Michigan Electric School Bus Policy Roundtable

Francisco J. Acevedo
May 10, 2023
Overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act’s Clean School Bus Program

Under Title XI: Clean School Buses and Ferries, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides $5 billion over five years (FY22-26) for the replacement of existing school buses with zero-emission and clean school buses.

These new clean school bus replacements will produce either zero or low tailpipe emissions compared to their older diesel predecessors.

School bus upgrades funded under this program will result in cleaner air on the bus, in bus loading areas, and in the communities in which they operate.

The first funding opportunity was the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates Program. The second funding opportunity is the 2023 Clean School Bus Grants Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), which opened on April 24, 2023 and will close on August 22, 2023.
Clean School Bus Rebates

- Fastest funding program to develop
- Quickest timeline for fleets to receive funding
- Straightforward rules - rebates are for bus replacements and infrastructure only
- Streamlined application, selection, and funding processes
2022 CSB Rebate Applications

• Nearly $4B in applications for over 12,000 buses
• More than 90% of requests were for electric buses
• Majority of applicants met priority criteria as low-income, rural, or Tribal
• Awards were announced **October 26**
2022 CSB Rebate Awards

• EPA is awarding up to $965M in rebates (nearly double the amount of proposed funding)

• This will fund around 2,600 buses in more than 400 school districts

• Once applicants receive their official selection letter, they can proceed with purchasing new buses and eligible infrastructure.
2022 CSB Rebate Awards in MI

• EPA awarded $54M in rebates (5.9% of national funding)

• This will fund around 138 EV buses in 25 school districts
  • #2 nationally
  • 30% of applications were selected
Michigan CSB Rebate Awards Map

Selected MI School Districts
- Pontiac City School District
- Jackson Public Schools
- Dearborn City School District
- Ypsilanti Community Schools
- Homer Community School District
- Ublly Community Schools
- Beecher Community School District
- Britton Deerfield Schools
- Chesaning Union Schools
- Hartford Public Schools
- Pellston Public Schools
- Harbor Beach Community Schools
- Cassopolis Public Schools
- Hopkins Public Schools
- Bessemer Area School District
- L'Anse Area Schools
- Alcona Community Schools
- Mayville Community School District
- Pentwater Public School District
- Sand Creek Community Schools
- Ojibwe Charter School
- Armada Area Schools
- Au Gres-Sims School District
- Unionville-Sebewaing Area S.D.
## CSB Feedback Efforts and Lessons Learned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feedback Efforts</th>
<th>Summary of Feedback</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• CSB Grants and Rebates Listening Sessions</td>
<td>• Rebate program worked for a majority of school districts</td>
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<td>• Stakeholder meetings with EPA staff</td>
<td>• Gaps in the rebate program:</td>
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<td>• Stakeholder input received through CSB helpline</td>
<td>• Larger fleets limited by 25-bus maximum</td>
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<td>• Scrappage (i.e., some districts don’t own buses to scrap)</td>
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<td>• Prioritization (i.e., differing opinions on prioritization criteria and funding for non-prioritized school districts)</td>
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Clean School Bus
Rebates vs. Grants
CSB Rebates versus CSB Grants

While both grants and rebates provide selectees with award funds prior to purchasing eligible buses and infrastructure, there are a few differences between these types of funding programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Rebates</th>
<th>Grants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application Process</strong></td>
<td>Quick and simply application process</td>
<td>Longer, more detailed application process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selection Process</strong></td>
<td>Selectees determined by a random number generated lottery process</td>
<td>Recipients are selected based on evaluation of application materials</td>
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<td><strong>Project period support, flexibility, and duration</strong></td>
<td>Shorter project period; less support and flexibility in funding provided to applicants</td>
<td>Longer application period; may offer more support for applicants during the project, as well as flexibility in funding – such as providing funds for training and administrative costs - and timing of the project such as longer project periods to complete the project.</td>
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Differences Between the 2022 Rebates and 2023 Grants

