

City of Chicago

Climate Infrastructure Fund

January 10 Webinar – Questions and Answers

The following is a list of questions asked during the January 10 Informational Webinar for the Climate Infrastructure Fund. Responses reflect those that were provided during the webinar as well as responses to questions that were not answered during the event (indicated in **bold**). Further, some responses provided during the webinar were later determined to be incorrect, incomplete, or unclear. Corrections to such previously provided responses are noted below, with incorrect text indicated via ~~strike through~~ and added text indicated via **bold italics**.

Please refer to www.chicago.gov/ClimateFund for additional updates and information, including updates to the [FAQs](#) and [Resources](#) based on questions arising during the Webinar.

APPLICATION, REVIEW, AND AWARDING PROCESS

Q1: What is the turnaround time for decisions on funding?

Decisions on the initial round of applications, which closes Feb. 24, are expected to be finalized and announced by late spring.

Q2: How soon can grant recipients expect funding?

Awards are anticipated to be announced in late spring. Awardees will then enter into a Grant Agreement before beginning work. Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis, with invoices submitted at major project milestones that will be determined as part of the Grant Agreement.

Q3: Are applications based on a rubric scoring system? If so, is there scoring criteria? What is the total points and breakdown?

Scoring will be based on a series of evaluation criteria as discussed in the webinar. Criteria fall into the categories of climate impact, equity, and project readiness.

Q4: Can saved content in Submittable.com be edited and updated before submission?

Yes, Submittable allows you to save a draft of your application before officially sending it in.

Q5: Can you provide examples of how to communicate a Project's Feasibility/Readiness—are there particular documentation, existing progress or other things that would be helpful to be included in the application?

During the application review process, staff will be considering criteria such as whether the applicant has demonstrated site control (or a path to site control), a plan for the project that demonstrates the organization's knowledge or capacity to undertake said project, a realistic project budget, and an overview of how the organization will maintain the project long-term and cover operational costs.

Q6: What if your project has elements of more than one of the categories (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Electric Vehicles and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, and Green Infrastructure) that the city is looking to fund?

~~Applicants may submit applications for more than one project or project type. Each submittal must include its own documentation to be evaluated apart from the other applications.~~ **Applicants may only apply for funding one project type per project. Please submit only one application in Submittable per project for this round of funding. There are likely to be additional rounds of funding for which you may be eligible to apply. Organizations proposing multiple distinct projects may submit more than one application.**

Q7: Does an application need to be in one of the 3 categories? RE/EE, EV, GI. Or can an application cross categories?

Projects should fall into one project type category. Projects that are considering elements from multiple categories should apply for only one category at this time. Past recipients will be eligible to apply for future funding rounds to extend projects into other categories, though this will continue to be a competitive selection process.

Q8: Is this grant similar to TIF/SBIF in requiring applicants to provide two quotes, and work with contractors who carry valid City of Chicago Business License and Insurance?

Quotes are not required to submit an application. Please see the website including [FAQs](#) and [Resources](#) for further information.

Q9: We have a mixed-use unit and plan to start a business. How do we apply?

Please refer to www.chicago.gov/ClimateFund for all application requirements. In essence, eligible grant recipients should either be nonprofit organizations or small businesses.

Q10: Do capital improvements require building permits and drawings signed by a licensed architect or engineer, or is DPD the authority for giving approvals to proceed without architect signature?

All permitting requirements remain in place for grant recipients.

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Q11: Where can we review the slide deck and recording of today's Webinar?

Visit www.chicago.gov/ClimateFund to access the Webinar recording, slide deck, and other resources.

Q12: Is there a way we can sign up for email alerts announcing the release of the second round of funding?

There is not currently a mailing list for the Climate Infrastructure Fund. We recommend keeping informed of general Department of Planning and Development communications for all news and information.

Q13: Where can I learn more about the environmental justice screening tools you mentioned?

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool developed by the White House Council on Environmental Quality is available at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/>.

The Environmental Justice Communities as defined by the State of Illinois and currently in use via the state program Illinois Solar for All can be found at <https://www.illinoissfa.com/environmental-justice-communities/>.

