

FYE 2023 Charge! Program Q&A - Updated 1/26/2023

Source	Date	Category	Question	BAAQMD Response
Email	11/29/2022	Eligibility	We bulk-order equipment to be installed at various sites across our portfolio to best align with utility and customer timelines. We think it is highly possible that we would place an order prior to Funding Agreement execution as outlined in the Charge Program Guidance. Would we still be eligible for funding?	No, equipment/services procured or contracted prior to Funding Agreement execution are NOT eligible for reimbursement or Charge Program funds.
Email	11/29/2022	Eligibility	When can projects begin and when can eligible costs qualify for reimbursement?	The Grantee/Project Sponsor can begin to incur costs related to their EV charger installation project after the Funding Agreement has been executed (i.e., signed by both the Air District and Grantee/Project Sponsor).
Email	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Is prevailing wage required for charging installation projects?	Yes, please refer to page 9 of the Program Guidance: "Grantees/Project Sponsors must agree to... Be bound by all the provisions of State Labor Code Section 1771 regarding prevailing wages paid to workers employed on public works and to provide confirmation of compliance if requested."
Email	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Is ChargePoint Assure® an eligible cost? Assure is a comprehensive warranty program that includes EV station maintenance, management monitoring, comprehensive parts, and on-site labor warranty.	No, we have not included ChargePoint Assure as an eligible cost because it is a subscription service that covers costs for maintenance, repairs, and operations.
Email	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Do installed charging stations need to meet ADA accessibility requirements for parking space width, etc.?	For awarded projects, Grantees/Project Sponsors must site, construct, install, maintain, and operate any services, equipment, or infrastructure paid for with Program funds in accordance with the respective manufacturer's specifications, all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations including compliance with all applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
Email	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Do charging stations installed in multi-family housing need to be accessible to the general public, or just to residents of the housing development?	Charging stations installed at multi-family housing sites must be accessible to the general public or accessible to all residents in the multi-family housing site. Please refer to the Multi-family Housing Facility definition and exceptions listed on page 17 of the Program Guidance for full details.
Email	11/29/2022	Application	At a condominium complex, the Homeowner Association (HOA) must approve major expenditures. Is formal HOA approval required prior to grant application submittal? If so, how does one realistically anticipate project costs for the HOA members (residents) to consider?	Yes, we would require a Letter of Commitment from the HOA as part of the application. Project costs would be estimated by receiving quotes from vendors and/or contractors.
Email	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Would this program fund the deployment of a renewable distributed energy resources (DER) that converts waste to electricity for EV charging stations?	No, the Charge Program does not currently fund the deployment of renewable distributed energy resources that converts waste to electricity for EV charging stations.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	Have you considered that limiting these funds to only EV charging that goes above local reach codes disincentivizes local cities and counties from adopting more ambitious reach codes to help more MFH residents access charging?	The Charge Program is funded by the Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program, which requires that all funded projects are voluntary and surplus.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Are libraries eligible for funding? Especially libraries within 1/4 mile of multi-family housing.	Libraries are eligible for Charge Program funding. However, the Air District would need to evaluate the project on a case-by-case basis to determine if the project would qualify for the multi-family housing plus-up.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	If a local jurisdiction has adopted a reach code that requires additional EV chargers to be installed beyond CALGreen requirements, would those additional EV chargers be eligible for Charge funding?	Chargers that go above and beyond requirements (e.g., CALGreen) are eligible for Charge Program funding.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Can a government agency hire someone to manage the three years of charger usage? Can the contractor charge for electrical usage?	The applicant/Project Sponsor must own and operate the funded equipment under the Charge Program. Electricity is not an eligible cost. Please contact us at charge@baaqmd.gov to discuss this further.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	How does Charge! define "publicly accessible"?	Funded charging stations must be available to the general public and operate for a minimum of three years. Funded charging stations at Transportation Corridor Facilities must be available for public use 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Funded charging stations at all other facility types must be available for use by the general public at least 250 days per year, for at least eight hours per day during normal business hours.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Could the program be used for employee or fleet charging?	Employee charging at workplace facilities are eligible for funding. Private charging stations at workplaces or multi-family housing may be exempt from public accessibility requirements. Please refer to the Workplace Facility definition on page 18 of the Program Guidance.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	Do you know of other funding opportunities/ EV programs that have been successfully layered with Charge?	We recommend that you reach out to your local utility/community choice aggregator. There are also incentives from CALeVIP, California Energy Commission. Please reference pages 15 and 16 in the Charge Program Guidance.