



# **Bay REPAIR (Reinvesting Penalties for Air Improvement and Resilience)**

## **Local Community Benefits Fund**

### Round 1 Grant Guidelines

Bay Area Air District  
January 14, 2026

The official version of this document is the English version.

Please read this document completely before filling out an application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. The Air District reserves the right to modify this solicitation at its sole discretion.

If you have questions about the grant program or application process, please contact the Air District's Community Investments Office at [communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov](mailto:communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov).



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## SECTION 1: SUMMARY

Local Community Benefits Fund	
<b>Program Goals</b>	<p>The Local Community Benefits Fund distributes funding from the Air District's Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy and other funds from enforcement actions. The Program Goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce air pollution or mitigate its impacts, improve public health outcomes, and build economic resilience for a just transition away from the harmful effects of a fossil-fuel-based economy</li><li>• Advance integrated projects to holistically meet community needs</li><li>• Strengthen community-led and collaborative solutions</li></ul>
<b>Grant Types</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Seed Grants</b> funds smaller-scale projects between \$100,000 - \$200,000 led by non-profit organizations</li><li>• <b>Opportunity Grants</b> funds multi-stakeholder collaboration over one project or multiple projects. Grant size ranges between \$500,000 - \$5 million.</li><li>• <b>Catalyst Grants</b> funds multi-stakeholder collaboration over multiple projects. Grant size ranges between \$10 - \$40 million; see Call for Project documents for more details.</li></ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>The Local Community Benefits Fund seeks to strengthen community-led and collaborative solutions. For Opportunity and Catalyst Grants, Lead Applicants must partner with Co-Applicant(s) to implement projects.</p> <p>Eligible Lead Applicants include entities such as most nonprofit organizations, local government agencies, cities, counties, schools, unions and California Native American Tribes.</p>
<b>Strategies</b>	<p>All projects must advance one of the below strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce air pollution and improve health outcomes</li><li>• Build economic resilience for a just transition</li></ul>
<b>Projects</b>	<p>Eligible projects include but are not limited to indoor air quality improvements, energy efficiency, air pollution monitoring, emissions reduction and exposure strategies, public health strategies, and just transition strategies.</p>
<b>Anticipated Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>As early as January 29, 2026:</b> Grant Application Opens</li><li>• <b>May 1, 2026:</b> Grant Application deadline</li><li>• <b>Summer - Fall 2026:</b> Grant recommendations considered by Board of Directors</li><li>• <b>Late 2026 - 2027:</b> Grant Agreements finalized and Grantees commence work</li></ul> <p>This schedule is tentative and contingent upon the Board of Directors' adoption of final Grant Guidelines. Any updates to this timeline will be updated on the <a href="#">Air District</a> website.</p>



## SECTION 2: PROGRAM INFORMATION

### 2.1 Background

#### **Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy**

In May 2024, the Bay Area Air District (Air District) adopted the Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy to directly support communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution. When penalties are assessed against entities violating air quality regulations, this policy enables penalty funds to be reinvested directly back to communities through impactful projects. Some facilities also commit to providing mitigation funds to improve air quality in the communities affected by their violations.

Funding from the Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy is administered through the Bay REPAIR (Reinvesting Penalties for Air Improvement and Resilience) program. The Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy includes a funding formula: after meeting a predetermined threshold and split for specific penalty amounts, 80% of funds are allocated to the Local Community Benefits Fund, and 20% to the Regional Community Benefits Fund.

- The Local Community Benefits Fund is designated to reduce air pollution, mitigate air pollution impacts, and improve health outcomes in the specific communities affected by the air quality violations that led to the penalty.
  - This Guidelines document focuses on the Local Community Benefits Fund.
- The Regional Community Benefits Fund is designated to reduce air pollution, mitigate air pollution impacts, and improve health outcomes across the communities within the Air District's jurisdiction. Future programs will disburse funding from the Regional Community Benefits Fund.

#### **Community Investments Office**

In December 2024, the Air District established the Community Investments Office (CIO) to develop and manage tailored programs for funding streams generated by penalties and other funds. The CIO oversees the Bay REPAIR program, which disburses funding from the Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy and other funds from enforcement actions. The CIO directs these resources back into the communities where violations occurred to improve community health and air quality.

The Air District has identified the following goals to guide the CIO's overall operations and ensure that funds from enforcement actions directly benefit communities impacted by air pollution:

- Direct funding to projects that improve air quality and public health in areas disproportionately impacted by air pollution.



- Increase equitable access to resources, projects, and programs.
- Collaborate with impacted communities to identify and prioritize air quality related needs and solutions.
- Ensure investments are aligned with community needs by engaging local leaders, non-profits, businesses, and community members.
- Provide timely, clear, and accessible public information regarding penalty assessments and fund availability.

As a new office, the Community Investments Office is building its internal operations and is currently limited in its ability to administer many small grants.

## 2.2 Local Community Benefits Fund

The Local Community Benefits Fund reinvests penalties and mitigation funds in the specific communities affected by the air quality violations associated with those funds. The Local Community Benefits Fund Program Goals are to:

- Reduce air pollution or mitigate its impacts, improve public health outcomes, and build economic resilience for a just transition away from the harmful effects of a fossil-fuel-based economy;
- Advance integrated projects to holistically meet community needs;
- Strengthen community-driven and collaborative solutions.

In general, funds derived from penalties can be used for projects that further any of these goals. Funds derived from mitigation payments may be more limited, depending on the terms under which those mitigation payments are made (e.g., the Richmond Community Air Quality Fund).

## SECTION 3: GRANT TYPES

Awards from the Local Community Benefits Fund are divided into three grant types. Calls for Projects for specific communities will be released as funding is made available. Please refer to the Call for Projects documents for specific details.

### 3.1 Seed Grant

- Seed Grants fund smaller-scale projects led by non-profit organizations. Each application should center on one project. Applications from entities that do not have sufficient management or financial capacity to apply for an Opportunity or Catalyst Grant will be prioritized.
- Open to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations only. Co-Applicants are not required or allowed.



- Grant size ranges between \$100,000 - \$200,000. Applicants may identify the requested grant amount that best fits their needs within this range.
- Grant terms up to two years. Applicants may identify the grant term that best fits their needs and grant management capacity within this range, in yearly increments (e.g., one year, two years).
- Eligible communities vary; see Call for Projects documents.

### 3.2 Opportunity Grant

- Opportunity Grants fund multi-stakeholder collaboration over one or more projects. Partners should collaborate to ensure robust and community-driven implementation outcomes.
- Lead Applicant must partner with at least one Co-Applicant(s).
- Grant size ranges between \$500,000 - \$5 million. Applicants may identify the requested grant amount that best fits their needs within this range.
- Grant terms up to three years. Applicants may identify the grant term that best fits their needs and grant management capacity within this range, in yearly increments (e.g., one year, two years).
- Eligible communities vary; see Call for Projects documents.