Q14: Some environmental justice screening tools are known to have gaps in their geographies; how is this accounted for?

Environmental Justice areas as defined for the Climate Infrastructure Fund include multiple datapoints, and the methodology for federal and state tools are available for review. That said, additional criteria, such as economic hardship scores, air quality and health indices will be used to review all eligible project applications.

For example, UIC's Great Cities Institute developed an economic hardship index that examines six sociodemographic factors. The Chicago Community Area Hardship Index is available [here](#).

You can read more about air quality and health indices in the [2020 City of Chicago Air Quality and Health Report](#).

Q15: I work with a network of local contractors who would be very interested in opportunities to competitively bid to participate on the construction of these projects. Is there a contact we could discuss w following today's workshop?

We are not currently coordinating a contractor pool for the Climate Infrastructure Fund.

Q16: How can local neighborhood contractors who specialize in solar, energy efficiency, EV charging, etc. get involved? Is there an approved vendor list or other structure to connect grantees to BIPOC contractors who can deliver the project?

All grant recipients must comply with the State's prevailing wage policies. Grantees receiving \$250,000 or more must comply with the City's construction requirements, including WBE/MBE and local hiring. **To further clarify, DPD does not provide a list of preferred contractors. That said, there are other sources that do provide such lists. For example, check utility providers for contractor lists related to incentives. For electric vehicles, please view the Resources links regarding certified EV installers.**

Q17: Is there a "parallel" plan to increase the number of Black- and Latinx-owned solar developers to work on projects that are funded?

Regarding the Climate Infrastructure Fund and more broadly in DPD, there is no contractor pool or preferred vendors list. However, projects that specifically cite BIPOC workforce as an element of their project will receive higher prioritization as part of their review. That said, across the broader collection of Chicago Recovery Plan projects, there are multiple efforts to increase BIPOC workforce opportunities. More information will be shared at a later date.

ELIGIBILITY

Q18: Is the grant open only to projects in Chicago, or is it open to those in Cook County as well?

Projects must be located in Chicago and be led by a Chicago-based nonprofit or small business.

Q19: What limitations, if any, are there for non-profits to apply? Size, revenue, location, members, etc.?

Any **Chicago-based** nonprofit/501(c)(3) organization is eligible.

Q20: Are churches or other religious / faith-based institutions eligible?

All Chicago-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible, including religious institutions. However, in order to comply with Constitutional limits, grant funds cannot be applied to a religious use, which would need to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q21: Does a Condo Association qualify as a non-profit??

Nonprofit organizations must show proof of IRS tax designation.

Q22: Would an energy co-operative serving environmental justice communities be eligible to apply?

Eligible recipients must be 501(c)(3) nonprofits or small businesses and eligible projects include energy efficiency / renewable energy, EV / charging, and green infrastructure projects. Funds may not be used to provide subgrants to other recipients.

Q23: Are nonprofits who have successful environmental worker training programs serving environmental justice communities able to submit relevant projects, but then utilize our trained students to conduct and get paid for the contracted work instead of hiring external businesses?

If your organization is a 501(c)(3) proposing an eligible renewable energy, energy efficiency, EV, or green infrastructure project on property you control (or anticipate acquiring), you are eligible to apply. All grant recipients must comply with the State's prevailing wage policies and contractors / installers must have all required certifications.

Q24: What is the size of a small business?

Small businesses are defined as commercial businesses with gross annual sales of up to \$9 million on average over the previous three years. **For additional information regarding excluded businesses, please see the [FAQs](#) page.**

Q25: Is there an income threshold for the grants or is income a factor that affects the amount of funding?

There is no income threshold for applicants. Small businesses are defined as commercial businesses with gross annual sales of up to \$9 million on average over the previous three years.

Q26: Should a coalition of 10 nonprofits apply jointly or individually?

Non-profit 501(c)(3)s and small businesses are eligible to apply for funding. There is no penalty for projects with multiple partners, as long as **all recipients** are eligible to apply for the funding. **However, if an initiative spans multiple disconnected sites benefitting multiple partners, each project should be applied for separately, with an indication of the connection to other projects noted in the Project Description.**

Q27: Can companies be NYC based but have a Chicago partner? For example, an EV charging operator partnering with a community in Chicago for a charging deployment?

