



Bay REPAIR

Local Community Benefits Fund

Round 1

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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The Air District will update this FAQ document throughout the application and award period. The full list of questions and answers can be viewed [at this link](#).

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PROGRAM PURPOSE

What are the program goals of the Local Community Benefits Fund?

The Local Community Benefits Fund is designed to reduce or mitigate air pollution, improve public health outcomes, and build economic resilience for communities experiencing a transition away from fossil fuels. These goals are implemented through two core strategies: (1) Reduce Air Pollution and Improve Health Outcomes; and (2) Build Economic Resilience for a Just Transition. The Air District administers this program pursuant to its authority under the California Health & Safety Code, including Sections 40004 and 40701, which authorize the Air District to sponsor, coordinate, and promote projects that prevent, mitigate, or cure the adverse effects of air pollution, including adverse health effects. See Sections 1 and 6 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#) for additional detail.

Why do funded projects need to demonstrate air quality or public health benefits?

The Local Community Benefits Fund is administered under the Air District's statutory authority. Accordingly, funded projects must be consistent with that authority and deliver benefits related to air quality or public health.

Projects focused on economic resilience must also demonstrate a clear connection to air quality or health benefits. Examples of eligible project types are provided in Appendix C of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#). See Sections 1 and 6 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#) for additional detail.

Given the refinery closure in Benicia, why can't funding be provided without air quality alignment?

The Air District is governed by the California Health & Safety Code, which requires that the Air District address the adverse effects of air pollution. Section 40004 provides that a district may sponsor, coordinate, and promote projects that lead to the prevention, mitigation, or cure of the adverse effects of air pollution, including adverse health effects. Section 40701(f) authorizes the Air District to cooperate and contract with governmental agencies, private industries, or civic groups as necessary to accomplish those purposes.

Accordingly, a core strategy of the Local Community Benefits Fund is to support projects that reduce or mitigate air pollution and improve public health outcomes. The program also supports projects that build economic resilience for communities experiencing the transition away from fossil fuels; however, those projects must also deliver meaningful benefits related to air quality and public health.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Who is eligible to apply as a Lead Applicant?

Eligible Lead Applicants are limited to the following entity types, as defined in Section 4.2 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#):

- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- Local government agencies, including cities, counties, joint powers authorities, special districts, councils of governments, and other public agencies
- Public schools, public school districts, public universities, and public colleges
- Labor unions holding current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code
- California Native American Tribes, including Federally Recognized Tribes listed in the Federal Register and non-federally recognized California Tribal governments on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission

No other entity types are eligible to serve as Lead Applicants.

All applicants must also meet the financial capacity, readiness, and good standing requirements described in Sections 9.1 and 9.2 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Who may serve as a Co-Applicant? Are for-profit businesses eligible to apply

Eligible Co-Applicants include the same entity types listed above for Lead Applicants, as well as for-profit businesses such as contractors, consultants, vendors, and technical assistance providers. For-profit entities such as businesses, contractors, consultants, and vendors are eligible to apply, but only as co-applicants. There are no limits to the number of co-applicants per application. See Section 4.3 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#).

Which entities are not eligible?

The following are not eligible to apply as Lead or Co-Applicants: individuals, current Air District employees and their immediate family, any entity that is the source of the penalty funds under the specific Call for Projects. See Section 4.4 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).



Are community organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) designation eligible to apply? How does fiscal sponsorship work?

Yes. Community organizations that do not have a 501(c)(3) designation are eligible to apply, provided they partner with a fiscal sponsor that can accept and manage grant funds on their behalf.

Applicants using a fiscal sponsor must provide: the fiscal sponsor's most recent IRS Form 990, the fiscal sponsor's IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter, a letter of fiscal sponsorship, and the required financial documentation. See Sections 4.1 and 9.2 of [the Grant Guidelines](#).

Could a fiscal sponsor qualify as a Lead Applicant, with the fiscally-sponsored entity qualifying as a Co-Applicant for the Catalyst or Opportunity Grants?

No, the fiscal sponsor and the fiscally-sponsored entity would be considered one overall entity and would not fulfill the co-applicant requirement for Catalyst or Opportunity Grants. See Section 4.1 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

How can smaller nonprofits with little capacity remain competitive?

The Seed Grants are intended to support smaller projects ranging between \$100,000 and \$200,000 and are only open to non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.

