

Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring Grants

2020 Competition

Webinar -- February 19, 2020

Key questions we'll cover

1. Why is EPA interested in monitoring air toxics?
2. Why is EPA offering these grants?
3. What should the grant projects focus on?
4. How will projects be selected?
5. What is the grant selection timeline?
6. When will funds be distributed?
7. When are grantees expected to provide updates and reports?

Why is EPA interested in monitoring air toxics?

- Part of the Agency's larger effort to reduce people's exposure to air toxics (also called hazardous air pollutants, or HAPs).
 - One of a number of tools EPA uses to support the air toxics program:
 - Emission inventories
 - Air quality modeling
 - Analysis techniques
 - *Monitoring data*
- Most ambient (outdoor air) monitoring data for air toxics comes from state, local, and tribal air monitoring agencies, but air toxics monitoring is not required. These data are intended to:
 - Continue the tracking of trends and across the country
 - Support analytical efforts and exposure assessments, such as the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA)
 - Support air quality modeling
 - Increase geographic diversity of data (air toxics issues can vary from community to community)

Why is EPA offering these grants?

- The grants are a critical element of the three tenets of EPA's ambient air toxics monitoring program:
 1. Supporting the National Air Toxics Trends Station (NATTS) network;
 2. Supporting existing state, local, and tribal air toxics monitoring efforts; and
 3. Providing competitive grants for community-scale air toxics monitoring to aid in the identification and characterization of air toxics in communities or other areas of interest.

What should the grant projects focus on?

- The grants are intended to aid in the identification and characterization of air toxics in communities or other areas of interest.
- Applicants can apply for up to \$750,000 per project.
 - EPA anticipates awarding a total of up to \$5 million in this competition.
- Individual applications are to be focused into one of four *scope of work categories*:
 1. characterizing the impact of air toxics in a community (community-scale monitoring);
 2. assessing impacts of toxics emissions from specific sources (near-source monitoring);
 3. evaluating new and emerging testing methods for air toxics; and,
 4. analyzing existing air toxics data and developing or enhancing analytical, modeling, or implementation tools.

Who can apply and participate?

- ***Who can apply***
 - Grants are awarded with State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) funds.
 - To be eligible, applicants must be air pollution control agencies as defined by Section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act that are also eligible to receive grants under Section 105 of the Clean Air Act.
- ***Who can participate***
 - Applicants may partner with other, non-eligible entities.
 - Partner entities may receive “sub-awards,” but this is not necessary.
 - The applicant (eligible agency) is responsible for applying, receiving funding, accounting for progress, providing reports, and otherwise communicating with EPA.

How will projects be selected?

- EPA will convene an internal review panel to review each eligible application.
- Panel will rate applications based on seven elements [listed on p. 21 of the Request for Application (RFA)]:
 1. Project Summary and Approach
 2. Environmental Results (outputs, outcomes, and performance measures)
 3. Programmatic capability and past performance
 4. Budget
 5. Expenditure of awarded grant funds
 6. Leveraging
 7. Community benefits, engagement, and partnerships
- Other factors include Agency priorities, geographic diversity of projects, and distribution across scope of work categories.
- The EPA selection official will make final determinations.

What is the grant selection timeline?

- The grant solicitation will be open until **11:59 pm (EDT) Monday, March 30, 2020.**
- It will take approximately 60 days to review all eligible applications and select awardees.
- EPA will notify all applicants of their selection status within 15 days of making selections.
 - *Recipients will have to complete pre-award requirements prior to receiving funds*
- Unsuccessful applicants may request a debriefing.
- EPA plans to post a list of selected applicants, award amounts, and information about the selected projects to the Web.

When will funds be distributed?

- EPA may award funds throughout calendar year 2020, depending on:
 - funding availability
 - successful completion of pre-award requirements.
- Recipients will have up to three years to complete their work.

When are grantees expected to provide updates and reports ?

- Grantees are required to:
 - Provide their EPA region quarterly progress reports during the project period.
 - Reports contain technical progress information, plans for the next quarter(s), and a summary of expenditures.
- Submit a final report within 90 days of the end of their project period. The report must include:
 - Summary of the project or activity, advances achieved, and costs of the project or activity.
 - Discussion of problems, successes, and lessons learned from the project or activity that could help overcome structural, organizational, or technical obstacles to implementing a similar project elsewhere.

Application Tips

- Read the request for application document thoroughly.
- Submit the application before the deadline (**11:59 EDT, March 30, 2020**).
- Do not submit an application for a project in an amount greater than \$750,000.
- Include all required grant application forms:
 - Standard Form 424, Standard Form 424-A, EPA Form 4700-4, EPA Form 5700-54
- The required project narrative must not exceed 10 pages.
- Include a statement on quality assurance (either as part of the project narrative or as an attachment).
- Although not required, EPA requests that applicants submit an informal notice of intent to apply by March 4th, 2020 to watkins.nealson@epa.gov.

For more information

- EPA's Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring page includes links to:
 - Request for application
 - Frequently asked questions
 - Training on creating a successful air toxics monitoring project
 - Projects plans from previous grant recipients

<https://www.epa.gov/amtic/community-scale-air-toxics-ambient-monitoring-csatam>
- Follow-up questions? Contact Nealsen Watkins at the addresses below.
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