

# EPA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM

# WEBINAR

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Office of Air and Radiation (OAR)

Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD)

Office of General Counsel (OGC)

Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO)



# **ZOOM WEBINAR LOGISTICS**



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- Live interpretation: Live Spanish interpretation is available by clicking the "Interpretation" icon and selecting Spanish. Click "Mute Original Audio" to mute English audio when listening in Spanish.
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# **ZOOM WEBINAR LOGISTICS**



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- **Preguntas:** Use la función Q&A [preguntas y respuestas] para hacer preguntas durante la presentación. Abordaremos todas las que sea posible después de la presentación. Si no podemos contestar su pregunta en este momento, anotaremos todas las preguntas y respuestas en el documento Q&A correspondiente disponible en nuestro sitio web. Puede también enviar preguntas por escrito a la línea directa de ayuda del Programa de Autobuses Escolares Limpios de la EPA en <u>cleanschoolbus@epa.gov</u>.
- Chat: Se encuentra inhabilitado el chat, pero los presentadores podrían compartir enlaces a través de la función de chat.
- Reacciones: Las reacciones están habilitadas para que usted interactúe con el presentador.



#### **OVERVIEW**

OAR

CSB Grant Program

## PART 1

OGD & OGC

Programmatic and Fiscal Responsibilities

## PART 2

OCFO

Understanding ASAP and drawdown of funds

#### Resources

Helpful links and tools

# **OVERVIEW**



## **CLEAN SCHOOL BUS (CSB) GRANT PROGRAM**

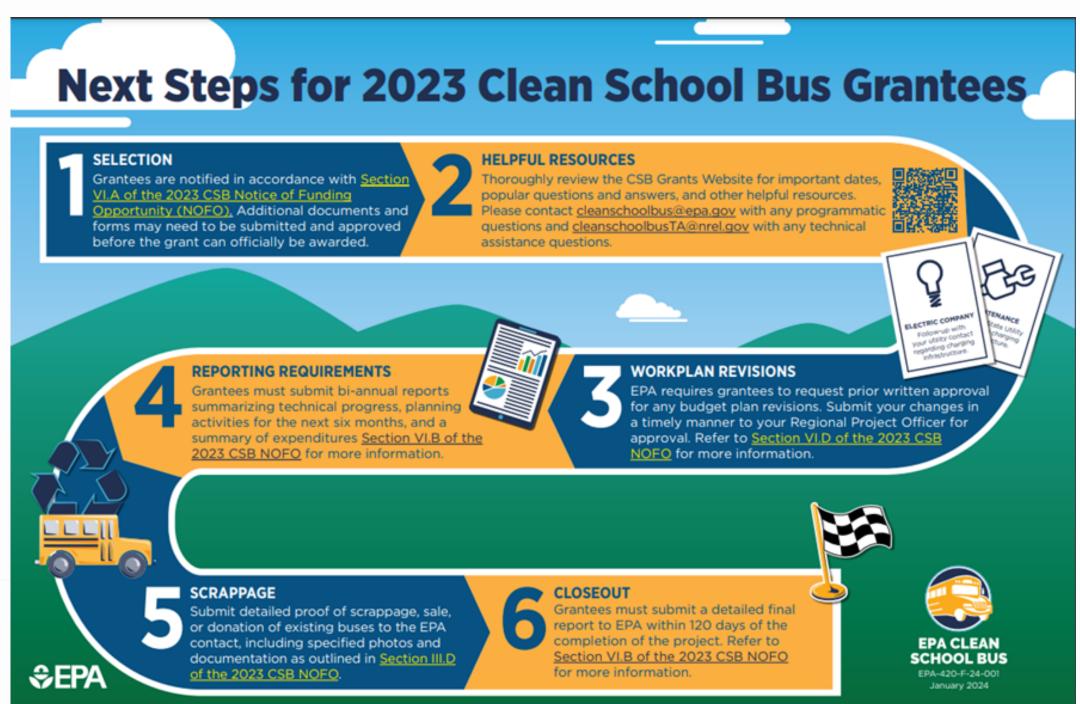


Congratulations again on being selected for a 2023 Clean School Bus Grant award. Because of your dedication to the transition toward cleaner school bus fleets, approximately 2,700 buses in about 270 school districts across the nation will be replaced with cleaner, healthier buses under the 2023 CSB Grant program.

