

2021 Targeted Airshed Grant Program

Request for Applications Information Session

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Introduction: 2021 Important Dates



May 21	Optional Intent to Apply
June 24, 11:59PM ET	RFA Closes- Applications Due
September	Anticipated notification of selections
November-Jan. 2022	Anticipated awards

- If you haven't yet, submit your Intent to Apply to me (roberts.timothy-p@epa.gov)
 - See the RFA page 1 for more information and submit as soon as possible



- Estimated funding - **\$59 million**
- Maximum funding requested per application - **\$8 million**
 - Should be commensurate with the proposed activities
- Awarding approximately 8-13 grants
- Funding via cooperative agreements or grants
- RFA at: epa.gov/grants/2021-targeted-airshed-grant-program
- Applications due Thursday, **June 24th**, 11:59PM ET, via Grants.gov: grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?dpp=1&oppId=333282



The Targeted Airshed Grant (TAG) program assists air pollution control agencies to conduct emission reduction activities to reduce air pollution in nonattainment areas that EPA determines are the top five most polluted areas relative to the ozone (O_3), annual average fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), or 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).



- The goal of the TAG Program:
 - Reduce air pollution in the nation's areas with the highest levels of ozone and $PM_{2.5}$
 - Fund activities in the applicable nonattainment area that will achieve **documentable** reductions of emissions that contribute to ozone or $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations
- Pollutants contributing to:
 - Ozone concentrations = NO_x and VOCs
 - $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations = direct $PM_{2.5}$ and $PM_{2.5}$ precursors (NO_x , VOCs, SO_2 and ammonia)

Background Information: Eligible Nonattainment Areas



PM_{2.5} 2012 annual standard 12 µg/m³

Area	Design Value*
San Joaquin Valley, CA	16.9
Plumas County, CA	14.2
Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin, CA	14.0
Allegheny County, PA	12.4
Imperial County, CA	12.0

PM_{2.5} 2006 24-hour standard 35 µg/m³

Klamath Falls, OR	78
Fairbanks, AK	69
San Joaquin Valley, CA	64
Sacramento, CA	54
Oakridge, OR	52

**Based on 2017-2019 Air Quality Measurements released May 2020* 7

Background Information: Eligible Nonattainment Areas



Ozone 2015 8-hour standard = 70 ppb*

Area	Design Value*
Los Angeles South Coast Air Basin, CA	108
Morongo Indian Reservation, CA	101
Los Angeles & San Bernardino Counties (W. Mojave), CA	95
Riverside County (Coachella Valley), CA	89 (tie)
Uinta Basin, UT	89 (tie)

**Based on 2017-2019 Air Quality Measurements released May 2020*

Background Information: Application Submission Limit



RFA Table 4: Maximum Number of Applications Eligible Entities Can Submit per Nonattainment Area

Nonattainment Areas	Total Times on Nonattainment Lists	Maximum Number of Applications
Allegheny County, PA	1	2
Fairbanks, AK	1	2
Imperial County, CA	1	2
Klamath Falls, OR	1	2
Los Angeles-San Bernardino Counties (West Mojave Desert), CA	1	2
Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin, CA	2	3
Morongo Band of Mission Indians, CA	1	2
Oakridge, OR	1	2
Plumas County, CA	1	2
Riverside County (Coachella Valley), CA	1	2
Sacramento, CA	1	2
San Joaquin Valley, CA	2	3
Uinta Basin, UT	1	2

Background Information: Application Submission Limit



- If multiple applications are submitted, each application must include a different project type submitted separately.
- Applicants can include multiple types of projects within one application – but cannot include the same projects in multiple applications.
- If an applicant submits multiple applications under this competition and EPA selects more than one application for award from the same applicant, EPA may award a single assistance agreement that combines the applicant's selected applications (Section VI.B).

Who can apply?