The larger Opportunity and Catalyst Grants require a Co-Applicant model. Priority in scoring will be awarded to applications that demonstrate strong multi-stakeholder partnerships rooted in community priorities and leadership. As a result, smaller nonprofits are encouraged to partner with others to collaborate on applications to ensure broader impact throughout the community. See Sections 3 and 4 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

PARTNERSHIPS

When are partnerships required?

Partnership requirements vary by grant type and geography.

Seed Grants: Co-Applicants are not permitted. The Lead Applicant must implement the project.

Opportunity Grants: The Lead Applicant must partner with at least one Co-Applicant.



Catalyst Grants - Richmond and Surrounding Communities: The Lead Applicant must partner with multiple Co-Applicants.

Catalyst Grants – Benicia and Surrounding Communities: The Co-Applicant requirement is waived.

See Section 4.1 of the [Grant Guidelines](#) and the applicable Call for Projects.

What qualifies as a Co-Applicant?

A Co-Applicant is an eligible entity that is named in the application, receives grant funds through the Lead Applicant, has a clearly defined scope of work, and shares responsibility for project implementation. Co-Applicants must meet eligibility requirements described in Section 4.3 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

What are the expectations for partnerships?

For Opportunity and Catalyst Grants, partners should collaborate across relevant sectors to address community needs. Roles and responsibilities must be clearly defined. Budget allocations must align with each partner's scope of work. At least 25% of the total budget must be allocated to Co-Applicant(s), commensurate with their scope.

Awarded Opportunity and Catalyst Grantees must execute a Partnership Agreement governing roles, financial relationships, and decision-making processes. See Section 4.1 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

May organizations participate without being a Lead or Co-Applicant?

Yes. Projects may involve subcontractors, consultants, or community partners who are not named as Co-Applicants. These entities may receive funding through contracts or subcontracts consistent with the approved budget. Only designated Co-Applicants count toward partnership requirements for Opportunity and Catalyst Grants. See Sections 4.1 and 8.1 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

My organization needs partners. Will the Air District connect applicants?

The Air District does not operate a formal matchmaking process and does not directly pair organizations for the purpose of submitting applications. The Air District hosted in-person sessions to provide space for networking. Across all events and engagement, interested applicants were invited to participate in a voluntary networking form to share their information with other applicants. Those networking form responses can be viewed, and you can add your organization to the networking sheets at the links below:



Benicia and Surrounding Communities: Complete the networking form [here](#); View submitted responses on the Air District's Community Investments Office webpage under the "Partner Information Sharing" section.

Richmond and Surrounding Communities: Complete the networking form [here](#); View submitted responses on the Air District's Community Investments Office webpage under the "Partner Information Sharing" section.

What is the difference between a Co-Applicant and a subcontractor or subgrantee?

A Co-Applicant is a formal partner on the grant. Co-Applicants are named in the application, have a defined scope of work, share responsibility for project implementation, and receive a portion of the grant funding through the Lead Applicant.

A subcontractor or consultant is hired by the Lead Applicant to perform specific tasks and is not listed (or eligible) as Co-Applicants (and does not count towards partnership requirements).

A re-grantee is an entity that receives funds through an Opportunity Grant re-granting model, as described in Section 3.2 of the [Grant Guidelines](#). Re-granting is allowed under Opportunity Grants and is exempt from the Co-Applicant requirement, provided the Lead Applicant demonstrates appropriate management capacity. Any projects funded through the re-granting process must still comply with all program requirements outlined in the Grant Guidelines, including alignment with at least one program strategy, location within the eligible project geography, and compliance with eligible project types and cost categories

See Sections 3.2 and 4.1 of the [Grant Guidelines](#) for additional detail.

MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

Can applicants participate in multiple applications?

Lead Applicants: A Lead Applicant may submit up to one application for each grant category: Seed, Opportunity, and Catalyst. Lead Applicants for Seed Grants are limited to nonprofit organizations holding 501(c)(3) status. Each application must correspond to a single eligible geography, and a single application may not include projects located in both Benicia and Richmond. See Section 4.2 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#).

