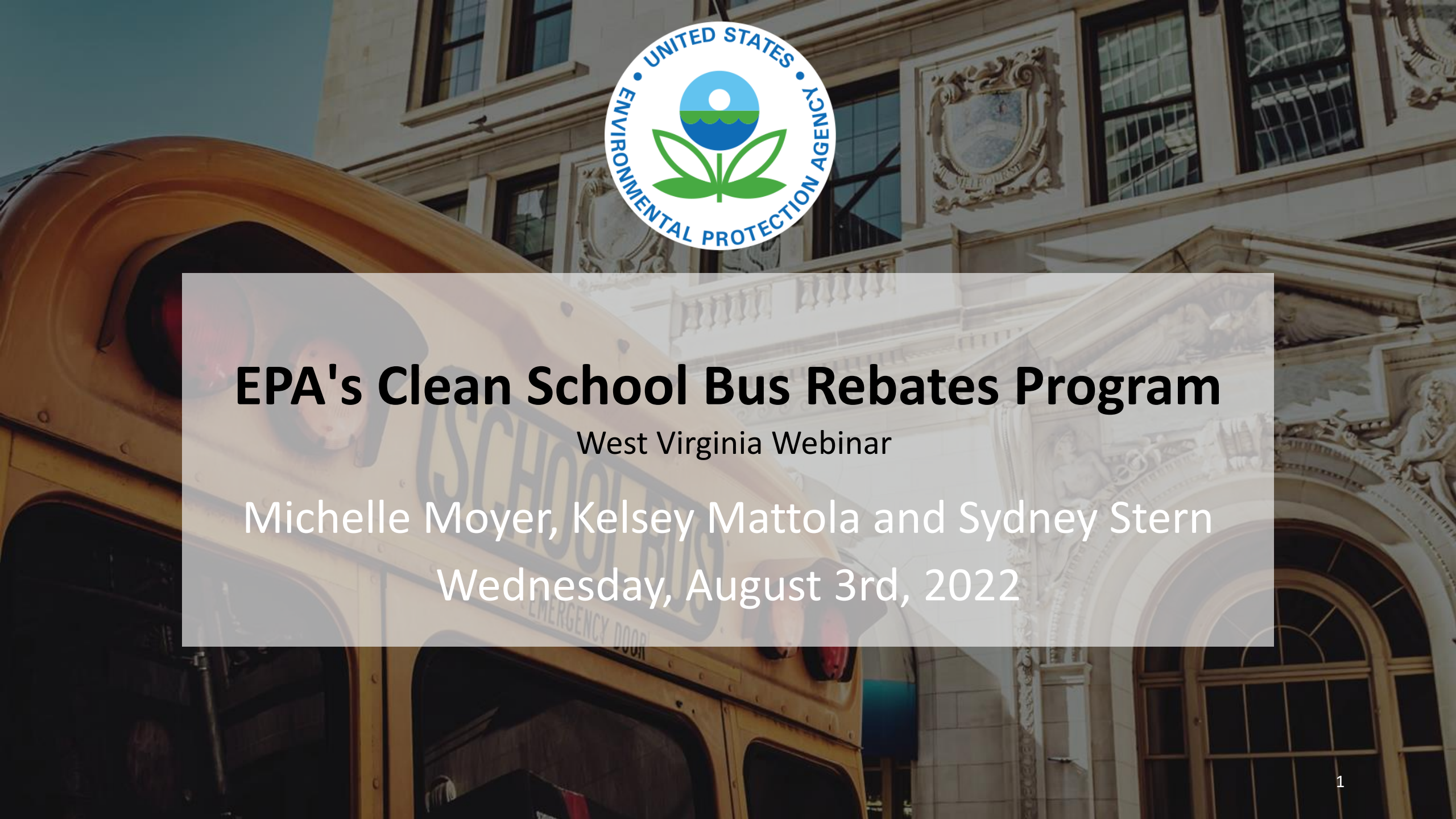


EPA's Clean School Bus Rebates Program

West Virginia Webinar

Michelle Moyer, Kelsey Mattola and Sydney Stern

Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022

EPA Region 3 Clean School Bus Team

Michelle Moyer – Clean School Bus Team Lead

Kelsey Mattola – Clean School Bus Program Staff

Sydney Stern – Clean School Bus Program Staff

Alison Riley – Technical Assistance

Paula Krall – Branch Chief

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Clean School Bus Program Overview

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 clean school buses and zero-emission school buses.

