

# People’s Air Grant Program Request for Applications Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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## Please Note

- The Bay Area Air District (Air District) will update this document periodically during the People’s Air Grant Program application period.
- The deadline for submitting questions regarding the Request for Applications is **Friday, April 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM**. Questions may be emailed to [peoplesairgrant@baaqmd.gov](mailto:peoplesairgrant@baaqmd.gov).
- All responses to application questions will be posted to [www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant](http://www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant) by **Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 5:00 PM**.

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## A) Air District Information

### ***A1: Can you please share how I can subscribe to receive notifications directly of recently released funding opportunities?***

You can sign up to stay informed on the Air District's programs and initiatives here: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/contact-us/sign-up-for-information>. You can also sign up to receive emails about the People's Air Grant Program at the bottom of this webpage: [www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant](http://www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant) by clicking on the "subscribe" button.

## B) Allowable Costs

### ***B1: I see that the overhead limit is 15%. Is that true even if the organization has a NICRA rate for higher than that?***

Indirect costs are allowable for up to 15% of the project's total budget, even if the organization's NICRA rate exceeds that. For more information, please see Section 8.3 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications.

## C) Applicant Eligibility

### ***C1: Can you please repeat the Lead Grantees?***

Eligible Lead applicants include nonprofit organizations holding current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including community-based organizations. Please see Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications for exceptions. Other eligible Lead Applicants include local government agencies such as cities, counties, joint powers authorities, special districts, councils of governments, and other public agencies; local public schools and public school districts; and California Native American tribes.

### ***C2: If our fiscal sponsor has received a James Cary grant, are we ineligible for this grant?***

Recipients of a James Cary Smith Community Grant from the Air District are not eligible to apply as a Lead Applicant or Subgrantee, so your fiscal sponsor would not be eligible.

### ***C3: If an organization that was awarded funding through the James Cary Smith community grant program as a subgrantee, as opposed to a lead, would this organization be ineligible as a lead or subgrantee for the People's Air Grant Program?***

Organizations that have received James Cary Smith Community Grant funds from the Air District as a Subgrantee are not eligible to apply as a Lead Applicant or Subgrantee for a People's Air Grant.

***C4: We previously received funding for the Clean Air Center program. Would we still be eligible for this one? Thanks.***

To ensure our team provides the most accurate information, please email your organization's name to the People's Air Grant Team at [peoplesairgrant@baaqmd.gov](mailto:peoplesairgrant@baaqmd.gov) so we can verify your eligibility.

***C5: [Our organization] has received these Bay Area Air Quality Management District grants in the past:***

***1) Educate community regarding low cost air monitoring system \$25K  
2) 2019: another grant for \$25K? (couldn't find grant number or grant program name). Unfortunately, these pre-dated me and my team's time at [our organization]. Would it be possible for you to find out from your end, and let us know it affects our eligibility for this RFP?***

The Air District's records do not show that [organization name] has received a James Cary Smith Community Grant. Organizations and entities that have not been awarded funding through the Air District's James Cary Smith Community Grant Program and/or the California Air Resources Board's Community Air Grant Program are eligible to apply for a People's Air Grant as either a Lead Applicant or a Subgrantee if they meet the other eligibility requirements noted in the People's Air Grant Request for Applications.

## **D) Application Process**

***D1: Where/when can we find a recorded archive of the Information Webinar?***

A recording of the Informational Webinar from 3/24/2026 has been posted at [www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant](http://www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant).

***D2: I am not able to access the recording information from the Information Session on March 24th. May I have a link?***

A link to the recording of the Informational Webinar from March 24 has been posted at [www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant](http://www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant). To access the link, please scroll down to "Informational Grant Webinars" on that webpage, and then click on "Webinar Recording." If you have any issues accessing the recording, please email [peoplesairgrant@baaqmd.gov](mailto:peoplesairgrant@baaqmd.gov).

***D3: How should an applicant apply?***

Prospective applicants should review the People's Air Grant Request for Applications document found at [www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant](http://www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant), including Appendix A, the application checklist. Applicants will create an account on an online platform called SlideRoom. All applications must be submitted online through the SlideRoom portal prior to the application deadline. For more information, please see Appendix A of the Request for Applications.

