Communities Taking Charge Accelerator

Applicants must have submitted a concept paper by 5/20/24 to apply for the grant

Application period:

4/16/2024 - 07/16/2024

Available funding (previous year): $54M

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The Communities Taking Charge Accelerator aims to fund projects that will expand community e-mobility access and provide clean reliable energy

Purpose and goals of the program:

This program will make strategic investments at the local level that address key barriers to expanding access to electrified mobility options for individuals without home charging; accelerate the transition to electrified fleets; and mature the implementation of managed charging systems to mitigate impacts and optimize usage of the grid

Key objectives of the Joint Office's FY 24 funding opportunity include:

- Solving for No-Home Charging: Expanding Charging Access for Privately Owned E-Mobility

- Expanding E-Mobility Solutions through Electrified Micro, Light and Medium-Duty Fleets

- Managed Charging for Clean Reliable Energy

Further, this funding aims to help meet the goal that 40% of the benefits of the Biden-Harris Administration's investments in clean energy and climate solutions are delivered to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

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Communities Taking Charge Accelerator Details

Cost sharing requirements vary by project type. Planning projects have 0-20% requirement depending on the topic area whereas deployment projects have 50% requirement across all three topic areas

Match funding requirement: 0-50%

		Solving for No-Home Charging	Expanding E-Mobility Solutions	Managed Charging
Description /Eligible grant uses		Funds planning and/or demonstration projects that explore innovative e-mobility charging solutions for individuals without access to home charging for their electric vehicles and mobility devices (e.g., cars, e-bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, etc.). Applications may cover innovative public charging models, curbside charging, multifamily charging, e-micro mobility parking, multimodal community charging hubs, rate design, and more	Funds planning and/or demonstration efforts around innovative charging solutions for electrified ultra-light, micro, light, and medium-duty fleets that transport people through shared rides, shared vehicles, or transit operations, and through the last mile goods delivery in communities	Funds projects providing requirements and specifications for end-to-end managed charging functionality including charging and communication systems, aiming to provide resources and solutions into ecosystems supporting open-source distribution and potentially contribute to Standards Development Organizations (SDO) for industry consensus
Award amounts	*Anticipated no. of awards*	6 to 20	5 to 15	3 to 6
	Minimum award	$250,000	$250,000	$1,000,000
	Maximum award	$4,000,000	$4,000,000	$4,000,000
	Approx. federal funding available for all awards	$23,000,000	$20,000,000	$11,000,000
	Anticipated period of performance	Up to 24 months	Up to 24 months	Up to 24 months
Ongoing & past funded projects		16 total grants (funded between 2022 – 2023) ~$3M average funding across all past grants		

Source: Joint Office of Energy & Transportation

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Examples of past winners[1]

Caldera Cast (2022)

Applicant: Idaho National Laboratory
Impacted locality: National
Funding: Not specified (~$3M avg. past grant funding)

Project description: Caldera is an EV infrastructure simulation platform that bridges the gap between transportation and grid models and provides accurate co-simulation of both. The software tool aims to enable users from states, power companies, and others to better plan for EV infrastructure implementation. Caldera Cast began in October 2022 and is undergoing testing and work to improve the user interface.

Grant goals and merit criteria addressed:
• Improving EV infrastructure
• Community-driven model for EV charging deployment

EV Charging Business Model Assessment (2023)

Applicant: Argonne National Lab
Impacted locality: National
Funding: Not specified (~$3M avg. past grant funding)

Project description: This project delved into the various business model archetypes in the EV infrastructure charging space, the barriers in manufacturing and deployment of EV infrastructure, and how policies at the local, state, and federal level can be used to enhance the visibility of these models.

Program goals and merit criteria addressed:
• Validating public EV charging infrastructure real-world performance and reliability

What you will need to apply for a grant

Communities taking charge grants are open to a range of public and private entities and require an application with the NOFO outlining project eligibility by each topic area

Eligible Entities[1]

Solving for No-Home Charging

- Local, regional or Tribal governments
- Local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ) concerning building or fire codes and permitting
- Electric utilities and/or utility regulators
- Transit and public mobility service providers, mobility operators
- Charging network operators, charging software providers, charging providers
- Infrastructure providers, real estate developers, property managers, consulting firms
- Community organizations, academic institutions, national laboratories
- Department of Energy-designated Clean Cities coalitions
- Teaming arrangements are encouraged

Expanding E-Mobility Solutions

- Local government
- Utilities, airports, public transportation operators,
- Community organizations, academic institutions, national laboratories, labor organizations
- Clean cities coalitions
- Fleet operators and managers, carriers and shippers, vehicle manufacturers
- Infrastructure and technology providers, delivery platforms
- Real estate, retailers, consulting firms
- Teaming arrangements are encouraged

Managed Charging

- Mobility providers
- Charging hardware manufacturers and suppliers, charging network operators
- Infrastructure providers, fleet operators and owners
- Consulting firms
- Utilities
- Teaming arrangements are encouraged,
- National laboratory involvement is strongly encouraged

1. *Not inclusive of all eligibility requirements; please refer to NOFO for the full requirements and details*

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Key Application Components[1]

- Concept paper
  - Cover Page
  - Technical Description and Impacts
  - Community Benefits Plan

- Full Application Form
  - Application for Federal Assistance
  - Technical Volume
  - Resumes
  - Letters of Commitment
  - Community Partnership Documentation
  - Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO)
  - Budget Justification Workbook
  - Data Management Plan (Topic 3 only)
  - Location of work

- Key dates
  - Submission Deadline for Concept Papers: *May 20, 2024, 5 p.m. ET*
  - Anticipated Date of Concept Paper Notification: *June 13, 2024*
  - Submission Deadline for Full Applications: *July 16, 2024, 5 p.m. ET*
  - Expected Submission Deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments: *Aug. 30, 2024, 5 p.m. ET*
  - Expected Date for DOE Selection Notifications: *Dec. 2024*
  - Expected Timeframe for Award Negotiations: *Dec. 2024 – April 2025*

1. *Not inclusive of all requirements to apply; please refer to NOFO for the full requirements and details*

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