Notice 2: Planning & Technical Assistance

Request for Proposals

Electric School Buses: Application for Equipment

COMM-ESB07-20261019
Division of Energy Resources
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Minnesota Department of Commerce ("Commerce") seeks proposals from eligible applicants for funding to seek technical assistance related to planning for electric school bus adoption and applying to federal funding opportunities.

The State Legislature allocated a total of $13 million to accelerate School Districts' adoption of electric school buses and to encourage schools to use vehicle electrification as a teaching tool that can be integrated into the school's curriculum (Minn. Stat. §216C.374). School districts, as well as eligible applicants representing them, may apply for funding, which will be awarded based on financial need and the proposed activities to be performed under this grant.

This grant funds two types of activities:

1. Planning Activities
2. Federal Application Assistance

The RFP will be posted publicly online on Commerce's RFP page (found at https://mn.gov/commerce/business/rfp.jsp) beginning on Monday, October 19, 2026, and will close Thursday, December 31, 2026, at 5pm Central Time.

Two rounds of this program are currently open for applications, this Application for Equipment, and an Application for Planning & Technical Assistance. Commerce has up to $1.7 million available for both applications. The amount of funding available for this round of the program is subject to change based on various factors.

All responses to this RFP need to be submitted through a single responder user account via the grant portal. Applications must be submitted by the deadline of each respective round. **Late proposals will not be considered.** Instructions and links for submitting bids are detailed in the RFP and attachments.

This request does not obligate the State to complete the work contemplated in this notice. The State reserves the right to cancel this solicitation. All expenses incurred in responding to this notice are solely the responsibility of the responder.

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For the RFP website:

Request for Proposals (RFP) / Minnesota Department of Commerce - Business (mn.gov)

Listing 1: Equipment

- **Title:** Electric School Buses: Application for Equipment Round 5
- **Reference Number:** COMM-ESB06-20261019
- **Publication Date:** Monday, October 19, 2026
- **Description of Work:** The Minnesota Department of Commerce seeks proposals to purchase electric school buses for eligible school districts throughout Minnesota. This grant program is for applicants to fund electric school buses and needed charging infrastructure to serve eligible school districts. The RFP will be posted publicly online beginning Monday, October 19, 2026, and will close Thursday, December 31, at 5pm Central Time.

Deadlines:

- **RFP Issued:** Monday, October 19, 2026
- **Q & A Period Begins:** Tuesday, October 20, 2026
- **Informational Webinars, covering both applications:**
  - Register for Wednesday October 28, at 1pm
  - Register for Monday November 30, at 10am
- **Q & A Period Ends**: Wednesday, December 16, 2026
- **Last Q & A Posted**: Wednesday, December 23, 2026
- **Applications Due**: Thursday, December 31, 2026

Additional Documents:

- **Exhibit A**: State of Minnesota Grant Contract Agreement Template
- **Exhibit B**: Exceptions Form
- **Exhibit C**: Conflict of Interest
- **Attachment 1**: Step-by-Step Application Guide
- **Attachment 2**: Copy of Statute 216C.374
- **Attachment 3**: Prioritization and Financial Need Metrics
- **Attachment 4**: Scope of Work and Timeline Template
- **Attachment 5**: Proposed Contract Roles Worksheet

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Listing 2: Planning & Technical Assistance

- **Title:** Electric School Buses: Application for Planning & Technical Assistance Round 2
- **Reference Number:** COMM-ESB07-20261019
- **Publication Date:** Monday, October 19, 2026
- **Description of Work:** The Minnesota Department of Commerce seeks proposals from eligible applicants for funding to seek technical assistance related to planning for electric school bus adoption and applying to federal funding opportunities. The RFP will be posted publicly online beginning Monday, October 19, 2026, and will close Thursday, December 31, at 5pm Central Time.

Deadlines:

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