Thank you!

#### **CSB Grant Program Process**





#### WHY WE ARE HERE



To ensure ongoing support for CSB Grantees, EPA is providing an overview of key information in the Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) of your awards.

We understand that some grantees, particularly forprofit entities, may be less familiar with grant regulations and requirements included in your T&Cs; as part of our partnership with you to ensure the success of CSB grants, EPA is providing an opportunity to review key details of the T&Cs and answer questions in real-time during this webinar.

# PART 1





Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD)
Office of General Counsel (OGC)

- Eligible Costs
- Program Income
- Fraud, Waste and Abuse
- Compliance with Federal Laws & Regulations

#### **ELIGIBLE COSTS**

- All CSB grantees, including for-profit entities, must make sure that their budget table has an accurate breakdown of how all grant funds will be used for eligible costs (e.g., equipment, personnel), reflected in appropriate cost categories.
- The \*Interim General Budget Development
   Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA
   Financial is a helpful resource for new recipients
   when preparing budgets.



#### **ELIGIBLE COSTS**

- All grant funds listed for each budget category should match the recipient's internal documentation of how funds are spent on eligible cost categories.
- All grantees must comply with record retention requirements for audit purposes.



#### **ELIGIBLE COSTS**

- Participant support costs (PSC) are allowable under specific conditions.
- EPA expanded the definition of participant support costs in <u>2 CFR 1500.1</u> to include rebates and subsidies to promote participation in environmental stewardship programs.
- CSB recipients may be able to use CSB funds to provide school districts with rebates or subsidies for purchases of clean school buses.



#### **INDIRECT COSTS**



Indirect costs (IDC), such as HR, payroll, rent, accounting, etc., benefit all the recipient's projects and programs, so the indirect cost rate is used to allocate a portion of these costs to their federal award.



Indirect costs are budgeted by applying the recipient's IDC rate to their approved basis of application, which, for the federal de minimis rate, is modified total direct costs (MTDC) as defined in 2 CFR 200.1.



Costs should be properly included in the recipient's budget so the indirect cost rate is applied appropriately.

#### **Calculating Modified Total Direct Costs**

**Indirect Cost Rate** 

10% de minimis Rate

<b>Budget Object Class</b>	Requ	ested Amount
Personnel	\$	250,000
Fringe Benefits	\$	87,500
Travel	\$	2,300
Equipment	\$	300,000
Supplies	\$	1,400
Contractual	\$	3,000
Construction	\$	50,000
Other	\$	114,000
Total Direct Costs	\$	808,200
Requested Indirect Costs	\$	41,920
Total	\$	850,120

<b>Modified Total Direct Costs Base - Excluded "Other" Cost</b>			
Breakout of Subawards	Amount	Allow	ved in MTDC
Subaward 1	\$ 25,000	\$	25,000
Subaward 2	\$ 35,000	\$	25,000
Subaward 3	\$ 50,000	\$	25,000
Subaward 4		\$	-
Subaward 5		\$	-
Subaward 6		\$	_
Subaward 7		\$	-
Subaward 8		\$	_
Subaward 9		\$	-
Subaward 10		\$	-
Total Subawards	\$ 110,000	\$	75,000

"Other" Excludable Cost	Amount
Rental Costs	
Patient Care	
Tuition Remission*	
Scholarships*	
Fellowships*	
Other Participant Support Costs*	4,000
Capital expenditures	
Total Other Excluded	\$ 4,000

Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	\$ 419,200
Allowable Indirect costs	\$ 41,920

Amt of Subawards excluded \$ 35,000 Total excluded costs \$ 389,000

§ 200.1 Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

# Budget

Type	Rate per Hour	Number of Hours	Personnel Cost	Fringe Benefits
Engineer	\$60	400	\$24,000	\$5,280
Scientist	\$36	300	\$10,800	\$5,050
Junior Scientist	\$24	2,500	\$60,000	\$3,930
Manager	\$95	500	\$47,500	\$9,220
Total			\$142,300	\$23,480

#### **SUBAWARDS AND CONTRACTS**

- All recipients, including for profits, must comply with the procurement requirements in <u>2 CFR Part 200</u> with regard to competition.
- Competition best practices include:
  - Make good faith efforts to solicit quotes from
     Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, required by 40 CFR
     Part 33.
  - Publicly advertise the competition and keep it open for bidding for at least 30 days.
- See EPA's <u>Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services</u>, <u>Supplies</u>, <u>and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements</u> for additional guidance.