The first funding opportunity under this program is the **2022 Clean School Bus Rebates Program** released on May 20th and will be open through August 19th.

Clean School Bus Program Available Funding

Compared to $10M in FY21 for the Diesel CSB Rebate Program

Half of the $5 billion total funding is dedicated for **zero-emission school buses ($500M/year)**

Half of the $5 billion total funding is dedicated for **zero-emission and clean school buses ($500M/year)**

Program Limitations

- Limitation: no state shall receive more than 10% of a fiscal year's available funds
- **School districts applying directly for funds may only submit one application to replace up to 25 buses.**
  - EPA will not fund multiple applications for bus replacements that serve the same school district.
- Other eligible applicants may submit multiple applications, but each application must be for buses serving a different school district.

Clean School Bus Rebate Timeline

Activity	Date
2022 CSB Rebates open. EPA begins accepting applications submitted via online form	May 20,2022 – August 19, 2022
EPA reviews applications and begins the selection process	September 2022
EPA notifies applicants of selection status. Selectees can proceed with purchasing new buses and eligible infrastructure	October 2022
Selectees submit Payment Request Forms with purchase orders demonstrating that new buses and eligible infrastructure have been ordered	October 2022 – April 2023
Project period deadline for selectees to receive new buses, install eligible infrastructure, replace old buses, and submit Close Out Form	October 2024

Eligible Applicants

State and local governmental entities responsible for:

1) providing bus service to 1 or more public school systems; or
2) the purchase of school buses.

Nonprofit School Transportation Associations

Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or tribally controlled schools

Eligible Contractors

Nonprofit School Transportation Associations

- Trade associations and membership organizations that are in the student transportation industry.

Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, or Tribally Controlled Schools

- Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, or tribally controlled schools responsible for the purchase of school buses or providing school bus service for a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded school.

Eligible Contractors

- For-profit, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entities that have the capacity to:
  1) Sell clean or zero-emission school buses or related charging or fueling infrastructure to school bus owners; or
  2) Arrange financing for such a sale.
- School bus dealers and original engine manufacturers (OEMs) that meet these criteria are eligible contractors.

Private School Districts

- Private school bus fleets cannot apply directly for funding under the 2022 CSB Rebates. However, any of the **eligible applicants can partner with a private fleet that owns and operates buses to replace buses that serve a school district under an active contract**.
- For Example:
  - A bus dealer, (Big Yellow Bus Sales), can apply to replace buses owned and operated by a private fleet, (Safety-First Bus Company).
  - Safety-First Bus Company has a contract with Washington County School.
  - On the application, Big Yellow Bus Sales (dealer) will need to list both the private fleet (Safety-First Bus Company) that owns the buses and the school district (Washington County School) served by the buses.
  - If selected for funding, Big Yellow Bus Sales must pass rebate funds to the Safety-First Bus Company (private fleet) via a point-of-sale discount on the new buses or other financial arrangement.
  - The buses must continue serving Washington County School District for at least 5 years from the date of delivery.

Example 1: Bus Dealer Applying for Private Fleet Partner

While applying:

Bus Dealer:
Yellow Bus Sales

Can apply to replace buses owned by

Private Fleet:
Safety-First Bus Company

Old buses serve

Public School District:
Washington County School District (under contract)

Bus dealer must list the **private fleet that owns the buses** and **the school district served by the buses** in the application.