Co-Applicants: There is no limit on the number or categories of applications a Co-Applicant may join. An organization may serve as a Co-Applicant on multiple



applications across grant types and geographies, provided that each application independently meets eligibility and geographic requirements. See Section 4.3 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Fiscal Sponsors: An organization serving as a fiscal sponsor may sponsor more than one applicant. However, for purposes of partnership requirements, a fiscal sponsor and the fiscally sponsored entity are considered a single entity and would not fulfill the Co-Applicant requirement for Opportunity or Catalyst Grants. See Sections 4.1 and 9.2 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Serving in Multiple Roles: An organization may serve as a Lead Applicant on one application and as a Co-Applicant on another application, provided all eligibility and geographic requirements are satisfied.

ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIES

What are the geographic eligibility requirements for projects?

Applicants can view a map outlining the eligible project geographies [here](#). Projects must be located entirely within the eligible geographic boundaries identified in the applicable Call for Projects. See Section 4.5 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#) and the applicable Call for Projects for detailed boundary descriptions.

For Benicia and Surrounding Communities, eligible communities are those listed and mapped in the [Benicia Call for Projects](#). Projects located in the City of Benicia are eligible for Seed, Opportunity, and Catalyst Grants. Projects located in the surrounding communities identified in the [Benicia Call for Projects](#) are eligible for Seed and Opportunity Grants only.

For Richmond and Surrounding Communities, eligible communities are those located within the Path to Clean Air (PTCA) Community Emissions Reduction Plan boundary, as described in the [Richmond Call for Projects](#).

Applicants should [review the online maps available](#) on the Community Investments Office webpage to confirm that the proposed project location falls within the eligible boundary.

Can a project serve residents outside the eligible boundary?

The funded project must be physically located within the eligible geographic boundary identified in the applicable Call for Projects. While project benefits may extend beyond that boundary, the site of implementation and funded activities must occur within the designated geography. See Section 4.5 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#).



My organization is located outside the eligible geography. May I still apply?

Yes. An organization does not need to be physically located within the eligible geography in order to apply. However, the proposed project must be located within the eligible community boundary identified in the applicable Call for Projects. See Section 4.5 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#).

May Co-Applicants, subgrantees, vendors, consultants, or other partners be located outside the eligible geographic boundary?

Yes, provided that the proposed project activities occur within the designated eligible community and meet all other program requirements. See Section 4.5 of the [Grant Guidelines](#) and the applicable Call for Projects for [geographic](#) requirements.

Note that applications should seek to maximize outcomes, including maximizing economic benefits. Projects that maximize the participation of small and locally-owned businesses, contractors and suppliers may be prioritized. See Appendix D.

Can one application include projects in both Benicia and Richmond?

No. Each application must correspond to a single eligible geography and must meet the requirements of that specific Call for Projects. A single application may not include projects located in both Benicia and Richmond. See Section 4.5 of the [Grant Guidelines](#) and the applicable Call for Projects.

How were the eligible communities determined?

For Benicia and Surrounding Communities, the Air District identified the City of Benicia as the community directly impacted by the Valero refinery. Surrounding communities were identified through analysis of modeled refinery-attributable PM_{2.5} exposure, community vulnerability using CalEnviroScreen, and geographic considerations such as jurisdictional boundaries and transportation corridors. Additional details are provided in Appendix A of the [Benicia Call for Projects](#).

For Richmond and Surrounding Communities, eligible communities are those located within the Path to Clean Air (PTCA) Community Emissions Reduction Plan. The PTCA boundary was established through a formal public process under Assembly Bill 617. The area was selected due to cumulative air pollution burdens and associated health disparities and reflects communities identified through that process as disproportionately impacted.

See the applicable Call for Projects for additional detail.



PROJECT ELIGIBILITY & USE OF FUNDS

What types of projects are eligible?

All projects must advance at least one of the Local Community Benefits Fund strategies: (1) Reduce Air Pollution and Improve Health Outcomes and/or (2) Build Economic Resilience for a Just Transition. Projects should respond to community-identified needs and demonstrate measurable outcomes tied to those needs.

Appendix C of the Round 1 [Grant Guidelines](#) provides illustrative examples of eligible project types. The list is intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive. See Sections 5 and 6 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Can a project address both program strategies?

Yes. Projects may advance one or both of the Local Community Benefits Fund's two core strategies. If a project addresses both strategies, the application should clearly describe how the proposed activities and measurable outcomes align with each strategy. See Sections 1 and 6 of the Grant Guidelines for additional detail on program strategies.