Air pollution control agencies, as defined by Section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act, that:

- a. Have responsibilities for development and/or implementation of a SIP or TIP to attain and/or maintain the NAAQS for either ozone and/or PM_{2.5} within one or more of the nonattainment areas listed in the RFA; **and,**
- a. Have an active air program grant under Section 103 or 105 of the Clean Air Act to carry out those responsibilities

General Requirements



- Primary activities must be for **measurable** emission reduction from a given source to help reach NAAQS attainment
- Emission reduction activities may include programs, policies, approaches and/or deploying technologies that achieve documentable emission reductions
- Activities must address priority emission sources

General Requirements



- Emission reduction activities must meet or exceed latest emission standards
- Activities must occur in the applicant's nonattainment area for the life of the project – may not operate majority of the time outside the nonattainment area
- Cannot replace the same device(s), technology(ies), equipment, or other activities that were funded by a previous EPA assistance agreement from 2015 or later

Example Activities



- Examples of possible measurable emission reduction activities in the respective nonattainment area may include:
 - Replacing vehicles, engines or equipment
 - Replacing or retrofitting heating devices (e.g., residential wood burning stoves or fireplaces)
 - Other projects that achieve quantifiable emission reductions

Additional Requirements: Replacement or Retrofit Projects



- Devices must be fully operational and in service.
- Must be replaced with a similar, more efficient, less polluting device.
- Funds cannot be used to purchase a cleaner device or technology without replacing a similar inefficient, higher-polluting device.
- Retrofits must reduce emissions of the retrofitted device.

Additional Requirements: Replacement or Retrofit Projects



- Every higher-polluting device that is replaced must be permanently removed from service in the respective air pollution nonattainment area.
- Devices that will be scrapped must be rendered permanently inoperable.
- Documentation of both scrappage of the old and new deployed device will be required during the project.

Additional Requirements: Heat Devices/Mechanisms



- Installation of new cleaner burning devices must be by a certified or licensed professional or the equivalent.
- Replacement certified non-masonry wood or pellet devices must be included in the current list of [EPA Certified Wood Heaters](#)
 - Masonry heaters must be on a current list by [Colorado](#) or [Washington](#)
- Must include training to those receiving an EPA-funded lower-polluting replacement device on how to properly operate the device and store fuel.
- Must require all individuals receiving a cleaner device or other funded project components to use and retain these devices and components in the applicable nonattainment area during the life of the project.



- **Step 1: Threshold Criteria Review (Section III.C.)**
 - Must meet ALL 6 threshold criteria to move on to Step 2
 - Applications are also reviewed to determine if any activities are ineligible for funding.

- **Step 2: Evaluation Criteria (Section V.A.)**
 - 5 evaluation criteria – points assigned to each
 - Maximum 120 points possible

Review & Selection Process



- Each eligible application will be evaluated by and EPA evaluation team, which includes EPA Headquarters and Regional staff
- Team will score and rank the proposals using the evaluation criteria in Section V.A
- Team will provide preliminary funding recommendations to the EPA Headquarters Selection Official based on the proposal scores
- Final funding decisions made by this Selection Official based on ranking and preliminary recommendations of the evaluation team and other factors

Selection Process: Other Factors



The selection official may also consider the following factors:

- Programmatic priorities, which may include diversity of addressed emission sources or types of projects;
- Geographic distribution of funds;
- How often the nonattainment area is included on Tables 1-3 in the Summary section;
- Level of anthropogenic emissions in the nonattainment area;
- Whether the nonattainment area has received a clean data determination or has an updated design value impacted by any exceptional events demonstrations approved pursuant to 40 CFR 50.14 (e.g., wildfire); and/or
- Population of the nonattainment area.

Evaluation Criteria (Section V.A)



Evaluation Criteria	Points
1. Project Summary & Approach	35
2. Environmental Justice	15
3. Environmental Results – Outcomes, Outputs, & Performance Measures	35
4. Programmatic Capability & Past Performance	15
5. Budget	20
TOTAL	120

See the RFA's Appendix B for Project Narrative instructions, format, and content

Evaluation Criteria: 1. Project Summary & Approach



- a. Detailed Project Summary
 - Include specific details of every funded activity

- b. Emissions Inventory
 - Include quantitative emissions inventories for the source category(ies) of the project and other relevant source categories
 - Required: mandatory emissions inventories attachment

- c. Consideration of Activities
 - If the lowest emissions activity(ies) weren't chosen, explain why not

Evaluation Criteria: 1. Project Summary & Approach



d. Progress Towards Attainment

- If proposed activities are not included in a SIP or TIP, explain why not and if there is a possible future inclusion

e. Roles and Responsibilities

- If the applicant will not directly implement the project, explain the funding partnership via a subgrant, contract, and/or participant support cost for all funded activities
- Optional: partnership letter(s) attachment- explaining their role

Evaluation Criteria:

2. Environmental Justice



Environmental justice (EJ) is the fair treatment & meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, & enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, & policies.