If selected:

Bus Dealer:
Yellow Bus Sales

Must pass funds to (e.g., via point-of-sale discount)

Private Fleet:
Safety-First Bus Company

New buses serve*

Public School District:
Washington County School District (under contract)

*Buses must serve district for at least 5 years

Example 2: School District Applying for Private Fleet Partner

While applying:

Public School District:
Washington County School District*

Can apply to replace buses owned by

Private Fleet:
Safety-First Bus Company

*Has existing contract with the private fleet for bus service

---

If selected:

Public School District:
Washington County School District

Must pass funds to

Private Fleet:
Safety-First Bus Company*

***Private fleet** would replace old buses. New buses must serve same public school district for at least 5 years

Prioritized Applicants

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allows EPA to prioritize certain applicants.
- Applicants that meet one or more of the **prioritization criteria** will be offered **more funding per bus** and **receive preference in the selection process**.
- **Criteria includes:**
  - High-need school districts and low-income areas
  - Rural school districts
  - Tribal school districts
- Applicants that qualify under one or more of the prioritizations will be identified in **EPA's prioritized funding list**.

Prioritization Criteria

1. High-need school districts and low-income areas

- School districts listed in the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) School District Estimates for 2020 as having **20% or more students living in poverty**
- School districts not listed in the SAIPE data, including most charter schools, **that self-certify as having 20% or more students living in poverty.** *EPA may ask for supporting documentation to confirm this self-certification.*
- School districts located in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

2. Rural school districts

- School districts identified with locale codes “43-Rural: Remote” and “42-Rural: Distant” by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

3. Tribal school districts

- Bureau of Indian Affairs funded school districts and school districts that receive basic support payments for children who reside on Indian land

West Virginia Priority School Districts

Barbour County Board of Education	Ohio County Schools
Boone County Schools	Pendleton County Schools
Braxton County Schools	Pocahontas County Schools
Calhoun County Schools	Preston County Schools
Clay County Schools	Raleigh County Schools
Doddridge County Schools	Ritchie County Schools
Fayette County Schools	Roane County Schools
Greenbrier County Schools	Summers County Schools
Hampshire County Schools	Tucker County Schools
Lincoln County Schools	Tyler County Schools
Logan County Schools	Upshur County Schools
Mason County Schools	Wayne County Schools
McDowell County Schools	Webster County Schools
Mercer County Schools	Wetzel County Schools
Mingo County Schools	Wirt County Schools
Monroe County Schools	WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
Morgan County Schools	Wyoming County Schools
Nicholas County Schools	

Other school districts are strongly encouraged to apply!

School Bus Replacement Guidelines

- Buses eligible for replacement must be **2010 or older diesel-powered school buses** that will be scrapped if selected for funding.
- If a fleet has no eligible 2010 or older diesel school buses and is requesting zero-emission school bus replacements, the fleet can either:
  - Scrap 2010 or older non-diesel internal combustion engine buses; or
  - Scrap, sell, or donate 2011 or newer internal combustion engine buses

School Bus Replacement Guidelines (Continued)

Buses eligible for replacement must:

- Have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,001 lbs. or more.
- Be operational at the time of application submission.
- Be owned by the fleet receiving the replacement bus.
- Have provided bus service to the school district for at least 3 days/week on average during the 2021/2022 school year at the time of applying.
  - Excluding COVID-related school closures.

School Bus Replacement Guidelines

New replacement buses must:

1. Have a battery-electric, CNG, or propane drivetrain.
2. Be EPA certified vehicle model year 2021 or newer.
3. Have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,001 lbs. or more.
4. Not be ordered prior to receiving official notification of selection for EPA funding.
5. Be purchased, not leased or leased-to-own.

School Bus Replacement Guidelines (Continued)

New replacement buses must:

6. Serve the school district listed on the application for at least 5 years from the date of delivery.
7. Meet federal safety standards and be maintained, operated, insured, registered, and charged/fueled according to manufacturer recommendations and state requirements.
8. Not include an unvented diesel passenger heater.
9. Not be funded with other federal funds.
10. Upon request, be made available for inspection by EPA or its representatives for 5 years from the date of delivery.

School Bus Replacement Funding

- **The maximum rebate amount per bus is dependent on:**
  - Bus Size
  - Bus Fuel Type
  - Whether the school district served by the buses meets one or more prioritization criteria

- The table displays maximum funding levels. EPA will not disburse rebate funds in excess of the actual cost of the replacement bus and any costs above the maximum funding level are the sole responsibility of the applicant/awardee.