Can you follow up on this question with a bit more clarification? If so, please email the detailed question and a bit more details about your local partner to the general email address: ClimateFund@cityofchicago.org. **To further clarify, partnerships, including those with non-Chicago entities, are eligible to apply; however, the local partner must be an eligible 501(c)(3) or small business and must be the recipient of the funding and the project benefit.**

Q28: Can one company apply for multiple projects?

Applicants may submit applications for more than one project. Each submittal must include its own documentation to be evaluated apart from the other applications.

Q29: If the project would house two related businesses, can the applicant present it that way in the application? Or can only one business be listed?

All businesses that occupy the property should be listed, and all must be eligible small businesses.

Q30: Are there residency requirements, prevailing wage requirements, or MBE/WBE requirements on construction projects?

All grant recipients must comply with the State's prevailing wage policies. Grantees receiving \$250,000 or more must comply with the City's construction requirements, including WBE/MBE and local hiring.

Q31: Are residential housing projects eligible, and if so, how small of a project is eligible?

The only residential uses that are eligible for funding are Group Living facilities operated by a 501(c)(3) as defined in the Zoning Ordinance. These may include assisted living facilities, convents and monasteries, community homes, domestic violence residences, nursing homes, temporary overnight shelters, transitional residences, and transitional shelters. Group Living facilities operated as a business are not eligible. All other Residential uses (e.g. single family, multi-family) and Lodging uses (e.g. bed and breakfasts, hotel / motel, vacation rental) are not eligible to apply.

Q32: We are a nonprofit that owns and runs supportive housing developments for Veterans and their families. We are looking to purchase an EV for a property. Would it be considered residential even though we are nonprofit and disqualify us?

Group Living facilities operated by 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply.

Q33: Do multifamily buildings seeking planning and construction of EV charging infrastructure for residents count as small business/non-profit if they are an HOA? Or would it only apply to real estate small businesses retrofitting their buildings?

~~Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or small business is eligible. Small businesses are defined as commercial businesses with gross annual sales of up to \$9 million on average over the previous three years.~~ **While all Chicago-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible, along with certain small businesses (see [FAQs](#)), residential uses are not eligible. This includes most residential buildings owned and/or operated by nonprofits, though Group Living facilities as defined in the Zoning Ordinance are eligible to apply. Improvements to commercial spaces within mixed-use buildings, however, are eligible.**

Q34: I see that residential projects are not eligible. To be clear, is multifamily housing of 5+ units considered commercial or residential?

All residential uses are considered residential, regardless of unit count, with the exception of Group Living facilities. A multifamily building of any size would not be eligible.

Q35: Do large hospitals count as eligible non-profits if they're seeking funding to research, design, and build community-accessible EV charging infrastructure?

~~Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or small business is eligible.~~ **Applicants must be Chicago-based 501(c)(3) nonprofits or small businesses**, defined as commercial businesses with gross annual sales of up to \$9 million on average over the previous three years (see [FAQs for additional exclusions](#)). The City of Chicago will prioritize projects in environmental justice communities. Limited allowable expenses related to project design are included in the grant scope.

Q36: Would you consider a project involving a small manufacturer?

Industrial businesses, even if they meet small business revenue requirements are not eligible; refer to the [FAQs](#) for additional information about excluded business types.

Q37: We are a 501(c)(3) that is relocating an urban farm. We are considering three sites owned by the CHA currently and will choose one. Do we need to have selected that one site before we apply?

Applicants will need to select a single site (can be comprised of multiple parcels) in order to apply. However, urban agriculture is not a qualified project type at this time, though an urban farm looking to install energy efficiency, renewable energy, EV / charging, or green infrastructure improvements would be eligible. Sites must be privately owned for improvements to be made.

Q38: What is the minimum number of years required for control of the property?

Site control is preferred through ownership, lease or long-term permission, but a clear path to site control is acceptable, whether through a memorandum of understanding from the owner or a documented application to one of these government land programs. The City of Chicago may offer additional guidance on a case-by-case basis. ***There is no minimum amount of time that a property must have been owned to be eligible to apply.***

FUNDING AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Q39: Are sub-awards allowed for project partners to do capital improvements?

