

Multiunit Dwelling Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Pilot Program

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About the Multiunit Dwelling Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Pilot Program

A new initiative, the Multiunit Dwelling Electric Vehicles Supply Equipment (EVSE) Grant Program launched in January 2022, provides \$1,000,000 in funding to pilot convenient, reliable, and affordable home charging solutions for residents living in multi-unit housing, helping to overcome barriers to electric vehicle (EV) adoption.

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PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Summary

Funding for the Multiunit Dwelling Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Pilot Program was authorized in the 2021 Transportation Bill, H. 433. Based on the legislative requirements outlined in the bill, full details of the funding program were developed by the Interagency EVSE Working Group. This group includes staff representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Public Service Department (PSD). The Interagency EVSE Working Group met weekly over the course of 3 months to discuss key elements of the funding program design.

DHCD also met with key housing stakeholders to hear from them on their interest in providing EVSE (sometimes referred to as simply EV charging) at their properties, their experience with and knowledge of EV charging solutions, and the challenges they anticipate.

Providing home EV charging access in multiunit dwellings is particularly challenging, and market ready solutions for this segment of the population has lagged behind EV charging solutions for single family and owner-occupied homes, workplace EV charging, and travel corridor EV charging.

This program seeks to fund projects that will pilot plug-in EV charging service models that overcome the barriers to providing residents of multiunit dwellings with access to home EV charging. The program is designed to solicit a wide range of EV charging service models to be examined and evaluated for their impact on increasing convenient, reliable and affordable home EV charging by residents of multiunit dwellings.

As was intended by the authorizing legislation, funding will prioritize projects that serve residents of affordable and non-profit housing. If program funds remain after the first round of applications and awards, the program will be re-issued, and market rate multiunit dwelling properties will become eligible for funding.

Information Dissemination & Media Coverage

A press release in mid-January announced the launch of the program.

A new webpage with program details, a link to the application, helpful planning resources, and contact information has been created and can be accessed from the main Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant Program page.

https://accd.vermont.gov/multiunit_dwelling

DHCD is working with key housing partners and stakeholders to advertise and promote the program, including the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and the Regional Planning Commissions.

Drive Electric Vermont is also providing one on one technical support for applicants who are in need of technical assistance in developing a project proposal that meets their needs and the requirements of the program.

Informational Webinar

With support from Drive Electric Vermont (DEV) through its Multipronged Vehicle Electrification Strategies (MUVES) agreement with VTrans, DHCD will host an informational webinar in late January.

DEV will provide an overview of EV charging technology, solutions for managing the use of the charging station and collecting fees, and the challenges and opportunities that exist specific to the owners and residents of multiunit housing properties.

DHCD will provide an overview of the funding program, including project eligibility and requirements, the application process, project scoring and timeline for the award of funds.

This will be followed by a Q & A session. In addition to providing potential applicants with the information they need, it will also provide DEV and DHCD insights as to the types of challenges and concerns property owners may have in pursuing EV charging at their properties.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Applications are due in early April, 2022 and awards will be announced in late April, 2022.

The Interagency EVSE Working Group will review, evaluate and score project proposals that meet the program requirements using the following 5 base criteria and 5 priority consideration criteria.

Base criteria (up to 80 points)

1. Well Defined Need and Project
2. Project Readiness
3. Cost-Effective Budget
4. Fee Schedule
5. Overall Application Quality

Priority Consideration Criteria (UP to 20 points)

1. Existing Need (Documented electric vehicle users at project site)
2. Resident Interest (Documented interest in EV charging from residents)
3. State- Designated Centers (Site is within a State Designated Center)
4. Future Proofing (Project prepares for additional EV charging in the future)
5. Shared Level 2 Charging (Equipment can be accessed by more than 1 user)

Grant funds will be competitively allocated, and the Interagency EVSE Working Group may award less funding than requested. Projects will be funded in rank order until the funds allocated for the program are exhausted. The Interagency EVSE Working group reserves the right to fund projects at its discretion.

PROGRAM UTILIZATION AND TO-DATE OUTCOMES

ACCD looks forward to providing another update on outcomes to date after applications and been received and awards have been announced. At this juncture, we expect to have learned from both application inquiries and submitted applications about affordable property owners' level of readiness to pursue EV charging solutions in their properties, and the kinds of charging solutions, including hardware and fee structures, that they believe can work for them and their residents.

APPENDIX: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The full program description, requirements and guidelines can be found here.

https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/2022_EVSE_MUD_Program_Description.pdf

Highlights of the program are as follows:

- Eligible projects are those that will provide EV charging in resident parking that serves residents of affordable multiunit dwellings.
- Grants award caps, up to \$80,000 per site, \$300,000 per applicant, and \$500,000 per county, will help to encourage a variety of solutions for different site needs and geographic distribution of the funds.
- Most all project costs are eligible for funding, to reduce the financial risk barriers of installing and operating EV charging for the 5-year grant term.
- Projects that serve current EV owner residents, or projects that have worked to understand their residents' immediate need or interest will be given priority consideration.
- Charging solutions eligible for funding are intentionally as non-prescriptive as H.433 allows, to encourage a variety of charging technologies and business models and meet the intent to pilot and identify viable solutions for this segment of Vermont residents.
- If program funds are not exhausted, a second round of project applications will be solicited, and eligibility will be expanded to include market rate multiunit dwellings.