#### Opportunity Grant: Applications for Re-Granting

- Opportunity Grant applications may propose re-granting funds to other entities, particularly smaller entities with lower capacity.
- Such re-granting proposals are exempt from the Co-Applicant requirement.
- Re-granting must adhere to and be carried out in accordance with these Guidelines, including the Measurable Outcomes Plan and reporting requirements
- Applicants must demonstrate overall management capacity sufficient to administer a regranting process, and will be asked to speak to this in their application.
- If awarded, the Grantee must submit any criteria for re-granting to the Air District. The Air District must approve submitted criteria before requests for proposals can be offered.

### 3.3 Catalyst Grant

- Catalyst Grants fund multi-stakeholder collaboration over multiple projects. Applicants must integrate multiple projects that holistically address multiple community needs.
- Lead Applicant must partner with multiple Co-Applicants.



- Grant size ranges between \$10 - \$40 million; see Call for Projects documents for more details. Applicants may identify the requested grant amount that best fits their needs within this range.
- Grant terms up to five years. Applicants may identify the grant term that best fits their needs and grant management capacity within this range, in yearly increments (e.g., one year, two years).
- Eligible communities vary; see Call for Projects documents.

Across all three grant types, applicants may propose a mix of planning, capacity building and implementation activities needed to achieve measurable outcomes. Applicants may also propose a mix of extending, expanding and developing new projects. Note that overall, the Local Community Benefits Fund is focused on funding consolidated, larger grants with multiple projects that result in more immediate benefits within the eligible communities.

## SECTION 4: ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

### 4.1 Partnerships

The Local Community Benefits Fund seeks to strengthen community-led and collaborative solutions. Successful implementation of complex projects that meet multiple community needs requires strong partnerships. Partners should collaborate across multiple sectors, as relevant, to systematically address multiple community needs:

For Opportunity and Catalyst Grants, Lead Applicants must partner with Co-Applicant(s) to carry out their grant activities and deliverables.

- Opportunity Grant: Lead Applicant must partner with at least one Co-Applicant. Partners should collaborate on one or more projects to ensure robust and community-driven implementation outcomes.
- Catalyst Grant: Lead Applicant must partner with multiple Co-Applicants. Partners should collaborate on an application that includes multiple coordinated projects to address diverse community needs.

All applicants should have clearly defined scopes of work, make substantive contributions to project implementation and outcomes, and receive budget allocations that align commensurately with their scope of work. At least 25% of the overall budget should be allocated to Co-Applicant(s) for the Opportunity and Catalyst Grants, commensurate with their project scope.



Priority in scoring will be awarded to applications that demonstrate strong multi-stakeholder partnerships rooted in community priorities and leadership, and that identify clearly defined and meaningful co-management structures.

The Lead Applicant will administer sub-awards to Co-Applicant(s) to implement project activities and must have the capacity to build collaboration across multiple entities. The Lead Applicant will be responsible for overall grant performance, project deliverables, reporting and the financial management of the grant.

Awarded Opportunity and Catalyst Grantees will develop a Partnership Agreement to govern grant implementation. After grant awards, the Air District will provide Partnership Agreement guidance and the Lead Applicant (or Grantee) must submit an executed Partnership Agreement signed by all parties. The Partnership Agreement describes the governance and financial relationships between the Lead Applicant and the Co-Applicant(s), including the following items:

- Identification of the Grantee / Lead Applicant.
- Identification of partners / Co-Applicant(s).
- Identification of roles and responsibilities of the Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s) for project activities.
- Legal and financial considerations: including the process the Lead Applicant will use to pass payments through or reimburse Co-Applicant(s) and/or provide advance payment to Co-Applicant(s)
- Transparent decision-making processes.
- If Tribes are included as Lead Applicants or Co-Applicant(s), Tribes' sovereign status should be respected and upheld through the development of the Partnership Structure. The Partnership Structure should outline measures that will be taken to protect the confidentiality of Tribal data and Traditional Ecological Knowledge collected or shared as part of grant activities.

## 4.2 Eligible Lead Applicants

Entities eligible to apply as Lead Applicants include:

- Nonprofit organizations holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, including community-based organizations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, faith-based organizations, and community development finance institutions.
- Local government agencies, including cities, counties, joint powers authority, special districts, councils of governments, and other public agencies.
- Public schools, school districts, public universities and colleges.



- Unions holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(5) of the federal Internal Revenue Code.
- California Native American Tribes. For the purposes of this grant, this includes all Federally Recognized Tribes on the most recent notice of the Federal register, or a non-federally recognized California Tribal government on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission.

Organizations and entities previously or currently awarded funding by the Air District through other programs are eligible to apply.

Lead Applicants may submit up to one application each for a Catalyst, Opportunity and Seed Grant (for Seed Grants, provided that the entity is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

#### 4.3 Eligible Co-Applicants

Eligible Co-Applicant entities include the organizations listed above in the Eligible Lead Applicants section. Eligible Co-Applicants may also include for-profit businesses such as contractors, consultants, technical assistance providers and vendors.

There is no limit on the number or categories of applications a Co-Applicant may join.

#### 4.4 Ineligible Applicants

Entities not eligible to apply either as a Lead Applicant or as a Co-Applicant include but are not limited to:

- Individuals.
- Current Air District employees and their immediate family.
- Any entity in which a Board member has a financial interest that would disqualify the Air District from contracting with the entity.
- Any entity that is the source of the penalty funds under the specific Call for Projects.

#### 4.5 Eligible Communities

Projects must be located within the eligible communities boundaries. Please see the specific Call for Projects documents for more details.



## SECTION 5: COMMUNITY NEEDS

### 5.1 Community Impact

Projects must be driven by community-identified needs, priorities, and solutions, and should address an environmental justice, public health and/or just transition challenge(s). Applications are encouraged to use quantitative and qualitative data to assess and demonstrate the underlying challenge and community needs.

Applicants will be asked to describe the history of community engagement related to the project, and how community-based organizations, residents and other key stakeholders were meaningfully involved in the determination of community needs.

After identifying community needs, applications must describe the overall impact they seek to achieve, and how the measurable outcomes will demonstrate progress toward achieving that impact.

### 5.2 Community Engagement

To ensure meaningful community leadership through the life cycle of the project, projects must include ongoing community engagement. This will ensure that grant implementation and oversight continue to be informed by community feedback and expertise, particularly feedback from residents, community-based organizations, and other key stakeholders.

Meaningful community engagement should include two-way communication and mechanisms for incorporating community feedback throughout the life cycle of the project. Applications must identify how the applicant will engage, partner and be responsive to diverse community members through grant implementation, including methods that will be used to:

- Inform community members on implementation progress, project benefits available to community members, and key indicator tracking.
- Solicit and incorporate community feedback during grant implementation.

## SECTION 6: STRATEGIES

All projects must advance one of the Local Community Benefit Fund's strategies below.

### 6.1 Reduce Air Pollution and Improve Health Outcomes

The purpose of this strategy is to mitigate air pollution harm caused in the past, address health impacts exacerbated by air pollution experienced in the present, and prevent and identify new opportunities to avoid potential air pollution harm in the future. This can be



done through actions that directly reduce air pollution emissions, directly reduce human exposure to air pollution emissions, enable exposure reductions through increased understanding of how air pollution emissions impact air quality at the community scale, or demonstrably and tangibly provide a positive impact to health and wellbeing.