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Can Charge funding be applied to charging electric school buses?	The Charge Program only funds charging infrastructure for light-duty electric vehicles that are 8,500 lbs or lighter. For electric school bus chargers, please contact grants@baaqmd.gov to connect with Carl Moyer Program staff.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Is a credit card payment through an app okay?	If payment is required for charger use, the equipment models must be able to accept some form of credit card payment and accept more than one form of payment. The equipment is not required to have a credit card reader installed, but credit card payment must be accepted in some form (e.g., mobile app, toll-free, etc.). Applicants are responsible to complying with Senate Bill 454 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Open Access Act.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Contract	What documentation is required to report operation time yearly?	We require grantees to submit annual reports through Fluxx, which will ask for charger utilization and uptime records for each month for a specific calendar year. This data is accompanied by exported charger data provided by the EV charging vendor.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application Resources	Will this presentation be available to share to others in my organization?	Yes. An updated presentation and recording is available on the Charge Program website.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Uptime	Does charging downtime include a vehicle parked but not charging in the parking space, and blocking a different vehicle from charging?	No that does not count as charger downtime. Please reference the page 7 of the Program Guidance for the downtime definition.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Will you fund cyber switching installations with Level 2 (high) service, where each switch rotates among 4 charging ports and the site customarily has long dwell time, such as overnight or site of full-time employment?	Please check Charge Program Guidance for charging station operational requirements. Please contact us at charge@baaqmd.gov to discuss this further.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Contract	Do you know the penalty amount for funding if usage requirements are not met? Is it a percentage value of total funds for that particular project?	If usage requirements are not met, we work with grantees to determine the best path forward. Generally, we try to extend the project so that the grantee can meet usage. If usage still cannot be met, the grantee is responsible for paying back the portion of the grant, which we calculate based on the usage achieved. Our website has a sample funding agreement and the formula for repayment can be found on page 12.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Are curbside chargers in neighborhoods with a high density of multi-family housing eligible? Are stations near neighborhoods with a high density of multi-family housing eligible?	Curbside charging to support multi-family housing locations are eligible, but may be subject to approval by the local jurisdiction. Stations near neighborhoods with a high density of multi-family housing may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Is there grant support for electrical infrastructure setup for the chargers?	The Charge Program can fund the installation, including labor, materials, and necessary electrical upgrades. Please reference the Funding Table to determine how much your project may qualify for. Also check the Charge Program Guidance for other potential grant programs. Utility/community choice aggregators may have programs as well, in addition to CALeVIP.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application Resources	Is there any technical assistance or support available for applicants?	Please contact charge@baaqmd.gov for assistance for submitting an application in Fluxx. If you're looking for technical site assessments/technical assistance for EV chargers, we encourage you to contact an EV charger vendor for assistance with determining potential charger configurations for your proposed site. Please also check with your local utility/community choice aggregation to see if they provide technical assistance services.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Contract	At what point after submitting application do you receive notice of award?	The Air District will begin evaluating applications after the application closed in March of 2023. Notices of Award will likely be released in late summer/early fall of 2023. Board approval usually happens in June.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	How many applications do you expect to receive, and how many awards do you plan to issue?	We cannot say how many applications we expect to receive since it varies each year. We will award projects based on their score until funding is depleted. There is currently \$5M allocated for the 2023 Charge Program.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	How do you bundle all the properties of one owner into one submission?	In Fluxx, you can add multiple facilities/properties under a single application. Please refer to the Sample FYE 2023 Charge Application posted on the Charge Program website, or contact charge@baaqmd.gov if you require additional assistance.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Will EV battery swapping stations that do not have a CCS or CHAdemo connection be eligible for funding?	Charging stations must meet the charging station equipment and public accessibility requirements listed in the guidance. For further questions regarding battery swapping, please contact us at charge@baaqmd.gov to continue discussion.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	Do you expect there to be more than one cycle of this program?	The Charge Program releases once per fiscal year. We expect continued funding for this program.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application Resources	Is it correct to understand that the charge program interested partner's list would allow us to join another organization's grant application and have them provide chargers for our site?	The Interested Partners List is not an Air District project match-making service. The Interested Partners List is meant to be a resource to assist prospective site hosts and vendors with finding project partners. You will have to reach out to site hosts/vendors to determine if you would want to include work with that entity to submit an application and implement the project. If your organization would like to be listed, please contact us at charge@baaqmd.gov