***D4: Can't figure out how to access the workplan and budget templates.***

The Work Plan and Budget templates have been posted at [www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant](http://www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant). Please see the "Application Materials and Resources" section and click the Application Resources link.

***D5: The RFA calls for a Work Plan using the Air District's template (required template I believe), and a project budget form (optional template) and says to find these forms on the website, but I wasn't able to find them. Help please?***

The required Work Plan template and optional Budget template have been posted at [www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant](http://www.baaqmd.gov/peoplesairgrant). Please see the "Application Materials and Resources" section and click the Application Resources link.

## **E) Eligible Communities**

***E1: The RFA states "Eligibility for the Peoples Air Grant Program includes the four designated AB617 Communities". Please clarify, if the project is not in one of the four designated AB617 communities in the Bay Area Air District jurisdiction, it is not eligible for this funding. Correct?***

A project does not need to be in one of the four designated Assembly Bill 617 communities to be eligible. The project should serve communities within the Bay Area Air District's jurisdiction that are most impacted by air pollution and injustices, as identified by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 or other public agency environmental health screening tools. The People's Air Grant Program will prioritize projects that: have a direct impact on pollution reduction and improvements in health for impacted communities and residents; engage the skills and resources of the community, including engaging in meaningful and collaborative partnerships with other community leaders and organizations serving impacted communities; and/or improve air quality and reduce local air pollution disparities in impacted communities. Projects must also show that the majority of benefits will go to low-income communities.

***E2: How will an applicant be prioritized if their jurisdiction includes both top 30% priority areas and areas outside that threshold?***

The application for the People's Air Grant Program asks applicants to provide a description of the community or communities that the project would serve. The People's Air Grant Program will prioritize projects that: have a direct impact on pollution reduction and improvements in health for impacted communities and residents; engage the skills and resources of the community, including engaging in meaningful and collaborative partnerships with other community leaders and organizations serving impacted communities; and/or improve air quality and reduce local air pollution disparities in impacted communities. Projects must also show that the majority of benefits will go to low-income communities.

***E3: Map of your current projects. Communities with gaps in planning/services.***

There is no map of all current Bay Area Air District projects; however, prospective applicants are invited to view an interactive map showing the Bay Area's four designated AB 617 communities: <https://arcg.is/5naS90>. This map also shows communities in the Air District's jurisdiction with an overall CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score of 70 to 100. The People's Air Grant Program will prioritize projects based on communities that appear in pink and/or blue on the map. Note that applicants may also rely on other environmental health screening tools developed by public agencies that identify environmental justice communities. For more information, please see Section 3.3 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Impacted Communities.

***E4: Would Berkeley, specifically West and South Berkeley be competitive for this grant since only 1-2 census tracts are eligible?***

Applicants with compelling projects are invited to apply. The People's Air Grant Program will prioritize projects that: have a direct impact on pollution reduction and improvements in health for impacted communities and residents; engage the skills and resources of the community, including engaging in meaningful and collaborative partnerships with other community leaders and organizations serving impacted communities; and/or Improve air quality and reduce local air pollution disparities in impacted communities. Projects must also show that the majority of benefits will go to low-income communities.

***E5: Do you fund projects by Bay Area organizations that focus on non-Bay Area communities?***

Proposed projects must be conducted in California's San Francisco Bay Area, within the Air District's jurisdiction. For an interactive map, please visit: <https://arcg.is/5naS90>.

***E6: Just want to confirm, are we allowed to apply from the Central Valley, or this is only for the bay area?***

Proposed projects must be conducted in California's San Francisco Bay Area, within the Air District's jurisdiction. For an interactive map, please visit: <https://arcg.is/5naS90>.

***E7: Can you confirm if Monterey County would be eligible based on the counties outlined in what I have read?***

Monterey County is not an eligible geography for the People's Air Grant Program because it is not within the Bay Area Air District's jurisdiction. For information about the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, please visit <https://www.mbard.org/>.

## **F) Grant Awards and Reporting**

***F1: How many applicants are chosen per county?***

The Air District does not set a specific number of awards by county. Eligible applications will be scored using the scoring rubric found in the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, and staff will then consider factors such as available funding, geographic distribution, and project type when developing funding recommendations. For more information, please see Section 10 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications.

