



CLEAN HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES (CHDV) GRANTS



The [Georgia Environmental Finance Authority](#) (GEFA) is planning to apply on behalf of school districts in the state of Georgia for the EPA's [Clean Heavy Duty Vehicle \(CHDV\) grant program](#) to get funding for the purchase of electric school buses. GEFA is inviting interested school districts to join the state application. To ensure our success, GEFA is working with key stakeholders to coordinate application drafting and to provide implementation support where selected by individual school districts.

The grant application is due July 25th, so we need to move quickly. The schedule we are working from is:

- **Thursday, July 18**, School district response deadline.
- **Monday, July 22**: GEFA final review and submission to the EPA.

Funding

- The EPA CHDV grant program will fund up to 75% (\$280,000 max), for each new electric school bus and its related charging infrastructure to replace a diesel bus in the state.
 - ADA-compliant school buses are eligible for an additional \$20,000 per-vehicle funding cap (i.e., a total per-vehicle funding cap of \$300,000)
- NOTE: school districts interested in working with GEFA will be responsible for providing or securing 25% of project-related costs as non-federal cost share.
 - GEFA can help provide information on other potential funding streams.
 - Third-party fleet partners may be able to support upfront cost share needs for districts that are interested in considering an implementation partnership with them. Please reach out to us with further questions about this option.

Requirements: CHDV is a federal grant program so there are specific requirements needed to comply with the program's rules; for example, procurement and reporting, but the most important one for districts at this stage is scrappage.

- Each school will need to agree to scrap an internal combustion engine (ICE) bus that will then be replaced with the new electric school bus.
- There is a waterfall of preference with older diesel buses (2010 or older) needing to be scrapped if available and non-diesel ICE buses considered eligible should those not be available.
- If you do not currently have buses to scrap, you are allowed to acquire one to scrap and GEFA and its partners can help support this process.

Process: GEFA will be writing the grant application in coordination with external partners. We will need a few pieces of information from your school district to confirm your participation and ensure we can fill out the required documentation. The required information includes:

- CHDV fleet inventory form: worksheet includes district contact information, current vehicles in operation, and where your vehicles are located (attached)
- School board awareness form: non-binding letter of intent from district stating you have discussed possible project with your school board (attached)
- School district 3rd party applicant certification: non-binding letter stating that the school district approves of GEFA serving as the Applicant (attached)
- Utility Partnership Form: GEFA will work with partners to complete these forms with your utility provider so only requirement is signature from school district (attached)

Commitment and Participation Benefits: At this stage, districts are only committing to applying for EPA funding, in partnership with GEFA. There is no requirement to move forward with the bus project if awarded but this is a unique opportunity to secure federal funding for those interested in electrification but are not able to apply on their own. The CHDV program has a 10-bus minimum requirement so by working through the state, school districts looking for smaller bus projects can participate through a group application. **It is important to note that school districts are not required to apply through GEFA and may submit their own applications directly to the EPA. This is a competitive grant opportunity, and it is not assured that GEFA will be awarded funds.**

If you are interested in joining the GEFA state application, please let Miracle Wilson and I know asap and we'll be happy to talk about the next steps with you.

Thanks!

Kristofor Anderson

Director of Energy Resources

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Please note: GEFA's new address is 47 Trinity Ave SW, Fifth Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334

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