#### **SUBAWARDS AND CONTRACTS**

Entity Type	Subaward	Procurement Contract	Transactions with for-profit companies and individual consultants are considered
For-profit			procurement contracts with few exceptions. Two examples include:
Individual Consultant			Grant recipient (for-profit entity or non-profit entity) provides a subaward to a for-profit
Non-profit			company to upgrade equipment owned by the company (the subrecipient) that will be
Institution of Higher Education			used to carry out the grant purpose. Grant recipient provides a rebate or subsidy to a for-profit company for all or a portion of
Federal Agency			the costs of the equipment purchased by the company. The rebate or subsidy would
Federally Funded Research & Development Center			be participant support costs and the company (owner of the equipment) would be a program beneficiary.

#### **Simplified Acquisition**

should obtain prices/quotes from at least 3 sources



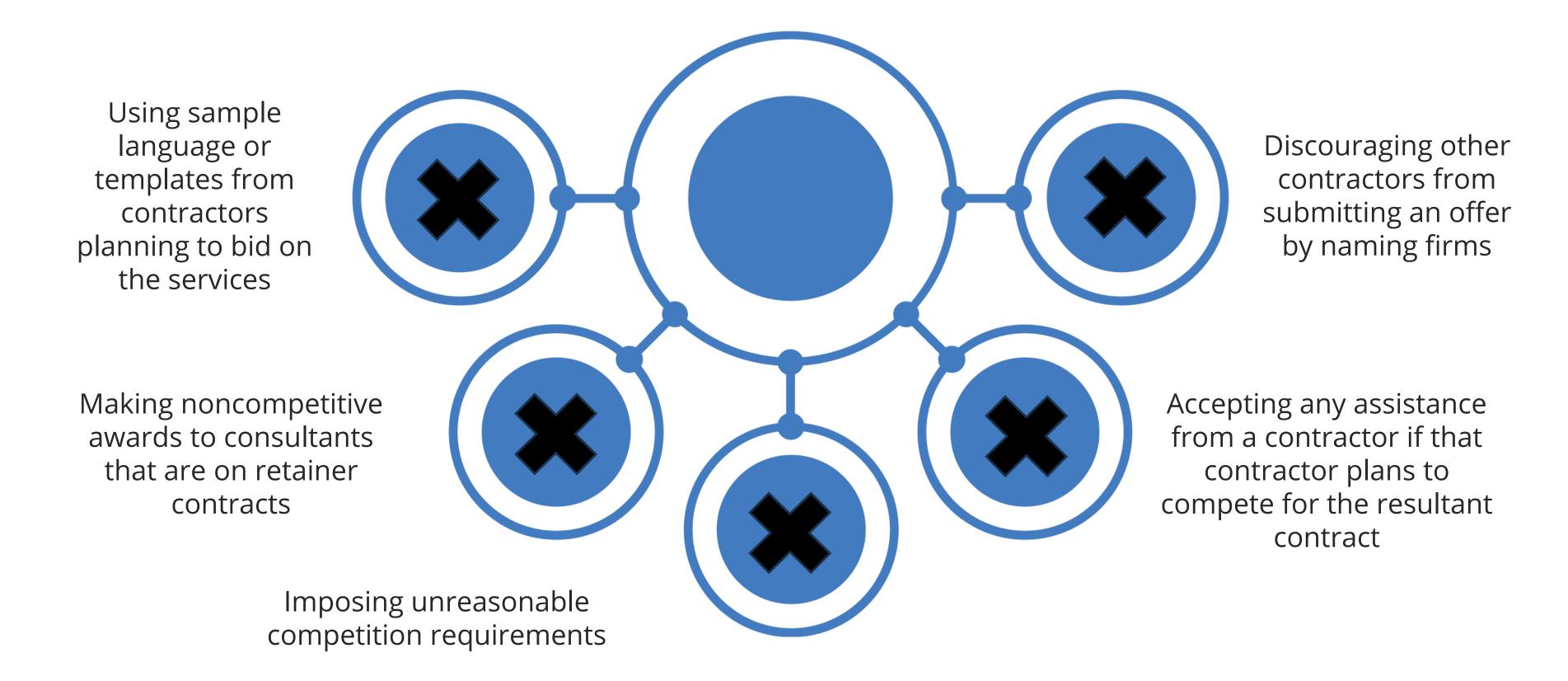
#### **SOLE SOURCE**

As provided at <u>2 CFR 200.320(c)</u>, there are specific circumstances in which noncompetitive procurement can be used, including when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- The item is available only from a single source;
- Public exigency or emergency;
- The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request; or
- After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.
- EPA rarely approves sole source contracts.
- Based on the CSB Statute, EPA has determined that for CSB grants, bus dealers who have <u>an exclusive</u> relationship with a bus manufacturer may purchase buses from that manufacturer without going through an open competition
  - Bus dealers must provide appropriate documentation of the exclusive relationship with a bus manufacturer and should consult with their EPA Project Officer for details.



#### IMPROPER PROCUREMENT PRACTICES



#### PROGRAM INCOME: THIRD PARTIES

• In the Third-Party Sub-Program, if a school district beneficiary pays the third-party grantee any money for the use of grant-funded charging equipment or other equipment, then all of that money must be used to finance the non-Federal share of the project or pay for other project needs.



#### PROGRAM INCOME: THIRD PARTIES

 If any money from the school district beneficiary is income for the third-party grantee, the grantee must report is as Program Income in their bi-annual performance reports (per Section G. of CSB T&Cs) and Standard Form 425 Financial Reports.



#### PROGRAM INCOME: THIRD PARTIES

- The grantee must maintain supporting documentation to substantiate all grant related charges when audited, showing that any funds charged to a school district beneficiary were passed in full to a vendor.
- For more information, please refer to:
  - CFR 200.307
  - CFR 1500.8
  - \*Interim General Budget
     Development Guidance for Applicants and
     Recipients of EPA Financial
  - CSB Terms & Conditions