Health impacts resulting from air pollution include, but are not limited to, acute respiratory issues such as asthma, chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, and severe illnesses such as cancer. Chronic air pollution exposure increases these risks and contributes to compounding negative effects on overall health. This air pollution reduction and mitigation strategy complements the Air District's statutory mandate to regulate stationary sources of air pollution.

This strategy aims to reduce and mitigate health harming air pollutants to improve health outcomes. Many of these actions can reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, which can also negatively impact public health. Some potential projects include:

- Indoor air quality improvements
- Green and healthy residential and public buildings
- Air pollution monitoring
- Emissions reduction and exposure reduction strategies
- Urban greening
- Health programming for communities impacted by air pollution

Please see Appendix C for a list of illustrative eligible project types.

## 6.2 Build Economic Resilience for a Just Transition

The purpose of this strategy is to build economic resilience that also delivers critical benefits related to air quality and public health. This strategy provides targeted economic support to communities experiencing the transition away from fossil fuels, such as refinery closures and other environment-related disruptions. While these transitions are necessary to address air quality impacts in fenceline communities and the broader climate crisis, they risk causing extreme economic disruption in communities—particularly for those who have borne the brunt of pollution from industrial facilities.

This strategy aims to create responsive and community-directed economic support that helps residents and workers weather the transition away from fossil fuels and their associated air quality and public health impacts. Under this strategy, projects may:

- Promote high-road economic development that ensures high-quality local jobs benefitting the environment and public health are created



- Build economic resilience through planning and projects that deliver air quality and related health benefits and create clean economy pathways

Some potential projects include:

- Workforce development and training programs focused on high-quality employment, prioritizing local residents and displaced and at-risk workers
- Economic diversification initiatives that support the transition away from fossil fuels and attract clean technology
- Community planning to re-envision land use
- Redevelopment planning for industrial and polluted properties
- Community oversight task forces to guide just transition planning

Please see Appendix C for a list of illustrative eligible project types.

## SECTION 7: MEASURABLE OUTCOMES PLAN

For each project, applicants must develop a Measurable Outcomes Plan. The Measurable Outcomes Plan ties measurable outcomes to milestones, activities, indicator tracking and the requested budget.

### 7.1 Measurable Outcomes and Indicators

All projects must provide meaningful and measurable outcomes that will be achieved through the project within the grant term. Measurable outcomes are defined as the specific result or change that occurs as a direct consequence of a project. Both quantitative and qualitative outcomes may be submitted; tracking of quantitative outcomes is recommended where applicable.

Once measurable outcomes have been identified, applications should then identify quantitative and qualitative indicators that will be used to track project progress. Indicators (e.g., number of respiratory health services offered) track progress towards achieving measurable outcomes (e.g., improved respiratory health by 15%).

Measurable Outcome	Indicator(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

For the purposes of application submission, applicants should make an informed estimate



of the measurable outcomes that will be achieved and the indicators that will be utilized to track project progress. Please visit the [Air District](#) website for a resource guide on developing measurable outcomes.

Technical assistance during the application phase may support applicants to identify appropriate measurable outcomes for their proposals, and technical assistance during grant implementation for selected awardees may support in strengthening data metrics and accountability.

## 7.2 Milestones

Applicants will be required to identify key project milestones and tasks required to implement projects and achieve measurable outcomes. Milestones are significant markers or phases in a project, such as deliverables or completed phases of work. Tasks are the specific steps taken to reach each milestone.

<b>Milestone #1:</b>		
<b>Measurable Outcomes Alignment:</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Lead Entity</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>

  

<b>Milestone #2:</b>		
<b>Measurable Outcomes Alignment:</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Lead Entity</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>

## SECTION 8: ELIGIBLE COSTS

### 8.1 Eligible Costs

Eligible direct costs are direct costs for goods or services that are incurred during the grant term, and that are directly tied to project implementation. Costs should not exceed those which a prudent person would incur and should be consistent with market prices for comparable goods and services.

Indirect costs refer to the general costs of operations such as rent, utilities, administrative staff, insurance, and legal services, and are allowable up to 15% of the total budget.

Eligible costs include but are not limited to:



- Direct staff costs for the Lead and Co-Applicant(s), including salaries at an hourly rate, benefits, and leave
- Subcontractors. Applicants will be asked to specify the purpose and estimated cost for typical contractual services.
- Professional services consultants. Consultant costs should be below 25% of the budget
- Materials, supplies and equipment. Purchases over \$5,000 must be itemized.
- Pre-development costs, such as conceptual designs, and planning and feasibility studies
- Construction costs
- Site acquisition costs
- Community engagement costs, including but not limited to:
  - Outreach and engagement materials
  - Translation and interpretation
  - Facilitation for community meetings
  - Participant compensation for engagement in activities such as meetings, design charrettes or surveys. These events should be documented with deliverables such as sign-in sheets or survey data.
  - Transportation stipends
  - Rental and insurance costs associated with equipment or facilities
  - Food and refreshments, such as during an evening community meeting that takes place during typical dinner hours
  - Provision of childcare services during community meetings or events
- Capacity building and training costs
- Travel costs directly tied to grant implementation
- Fiscal sponsorship costs
- Evaluation and reporting activities
- Other costs. For other direct costs that do not fit into any of the above budget categories, please list each item in sufficient detail so that Air District staff may determine the reasonableness and allowability of the cost
- Contingency costs up to 10% of the application's total direct costs. Contingency costs may be set aside to cover unforeseen expenses or unexpected costs that may arise during the grant term
- Indirect costs up to 15%

## 8.2 Ineligible Costs

Ineligible costs include but are not limited to:



- Cost of preparing or submitting the grant application
- Operations and maintenance costs outside of the grant term
- Direct lobbying that seeks to influence an elected or public official on an issue, such as passage of a legislative bill
- Public lobbying that seeks to build political support among the general public for an issue or candidate
- Out-of-state travel and incidental costs associated with travel
- Alcohol, cannabis, or other intoxicants
- Luxury or gourmet food, refreshment, or travel upgrades
- Endowment campaigns
- Fundraising activities
- Marketing of products or technologies for profit
- Costs that occur outside of the grant agreement term

If an application recommended for an award includes ineligible costs, those costs will be excluded, and the project's recommended total award will be adjusted accordingly.

## SECTION 9: READINESS REQUIREMENTS

### 9.1 Management Capacity

The Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s) must demonstrate the ability to manage and implement complex projects. The Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s) must also demonstrate the capacity to manage other grant components such as partner coordination, community engagement, and reporting. To demonstrate management capacity, applications must:

- Describe organizational experience or examples of successful completion of projects of similar scope and size
- Identify the Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant responsible for leading each project

### 9.2 Financial Capacity

Applicants must demonstrate sufficient financial capacity to manage the grant, including evidence of sufficient cash flow to manage reimbursement-based grant funding.

- Copies of annual organizational budgets. Full requirements are detailed in the application.
- Applicants that are nonprofit organizations or for-profit business entities must provide financial statements including Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities (for nonprofit organizations) and Balance Sheet and P&L/Income



Statement (for for-profit business entities). Specific requirements are set forth in the application materials.