***F2: Will projects/proposals that align with more than one of the project types score higher?***

No. All project proposals are evaluated based on the specific scoring criteria outlined in Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications. Scoring is determined by how effectively a proposal meets those criteria, rather than the number of project types it aligns with.

***F3: The application process and deliverables if we receive the grant.***

The webinars on 3/24/26 and 4/9/26 provided detailed information about the application process for the People's Air Grant Program. Regarding deliverables - if an applicant is awarded a grant, Air District staff will work with the applicant to develop a grant agreement that includes deliverables and reporting requirements.

***F4: What are the reporting requirements for grantees? Do grantees receive grant funds upfront, staggered, or reimbursement-based?***

All funded projects must submit regular progress reports and one final project summary report. The payment schedule will be established in the grant agreement for each project and will be considered as often as triannually. No funds will be released until the grant agreement has been fully executed by the grantee and the Air District. An initial payment can be issued within 30 days after execution of the grant agreement. For more information, please see Section 11 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications. These grants will be deliverables-based rather than reimbursement-based.

***F5: Can you address the nature of grant reporting?***

All funded projects must submit regular progress reports and deliverables, and one final project summary report. The reporting schedule will be established in the grant agreement for each project. The Air District will provide report templates for each grantee. These grants will be deliverables-based rather than reimbursement-based.

***F6: Is the grant inaugural? If not, can you share past projects that were funded through the People's Air Grant?***

The People's Air Grant Program is a one-time grant program. Since it has not been offered before, the Air District isn't able to share a list of past projects funded.

***F7: Is a grant from Bay Area Air District also considered a federal grant?***

No. A grant from the Bay Area Air District is not a federal grant.

## **G) Project Eligibility**

***G1: Does our project need to do a combination of the 4 types of projects, or can we only focus on one or two of them?***

A project does not need to include a combination of the four project types outlined in the People's Air Grant Request for Applications; it may focus on one or two. However, please keep in mind that applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

### ***G2: Can a project include education and implementation elements?***

One of the four project types for the People's Air Grant is "provide education regarding the health impacts of air pollution and pollution mitigation initiatives." All applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

### ***G3: Are active transportation education programs eligible?***

Active transportation education programs may be eligible for funding. Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

### ***G4: Could these funds be used to train community leaders (promotoras/ Community Health Workers) to conduct education and in-home trigger assessments?***

A project of this type may be eligible for funding. Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

### ***G5: How does air quality play into masking and respiratory diseases & health?***

When inhaled, pollutants can aggravate the lungs and may also worsen chronic respiratory diseases, such as asthma. Masking is not directly addressed in the People's Air Grant Request for Applications. There are several considerations for masking, including the type of mask, its fit, and the individual's age. More information is available at the following websites:

- <https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/about-air-quality/wildfire-air-quality-response-program/wildfire-safety>.
- <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/health-topics>.

### ***G6: Would an urban forestry project that focuses on planting more trees to improve air quality meet the grant requirements?***

An urban forestry project may be eligible for funding. Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

***G7: I would like to know how this grant opportunity aligns with people of African ancestry that have chronic health issues.***

The People's Air Grant Program can support health care resources and services in order to improve health outcomes for people experiencing health impacts related to air pollution exposure in vulnerable communities. For more information, please see Section 8 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, What Kind of Work Can Be Funded.

***G8: Would a project that mainly addresses indoor air quality qualify?***

A project of this type may be eligible for funding. Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

***G9: We operate a shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness in a priority community. Would projects that improve indoor air quality—such as installing HEPA filtration systems or upgrading HVAC to reduce wildfire smoke exposure—be potentially eligible for funding, under the 'implement mitigation initiatives' category?***

A project of this type may be eligible for funding. Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

***G10: Can you use this grant for events that support climate change?***

A project with events related to climate change may be eligible for funding. Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

***G11: Given the mission of Bay Area Air District, is there a benefit in proposing a project that has demonstrated air quality and climate benefits?***

A project that has demonstrated air quality and climate benefits may be eligible for funding. Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

***G12: Are the mitigation efforts limited to the 3 examples in the slides?***

No. The three examples provided in the webinar recording are for reference and do not represent an exhaustive list. The Air District encourages diverse proposals across the four eligible project types. Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

***G13: Are existing projects/programs eligible or does the proposed project need to be a new initiative?***

Proposed projects do not need to be new initiatives. Ongoing programs are eligible if they meet the criteria outlined in the Request for Applications and demonstrate strong community alignment. All applicants should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria.

