

**2022 Targeted Airshed Grant Program  
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

**EPA-OAR-OAQPS-22-04**

**Questions and Answers, as of Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Includes Webinar Questions from Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting applications for funding under the Targeted Airshed Grant Program competition (EPA-OAR-OAQPS-22-04).

The Notice of Funding Opportunity and all application forms are available at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/2022-targeted-airshed-grant-program>. The deadline to apply is **December 08, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. (ET)**.

EPA hosted a Funding Opportunity Information Session on November 02, 2022. This document includes the questions asked during this session.

Please review all questions. If you have any additional questions, please email [robert.timothy-p@epa.gov](mailto:robert.timothy-p@epa.gov) by **December 2, 2022**. Questions marked **NEW** or **UPDATED** have been added or revised since the last posting of the questions and answers document

This is the first iteration of the Q&A document, so all items are new.

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### I. General Questions

**Question G1:** Where can I find information about grants awarded under past Targeted Airshed Grant (TAG) competitions?

**Answer 1:** A list of targeted airshed grants awarded between fiscal years 2015-2021 are available on the [TAG Program web page](#).

**Question G2:** Can the TAG funds be co-mingled with another EPA, federal agency, and/or non-federal (e.g., state) grant funding sources as a voluntary cost-share or leveraged funding?

**Answer 2:** Targeted airshed grants cannot be co-mingled with other EPA grant funds to create a [Performance Partnership Grant](#). Other federal funding can be used to meet proposed voluntary

cost share only if the statute authorizing the other federal funding provides that the federal funds may be used to meet a cost share requirement on a federal grant or cooperative agreement (see Section III.B.1., page 15 and Appendix B – Section 5, page 41 of the NOFO). Proposed leveraged resources can include other relevant federal funding beyond those authorized to be used for cost share on another assistance agreement. Air pollution control agencies can use non-federal funding, such as state or local funding, for voluntary cost share or leveraging.

Projects can complement but cannot replicate activities funded under another federal assistance agreement(s) (see Section I.B.1., second bullet point on page 6 of the NOFO).

**Question G3:** Do Buy American requirements apply to targeted airshed grants?

**Answer 3:** Yes, applications with infrastructure projects must meet the Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy American provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58, §§70911-70917); see Section VI.D. on page 26 of the NOFO.

**Question G4:** Can a single application feature more than one project or activity? If the answer is yes, then, can a nonattainment area with a maximum number of applications equal to two submit one application with two distinct projects and also submit its second application with another two or even more distinct applications, given that neither application is for a grant in excess of \$10,000,000?

**Answer 4:** Yes, that may be allowed if the projects are different among multiple applications. See Section III.D.2.c. on page 18 of the NOFO. In addition, see Section III.A. for information on requesting fundings that commensurate the proposed activities.

**Question G5:** Are we limited to the attachments specified in the NOFO, or can we add other attachments?

**Answer 5:** Section IV.C. and Appendix B of the NOFO details the required forms for applications. You can also include additional attachments using the “Other Attachments” form in Grants.gov. A list of some optional attachments is included in Appendix B, Section 6 on pages 46-47 of the NOFO. However, applicants cannot use “Other Attachments” to address components of the project narrative to avoid the project narrative’s page limit, except where noted in Appendix B.

**Question G6:** Is there a minimum warranty requirement for the equipment in the project proposal?

**Answer 6:** There are no minimum warranty requirements for equipment included in the TAG NOFO.

**Question G7:** If some voluntary cost share or leveraged funds are provided by a project partner and not the applicant, does the applicant need to provide a support letter indicating the cost-share and amount with the application?

**Answer 7:** Yes, the Voluntary Cost Share Commitment Letter is needed for commitments from entities other than the applicant; see Section IV.C.5. on page 20 and the Appendix B, Section 6 on page 48 of the NOFO.

**Question G8:** If we have a diesel truck replacement project funded by DERA and working with one equipment manufacturer, is it possible to submit a TAG application with a different company as a complementary project?

**Answer 8:** Yes, that could be allowable, depending on the details of the two projects. Basically, if they are two distinct projects, then it could be allowable. TAG has no requirements or limits on the manufacturers. See Section I.B.1 page 6 of the NOFO about projects that may not include activities funded by a previous EPA grant or cooperative agreement. TAG funds cannot be used to meet the cost share of another federal grant (see Section III.D.1.h. on page 18 of the NOFO).

## II. Webinar Questions

**Question W1:** If an agency is funding a woodstove changeout program with a prior TAG grant, can they still apply for 2022 TAG funds for woodstove changeouts?

**Answer 1:** Yes, they can. However, projects may not include activities that replace the same device(s), technology(ies), equipment, or other activities that were funded by a previous EPA grant or cooperative agreement awarded in 2015 or later. See Section I.B.1 on page 6 of the NOFO.

**Question W2:** If an application includes multiple projects, is there a reason to separate them into different applications? Is it okay to just submit one application?

**Answer 2:** As long as the total federal funding that is requested in each application is under the \$10 million maximum, an applicant can submit multiple projects under one application. If the total for all projects from the applicant is over \$10 million, they must submit multiple applications. Please reference Table 4 on page 4 of the NOFO to see how many applications can be submitted per nonattainment area.

**Question W3:** Can vehicles or equipment be funded with EPA and other sources of funding for the same vehicle or piece of equipment?