The Climate Infrastructure Fund is for direct grants only, and not to be used to fund sub-awards.

Q40: Is \$250,000 a firm maximum? Or are greater requests considered?

Exceptions are possible for projects that demonstrate a high degree of catalytic impact but grants between \$50,000 and \$250,000 are preferred for this program. ***Additional requirements apply to grants exceeding \$250,000; refer to the [FAQs](#).***

Q41: What determines if a grant is over \$250K?

Your application must detail specific, allowable, budget line items that comprise the project scope. Please refer to the [FAQs](#) for more information about allowable expenses.

Q42: If the project cost is over \$250K. Should you apply for total amount and be considered for more or just apply for the \$250k but detail the full project cost?

Applications should include all project costs and the full request for funding. Grant amounts for selected projects will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q43: Will the \$50k - \$250k grants available be based on firm estimates (proposals) or will they be determined on estimates a non-profit org comes up with to be verified with contractor and consultant proposals?

Contractor-verified costs are not required at the time of application; applicants can rely on self-generated estimates. However, applications that do include verified cost estimates or estimates from energy assessments or similar documentation will be prioritized.

Q44: What if the soft and capital costs of site-specific improvements, like EV chargers at a new apartment building, is below the \$50k funding threshold? Is it better for applications to come from a project site or a service provider that can serve multiple sites?

Exceptions are possible for projects that demonstrate a high degree of catalytic impact but grants between \$50,000 and \$250,000 are preferred for this program. **However, residential properties are not eligible for funding.**

Q45: Since \$50k minimum is preferred, but the sites I'm volunteering with for EV charging are nonprofits and only cost \$6k each, how do you advise we submit a portfolio of projects? Should I partner with a larger Chicago based org to receive the grant and disperse to the sites or can I just have the (California-based) EV charging solution provider apply with me as the coordinator (but they are CA based)?

Projects under the \$50,000 - \$250,000 target will be considered. If multiple small projects are connected thematically, individual applications will need to be submitted, but the Project Description should make reference to the full portfolio. Further, partnerships are permitted, but grants will be disbursed to the end user and cannot be provided to an intermediary looking to award "sub-grants."

Q46: With funds being reimbursement only, are you targeting large nonprofits that have the ability to pay for the project cost up front?

We recognize that upfront costs may pose as a challenge for some organizations and would encourage exploration of other sources for funding. At this time, we are bound by current funding requirements that do not allow disbursement of funds prior to completion of work or at staged milestones.

Q47: If an organization applies for funding for a particular project from the Climate Infrastructure Fund, can that same organization apply for funding for a different project from another component of the Recovery Fund? (such as from one of the large grant funding opportunities)

Prior City funding does not disqualify potential applicants. Applications should explain why additional City funding is needed for the same project or if the request is for a newly proposed project. **However, applicants cannot apply for multiple DPD funding sources for a single project (CDG, ETOD, NOF) within a given application period. Further, applicants must show proof that the newly requested funds do not duplicate funds that were previously granted.**

Q48: Our organization might apply to the large grant Recovery Fund for developing a facility, while applying to Climate Infrastructure for a completely different project, without prejudicing either application?

There is no penalty or prejudice for entities applying for multiple grant opportunities **for different projects** through the City. The quality of the project, applicant eligibility, and various other scoring factors relayed in the [FAQs](#) comprise the project selection methodology. **However, applicants cannot apply for multiple DPD funding sources for a single project (CDG, ETOD, NOF) within a given application period.**

Q49: Can this be done in tandem with TIF?

There is no penalty or restriction related to submitting various grant applications or requests for funding from the City. **Because TIF applications utilize a separate application process, projects can apply for both TIF and the Climate Infrastructure Fund; however, applications for multiple DPD funding sources via the Universal Application (CDG, ETOD, NOF) are not permitted.**

Q50: Can a project that already received funding through the Tiny Home program use funds for implemented solar panels?

Residential properties are not eligible for funding in this program.

Q51: Can funds be used to purchase property for development?

