

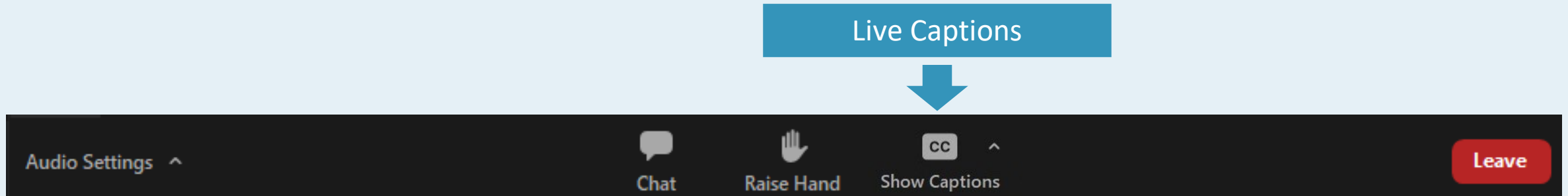
Clean School Bus Program – Preparing for 2023 Funding

EPA Region 9

April 2023



Zoom Webinar Logistics



- **This session is being recorded.** EPA will make a copy of the recording and presentation slides available on their website in the near future.
- **All attendees are in listen-only mode.** Audio is available through your computer speakers or by phone.
- **Technical difficulties:** If you are having technical difficulties, please email Gabriela Baeza-Castaneda at baeza-castaneda.gabriela@epa.gov
- **Live captions:** Automated live captions are available by clicking the “Show Captions” icon in your Zoom toolbar.
- **Questions:** Submit questions in the chat to Victoria Robbins, they will be answered at the end of the presentations

Agenda

Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's
Clean School Bus (CSB) Program

CSB Future Funding Opportunities

Competitive Process

Before You Apply - [SAM.gov/Grants.gov](https://www.sam.gov/Grants.gov)

Grants Announcement Content/Highlights

Evaluation and Selection

Communicating with Applicants

Technical Assistance/Resources

Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law'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 clean school buses and zero-emission 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. We expect the next funding opportunity to be a grants program that opens in Spring 2023.



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



*The [FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act \(aka the Omnibus funding bill\)](#) included amendments to the CSB program that will impact the list of eligible applicants in future funding rounds; additional information will be provided when future funding rounds are announced.



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**

Future CSB Funding Opportunities

- EPA intends to make another \$1 billion available in FY23 for the Clean School Bus Programs:
 - 1st Grant Competition
 - 2nd Rebate Program

Competitive Grant Process

1. EPA prepares announcement
2. EPA posts announcement on program office website and grants.gov
3. EPA receives applications from applicants
4. EPA evaluates applications and makes selections
5. EPA Issues awards

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SEARCH: Grant Opportunities ▾ Enter Keyword... **GO**

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Reminder: Federal agencies do not publish personal financial assistance opportunities on Grants.gov. Federal funding opportunities published on Grants.gov are for organizations and entities supporting the development and management of government-funded programs and projects. For more information about personal financial assistance benefits, please visit Benefits.gov.

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www.grants.gov

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  USER GUIDE
  SUPPORT CENTER

Locating grant opportunities

- Grants.gov hosts all federal grant opportunities

SEARCH GRANTS

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html> Search Tips | Export Results

BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA:

Keyword(s):

Funding Opp #:

CFDA Number:

SORT BY: Open Date (Descending)

DATE RANGE: All Available

OPPORTUNITY STATUS:

Open (2065) Closed (1396) Archived (19938)

FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE:

All Funding Instruments

- Cooperative Agreement (568)
- Grant (1630)
- Other (43)
- Procurement Contract (42)

ELIGIBILITY:

All Eligibilities

- City or township governments (1008)
- County governments (1018)
- For profit organizations other than small businesses (952)

CATEGORY:

All Categories

- Agriculture (31)
- Arts (see 'Cultural Affairs' in CFDA) (6)
- Business and Commerce (15)
- Community Development (29)

