

**California Air Resources Board
Office of Community Air Protection**

**Community Air Grants Cycle 5 Request for Applications
Draft Engagement Plan and Timeline**

AUGUST 2024

Purpose: California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff will conduct outreach and engagement on the [draft Community Air Grants \(CAGs\) Cycle 5 Request for Applications](#) (RFA) to obtain perspectives and feedback from all AB 617 stakeholders and co-implementers. In support of CARB's commitment to environmental justice and equity, this draft engagement plan includes activities to support engagement with potential applicants representing impacted communities and California Native American tribes disproportionately impacted by poor air quality statewide.

Background: [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 617](#) (C. Garcia, Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017) requires CARB to provide grants to community-based organizations for technical assistance and to support community participation in the implementation of the community air protection process. CARB's [Community Air Protection Program](#) (Program) administers [CAGs](#) to California community-based organizations and California Native American tribes to meet this statutory requirement.

CAG Priorities: Since 2018, CAGs have fostered community participation to reduce air pollution and harmful emissions by providing support to grantees to develop community focused projects. [Blueprint 2.0](#), adopted by the CARB Board in October 2023, serves as CARB's statewide strategy to reduce emissions and exposures in overburdened communities. The Blueprint outlines new pathways to expand the Program's benefits to more impacted communities, including communities consistently nominated for formal selection for the program. One of those pathways is through the inclusion of a new project type for CAGs known as a local community emissions reduction plan (L-CERP). L-CERPs were first included as a new project type in Cycle 4. L-CERPs may also include air monitoring projects, which have been eligible CAG project types since the first cycle.

The draft Community Air Grants Cycle 5 RFA includes the following priorities to promote and support a diverse range of effective community based and community driven solutions, which can serve as models and be expanded upon to benefit impacted communities throughout the state:

1. Achieving equitable participation and the demonstration of local partnership building and coordination, resource leveraging, in-kind support, or other forms of collaboration.
2. Fostering workforce training and development (e.g., job creation and/or job training).

3. Advancing equity and environmental justice within the context of California's air quality policies.
4. Promoting transferability of emissions reduction strategies contained in CARB-approved Community Emission Reduction Programs (CERPs) developed by air districts and Community Steering Committees to other communities with similar sources of air pollution.
5. Building capacity of participants, such as those [consistently nominated communities \(CNCs\)](#) to the Program, to engage more equitably in the Community Air Protection Program and building capacity through projects that bring together partners to develop and implement Local Community Emission Reduction Plans (L-CERPs).
6. Providing CAPP benefits to communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution that are identified as disadvantaged communities by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 or SB 535.

Cycle 5 Outreach and Engagement Plan:

CARB staff will reach out to all CAPP stakeholders and co-implementers with a particular focus on CBOs and California Native American Tribes representing communities disproportionately impacted by poor air quality to recruit participation in or raise awareness about the engagement activities described below. During the month of August, engagement will focus on getting feedback to inform the finalization of the draft RFA. Once the final RFA is released, engagement will focus on raising awareness about the opportunity to apply for a CAG.

- **Five Virtual Public Workshops:** two workshops in August (held August 20 and 22 from 4:00-5:30pm with the same information presented at both workshops) focused on seeking feedback on the draft Cycle 5 Request for Applications document, and in September - October, one workshop to provide an overview on writing a competitive grant proposal, and later in October, two Cycle 5 pre-Application assistance workshops. Register [here](#) for the August workshops.
- **Focus Groups and One-on-One Meetings:** Conduct group discussions with air district partners and key interested stakeholders, such as representatives of consistently nominated communities, business/industry, tribal governments, previous applicants, previous grantees, and CAPP Community Steering Committees (CSCs). Send an email to airgrants@arb.ca.gov to request a meeting.
- **Tribal Focused Engagement:** Tribal engagement offered for invitation only for California Native American Tribal government representatives.
- **Community Steering Committees (CSC) Meetings:** CARB staff will encourage the participation of CSC members in these engagement activities.
- **Convenings and Events:** CARB staff will share information about CAG engagement activities through tabling at community-focused events. Please send an email to airgrants@arb.ca.gov to let us know about upcoming events.
- **Social Media:** Use social media tools to raise awareness about opportunities to participate in these engagement activities.

- **Program Website:** Scheduled events, and resources to support applying for a CAG, will be promoted on the [Community Air Grants](#) webpage.

Language and Americans with Disability Act Access - CARB is committed to early, equitable, and meaningful access to information to persons with limited English proficiency and with needs for resources and access under the Americans with Disability Act, and California's Unruh Civil Rights Act to engage in this process. CARB staff will provide simultaneous interpretation in Spanish.

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Phase 1 Timeline - Finalization of draft RFA and Pre-Application

January - July 2024 - Cycle 5 Request for Applications (RFA) Development

July 19, 2024 - August 25, 2024 - Draft Cycle 5 RFA Public Release and Public Comment

August 2024 - Draft RFA Framework Public Process and Pre-RFA Focused Engagement

August 20 and August 22, 2024 - Two Pre-RFA Public Virtual Workshops on Draft Cycle 5 RFA, 4:00 - 5:30pm

September 3, 2024 - Final Cycle 5 Request for Applications Released

September - October 2024 - Two Pre-Application Assistance Workshops and One Workshop on How to Prepare a Grant Proposal

November 1, 2024 - Cycle 5 Application Deadline

Phase 2 Timeline - Application and Award Phase

During this phase, our engagement with applicants will be limited so as to preserve integrity of the competitive process. This information is shared here to be transparent to potential applicants.

November 2024 - February 2025 - Application Review and Development of Recommendations for Award Development

March 2025 - CARB Selection of Grant Awards

March 2025 - May 2025 - Grant Agreement Development

June 2025 - Grant Term and Project Period Starts

July 2025 - Grantee Kickoff and Project Orientation Meetings

February 1, 2027 - Grant Term Ends