



COMMUNITIES IN CHARGE

FUNDING WAVE 4
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS





Frequently Asked Questions

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Frequently Asked Questions

Note: The following FAQ pertains to questions regarding FW4 only, for questions regarding other Funding Waves or more general questions please review the FAQ for Funding Waves 1 - 3.

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

A: Yes, incentive stacking is permissible while concurrently participating in Communities in Charge. Please review the [Implementation Manual & Addendum for Funding Wave 4](#). 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 if they have engaged in incentive stacking by attesting to the following statement: “Are you presently involved in or intending to engage with any funding programs that would otherwise preclude your eligibility from receiving funding for this Project Site through Communities in Charge now or in the future?”

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: Can my contractor/electrician make profit from this project?

A: Project incentives, even when combined, should not go beyond 100% of the total project cost.

When considering the total cost of the project, the Incentive Recipient should consider actual incurred costs and not any profit to the Incentive Recipient. If another party other than the Incentive Recipient is receiving incentives or grants towards the same project, that should be reported and would be considered stacking.

If stacking, the Incentive Recipient will need to provide documentation showing what each incentive program paid / would pay for and that (1) individual costs do not exceed 100% of the cost incurred and that (2) in aggregate the incentives do not exceed 100% of the total project cost incurred.

The Funding Wave 4 Implementation Manual & Addendum, section 5.3 has more specific information about documentation required to request an incentive payment.



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Q: Can CIC's rebate be stacked with utility programs or rebates?

A: The Funding Wave 4 Implementation Manual & Addendum, Section 2.1 has more specific information. Projects can stack using Utility Tariff Rule 29 and Rule 45 (for utility-side infrastructure). Stacking is not allowed for Investor-Owned Utility, Publicly-Owned Utility or Community Choice Aggregator EV charger programs. If another party other than the Incentive Recipient is receiving incentives or grants towards the same project, that should be reported and would be considered stacking. The Incentive Recipient should note where the Project Address in Communities in Charge is different than the address with the utility.

Q: Are Make Ready sites eligible for incentives and is there a “Rip and Replace” option for replacement of existing chargers?

A: Rip & Replace and Make Ready are eligible project types. When applying, fill out the Replacement and Make Ready Installation form and submit that with the application package. You can submit permits from the existing chargers with your application as well, as further proof of the project type.

During the scoring process, these project types are still expected to submit all required documents to be classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2. They remain eligible to submit additional supporting materials to earn points based on the rubric. These applications are handled similarly to others; however, it is important to ensure that the submission includes the required form (linked above) along with all other supporting documents.

Q: Are there any prevailing wage requirements? Are there any ADA requirements?

A: Incentive Recipients must comply with applicable laws, codes, and regulations, including prevailing wage and ADA. The Incentive Recipient must ensure they are complying with prevailing wage law, which is regulated by the [Department of Industrial Relations](#) and applies to public funds. Communities in Charge funding is considered public funds. For any ADA requirements pertaining to your project, please consult with your local AHJ.



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Q: Does a Tier 1 application scoring zero points beat a Tier 2 application scoring 13 points?

A: Yes. The Tiers represent the priority for award. Therefore, all Tier 1 applications are awarded first, in order from highest (13) to lowest (0) rubric score, then Tier 2 applications are awarded, in order of the rubric score.

Since Funding Wave 4 applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, Notices of Award and Notices of Conditional Award may be issued as applications are evaluated rather than after close of the application window.

Q: Are MFH sites with assigned spaces eligible for this incentive program?

A: The definition of serving a MFH residential unit will be expanded to mean that at least one resident in the unit can access and use a charger with regular frequency.

Examples include:

- *Charging ports at a parking space assigned for exclusive use by one unit in the proposed MFH property.*
- *Charging ports at unassigned parking spaces of the proposed MFH property*
- *MFH related curbside charging or charging located on contiguous, adjacent, or convenient public or private property for use by the residents of units in the proposed MFH properties*

Q: Will there be updates on how much funding remains available throughout the time the application portal is open?