#### PROGRAM INCOME: DOCUMENTATION

• The fleet must retain documentation that the amount they are charging the school district beneficiary for bus services with the grant-funded buses is no more than the amount they are charging for bus service provided with non-grant-funded buses.



#### PROGRAM INCOME: DOCUMENTATION

- If a private fleet charges a school district beneficiary more for bus service, then they must follow the program income requirements (Slides 22 -24).
- Private fleet grantees who use grant-funded buses for bus services for entities other than the school district beneficiary(ies) listed on their grant must also follow the third-party beneficiary requirements.



#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Grantees should be fully aware of the CSB Terms and Conditions and EPA General Terms and Conditions, including paragraphs:
  - 5 (ASAP and Proper Payment Draw Down)
  - 9 (Management Fees)—Prohibits profiting from EPA grant funds.
  - 15 (Executive Compensation)
  - 19 (Audit Requirements)
  - 36 (Tangible Personal Property)
  - 48 (BABA)
  - 52 (Access to Records)



#### FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

**Fraud.** False representation of a material fact; intentional deception to deprive the U.S. or EPA of something of value; obtaining an undeserved benefit or privilege

**Waste.** Taxpayers not receiving reasonable value for money; inappropriate act or omission; mismanagement, inappropriate actions, inadequate oversight

**Abuse.** Deficient or improper behavior compared to reasonable and necessary business practices; misuse of authority for personal gain; not necessarily a violation of laws, regulations, or grant provisions



#### FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

Indicators of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse can be found on the <u>EPA</u>

<u>Office of Inspector General</u> website.

Report suspected fraud, waste, and/or abuse to:

- EPA Project Officer for the award
- EPA Office of Inspector General

OIG Hotline: 1 (888) 546-8740



## **BUILD AMERICA BUY AMERICA (BABA) ACT**

- Requires iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in federally-funded infrastructure projects to be produced in the United States.
- Covered products (or processes) that must occur in the United States for BABA can include:
  - Iron and steel: All manufacturing processes from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings
  - Manufactured products: 55% or greater of the total cost of components must be produced domestically
  - Construction materials: All manufacturing processes for non-ferrous metals, plastics and polymers, glass, lumber, and drywall must be produced domestically
- "Infrastructure" is defined broadly to include installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations and related infrastructure.
  - EV Chargers purchased with EPA funding must fully comply with BABA
- School buses are not covered by the Build America, Buy America Act, though we are encouraging all selectees to consider American manufacturers when possible.

