Updated: May 30, 2019
Please note: FAQs will be updated periodically until the application period ends.

1. **Does your list mean no other areas are eligible to apply for grants?**
   At this time, only community-based groups and local non-profits based in East Oakland/San Leandro, Eastern San Francisco, Pittsburg-Bay Point area, San Jose, the Tri-Valley and Vallejo are eligible to apply. However, the Air District is also currently offering grants as part of the 2019 James Cary Smith Community Grant program. For the 2019 James Cary Smith Community Grant program applicants must be a certified non-profit or a local community-based organization, faith-based organization or public school within the Air District's jurisdiction. More information is available at our application portal: https://baaqmd.bonfirehub.com/portal/ .

2. **I was considering applying for a grant for some sites, one of which is in West Oakland. Your description doesn't mention West Oakland - do the grants support projects in this neighborhood, or not?**
   Thank you for your interest in the 2019 Community Health Protection Grant Program. At this time, only community-based groups and local non-profits based in East Oakland/San Leandro, Eastern San Francisco, Pittsburg-Bay Point area, San Jose, the Tri-Valley and Vallejo are eligible to apply to complete work in these areas. In the West Oakland area, the Air District is currently working together with local leaders and interested community residents to develop a Community Action Plan for the area. Steering Committee meetings are held monthly and more information is available at http://www.baaqmd.gov/community-health/community-health-protection-program/west-oakland-community-action-plan. We welcome you to attend the next West Oakland Steering Committee meeting and share your ideas with the members for possible inclusion in the Plan.

3. **We actually have two different ideas for an application for a Community Health Protection Grant. Is the same entity allowed to submit two distinct applications?**
   An organization can submit multiple grant applications so long as each grant application regards a distinctly different project.

4. **Will the webinar be recorded and accessible after the webinar, for those like me who have scheduling conflicts?**
   We will post the presentation slides for the webinar and will decide to post the recording depending on participation. Each question that is asked and the respective answer will be available on our website after the webinar. If you have any questions that remain unanswered, you are welcome to continue sending questions to the AB617info@baaqmd.gov email address and we will do our best to provide an answer quickly.

   Update: The presentation slides, questions that were asked, and the respective answers are available at: https://baaqmd.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/15058 and also on the Air District's website: http://www.baaqmd.gov/community-health/community-health-protection-program/grant-program. To view the webinar recording please visit https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/739283430206695425. If you have any questions that remain unanswered, you are welcome to continue sending questions to

the AB617info@baaqmd.gov email address and we will do our best to provide an answer quickly.

5. **Could we write a similar proposal for both grant opportunities? If we asked for funding for sites in East Oakland and Eastern SF, etc. through the Community Health Protection grants, and then funding in other areas (West Oakland, Richmond, etc.) through the James Cary Smith Community grants program would this work?**
An organization is welcome to submit similar proposals to each grant program so long as the proposals meet the guidelines of the respective programs. In this case it would be possible to submit a proposal focused on East Oakland and Eastern San Francisco under the Community Health Protection grant program and a similar proposal focused on other areas through the James Cary Smith grant program. Please note that the proposals will be evaluated separately, and it may be possible to receive one grant and not the other.

6. **Are cities, counties or other public agencies, including public health agencies, eligible to apply for this grant program?**
Cities, counties, public agencies, including public health agencies, are eligible to apply *only as* a fiscal sponsor for a community-based or local non-profit organization. In this capacity, the public agency can work with the community-based organization to assist with administrative and fiscal reporting requirements and processes.

7. **Does the applicant organization need to be based/headquartered in the priority region?**
While the applicant organization does not need to be based in the community, community-based organizations are preferred. Organizations located outside of AB 617 communities are welcome to partner with local organizations to apply for this grant program.

8. **Can you talk about how air quality overlaps with broader environmental issues?**
We recognize air quality is one layer in a larger discussion on climate change and local environmental health and welcome proposals that discuss air quality within the broader context of environmental issues concerning the region.

9. **Do you accept fiscally sponsored organizations?**
Yes, organizations may have fiscal sponsors for this grant application.

10. **Are "Eastern Neighborhoods" the same as the CARE program neighborhoods for the purposes of AB617 High Cumulative Exposure Burden areas?**
While AB 617 High Priority communities are CARE communities, not all CARE communities are identified as AB 617 High Priority communities. For specific geographic questions, please send an email to AB617info@baaqmd.gov and we would be happy to provide guidance.

