

Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program – Charge Ahead

Proposed Income Eligibility Process - Updated

Date: Sept. 9, 2019



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Background

The Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program provides rebates towards the purchase or lease of an electric vehicle. The program provides two different rebate options; this discussion paper focuses on the Charge Ahead rebate which is for applicants from a low or moderate-income household, who purchase or lease a new or used battery electric vehicle.

Definition of Household

DEQ is proposing rules to define household. A household would be considered to include all individuals who reside in the unit. This includes all family members or other unrelated persons, such as roommates who do not have a separate lease.

Why is DEQ using this definition?

This definition is based on HUD's definition of household, cited in Title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 570.3, and is referenced by the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department for its housing programs.

Income limits for a low or moderate-income household

Qualifying as a low or moderate income household is dependent upon the applicant's location and household size. To be eligible, a household must be less than 120% of the area median income for the applicant's closest metropolitan statistical area¹. DEQ has developed an income eligibility calculator to help applicants determine whether they would qualify for the rebate. <https://www.deq.state.or.us/ocvrp>

Determining Eligible Household Income

Household income

DEQ plans to use an applicant's gross annual income that could include the following income sources:

- Wages, unemployment,
- workers' compensation,
- Social Security, Supplemental Security Income,
- public assistance,
- veterans' payments,
- survivor benefits,

**Oregon Clean
Vehicle Rebate
Program**
700 NE Multnomah St.
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-229-5659
800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6124
Contact: Rachel Sakata

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

¹ As defined under 2018 Oregon Law, Chapter 93, Section 21

Background Paper

- pension or retirement income,
- interest,
- dividends,
- rents,
- royalties,
- income from estates,
- trusts,
- educational assistance,
- alimony,
- child support,
- seasonal employment,
- assistance from outside the household, and
- other miscellaneous sources

DEQ will be developing a form to help applicants verify their gross annual household income.

Documentation for Verifying Income Eligibility

Eligibility for the program can be determined if the applicant is participating in an existing income-qualified program. Documentation from the qualified social service providers indicating program participation for the year in which they purchased or leased the vehicle, would provide proof of income eligibility for the Charge Ahead rebate.

Eligible programs

- 1) Oregon Health Plan / Medicaid
- 2) SNAP: EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) Card
- 3) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- 4) Free & Reduced Price Lunch
- 5) HUD Housing Choice Voucher
- 6) LIHEAP (Home Energy Assistance)
- 7) Employment Related Daycare
- 8) Women Infants and Children (WIC)
- 9) Tri-Met reduced fare program for low-income riders
- 10) Individual Development Account (IDA) holders

Other applicants would be able to verify income for Charge Ahead program eligibility through tax returns. DEQ would request a copy of the most recent tax return that would have been available at the time they applied. A recent tax return would be considered the most recently required to be filed by the IRS. For example:

- If an application is submitted prior to April 15, 2018, utilize your 2016 tax return.
- If an application is submitted between April 16, 2018 through April 16, 2019, utilize your 2017 tax return.
- If an application is submitted on April 17, 2019 or later, utilize your 2018 tax return.

If tax information is not available, could verify Charge Ahead eligibility through other income and asset documentation (e.g., W-2s, bank statements, etc.)



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Oregon Clean
Vehicle Rebate
Program**
700 NE Multnomah St.
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-229-5659
800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6124
Contact: Rachel Sakata

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

Background Paper

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Oregon Clean
Vehicle Rebate
Program**
700 NE Multnomah St.
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-229-5659
800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6124
Contact: Rachel Sakata

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.