

EVCI-RFA-02 Response to Questions

Posted Dec. 10, 2020

The question period for EVCI-RFA-02 closed at 11:59 p.m. EST on Nov. 25, 2020. All questions submitted during the question period are addressed below. Responses to questions asked during EVCI-RFA-01 earlier this year are available on the department's [Volkswagen Settlement webpage](#).

EVCI Phase 2 Submitted Questions

1. Are interstate rest areas and welcome centers eligible to be selected as sites for EVCI Phase 2 funding?

Response: Interstate rest areas and welcome centers require vendors be approved through Federal Highway Administration rules, which are outside of the state's authority and therefore not eligible as sites.

2. Upon review of the current EVCI Phase 2 grant opportunity, it appears that only certain exits along the interstates are eligible. Are you able to share if another agency has submitted for these locations?

Response: Exits not listed in the table are ineligible for EVCI Phase 2. Applications using exits not listed in the table as the starting or ending point for site proximity will be deemed ineligible. The purpose of the EVCI Phase 2 along Interstates 4, 75 and 95 is to close larger gaps between EVCI Phase 1 sites.

3. Do you anticipate extending the bid due date?

Response: The department currently does not plan to extend the deadline. Applicants may request that the department extend the deadline, but there are no assurances that an extension will be provided.

4. What additional details are you willing to provide, if any, beyond what is stated in bid documents concerning how you will identify the winning bid?

Response: Details regarding the evaluation process are identified by scoring criteria in the [RFA](#).

5. Was this bid posted to the [nationwide free bid notification website](#)? Other than your own website, where was this bid posted?

Response: This RFA was posted on the department's [Volkswagen Settlement webpage](#) and through the [Florida Vendor Bid System](#). Additionally, notice of the RFA was posted in the Florida Administrative Register.

6. Can the grant apply to new construction sites or must it be existing built sites?

Response: Grants are not limited to existing construction sites. All features identified in the application to be used in the evaluation process (e.g., amenities) should also be completed and functioning within the timeframe of the grant period.

7. Is the award amount scalable based on the point system, or is it a simple yes/no based on the highest point total within that segment?

Response: The award amount is based on the percentage of the total reimbursable costs provided by the applicant in Volume II of the application. The maximum amount of funding per grant is \$500,000. Awarded applicants will be funded based on the cost-share percentage and budget provided in the application.

8. If an entity was awarded funding for Phase 1, does that affect its chances of award for Phase 2?

Response: EVCI Phase 2 evaluations will be based solely on the applications submitted for that particular segment within EVCI Phase 2.

9. What map is used to identify existing charging infrastructure?

Response: The RFA does not feature a map to identify existing infrastructure. Those interested in a tool to identify existing infrastructure should visit the [U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center](#).

10. Is there a deadline for implementation?

Response: The department anticipates a 24-month period of performance for EVCI Phase 2 grants starting from the date of award.

11. What additional supplemental material would be helpful?

Response: The department will accept any additional material in support of the features of Volume I and Volume II that will be evaluated.

12. For Customer Service, would the standard service provided by a charge point vendor cover this requirement?

Response: The department has made the minimum requirements for customer service available in the RFA.

13. What needs to be included in Projects of Similar Size and Scope? Does this mean projects that the grantee (i.e., local government) or the vendor has implemented?

Response: Projects of a similar size and scope should illustrate the applicant's experience with EVCI. The applicant may use their own experience and/or the experience of project partners named in Volume I of the application.

14. Are solar EV chargers acceptable?

Response: Any EVCI equipment that meets the definition and minimum requirements listed in the RFA is eligible.

15. Specifically, is the 50 kw system available through the [Florida Sheriff's Association](#) an acceptable option?

Response: Any EVCI equipment that meets the definition and minimum requirements listed in the RFA is eligible.

16. Is there any possibility of the funding cap being increased beyond \$500,000 per site for a unique project?

Response: EVCI Phase 2 will remain capped at \$500,000 per segment.

17. If a solar-powered mobile charging system is temporarily relocated from the site identified in the application for emergency response purposes within the five-year window, will that invalidate the grant agreement?

Response: The purpose of EVCI Phase 1 and EVCI Phase 2 is to provide reliable charging for daily use and travel along the interstates, including the scenario of an evacuation due to a hurricane or other extreme event. The RFA requires that these sites be permanently installed for at least five years.

18. If the original site is renovated during the five-year window, can a mobile charging system be relocated to a similar site (i.e., distance from interstate and access to amenities)?

Response: Grantees will agree to keeping the EVCI operational at the site for a minimum of five years, as the RFA states.

19. What is defined as "on-site"? Less than ¼ mile? For example, if a public building with restaurants is across the street from the parking lot and restaurants one block farther?

Response: For the purpose of listing amenities for evaluation, on-site means any brick and mortar that provides an amenity within the same area and is not separated from the charging station by a named street.

20. For Resilience Considerations, will it help to have specific data about sea level rise, storm surge or other risks at the site? Is operational and community resilience of the EVCI also considered?

Response: The department will accept any information that supports and/or explains the decision to include features which make the site and/or EVCI more resilient.