



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Air District's James Cary Smith Community Grant Program empowers Bay Area community leaders**

*More than 30 community groups to receive grant awards*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced today the launch of its 2022 James Cary Smith Community Grant Program, which is funding more than 30 community groups and nonprofit organizations to engage community members in decisions that impact their air quality and health.

In 2021, the Air District combined elements from the previous James Cary Smith Grant Program and Community Health Protection Grant Program to create a refocused James Cary Smith Community Grant program. The new program is designed to strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations and leverage community power to improve local air quality and health outcomes.

“We are excited to empower environmental justice communities through the James Cary Smith Community Grant Program to make meaningful changes in the lives of local residents,” said Veronica Eady, senior deputy executive officer of policy and equity for the Air District. “The awardees are from communities that have historically faced an unequal share of pollution impacts and will play a crucial role in the Air District’s work to overcome these inequities in air quality.”

Grant funds will be used to develop and deepen long-term capacity-building efforts with communities. Awardees will design and implement strategies to improve local air quality in a variety of ways from developing environmental justice academies for youth, to creating multilingual air quality ambassador programs.

The maximum amount for an individual grant is \$100,000 per year with the potential for funding for up to three years. The Air District prioritized funding for local environmental justice communities whose work is instrumental in addressing air quality concerns in local neighborhoods and improving the health of communities that are impacted by historical inequities.

For additional information, visit [www.baaqmd.gov/communitygrants](http://www.baaqmd.gov/communitygrants).

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](http://www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality and the global climate in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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