

**BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**JAMES CARY SMITH COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM**  
**FYE 2016 OVERVIEW**

**Background**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) aims to create a healthy breathing environment for every Bay Area resident while protecting and improving public health, air quality, and the global climate. The Air District adopts and enforces regulations and implements programs to achieve healthy air quality. By improving air quality over the past sixty years, the Air District's programs have produced substantial public health benefits, saved the region millions of dollars in health-related costs, and helped put the Bay Area at the forefront of addressing clean air and climate-change.

Even with such progress, there are still challenges to be met. The Air District is particularly concerned about localized areas with high concentrations of air pollution where vulnerable communities experience significant adverse health impacts. The Air District is also very committed to promoting community-based solutions that can improve health while also helping reduce our global climate impact.

Administering a community-grant program has been an effective strategy to engage community partners more directly in our work. To this end, the Air District has supported community-based grant projects on an ad hoc basis over the years. Through these grants, the Air District has been able to work with local communities on projects to reduce air pollution and mitigate the health impacts of ambient air contaminants. In 2009, a pilot Community Grant Program was initiated in which a total of \$250,000 was dispersed to grantees throughout the Bay Area. Based on the success and interest in the program, the Air District is formalizing this grant process and the opportunities for communities to help our region improve its air quality. A \$250,000 allocation for the Community Grant Program is included in the Air District FYE 2016 Budget.

**Purpose**

The FYE 2016 Community Grant Program will fund locally-based projects designed to reduce and mitigate air pollution impacts while encouraging and increasing community education and engagement. Small grants are intended to enable non-governmental community-based organizations to implement projects that increase education, outreach and leadership about air quality improvement issues; implement neighborhood air pollution mitigation projects; and/or conduct community-based participatory air quality research.

**Geographic Region**

Eligible projects must be located within the Air District's nine-county jurisdiction. The Air District's jurisdiction encompasses all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, as well as southern Sonoma County and southwestern Solano County.

The Air District recognizes that air pollution levels are highest in close proximity to pollution sources—such as near freeways, busy roadways, distribution centers, and large industrial sources. Communities where these types of sources are concentrated together consistently have higher levels of air pollution, disproportionate adverse health impacts, and often lack the resources to address such localized impacts. These “cumulative impact communities” as well as communities that have episodic exceedances of pollution such as ground-level ozone or particulate matter (PM) have been carefully documented through the Air District’s Community Air Risk Evaluation (CARE) program (2004-9), and the Air District has made an overall commitment to prioritize air pollution initiatives in these areas. Grant projects that serve CARE community areas (See Attachment A: CARE Communities Map) and/or are in close proximity (within 500 ft.) to pollution sources, such as major roadways, will be prioritized in the Community Grant application evaluation process.

### **Grant Range**

The Air District will award grants of up to \$25,000. Grantees may select one of the program areas to apply for or a grant may include specific aspects of multiple program areas. In certain cases, with prior approval, grants less than \$5,000 capital cost outlays may be invoiced directly through suppliers to be paid by the Air District.

### **Duration**

The grant period will be 12-15 months. The project must be completed within the time period and all grant funds must be expended by June 30, 2017.

### **Requirements**

Successful grantees shall provide the Air District with quarterly written progress reports at a minimum. Receipts for reimbursement may be submitted with progress reports monthly if so desired. At completion of grant activities, grantees shall submit a final report with simple metrics of what was accomplished and e-copy with photo documentation of grant activities. Grantees may be asked to make a presentation of the grant project during a meeting of the Air District’s Board of Directors.

The Air District shall retain all ownership and intellectual copyright of submitted grant materials, project outcomes and documents unless otherwise specifically stipulated in the funding agreement.

### **Who can apply?**

Eligible applicants include:

- Non-profit 501(c) 3 organizations including faith-based organizations;
- Community-based organizations or associations in partnership with a 501(c) 3 fiscal sponsorship;
- K-12 schools or school-sponsored projects (including teacher, parent or student initiated);
- Community-based business or merchant groups are encouraged to apply in partnership with local community organizations/schools that are eligible.

Eligible grant recipients are responsible for the implementation of the project and must have the authority and capacity to complete the project. The Air District values the

inherent strengths of local residents and their communities and looks for projects that demonstrate community partnerships and high levels of cooperation and leadership by residents rooted in the community.

### **Program Areas**

The Air District is offering grants in three program areas: Education and Engagement; Air-Pollution Impact Mitigation Projects; Community/Citizen Science Air Quality Projects.

To be eligible, grant proposals need to demonstrate a focus on one or more of the following programmatic categories:

- **Education and engagement:** Inform and engage community members about air quality issues and develop their capacity to lead behavior changes that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases in their daily lives.
- **Local air pollution impact mitigation:** Reduce air pollution impacts through local, small-scale mitigation projects.
- **Community-Based Participatory Research/”Citizen Science”:** Implement community-academic partnership projects, for example; to study air quality impacts or to demonstrate the effectiveness of innovative mitigation strategies.<sup>1</sup>

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.

### **Ineligible Activities**

The Community Grant Program will not fund:

- Specific projects that are already directly funded by the Air District (funding a separate phase of a clear multi-phased project could be eligible)
- Costs for preparing or submitting grant application
- Deficit budgets
- Lobbying efforts
- Endowment campaigns
- Political and organization fundraising campaigns
- Marketing of products or technologies
- Specific projects that will require funding beyond this grant or grant period in order to be completed (unless such source of funding is identified and committed to up front).
- Administrative, in-direct operation/organizational personnel costs that exceed 10% of grant

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<sup>1</sup> The Air District will provide technical assistance and quality assurance oversight as needed. Projects must demonstrate clear community participant involvement in the research design, leadership, knowledge-sharing and ownership of compiled research.

## Proposed Timeline

Dates	Milestone
June-August	Review and refine Grant Proposal and Guidelines
September-October 2015	Present Community Grant Program Guidelines to Board of Directors
October 15, 2015	Release grant guidelines and start of formal outreach campaign
<b>December 1, 2015</b>	<b>Deadline for Air District receipt of Community Grant applications</b>
December 31, 2015	Selection and notification of grantees
March 31, 2015	Deadline to execute agreement
June 30, 2017	Deadline to expend funds and complete projects

## Outreach and Promotion Strategy

The Air District is engaged in ongoing efforts to promote the Community Grant Program and invite eligible entities to apply. Staff has developed a list of interested parties and will continue to conduct outreach through regularly scheduled meetings, email, and phone conversations. Staff will also work through the Air District Spare the Air Resource Teams, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative, the Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative and other regional stakeholders to disseminate grant program information. The Air District will announce the Community Grant Program through local media, on the Air District's website, in newsletters, and through social media. Air District staff is also enlisting additional partners within the philanthropic field with the aim of leveraging resources and relationships to support potential projects.

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