- Lead Applicants and Co-Applicant(s) that are non-profit organizations must submit a copy of their most recent Federal Form 990 and a copy of the organization's IRS 501(c) Tax Determination Letter.
  - If a non-profit Lead Applicant or Co-Applicant is partnering with a fiscal sponsor, the sponsor must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Applicant must additionally provide the fiscal sponsor's most recent Federal Form 990, a copy of the fiscal sponsor's IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Determination Letter, a letter of fiscal sponsorship, and the fiscal sponsor's financial statements.
  - Lead Applicants and certain Co-Applicants (depending on the amount of requested grant funds) that are required to complete a single audit must provide it.

## 9.3 Approvals & Alignment

Applications must demonstrate that they are able to begin grant performance and complete project deliverables within the grant term:

- Permits and approvals: Applications must identify any necessary permits or approvals required to implement projects, and demonstrate that such permits or approvals can be obtained within the grant term.
- Site control: Applicants must demonstrate that they own or control the site where a project will be located or that they have legally binding access or permission to the site. Demonstration of site control will be required by the time of the execution of the Grant Agreement.
- Alignment with existing initiatives or plans: Applications should demonstrate if projects are consistent with any community, local, regional or statewide initiatives or plans (e.g., Climate Action Plans, the Community Air Protection Program (AB 617) etc.)
- Operations and maintenance: Applications must demonstrate how operations and maintenance of any physical infrastructure will be assured during and after the grant term. Applications must describe their operations and maintenance plan and financing approach for physical infrastructure projects.

# SECTION 10: APPLICATION SUBMISSION

## 10.1 Technical Assistance

Application technical assistance will be offered and prioritized for applicants with fewer resources or limited grant experience. Please visit the [Air District](#) website for more information.



## 10.2 Application Process

Application materials and templates will be available on the [Air District](#) website. The application process consists of two primary steps:

- **Step 1: Submit Application Information Form** - The Lead Applicant submits an Application Information Form. This form requests a brief outline of the overall application and contact information for the Lead Applicant, but does not request application documents or details.
  - a. The Air District recommends that the Lead Applicant submit the Application Information Form early to reduce the risk of technical difficulties. The Lead Applicant may submit the Application Information Form as soon as they know they will be applying, without waiting for other application materials to be completed.
- **Step 2: Upload Application Package** - After submitting the Application Information Form, the Lead Applicant will receive an email with an automatically generated unique application number and a link to a portal to upload application documents.

Applications are due **Friday, May 1 at 5:00 pm Pacific Standard Time**. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications in advance to avoid any technical difficulties.

Please contact the Air District at [communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov](mailto:communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov) with any technical issues or questions.

## SECTION 11: APPLICATION REVIEW

The application review process consists of the following steps:

1. Eligibility Review: Air District staff review each submission for completeness, eligibility, and alignment with the Round 1 requirements.
2. Application Scoring: Eligible applications are scored by a mix of technical and community reviewers using the published scoring rubric for the grant type.
3. Funding Recommendations: Air District staff review scoring results and consider overall portfolio balance (using criteria such as available funding for each grant type, geographic distribution, project diversity and overlap) before developing funding recommendations.
4. Grant Selection and Award: The Air District Board of Directors considers staff recommendations and makes final funding decisions.



## 11.1 Eligibility Review

To be eligible for consideration, applications must be fully complete and submitted before the due date. Air District staff will review all applications for the following components:

### General Completeness

- Application materials are complete and sufficient to assess the feasibility of the proposed project(s) and its compliance with the application requirements.

### Applicant Eligibility

- Lead Applicant is an eligible organization.
- Co-Applicant(s) is an/are eligible organization(s) (*for Opportunity and Catalyst Grants*).
- Application geography is within the eligible communities criteria. See specific Call for Projects document for more information.
- Applicants demonstrate financial capacity to effectively manage grant funds, either directly or through a qualified fiscal sponsor:
  - Established accounting systems and internal controls to track grant expenditures and produce timely, accurate financial reports.
  - No unresolved material audit findings related to financial management or grant compliance.
  - Sufficient financial stability and management systems to sustain operations and fulfill grant obligations throughout the project period.
  - Grant amount on an annual basis should generally not exceed 50% of the total annual operating budget without demonstrated capacity to scale.
  - In addition, applicants that are nonprofit organizations or for-profit business entities must:
    - Be current with all required federal and state filings (IRS Form 990/tax returns, Secretary of State registrations)
    - Be in good standing with applicable regulatory agencies; no outstanding tax liens or unresolved tax issues
    - Show adequate liquidity to manage cash flow during the grant period

### Application Materials

A complete application package consists of the following documents. Template documents can be found on the [Air District](#) website.



	<b>Application Document</b>	<b>Seed Grant</b>	<b>Opportunity and Catalyst Grant</b>
1	<u>Applicants and Project(s) Summary</u> : Excel summary of Lead and Co-Applicants and project(s).		x
2	<u>Overall Narrative</u> : Narrative summarizing the overall application.		x
3	<u>Project Narrative(s)</u> : Narrative for each project included in the application.	x	x
4	<u>Budget</u> : Excel budget, outlining costs by project as well as an overall budget summary.	x	x
5	<u>Financial Management</u> : Narrative certifying as to financial management capacity.	x	x
6	<u>Annual Organizational Budgets for Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s)</u> : Copy of annual organizational budgets. The organizational budget is required for all applicants, including those partnering with a fiscal sponsor. Full requirements are detailed in the application.	x	x
7	<u>Additional Financial Documentation</u> including financial statements, IRS 501(c) determination letters, Form 990s, single audits, and fiscal sponsor, as applicable. Full requirements set forth in application.	x	x
8	<u>Additional documentation</u> to verify that the applicant has met any necessary approvals, permits or other requirements to begin grant implementation.	x	x
9	<u>References</u> : Provide two references that can speak to the Lead Applicant's ability and capacity to complete the work outlined in the application.	x	x

## 11.2 Application Scoring

Eligible applications will be scored by technical and community reviewers.

- Technical reviewers consist of stakeholders such as Air District staff, outside technical experts and local government officials.
- Community reviewers consist of community stakeholders who hold strong community knowledge and expertise. Community reviewers will be selected by the



Air District through a process designed to reflect diversity, lived experience and expertise. Should the eligible communities geography overlap with an Assembly Bill 617 Community Health Protection Program, at least one seat will be reserved for an Assembly Bill 617 Community Steering Committee representative. Community reviewers receive a stipend for their time.

The [Air District](#) website will be updated with information on the process to recruit and select community reviewers.

Reviewers will be subject to applicable conflict-of-interest limitations on participating in Air District decision-making.

