



## **REQUEST FOR INTERESTED PARTNERS:**

### **Regarding DEQ's application for funds through the Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program**

**April 24, 2023**

#### **1. Background**

The Montana Energy Office at the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking project partners for an application for funding from the Federal Highways Administration's (FHWA) Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law on November 15, 2021. If selected for funding, DEQ's application to the CFI Program will provide funding to project partners, through DEQ, to strategically deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across the state. Funds awarded by FHWA can fund up to 80 percent of project costs and must be matched by a minimum of 20 percent non-federal funding. DEQ will not provide any funding for the cost match; the 20 percent match must be provided by project partners.

The FHWA is seeking applications for grants totaling up to \$350 million for the Community Charging and Fueling Program Grants (Community Program) for this first round of funding. DEQ's application for funding under this grant is due May 30, 2023. The purpose of the Community Program is to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure, hydrogen fueling infrastructure, propane fueling infrastructure, and natural gas fueling infrastructure located on public roads or in other publicly accessible locations in Montana.

The purpose of this Request for Interested Parties (RFIP) is to evaluate potential demand for funding by identifying potential project partners, which will define the level of funding DEQ would apply for on behalf of those project partners. For the purposes of this RFIP, "project partners" refers to those entities that will ultimately host, own, operate, and/or maintain EV charging infrastructure pursuant to the requirements of the CFI Program. Neither DEQ nor the State of Montana will host, own, operate, or maintain any EV charging infrastructure that may be funded by the CFI Program. Details on the CFI Program and FHWA's Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cfi/>. Selected project partners will work with DEQ to ensure compliance with all FHWA requirements.

Responses to this RFIP should provide as much detail and respond to as many items as possible.

## 2. Request for Interested Partners

DEQ is requesting responses from interested parties that would directly own, maintain, and/or operate EV charging infrastructure or contract with a third party to fulfill a portion of these obligations. Projects should help strategically build out a convenient, reliable, affordable, and equitable EV charging network and compliment Montana's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan<sup>1</sup>. Responses are welcome from businesses, non-profits, Tribal and local governments, individuals, and other entities capable of meeting the requirements of the CFI Program. Responses are due by 5:00 pm Mountain on **Friday, May 12, 2023**.

This RFIP is strictly for the purposes of evaluating interest in CFI Program funding for EV charging infrastructure projects in Montana and identifying potential project partners for a DEQ application to the CFI Program. The RFIP should not be construed as intent, commitment, or promise of grant funding to any RFIP respondents. There is no guarantee that DEQ will submit an application to the CFI Program on behalf of RFIP respondents, or that a DEQ application would be selected for funding. Funding of a DEQ application on behalf of project partners would be decided by FHWA and the U.S. Department of Transportation. **No contract or funding agreement will directly result from any response to this RFIP.**

### **Requested Information:**

Submittals from interested parties must include complete responses to the following criteria:

- 1) Name, contact information (including address, city, state, phone, e-mail), company or organization that respondent represents.
  
- 2) Names, contact information, and project roles of partner businesses or organizations (if any), including letters of commitment from those project partners.
  
- 3) Location(s) where the EV charging equipment would be located (street address, city, state, zip and latitude/longitude coordinates). If the location(s) is not owned by the respondent, please indicate if host agreements are in place.

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<sup>1</sup> [Montana Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan](#), July 28, 2022

- 4) Total number of EV charging plugs at each location. There must be a minimum of four plugs and there may be any combination of DCFC and Level 2 charging equipment.
  
- 5) Number and charging capacity in kilowatts (kW) of DCFC plugs at each location. Each DCFC must provide at least 150kW of charge to an EV; if there is more than one DCFC, the DCFCs must be able to simultaneously provide EVs with at least 150kW of charge.
  
- 6) Number and charging capacity in kW of Level 2 plugs at each location. Each Level 2 charging station must be able to provide at least 6kW of charge to an EV.
  
- 7) Information on how the proposed location(s) will be open and accessible to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
  
- 8) A description of the amenities within ¼ mile of the site/location.
  
- 9) Total project budget including estimated cost of equipment, construction, installation, and operation and maintenance of eligible charging infrastructure. Budget information should be as detailed as possible and broken out by line item including, but not limited to, the cost of charging equipment, installation, and electrical upgrades to ensure DEQ has the

information required to determine if an application for the CFI program is warranted. Please indicate total requested funding amount and amount of non-federal match. (May be submitted as a separate attachment)

10) Information on communications with the electric service provider(s) for each location.

- a. Do the proposed location(s) have the electrical capacity to host the proposed EV charging infrastructure?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. If not, what upgrades are required to host the EV charging infrastructure and at what cost?

11) Description of how the project(s) will mitigate potential safety risks introduced by the project.

12) Any additional information the respondent determines relevant.

**Responses to this RFIP are due by 5pm Mountain Daylight Time on Friday, May 12, 2023. Responses should be e-mailed to [mtenergy@mt.gov](mailto:mtenergy@mt.gov) and include “*RFIP - Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program*” as the subject line.**