



COLORADO
Energy Office



COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs

Community Electric Vehicle Readiness Initiative

Updated 4/1/21

Background

Local governments are uniquely positioned to advance emission reduction strategies in buildings, energy generation, and transportation. The Polis Administration's *Roadmap to 100% Renewable Energy By 2040 and Bold Climate Action* acknowledges this as local governments "...have significant authority over building codes, transportation investments, and other key clean energy policy levers." The Roadmap calls for local governments to lead by example, and for the State to support local government electric vehicle (EV) planning and investment in rural EV charging infrastructure.

The Colorado Energy Office will provide funding to local governments and their regional partners to develop EV Readiness Plans. In developing these plans, local and regional governments can develop a common vision for EV readiness, identify key partnerships and actionable strategies needed to achieve the vision, and prepare for and stimulate community adoption of electric vehicles.

The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) provides Administrative Planning Grants, which can also be used for EV Readiness Plans. These planning grants are part of the Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) Grants. Visit [DOLA's website](#) for more information and See the table at the end of this document for a comparison of the two State grant programs and how you may utilize each.

CEO Funding Opportunity

The Colorado Energy Office will provide a 50% cost share, up to \$20,000, to communities in Colorado to develop EV Readiness Plans. CEO anticipates making 2-3 grants, depending on individual grant amounts. Funding is available for contracted third-party services only and is not available for funding existing staff time. Applicant match must be in the form of cash which can include funds from local or state agencies (e.g. DOLA administrative planning grant); utilities; grants, gifts, or donations; or other public or private entities.

This is not a competitive grant. Funding is limited and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. CEO is working with potential grantees that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Local government has demonstrated interest in developing an EV Readiness Plan
- Community members have expressed interest through increased EV adoption independent of government leadership or participation in funding programs such as Charge Ahead Colorado
- Region is home to a large population center where significant opportunity exists for EV adoption

Terms of the grant including funding amount and project scope will be negotiated between CEO and the community. Funding is available for communities on a first-come, first-served basis.

CEO Funding Considerations

Applicants must be either a local or county government. EV Readiness Plans must be regional in nature and the development process should ensure engagement with a wide variety of public and private stakeholders. Applicants and their stakeholders must demonstrate the means and commitment to ensure that actions and strategies outlined in the plan are actionable and remain a priority over the term of the plan.

CEO Application Process

It is expected that prior to submitting an application, CEO and the local government will have held a number of discussions related to CEO's and the local government's goals and objectives of an EV Readiness Plan. Once the discussions have reached a point where the local government has a clear vision for the plan and a clear path forward to procure third party services, the local government may submit a proposal for funding to CEO. This proposal should include the following:

- Project summary
 - Applicant's vision for EV readiness
 - List of key personnel and brief discussion of community work plan including procurement process and project management
 - Total project cost including funding request to CEO and applicant match by source
 - Project timeline with key milestones and deliverables
 - Discussion of the applicant's means and commitment to ensuring the plan is actionable and remains a priority through term of the plan
- Draft solicitation for contracted services or detailed scope of work

EV Readiness Plan Requirements

The Plan should reflect the needs of the community and its stakeholders by establishing a shared vision for EV readiness. Other components of the plan should include, but not be limited to:

- Community Context including a description of how the plan aligns with/connects to other community goals, plans, and priorities
- Assessment of existing EV market
- Description of key barriers to increased adoption
- Stakeholder engagement including primary stakeholders (local/county government, utilities) and secondary stakeholders (state agencies, EV enthusiasts, sustainability/energy nonprofits, car dealers)
- EV Readiness Plan or Roadmap that covers the following:
 - Community goals and objectives
 - Public engagement across a variety of sectors
 - Infrastructure deployment including public, private, workplace, and residential
 - Policies and programs to increase adoption
 - Lead by example strategies

Summary of EV Readiness State Funding Opportunities

	CEO EV Readiness Plans	DOLA Administrative Planning Grants
Maximum Award	\$20,000	\$25,000 Total project costs cannot exceed \$100,000
Match Required	50/50	50/50
Deadline	Ongoing	Ongoing
Grant requirements	See Above	A letter of request signed by the Chief Elected Official, addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The project scope; ● A budget and timeline; ● Financial need; ● Project urgency & readiness to begin work; ● The energy and mineral impact; and ● Jurisdiction’s financial data
More information	Contact CEO to get started.	EIAF Grant Website
Grant contact	zachary.owens@state.co.us	Your DOLA Regional Manager (contact information here)
	Jurisdictions are welcome to combine both funding opportunities. In this case, you should talk with both grant contacts early in the process and plan for a budget of ⅓ from CEO; ⅓ from DOLA; and a ⅓ match requirement.	