to the total amount of \$6 million. NMDOT we will then make the appropriate review, rating, and award. Per page 4 of the policy, Mitigation Action Funding Eligibility Requirements NMDOT reserves the right to fund only a portion of a proposed project. Applicants will be notified of the actual amount awarded for their project. Applicants awarded funding have the option to accept or decline the award. Per page 4 of the policy, Project Awards Applicants selected for funding shall have one (1) year from the effective date of a signed agreement with NMDOT to complete their project. If an application shows that the project cannot be completed in one year, it will not be selected for funding. State contract terms and conditions are final and not subject to negotiation.

9) Does being less than 1/4 mile from the EV charging site to public restrooms qualify as "must have access to public restrooms" as stated in page 6, section 1(d) of the attached PDF?

Page 6, section 1(d) of the policy does state the criteria EVCS host sites must be accessible to the general public for use 24-hours per day and seven days per week, have dusk to dawn lighting, and be within a short walking distance, not to exceed a quarter mile, to retail or service establishments such as restaurants, coffee shops, convenience stores or tourism destinations and must have access to public restrooms. Please refer to page 11 of the project scoring criteria, to determine what points are available based upon the proximity of public restrooms to the host site.

10)I have a question regarding the eligible project expenditures. Are planning and engineering/design activities only eligible for funding, or does installation of the DC fast charging station also have to occur during the 1-year project period?

Per page 4 of the policy, under Funding: Project Awards Applicants selected for funding shall have one (1) year from the effective date of a signed agreement with NMDOT to complete their project. If an application shows that the project cannot be completed in one year, it will not be selected for funding. State contract terms and conditions are final and not subject to negotiation.

11)May we ask for an extension of time to submit proposal and application?

To be considered for funding completed proposal applications must be submitted via email no later than 11:59 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time on August 30, 2022. Program Timeline August 9, 2022- Application acceptance period begins August 30, 2022 - Deadline to submit proposal to NMDOT by 11:59 pm local standard time August 31, 2022, through September 6, 2022 - Evaluation period by NMDOT of proposals September 7, 2022 - Selection letters will be mailed out.