11. **Please give some examples of recommended activities such as "explore the root causes of air pollution and its impact on residents."**
Some examples of activities that can help communities learn about local air quality issues and the root causes include hosting workshops on local air quality issues and

providing information on pollutants. These grants are intended to help build community capacity and cultivate interest and engagement in local air quality issues.

12. **Can you talk about budget requirements, if any-how funds can be used, do we need to submit a project budget, what other application attachments might we expect?**
For the purposes of this grant program, the Air District is requesting a one-page budget narrative that includes costs of personnel, materials and supplies as well as other sources of funding. Grant applicants are also asked to submit a cover sheet and project narrative. More detailed information on the grant application is available on page 7 of the grant guidelines.

13. **Do you recognize building community-owned energy as a way to improve air quality?**
To help answer this question more thoroughly, please send additional details to the AB617info@baaqmd.gov email box and Air District staff can evaluate if the project might fit the guidelines.

14. **Can you share more about the back story behind this grant? What prompted this grant?**
These grants are intended to help communities design and implement strategies that foster authentic, empowered community participation in planning activities that improve a community's environmental health and can help prepare the community to partner with the Air District to develop an emissions reduction or air monitoring plan as required by AB 617 in the future.

15. **Is there maximum budget amount allowed for covering operational expenses?**
There is no maximum for operational expenses in the budget; however, we ask that you submit detailed information to help justify operational costs in the project narrative and project budget sections of the grant application. Typically, operational expenses should be between 10-15% of the budget.

16. **Are cooperatives eligible?**
Locally based cooperatives are eligible to apply, so long as they can meet contracting requirements as outlined on page 4 of the guidelines.

17. **We represent community leaders and build community leadership in regions throughout the Bay Area, but do not have an office in the community. Can we make the case for not being based in the region?**
While the applicant organization does not need to be based in the community, community-based organizations are preferred. Organizations located outside of AB 617 communities are welcome to partner with local organizations to apply for this grant program or describe their history and connections with the community within the project narrative section of the application.

18. **Do you know where the two required convenings for grantees will be held? and for how long? Want to include a budget line item to cover this cost.**
While we are still working on the details of the required convenings for grantees, we will ensure convenings are transit accessible and have a low-cost impact on organizations. We will also consider remote options to join, like webinars.

19. Can we engage BAAQMD in the execution of events, say as a co-sponsor?
It is fine to include opportunities to partner with the Air District within the proposal; the Air District will consider each request on a case-by-case basis.

20. Can we partner with other agencies?
Yes, organizations are welcome to partner with other agencies.

21. What are operational expenses?
Operational expenses include non-personnel items like transportation and supplies. Operational costs can be considered "other direct costs."

22. Are there any project activities that are prohibited by this funding? for instance, food and/or travel, contracted services such as childcare and interpretation
The grant guidelines detail activities that will not be considered for this grant cycle; however, there are no restrictions on spending for food, travel, contracted services, childcare/childwatch or interpretation. This grant will cover items like food and childwatch. The Air District encourages proposals that consider accessibility, equity, and the needs of the community in the design of activities.

23. If we apply for the maximum will you still accept and offer a smaller amount?
Depending on the total funding amount requested by all applicants, the Air District may consider offering smaller amounts to organizations as long as meaningful projects can still take place. If the Air District decides to offer smaller grants than what was requested, the Air District would engage in a conversation with the grantee to design a new, realistic, scope of work and budget.

24. Please give some examples of leadership development
There are many examples of leadership development, including advocacy training, or grant writing training, the Air District will consider as part of this grant program; the Air District is open to new ideas and community-based expertise and knowledge on capacity building for this grant cycle.

25. Is there an example of a past grant that was very successful from BAAQMD's perspective?
While the Air District is developing a section of the website that will include information on past grant projects with brief descriptions, this is the first cycle of the Community Health Protection Grant program. We look forward to highlighting future successful grants.

26. Please talk about insurance coverage requirement.
Insurance coverage requirements are often specific to the activities proposed. Grantees may be required to maintain insurance depending on the finalized scope of work. If you have specific questions related to the work proposed and potential insurance requirements, please send a detailed email to AB617info@baaqmd.gov.

27. Are there any limits on overhead? (rent, etc.)
The grant guidelines do not specify a maximum limit for administrative and overhead costs; however, we ask that you submit detailed information to help justify these costs in the project narrative and project budget sections of the grant application.

28. **We just want an air quality monitor for our region. What can we buy?**
    Purchasing of air monitors is not eligible as part of this grant program. Please continue to check the Air District's website for new grant opportunities that may allow for the purchase of air monitors.

