



# **Illinois Department of Transportation**

## **Call for Partners for USDOT Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Program**

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**Released: May 21, 2024**

**Responses Due: June 11, 2024 at 5:00 pm Central Time**

## Overview

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI Program) is a \$2.5 billion competitive grant program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure. This program provides two grant funding categories: (1) Community Charging and Fueling Grants (Community Program); and (2) Alternative Fuel Corridor Grants (Corridor Program).

Corridor Program grants are expected to support the buildout of charging or other alternative fueling infrastructure along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). Public sector applicants to the Corridor program are required to contract with a private entity for acquisition and installation of publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure, or hydrogen, propane, or natural gas fueling infrastructure that is directly related to the charging or fueling of a vehicle along designated AFCs.

FHWA offered \$700 million in grants for federal fiscal years 2022 and 2023. While FHWA has yet to launch the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for federal fiscal year 2024, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is issuing this Call for Partners to inform IDOT's application for FHWA's next round of competitive funding for the CFI Corridor program. Potential partners include private companies such as medium and heavy duty fleet operators and providers of medium and heavy duty vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure as well as non-profit organizations, municipalities, and others interested in the Corridor Program.

**Please note that this is not a competitive procurement. If IDOT's application is selected for funding by FHWA, IDOT will conduct a competitive procurement for acquisition, installation, operation, and maintenance of charging stations in compliance with federal and state procurement rules.**

Partners identified through this Call for Partners may be asked for additional information during CFI application development. This solicitation does not require IDOT to select any Partners solicited through this process. IDOT may pursue any projects solicited through this Call for Partners, any other projects, or none at all.

Participation in development of IDOT's CFI-Corridor application is not a guarantee of funding, but instead indicates that the Department will work with selected Partner(s) to develop a competitive grant proposal to USDOT. Funding is contingent on any USDOT award and conditions surrounding any award. IDOT will work in conjunction with any selected Partner(s) to refine the proposal based on what CFI Program application materials require. Selected Partner(s) will have an opportunity to re-confirm their commitment/participation prior to IDOT submitting any grant applications.

Responses are due to DOT.DriveElectric@illinois.gov on June 11, 2024 by 5:00 pm Central Time.

## CFI Corridor Program Eligibility Requirements

Responses to this Call for Partners should inform IDOT about potential CFI Corridor Program eligible projects and their potential to expand deployment of publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure, or hydrogen, propane, or natural gas fueling infrastructure that is directly related to the charging or fueling of a vehicle along designated AFCs. Some of the most important eligibility criteria for the CFI program are detailed below; however, interested parties should review the previous CFI Program's [FY22/FY23 NOFO](#) in its entirety before responding to this Call for Partners.

Projects must be located along an alternative fuel corridor in order to be eligible. EV charging infrastructure should be conveniently and safely located as close to the AFC as possible, and, in general, no greater than one mile from Interstate exits or highway intersections along designated corridors. Hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling infrastructure should be conveniently and safely located as close to the AFC as possible, and, in general, no greater than five miles from Interstate exits or highway intersections along designated corridors. A map of Illinois' designated alternative fuel corridors can be found [here](#). Projects must be accessible to the public without restriction.

In order to be eligible for Corridor CFI funding, State DOTs must contract with private entities for the acquisition, installation, operation, and maintenance of charging and fueling infrastructure. Contracted private entities are responsible for the share of the project cost carried out with CFI program fund that is not paid by the federal government. This share will be at least 20% of the total eligible project costs. Eligible project costs include acquisition, installation, and 5 years of operating and maintenance assistance of eligible infrastructure, as well as acquisition and installation of traffic control devices located in the right-of-way to provide directional information to eligible infrastructure.

**As a reminder, this call for partners is not a competitive procurement. The selection of private sector entities to acquire, install, operate, and maintain charging/fueling infrastructure will be completed through a competitive process in the event IDOT's application is selected by FHWA. Responses to this Request for Partners should not include detailed proprietary information such as detailed project costs.**

In addition, eligible CFI projects must address one of the following focus areas:

- (1) demonstrate build-out of AFCs by expanding existing or adding new charging and fueling infrastructure
- (2) enable zero-emission corridors for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles that will enable zero emission movement of goods, connecting distribution hubs and population centers
- (3) promote reliability and resiliency to intermittent or sustained power outages or extreme weather events

Given other available funding programs for passenger vehicle charging infrastructure in the state, including the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, the State of Illinois will

prioritize proposals containing projects to build zero-emission charging/fueling corridors for medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles.

## **Guidance for Responses**

Responses to this call for partners from any qualified and eligible private entities interested in partnering with IDOT for the CFI Program shall be no more than ten pages total, excluding any maps/photos addenda.

Interested parties should submit information on specific project(s), including but not necessarily limited to:

- Information and recommendations related to existing and future demand for medium and heavy duty charging and fueling along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors, as well as existing infrastructure gaps and infrastructure that would support greater adoption of medium and heavy-duty alternative fuel vehicles.
- Suggested potential project locations, including discussion of why this location would be strategic for medium and heavy duty charging and fueling infrastructure.
- Existing plans, planning efforts or public/stakeholder engagement related to potential CFI-Corridor eligible projects
- Information about potential safety risks associated with medium and heavy duty charging/fueling infrastructure, and strategies for mitigating these risks
- Recommendations related to Environmental Justice, air quality, resilience and workforce development components of potential CFI-Corridor eligible projects
- Recommendations related to cybersecurity and technology advancement considerations, such as accommodating automated vehicles, vehicle to grid technology, and future charging methods
- Information and recommendations related to strategies for long-term operation and maintenance of the charging/fueling infrastructure

## **Submission**

Applicants should not submit any sensitive information. Applications may be a public record to the extent required by law.

Interested Partners shall submit their application to DOT.DriveElectric by June 11, 2024 at 5:00 pm Central Time.