

2017 Targeted Air Shed Grant Program
EPA-OAR-OAQPS-17-06
Questions and Answers
September 29, 2017

Q1: Are corporations eligible to apply for the Targeted Air Shed Grant Program?

A1: No, corporations are not eligible to apply. As noted on page 10 of the Request for Applications (RFA):

“Entities eligible to submit applications under this announcement are those air pollution control agencies, as defined by Section 302(b) of the CAA, that: (a) have responsibilities for development and/or implementation of a SIP or TIP to attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards for either ozone or PM_{2.5} within an area identified in Section I.A of this announcement, and (b) have an active air program grant under Section 103 or 105 of the CAA to carry out those responsibilities.”

Q2: Is the Targeted Air Shed Program limited to the nonattainment areas listed in the RFA?

A2: Consistent with the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2017, the competition is only open to the top five most polluted areas relative to ozone, annual PM_{2.5}, or 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards. Accordingly, the entities eligible to apply under this RFA are those air pollution control agencies, as defined by Section 302(b) of the CAA, that: (a) have responsibilities for development and/or implementation of a state implementation plan or tribal implementation plan to attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards for either ozone or PM_{2.5} within an area identified pages 3 – 5 of the competition, and (b) have an active air program grant under Section 103 or 105 of the CAA to carry out those responsibilities.

Q3: If one application requests \$4 million for a project that allows participation in three eligible nonattainment areas within a state, how would that be counted towards the application and funding limit? Would it be counted as one grant application per each nonattainment area? Would we need to submit three separate applications, or could we submit one application for one nonattainment area, but still "share" the grant with the other two nonattainment areas?

A3: You can designate the money for the project in any or all of the nonattainment areas you are responsible for under a single application, but the total funding request per application cannot exceed \$4 million. If you decide you will need more than \$4 million to cover all three areas, then submit additional applications for the other nonattainment areas, with each application being for \$4M or less. Also, the maximum number of applications for any one nonattainment area is three. See pages 1, 9, and 12 of the RFA for more details on the funding and application limits.

Q4: What is required to meet the requirement of 3, Attachments, c. Quality Assurance Narrative Statement, listed on page 16 of the RFA. Would a summary of our Department's Quality Management Plan (QMP) and a link to it be sufficient?

A4: EPA has approved this approach in the past under many grants rather than require the recipient to develop a project-specific QA plan. The recipient should commit to modifying their existing QMP if that becomes necessary.

Q5: Is an engine development project an eligible project under the RFP?

A5: This type of project is eligible under the RFA. Keep in mind that proposed activities **must be designed to achieve** quantifiable reductions in ozone precursor emissions and/or direct PM2.5 or PM2.5 precursor emissions and should establish approaches and practices **that will achieve ongoing, significant** ozone and/or PM2.5 reductions, considering the major emission sources.

If an applicant is unable to calculate ozone precursors and/or PM2.5 reductions, they may include estimates of other quantifiable outputs that have a direct relationship with ozone and/or PM2.5 levels. Examples of such outputs are: vehicle miles traveled reductions; kilowatt hours saved; creation of a program designed to improve community quality of life; progress toward environmental justice objectives; or adoption of a program, policy or activity that supports increased use of strategic energy and air quality management practices.

Finally, in order to have an application evaluated the proposal must meet all of the Threshold eligibility criteria (pages 11-12 of the RFA), most notably:

5. Proposed activities **must be designed to achieve quantifiable reductions** in direct PM2.5, ozone precursors and/or PM2.5 precursor emissions (NOx, CO, VOC, direct PM2.5, SO2 and ammonia) in one or more of the designated nonattainment areas identified in Section I.A by addressing one or more of the priority emissions-generating or emissions-reducing activities listed in Section I, Part B.

7. Proposed activities **must be to implement emission reductions**; applications only including planning exercises will not be awarded.

Q6: Does the phrase “Los Angeles South Coast Air Basin, CA” refer to the entire South Coast Air Basin which include the entire Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties? Or just Los Angeles county of the South Coast Air Basin? If it refers only to the Los Angeles County, then are applicants limited to 6 applications since “Los Angeles South Coast Air Basin” is listed under both ozone and PM2.5 nonattainment areas? Or are applicants limited to 3 applications since the same area is listed as both ozone and PM2.5 nonattainment areas?

A6: Applicants may submit 3 applications to reduce pollution in the ozone nonattainment area and 3 additional applications related to the PM2.5 nonattainment area, both of which are named “[Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin, CA](#).” The geographic extent of the PM2.5 nonattainment area in question is found here: [Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin, CA](#). The Ozone nonattainment area in question is found in the previous hyperlink above.

The applications do not necessarily need to address emissions throughout the nonattainment area, as long as the proposed activities: “demonstrate documentable reductions in ozone and/or direct PM2.5 air pollution in the designated areas; address precursor emissions of ozone, which include nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and/or precursor emissions of PM2.5, which include sulfur dioxide (SO2), NOx, VOCs, and ammonia; and are replicable elsewhere (from page 6 of the RFA EPA-OAR-OAQPS-17-06).”