

Notice of Intent No. DE-FOA-0003249

Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0003250

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) intends to issue, on behalf of the Vehicle Technologies Office, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Fiscal Year 2024 Technology Integration (TI) Funding Opportunity Announcement”.

The transportation sector has historically relied heavily on petroleum, which supports over 90 percent of the sector’s energy needs today and, as a result, has surpassed electricity generation to become the largest source of CO2 emissions in the country. Transportation sector decarbonization is therefore critical to achieving the administration’s goal of economy-wide decarbonization by 2050. The Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) will play a leading role in decarbonizing the transportation sector and address the climate crisis by driving innovation and deploying clean transportation technologies, all while maintaining transportation service quality and safety. VTO funds research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) of new, efficient, and clean mobility options that are affordable for all Americans.

Within VTO, the Technology Integration Program supports the demonstration and deployment of new technology at the community level, but ultimately with broader national reach. The Technology Integration Program supports a broad technology portfolio that includes alternative fuels, workforce development and training, and other efficient advanced technologies that can reduce transportation energy costs for businesses and consumers. The program provides objective, unbiased data and real-world lessons learned to inform future research needs and support local decision making. It also includes projects to disseminate data, information, and insight, as well as online tools and technology assistance to cities and regions working to implement alternative fuels and energy efficient mobility technologies and systems.

Clean Cities is a U.S. DOE partnership to advance clean transportation nationwide. As partners with the VTO Technology Integration Program, Clean Cities coalitions strengthen the nation’s environment, energy security, and economic prosperity by working locally to advance affordable, efficient, and clean transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices.

It is anticipated that the FOA may include the following Areas of Interest:

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Area of Interest 1: Clean Cities Outreach, Engagement, and Technical Assistance

The Clean Cities mission is to advance the nation's environment, energy security and economic prosperity through collaboration with communities by building partnerships with public and private stakeholders that create equitable deployment of clean transportation solutions for all. Coalitions work locally in urban, suburban, and rural communities to advance the affordable, convenient, and energy efficient movement of people and goods. The objective of this topic is to fund projects that strengthen Clean Cities coalitions' ability to achieve the Clean Cities vision: a decarbonized transportation future for all communities, by enabling coalitions to hire additional staff and undertake high-impact activities.

This area of interest will not support technology demonstration of any pre-commercial technology nor deployment of any vehicles or fueling infrastructure and may not require cost share. Example eligible coalition activities may include outreach, engagement, and technical assistance with stakeholders in the following categories:

- Medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleet stakeholders;
- Non-road transportation stakeholders in the off-road, rail, marine, aviation, and port sectors;
- Underserved communities;
- Tribal communities; and
- Electric utilities and utility regulators.

Acceptable project costs would be those associated with these activities, such as: staff time, vendor costs, supplies, event space rental, training materials, hiring experienced individuals/trainers, travel costs, and other relevant, allowable, reasonable, and applicable costs. Applications must include metrics for tracking coalition impact related to the Clean Cities mission and vision. Projects may include collaboration with DOE National Laboratories.

Area of Interest 2: Training on Zero Emission Vehicle and Infrastructure Technologies for Critical Emergency Response Workers

This area of interest targets the development of local, regional, or national outreach, awareness, and partnership building efforts for training and education of firefighters, first responders, and other emergency response professionals to address emergency situations involving new zero emission vehicle and infrastructure technologies. Existing training materials, curricula, websites, online tools, and other relevant information resources previously developed in cooperation with EERE or accepted by EERE should be leveraged to the maximum extent possible. Projects can develop training in areas where gaps exist in current training curricula. Projects are encouraged to provide in-person training workshops or build partnerships to incorporate existing online training materials into local first responder training

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programs and encourage widespread reach of these training sessions. Projects addressing communities that are among the top electric vehicle markets in the United States are highly encouraged.

Area of Interest 3: Demonstration and Deployment Open Topic

The objective of this area of interest is to explore novel solutions to transportation and energy challenges through small-scale demonstration and deployment projects not otherwise addressed in the planned FOA. This would include projects to address challenges unique to their geographic areas and solutions with potential for replication in other areas across the country. Projects of interest include, but are not limited to, projects that focus on the advancement of zero-emissions medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicle technologies; projects that address the mobility needs of local underserved regions or populations; and projects that implement advanced technologies or alternative fuels in off-road, marine, rail, and other non-road applications. Potential project team members may include, but are not limited to, the following: Clean Cities coalitions; local/regional/state governments; metropolitan planning organizations; community-based organizations that focus on the needs and perspectives of underserved communities; transit; transportation network providers; vehicle, fuel, energy, and infrastructure providers; utility companies; and fleets.

EERE envisions awarding multiple financial assistance awards in the form of cooperative agreements. The estimated period of performance for each award will be approximately 24 – 36 months.

This Notice is issued so that interested parties are aware of the EERE's intention to issue this FOA in the near term. All of the information contained in this Notice is subject to change. EERE will not respond to questions concerning this Notice. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential Applicants to submit questions.

EERE plans to issue the FOA on or about January -February 2024 via the EERE eXCHANGE website <https://eere-eXCHANGE.energy.gov/>. If Applicants wish to receive official notifications and information from EERE regarding this FOA, they should register in EERE eXCHANGE. When the FOA is released, applications will be accepted only through EERE eXCHANGE.

In anticipation of the FOA being released, Applicants are advised to complete the following steps, which are **required** for application submission:

- Register and create an account in EERE eXCHANGE at <https://eere-eXCHANGE.energy.gov/>. This account will allow the user to apply to any open EERE FOAs that are currently in EERE eXCHANGE.

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To access EERE eXCHANGE, potential applicants will be required to have a [Login.gov](https://login.gov) account. As part of the eXCHANGE registration process, new users are directed to create an account in [Login.gov](https://login.gov). Please note that the email address associated with Login.gov must match the email address associated with the eXCHANGE account. For more information, refer to the Exchange Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Quick Guide in the [Manuals section](#) of eXCHANGE.

It is recommended that each organization or business unit, whether acting as a team or a single entity, use only one account as the contact point for each submission. Questions related to the registration process and use of the EERE Exchange website should be submitted to: EERE-eXCHANGESupport@hq.doe.gov. Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at <https://www.sam.gov>. Designating an Electronic Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in SAM registration. Please update your SAM registration annually. Upon registration, SAM will automatically assign a Unique Entity ID (UEI).

NOTE: Due to the high demand of UEI requests and SAM registrations, entity legal business name and address validations are taking longer than expected to process. Entities should start the UEI and SAM registration process as soon as possible. If entities have technical difficulties with the UEI validation or SAM registration process they should utilize the HELP feature on SAM.gov. SAM.gov will work entity service tickets in the order in which they are received and asks that entities not create multiple service tickets for the same request or technical issue. Additional entity validation resources can be found here: [GSAFSD Tier 0 Knowledge Base - Validating your Entity](#).

- Register in FedConnect at <https://www.fedconnect.net/>. To create an organization account, your organization's SAM MPIN is required. For more information about the SAM MPIN or other registration requirements, review the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/Marketing/Documents/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf.
- Register in Grants.gov to receive automatic updates when Amendments to a FOA are posted. However, please note that applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov. <http://www.grants.gov/>. All applications must be submitted through EERE eXCHANGE.

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