



Vehicle-to-Everything Demonstration Projects Program

Questions and Answers

As of August 27, 2024

Funding and Budget

1. How is this program related to the Justice40 requirements?
 - a. This Program advances President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, which made it a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. All the funds awarded through the Program are subject to this requirement. This Program will also help both the Commonwealth and the federal government achieve their emissions reductions goals.

2. The RFP mentions that “Applicants are strongly encouraged to allocate at least 25% of the proposed funding to Diverse Suppliers.” Will proposals that do not achieve the 25% be considered?
 - b. We encourage applicants to aim for this goal. However, MassCEC recognizes that the 25% goal is aspirational. All proposals should provide responses detailing how their program will support suppliers, vendors, and businesses that are often underrepresented or underserved in the Commonwealth. Proposals that do not meet this goal should explain the goal they propose and describe the challenges to meeting the 25% goal.

3. Can the work continue beyond December 31, 2026 as long as the funds have been disbursed?
 - c. All funding must be spent and all projects will be completed by December 31, 2026. Projects cannot extend into 2027. Projects should propose timelines that end by September 2026 to allow for adequate buffer.

Scope of Work

4. Will there be a separate RFP for V2X pilot projects? If yes, what is the anticipated timeline?



- a. There will not be a separate RFP – unless the selected Applicant Team prefers to release a separate RFP and can still meet the strict timing requirements.
 - b. Teams applying to this RFP should have the ability to plan for and deploy each of the projects for this program.
5. When does the program start and end?
 - a. Consultant will be selected and contracting will be completed by December 31, 2024
 - b. Anticipated start for the program is January 2025
 - c. All funding must be expended by December 31, 2026
6. Should specifically proposed projects (location, budget, technology vendors) be included in the proposal?
 - a. The proposal should include anticipated budget for each of the scopes, which will include deployment of the projects. Technology vendors may be included as part of the applicant team. The locations and proposed project types will be determined during Scope 2 of the project.
7. What are the main goals of this program, and what will make it a success looking back?
 - a. As described in the RFP, the main goals of this program are to:
 - i. Increase access to V2X technology options and reduce energy costs and grid constraints;
 - ii. Pilot innovative V2X models that can be replicated and scaled across the Commonwealth;
 - iii. Develop resources for sites in Massachusetts to implement V2X projects independently; and
 - iv. Ensure that small and diverse MA-based businesses are included in the Program and meaningfully compensated to foster Massachusetts workforce development.
 - b. A successful program will identify the barriers to scaling V2X technology across the Commonwealth, demonstrate solutions to some or all these barriers through demonstration projects, and culminate in a report on the solutions and next steps both private and public actors should take to continue the deployment of V2X.



8. Is the Technical Consultant the same entity that will run the V2X pilots? Or will the Technical Consultant design the pilot and then other companies will bid for the pilot V2X?
 - a. The Technical Consultant will manage the selected Applicant Team. We anticipate that the Applicant Team will be able to run the V2X pilots without releasing a separate RFP. The work done by the Applicant Team in Scope 2 will determine the preferred V2X pilot projects and locations.
 - b. Will there be a separate RFP for the V2X pilot?
 - i. See Question 4

9. Could you please provide more information about the site selection process? The RFP asks for a competitive selection process.
 - a. Are there federal requirements that require the selection process?
 - i. In the event that there are multiple locations that would like to participate in the Program, the Technical Consultant should select the final locations fairly and describe their decision in Task 2B.
 - ii. As noted in Question 1, this Program is subject to Justice40 requirements.

10. In the description of Scope 2 in the RFP, it's stated that the Program should "implement Guidebook recommendations established in Scope 4", which to me indicates that Scope 4 should be concluded before Scope 2. However, in the presentation, it looks like Scope 4 occurs after Scopes 2 and 3, and should be completed towards the end of the Program. Could you clarify how much flexibility applicants will have in timing and sequencing the Scopes?
 - a. MassCEC anticipates that the Guidebook will be the final deliverable submitted by the Applicant Team through the Program.
 - b. The Applicant Team is welcome to propose alterations to the sequencing of the Scopes listed as long as the deployment of projects continue to inform the Guidebook.

11. Is there a requirement to solicit, review, and select technology solutions or can the consultant unilaterally choose the technology solution then solicit sites for install?



- a. The Consultant can unilaterally choose the technology solution as long as they are part of the Applicant Team and provide reasoning for the selected technology.

Program Eligibility

12. Are national labs eligible?

- a. Yes, national labs may be part of Applicant Teams.
- b. MassCEC is open to any qualified professional that can help meet the described scopes of the RFP being included in the Applicant Team.

13. Is the Town of Concord eligible for this grant opportunity? As an MLP community we do not currently contribute to the Renewable Energy Trust Fund.

- a. Yes, areas served by Municipal Light Plants (MLPs) are eligible for this grant opportunity.

Applicant Teams

14. If the consultant has past work experience with a site application, will there be a conflict of interest?

- a. No, there will not be a conflict of interest if the selected Consultant has past work experience with a site application.
- b. MassCEC requests the consultant disclose prior experience with sites during the site selection phase.

15. Is MassCEC looking for both a consultant who selects projects and an actual demonstration project proposal?

- a. MassCEC is looking for a team that is capable of identifying and building out projects during the Program. The Team does not need to have the projects already designed in their application.

16. I don't have a team now and we are still forming a team. Can we still apply for this proposal?

- a. MassCEC is looking for fully formed Applicant Teams. We invite you to join our [V2X Slack Channel](#) to form connections and meet other prospective applicants.



17. Are teams expected to have a utility representative as part of their groups so that they can ensure timely implementation of projects within a given utility territory?
 - a. No, however, we expect the selected Consultant will work closely with utilities through the Program while siting, implementing, and designing the demonstration projects. MassCEC has pre-established representatives from several utilities in MA.

18. Why is MassCEC outsourcing this to a consultant rather than designing the program themselves?
 - a. MassCEC has developed the goals and the core tasks for the V2X program. As noted throughout the RFP, MassCEC will be engaged and an integral part of the Applicant team for all scopes of work.
 - b. MassCEC is required to encumber ARPA funds by December 31, 2024. In order to leverage ARPA funding for deployment projects, it is essential to pass funding through the consultant to meet timing requirements.

Additional Resources

19. Can an attendee list be shared? It would be helpful for teaming possibilities.
 - a. MassCEC will not be sharing the list of webinar attendees. We encourage people to [connect on Slack](#) to form connections and applicant teams.

20. Does MassCEC have a list of sites/companies that have expressed interest in participating in the pilot?
 - a. MassCEC does not have a list of interested sites. However, MassCEC is planning to aid in facilitating discussions during the Program with other relevant entities such as similar state programs.

21. I understand the webinar list will not be released; however, will the companies that download the RFP be released?
 - a. MassCEC does not collect this data and therefore is unable to share this data.

22. Why is MassCEC outsourcing this to a consultant rather than designing the program themselves?



- a. MassCEC has developed the goals and the core tasks for the V2X program. As noted throughout the RFP, MassCEC will be engaged and an integral part of the Applicant team for all scopes of work.
- b. MassCEC is required to encumber ARPA funds by December 31, 2024. In order to leverage ARPA funding for deployment projects, it is essential to pass funding through the consultant to meet timing requirements.