



COMMUNITIES IN CHARGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS





Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What site types are eligible under Communities in Charge?

A: All Project Sites are eligible, except where specifically indicated within a particular Funding Wave’s Implementation Manual. Sites may be for private, public, or mixed use to allow flexibility for the site hosts. New construction (i.e., - Greenfield, Brownfield) is not an eligible Project Site. See [Implementation Manual](#) for a full list of Project Site eligibility requirements.

Q: What costs are considered eligible for incentives?

A: Costs for prospective project sites may be incurred on or after the dates for each funding wave outlined in the table below, and are done so at the Applicant’s own risk.

| Funding Wave | Costs Incurred Are Eligible |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Funding Wave1 | Beginning December 23, 2022 |
| Funding Wave 2 | Beginning September 28, 2023 |
| Funding Wave 3 | Beginning November 14, 2024 |

Eligible Equipment Costs: The following **equipment** costs are eligible for incentives:

- Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE);
- Electrical panels;
- Transformers;
- Demand management equipment;
- Necessary on-site project signage relating to the EV charging ports. (e.g., EV charging only, price signs, towing, informational (how to use or help line), time limits, appropriate Federal stickers and decals, parking signs according to local building codes, etc.). Signage must relate directly to the EV chargers, and advertising costs are ineligible for incentives;
- Lighting for the EV Charging ports; and
- Security cameras for the EV charging ports,

Any costs incurred at a different Project Site are ineligible. See the relevant funding wave’s Implementation Manual for a comprehensive list of eligible and ineligible costs. **Eligible Materials and Miscellaneous Costs:** Costs for materials and miscellaneous items, to be eligible for incentives, must be for the specific purpose of deploying/installing the EV charging ports. The following costs for materials and miscellaneous items are eligible for incentives:



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- Wire and conduit;
- Bollards;
- Concrete and asphalt;
- Paint; and
- Construction fencing (for the immediate area surrounding installation of EV charging stations).

The costs above include only the purchase of these items, and not any associated planning or installation.

Please see the Communities in Charge Implementation Manual for a full list of Eligible Costs.

Q: What if I've already begun construction? Is my project still eligible?

A: Projects that have incurred construction costs prior to the dates below are *NOT* eligible to apply:

| Funding Wave | Cannot Incur Construction Costs |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Funding Wave 1 | Before March 23, 2023 |
| Funding Wave 2 | Before November 7, 2023 |
| Funding Wave 3 | Before November 14, 2024 |

Q: How much are the Communities in Charge L2 EVSE incentives?

A: The following table lists the incentives amounts per connector that varies by site type. Please review the relevant funding wave's Implementation Manual for more information.

| Eligible Incentives for Level 2 EVSE | Amount Per Eligible Connector |
|---|---|
| Base Incentive | Up to \$6,500, or 100% of eligible costs, whichever is less |
| Multi-Family Housing Project Site | Additional \$2,000 towards eligible costs |
| Project Site for Tribal Government, Tribal entity, or non-governmental organization serving Tribal communities. | Additional \$3,500 towards eligible costs |



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Q: Can Communities in Charge incentives be stacked with other incentives?

A: Incentive stacking, including any State, Federal, or other local EV charging incentive programs, is not permissible while concurrently participating in Communities in Charge. Applicants are not precluded from participating in federal tax credit incentive programs or the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program (LCFS).

When submitting an application, Applicants must affirm they have not engaged in incentive stacking by attesting to the following statement; “You agree that should your application be selected for award, you are not currently participating and will not participate in any State, Federal, or other local EV charging deployment incentive programs for this same project which might preclude your eligibility for award under Communities in Charge. However, it is permissible for Applicants to receive federal tax credit incentives and participate in the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) program.”

If an Applicant is unable to attest to the statement above or if they are found out of compliance with this requirement, their application for funding will be denied and will not be considered for funding.

Q: Must chargers be made available for public use?

A: Sites may be for private, public, or mixed use to allow flexibility for the site hosts, but community access is encouraged. See the relevant funding wave’s Implementation Manual for further requirements.

Q: What qualifies as Multi-Family Housing?

A: Residential properties with multiple dwelling units installed on real property owned or leased for multi-family housing and have 5 or more units. Single-family dwellings (detached), duplexes, triplexes, individual townhomes, and individual mobile homes are not considered multi-family Housing. However, installations may include shared-use Level 2 EVSEs made available to residents domiciled in these housing developments.

Q: May chargers be installed in multi-family housing lots where parking spaces are assigned to tenants?