A: At major milestones during the rolling application window, updates on the approximate funds remaining in the funding wave will be provided. Once project funds are fully subscribed, Applications may be retained on a Contingency List according to Implementation Manual & Addendum Section 4.2.



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Q: For the 270-day (9 month) award phase, will extensions be available to awardees should the project need additional time for completion? What if the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) is slow to issue needed permits?

A: Extensions may be considered for project delays or other mitigating circumstances outside the Applicant's control, and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Approved extensions can be 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.

More information on the [Extension and Cancellation Policy](#) can be viewed on the CIC website's All Documents page.

Additionally, GoBiz has an [EV Charging Station Permit Streamlining Map](#) that can help identify if your AHJ has a streamlined process. The project team meets with GoBiz on an as needed basis to assist with projects that are stuck in the permitting process if possible.

Q: Will the eligible equipment list be updated prior to the application period?

A: Significant changes to the Communities in Charge Eligible Equipment List resulted from updated OCPP requirements that went into effect on January 1, 2025. Beginning with Funding Wave 3, charging equipment must be OCPP 2.0.1 certified to be eligible. The [Eligible Equipment List](#) is accessible on the website.

New equipment requests are being processed on a rolling basis, and the list will be continuously updated. If you would like to submit equipment for inclusion on the list, please refer to the [Technology Eligibility](#) page of the Communities in Charge website.

Details about the Level 1 EVSE eligibility will be available with the publication of an IM Addendum, anticipated in the coming months. Please subscribe to our mailing list to receive this latest news!

Q: Are new construction projects eligible? At what point in a project has construction considered to have begun?

A: New construction (i.e. Greenfield, Brownfield) projects are not eligible project sites. See definition of Project Site under Key Terms and Section 2.2 Project Site Eligibility in the IM & A.



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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: 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. If the support request is related to a particular application, please include the Site Address or Application Number in the Subject Line.

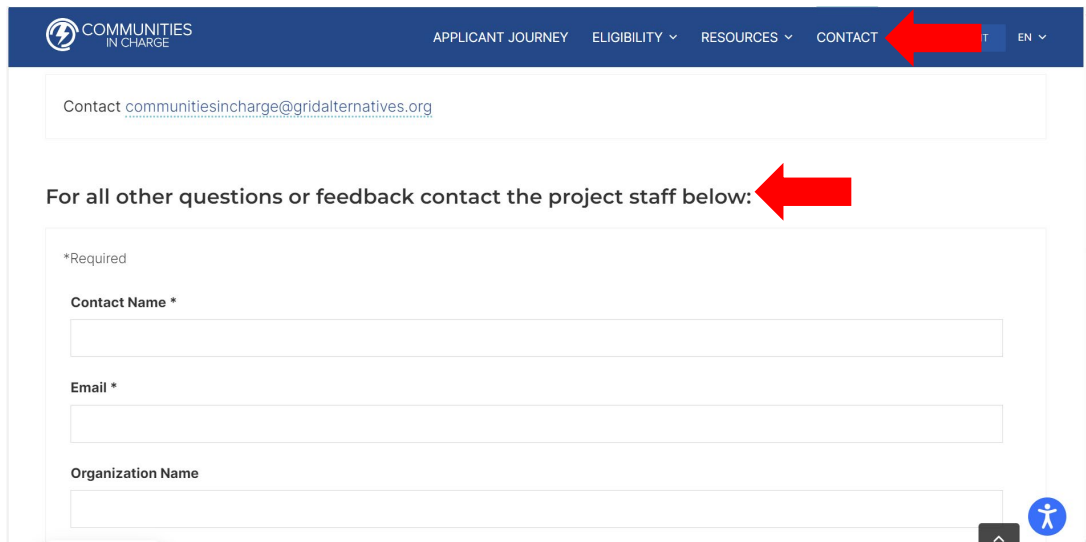
Option 1: Support requests may be submitted through the Applicants account on the IPC (Incentive Processing Center) (see below):



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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.