What types of costs are eligible or ineligible for grant funding?

Eligible and ineligible costs are described in detail in Section 8 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#). Applicants should review Section 8 carefully to ensure that proposed costs align with program requirements.

Are capital improvement projects eligible?

Yes. Capital improvement projects, including construction, equipment purchases, and site acquisition costs, are eligible provided that the project meets readiness requirements and demonstrates site control consistent with Section 9.3 of [the Grant Guidelines](#).

My project involves purchasing or developing land (for example, a community garden). Is this eligible?

Projects involving land acquisition or development may be eligible, provided that the project advances one of the program strategies, meets readiness requirements, and demonstrates site control. Applicants must provide documentation demonstrating legally binding ownership, leasehold interests, or other authorized site access prior to execution of the Grant Agreement. See Section 9.3 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).



How will the Air District measure progress and success for each project?

Each project must include a Measurable Outcomes Plan that links measurable outcomes to milestones, tasks, indicators, and budget. Grantees will be required to submit periodic progress reports documenting implementation activities, expenditures, and progress toward the measurable outcomes identified in their approved application. At a minimum, grantees must submit semi-annual progress reports and a final project summary report, as described in Section 12.2 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#). See Sections 7 and 12 of the [Grant Guidelines](#) for complete reporting requirements.

Can funds be used for continuous air monitoring projects?

Yes. Air pollution monitoring projects are eligible under the "Reduce Air Pollution and Improve Health Outcomes" strategy. Applications proposing monitoring projects should include a clear plan describing how data will be analyzed, reported, and used to inform actions or measurable outcomes. See Section 6.1 and Appendix C of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Can grant funds cover employee salaries?

Yes. Eligible costs include direct staff costs for Lead Applicants and Co-Applicants, including salaries, benefits, and leave, provided those costs are directly tied to project implementation. See Section 8.1 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Will projects be more competitive if they leverage matching funds?

Matching funds are not required. However, leveraging additional funding may demonstrate project readiness and long-term sustainability. Leverage is considered as part of the overall application review and readiness evaluation. See Sections 8 and 9 of the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Are there any in-kind matching requirements?

No. There are no required in-kind matching contributions for Round 1.

APPLICATION PROCESS, DEADLINES, & QUESTIONS

How do I submit an application?

The application process consists of two steps. First, the Lead Applicant must submit the [Application Information Form](#). After submitting this form, the Lead Applicant will receive an email containing a unique application number and a link to upload the



complete application package. The unique application number must be included in the file names of all uploaded application documents, as described in the application instructions. Including the application number in file names ensures that all materials are properly associated with the correct submission.

Applications must be submitted through the designated portal before the applicable deadline. See Section 10.2 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#) and the application instructions for complete submission requirements.

What are the application deadlines?

Deadlines vary by geography and grant type.

For Benicia and Surrounding Communities, Benicia Catalyst Grant applications are due Friday, May 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm PT. Benicia Seed and Opportunity Grant applications are due Friday, May 29, 2026, at 5:00 pm PT.

For Richmond and Surrounding Communities, all grant types are due Friday, May 29, 2026, at 5:00 pm PT.

Applications submitted after 5:00 pm Pacific Time on the deadline date will not be accepted. See the applicable Call for Projects for complete deadline information.

Where can I submit questions? Is there a deadline to submit questions?

Questions may be submitted to the Community Investments Office at communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov.

Deadlines to submit questions vary by geography and grant type.

For Benicia Catalyst Grants, the final day to submit questions is April 10, 2026, at 5:00 pm PT. Responses will be posted on April 22, 2026.

For Benicia Seed and Opportunity Grants, the final day to submit questions is May 8, 2026, at 5:00 pm PT. Responses will be posted on May 22, 2026.

For Richmond and Surrounding Communities, the final day to submit questions is May 8, 2026, at 5:00 pm PT. Responses will be posted on May 22, 2026.

Questions will be addressed on a rolling basis during the application period, and this FAQ may be updated periodically to reflect common or recurring questions. All submitted questions and answers are publicly available [here](#).

The Air District will make reasonable efforts to respond to questions submitted after the question submission deadlines; however, responses to late-submitted questions



are not guaranteed. Applicants are encouraged to submit questions well in advance of the applicable deadline.

What happens after I submit my application? How long after we apply can we expect to know whether we received an award?