### 11.3 Scoring Criteria

Applications will be scored according to the following scoring criteria:

Category	Description	Score
<b>Overall Narrative (<i>Opportunity and Catalyst Grants</i>)</b>		
Proposal Vision	Overall vision aligned with the Local Community Benefits Fund Program Goals and community needs	10
Partnership Composition	Multi-stakeholder partnerships rooted in community priorities and leadership with demonstrated organizational connections to the community	10
Partnership Co-Management Structure	Meaningful co-management structures with clear roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes that outline how partners will collaborate	10
Lead Applicant Management Capacity	Demonstrated ability and dedicated resources to oversee overall implementation	10
Lead Applicant Financial Capacity	Demonstrated ability to manage public funds efficiently with clear financial management and tracking practices	10
		<u>50</u>
<b>Project Narrative (<i>Seed, Opportunity and Catalyst Grants</i>)</b>		
Strategy Alignment	Clear and compelling alignment with one of the Local Community Benefit Fund's strategies	10
Community Need	Identification of specific community needs rooted in community engagement	10
Community Impact	Feasible project approach to addressing identified community needs and challenges	10
Community Engagement	Specific community engagement strategies during project implementation	10
Measurable Outcomes	Specific, feasible, meaningful, and measurable outcomes tied to Local Community Benefits Fund Program Goals with clear indicators	10



Workplan	Detailed Measurable Outcomes Plan linking measurable outcomes to project tasks and milestones	10
Budget	Reasonable and justified budget sufficient to achieve identified measurable outcomes	10
Project Lead Capacity	Demonstrated management capacity, dedicated staffing/resources and experience necessary to complete the proposed project	10
Project Readiness	Identification of necessary permits, approvals, and site control with concrete steps to obtain them, where applicable	10
Alignment with Local, Regional or State Priorities	Demonstrated support from and alignment with existing community, local, regional or statewide priorities or initiatives	10
		<u>100</u>

## 11.4 Funding Recommendations

Air District staff review the highest scoring applications, considering criteria such as the available funding for each grant type, geographical diversity and representation, and project diversity and overlap. Air District staff may check references listed in the application as well as additional references, including local government entities in the project area.

Air District staff will finalize a recommended portfolio of projects for funding.

## 11.5 Grant Selection and Award

The Air District's Board of Directors will make the final selection of projects, and may elect not to fund projects or select different projects from within the applicant pool for funding. The Air District reserves the right not to award a grant, or award only a portion of a grant, as subject to available funding. If the Air District awards an amount that differs from the amount requested, Air District staff will work with the grantee to align deliverables, outcomes, and timelines appropriately.

At its sole discretion, the Air District Board of Directors reserves the right, but has no obligation, to do any of the following at any time:

- Partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of applications.
- Cancel, modify, extend, or amend a grant solicitation.
- Revise the amount of funds available or the terms specified in this Guidelines document or subsequent Call for Projects
- Adjust evaluation criteria during the application period and provide notice to applicants on the [Air District](#) website.



- Change the evaluation process as described in these Guidelines.
- Reject any applications received for any or no reason, to the extent permitted by law.

## SECTION 12: GRANT AWARDS

### 12.1 Grant Agreement & Administration

The Lead Applicant, now Grantee, and the Air District will work together to develop a Grant Agreement that sets the terms and conditions of the grant, including reporting requirements. The process to arrive at a Grant Agreement requires ensuring detailed compliance with the Air District's policies.

Final approval for funding occurs when a Grant Agreement has been signed by both the Grantee and the Air District. Upon execution of the Grant Agreement, the Grantee may commence work on funded activities. Grantees cannot be paid for activities that occur prior to execution of the Grant Agreement.

### 12.2 Disbursement & Reporting

#### Advance Payment

The Air District may provide advance payment to reduce barriers and to ensure that grant activities are initiated in a timely manner. Grantees that receive advance payment must develop and provide a process for all project partners to request and receive advance payment and require all project partners to comply with the reporting terms.

- Advance payment shall not exceed 25% of the full grant award.
- Advance payment will be prioritized for Grantees with low cash reserves.
- To receive advance payment, Grantees must:
  - Compile and provide spending plans for each Partner receiving advance payment
  - Complete an advance payment request form with supporting documentation
- Advance payment funds must be disbursed into a federally insured and interest-bearing account, and accumulated interest will be considered as part of project funding.
- The complete schedule, process and reporting requirements for advance pay will be determined in the Grant Agreement.
- Advance payment is solely at the discretion of the Air District, and eligibility and advance payment processes may be subject to change.

#### Grant Payment



The payment of funds will be established in the Grant Agreement for each project and will be considered as often as quarterly. No funds will be released until the Grant Agreement has been fully executed by the Grantee and the Air District.

With each reimbursement request, grantees must submit itemized invoices accompanied by descriptions of deliverables and proof of fund expenditures including, but not limited to, payroll records, subcontractor invoices, and copies of receipts. Payments of eligible costs will be considered as often as quarterly.

Upon execution of their grant agreements, Grantees are legally bound to meet certain requirements including, but not limited to:

- Submitting periodic progress reports.
- Submitting a final report.
- Notifying the Air District in advance of any change in project implementation.

Should a Grantee encounter the need to make any change to the originally agreed upon scope of work, the Grantee must contact the Air District in writing, in advance, to amend the scope of work of the Grant Agreement. Any work completed before the execution of the Grant Agreement, or any work outside of the original scope completed before amendment of the Work Plan, will not be eligible for funding.

If any material information in a Grantee's application is later determined to be false, misleading, or materially incomplete, or if a Grantee does not comply with all the terms and conditions of a Grant Agreement or fails to complete the project deliverables, the Grantee may be required to repay a portion or all the funds granted, and the Grantee may be ineligible to participate in future Air District grant programs.

## **Reporting Progress & Results**

At a minimum, Grantees will submit semi-annual progress reports and one final project summary report. Reports must include:

- Accounting statements documenting the lead agency's grant revenue.
- Expenditures.
- Demographics of end-recipients.
- A narrative demonstrating progress toward project goals and objectives.

Reports are used to analyze the impact of the Air District's investments and assist in shaping future grant programs. All reports will be used to share information and promote successes among grantees and with the greater Bay Area community. Report formats, templates, and requirements will be provided to grantees with their award materials.



Grantees may be asked to participate in additional evaluation activities, such as peer-to-peer learning sessions and convenings, to assess project and program progress, challenges, successes and lessons learned.



## APPENDIX A: ABOUT THE AIR DISTRICT

The Air District improves air quality to protect public health, reduces historical and current environmental inequities, and mitigate climate change and its impacts.

Formed in 1955, the Air District is responsible for regulating stationary sources of pollution in nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area, including permanent facilities found at ports, oil refineries, and large industrial complexes. The Air District adopts regulations to improve air quality, issues air quality permits, enforces air quality regulations, funds cleaner cars and trucks, and partners with local governments to lower emissions. These efforts, along with those of our partners at the California Air Resources Board, have made significant improvements in air quality over the years. However, communities located near freeways, busy roadways, distribution centers, and large industrial facilities are exposed to higher levels of air pollution than other parts of the Bay Area. These communities are also most often lower-income communities of color and have not always shared equally in air quality improvements.

In 2024, the Air District adopted a 2024-2029 Strategic Plan detailing how the Air District will transform our work to address air quality issues more effectively, with a focus on the local communities most overburdened by air pollution. The [2024-2029 Strategic Plan](#) is centered on four primary goals: achieving impact, advancing environmental justice, foster cohesion and inclusion, and maintaining an effective, accountable, and customer-oriented organization.

The Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy is an important step toward creating a process that incorporates community priorities into how penalty funds are reinvested. The program supports projects that respond to community needs, build partnerships, and reduce disparities in air pollution. The Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy is also anchored in three of the Air District's core values:

- Environmental Justice – We will integrate environmental justice principles within all aspects of this program as we seek enhanced environmental justice outcomes for communities identified as part of this program.
- Partnership – We value our partners and will continue to work to foster meaningful collaboration with grantees as they complete their projects.
- Trust – We are dedicated to gaining public trust by grounding this program and our policies in law, science and the lived experience of our communities.

In addition to supporting the Air District's core values, this program also directly advances two of the strategies outlined in the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan to Advance Environmental Justice including:



- Strategy 2.1 Community Partnership: We will develop partnerships with communities so they can directly participate in the solutions to the air quality problems that impact them.
- Strategy 2.8 Community-Directed Funds: We will manage funds to benefit communities in partnership with those communities, including the money that the Air District collects in penalties from air pollution violations that affect communities.



## APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS

**Air Pollutants** – Any substance in the air that can have harmful effects on human health, the environment, or both. Air pollutants can come from natural sources, such as wildfires, or from human activities, including industrial processes, transportation, and energy production. Common air pollutants include particulate matter (PM), ozone, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, toxic air contaminants, and carbon monoxide.

**Basic Worker Protection Standards** – At a minimum, compliance with core labor protections related to: (1) wage and hour laws (paying at least the applicable minimum wage, overtime, and required breaks); (2) proper worker classification (for example, not misclassifying employees as independent contractors); and (3) workplace health and safety rules enforced by OSHA and Cal/OSHA. For this program, applicants must follow all applicable labor laws and ensure that contractors and sub-contractors do the same when projects involve paid workers.

**Co-Applicant** – An eligible partner organization named in the application that receives sub-awards from the Lead Applicant and co-implements project activities as part of a shared Partnership Structure.

**Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy** – An Air District policy that directs a portion of monetary penalties from air quality violations back into the communities harmed by those violations.

**Environmental Justice** – Environmental justice has two primary types of definitions – one type generated by the advocacy community and one generated by government, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Both are valuable in understanding environmental justice.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as, "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work."

Dr. Bunyan Bryant, a pioneering environmental justice scholar, defines environmental justice as "...cultural norms and values, rules, regulations, behaviors, policies, and decisions [that] support sustainable communities where people can interact with confidence that the environment is safe, nurturing, and productive. Environmental justice is served when



people can realize their highest potential ... where both cultural and biological diversity are respected and highly revered and where distributive justice prevails.

**Grant Types (Seed, Opportunity, Catalyst)** – The Local Community Benefits Fund offers three main grant sizes. Specific dollar ranges may vary by Call for Projects.

- Seed Grants – Smaller grants, typically for \$100,000–\$200,000 and up to 2 years, reserved for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. No Co-Applicant is required.
- Opportunity Grants – Mid-sized grants, typically for \$500,000–\$5 million and up to 3 years, where a Lead Applicant must partner with at least one Co-Applicant over one or more projects.
- Catalyst Grants – Large, multi-year grants, typically for \$10–\$40 million and up to 5 years, where a Lead Applicant must partner with multiple Co-Applicants to implement multiple integrated projects with significant community benefit.

**High-Road Economic Development** – An approach to economic development that emphasizes high-quality, family-sustaining jobs; worker voice; strong labor standards; local and small business participation; and alignment with climate, health, and equity goals. The Local Community Benefits Fund prioritizes projects that promote high-road economic development, keep financial resources within the region, and create high-quality local jobs.

**High-Road / High-Quality Jobs** – Jobs that provide family-sustaining wages; good benefits (such as health care and retirement); predictable hours; safe working conditions; opportunities for training and advancement; and meaningful worker voice, such as union representation or similar protections. In this program, high-quality jobs are those that meet these standards and are connected to long-term, clean-economy career pathways, particularly for residents of impacted communities.

**Indicator** – A quantitative or qualitative data point used to track progress toward a measurable outcome (for example, number of residents served, percentage reporting improved understanding, or participant reflections describing what they learned).

**Just Transition** – A community and worker-centered framework that seeks the transition of communities away from the harmful effects of a fossil-fuel based economy to a new, just economy powered by clean energy. This new economy centers on the shared goals of community health, quality jobs and economic resilience— informed by the leadership and engagement of workers and communities that are most impacted.

A Just Transition should reduce pollution harms and improve public health outcomes; promote high-road economic development that ensures that high-quality local jobs benefiting the environment and public health are created; and build economic resilience



through planning and projects that deliver air quality and related health benefits and clean economy pathways.

**Lead Applicant** – The eligible organization that submits the application, holds the grant agreement, manages funds and reporting, administers sub-awards to Co-Applicants, and is ultimately responsible for delivering the project.

**Local Community Benefits Fund** – The fund that reinvests penalties and eligible mitigation payments in the specific communities affected by air quality violations, to reduce or mitigate air pollution, improve public health outcomes, and build economic resilience for a just transition away from the harmful effects of a fossil-fuel-based economy.

**Measurable Outcome** – A specific, observable result or change that occurs as a direct consequence of the project (for example, improved respiratory health in the project area, or increased resident confidence using air quality information).

**Measurable Outcomes Plan** – The part of the application that ties together measurable outcomes, indicators, milestones, tasks, and the requested budget to show what change the project will achieve and how progress will be tracked over the grant term.

**Milestone** – A significant marker of progress in the project, such as a key deliverable, event, or completed phase of work (for example, “community workshop curriculum finalized” or “first pilot workshop delivered and evaluated”).

**Partnership Structure** – The agreed-upon governance and decision-making framework for how the Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s) will share roles, responsibilities, and co-management of the grant, including how decisions are made and how funds and deliverables are managed.

**Prevailing Wage** – The standard hourly wage, benefits, and overtime rate set by the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) for each trade and type of work in a given local area on public works projects. Contractors on covered public works must pay workers at least this prevailing wage. For this program, “at or above prevailing wage” means meeting or exceeding the applicable DIR rate for the relevant trade and locality when a project triggers California public-works requirements.

**State-Registered Apprenticeship Program** – A formal training program registered with a State Apprenticeship Agency (such as the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards) and/or the U.S. Department of Labor. These programs combine paid on-the-job learning with related classroom instruction under an approved training plan, meet apprenticeship standards, and lead to an industry-recognized credential upon completion.



**Traditional Ecological Knowledge** – The evolving and cumulative body of knowledge acquired by Indigenous and local peoples over generations through direct contact with the environment. This knowledge is specific to a location and includes the relationships between plants, animals, landscapes, natural phenomena and environmental conditions.