Maximum Bus Funding Amount per Replacement School Bus

School District Prioritization Status	Replacement Bus Fuel Type and Size					
	ZE – Class 7+	ZE – Class 3-6	CNG – Class 7+	CNG – Class 3-6	Propane – Class 7+	Propane – Class 3-6
Buses serving school districts that meet one or more prioritization criteria	$375,000	$285,000	$45,000	$30,000	$30,000	$25,000
Buses serving other eligible school districts	$250,000	$190,000	$30,000	$20,000	$20,000	$15,000

Training, Consulting and Warranty costs are additional eligible bus costs.

Infrastructure Funding

Talk to your utility now if you are interested in zero-emission buses!

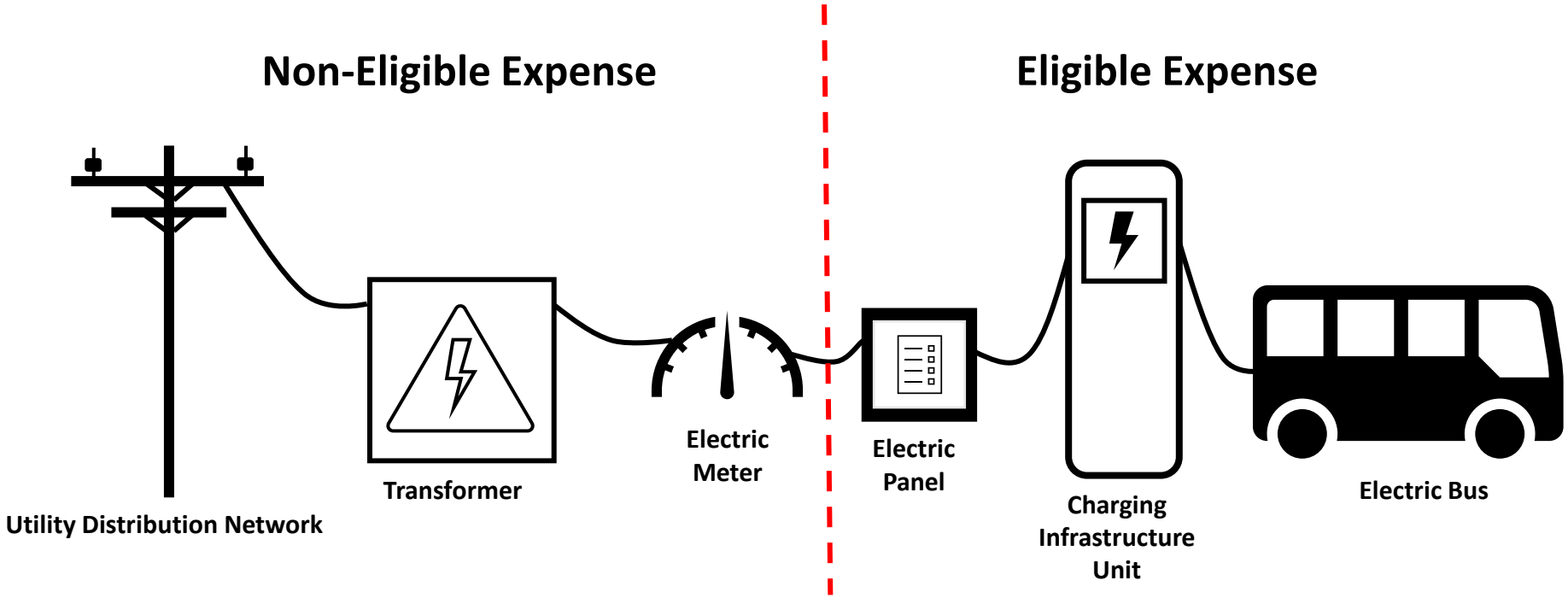
This table displays the maximum funding levels. EPA will not disburse rebate funds in excess of the actual infrastructure costs.