- a. Environmental Justice Issues & Environmental Health Disparities
 - Applicants are encouraged to propose projects that will benefit disadvantaged & overburdened communities
 - Encourage providing data from [EPA's EJSCREEN](#) or other similar tools
- b. Community Engagement
 - Optional: partnership letter(s) attachment- includes support for and/or involvement with the project

Evaluation Criteria:

3. Outputs & Outcomes



Outputs

- The measurable “widgets” of your project
- For example, number of engines to be replaced, number of wood-burning devices to be replaced, amount of community engagement.

Outcomes

- The result, effect or consequence from carrying out the activity that will achieve emission reductions
- Must be quantitative
- Estimated emission reductions:
 - Must include annual and lifetime reductions
 - Include separate reductions for all emission reduction activities
 - Must include assumptions and quantifications

Evaluation Criteria:

5. Budget



The following are included in the maximum 15-page limit:

- a. Itemized budget table
- b. Detailed, narrative, written description of the applicant's approach to ensuring timely and efficient management of funding
- c. Detailed breakdown and description of every itemized cost and how it relates to the project narrative and specific emission reduction activities

Application Process: Where do I start?



- Read the 2021 Request for Applications (RFA) EPA-OAR-OAQPS-21-03: [epa.gov/grants/2021-targeted-airshed-grant-program](https://www.epa.gov/grants/2021-targeted-airshed-grant-program)
 - Regularly visit the Questions and Answers document on the RFA page above, which may be revised until June 18
 - Submit final questions via email by June 16
- Visit the new TAG webpage: [epa.gov/air-quality-implementation-plans/targeted-airshed-grants-program](https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-implementation-plans/targeted-airshed-grants-program)
 - See summaries of past funded TAG projects

Application Process: How to Apply



1. Register your organization with Grants.gov
 - Applications must be submitted electronically via www.grants.gov
 - If not currently registered with Grants.gov, designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and begin the registration process as soon as possible.
 - The registration process requires that your organization have a DUNS number and a current registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) and the process of obtaining both could take several weeks

Application Process: How to Apply (Continued)



2. Go to the funding opportunity on Grants.gov [grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?dpp=1&oppld=333282](https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?dpp=1&oppld=333282)
3. Click the red “Apply” button in the upper right and create a Workspace

Note: All applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) using the “Workspace” feature. Information can be found at the [Grants.gov Workspace Overview Page](#).

Application Process: How to Apply (Continued)



4. Write your Project Narrative

- Includes the Cover Page and Workplan; cannot exceed 15 pages
- Must substantially comply with the specific instructions, format, and content as defined in Appendix B of the RFA
- Save as a Word or pdf document
- BE AWARE: The budget narrative and detail are part of the 15-page limit of the Project Narrative. It will NOT be reviewed if the Project Narrative is already 15 pages and the budget detail/narrative is included as a separate attachment.

5. Complete the mandatory forms:

- See page 30 of RFA: SF-424, SF-424A, EPA Forms 4700-4 and 5700-54

Application Process: How to Apply (Continued)



6. Use the “Other Attachments” form to submit the mandatory documents, if applicable:
 - **Required-** Emissions Inventories
 - **Required-** Emissions Reduction Calculations
 - Voluntary Cost Share Commitment Letter(s), **required if applicable**

7. Use the “Other Attachments” form to submit the following optional documents
 - Project Team Biographies
 - Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, note that this will be required if application is selected for funding
 - Partnership Letter(s), if applicable
 - Approval Letter, if applicable to use alternate means to submit initial application

Application Process: How to Apply (Continued)