Acquisition expenses can be included in the grant request as part of total project cost. However, not every proposal receives the applied-for funding amount. Acquisition costs must be part of a larger infrastructure project that is being submitted. Prioritization is given to acquisitions of City lots. Grant funds cannot cover acquisition costs exclusively. **Further, new building construction is not eligible.**

Q52: Can funds be used for the purchase of Cook County Land Bank lots for the purpose of community gardens or stormwater retention?

Acquisition expenses can be included in the grant request as part of total project cost. However, not every proposal receives the applied-for funding amount. Acquisition costs must be part of a larger infrastructure project that is being submitted. Prioritization is given to acquisitions of City lots. Grant funds cannot cover acquisition costs exclusively. **Projects that have current proof of site control will be prioritized.**

Q53: What about procurement of property in Industrial Zones?

Acquisition expenses can be included in the grant request as part of total project cost. However, not every proposal receives the applied-for funding amount. Acquisition costs must be part of a larger infrastructure project that is being submitted. Prioritization is given to acquisitions of City lots. Grant funds cannot cover acquisition costs exclusively. ***Further, while acquisition costs may be considered and funded, please note that industrial uses are not eligible for funding under the Climate Infrastructure Fund.***

Q54: Is staff time an allowable cost under this grant? Particularly for the green infrastructure projects?

Grants are limited to permanent, climate-related infrastructure investments and cannot be used for organization or business operations and maintenance, including staff costs.

Q55: Are professional services rendered during the construction process covered, for example construction management and construction QA/QC?

There are several categories of allowable expenses detailed in the [FAQs](#) related to specific project categories. ***Project management and construction QA/QC would not be eligible line items for expenditure of funds.***

Q56: Is it sufficient to say that the ineligible costs will be covered by our general fund, event revenues and other contributions?

Applicants may provide as much clarity or detail as they deem fit to describe how they will fund ineligible costs; however, each ineligible cost should be listed to demonstrate awareness and project readiness.

Q57: If a project is started before you announce the awardees, is the project still eligible to be reimbursed some of the costs if the project is awarded?

Projects can be ones that are already underway, but eligible costs are only those that have not yet been incurred, with the exception of eligible predevelopment costs (e.g. energy assessments, design drawings, etc.) which may be incurred prior to award. Final determination of funding amounts are decisions made by the City of Chicago.

Q58: If an EV purchase for a nonprofit was negotiated in 2022 and payment will be made in February, can those funds be retroactively included in a grant? Or must purchases be made after grant is awarded?

Other than eligible predevelopment costs (e.g. energy assessments, design drawings, etc.) all eligible expenses must be incurred after a grant has been awarded and a Grant Agreement is in place.

Q59: I already purchase an EV Tesla last year, but I did not install the EV charger. Do I qualify to apply for an EV benefit?

For this grant, applicants must be a Chicago non-profit or small business. If you are seeking funding for an electric vehicle charger for either of those types of entities, you are eligible to apply for funding. ***To further clarify, funds are only available for work begun after funding is awarded and the Grant Agreement has been signed by both parties, with the exception of eligible predevelopment costs (e.g. energy assessments, design drawings, etc.) which can be incurred prior to the grant award being finalized. Therefore, the installation of a charging station occurring after the Grant Agreement is in place would be an eligible cost, while the prior purchase of the EV itself would not be. In addition, purchases that fall outside of the federal guidance for vehicle eligibility, particularly around purchase price, will be decided on a case-by-case basis. For example, an electric truck may cost more than \$40,000 but if said truck is warranted for legitimate organizational use, it may be viewed more favorably, whereas the use/purposes for an \$80,000 high-end luxury vehicle could just as easily be accomplished by purchasing a \$40,000 electric vehicle, may not be viewed as favorably. Selected projects must represent a good use of public dollars.***

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Q60: Is geothermal fundable?

Yes, geothermal projects are fundable projects, provided that they meet other requirements and qualifications.

Q61: How can the renewable energy and energy efficiency projects be coupled with ComEd EE Small Business incentives?