School District Prioritization Status	ZE – Class 3+ Infrastructure Funding
Buses serving school districts that meet one or more prioritization criteria	$20,000/bus
Buses serving other eligible school districts	$13,000/bus

Infrastructure labor costs, including design and engineering or installation, are additional eligible infrastructure costs.

Infrastructure Funding Restrictions

- EPA funding for infrastructure is limited to the fleet's side of the meter (as shown on the right side of the diagram).
- All Level 2 charging infrastructure purchased under this program must be EPA ENERGY STAR certified chargers.
  - EPA strongly recommends that all other charging infrastructure under this program be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).



Application Process

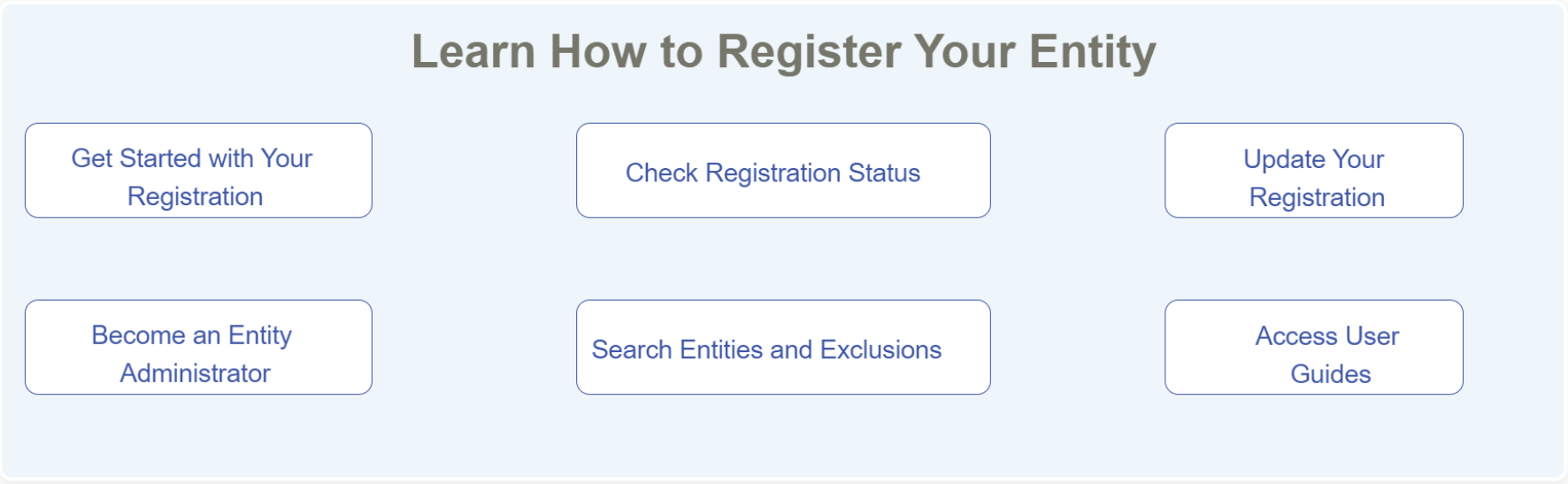
- Applicants must submit applications using EPA's Clean School Bus Rebate forms.
  - To apply, organizations must:
    1. Have an *active* System for Award Management (SAM.gov) entity registration
       - Note: SAM.gov is transitioning from using a DUNS number to having a new Unique Entity ID (UEI). Organizations applying for rebates must know their UEI.
    2. Have Points of Contact listed under their organization's entity registration in SAM.gov

- EPA will post a Q&A document and anticipates updating the Q&A document every two weeks during the application period.