## **BUILD AMERICA BUY AMERICA (BABA) ACT**

- **Applying**. Applications should reflect items that are made in the U.S. in the budget and project timelines for any infrastructure projects.
- **Complying**. Recipients will be responsible for ensuring that products used in their projects follow BABA requirements.
- **Waivers**. Recipients may request waivers for items not made in the U.S.
- Questions. For help finding products made in the U.S. or other questions about BABA waivers, please contact <u>EPA\_BABA\_Waiver@epa.gov</u>.
- More information. <a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba">https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba</a>



# QUESTIONS



# PART 2





Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Office of the Controller
Research Triangle Park Finance Division

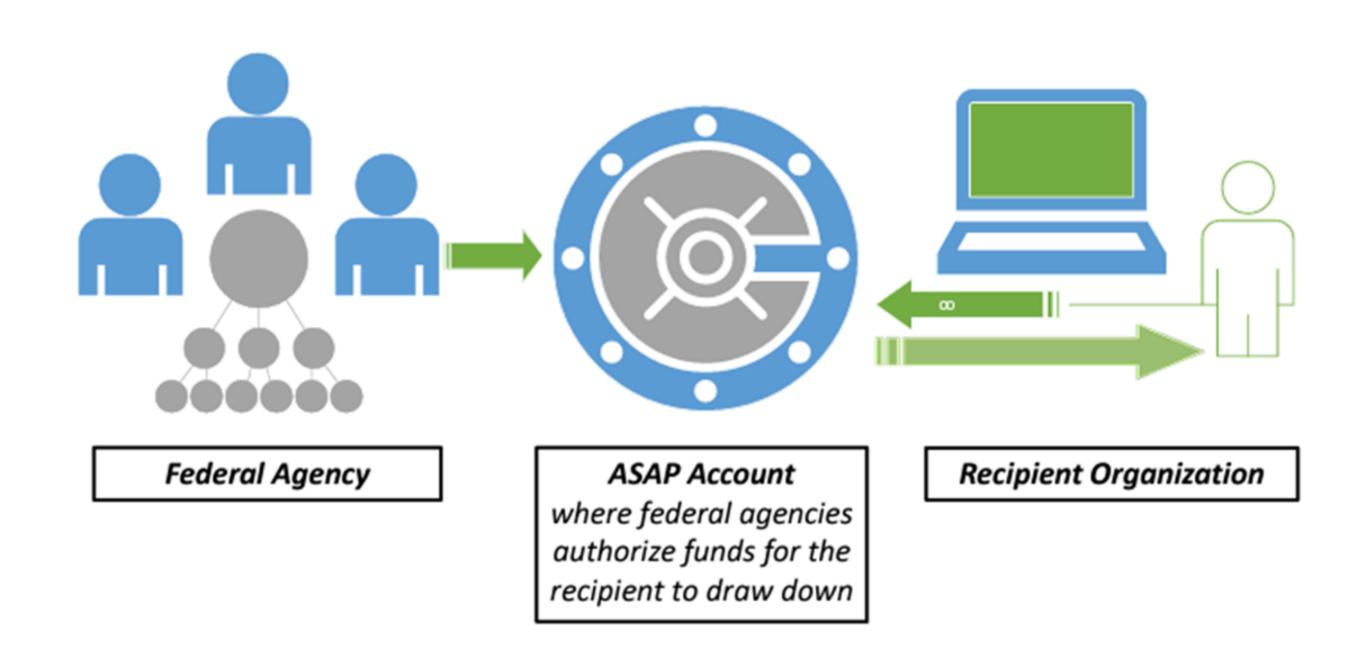
- What is ASAP?
- Policies & Regulations
- Returning Funds