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	Does Fluxx allow for multiple collaborators? For example: I am a consultant working with a City. If they already have credentials can they add me as a contributor? Or if I create an account can I add a contributor?	This is possible in Fluxx, however, if you're running into issues with setting this up, please contact us at charge@baaqmd.gov so we can provide assistance.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application Resources	You mentioned that not all the projects that apply will be awarded. What scoring criteria will the Air District use to identify awarded projects?	Application evaluation criteria can be found on page 12 of the Charge Program Guidance.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	I am working on a project in the Bay Area that will have dual port EV chargers installed across several sites. Given long equipment lead times due to supply chain, we want to order the chargers this year for installation next summer. Would our project be disqualified from funding in this case?	No equipment can be ordered prior to an executed agreement. This project would be ineligible for funding.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Contract	When do you expect contracts to be executed for awarding grants?	This varies for each Grantee/Project Sponsor - this will take place in late 2023.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Contract	Will the installer receive the funds or it will be assign to the site host?	The entity that is contracted with the Air District receives the grant funds.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Usage	Is there requirement on the usage rate? Can the charger owner make a profit on electricity?	Charger utilization is estimated by the applicant. Payment structure and rate for the chargers are determined by the applicant.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application Resources	What are some examples of priority population areas?	Please reference the Charge Program Guidance and visit: https://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/priority-populations
Webinar	11/29/2022	Uptime	Just to clarify, the 97% operational time refers to the time the station is working, not the time the station is being used, correct?	Correct - please reference pages 7 and 8 of the Charge Program Guidance for more information regarding charging station uptime and downtime.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Contract	How long does an organization need to report after the project is complete?	Please reference the Charge Program Guidance for reporting obligations. There are reporting requirements throughout the implementation phase (page 13) of the project, as well as the operational phase (page 14).

Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	How do you define "light duty vehicles"?	Light-duty vehicles are passenger vehicles that have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 8,500 lbs or lighter.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Does the program cover the cost of solar arrays that will provide electricity for the charging stations?	No, the Charge Program no longer covers solar costs. However, projects that use alternative power sources (e.g., solar, wind) can receive additional points in the scoring process.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	If there is a multi-family housing site and a commercial site located in Priority Population Areas, which site would score higher?	A multi-family housing facility in a Priority Population Area would score higher than a commercial site in a Priority Population Area.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	What is the distance to multi-family housing to be qualify as a multi-family housing facility?	There is no defined distance. The Air District would need to evaluate the project on a case-by-case basis to determine if a project with offsite charging would qualify as a multi-family housing facility and receive the multi-family housing plus-up.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Since a city or county voluntarily adopts a reach code, could this funding help provide EV charging for the portion that goes above the CALGreen minimum requirements?	The Charge Program is funded by the Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program, which requires that all funded projects are voluntary and surplus beyond requirements. If a jurisdiction voluntarily adopts a reach code, only charging stations that go above and beyond the reach code, CALGREEN requirements, and any other ordinances/regulations would be eligible for Charge Program funding.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	In order for multiple staff members to access an active application, must login information be shared, or is there a different way for multiple staff to access an application?	We recommend using one shared login to access the application. The Fluxx portal only allows one user to edit the application at a time. Therefore, even if you have multiple users, you would not be able to simultaneously edit the application. If you would still like to have separate accounts for each staff member, each member can create a Fluxx account which can be linked to the same organization. From there, please contact us at charge@baaqmd.gov so that we can connect all applicable users to one application and assign roles.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Would a school site that had the chargers available for school staff/visitors during school hours only and then open to the public during non-school hours qualify?	Schools are eligible to apply for Charge Program funding. In your application, please provide additional information/notes detailing charging station accessibility and hours of operation.