



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Air Quality
Vehicle Inspection
Program**
1240 SE 12th Ave
Portland, OR 97214
Phone: 971-673-1630
877-476-0583
Fax: 971-673-1640
Contact: Dawn Ecklund
www.oregon.gov/deq

Clean Air Partners Program

Questions and answers about the Clean Air Partners Program

This fact sheet answers questions about the CAPs program – a partnership between Oregon DEQ, United Way and The Ron Tonkin Family of Dealerships. CAPS offers low-income customers another option to offset the cost of repairing their vehicle to pass DEQ's Vehicle Emissions Test. DEQ's Vehicle Inspection Program collects donations, which are delivered to United Way, then distributed to Ron Tonkin to fix the vehicle at a reduced rate. Drivers who qualify are served on a first-come-first-served basis and are charged a total of \$50 for the repairs.

Is this really DEQ-VIP's role? How does it benefit air quality?

There are two reasons to support CAPS. First, it increases our ability to help Oregonians in need while maintaining an efficient, low-cost program like VIP.

Also, it's good for our air quality and public health by reducing pollutants such as air toxics, smog and greenhouse gases. Of the roughly one million vehicles DEQ tests every two years, about 6 to 7 percent fail the emissions test. Any vehicle, new or old, that has malfunctioning emission controls or is poorly maintained, may emit excess pollution. On average, these vehicles emit three to four times more pollution than standards allow for new passenger cars.

It's estimated that up to 300 low-income drivers can't afford minor repairs to their vehicles to pass the emissions test each year. We aren't sure what happens to these vehicles. It's possible they get trip permits or get sold out of the testing boundary; perhaps they're driven illegally or simply parked unused.

If every customer gave just a quarter to the fund, we could help every single one of those drivers while dramatically and measurably improving air quality. We'd also potentially improve many people's lives.

How can I contribute to CAPS?

Collection boxes are located at each Clean Air Stations in the Portland testing area. Each station testing terminal payment counter has an individual collection box where you can donate.

Why can't I include my contribution with my DEQ and DMV fees?

It's illegal for the State of Oregon to combine a charitable contribution with service fees.

DEQ and DMV fees are separate but can be included in the same payment of cash or PIN-less Debit/Credit (Visa, MasterCard, Discover). DEQ charges a \$21 fee to issue a *Certificate of Compliance* if your vehicle passes the emissions test. DMV fees will vary based on county of registration and licensing.

What is United Way's role in CAPS?

The State of Oregon cannot legally accept and manage charitable donations. However, by using a state-recognized charity clearinghouse (in this case United Way) it's possible because all funds transfer through an impartial third party.

All funds collected and sent to United Way are **strictly dedicated** to DEQ's CAPS program.

Reminder: All funds collected cannot be used for any other charitable effort.

Why is Ron Tonkin the only repair facility participating?

DEQ approached several repair facilities over the course of several months to find a participant in the project.

What vehicles are eligible?

Eligible vehicles are those that both failed the On-Board Diagnostics Test (OBD II, 1996 and newer vehicles) and whose registered owner(s) qualify as low-income.

What vehicles are considered repairable?

VIP Technical Center staff determine which vehicles are "repairable" or if relatively minor repairs can be made to the emissions control system on otherwise sound vehicles.

The repair limit is \$700. If repair costs exceed this limit, repairs can't be performed.

How do I apply for the CAPS program?

Obtain an application by calling VIP's Technical Center at 971-673-1630.

To apply the registered vehicle owner(s) income(s) cannot exceed household federal poverty levels by more than 1.3 times current standards based on household size. At the time

of program evaluation acceptance income documentation must be provide.

Income Requirements for the CAPS Program:

Household Size and Maximum Net Monthly Income

1	\$1287
2	\$1736
3	\$2184
4	\$2633
5	\$3081
6	\$3530
7	\$3979
8	\$4430
Each additional person	+\$429

The vehicles must have failed the OBD II test with a Diagnostic Trouble Code(s), and your vehicle must not have any visible smoke. Your vehicle cannot be “Unready”; vehicles that are “Unready” must be brought back to a “Ready” status. Your vehicle must also be nearing its registration cycle, or be currently expired.

If your vehicle fails the OBD test, you may submit an application for the CAPS program.

Qualified applicants will be notified by DEQ once an opening is available. Applications are processed in a first-come-first-served basis.

You’ll then be required to bring your vehicle to the VIP Technical Center office and have the vehicle inspected to determine if it’s feasible and appropriate to repair. If the vehicle meets CAPS program requirements, you’ll be issued a certificate and directed to the appropriate Ron Tonkin service center.

Program process time is dependent on donated funds and the number of applicants.

If my vehicle qualifies for repair, what do I need to pay?

Ron Tonkin will diagnose the vehicle and perform the necessary repairs at cost and charge the CAPS fund. Ron Tonkin will charge qualified CAPS customers a flat fee of \$50 to cover estimated labor costs.

After your vehicle is repaired, take it to the DEQ Clean Air Station for a retest and receive a Certificate of Compliance if the vehicle passes.

DMV fees must be paid in full and will vary when completing the registration process.

For more information

Additional information is on DEQ’s website at: www.oregon.gov/deq

If you have additional questions or concerns about the Clean Air Partners program, contact:

Dawn Ecklund
VIP Technical Center
971-673-1630, ext. 221

Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