#### **ASAP**

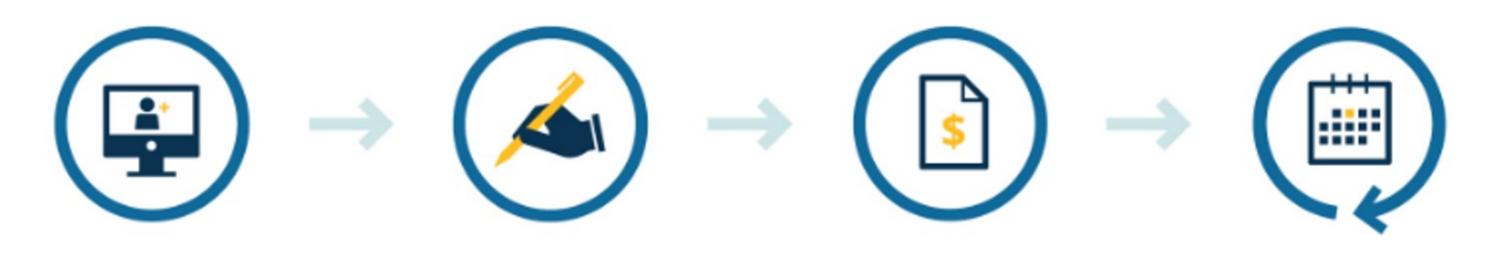
 EPA makes payments for grants through the Department of Treasury's <u>Automated</u> <u>Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)</u> electronic payment system.



#### **ASAP**



#### **HOW ASAP WORKS**



Step 1:

Federal agency and recipient both enroll in ASAP.gov

Step 2:

Agency adds money to recipient account and sets rules for payment

Step 3:

Recipient requests payment via ASAP.gov

Step 4:

Approved payments can settle as quickly as the same day

#### **ASAP: DRAWING FUNDS**

- Recipients are not required to submit documentation
  - You <u>must retain documentation</u> that clearly shows the incurred costs that you, as the grantee, have incurred for audit purposes.
- No requirements for the frequency of draws
  - Most recipients draw on a weekly basis, but you can draw as frequently as needed
- Payments are deposited in recipient accounts same day/next business day
  - Same day payment if requested prior to 4:30pm EST/less than \$1M
  - Otherwise, next business day



#### **CFR § 200.305 FEDERAL PAYMENT**



Entity must maintain advance payments of Federal awards in interest-bearing accounts. Interest earned amounts up to \$500 per year may be retained by the non-Federal entity for administrative expense. Amounts greater than \$500 must be remitted annually to the Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System (PMS)



Advance payments to a non-Federal entity must be **limited to the minimum amounts needed** and be timed to be in accordance with the actual, immediate cash requirements.

EPA Policy sets a 5 business days disbursement standard.



Funds, principal, and excess cash returns must be directed to the original Federal agency payment system.

#### **EPA DRAW POLICY**

- Recipients must enroll in ASAP
- Grant drawdowns are for immediate cash needs (e.g., paying an invoice for goods or services received; purchase orders are not an immediate cash need)
- Funds drawn down must be disbursed within 5 business days of receipt
  - May retain up to 5% of the draw/maximum of \$1,000
  - After 5 business days, any remaining funds in excess of 5%/\$1,000 must be returned to EPA
  - Recipients may request an exception



#### **RETURNING FUNDS**







**ASAP** 

**Fedwire** 

Bank fees may apply

Pay.gov

# QUESTIONS



## RESOURCES



#### **CSB GRANT PROGRAM DOCUMENTS**

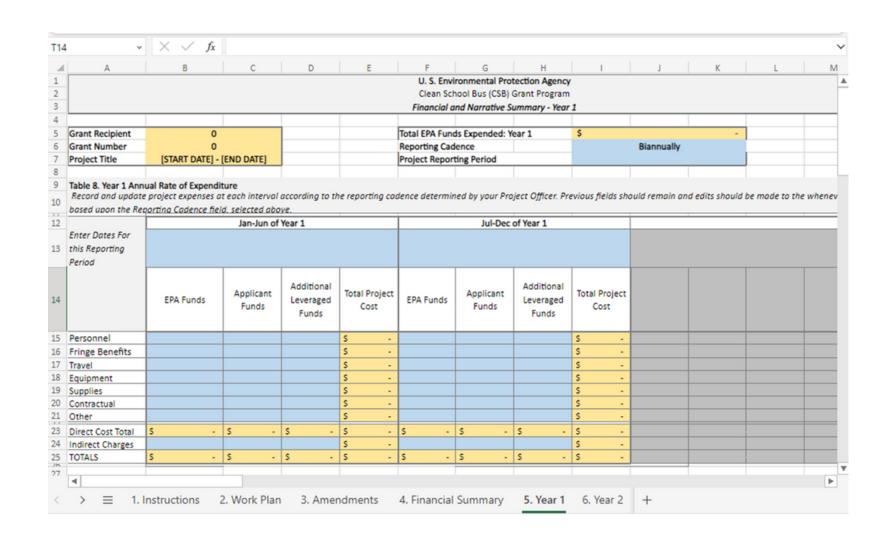
Visit <a href="https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants#grant-documents">https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants#grant-documents</a> to find all relevant, up-to-date CSB-related documents for grantees:

