

Ohio EPA Clean Diesel School Bus Fund Retrofit Grants Program

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the federal stimulus bill, provides for approximately \$300 million nationwide in additional funding to implement the National Clean Diesel Campaign. (This funding is divided into four programs, three of which are competitive grants that many different kinds of entities may apply directly to USEPA for. The other three programs are available at <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/eparecovery/index.htm>. Ohio public school districts may apply to Ohio EPA for funds from the fourth program, described here.)

The State Clean Diesel Program allocates 88 million in funding for all of the states. Ohio EPA applied to USEPA and received \$1.73 million to add to the existing Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund grant program. Public School Districts in Ohio may apply to Ohio EPA for grants from this Fund, in install pollution control equipment onto their buses. This program has application deadlines **March 1** and **September 1** each year, with approximately \$900,000 available annually in funding from other state and federal sources, in addition to these new stimulus dollars.

Ohio EPA awarded approximately \$754,000 of the stimulus funds to applicants who applied to Ohio EPA on March 2, 2009. The remainder will be available to applicants who apply to Ohio EPA by September 1, 2009.

Grants are funded from civil penalties Ohio EPA collects from environmental violations. Since the program began, Ohio EPA has awarded \$1.6 million to 33 school districts to retrofit 652 school buses. These grants have resulted in the removal of nine and a half tons of pollutants from the air.

For additional questions about the grant program, please contact Carolyn Watkins at carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us, or 614-644-3768. For questions about diesel bus retrofitting, particle standards, or program rules, contact John Paulian at john.paulian@epa.state.oh.us, or 614-644-4832.

You can access the application and information on the Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund by visiting: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html>.