After submission, applications undergo an eligibility review to confirm completeness and compliance with program requirements. Eligible applications are then scored by a combination of technical and community reviewers using the published scoring criteria. Air District staff review scoring results and develop funding recommendations, taking into account available funding and overall portfolio considerations. Final funding decisions are made by the Air District Board of Directors.

The Air District anticipates that the Board of Directors will consider award recommendations between Summer and Fall 2026. All awards are subject to Board approval. See Section 11 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#).

EVALUATION & SCORING CRITERIA

How are proposals evaluated?

The application review process consists of several stages. First, Air District staff conduct an eligibility review to confirm that the application is complete and meets the eligibility requirements described in the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Eligible applications are then scored by a combination of technical and community reviewers using the published scoring criteria in Section 11.3 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#). Technical reviewers may include Air District staff, outside technical experts, and local government representatives. Community reviewers will be selected through a process designed to reflect diversity, lived experience, and expertise, and are subject to applicable conflict-of-interest requirements.

After scoring is completed, Air District staff review the results and develop funding recommendations, taking into account available funding and overall portfolio considerations.

Final funding decisions are made by the Air District Board of Directors. The Board reserves the authority to approve, modify, or decline funding recommendations, subject to the discretion described in Section 11.5 of [the Grant Guidelines](#).

What are the scoring criteria?

Scoring criteria are published in Section 11.3 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#). Criteria include, but are not limited to: alignment with program strategies, demonstration of community needs, strength and structure of partnerships, measurable outcomes



and work plan, project readiness, management and financial capacity, and budget reasonableness. Applicants are encouraged to review Section 11.3 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#) for the complete scoring criteria.

FUNDING & ADMINISTRATION

What is the maximum grant term for each grant type?

Grant terms vary by grant type. Seed Grants may be awarded for up to two years. Opportunity Grants may be awarded for up to three years. Catalyst Grants may be awarded for up to five years. Applicants may propose a grant term within these limits, in yearly increments, based on project scope and readiness. See Section 3 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#) and the applicable Call for Projects.

How will grant funds be distributed?

Grant funds will primarily be distributed on a reimbursement basis. Grantees will submit invoices and supporting documentation for eligible expenses, consistent with the terms of the Grant Agreement. The Air District may provide advance payment of up to 25% of the total grant award to reduce barriers and support timely project initiation. Advance payment is subject to eligibility requirements and the terms described in Section 12.2 (Disbursement and Reporting) of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#).

How many grant awards will be made?

For each eligible geography, the Air District anticipates funding between one and three Catalyst Grants, between one and five Opportunity Grants, and between one and five Seed Grants. Final award numbers are subject to available funding, application quality, and approval by the Air District Board of Directors. See Section 3 of the [Round 1 Grant Guidelines](#) and the applicable Call for Projects.

Will there be additional funding cycles?

Round 1 funding for Benicia and Surrounding Communities and Richmond and Surrounding Communities reflects currently available penalty and mitigation funds associated with those geographies. Future Calls for Projects may be released if additional funds become available. The Community Investments Office reinvests funds collected through enforcement actions into eligible communities consistent with the Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy. The timing of any future solicitation has not yet been determined. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up for Community Investments Office updates to receive information as it becomes available.



What is the difference between the Local Community Benefits Fund and the Regional Community Benefits Fund?

The Local Community Benefits Fund is designed to reinvest penalty and mitigation funds into the specific communities impacted by air quality violations associated with those funds. For Round 1, the Air District is accepting applications for projects located in Benicia, Richmond, and their surrounding communities, consistent with the locations where the violations occurred.

The Regional Community Benefits Fund, as described in Section 2.1 of the [Grant Guidelines](#), is designated to reduce air pollution, mitigate air pollution impacts, and improve health outcomes across communities within the Air District's nine-county jurisdiction. Future programs funded through the Regional Community Benefits Fund will be announced by the Air District as funding becomes available. The timing of any future Regional solicitation has not yet been determined. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up for Community Investments Office updates to receive information as it becomes available.

Is this grant connected to the settlement between the City of Richmond and Chevron?

No. The Local Community Benefits Fund is administered by the Air District and is funded through penalty and mitigation payments associated with violations of Air District regulations. Any separate settlement between the City of Richmond and Chevron is administered by the City and is not part of the Local Community Benefits Fund.