AGENCY:

All Agencies

- All Agency for International Development (63)
- All Corporation for National and Community Service (2)

1 - 25 OF 2065 MATCHING RESULTS: [Previous](#) 1 2 3 4 5 6 ... 83 [Next](#)

Funding Opportunity #	Opportunity Title	Agency	Open Date	Close Date
AMS-NOP-13-0061	Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost-Share Program FY 2013	Agricultural Marketing Service	08/01/2013	08/30/2013
SA-SYLEP-800-13-GR-51	Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program	U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia	08/01/2013	08/30/2013
G13AS00105	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Gulf Coast CESU	Geological Survey	08/01/2013	08/12/2013
G13AS00109	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Basin CESU	Geological Survey	08/01/2013	08/12/2013
G13AS00110	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Lakes Northern Forest CESU	Geological Survey	08/01/2013	08/12/2013
NPS-13-NERO-0107	Assessment of natural resource conditions at Hopewell Furnace NHS, Gettysburg NMP, and Eisenhower NHS	National Park Service	08/01/2013	08/06/2013
PAR-13-300	NLM Express Research Grants in Biomedical Informatics (R01)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2016
PAR-13-301	The Role of the Cytoskeleton in Cellular Aging (R21/R33)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2016
G13AS00106	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Gulf Coast CESU	Geological Survey	08/01/2013	08/12/2013
PAR-13-295	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R21)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2016
PAR-13-296	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R01)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2016
PAR-13-299	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R03)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2016
L13AS00170	BLM AK CESU - Scenario Planning for Energy and Resources Development	Bureau of Land Management	08/01/2013	08/23/2013
NOAA-NMFS-PRPO-2014-2003832	FY 2014 Species Recovery Grants to Tribes	Department of Commerce	08/01/2013	10/29/2013
NOAA-NMFS-PRPO-2014-2003811	Species Recovery Grants to States (Section 6 Program)	Department of Commerce	08/01/2013	10/29/2013
NNH13ZDA001N-PMDAP	ROSES 2013: Planetary Mission Data Analysis Program	NASA Headquarters	08/01/2013	10/11/2013
PA-FPH-14-022	FY14 Region 9 Nevada (not including Clark, Douglas or Washoe counties) Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health	08/01/2013	04/01/2014
PA-FPH-14-020	FY14 Region 9 Republic of the Marshall Islands Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants	Office of the Assistant Secretary	08/01/2013	04/01/2014



Before you Apply to an EPA Competitive Opportunity

SAM.gov and Grants.gov Registration



SAM.gov Registration

- If you want to apply for an EPA Competitive Opportunity, you need an active SAM.gov registration.
 - As part of registration, SAM.gov will assign you a Unique Entity ID. If you do not want to apply directly for awards, then you do not need a registration. If you only conduct certain types of transactions, such as reporting as a sub-awardee, you may not need to complete a registration. You may only need a Unique Entity ID, which is NOT the same as a SAM.gov registration.
- To see comprehensive instructions and checklist for entity registration, download the SAM.gov [Entity Registration Checklist\(PDF\)](#).
- A key part of the SAM.gov registration is identifying an [EBiz point of contact](#) (name and email address). This is key as you move forward to register in Grants.gov and apply.
- Please note that SAM.gov utilizes [Login.gov](#) since 2018. Login.gov is a free secure sign in service used by the public to sign in to participating government agencies system. The public can use the same username and password to access any agency that partners with Login.gov. This streamlines processes and eliminates the need to remember multiple usernames and passwords.

Grants.gov Registration

- You completed SAM.gov Registration and identified an [EBiz point of contact](#). Now what?
 - Once you have registered in SAM.gov, and before applying for a funding opportunity, you need to register an account with Grants.gov.
 - For instructions, please view the [Intro to Grants.gov How to Register with Grants.gov video](#).
- Once you have a Grants.gov account, users may [add a profile](#) to associate with an applicant organization. See [Applicant Registration](#) for more details.
- Prior to being able to complete or submit application packages in grants.gov on behalf of your organization, your organization's EBiz POC must authorize roles. This safeguards your organization from individuals who may attempt to submit grant application packages without permission.
- Please note that Grants.gov utilizes [Login.gov](#) since February 2022.