The requested budget information asks for all related incentives including utility and any applicable federal and state rebates and diverse funding stacks are encouraged. ***In fact, the City of Chicago expects applicants to utilize all available funding sources including federal, state and local utility incentives when possible.***

Q62: Can you say more about "meaningful GHG reductions"? Does this mean quantity? If so, are larger scale projects prioritized over smaller?

Larger projects are not necessarily prioritized over smaller ones. Meaningful reductions are relative to the specific site. For example, a project that will reduce an organization's GHG footprint by 20% would have a larger impact than one at 10%. A project that drastically reduces reliance on fossil fuels or prioritizes renewable energy would more than likely have a larger impact than projects without. As such, being able to quantify that impact will be helpful. An energy assessment by a qualified professional may assist in the ability to provide such information.

Q63: We are a non-profit agency that has a 35,000 sq ft building that is in need of new energy efficient windows. Does this qualify under this program?

Costs may include installation of on-site renewable energy, upgraded space heating and cooling with electric heat pumps, electric panel upgrades, air sealing and insulation, lighting efficiency upgrades, heat pump water heaters, and induction cooking (when replacing an existing service only). Projects that replace fossil-fuel related space heating are prioritized. Funding is not provided for energy conservation measures that extend reliance on fossil fuels. Ongoing maintenance and operations, staff training and all other operational costs must be maintained by the submitting agency and are not eligible fund expenditures.

To further clarify, windows are a building envelope strategy that may offer energy savings, but these savings vary greatly by every building. DPD would recommend a supporting energy assessment that documents the anticipated energy savings specific to windows as part of the application.

Q64: For evaluation criteria for the climate metrics, especially the GHG reduction, will this information be provided by the vendor or is there a database to calculate impact if a client is looking at this from the predevelopment feasibility stage in order for us to assist them for this figure as they write this proposal?

For energy and green infrastructure projects, once you have an assessment or site plan, a professional should be able to calculate certain impacts like GHG reduction or amount of stormwater captured. If you have not yet conducted an assessment, you may want to consider providing qualitative assumptions about the anticipated impact, such as identifying each solution and describing the general impact it will have related to climate change. Even without quantitative numbers, an applicant should be able to individually determine which strategic efforts are likely to have bigger impacts than others.

There are online tools to assess the potential for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions before you get the help of a qualified professional. Consider using a reputable source such as the federal government or research institutions. That said, a professional assessment is likely going to provide the most detailed information that will include a baseline (consumption today) and what you can expect to reduce through prescribed improvements.

For green infrastructure impact potential, there are also tools, like the Center for Neighborhood Technology's [Green Values Calculator](#).

For electric vehicles, you may want to research the emissions (or the annual gallons of fuel required) of your current vehicle and compare those to the electric vehicle to estimate the emissions savings. There are numerous free online calculators and tools, as well as scholarly research, to help you think about those numbers.

Q65: Will upgrades to HVAC units for a small business (tenant in multiple business in the plaza with 8 more years left on the lease) qualify for the grant? Are high efficiency units considered in this grant? Gas or electric?

Costs may include installation of on-site renewable energy, upgraded space heating and cooling with electric heat pumps, electric panel upgrades, air sealing and insulation, lighting efficiency upgrades, heat pump water heaters, and induction cooking (when replacing an existing service only). Projects that replace fossil-fuel related space heating are prioritized. Funding is not provided for energy conservation measures that extend reliance on fossil fuels. Ongoing maintenance and operations, staff training and all other operational costs must be maintained by the submitting agency and are not eligible fund expenditures. ***Applicants should show proof of site control or an agreement with the property owner permitting the proposed improvements to take place.***

Q66: Can energy efficiency / renewable energy improvements be added or part of a New Construction of Multi-Family Housing 6+ for profit development?

The energy efficiency / renewable energy components of the Climate Infrastructure Fund are intended for the retrofit of existing buildings; new construction is not eligible. Further, residential uses are not eligible, and applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofits or small businesses.

Q67: Will gas equipment be funded?

Funding is not provided for energy conservation measures that extend reliance on fossil fuels. ***This includes elements like gas water heaters and furnaces.***

Q68: Are SIP panels considered eligible for funding?