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	Is there any additional funding for using chargers made in the U.S.?	The Charge Program does not provide additional funding for projects that install chargers that are manufactured in the United States.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application Resources	Will you be offering live availability of funds throughout the program?	The Charge Program is a competitive grant solicitation. We will not be offering live availability of funds throughout the program because funding is awarded to recipients at the same time.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Our location is not in a Priority Population Area but sits between two Priority Population Areas and will serve moderate to low-income households. Will we still be a competitive applicant?	We encourage you to submit a Charge Program application. The Air District evaluates many criteria and a project's likelihood of being awarded funding is not solely based on the project location. Please reference the Charge Program Guidance for additional information - the scoring criteria can be found on page 12.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Would the Charge! program cover the cost of additional make-readies or does it only cover infrastructure being used to install charging stations at this time?	The Charge Program only covers electrical infrastructure used to support charging stations that will be installed at that time as part of the awarded project scope.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Can you explain in what situation a multi-family housing project can stack funds from a previous funding cycle. Can we apply funding in 2023 for the same chargers we were funded in 2022?	No, Charge Program funds awarded under separate solicitations cannot be used to support the same chargers. If you were awarded Charge Program funding under the FYE 2022 solicitation, you can only apply for FYE 2023 funding to install additional charging stations.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Will you award outside of the BAAQMD service area?	We will not award any chargers installed outside of the Air District's jurisdiction.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Eligibility	Is there a way to request a preliminary assessment of whether the public access requirement could be waived for a proposed public agency fleet/employee vehicle project?	Please contact charge@baaqmd.gov to schedule a meeting to discuss your proposed project.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	How do you determine how many chargers are needed for a multi-family housing site?	Please contact an EV charger vendor for assistance with determining potential charger configurations for your proposed site. Please also check with your local utility/community choice aggregation to see if they provide technical assistance services.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Application	Does the Estimated Total Project Cost need to include installer quotes or can it just use internal estimates?	We generally require quotes from EV charging vendors or installers. However, we understand that some public agencies may not be able to request quotes without a formal process. We will accept internal estimates from licensed professional engineers.
Webinar	11/29/2022	Contract	Will disadvantaged communities also be required to adhere to the usage requirements?	All applicants are responsible for estimating future charger utilization. If awarded funding, the estimated charger usage will be listed in the Funding Agreement. If Grantees/Project Sponsors are having difficulty meeting usage requirements, the Air District will help determine the best path forward. The Air District may approve project extensions to allow more time for usage requirements to be met.
Email	12/10/2022	Eligibility	According to your webinar and the PowerPoint, the Air District may allow funding for multi-family housing communities with deeded parking if it falls below market rate units. How do we know if we qualify or what do you need from us to make that happen?	Per the Definitions section of the Program Guidance, affordable housing is defined as "units at a multi-family housing site that have a rent or mortgage payment that is no more than 30% of the monthly household income for a "Low Income" Household per the California Department of Housing and Community Development's State Income Limits for 2022." As part of your application, you would provide the percentage of units at your site that meets the above definition. These projects require a case-by-case review. We will review the information provided as part of the application review process to determine if you would be eligible to install charging stations at deeded parking spaces.
Email	12/21/2022	Eligibility	Does BAAQMD have an approved vendor list for the chargers eligible for funding?	No, the Air District does not have an approved vendor list for the FYE 2023 Charge Program. We encourage applicants to seek out potential vendors. There is an Interested Partners List on the Program website that includes some vendors, which applicants can reference. The Interested Partners List is not a complete list of EV charging installers and equipment providers - the entities requested to be part of the list to connect with Charge Program applicants.
Email	12/21/2022	Eligibility	Do chargers need to have software/network connection?	No, the chargers do not need to have software/network connection. However, there needs to be a mechanism to accurately track charging station usage in kWh and charger uptime/downtime.
Email	12/21/2022	Eligibility	Is a separate meter required for Charge funded chargers?	There needs to be a mechanism to accurately track charging station usage in kWh - installation of a new independent energy meter only serving the new chargers is one option, but a separate meter is not required if there is an energy management software installed
Email	1/6/2023	Eligibility	We are looking to install Level 1 chargers in deeded parking spaces. Would this be eligible for funding?	Deeded parking spaces for Level 1 and Level 2 chargers are only eligible at affordable housing sites on a case-by-case basis. If this property is not classified as affordable housing, then deeded parking would not be eligible.