Preparing Applications

- Each funding opportunity announcement has unique instructions and requirements
- Read the announcement for: Eligibility information, deadlines, application content, review criteria, and more

Types of Announcements

- Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), formerly Request for Application (RFA)
 - Submission includes all forms and certifications necessary for award
 - EPA's standard type of solicitation
 - For a list of forms, [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Other less common types:
 - Request for Proposals (RFP): Abbreviated application- workplan and a few forms
 - Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP): Consists of 2 Phases
 - (1) EPA receives initial proposals
 - (2) EPA requests full proposals from highest ranking applicants

Announcement Contents/Highlights

- See [Appendix I to 2 CFR 200](#) for information on what is included in Federal funding opportunities

Section I: Program Description

- Describes:
 - Types of projects
 - What the application has to address

Announcement Contents/Highlights

Section II: Federal Award Information

- Expected number of awards
- Expected funding amount

Section III: Eligibility Info

- List of eligible entities
- Cost share/matching requirements if any
- Threshold eligibility criteria: May include legal, policy, relevance, programmatic, administrative, and/or financial criteria that have the effect of making an applicant, application, or project eligible or ineligible for award

- **Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation**

Announcement Contents/Highlights

Section IV: Application and Submission Info

- Content and form of application
 - Address Section I (program info), Section III (threshold criteria) and Section V (evaluation criteria)
 - Submission method (electronically through grants.gov is required for initial applications)
 - Submission dates and times
 - Open period is at least 45 calendar days
 - Pay attention to deadlines and page limits
- [Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation](#)

Announcement Contents/Highlights

Section V: Application Review Info

- Ranking criteria
 - Criteria used to evaluate applications
 - Must address ranking criteria in applications such as Programmatic Capability
 - Past Performance under grants
 - Environmental Results-plan for measuring progress towards achieving outputs/outcomes
 - Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds
 - Budget and Leveraging
 - Technical approach
 - Other factors (in some announcements)
- Review and selection process

[Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation](#)

Announcement Contents/Highlights

Section VI: Federal Award Administration Info

- Award notices
- [Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation](#)
- Reporting requirements
- [Quality Assurance](#)
- [Dispute Resolution Process and Debriefings](#)
 - Debriefings are used for constructive feedback

Announcement Contents/Highlights

- Section VII: Federal Awarding Agency Contacts
 - Who to contact with questions about the funding opportunity
- Section VIII: Other Information
 - This section is optional

Modifications

EPA occasionally modifies announcements

- Due dates, clarification of requirements, etc.

Automatic Notification

- Sign up on Grants.gov for automatic notification of modifications to specific announcements
- Modifications posted on Grants.gov

Evaluation and Selection

- EPA Program Offices evaluate each eligible application using the criteria in Section V and make selections based on ranking and Other Factors listed in the funding opportunity announcement.
- Applicants that are ineligible or not selected will be notified and have 15 days to request a debriefing. See [EPA's Solicitation Clauses](#) for information on requesting debriefings and filing disputes.
- Selected applicants will be notified and instructed on next steps.

Selection Notification Is Not Approval to Begin Work

- Selected applications undergo additional review to ensure compliance with programmatic and administrative grant requirements.
- Only a Notice of Award signed by an EPA Award Official legally obligates federal funds and indicates the recipient can begin work.

