

Clean Diesel National Grants

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Transportation and Air Quality is soliciting applications nationwide for projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions and exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated by the Administrator as poor air quality areas. EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$44 million in funding under the Diesel Emissions Reductions Act (DERA) National Grants Program, with two (2) to eight (8) cooperative agreement awards per EPA region, subject to the availability of funds, the quality of applications received, and other considerations.

Eligible applicants include regional, state, or local agencies; tribal governments (or intertribal consortia) and native villages; or port authorities, which have jurisdiction over transportation or air quality, and nonprofit organizations or institutions that: a) represent or provide pollution reduction or educational services to diesel fleets or b) have, as their principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality. Although private fleet owners are not eligible to apply directly to EPA for DERA funding, both public and private fleets can benefit from the programs implemented by DERA national grant recipients. School districts, municipalities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), cities and counties are all eligible entities to the extent that they fall within the definitions above.

Eligible diesel vehicles, engines and equipment may include buses, Class 5 – Class 8 heavy-duty highway vehicles, marine engines, locomotives and nonroad engines, equipment or vehicles such as those used in construction, handling of cargo, agriculture, mining or energy production.

Eligible diesel emissions reduction solutions include verified retrofit technologies such as exhaust after-treatment technologies, engine upgrades, and cleaner fuels and additives; verified idle reduction technologies; verified aerodynamic technologies; verified low rolling resistance tires; certified engine replacements and conversions; and certified vehicle or equipment replacement.

Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) no later than Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. (ET).

EPA will host a webinar regarding this RFA on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (ET). EPA encourages potential applicants to take advantage of this information session to learn more about the DERA program and the grant application process. EPA will highlight any changes to the program from previous years, review eligibility criteria, funding limits and mandatory cost share requirements, and discuss the available options for funding partner fleets. Participants will have the opportunity to have their questions answered by EPA in a public forum. Pre-registration is not required. Webinar links and dial-in information for the information sessions can be found at: www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants#rfa2020.