8. Grants.gov: Fill out the required grant application forms and upload all required and optional attachments
 - Download PDFs of the forms, fill them out offline, then upload back to grants.gov; or
 - Complete the forms online as webforms

PACKAGE FORMS:

[Mandatory Forms
\(Click to Preview\)](#)

- » [Application for Federal Assistance \(SF-424\) \[V2.1\]](#)
- » [EPA Form 4700-4 \[V2.1\]](#)
- » [Project Narrative Attachment Form \[V1.2\]](#)
- » [EPA KEY CONTACTS FORM \[V1.1\]](#)
- » [Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs \(SF-424A\) \[V1.0\]](#)
- » [Assurances for Non-Construction Programs \(SF-424B\) \[V1.1\]](#)
- » [Other Attachments Form \[V1.2\]](#)

Application Process: How to Apply (Continued)



9. Grants.gov

- The “Check Application” button runs a validation process to ensure all the forms are complete. If the validation fails, a list of errors will be displayed.
- Once all forms are in “passed” status the “Sign and Submit” button will be active.

Application Process: Potential Pitfalls



- Grants.gov issues
 - CREATE AN ACCOUNT NOW
 - The registration process requires that your organization have a DUNS number and a current registration with the System for Award Management (www.SAM.gov).
 - Grants.gov now requires users to sign up for and use their “Workspace” feature when applying for opportunities.
 - SUBMIT EARLY – late applications will not be accepted.
 - Minor problems with application submittal are NOT uncommon. Grants.gov offers 24-hour support, however some issues may take a few days to resolve.
 - See Appendix A for full grants.gov instructions

Thank you!



Type your questions into the chat box. We will address as many questions as possible. If we run out of time, we will post additional questions and answers on the 2021 TAG Program page:

epa.gov/grants/2021-targeted-airshed-grant-program

The following documents will be uploaded to the 2021 TAG Program Page:

- All questions and answers from the presentation, including ones we were unable to answer at the time of the presentation
- Copy of this presentation

See the new TAG Program website for summaries of past grants:

epa.gov/air-quality-implementation-plans/targeted-airshed-grants-program

Additional question? Email:

Tim Roberts, Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. EPA

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Line Item & Itemized Cost	EPA Funding	Non-Federal Cost Share
Personnel		
(1) Project Manager @ \$40/hr x 10 hrs/wk x 208 wks	\$83,200	
(2) Project Staff @ \$30/hr x 40 hrs/wk x 208 wks	\$249,600	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$332,800	
Fringe Benefits		
20% of Salary and Wages @ 20% x Total Personnel - Retirement, Health Benefits, FICA, SUI	\$66,560	
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	\$66,560	
Travel		
Mileage for PM: 25 miles/wk @ \$.17/mi x 208 wks	\$884	
Mileage for Staff: 50 mi/wk @ \$.17/mi x 208 wks	\$1,768	
TOTAL TRAVEL	\$2,652	
Equipment		
10 Electric Trucks and Charging Equipment Owned by the Applicant @ \$360,000/unit	\$3,600,000	
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$3,600,000	
Supplies		
Outreach Materials and Supplies	\$10,000	
TOTAL SUPPLIES	\$10,000	
Contractual		
Charging Equipment Installation	\$55,000	
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	\$55,000	
Other		
Subaward/subgrant to School District for 50% of 10 Electric Type C Buses @ \$420,000/unit plus \$32,000 in personnel costs	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
	\$32,000	
Participant Support Costs/Rebates for 50% 100 Woodstove Changeouts (\$4,400 per Pellet Stove @ 50% x 100)	\$220,000	
TOTAL OTHER	\$2,352,000	\$2,100,000
Indirect Charges		
(Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate = 20%)		
Federal Indirect Cost Rate x Personnel = Indirect Costs	\$66,560	
TOTAL INDIRECT	\$66,560	
TOTAL FUNDING	\$6,485,572	\$2,100,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST		\$8,585,572
Leveraged Resources		
Rebate Program Participant's Share of Stoves (\$4,400 per Pellet Stove @ 50% x 100)		\$220,000

Appendix: Example Budget Table