

## Clean Air Partners (CAPS)

### Questions & Answers about “CAPS”

This fact sheet answers questions about the Clean Air Partners (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 will charge you the *Certificate of Compliance* fee 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.

### 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 1.5 times current standards based on household size. At the time of program evaluation acceptance income documentation must be provide.



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

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[www.oregon.gov/deq](http://www.oregon.gov/deq)

**Income Requirements for the CAPS Program:**

**Household Size and Maximum Net Monthly Income**

1 .....	\$1595
2 .....	\$2155
3 .....	\$2715
4 .....	\$3275
5 .....	\$3835
6 .....	\$4395
7 .....	\$4955
8 .....	\$5515
Each additional person .....	+\$644

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](http://www.oregon.gov/deq)

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

Dawn Ecklund  
VIP Technical Center  
(971) 673-1634

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.

**Alternative formats**

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. For more information call 503-229-5696, Portland, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696. Hearing-impaired persons may call 711.

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.