A: All Level 2 EVSEs must be shared and may not be assigned or otherwise allocated to any one individual.



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Q: What is a Community Connection?

A: A Community Connection is defined as a Project Site with particular benefit to its surrounding community. Applicants whose Project Site may be identified as such must meet specific requirements. See the relevant funding wave's Implementation Manual for further requirements of each Community Connection.

- Multi-Family Housing in Charge
- Tribes in Charge
- Congregations in Charge
- Schools in Charge
- Healthcare in Charge
- Non-Profits in Charge
- Local Governments in Charge
- Workplaces in Charge

Q: Are project sites within ½ mile of a Disadvantaged Community or Low-Income Community eligible to receive points according to the scoring rubric?

A: As identified in the California census tracts, Priority Populations are Disadvantaged Communities, federally recognized Tribal Lands, and Low-Income Communities. Only Project Sites which lie within the bounds of a DAC or LIC and not within the ½ mile “buffer” areas shall be considered as such for application scoring purposes.

Q: Can I apply for incentives if I wish to replace an old or damaged charger?

A: Funding supports the replacement or upgrade of installed and operable L2 EVSEs. If the installed and commissioned infrastructure is damaged, destroyed, or otherwise becomes permanently inoperable, the equipment may not be replaced and funded through this incentive project.

If your project will replace currently installed L2s, please submit the [Make Ready/Replacement Installation Form](#) with your documentation to be eligible for reimbursement for this type of project.

Q: How are project sites in DAC/LIC census tracts scored compared to those outside of a DAC/LIC?

A: At least 50% of funds *must* go to project sites located in Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) or Low income communities (LIC). Communities outside of a DAC/LIC will be sorted by Project site region, Project Readiness Tier, and rubric score. Applicants will be ranked by Readiness Tier, from highest



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total rubric score to lowest within their region and selected for award based on their rank and available funding within said region. The projects will be awarded until funding is fully exhausted, or no further application exist within the region. Please see the relevant funding wave's Implementation Manual for further details.

Q: At what point in a project has construction considered to have begun?

A: Construction is considered to have begun if costs associated with mobilization have been incurred after securing an issued building permit for the Project Site in question. "Mobilization" includes preparatory work and operations, including, but not limited to, those necessary for the movement of personnel, equipment, supplies and incidentals to the project site, for the establishment of all offices, buildings and other facilities necessary for work on the project, and for all other work and operations which must be performed or costs incurred prior to beginning work on the various items on the project site (CA Pub Cont Code § 10104 (2019)).

Q: Where might Applicants find qualified contractors and installation professionals?

A: Applicants may refer to <https://evitp.org/find-a-contractor/> for a list of certified installation professionals in your area. EVITP certified professionals and the list referenced above is not inclusive of all eligible installation professionals. It is recommended all applicants check with their local contractor to confirm whether EVITP certification requirements are satisfied.

Communities in Charge Staff and the California Energy Commission do not endorse or express preferential interest in the providers listed therein. Participants in Communities in Charge must perform reasonable due diligence in the selection of a vendor, installer, or subcontractor who aids in the construction, installation, commissioning, or completion of an infrastructure site to ensure they shall be able to comply with all programmatic requirements in addition to all US federal, California state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, codes, standards, and regulations.

Q: What is a Final Site Design?

A: A Final Site Design is finalized drawing or construction sketch of the Level 2 EVSE infrastructure at the project site. A Final Site Design may contain the following and shall be considered 'Final' only once accompanied by an issued permit from the appropriate Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ):

- Map of the site;
- Address of the location;
- Total amps of the panel;



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- If an upgrade has been identified, details of the panel upgrade;
- Drawing of underground structure;
- Path of Travel (ingress/egress);
- ADA (if applicable);
- Finalized count of Connector and Number of EVSEs to be installed;
- Finalized spot of where EVSEs will be located;
- Finalized details of service upgrades;
- Contractor name and CSLM license number; and
- AHJ signature

Please refer to the Sample Supporting Documents_resource for an example of a Final Site Design.

Q: Can I request an extension if there are delays in the installation process?

A: Extensions may be considered for project delays or other mitigating circumstances outside the applicant's control, must be accompanied by documentation from the applicant, and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Requests for extension to the 270-day (9 month) installation window must be made at least 60 calendar days prior to that deadline. Requests made outside of this window must clearly explain why such request could not have been made earlier.

Requests for extension to submit supplemental documentation by recipients of a Notice of Conditional Award must be made at least 15 calendar days prior to the deadline. Requests made outside of this window must clearly explain why such request could not have been made earlier.