Communicating with Applicants: Do's and Don'ts

Communications with Applicants

- See Section 11 of the [Competition Policy](#)
- Limitations on what can be discussed and when
- Pre-proposal Assistance
 - Many programs will post Q&As on a website
 - Some programs offer conference calls/webinars where applicants can ask questions
 - This type of information is usually in Section IV or VII of announcements, if applicable

Communications with Applicants

EPA can:

- Answer applicant eligibility questions-if uncertain if you are eligible or your project is eligible ask before proposal submission
 - Clarify info on administrative aspects of proposal submission
 - Respond to requests for clarification of the announcement
-
- NOTE: Clarifications that result in changes to the announcement must be communicated (via modification to the announcement) to all potential applicants

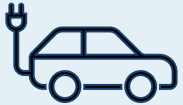
Communications with Applicants

EPA **cannot**:

- Offer to write applications for applicants
- Review or comment on draft applications
- Provide information on the Agency's approach to evaluating applications beyond what is described in Section V of the announcement
- Provide a competitive advantage to any applicant

Technical Assistance/Resources

Utility Engagement Pledge



A primary barrier school districts are facing is uncertainty around charging infrastructure deployment and how to engage with electric companies

- **Installation of charging infrastructure can undergo long lead times and requires close coordination with the local utility**



EPA is working with national electric utility company organizations to support school districts through a Utility Pledge that includes:

- **Facilitating Communication Between Electric Providers and School Districts**
- **Providing Technical Support and Assistance**
- **Increasing Funding and Deployment**



Additional information on the Utility Pledge and other technical assistance resources are available on: [epa.gov/cleanschoolbus technical assistance](https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/technical-assistance)

Information and tools to successfully plan and deploy clean school buses and infrastructure are [available](#).

EPA and the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation are partnering to provide these resources:

Coordinating with electric utilities

Identifying available funding and incentives

Analyzing charging infrastructure needs

Conducting a route analysis and planning routes

Providing training and workforce development

Resiliency (V2X)

Analyzing energy needs and grid impact

Identifying solar and battery storage opportunities

Electric School Bus (ESB) Myths

MYTH: ESBs can't operate in hilly terrain

FACT: ESBs may need to use more energy than a conventional bus while traveling uphill, but regenerative braking while traveling downhill can capture extra energy to extend the ESB's range

Regenerative braking can reduce the use of the brake system to about 5 times less than a conventional diesel vehicle.

Source: AFDC Flipping the Switch

MYTH: The initially high cost of an ESB will never be recouped

FACT: While the purchase price of an ESB may be higher, ESBs usually end up costing a fleet less over the lifetime of the bus

ESBs usually make up for their higher purchase costs within 13 years of operation and save over \$31,000 over the lifetime of the bus compared to a conventional diesel bus.

Source: Thomas Built Buses

MYTH: ESBs don't have enough range to cover a full school bus route

FACT: Most ESBs on the market have a range of about 100 miles, which is more than enough for most school districts

Type C ESBs have a range of up to 210 miles! If needed, buses can also be charged mid-day while not on the road to extend the range.

