

# Project Abstract Summary

*This Project Abstract Summary form must be submitted or the application will be considered incomplete. Ensure the Project Abstract field succinctly describes the project in plain language that the public can understand and use without the full proposal. Use 4,000 characters or less. Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive or proprietary information. Refer to Agency instructions for any additional Project Abstract field requirements. If the application is funded, your project abstract information (as submitted) will be made available to public websites and/or databases including USAspending.gov.*

**Funding Opportunity Number**

693JJ323NF00004

**CFDA(s)**

20.205

**Applicant Name**

Contra Costa County

**Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project**

Contra Costa County EV4All Project

**Project Abstract**

The County of Contra Costa, CA, is excited to submit this request for \$15 million from the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The requested funds will support 80% of a total project cost of \$18,750,000, matched by 20% (\$3,750,000) committed by the County's EV private sector partner and subcontractor for the project, Electric Vehicle Charging Solutions (EVCS). The County plans to reinvest the modest income (rent from EVCS) into outreach, education and workforce (OEW) efforts.

The objective of the EV4All project is to expand public EV charging infrastructure and fill gaps in EV charging access throughout the community at 15 well-known, centrally-located, well-lit, safe and accessible branch locations of the County's library system. Across the 15 public-access sites, a total of 52 DC Fast Charging (DCFC) and 60 Level 2 chargers will be constructed and operated for 5 years. Each site will include a 110v outlet to charge e-bikes and e-scooters, important linkages for micro-mobility efforts. The sites will have the capacity for easy future expansion in line with the CFI's Dig Once policy.

Among the 15 census tracts with proposed new EV charging locations, seven are low-income, three are disadvantaged, and most suffer from high rates of multiple health risks and hazards related to their proximity to the 2nd largest center of oil refining on the west coast. Currently, the 92,000+ residents of these tracts have access to just five existing public DC fast charging sites. EV4All will expand access to DC fast chargers, the speed and convenience of which will help incentivize EV adoption by consumers for whom charging at home is not an option (due to rental and/or multi-family living situations and lack of work-base charging options).

The project will help advance, and be advanced by, larger strategic efforts in the County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate impacts, improve climate resilience and advance environmental justice. The County - in long-term collaboration with many partners and stakeholders - is especially focused on ensuring that the most vulnerable workers in the county's energy transition are assisted and supported rather than dislocated.

Due to the central role of the 15 County library branch locations, the newly-installed chargers will have much greater visibility and impact than if these were free-standing private charging sites. These publicly-owned and publicly-managed locations epitomize the meaning of community-based: they are active centers of community learning and community services, owned by the community, situated in the heart of each community. EV drivers will have convenient access to many services provided by the libraries themselves, as well as multiple nearby retail, recreational and service amenities. The benefits of locating chargers at sites with these attributes, and of libraries specifically, were highlighted in the Contra Costa Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint completed by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority in 2019.

Libraries are ideal locations for chargers that can serve currently underserved communities while also spotlighting and facilitating EV adoption broadly through the libraries' communication channels, events, and relationships with community-based organizations. EV4All's Outreach, Education and Workforce Planning efforts will focus on promoting EV purchases, use of the installed infrastructure, educating communities about the many EV models, and providing assistance to access incentive programs. The libraries will also be a resource for sharing information about apprenticeships, upskilling, and entrepreneurship opportunities related to the EV industry.