#### **Documents for Grantees**

- Next Steps for 2023 Clean School Bus Grantees (pdf) (686 KB, January 2024, EPA-420-F-24-001)
- **a** 2023 CSB Grants Sample Eligibility and Scrappage Template (docx) (648.73 KB, November 2023)
- **a** 2023 CSB Grants Reporting Template (xlsx) (1012 KB, April 2024)

#### **REPORTING: 2023 CSB TEMPLATE**

- Once awards are finalized, grantees
   are required to provide workplan
   information, budget details and project
   updates to their Regional Project Officer at
   regular intervals, using the approved 2023
   CSB Reporting Template (pictured Right).
- Any revisions to the workplan or budget must receive prior written approval from the Regional Project Officer. Contact your Regional Project Officer in a timely manner to communicate these changes.



#### **REPORTING: WHAT TO INCLUDE**

- Progress made on bus and infrastructure procurement, purchase and deployment
  - Note any roadblocks or barriers to original project timeline, including any communication delays with bus or infrastructure manufacturers pre- or post-deployment
- If applicable, status of utility upgrades
- Specific new bus and infrastructure information, as it becomes available
- Progress made on other project commitments, such as workforce development, sustainability, community engagement and efforts to make the project resistant to the effects of climate change



## REPORTING: REQUIREMENTS TIMELINE

Deliverable	Deadline/Due Date	Submission Document
Workplan + Financial Summary	One month after official award	Reporting Template
Semi-Annual Project Reports	July 31 <sup>st</sup> and Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup> of each calendar year during the project period*, **	Reporting Template
Eligibility and Scrappage Form	End of project period**	Eligibility and Scrappage Template
Final Project Report	120 days after project completion	Reporting Template

<sup>\*</sup> Reporting periods are six (6) months each.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The project period is 24 months and may extend up to 36 months where justified.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: TA**

Visit <a href="https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus">https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus</a> to find relevant CSB-related resources:



Technical Assistance



Workforce Development



**Educational Materials** 

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: TA**

NREL and the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation ("Joint Office") are partnering with EPA to offer FREE clean school bus technical assistance to school districts receiving funds. The Joint Office can help grantees with:



CleanSchoolBusTA@nrel.gov

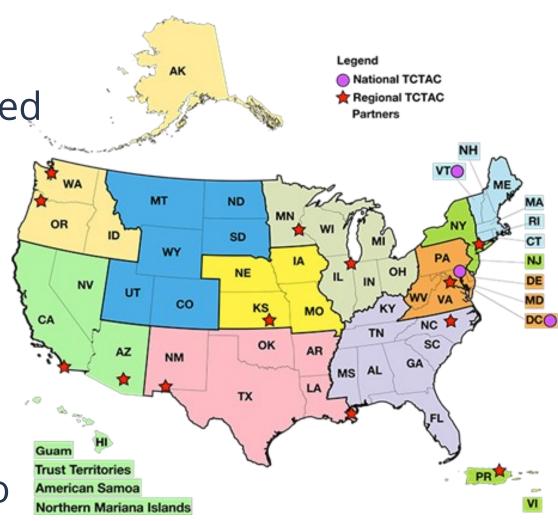
www.driveelectric.gov/contact

Coordinating with electric utilities	Identifying available funding and incentives	Analyzing charging infrastructure needs	Conducting route analysis and planning
Conducting training and workforce development	Opportunities for resiliency (V2X)	Analyzing energy needs and grid impact	Identifying solar and battery storage opportunities

