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EV charging coalition optimistic about new NEVI guidance

Businesses seeking to offer EV charging will benefit from a simplified process, and CAP is hopeful that new NEVI guidelines will help states get funding out more efficiently.

Charge Ahead Partnership, a coalition advocating for expanded access to electric vehicle (EV) charging, applauds the Federal Highway Administration for releasing interim final guidance on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program this week.

The newly released guidance aims to speed up the distribution of \$5 billion in funding to build a nationwide network of EV charging stations.

"The ultimate goal of the NEVI program is to expand the nation's EV charging infrastructure, and these updated guidelines will make that outcome more likely," said Jay Smith, CAP executive director. "There are thousands of aspiring EV charging providers who would gladly offer this service to drivers if they could get NEVI funding to offset significant startup costs. A streamlined NEVI program will make it easier for the mom-and-pop gas station on the corner, along with national retail chains, to offer EV charging."

CAP supports policies that allow free market competition in EV charging. NEVI is designed to help businesses get EV charging operations up and running by providing grant funding. However, several states did not award grants during the program's first three years, citing requirements within the original guidance that slowed down deployment.

The interim final guidance provides greater flexibility for states to determine charger locations and eliminates procedural requirements that went beyond what was already required by law.

In addition to simplifying the process, the new guidance encourages states to direct funding toward applicants who will be both the site host and the charging provider. Prioritizing chargers at locations where the site host is also the operator eliminates the step of the applicant having to find a site host, and it promotes greater accountability once the charger is operating.

"We are hopeful that this new iteration of NEVI will spark the growth and development of charging businesses across the country," Smith said. "The nation's EV charging network will ultimately be run by thousands of businesses in every state, competing with one another to offer the most efficient and affordable charging service. These revised guidelines will help more businesses get in the game, and the resulting competition will be better for EV drivers."

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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. 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://facebook.com/ChargeAheadPartnership) and on Instagram at [@EVChargeAhead](https://instagram.com/EVChargeAhead).*