

Clean Buses for Kids

THE PROGRAM IN BRIEF

- Provides funding to: eligible school districts and other eligible public entities to purchase and install emission control equipment to reduce diesel particulate emissions from school buses and to offset increased costs associated with using ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD).
- Easy to participate: By November 12, all you need to do is sign and submit a simple form that says you are interested in getting funding and provides some background information. We expect that there will be a lot of interest, so we plan to conduct a lottery among those who express interest. Those picked in the lottery will be invited to prepare an application to get funded. Those not picked in the lottery will stay on a waiting list.
- What next: If you are eligible and want to receive funding, all you need to do right now is get the expression of interest form, fill it out, sign it, and send it in so the Program receives it no later than November 12. The form is simple. It is just that easy.
- An overview of the Program follows: but, for a complete explanation of the Program, please visit our website: <http://www.cleanbusesforkids.com/>

ELIGIBILITY

What Entities?

- Public school districts (as defined and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education) that own and operate a diesel school bus fleet.
- A government entity that owns and operates a diesel school bus fleet for a public school district.
- Note: Preference will be given to school districts located in non-attainment areas for the Particulate Standard or for the 8-hour ozone standard that are not part of an Early Action Compact.
- Note: Private contractors that operate school bus fleets are not eligible to receive funding under this Program, nor may a school district (or other government entity) submit a request for funding as a fiscal agent for such contractors.

What Vehicles?

- School buses with all of the following characteristics:
 1. equipped with diesel engines;
 2. have a gross vehicle weight rating of 19,500 lbs or more;
 3. travel at least 10,000 miles per year and are in service at least 4 days a week during the school year; and
 4. are model year 1994 or newer.

This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action, United States v. Toyota Motor Corporation, brought on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act.

What Technology?

- Qualified diesel particulate filters listed on EPA's verified retrofit technology list or the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) level 3 verified retrofit technology list as of the date that the application is approved.
- At present, the Engelhard DPX, the Johnson Matthey CRT, the Lubrizol Engine Control Systems Purifilter, the Donaldson DPM, and the Cleaire Longview System diesel particulate filters are verified by EPA or CARB for use with most 1994-2002 model year school bus engines.

What Fuel?

- Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel fuel (ULSD) must be used in buses retrofitted under this program.
- Certified blends of up to 20% biodiesel with ULSD may qualify under certain circumstances.

What Other Requirements?

- Fund recipients will be required to have an idling-reduction program in place before funds are disbursed.
- Fund recipients are required to make all reasonable efforts, including the assertion of equipment warranty claims, to use and maintain properly for a period of at least four years the diesel particulate filters purchased and installed under this Program.
- Full eligibility requirements are explained in the Program Description.

SIZE AND USE OF FUNDING AWARDS

How Large are the Awards?

- Maximum award is \$750,000 per entity.
- Minimum award is \$30,000 per entity.

How Must the Funds be Used?

- Funds must be used to purchase and install one of the eligible technologies on eligible school buses and to offset the additional cost (a one-time amount up to \$350/retrofitted bus) associated with purchasing ULSD for the buses retrofitted under this Program.

PROCESS FOR MAKING AWARDS

- *Expression of Interest (EOI) Forms* - Each entity interested in receiving funding must submit a signed EOI Form to the Program by November 12, 2004. **Note:** This deadline is when the Program must have a completed, physical copy of the EOI; an EOI postmarked on or before November 12th, but not received by the Program, will not be eligible for further consideration.
- *Verification of Eligibility* – EOIs will be screened to determine their eligibility and whether the sponsoring school district is located in an attainment or non-attainment area.
- *Lottery* – Eligible EOIs will be assigned a rank order using a lottery; the lottery will give preference to entities located in non-attainment areas.

- *Funding Reservation* – Based on the results of the lottery and taking into account geographical diversity (explained in the Program Description), funds will be reserved for individual EOIs.
- *Applications* – Entities submitting EOIs for which funding is reserved will be invited to submit a funding application.
- *Waiting List* - All EOIs for which funding was not reserved will be placed on a waiting list. Each project will retain the rank order assigned in the lottery.
- *Funding Awards* - Funding awards will be finalized for each project following a review and evaluation of the application submitted for the project. A formal Funding Agreement between the entity and the Program will be signed before project implementation begins.

KEY DATES FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- November 12, 2004 / 5:00 p.m. EST: Completed EOIs must be received by the Program Administrator
- December 3, 2004: Entities selected in the lottery will be invited to submit an application for funding
- Early February 2005: Completed applications are due to the Program Administrator
- Early March 2005: Completed review of applications / notification to applicants of approval
- Late August/early September 2005: Retrofits completed (there may be some variation due to the procurement process used by an applicant)
- September 1, 2006-2009: Annual report due to Program Administrator

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- At least once during the life of the Program, the Program Administrator will conduct on-site visits to each entity awarded funding.
- The Clean Buses for Kids web site (<http://www.cleanbusesforkids.com/>) has complete information about the program.
- The program can be contacted via e-mail (info@cleanbusesforkids.com) or by calling the program hot-line (703.934.3040).
- **Remember:** The first critical deadline is 5:00 p.m. EST on November 12th. The Program must have your completed EOI by that time – an EOI postmarked on or before that date, but not received by the deadline, will not be eligible for further consideration.