Approved extensions shall not exceed 90 calendar days past a given deadline, unless explicitly granted in writing from Communities in Charge Staff. Applicants are encouraged to request extensions as soon as the need for one is known and as early as possible. Please refer to the 'Extensions Policy' in the Communities in Charge website for more information.

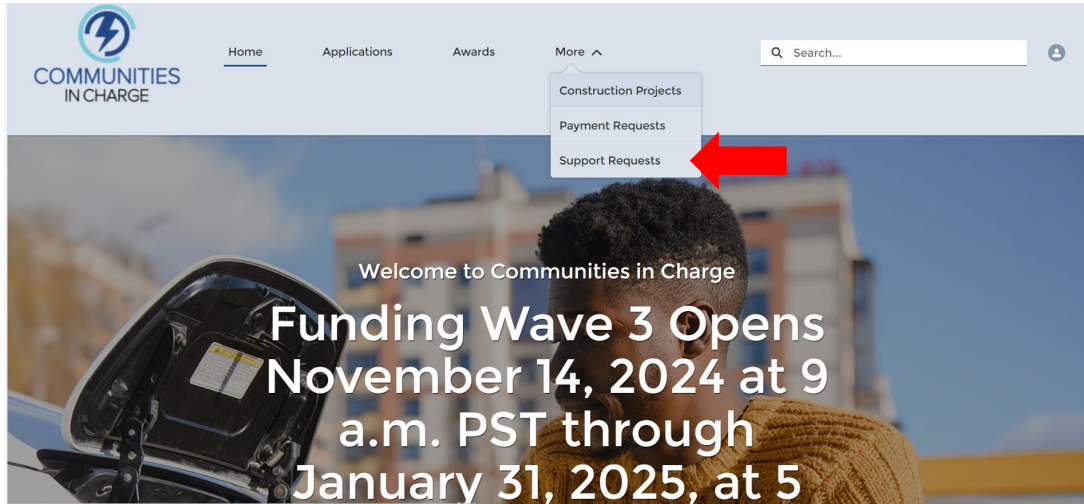


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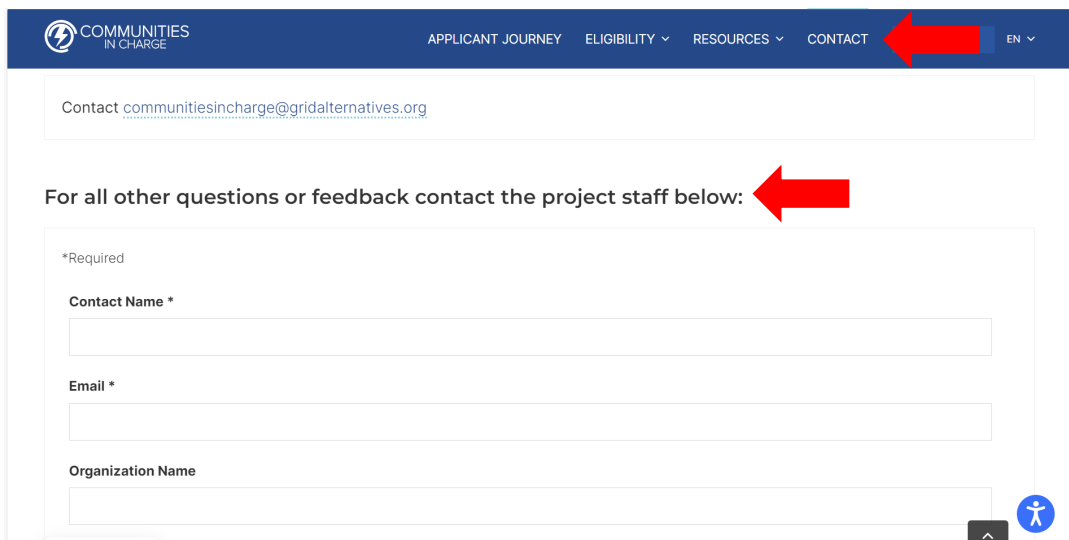
Q: How do I submit a support request?

A: A support request may be submitted a couple different ways, but all requests are directed to the same location so there is no advantage to submitting a support request one way opposed to another.

Option 1: Support requests may be submitted through the Applicants account on the IPC (Incentive Processing Center) (see below):



Option 2: Support requests may be submitted through the Communities in Charge website under the 'Contact' banner and scrolling down to the 'For all other questions or feedback contact the project staff below' (see below):



Option 3: Finally, a support request may be submitted by sending an email to communitiesincharge@calstart.org.