May the Air District award partial funding?

Yes. The Air District Board of Directors may approve full or partial funding for a proposed project, depending on the available funding, application quality, and overall portfolio considerations. All funding decisions are subject to Board approval. See Section 11 of the Round 1 Grant Guidelines.

Is there a set amount of funding allocated to each grant type? Is the funding divided evenly among Seed, Opportunity, and Catalyst grants?

No. The Round 1 Call for Projects does not establish a fixed percentage or monetary split among Seed, Opportunity, and Catalyst Grants. The anticipated number of awards for each grant type is described in the applicable Call for Projects; however, the final award amounts and distribution across grant categories depend on available funding, application quality, and overall portfolio considerations. See Section 3 of the Grant Guidelines and the applicable Call for Projects for additional detail.



Can funds allocated for one eligible community be transferred to another eligible community (for example, from the funding available for Benicia and Surrounding Communities to Richmond and Surrounding Communities)?

No. Funding allocated to one eligible community cannot be transferred to another eligible community.

The Local Community Benefits Fund reinvests penalty and mitigation funds in the specific communities in the communities affected by the air quality violations associated with those funds. As a result, funds are tied to the location of the violation that generated the penalty or mitigation payment and must be used to benefit that community.

For Round 1, this means that funds designated for Benicia and surrounding communities and funds designated for Richmond and surrounding communities are separate funding pools associated with different enforcement actions. These funds cannot be reallocated between geographies. Each Call for Projects is funded by enforcement actions associated with that specific community.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

Will technical assistance be offered?

Yes. Application technical assistance is available and is provided by the Environmental Protection Network (EPN), a national nonprofit organization that leverages the expertise of former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency professionals and regionally deployed community outreach associates.

EPN technical assistance may include support with understanding the [Grant Guidelines](#), developing a strong project narrative, refining measurable outcomes, and reviewing draft application materials. Applicants may request technical assistance directly through EPN here: <https://system.environmentalprotectionnetwork.org/inbound-request/>

Technical assistance does not guarantee funding. See Section 10.1 of the Round 1 [Grant Guidelines](#).

What support can the Air District provide directly?

The Community Investments Office can: answer procedural questions about eligibility, deadlines, and submission requirements, clarify program rules and published guidance, post responses to submitted questions and update the FAQ as needed, support information sharing, and host space for networking opportunities.

To ensure fairness and transparency for all applicants, the Air District does not provide individualized coaching on application strategy, project competitiveness, or



scoring. Programmatic and application questions must be submitted in writing to: communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov.

What upcoming events are available to support applicants?

The Air District and EPN are offering optional events to support applicants during the Round 1 application period.

Grant Development Workshop – March 3, 2026, 9:00 AM PT

Hosted by the Environmental Protection Network, this workshop is designed to support applicants in developing a strong proposal narrative and measurable outcomes plan. EPN volunteer expert Robert Mejia, who has more than 30 years of experience in grant development and management, will provide guidance on strengthening proposal content.

Register here:
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/oDJHdFgCQ_a_KVgiwCGUVQ#/registration

Tips & Tricks Webinar – March 10, 2026, 11:00 AM PT

This webinar focuses on navigating the application portal, uploading required documents, following file naming conventions, and avoiding common submission errors.

Register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EGtOXDxVTTafxsCNF-Nqcg#/registration

In-Person Networking Sessions (details subject to change)

Benicia and Surrounding Communities: Complete the sign-in form [here](#); View submitted responses [here](#).

Richmond and Surrounding Communities: Complete the sign-in form [here](#); View submitted responses [here](#).

Where can I find official program materials?

All official program materials are available on the Community Investments Office webpage:

<https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/community-health/community-investments-office>

How can we learn about other grant programs at the Bay Area Air District?

The Bay Area Air District has multiple grant programs available. Please consider visiting the following websites to familiarize yourself with the Bay Area Air District's offerings:



- Clean Cars for All: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/funding-and-incentives/residents/clean-cars-for-all>
- Funding and Incentives: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/funding-and-incentives/funding-sources>
- James Carey Smith Grant: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/funding-and-incentives/funding-sources/community-grants-program>
- Climate Tech Finance: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/funding-and-incentives/businesses-and-fleets/climate-tech-finance>
- CleanHEET: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/funding-and-incentives/residents/clean-heet-program>