

Clean Air Partners (CAPs)

Questions & Answers about “CAPs”

This Q & A 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. Donations are collected by VIP, delivered to United Way and 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 \$50.00 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 your ability to help Oregonians in need while maintaining an efficient, low-cost program like VIP.

Also, the impact towards reducing on-road air pollution could be very significant depending on the success of the program.

Of the approximately one million vehicles DEQ tests each year, about 10% fail the emissions test. On average, these vehicles emit three to four times more pollution than standards allow for new passenger cars.

It is estimated that up to 300 low-income drivers are unable to afford minor repairs to their vehicles to pass the emissions test each year. We aren’t sure what happens to these vehicles. It is possible they get trip permits, or get sold out of the testing boundary, or perhaps they are 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 would also potentially improve a lot of people’s lives.

How can I contribute to CAPs?

A collection box is located at each counter where you pay your testing fee. In addition, envelopes are available that you may take with you. Your contribution is tax deductible and the detachable flap on the CAPs envelope can serve as your receipt.

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

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

DEQ and DMV fees are separate but can be included on the same check or cash payment. DEQ charges a \$19.00 fee to issue a *Certificate of Compliance* if your vehicle passes the emissions test. DMV fees will vary based on the make and model year of your vehicle.

What is United Way’s role in CAPs?

The State of Oregon cannot legally accept and manage charitable donations. However, by using the State recognized charity clearinghouse (in this case United Way) it is possible because all funds are transferring through an impartial third party.

All funds collected and sent to United Way are **strictly dedicated** to our CAPs program.

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

What vehicles are considered repairable?

Eligible vehicles are those that fail the *On-Board Diagnostics Test (OBD)* and whose owners qualify as low-income. “Repairable” vehicles will be determined by the VIP Technical Center staff. Generally, they will be looking for relatively minor repairs to the emissions control system on otherwise sound vehicles. There is a repair limit of \$700. If repairs are estimated to exceed this limit, the repairs cannot be performed.

How do I apply for the CAPs program?

To qualify you must prove low-income status and fail the OBD Test.

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

You will be required to bring your vehicle to the Technical Center and have the vehicle inspected to determine if it is feasible and appropriate to repair. If the vehicle is found to meet the requirements of the CAPs program you will be issued a certificate and directed to the appropriate Ron Tonkin service center.



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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 \$50.00 in order to cover estimated labor costs.

Ron Tonkin must repair the vehicle so it can pass the emissions test. After your vehicle is repaired, take your vehicle to the DEQ Clean Air Station for a retest and receive a Certificate of Compliance if the vehicle passes.

Your DMV fees must be paid in full and will vary.

For more information

Additional information can be found on DEQ's website at:

www.oregon.gov/deq

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

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