## APPENDIX C: ELIGIBLE PROJECTS EXAMPLES

The list of eligible project examples is intended to be illustrative and not exhaustive. Examples of projects eligible for funding include but are not limited to:

### **Address Indoor Air Pollution:**

*Reduce exposure to indoor air pollution by increasing filtration and ventilation, or by reducing emissions.*

Examples:

- Neighborhood-scale, all-electric upgrade programs (including whole-building or zonal decarbonization pilots) that bundle electrification with ventilation/filtration improvements
- Free residential high-efficiency air cleaners
- Rebates for new/repaired residential ventilation systems (kitchens & bathrooms)
- Facilitate high-efficiency air filtration upgrades in schools, libraries, daycares, senior centers, or other buildings frequented by the public
- Provide rebates or incentives for residential zero NOx appliances (heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, induction stoves, and heat pump clothes dryers)
- Provide additional funding to existing local programs to support the activities described above, close eligibility gaps for households not served by income-restricted programs, and enable neighborhood-scale delivery of upgrades

### **Air Quality Improvement Readiness Projects:**

*Actions that enable, support, and enhance the efficacy of the projects in the "Address Indoor Air Pollution" category above.*

Examples:

- Residential energy efficiency and/or weatherization retrofits (e.g., envelope air sealing and duct sealing and/or replacement)
- Community-led planning, feasibility, and design studies to develop and deliver eligible projects (including neighborhood-scale electrification and filtration)
- Project development and technical assistance to coordinate with utilities and other programs and to maximize leverage and participation
- Fund service providers who can deliver culturally competent technical assistance for any of the above technologies or programs for overburdened households
- Fund community-based organizations to develop and deliver effective outreach and education regarding any of the above technologies to overburdened and hard-to-reach households



## **Air Pollution Monitoring:**

*Establish, expand and/or maintain new or existing community air quality monitoring or exposure assessment efforts.*

Examples:

- Deploy and/or maintain long-term real-time air sensor networks, shorter-duration targeted air monitoring projects, or air monitoring networks to improve understanding of air quality
- Local data systems, dashboards, or portals to manage and share community air monitoring data and communicate insights to residents
- Projects analyzing, visualizing or communicating insights from existing air pollution monitoring data to provide information about levels of air pollution, exposure or health risks
- Exposure assessment using personal air monitors and/or biomonitoring methods

## **Clean Energy Technologies:**

*Promote local clean energy and clean air technologies such as solar, wind, geothermal, energy storage, and other distributed energy resources with an emphasis on local job creation and training.*

Examples:

- Seed worker-to-owner conversions of maintenance or installation businesses for solar
- Utilize local solar providers to install solar on public buildings
- Community-scale clean energy resilience projects (e.g., solar + storage for critical facilities such as schools, libraries, or community centers)

## **Ambient Emissions Reduction:**

*Improve air quality and health by reducing the emissions of criteria pollutants or air toxics from stationary or mobile sources of air pollution.*

Examples:

- Purchase or installation of new, cleaner equipment
- Installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Vehicle replacement and clean vehicle programs
- Creation of a bike share program
- Bike and pedestrian safety improvements (e.g., Safe Routes to Transit/School) that reduce vehicle trips and exposure to traffic-related air pollution
- Transit access improvements (e.g., bus stop shelters/stop improvements, first/last-mile connections) that reduce emissions and exposure
- Paving program to reduce road dust
- Development of Truck Management Plans to reduce truck emissions and calm traffic
- Installation of energy storage systems (batteries, fuel-cells)



### **Urban Greening:**

*Expand green spaces by planting trees, creating community gardens, new parks, land use conversion, and multi-benefit use projects. Projects should be designed according to applicable standards for air quality benefits.*

Examples:

- Plant trees and shrubs as part of targeted vegetative buffers (e.g., along heavily trafficked roadways or along industrial/residential boundaries)
- Establish community gardens or plant nurseries on public or underutilized land
- Convert asphalt schoolyards into green schoolyards
- Retrofit existing public facilities with vegetated or permeable features
- Establish living/green walls and co-beneficial stormwater infrastructure that supports greening initiatives
- Community-based restoration projects that expand green space and provide air-quality and heat-mitigation benefits

### **Climate Resilience:**

*Prepare for the impacts of climate change, and support the ability of communities to withstand, recover, and learn from past disasters to strengthen future response and recovery.*

Examples:

- Workforce development for trail maintenance programs
- Programs to help community members build supplementary air filtered exchange (SAFE) boxes
- Planning, development, launch or administration of cooling centers, clean air centers, or resilience hubs to increase a community's ability to withstand extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and other climate impacts
- Community education, awareness-raising, and emergency preparedness initiatives that strengthen resilience to wildfire smoke, extreme heat, and other climate-related air quality impacts

### **Public Health:**

*Promote health equity, advance prevention efforts, and expand healthcare access for vulnerable populations impacted by air pollution.*

Examples:

- Mobile asthma clinics
- Wellness clinics and pollution exposure reduction services in refinery-adjacent or other fenceline neighborhoods
- Community health workers or promotores for asthma prevention initiatives and health education and to low-income communities or vulnerable populations



- Support home health adaptation services, such as asthma home visits, mold remediation and pest control

### **Transitional Economic Support / Resilience:**

*Planning for community stabilization and worker support related to energy market transitions away from higher-polluting fossil fuels and towards clean energy sources.*

Examples:

- Economic recovery and development planning that supports the transition from fossil fuels (including scenario planning and community stabilization strategies)
- Initiatives to advance economic diversification and attract clean technology, advanced manufacturing and other clean and green industries, including small business support, entrepreneurship, and innovation hubs
- Redevelopment planning for industrial and polluted properties, including supporting the redevelopment of former industrial and brownfield sites
- Support for career pathways for displaced and at-risk workers, including regional education, training, and apprenticeship programs
- Community oversight task forces or councils to guide just transition planning and monitor implementation of transition-related projects
- Integrate paid apprenticeships and training programs for displaced and at-risk workers (including workers impacted by refinery transitions), ensuring a direct pathway into clean economy jobs
- Offer training stipends to support contractor participation in HVAC, solar, EV charger installation, or other clean-energy workforce training programs



## APPENDIX D: MAXIMIZING OUTCOMES

In identifying measurable outcomes, applications should seek to maximize the benefits of those outcomes.

### Minimize harm caused by air pollution:

- Calculable emission reductions from stationary or mobile sources of air pollution
- Quantifiable reduction in exposure to air pollution, through strategies such as air filtration and clean air centers
- Demonstration of how air monitoring data collected meets a community need unmet by existing data, increases the understanding of local impacts of air pollution emissions, and provides information needed for specific actions that reduce emissions or exposure
- Response or treatment for medical conditions that have been associated with air pollution exposures
- Achieve co-benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change

### Maximize economic benefits, such as financial savings:

- Direct financial savings for residents, such as through energy bill savings
- Development of workforce development and training programs with career pathways for residents, in partnership with local workforce development boards, state-approved apprenticeship boards and other key stakeholders
- Barrier removal and support to maximize participation of small and locally-owned businesses, contractors and suppliers

### Maximize high-quality job creation for construction projects:

Projects should provide high-road jobs and deliver long-term employment opportunities for residents. Projects that adhere to the following labor standards will be prioritized:

- Seed Grants
  - Provide basic worker protection standards
  - Responsible employer statement outlining contractor/vendor practices that align with strong labor standards
- Opportunity and Catalyst Grants
  - Adhere to prevailing wage requirements (California Labor Code § 1720, et seq.) for all construction, installation, and technical work
  - Provide access to joint labor-management and state-registered apprenticeship programs
  - Prioritize recruitment for workers laid off or facing layoffs from refineries, and residents of the eligible communities



## APPENDIX E: RESOURCES

### 1. Frameworks, Screening & Planning Tools

#### 1.1 CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (OEHHA / CalEPA)

California's statewide environmental justice screening tool, that scores census tracts based on cumulative pollution burden and population vulnerability.