**Answer 3:** All costs must meet the cost principles under 2 CFR Part 200. Specifically, costs can be allocable to an assistance agreement for the purposes of [2 CFR 200.405](#) if it benefits the EPA funded project or program and the costs are distributed in reasonable proportion to the benefits or if it is incurred specifically to carry out the project or program. Essentially, to be allocable the cost must be incurred either directly or indirectly to carry out the scope of work.

Applications cannot include any costs that are included as a cost or used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federally financed grant, as required under 2 CFR §200.306(b)(5) and 2 CFR §200.403(f). If these costs are included in an application, the activities associated with these costs will not be reviewed or selected for funding. See Section III.D.1.h page 18 of the NOFO.

Applicants should review [EPA's Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance](#).

**Question W4:** Is there a maximum per vehicle funding cap or limit (i.e., 100% of incremental costs)?

**Answer 4:** No. But it is important that the proposed costs are reasonable to accomplish the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes. Please consider the evaluation criteria while developing the budget. See V.A starting on page 22 of the NOFO.

**Question W5:** Can private entities directly apply or does the applicant need to be a local or state agency?

**Answer 5:** Only air agencies that meet the requirements in Section III. A. on page 14-15 of the NOFO can apply for this funding opportunity. If awarded the funds, those air agencies can create a subaward or contract for private entities. See Appendix C starting on page 48 of the NOFO.

**Question W6:** Are you allowed to combine this grant with other state grant funding, such as the Carl Moyer grant funds in California.

**Answer 6:** Yes, this is allowed and is considered voluntary cost share or leveraging, depending on the nature of the funding. See Section III.B. starting on page 15 of the NOFO for further information. Applicants should be sure to check the allowability of the other funding before proposing to use it as voluntary cost share under a targeted airshed application. Please be cautious doing this though, as it is important that multiple grant funds are not used to pay for the same expense. See Section III.D.1.h page 18 of the NOFO.

**Question W7:** If the project is related to public transit, are operational costs allowed that would be attributed directly to the project eligible?

**Answer 7:** While applications must include projects with primary activities that directly reduce emissions from a given source (See Section III.C), other activities which support the primary project may be eligible. All costs in the project must be allowable under 2 CFR 200 Allowable Costs.

**Question W8:** Is there a minimum application funding amount or will any amount under the maximum be considered?

**Answer 8:** There is no minimum application funding amount.

**Question W9:** If a project involves offering free fares by a transit agency with zero-emission vehicles to reduce pollution from mobile sources, are these considered participant support costs and eligible for funding?

**Answer 9:** These would be considered rebates which falls under participant support costs. See Appendix C page 50-51 of the NOFO for more information on participant support costs and [RAIN-2018-G05, "EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs."](#)

**Question W10:** Please provide any examples of demonstration projects and clarify if they are limited to demonstrating new emission control technology. Can they be a pilot that encourages adoption of a new practice that reduces emissions?

**Answer 10:** Previous demonstration projects have typically demonstrated new emission control technologies. Here are a few examples:

- Demonstrate technology to retrofit an ocean-going vessel
- Develop and demonstrate a nonroad battery-electric excavator and wheel loader

All previous projects can be found [here](#). Different types of demonstration projects that do not demonstrate new emission control technologies can be allowable if they meet all the requirements in the NOFO. Demonstration projects are discussed here: I.B.3. on page 8 of the NOFO. Applicants must be able to quantify the estimated emission reductions that are anticipated to occur during the life of the demonstration project. Please refer to the evaluation criteria set forth in Section V.A. starting on page 21 of the NOFO. See the [TAG Grant Recipients web page](#) for more details on previously awarded demonstration projects.

**Question W11:** Can you provide examples of allowable personnel costs?

**Answer 11:** Allowable personnel costs are only direct costs for the salaries of those individuals who will perform work directly for the project (paid employees of the applicant organization as reflected in payroll tax records). See Appendix B.II. Section 5, on page 41 of the NOFO for more information.

**Question W12:** There is a maximum application funding cap or limit of \$10 million. Is there a maximum funding cap for applicants?

**Answer:** No, there is not a maximum funding cap for applicants. But, if an applicant proposes a voluntary cost share in their application, they are legally required to provide those funds. If the proposed voluntary cost share does not materialize during the performance period of the grant or cooperative agreement, EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and/or take other appropriate action as authorized by 2 CFR Part 200. See III.B.1. on page 15 of the NOFO.

### III. Questions Submitted via Email

**Question 1:** Does the follow paragraph found on page 7 of the NOFO apply to households with multiple wood stoves, where they remove one but are allowed to keep another stove? Or does this mean that when changing out a single wood stove that it no longer has to be destroyed and can remain at the house?

“Targeted airshed funds cannot be used to purchase a cleaner device or technology without replacing a similar inefficient, higher-polluting device. However, for heating devices, a higher-polluting EPA-certified wood stove or cleaner device (e.g., an EPA-certified pellet stove) may remain in service as a limited backup heat source, only to be used under specific circumstances, and can no longer be used as the primary heat source of the building.”

**Answer 1:** The sentence is intended to allow for the installation of a cleaner heating device in a home, while allowing the previously used dirtier device to remain in place as long as it is solely used as a limited backup source of heating. The overall intent of the bullets is that the overall

eligibility of a project is whether or not it will reduce emissions. In other words, the installation of a cleaner device in a residence should reduce the overall emissions of heating the residence. The bullets about scrappage only apply to devices that are scrapped. Also, be sure to read through evaluation criterion 1 about how emission reductions and the design of the project will be evaluated (see pages 22 and 34-35 of the notice of funding opportunity).