

Unlocking Opportunities: Apply for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Funding Summer 2024

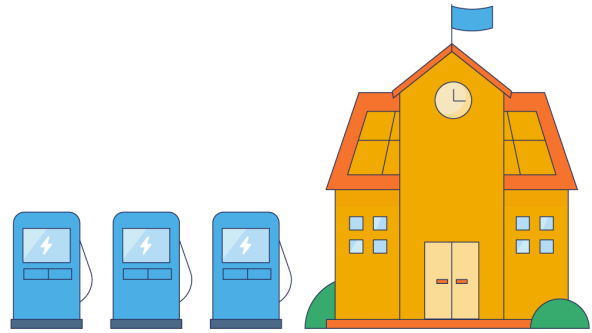


Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program

The [CFI program](#) provides funding to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging and other alternative fueling infrastructure. Eligible applicants include governmental entities such as states or political divisions of states, metropolitan planning organizations, and Indian tribes, amongst others. There are ways that non-governmental stakeholders can engage with and benefit from CFI. See page 2 for more information.

CFI Grant Program Tracks

- **Corridor Charging:** To deploy EV charging infrastructure along designated alternative fuel corridors
- **Community Charging:** To install EV and alternative fuel charging at schools, parks, publicly accessible parking facilities, and public roads. Prioritize rural areas and low and moderate-income neighborhoods with low ratios of private parking or high ratios of multi-unit dwellings.



Resources

Joint Office of Technical Assistance

- Receive [expert guidance](#) to enhance your project proposal and maximize your chance of success.

Southeast Sustainability Directors Network

- Utilize [SSDN's tools](#) to strengthen your infrastructure projects and proposals.

Electrification Coalition

- Tap into resources available on the [Electrification Coalition's CFI Resource Page](#) to bolster your electrification initiatives.

Forth Federal Grant Support

- [Forth](#) has extensive experience applying for grants in the EV space. [Use this form](#) to reach out, and someone from the Forth team will follow up to share resources and discuss potential support.

Recorded Webinars

- CFI Awards: Next Steps and Best Practices [recording](#).
- Delivering EV Charging Infrastructure to Rural and Underserved Communities through Justice40 [recording](#).
- How U.S. Cities and Counties are Accelerating the Deployment of EV Charging Infrastructure [recording](#).
- Electric Transportation Funding [recording](#).

Stay Informed

- [Register](#) to receive notifications about upcoming webinars and events focused on electric transportation funding from the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation.

Tips for Applying for CFI Funding

Please be advised that applying entities must have a [Grants.gov](#) account.

Key dates

- CFI opened for applications on May 30th, 2024.
- The closing date is **September 11th, 2024**.
- All questions due to CFIGrants@dot.gov by **July 29, 2024**
- See U.S. DOT's [Key notices](#) of Funding Opportunity for updates on CFI and other grant opportunity open and close dates.
- Visit this [webpage](#) for more information or [contact](#) Neelam Patel, Department of Transportation.

Regional collaboration is key

- CFI has a broad regional focus, and in round 1, regional partnerships including multiple cities, counties, and states were more successful and received larger awards.

Begin partnership building and project development early

- Successful applications require significant analysis of community needs and proposed impact. It's helpful to begin this before the grant is announced.

Focus on the greatest need and sustainable impact

- In Round 1, successful projects encompassed low-income and Justice40 designated areas, used multi-modal transportation design, and considered multi-unit dwelling and future medium and heavy-duty vehicle needs.

Leverage online tools

- Use the "Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure [Playbook](#)" to save time and strengthen your application.



Unlocking Opportunities: Equity considerations for CFI Funding

Considerations for Other Stakeholders

Project Partnerships

- Private entities, including nonprofit organizations are eligible to partner as sub-recipients or contractors on applications that are proposed and led by public entities. For example, a metropolitan planning organization could partner with a local nonprofit organization on developing a proposal.
- Within the Community Charging Track, projects can be located on any publicly accessible road or parking facilities, even those owned or managed by private entities.
- Read more about contracting & subgrants on pg. 21 of the [NOFO](#) and pg 3-7 of the CFI [FAQ](#).

Multi-modal and Multi-purpose Charging Infrastructure

- CFI encourages applicants to connect or promote multi-modal hubs where possible and to the extent that community stakeholders are connected with local transit authorities, transportation providers (i.e. taxi companies) and shuttle service providers, charging infrastructure plans stand to benefit from multi-stakeholder input that considers the broader mobility ecosystem rather than just charging gaps.
- CBOs, transportation service providers, and local residents can help CFI applicants develop and implement their plans, ensuring that projects provide locally relevant benefits in equitable ways that are responsive to community input.

Insight Community can Provide to Applicants

- Both community and corridor project applicants must demonstrate how benefits from their project will flow to Justice40 communities and demonstrate that the infrastructure proposed in their application is accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.
- Specific topics that CBOs, residents, and other community stakeholders can provide insight on to help strengthen their local applicant's proposal include:
 - Existing charging infrastructure gaps i.e. where within the community is there the greatest need for increased charging infrastructure?
 - Identifying specific benefits that would have the greatest positive impact on the community such as cleaner air, increased job and wealth-creating opportunities, and reduced transportation costs; and outlining methods to achieve these benefits.
 - Are there any places where charging infrastructure should not go and why, i.e. to protect sensitive or sacred natural environments.

Further Reading & Engagement

- Interested in applying for funding for EV charging as a lead applicant? Check out Electrification Coalition's EV Funding Finder [Tool](#) to search for and identify other funding sources for EV charging and transportation projects beyond CFI.
- **If you have questions or want to learn more about how to advance equity through CFI, please contact Dani Moore at dani@ncjustice.org**

Considerations for Applicants

Equity, Community Engagement, and Justice 40

- Applicants are required to address how their project meets equity, community engagement, and Justice 40 [requirements](#). See p. 52-54 of the [NOFO](#) for more information. Specifically, applicants need to demonstrate how the project will:
 - Use the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool ([CEJST](#)) to include an equity assessment of whether the project will create proportional impacts/remove transportation disparities in the area
 - Demonstrate how meaningful public involvement will occur throughout a project's life cycle
 - Demonstrate how outcomes will target benefits towards disadvantaged communities
 - Demonstrate how benefits will increase transportation options, improve safety, connect residents to jobs, and improve access to resources and quality of life
- Another benefit applicants should consider to advance equity is minimizing gentrification caused by displacement resulting from new EV charging infrastructure
- Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC) charging projects that may affect Indian Tribes must consult the Tribe(s) before AFC designations are made.

Education and Community Engagement are Eligible Costs

- Eligible project costs in CFI include education and community engagement to develop and implement programs through partnerships with schools, community organizations, and vehicle dealerships to support the use of zero-emission vehicles and associated infrastructure. (see p. 25 of the [NOFO](#) for more information)

Merit Criteria

- Applications will be preliminarily evaluated based on five merit criteria:
 - Safety
 - Climate Change, Resilience, and Sustainability
 - **Equity, Community Engagement, and Justice40**
 - Workforce Development, Job Quality, and Wealth Creation
 - CFI Program Vision
- See p. 49-57 of the [NOFO](#) for more information on project merit criteria

Further Reading & Engagement

- [Charging Toward Justice](#) - (Note: while this report is specific to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program rather than CFI, many of the recommendations are still relevant for CFI).
- **If you have questions or want to learn more about how to advance equity through CFI, please contact Dani Moore at dani@ncjustice.org**