Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) FY27 Community Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment ("Community EVSE") Grant Program

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More broadly, what happens after I submit an application to MEA?

1. We will review all applications for missing or incorrect information. After the submission deadline, MEA and additional subject matter experts will review all applications.
2. The evaluation team will review applications meeting the Minimum Eligibility Requirements from the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) using the Competitive Evaluation Criteria outlined in Table 3 of the FOA.
3. If selected for funding, MEA will move forward with a Commitment Letter to reserve funding for the Fiscal Year (FY27) award. This will be followed by a Grant Agreement that will outline project scope.
4. If an application is not selected for an award, applicants will receive a formal non-award letter.

Basic Application Questions:

Can I submit multiple applications and is there a limit?
Yes, multiple applications are allowed - **one application per project site**. Table 2 in the FOA outlines the maximum grant amount per applicant across all project sites/applications.

What factors make an application stronger and more likely to be approved?
Table 3 “Competitive Evaluation Criteria” in the FOA outlines how MEA will be evaluating applications. Ensure that everything described in the project narrative aligns with the submitted supplemental documentation. The more details you can provide with your application, the better. Please ensure the Project and Budget Workbook submitted with your application accurately reflects the equipment, budget, and details outlined in the Project Narrative.

What are the General Provisions and how can I find them?
MEA grant programs funded by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (“SEIF”) are subject to section 9-20B-05 of the State Government article and the regulations found in COMAR 14.26.02. The General Provisions can be found here.

Program-Specific Requirement Questions:

How does the project’s timing align with when Grant Agreements will be issued?

The project must be in the beginning stages at the time of application. Construction may begin once the Grant Agreement is fully executed (i.e., signed by MEA and the Grantee). Projects that are already complete at the time of application are ineligible. MEA anticipates announcing award decisions for the FY27 Community EVSE Program in the Spring of 2027 (subject to change based on funding availability, other MEA priorities, etc.)

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What period of time should my warranty plan cover and what should be included?
MEA requires a 5-year warranty, which needs to cover the EV chargers.

How does MEA define Public Access versus Limited Access for FY27 Grantees?
The definition for public access can be found in the FOA: "Public Access: To be considered publicly available, an EV charging station must not be located behind a fence or in a gated parking lot, such that the general public is unable to access or is deterred from accessing during normal operational hours for the site (generally excluding 10pm-5am). Businesses may clarify their operational hours and will be held responsible should actual access not align with this provision and may be asked to provide documentation supporting their operational hours."

Limited access would include EVSEs that are only available to certain groups like employees or customers, behind a key fob/gate, etc.

How can applicants show prior experience with installing and maintaining EVSEs?
Providing your portfolio of past projects and the uptime of each project can be provided as supplemental documentation with your application.

Section 11.2.6 mentions rip and replace costs. What do you mean?
The program doesn't cover rip/removal costs, however, so long as the project installs new chargers, the project would be eligible for the program (just excluding the costs for ripping out/removing the old chargers).

What would be an example of accurately calculating the eligible grant amount?
An applicant should first select the Project Type that best suits their project. Then the ownership structure, as defined in Section 8.5 Ownership Structure Definitions within the FOA, needs to be selected. Once the Project Type and ownership structure are determined, the kW dispensed for each port will be used to calculate the eligible grant amount. **As a reminder:** there is a minimum number of ports per application depending on the project type.

If applying across two sites, how would MEA choose one site over the other?
It depends on a number of factors (including but not limited to) - overall mix of the application pool, project size/value of scope, demonstrated need, if the project is in an overburdened community, if the applicant used the supplemental recommended analysis tools as stated in the FOA, and location. Ultimately, please review Table 3 in the FOA to see more information on how MEA will be evaluating applications.

What site-control documentation is strongest at application—Letter of Intent, lease, or property-owner Commitment Letter?

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This will vary depending on the applicant type. Leasing documentation demonstrates a commitment and execution of the proposed project. MEA does have specific minimum eligibility requirements for this type of documentation, as stated in **Section 12.6** of the FOA, "**Applicants that rent, lease, or otherwise legally control, but do not own, their facilities**: The applicant must upload a letter of intent signed by the property owner, unless this is already included in the signed rent/lease agreement, stating that: (a) the property owner permits the applicant to install the proposed upgrades; and (b) the property owner ensures that these upgrades to the subject property remain in place and operational for the balance of the equipment's economic life, regardless of lessee turnover."

MEA also states in **Section 12.18** of the FOA, "**Letter of Commitment (if applicable):** If the project is operated by a third party, then the applicant must provide a Letter of Commitment from the entity that controls the site of the EVSE installation as described in Section 13 "Required Application Documents." There are additional requirements of a third party who is applying on behalf of a site host as described in Section 9.2 for Eligible Applicants, "A third party may apply for EVSE installations on behalf of a site host. If so, the applicant and the site host of the EVSE installations must both be eligible entity types listed in Section 9.1."

If selected for an Award under the Program:

What is the difference between a Commitment Letter (CL) and a Grant Agreement (GA)?
The CL signals an applicant's intent to accept the grant and allows MEA time to encumber the necessary funds for the selected project. It indicates the award amount ($) and provides additional grant details. After an applicant signs the CL, MEA will follow up with an official GA for signature. The fully executed GA will start the clock for the project and a Grantee will have 24 months to complete the project (to include all milestones and required reporting documents). You can begin work once the official grant agreement is fully executed.

Please note: the CL is NOT an official GA. Project expenses incurred before the GA is signed are ineligible for reimbursement, unless there are **extenuating circumstances** and MEA agrees in writing beforehand. This ensures any work completed aligns with the intent of the program and qualifies as an eligible reimbursable expense.

Financing Your Project:

Do cash or loan financing count as leveraged funds?
Yes, cash or loan financing can count as leveraged funds. Ensure these are indicated in the Project and Budget Workbook.

Is bridge financing allowed? What are some of my options?

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MEA does allow bridge financing and it is encouraged as MEA understands the upfront costs of these projects can be high. Some options for bridge financing include but are not limited to:

- The Maryland Clean Energy Center's (MCEC) Climate Catalytic Capital (C3) Fund; and/or
- Montgomery County Green Bank (for projects specifically located in Montgomery County)

These are both recommended options of bridge financing you can pair with the Community EVSE Grant Program.

Are there any set cost-share requirements?
MEA does not have a pre-determined cost-share amount required. However, we greatly encourage applicants to provide some cost-share to show commitment to the project. The cost-share an applicant can provide could be in direct costs (such as purchasing equipment, lighting, etc.) or indirect costs (such as the hours spent doing administrative work).

Can utility make-ready rebates (for example, BGE's EVsmart® Program) be combined with this grant and counted as leveraged funds?
Yes, utility rebates are counted as a form of leveraged funding. BGE's EVsmart® Program can stack, as long as not being reimbursed for the same task or milestone twice (i.e., being reimbursed by MEA and by BGE for the same work).