***G14: We are currently in the process of electrifying our City fleet. We are currently transitioning several of our Public Works vehicles and will next target our Police vehicles. Would it be possible to use the People's Air Grant Program funding towards:***

- Charger infrastructure to install 10 Ford chargers at our Police Department (which falls within your impacted communities map) which will be used as we continue to transition our gas police cars into EV police cars.***
- BEAM EV arc – which is a 100% renewable, transportable, off-grid EV charging option – at our Police Department for the same transitioning vehicles described above.***

Applicants for a People's Air Grant should demonstrate the origin of the proposed project and the extent to which it reflects community-driven needs. Applicants should also address alignment with existing community priorities or initiatives, and address how relevant communities will be engaged in all phases of the project. For more information, please see Section 10.2 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications, Application Scoring Criteria. Here are some additional resources for your agency to consider:

- **MTC:** The Metropolitan Transportation Commission may have funding opportunities: <https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/transportation/transportation-electrification/public-fleet-electrification-planning-assistance-program>.
- **PG&E:** If your agency has medium/heavy-duty fleet vehicles, this program might help: <https://www.pge.com/en/clean-energy/electric-vehicles/ev-fleet-program.html#incentives>.
- **County Transportation Agency:** There may be funding available via the TFCA 40 Percent Fund. For more information and to find your County contact, please visit: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/en/funding-and-incentives/funding-sources/tfca-40-percent-fund>.
- **Air District Charge! Program:** This program is currently closed, but interested parties can sign up here to be notified when there are program updates: [www.baaqmd.gov/charge](http://www.baaqmd.gov/charge).

***G15: We are now hoping to similarly electrify our Police fleet. The community would directly benefit from reduced air pollution because the project would entail the purchase of EV vehicles to replace gas-powered vehicles, which would reduce emissions into the atmosphere. Your grant funding, however, would be used for the construction/ infrastructure component, as opposed to funding the vehicles. I also checked and the Police Department scores 53 on the CalEnviroScreen 4.0, however, the surrounding communities score 67 and 83, and all would benefit from the reduction in our carbon footprint. Can you please confirm that EV-related construction and equipment qualify as eligible costs?***

The Air District does not anticipate prioritizing EV-related construction and equipment projects through this funding opportunity. The People's Air Grant Program will prioritize projects that: have a direct impact on pollution reduction and improvements in health for impacted communities and residents; engage the skills and resources of the community, including engaging in meaningful and collaborative partnerships with other community leaders and organizations serving impacted communities; and/or Improve air quality and reduce local air pollution disparities in impacted communities. Projects must also show that the majority of benefits will go to low-income communities.

## **H) Subgrantees / Partnerships**

***H1: Is there a cap on the amount of funds that a subgrantee could receive relative to the lead applicant?***

There is no cap on the amount of funds that a Subgrantee could receive relative to the Lead Applicant. In some situations, the Lead Applicant would be a fiscal sponsor, and the Subgrantee would be a community-based organization that does not have its own 501(c)(3) status but is implementing the project.

***H2: Can subgrantees be consultants? Can subgrantees pay consultants with their subgrants?***

A private consultant is not eligible to be a Subgrantee for the People's Air Grant. Consultant services would be an eligible cost, capped at 25% of the project budget. Subgrantees can pay consultants with their subgrants. For more information, please see Sections 6.2 and 8.3 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications.

***H3: Can a nonprofit (lead grantee) partner with a health equity consulting firm as a sub-grantee (not a non-profit)?***

A private consulting firm would not be an eligible Subgrantee. However, please note that professional service consultants are an eligible project cost, as long as consultant costs are below 25% of the budget. For more information, please see Sections 6.2 and 8.3 of the People's Air Grant Request for Applications.

***H4: Is there a document that would allow potential applicants to partner if they are looking to subcontract, etc.?***

No. The Air District does not maintain a list of prospective applicants or partners for the People's Air Grant Program. Organizations interested in partnering or subcontracting are encouraged to connect independently through their existing networks.