- The application deadline is **August 19, 2022,** at 11:59pm Eastern Time.
  - *Late applications will not be accepted.*

SAM.gov Questions

- Federal Service Desk is available to help answer SAM.gov questions
- FAQ and Help
- Live chat feature, create an incident, or call (1-866-606-8220)



EPA Website

https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

Helpful Resources

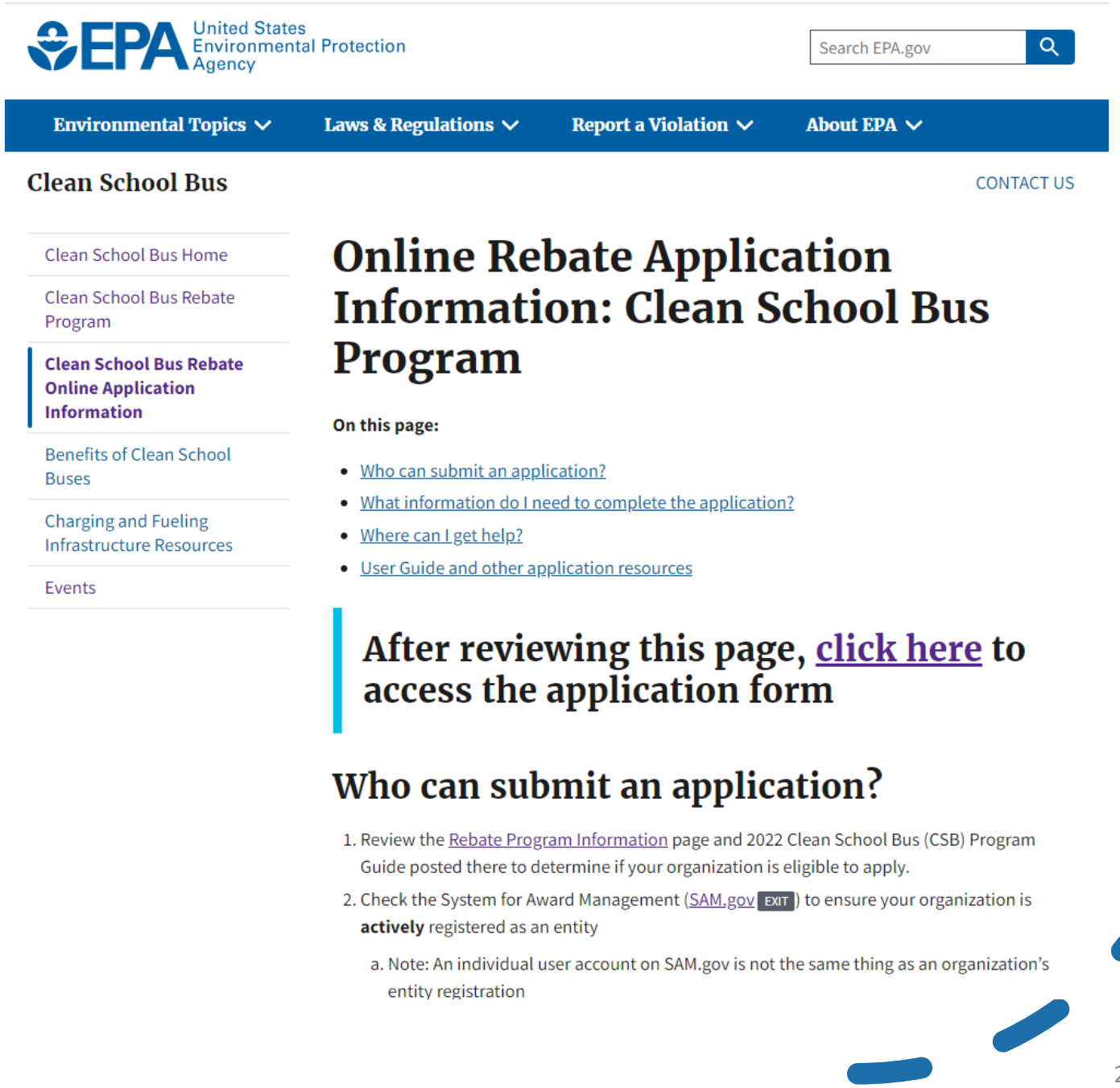
Supporting Materials

- 2022 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebates Program Guide (pdf) (1.57 MB, May 2022, EPA-420-B-22-025)
- 2022 Clean School Bus Inventory Sheet (xlsx) (779.29 KB, March 2022)
- 2022 Clean School Bus Program Prioritized School Districts (pdf) (3.9 MB, May 2022)
- 2022 Clean School Bus Program Prioritized School Districts List (xlsx) (1.05 MB, May 2022)
- 2022 Clean School Bus Rebate Forms Application User Guide (pdf) (8.75 MB, May 2022, EPA-420-B-22-026)
- 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates Program Overview Flyer (pdf) (478.27 KB, June 2022, EPA-420-F-22-021)

