

Auto Dealers EV Grant Program FAQ

1. If you have more than one new car franchise at your business can you receive more than \$40,000?

A: No. The grant limitation applies to a “single dealer” not per franchise. We are aware that single dealers may hold multiple manufacturers franchises, but, per Subd 6, these grant awards are limited to \$40,000 per single dealer.

2. If I have the 2023 essential tool forecast with all the electric tools and the prices that were shipped to the dealership, can I use that to submit for expense?

A: The list of tools, highlighted with the specific tools the Dealer will be purchasing, may be used as a quote to reserve funds. An invoice for an official order would need to be submitted within 30 calendar days to document proof of purchase or the reservation of funds will be cancelled.

3. We spent nearly \$70,000 on new computers and lithium battery compatible chargers... is there a list of tools that are acceptable to submit for?

A: There is no list, but the statute states ‘reasonable costs to purchase and install equipment to service and repair electric vehicles, as required by the electric vehicle manufacturer.’ If the computers and lithium battery compatible chargers are required to service and repair electric vehicles, then these costs would be eligible.

4. Are we anticipating the site to crash on Monday?

A: No

5. Can we submit expenses for EV tools?

A: Yes; the statute states ‘reasonable costs to purchase and install equipment to service and repair electric vehicles, as required by the electric vehicle manufacturer.’ If the expenses are for EV tools required to service and repair electric vehicles, then these costs would be eligible.

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6. You said invoices needs to be submitted in 30 days, does that mean the work needs to be completed in 30 days? What if the work can't be done in that time?

A: If you submit a quote, Commerce requires the invoices submitted within 30 calendar days. If the work was not yet completed, but the equipment was purchased, this cost is still eligible.

7. Are these funds available to dealers that did not sign up to continue being EV dealers, but have incurred expense?

A: No, the purpose of the statute is to support dealers in selling electric vehicles.

8. I assume that any expenses incurred prior to 5-23-23 are not eligible for submission?

A: This is correct.

9. With many, many more dealers in MN than this can cover, and many of us purchasing equipment just prior to this, it is discouraging in how limited this is, and that it is a race to submit. With the push for EV's and the fact that this is now a CARB state, these funds are not going to go very far. Are there any future plans for additional funding?

A: This would be a decision of the Legislature.

10. What about labor to install?

A: Yes, the statute states 'reasonable costs to purchase and **install** equipment to service and repair electric vehicles, as required by the electric vehicle manufacturer.

11. Is there a public use requirement associated with receipt of grant funds?

A: No

12. I have the center of learning list of passed status for a technician; is that be the same as a certification of class?

A: Yes, an official record of “passed” status for a technician is equivalent to a certificate of course completion.

13. We purchased a new EV charger. The original agreement to purchase my equipment was 03/31/2023 but we are incurring the expense over 24 payments that occur/occurred after 05/25/2023. Will that count as expense?

A: If you have an invoice or documentation demonstrating that this purchase or cost was incurred after the date the statute was enacted, it’s eligible. If the purchase was made before 05/25/2023, this is still a purchase before the date of enactment even if the payments are made after this date.

14. Does a charging station fall within what we can be reimbursed for?

A: The statute states ‘reasonable costs to purchase and install equipment to service and repair electric vehicles, as required by the electric vehicle manufacturer.’ If a charging station is required by the electric vehicle manufacturer to be able to sell that manufacturer’s EVs, then yes, this is an eligible cost.

15. Will this [the grant] be MN state tax-exempt?

A: Nothing in the enacting statute provides for specific tax exemption. Consult your tax consultant for further information.

16. Infrastructure cost for Xcel would be an expense to submit?

A: The statute states ‘reasonable costs to purchase and install equipment to service and repair electric vehicles, as required by the electric vehicle manufacturer.’ If the infrastructure costs are necessary for the purchase and installation of the EV charging equipment, as required by the manufacturer, yes.

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17. Appreciate this program. This is a really large expense for us smaller dealers. Any clarification on the proper invoices to have prepared would be awesome because I would like to have my ducks in a row. Thanks again for each of your time.

A: Please provide invoices/receipts for equipment and installation costs or training. Receipts need to be original from the seller.

18. If we have separate invoices from electric contractors for installation, are we able to submit them?

A: Yes, separate invoices are fine; please submit all invoices at the same time.

19. Does the equipment order need to have been done already or is it possible to still place an order and use the quote for submitting for this?

A: An application may use the quote for submitting the application. The applicant then has 30 days to submit the invoices.

20. What was the reason behind the purchase date? Many of the manufacturers have forced us to act earlier than that date. Was that just an oversight of the Legislature?

A: The statute became effective the day after the legislation was signed into law.

21. To be clear the cost paid for infrastructure paid to Xcel to get power to the EV charger is an expense to submit?

A: See response to question 16, above.

22. Is a forklift to move the batteries for EV an expense that qualifies?

A: The statute states 'reasonable costs to purchase and install equipment to service and repair electric vehicles, as required by the electric vehicle manufacturer.' If a forklift is required to move the batteries for an EV by the electric vehicle manufacturer to be able to sell that manufacturer's EVs, then yes, this is an eligible cost.

23. Your slides clearly say costs to install EV equipment is covered, not just the equipment itself. Wanted to confirm this is the case?

A. Correct. See answer to question 10 above.

25. We have a proposal from Xcel Energy to bring in a new transformer to allow us to then install a level 3 charger. We had assumed that the cost of installing this transformer and the transformer itself would be something that would qualify for the grant money. Can you confirm that would be the case? But then also a second question. There is obviously no way Xcel would actually perform the installation within 30 days (plus they'd want to wait till the weather is nicer and no snow/ice). Which means we wouldn't be "invoiced" in 30 days. So how would we handle that situation?

A: See answers to question 16 and question 6, above.

26. I have a question regarding the grant expenses that I am submitting for the EV grant for dealerships. It is related to training for our techs to be certified. They are taking certification classes through GM, and we pay them a specific rate of pay while they are training to become certified and then we also get charged a monthly fee from GM for the training. Can the expenses I submit include the fee for our center of learning training, and the tech's wages that are being paid while they are training for the EV certifications? We do not get specific invoices from the manufacturer for specific training sessions, it is a monthly fee from them and includes all the sessions. I do have a training path showing the hours they have been in training for EV certification, showing they have passed and are expert in EV. Is this going to be enough documentation showing the costs associated with the training.

A: The training path, name of employee(s) trained, copy of the certificate or credential obtained for the employee(s) must all be submitted. The cost of training, including the monthly fee, are eligible; the invoice must list names associated with training costs.

27. I apologize as I missed the beginning of your presentation today, however, someone from our organization later asked in the chat whether these funds could be used to cover the cost of installation, i.e. the labor, of EV chargers for dealership use. The answer we got was a firm "no", only the equipment itself. However, now in going through your slide presentation, I see this slide (see below with my emphasis). Am I missing something here?

A: See response to Question 10 above.

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28. From what I have read, we don't have to sign up to be a vendor unless our RFP is approved, correct? I didn't want to get ahead of ourselves if that was the case. We did sign up on the GrantVantage site.

A: This is correct. You can register as a Vendor in SWIFT if your grant application is approved, but this may add processing time for SWIFT approval.

29. Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

A: Please contact energy.contract@state.mn.us