Source: WRI Electric School Bus Initiative

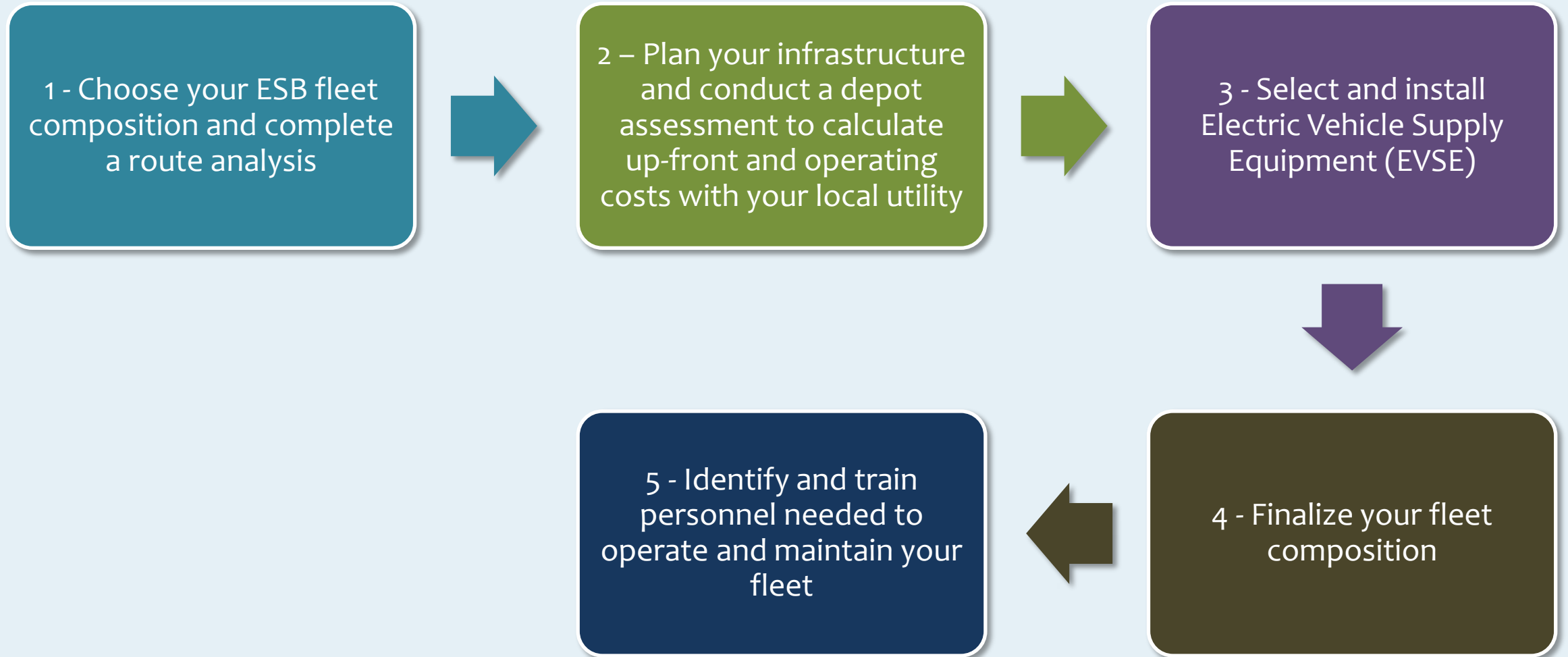
MYTH: ESBs don't work properly in cold climates

FACT: ESBs are still operational in cold climates but will use more energy to operate heaters, which can reduce range

A school district in Utah found that winter conditions cause ESB range to drop around 18%, but about 16% of additional range was gained through regenerative braking.

Source: WRI Electric School Bus Initiative

Steps in Electric School Bus (ESB) Fleet Electrification



- Submit comments on program design to cleanschoolbus@epa.gov
- Don't miss any updates- visit epa.gov/cleanschoolbus to sign up for the listserv
- Joint Office of Energy and Transportation Technical Assistance - CleanSchoolBusTA@nrel.gov

Thank you!

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Regional CSB Email –
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Other Funding Opportunities

CEC EV School Bus Bi-Directional Charging Infrastructure Funding Opportunity

- California Electric Commission anticipates opening a solicitation for projects that enable managed and bi-directional charging for school buses and their related infrastructure.
- Pre-Application Workshop for Phase 1
 - Tuesday, April 25, 2023
 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - Remote Access Only via Zoom
- Information about the meeting can be found here-
<https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2023-04/pre-application-workshop-gfo-22-612-electric-school-bus-bi>

FHWA Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program

- Through BIL the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has \$2.5B over five years for applicants including states, territories, cities, counties, local governments, state universities, and Tribes
- First Round of funding will support deployment of publicly accessible EV charging, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling infrastructure along designated alternative fuel corridors, including in downtown areas and local neighborhoods, particularly in underserved and disadvantaged communities.
 - \$700 million nationally
 - Up to \$500,000 per award
- Applications due 8:59PM PDT, 5/30/2023
- Additional Information:
 - Information about the program <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cfi/>
 - Information about this years funding opportunity <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=346798>