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: TA**

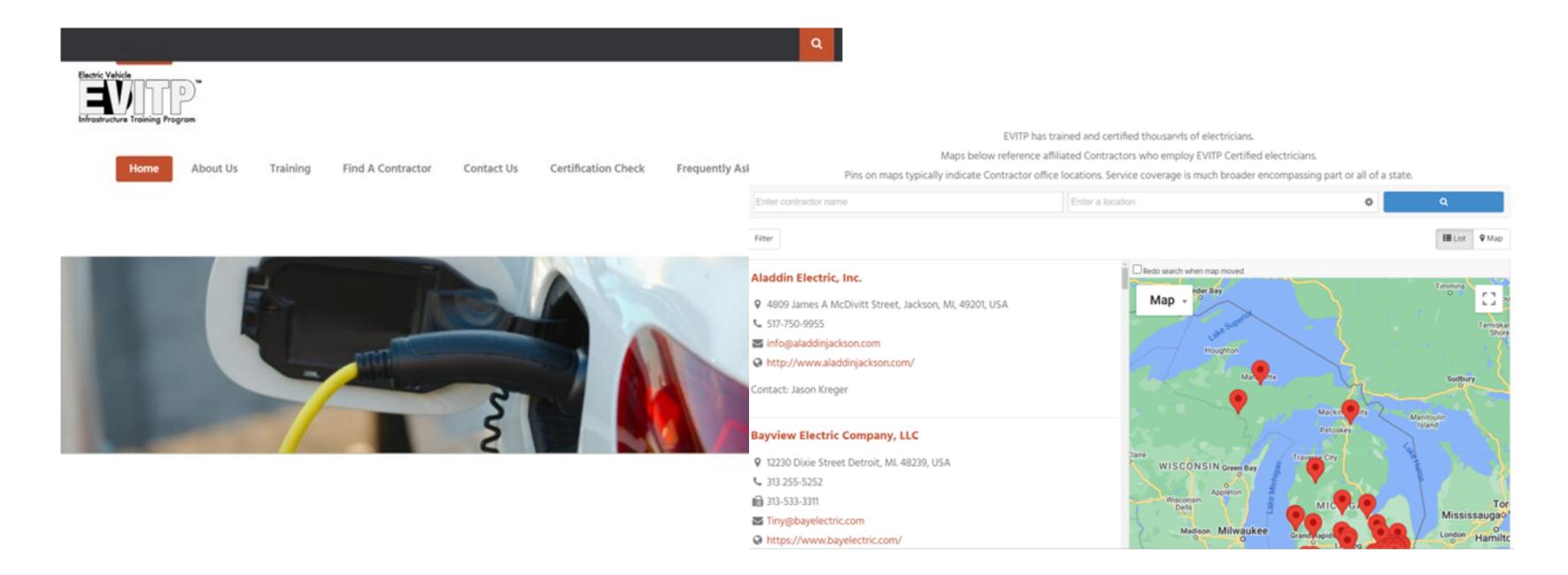
EPA has selected 16 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities
 Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTACs) in partnership with DOE
 that will receive \$177 million to help underserved and overburdened
 communities across the country.

- School districts are eligible to receive TCTAC support, which can provide training and other assistance to:
  - Build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems
  - Develop strong grant proposals
  - Effectively manage grant funding
- To locate your TCTAC and receive support managing your grant, go to: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers">www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers</a>



#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: EVITP**

To find an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program certified (EVITP) electrician, go to <a href="https://evitp.org/">https://evitp.org/</a>. Click "Find a Contractor" in the menu at the top, choose your state from the map, and view a list of contractors in your state that employ EVITP Certified electricians.



#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: GRANTS MANAGEMENT**

- EPA offers grants management resources and trainings for grant recipients. These trainings can be found at
  - https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-management-training-applicants-and-recipients
    - Modules 4, 5 and 6 cover accepting awards and drawing down funds, managing grants and closing out grants



### **ASAP: TERMINOLOGY**

Open Status	Account available and active for all transactions
Liquidation Period	Budget period end date plus 120 days Allows for final draws without Final FFR
Suspended Status	121 days after the budget period expires Cannot draw until submit final FFR
Closed Status	FFR processed Financial Specialists updates account status to closed
Reports	<ul><li>Account Settlement Report</li><li>Cash Management Report</li></ul>
Inquiries	<ul><li>Recipient Org Users Inquiry</li><li>Account Balance Inquiry</li></ul>