



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 7, 2015

CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann
415.749.4900

Air District offers \$250,000 in community grants

James Cary Smith Program to fund clean air projects in Bay Area communities

SAN FRANCISCO - Today, the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District approved an allocation of \$250,000 to fund the James Cary Smith Community Grant Program for fiscal year 2016.

This program is named for the former Air District Community Outreach Manager who helmed the agency's initial pilot community grant program in 2009-10. Mr. Smith passed away in 2015 from ALS. The program will provide grants for locally based projects that decrease air pollution while increasing community awareness and engagement on air quality issues.

"We know from our experience that success and innovation result when we provide grants for local projects," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. "Establishing this grant program will help to further local air quality community health initiatives and provide a lasting legacy for the man who initiated this program, our friend and colleague, Mr. Jim Smith."

Under this program, the Air District will award grants of up to \$25,000 to enable non-governmental, community-based organizations to implement projects under three categories:

- **Education and engagement** - to inform and engage community members about air quality concerns in their daily lives and develop leadership in creating behavior changes that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Local air pollution impact mitigation** - to reduce air pollution impacts through local, small-scale projects.
- **Community-based research** - to implement community-academic partnerships or "citizen science" projects that analyze local air quality impacts or demonstrate the effectiveness of innovative mitigation strategies.

Eligible applicants can include non-profit (including faith-based) organizations, community-based organizations or associations, schools or school-sponsored (teacher, student, or parent initiated) groups, or community-based business or merchant groups in partnership with local community organizations.

Priority will be given to grant applications in localized areas with high concentrations of air pollution, where vulnerable communities experience significant adverse health impacts.

In general, successful grants are expected to demonstrate a strong degree of community engagement and community partnership and should highlight *both* community health and climate protection co-benefits. The grant period will be 12-15 months. Projects must be completed within the time period and all grant funds must be expended by June 30, 2017.

The deadline for applications is December 1. For more information, contact David Ralston at (415) 749-8423 or dralston@baaqmd.gov. You can also find information at www.baaqmd.gov/community.

Continued...Air District offers \$250,000...

The Air District administered the community grant program as a pilot in 2009-2010, seeking an effective strategy for engaging community partners more directly in our work. Following the broad interest in this past program, the James Cary Smith Community Grant Program formalizes the grant process and ensures that communities will continue to have hands-on opportunities to improve air quality in years to come.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

###