*How it can help:* Applicants can identify highly burdened communities in their project area and reference those scores when describing community need and alignment with program goals.

#### 1.2 Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

The White House Justice40 screening tool that identifies "disadvantaged communities" at the federal level using climate, environmental, health, and socioeconomic indicators.

*How it can help:* Applicants can check whether their project area is considered "disadvantaged" under federal criteria and note that when describing how their project aligns with other funding streams and priorities.

#### 1.3 California Healthy Places Index (HPI)

A statewide mapping tool that combines health and social determinants into a single score, plus individual indicators (income, housing, education, access to care, etc.).

*How it can help:* Applicants can use HPI scores and specific indicators to describe baseline conditions and health-related disparities in their project area.

#### 1.4 CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

A national index that measures how different communities may be more or less vulnerable to external stresses such as disasters or disease outbreaks, using indicators like income, housing, and transportation.

*How it can help:* Applicants can use SVI to show that their project targets communities with higher social vulnerability when describing the need for resilience, clean air centers, or emergency preparedness.

### 2. Air Quality & Monitoring Resources

#### 2.1 Bay Air Center – Main Site

A Bay Area Air District resource hub that supports communities and partners working on local air monitoring and clean air projects.

*How it can help:* Applicants considering community air monitoring or using air quality data can look to the Bay Air Center for technical assistance, example projects, and training materials.



## **2.2 EPA Air Sensor Toolbox for Communities**

A U.S. EPA resource that provides guidance on planning, deploying, and using low-cost air sensors, including training materials and data tools.

*How it can help:* Applicants proposing projects that use air sensors can use this toolbox to choose appropriate equipment, design monitoring plans, and describe how they will interpret and share data.

## **2.3 AirNow & Air Quality System (AQS) – EPA Air Quality Data Tools**

[AirNow](#) provides real-time AQI and recent air quality conditions, while [AQS](#) offers access to regulatory monitoring data over longer time periods.

*How it can help:* Applicants can use AirNow to show typical or recent smoke or pollution patterns, and AQS to describe longer-term air quality trends affecting their communities.

# **3. Public Health Data & Indicators**

## **3.1 CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network**

An online platform that brings together environmental, health, and population data (for example, asthma, heart disease, heat, air quality) at multiple geographic scales.

*How it can help:* Applicants can use the Tracking Network to identify relevant health indicators and describe how air pollution and related stressors affect their communities.

## **3.2 California Environmental Health Tracking – Tracking California / CEHTP**

A California-focused program that provides maps, data, and tools on environmental health topics and social determinants of health.

*How it can help:* California-based applicants can use Tracking California to access state-specific data and case studies when describing health impacts, community need, and potential outcomes.

# **4. Urban Greening & Climate Resilience**

## **4.1 California Urban Greening Program (CNRA)**

The California Urban Greening Program funds urban greening and climate-resilience projects such as tree planting, greenways, habitat restoration, and park improvements. The program's maps and project list offer concrete examples of funded projects, partnerships, and community co-benefits.

*How it can help:* Applicants can use funded project examples to inform project design, identify potential partnerships, and demonstrate co-benefits such as shade, heat reduction, improved air quality, and community resilience.



## **4.2 Green Infrastructure & Climate Resilience Toolkits**

These curated toolkits—including the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) and [EPA Green Infrastructure](#) resources—offer step-by-step guidance on planning, designing, and implementing projects like shade trees, rain gardens, bioswales, and other urban-greening strategies.

*How it can help:* These resources are especially helpful for applicants new to greening or heat-resilience projects who need practical guidance on project planning, design steps, implementation considerations, and potential community benefits.

## **4.3 i-Tree Tools (USDA Forest Service)**

i-Tree is a free suite of tools that estimates how existing or newly planted trees can reduce heat, improve air quality, store carbon, and deliver other environmental and community benefits. It provides accessible modeling options for project teams with or without technical partners.

*How it can help:* Applicants proposing tree-planting or urban-forest projects can use i-Tree to describe and quantify expected benefits—such as reduced heat exposure, air-quality improvements, or increased shade—in their Measurable Outcomes Plan.

# **5. Technical Assistance & Program Models**

## **5.1 EPA Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)**

EPA-funded centers that provide free technical assistance, training, and capacity-building support to community-based organizations, tribes, and local governments.

*How it can help:* Applicants needing help with grant development, project design, engagement strategies, or data interpretation can reach out to their regional TCTAC for support.

## **5.2 Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) – Strategic Growth Council**

A major California program that funds large, community-driven climate and resilience projects in highly burdened communities.

*How it can help:* Applicants can look to TCC project examples for ideas on how to structure multi-partner projects, describe co-benefits, and frame measurable outcomes for place-based investments.

# **6. Economic Resilience & Just Transition**

## **6.1 UC Berkeley Labor Center – Green Economy Program**

The Labor Center's Green Economy Program provides research and technical assistance on workforce strategies needed to grow an equitable clean energy economy. They offer no-cost support to employers, policymakers, and community stakeholders to design high-road projects and partnerships in California and beyond.



*How it can help:* Applicants proposing workforce, economic resilience, or just-transition elements can use this program as a resource for high-road labor standards and just-transition strategies.

## **6.2 High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) – California Workforce Development Board**

High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) is a flagship initiative of the California Workforce Development Board that funds and supports industry-led, worker-centered, sectoral partnerships. H RTP projects bring together employers, unions, community organizations, and training providers to create high-quality jobs, advance equity, and support a low-carbon, inclusive economy.

*How it can help:* Applicants designing workforce components—especially in sectors like clean energy, building decarbonization, transportation, or industrial transition—can use the H RTP model to structure their partnerships and training strategies and may seek to align with or collaborate on existing H RTP initiatives in their region.

## **6.3 Jobs for the Future (JFF) – “Training the Future Climate Workforce”**

National report that scans climate-related workforce solutions and program models, with an emphasis on quality jobs and equity.

*How it can help:* Applicants designing workforce or training components can draw on this report for tested program designs, target occupations, and partnership approaches that can be adapted to LCBF-scale projects.

## **6.4 Green Empowerment Zone (GEZ) – Contra Costa & Solano Counties**

The Green Empowerment Zone (GEZ) is a regional initiative focused on growing clean energy manufacturing and related industries in Contra Costa County and parts of Solano County. It leverages the region's highly skilled energy workforce and strategic location to attract investment, tax incentives, grants, and workforce training aligned with a high-road clean energy economy.

*How it can help:* Applicants proposing projects in Contra Costa/Solano can reference GEZ as part of the broader economic transition context—especially for projects related to clean manufacturing, workforce training, or industrial decarbonization.

## **6.5 APEN and Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) – “Before the Last Drop: Planning for a Just Transition at the Phillips 66 Refinery”**

Community-led report documenting planning processes and frameworks related to refinery closure, site remediation, redevelopment planning, and just transition strategies, with a focus on economic resilience and community priorities.

*How it can help:* Applicants proposing economic resilience, just transition, or redevelopment planning components, particularly in communities affected by



*refinery closures or other fossil fuel infrastructure transitions, can use this report as a reference for community-centered planning approaches and transition frameworks.*