Questions and Answers Document

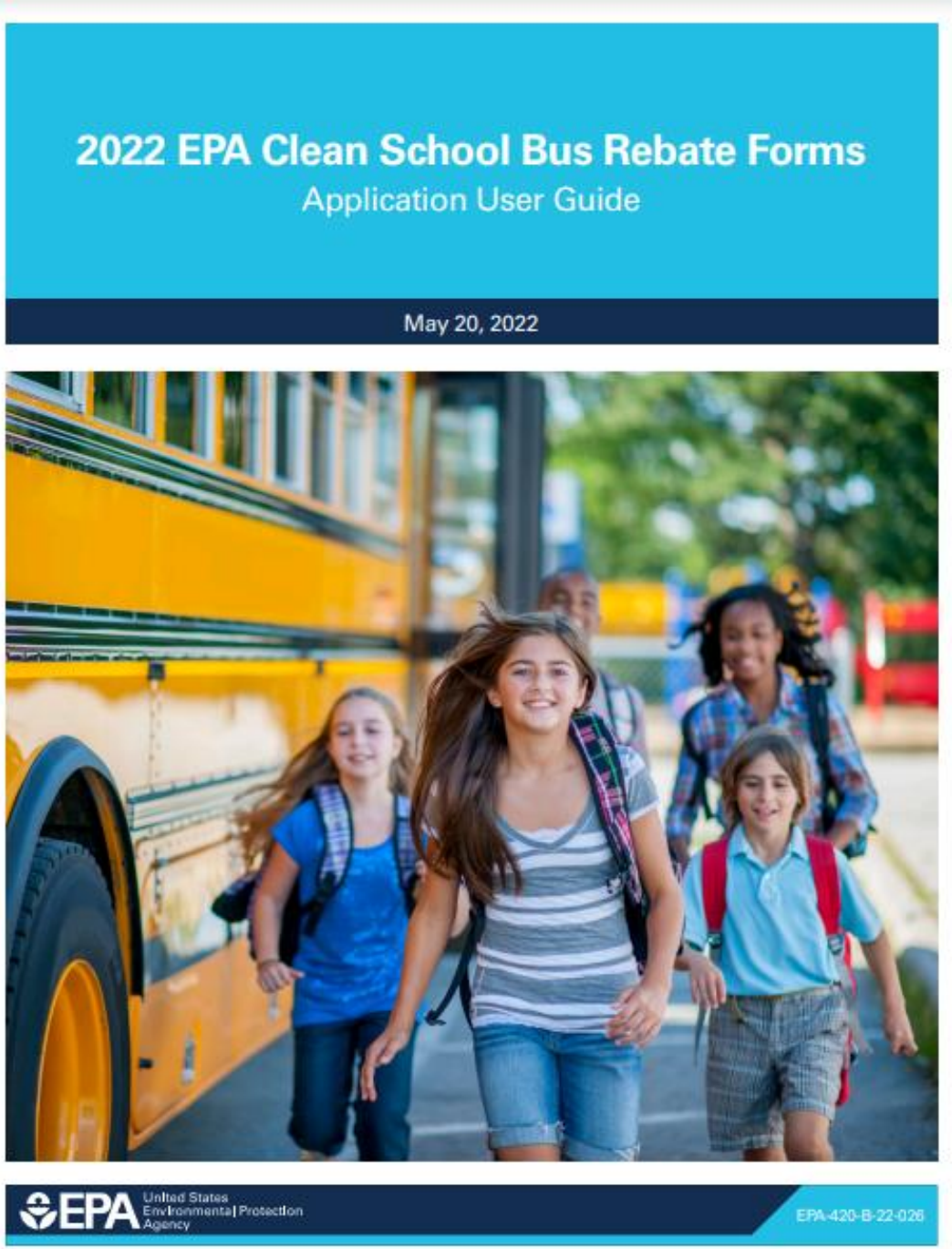
- 2022 Clean School Bus Rebate Questions and Answers Document - July 6th, 2022 (pdf) (461.94 KB, July 2022)