In addition to the differences between an EPA rebate and grant, generally, some program requirements differ between the two CSB funding opportunities, including, but not limited to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2022 Rebates</th>
<th>2023 Grants</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prioritization</strong>:&lt;br&gt; (1) “High-need” applicants defined exclusively as 20% or more students in school district living below the poverty line and (2) Rural applicants as defined by NCES local codes 42 AND 43</td>
<td><strong>Prioritization</strong>:&lt;br&gt; (1) Some additional districts eligible to self-certify “low-income” prioritization and (2) Rural applicants as defined by NCES local code 43 ONLY</td>
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<td><strong>Bus Minimum/Maximum</strong>&lt;br&gt; Applicants must replace 1-25 buses.</td>
<td><strong>Bus Minimum/Maximums</strong>&lt;br&gt; School District Sub-Program: 15-50 buses; Third-Party Sub-Program: 25-100 buses, serving at least 4 school district beneficiaries.</td>
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<td><strong>Funding for EV Infrastructure</strong>&lt;br&gt; Selectees receive a separate funding amount for eligible infrastructure. Selectees cannot use bus funding on infrastructure and cannot use infrastructure funding on buses.</td>
<td><strong>Funding for EV Infrastructure</strong>&lt;br&gt; Funding for buses and eligible infrastructure is combined. Applicants have flexibility in deciding how much CSB funding to spend on each.</td>
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Application packages must be submitted to EPA via Grants.gov no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET. For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus).
2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program
### FY23 Clean School Bus Grants NOFO Important Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 24, 2023</td>
<td>Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. (ET)</td>
<td>1st Webinar Information Session</td>
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<td>Webinar links and additional session dates can be found at:</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants">www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 9, 2023</td>
<td>Final Date to Submit Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. (ET)</td>
<td>NOFO Closes – Application Deadline</td>
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<td>Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through</td>
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<td>Grants.gov (<a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a>) no later than Tuesday, August 22, 2023,</td>
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<td>at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) in order to be considered for funding</td>
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<td>November 2023 to January 2024</td>
<td>Anticipated Notification of Selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>February to March 2024</td>
<td>Anticipated Awards</td>
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Application packages must be submitted to EPA via Grants.gov no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET. For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.
CSB Grant Program Structure

**School District Sub-Program**

Eligible entities: (1) State and Local Governmental Entities (e.g., school districts), (2) Public Charter School Districts, and (3) Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or Tribally-controlled Schools

- Minimum of **15 buses**
- Maximum of **50 buses**

Targeting large single-fleet turnovers that may have been limited by the 25-bus maximum in the rebate program.

**Third-Party Sub-Program**

Eligible entities: (1) Nonprofit School Transportation Associations and (2) Eligible Contractors (including OEMs, Dealers, and Private Bus Fleets)

- Minimum of **25 buses**
- Maximum of **100 buses**

Application must include at least 4 school district beneficiaries.

Targeting school districts - particularly small, rural, Tribal, or low-income beneficiaries - that may benefit from third-party technical support, grant administration, and coordination (e.g., with utilities)

Application packages must be submitted to EPA via Grants.gov no later than 8/22/23 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus.
The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allows EPA to prioritize certain communities that will benefit from the CSB program. For this funding opportunity, prioritized communities include:

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<th>Priority Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>HIGH-NEED SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND LOW-INCOME AREAS</td>
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*Please note that program criteria may be different from prior CSB funding opportunities and are subject to change in future rounds of CSB funding.

Applications due Tuesday, August 22

[www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus)
Prioritization Criteria
2023 CSB Grants

Priority School Districts PDF and Excel files available at: https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-grants
What You Need To Do NOW

For EPA CSB Grants OR Rebates (coming this fall)

ALL School districts and/or potential applicants interested in applying for CSB Grant OR Rebate funding:

Need an ACTIVE [SAM.gov] registration

School Districts interested in applying directly, or eligible 3rd party applicants interested in applying for CSB Grant funding:

Need to be registered with [Grants.gov] in order to be able to submit application
Great! But we can’t answer them...

**All questions** about the EPA 2023 BIL CSB Grant NOFO must be emailed to cleanschoolbus@epa.gov (please type “Clean School Bus NOFO Question” in the subject line of your email)

Q&A document, updated regularly, will be posted at [EPA’s 2023 Clean School Bus Grants web page](https://www.epa.gov/clean-school-bus-grants)

Last day to submit questions: Wed. August 9, 2023 at 11:59pm ET