Capital improvements to a building to improve its energy efficiency are eligible expenses. All improvements must meet the Chicago Building Code requirements.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND CHARGING

Q69: Would providing for EV charging areas for e-bikes and e-scooters be included in this?

For the first round of funding, electric vehicles refer to cars and trucks, not scooters or bikes.

Q70: I have heard that 501(c)(3)s can be in jeopardy of losing their exemption because they charge for the public use of an EV charging station. Is there a cut out that ensure our NFP status is not at risk?

Typically, the access charges incurred by users are to cover the cost of electricity used and perhaps cost of the platform or Wi-Fi. We would encourage any organization with questions like this to seek counsel from their legal representation.

Q71: Would EV charging stations funded by the city be for public use or only for my organization?

Proposals may include the purchase of zero-emission electric vehicles and the installation of EV charging infrastructure for private and/or public use.

Q72: Can these funds be used for EV charging stations at municipal locations such as park field houses or libraries?

Only 501(c)(3) and small businesses are eligible to apply for this grant. ***Proposed projects must be on private property.***

Q73: Are conversions of existing vehicles to EV covered?

No, electric vehicle conversion is not an eligible expense.

Q74: As a small business recycling medical equipment, it helps our company portfolio to acquire as many electric vehicles as possible. What documents do we need to submit in our application?

If your organization is an eligible entity, please refer to www.chicago.gov/ClimateFund for more information about application requirements.

Q75: Does the Fund pay for 100% costs of installation of EV Charging Infrastructure?

Costs may include the purchase of electric vehicles (EV) and may include the installation of EV charging infrastructure. Funds may include support for related electric panel upgrades. Funding may not include costs related to connecting to an EV charging infrastructure network; however, funding is allowable for the wi-fi upgrade necessary to be able to do so. An assessment from a qualified engineer or consultant is required for all projects that include EV charging infrastructure, electric panel upgrades and related wi-fi improvements. Installation must be completed by an Illinois Commerce Commission Certified Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installer. Funded projects must be maintained long term by the submitting agency. ***100% of eligible expenses up to \$250,000 can be reimbursed.***

Q76: Are there any programs that help car owners to switch to electric and hybrid cars?

The Climate Infrastructure Fund provides funding to 501(c)(3) nonprofits and small businesses for the purchase of EVs and/or the installation of EV charging infrastructure.

Q77: I work with local electricians to put up Level 2 EV charger installations at small businesses/neighborhood community sites. Some of them do not have the ICC certification mentioned on the website but are excellent minority-owned businesses that I'd like to keep working with. How difficult is it to obtain the certification and how long does it take? They have quoted several installations in charging deserts already and we are ready to apply but they don't have the certification?

Please refer to the [EV Charging Station Installer Application FAQ](#) for more specific information. **The certification is a State of Illinois requirement for all charging infrastructure installations and is something the City of Chicago does not control. On the [Resources](#) page, the same link relative to the list also includes instructions and information about the certification process, including an email for further questions.**

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Q78: Can grant applications include multiple site green infrastructure projects?

Yes, but you would need to fill out an application for each site. Each submittal must include its own documentation to be evaluated apart from the other applications. **To further clarify, if a project involves multiple connected or proximal sites, a single application listing each property will be sufficient. If, however, each site is considered its own project (e.g. distinct end users), developed in tandem with a portfolio of other projects, each project will need to submit its own application.**

Q79: I see that Green Infrastructure does not include composting. Does this mean that composting is not being considered as a category at all, despite its huge impact on the environment and contribution to creating a circular economy?

This round of the CIF does not include composting as an eligible expense, but it may be included in a second round. We are working on the details. Also, there are some forthcoming Chicago Recovery Plan projects that do involve composting. More information to come at a later date.

Q80: Does the team consider industrial / office / residential construction material landfill diversion programs a part of the green infrastructure definition?

Landfill diversion and other waste reduction strategies are not eligible expenses for the Climate Infrastructure Fund in this round.

Q81: Are bioswales and rain gardens projects on public property including schools eligible to be funded by this grant?

Currently the Climate Infrastructure Fund is only for nonprofit organizations and small businesses, not public entities ***and only for projects on private property.***