Online Rebate Application



Application User Guide

- Check out the [Clean School Bus Rebate Forms: Application User Guide]
- Provides step-by-step instructions with visuals on how to apply for the rebate



Selection Process

- Applications received by the deadline will be placed in a single ordered list using a random number generator lottery process.
  - This funding is not first-come, first-served, but EPA recommends not waiting until the deadline to submit.
- EPA will select applicants for funding, working from the top to the bottom of the list, until all funds are allocated from both the Clean School Bus and Zero Emission halves of funding.
  - Prioritized applicants will be selected first when making selections for the two halves of funding.
- To ensure a broad geographic distribution of funds, EPA will select at least one application per state or territory provided there is at least one eligible application.
- Applicants not selected by lottery will remain in random number order on a wait list.

Selectee Requirements

- Notification of Selection
  - EPA anticipates notifying applicants of their selection status **within approximately 60 days of the application deadline**.
  - Notification will include:
    1. That they have been selected for funding,
    2. The maximum amount of funds that have been reserved for them, and
    3. Instructions on proceeding with the purchase of new buses and eligible infrastructure.

- Payment Request Form
  - Selectees must submit online Payment Request Form(s) **within six months of the date of the selection notification**.
    - Submission must include proof of purchase order(s) for the new school buses and any eligible infrastructure.

Selectees can request extensions to the project period deadline. EPA will review these requests on a case-by-case basis and may grant extensions if sufficient justification is provided.

Closeout Requirements

- Once selectees have received their new buses and eligible infrastructure and have replaced their old buses, they must submit an online Close Out Form.

- The **Close Out Form** must be submitted **within two years** of the date of the selection notification.

- The Close Out Form will require selectees to attach:
  - Scrappage photos and a certification letter for buses being replaced
  - Invoices for new buses and eligible infrastructure
    - If training, consulting, or warranty expenses were included on the purchase order, these costs must also be included on the bus invoice in order to be reimbursed.
  - Photos of new buses and any charging infrastructure

- Record Retention
  - Selectees must retain all financial records, supporting documents, accounting books and other evidence of Rebate Program activities for **five years** after delivery of the new buses.

Recap

- For FY22, EPA anticipates awarding $500 million in rebate funding for zero-emission and clean school buses
- SAM.gov entity registration
- Refer to the CSB Rebates Program Guide
- Initiate discussions with utilities now if applying for zero-emission buses
- **Application deadline is August 19, 2022**

Want More Info or Have Questions?

- Review the Program Guide
- Review the Application User Guide
- Sign up for the Clean School Bus Listserv
- Check www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus for latest program updates
- **Submit feedback or questions to** cleanschoolbus@epa.gov
- Reach out to regional program staff

Upcoming Webinars

- Check out the recorded webinars on the EPA Clean School Bus Program website
- August 10th @ 1pm EST - U.S. Department of Agriculture: Rural Electric Cooperatives

EPA Wants to Hear From You!

Poll Question #1: Are you planning on applying?

Poll Question #2: Are you having issues with SAM.gov?

Please respond in the chat with:

1. Name of your organization
2. Yes/No/Not sure/Need Assistance

- Or send us an email directly.

- **Please place questions in the chat**

Region 3 Contacts

(DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)

Michelle Moyer, CSB Team Lead

Moyer.Michelle@epa.gov

215-814-2098

Kelsey Mattola, CSB Program Staff

Mattola.Kelsey@epa.gov

215-814-2071

Sydney Stern, CSB Program Staff

Stern.Sydney@epa.gov

215-814-3310