Email	1/9/2023	Eligibility	Based on the funding table in the Charge Program Guidance, our project would only qualify for a small fraction of the total project costs. Could we request a higher funding amount?	All projects are subject to the funding levels specified in the FYE 2023 Charge Program Guidance. We encourage applicants to seek out other funding sources to reduce out of pocket costs. We recommend reaching out to your local utility/community choice aggregator. There are also incentives from CALeVIP, California Energy Commission. Please reference pages 15 and 16 in the Charge Program Guidance.
Email	1/10/2023	Eligibility	How does the Air District define 'affordable housing' for multi-family housing properties?	Affordable Housing is defined as units at a multi-family housing site that have a rent or mortgage payment that is no more than 30% of the monthly household income for a "Low Income" Household per the California Department of Housing and Community Development's State Income Limits for 2022 (page 16 of the 2023 Charge Program Guidance).
Email	1/10/2023	Eligibility	EV charging equipment seems to be backordered. Could we order equipment before applying to the Charge Program so that we can meet the 12-month installation requirement?	In order to be eligible for the grant, no equipment can be ordered/purchased, and no service agreements can be in place. You'll need to wait to see if your project is awarded Charge Program grant funding. If your project is awarded funding, then the Air District will execute a contract with your organization (this is expected to take place in Fall 2023). Once the contract is fully executed, you can then proceed with ordering equipment, signing contracts with installers, etc. If you experience delays with project implementation (e.g., backordered equipment, supply chain shortages), please contact Air District staff and request an extension.
Email	1/11/2023	Eligibility	Can Charge Program grants be stacked with Marin Clean Energy (MCE) EV Charging incentives?	Yes - Charge Program grant funds can be stacked with MCE incentives and other incentive programs. A minimum of 15% cost sharing/matching funds from the applicant or site owner/operator is required for all projects. Grantees that receive multiple incentives for a project must meet all criteria associated with each individual funding source. In addition, Grantees must disclose information on the total grant funds received (or applied for) from all sources at the time of application and when reimbursement is requested.
Email	1/12/2023	Application Resources	Is there a checklist of required project documents and information that needs to be submitted with applications?	On the Charge Program website, you'll find a list of documents in the FYE 2023 Charge Program Guidance (pages 11 and 12), Sample Application Documents, as well as a Sample Fluxx Application showing the information needed for an application.
Email	1/15/2023	Eligibility	I am preparing a Charge Program application on behalf of my organization, but it does not look like we will meet the minimum \$250,000 qualifying grant award. What do you recommend that we do?	If your organization's application does not meet the \$250,000 grant award, we recommend that you reach out to other stakeholders listed on the Interested Partners List. Multiple sites can be added to a single application so there may be a possibility to combine additional sites to your application, or be added to another application.
Email	1/16/2023	Eligibility	How many sites can be funded per application? Is there a cap on the number of sites, quantity of chargers, or total costs?	There can be multiple sites funded under a single application. There is no cap on the number of sites, however, no single applicant can receive more than \$3M, so that would limit the number of chargers/total project cost. Please reference the FYE 2023 Charge Program Guidance (page 6) to see the funding table.
Email	1/23/2023	Eligibility	Does Table 1: Maximum Award Amount for each port (pg. 6) in the FYE 2023 Charge Program Guidance include all site costs (permitting, hardware & installation) or only hardware costs?	Please reference page 10 of the FYE 2023 Charge Program Guidance to see a list of eligible and ineligible costs. The maximum project grant award will be the lesser of: the total eligible funding based on Table 1, or 85% of the project's eligible total cost.
Email	1/23/2023	Eligibility	Is the Charge Program stackable with incentives from the City of Palo Alto?	Other incentive programs can be stackable with Charge so long as all requirements of the programs are met, and that the other funding sources are not from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) or Air District County Program Manager (CPM) funds. Please check with the administrators of the City of Palo Alto's incentive programs.
Email	1/26/2023	Eligibility	Can in house engineers provide cost estimates for the Charge Program application?	In house cost estimates can be submitted and must have a dated signature from a professional engineer or surveyor (including their title/certification).