29. **Where in the baaqmd website can we find educational material and data that we can share with our community members for the educational aspect of this grant?**
    Educational material and data on air quality is located on both the baaqmd.gov and sparetheair.org websites. Within the "About Air Quality" portion of the Air District website is information on current air quality with live data, interactive maps of facilities, weather, impacted communities, and open burning. In addition, information about our Spare the Air program, videos, and an overview of air quality is available at sparetheair.org. The Air District also welcomes the opportunity to come to community events and meetings and present information on air quality in the region. In addition, the Air District can send informational flyers and materials to local organizations to help inform the community. If you have specific questions related to a grant proposal and the materials or data available, please feel free to follow-up with additional questions. Other available resources include the Environmental Protection Agency at http://www.epa.gov and the California Air Resources Board at https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/homepage.

30. **Where are the funds from the Volkswagen settlement? My area has a very high asthma rate.**
    Information about the Volkswagen settlement program can be found at the California Air Resources Board website: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/volkswagen-environmental-mitigation-trust-california.Total Volkswagen funding is $423M statewide, which will be dispersed over an approximately 5-year period. Staff projects that as much as 33% of funding could go to projects located in the Bay Area. If you would like more information, please contact us at AB617info@baaqmd.gov

31. **Do you anticipate doing interviews before making decisions on grantees?**
    The Air District will not conduct interviews as part of this application review process.

32. **How would you suggest we collect the impact or evaluate this grant?**
    The Air District recognizes that there are many ways to gauge the success of a project. Project evaluation can be both quantitative (how many? how much?) and qualitative (why? how?). Please let us know how you plan to measure the success of your project in the project narrative.

33. **Who on the panel is evaluating these grant applications?**
    At least one, but possibly two of the webinar's hosts will be on the evaluating panel along with staff from other divisions and external partners.

34. **Would receiving a James Cary grant make us ineligible for this program?**
    Receiving a 2019 James Cary Smith grant, or any other grant from the Air District currently or previously does not make an organization ineligible for this program. Each grant proposal will be evaluated separately.

35. **Hello, I understand that money can't be spent directly in sensors, but what about a program to get community members hands on experience with a variety of**

sensors, how to calibrate, how to analyze sensor data, etc., maybe including rental of sensors and/or related analyzers and equipment? And technical support to develop a program?

This sounds like a great idea for technical air quality grants that the Air District is considering launching in the future. For this round of funding, the Air District is not able to provide the level of technical support needed to back-up grantees with technical activities. Purchasing or renting sensors or related equipment is not allowed with this funding. Please continue to check the Air District's website for new grant opportunities that may allow for the purchase or rental of air monitors.

36. **Is there a way to make BAAQMD more aware of our organization leading into the grant application being submitted so you have more background info?**
Organizations are welcome to send information to the Air District; however, this will not impact the evaluation of the grant proposals.

37. **Will the power point be available on line?**
Yes, the powerpoint is available on the Air District's Bonfire portal: https://baaqmd.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/15058 and also on the Air District's website: http://www.baaqmd.gov/community-health/community-health-protection-program/grant-program.

38. **There might be situations where formal agreements with proposed partners cannot be finalized in time for the grant due date as a result of organizations meeting schedules, closures, or particular processes. Would there be an opportunity to be awarded funds contingent upon finalizing these partnership agreements.**
If formal agreements with proposed partners cannot be finalized before applications are due, please include information on how long you anticipate it will take to finalize an agreement. In addition, the Air District is open to discussing agreements between organizations and contracting details once grantees are selected. We will work together with organizations to finalize contracts and scopes of work before any work begins.

39. **I would like to have an air quality monitor. The cost is greater than 50,000$. Can this money be used as matching funds?**
Purchasing of air monitors is not eligible as part of this grant program and cannot be used as matching funds. Please continue to check the Air District's website for new grant opportunities that may allow for the purchase of air monitors.

40. **Will we get the link to webinar later?**
The presentation slides, questions that were asked, and the respective answers are available at: https://baaqmd.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/15058 and also on the Air District's website: http://www.baaqmd.gov/community-health/community-health-protection-program/grant-program. To view the webinar recording please visit https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/739283430206695425. If you have any questions that remain unanswered, you are welcome to continue sending questions to the AB617info@baaqmd.gov email address and we will do our best to provide an answer quickly.

41. Can our program focus on one ethnic community?
Project proposals can focus on one ethnic community located within the AB 617 High Priority communities.

42. Is there any benefit to partnering with other organizations?
While there are no scoring criteria that favors partnering with other organizations, we encourage organizations working together to share resources, expand the scope of work possible, building capacity and community leadership.