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June 10, 2024

## **Florida has still not opened up applications for \$198 million in federal electric vehicle charging funds**

**-- While chargers are opening or underway in other states, Florida has still not released an application for potential grant recipients --**

Florida is the largest state in the country that has still not released an application for electric vehicle charging operators to access millions of dollars in National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) funding. While other states are celebrating the opening of the first NEVI chargers, the businesses along Florida's interstates still can't apply to participate in this program, which was part of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Charge Ahead Partnership, a coalition of businesses working to expand the nation's EV charging network through free-market competition and private investment, encourages the state to open up applications so that private businesses can broaden their investment in EV charging through this grant-matching program.

The NEVI Program authorized the federal government to distribute \$5 billion to states to provide grant funding for businesses that want to offer EV charging. Florida is set to receive a total of \$198 million over five years.

Florida is one of just 15 states that has still not issued an application for EV charging providers hoping to receive a grant. Much of the media coverage about the NEVI program has highlighted how slowly this program is rolling out, but the federal government has approved Florida's plan and now the state is responsible for getting the grants into the hands of EV charging operators.

"Florida has countless businesses that would love to use NEVI funds to help build out the state's EV charging infrastructure, the same way that businesses in other states are," said Charge Ahead Partnership executive director Jay Smith. "It's unfortunate that the state has still not issued an application for funds, while states like Ohio are opening NEVI-funded chargers."

NEVI is a matching grant program, designed to spark investment in EV charging infrastructure by offsetting the start-up costs for buying and installing high-speed EV chargers at strategic locations along each state's major highways. The vast majority of funds deployed by other states have gone to private enterprise, allowing small businesses and national chains to add EV charging to the services they provide to customers.

The sluggish deployment of NEVI in Florida slows the growth of the EV charging private marketplace and increases the need for captive utility ratepayers to fund power company-owned charging networks, as has been widely practiced in Florida.

"Florida has the second-most EVs of any state in the country, and EV charging is a growing and vibrant business opportunity," Smith said. "Allowing businesses to access the NEVI funds will spark additional private investment in EV charging, and we hope state officials take the key step to allowing participation by issuing an application."

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*To learn more about **Charge Ahead Partnership (CAP)** and join our efforts to help expand America's EV charging network please visit [www.chargeaheadpartnership.com](http://www.chargeaheadpartnership.com). In addition to joining CAP you can stay connected with us by following us on social media on Twitter at [@EV\\_ChargeAhead](https://twitter.com/EV_ChargeAhead), Facebook at [@ChargeAheadPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/ChargeAheadPartnership) and on Instagram at [@EVChargeAhead](https://www.instagram.com/EVChargeAhead).*