California Air Resources Board
Community Air Grants Workshop Series

Cycle 5 Request for Applications

September 30 and October 8, 2024
Public Workshop Meeting Summary

Workshop Summary

On September 30 and October 8, 2024, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) held workshops focused on [Community Air Grants (CAGs),](#) available funding, grant priorities, application development, eligibility criteria (with an emphasis on equitable participation), partnership building, workforce development, and environmental justice. The Workshop Facilitator introduced the meeting's language access features and encouraged participants to use the global icon for their preferred language. The CARB CAG team also discussed the grant timeline, the importance of sustainability programs, and the use of the Community Air Quality Viewer (AQview) platform for accessing air quality data and grant information.

Workshop participants asked about data collection, workplan and budget development, and grant scoring criteria. The workshops ended with a participation survey, reminders about the November 1, 2024 application deadline, expressions of gratitude from staff organizers and attendees for their participation, and encouraging them to submit their applications by the deadline. CARB staff also acknowledged the entire CAG team that works on community air grants and expressed gratitude for their assistance as well as to the Spanish interpreters for their work supporting the workshops.

Language Access and Workshop Welcome

The Workshop Facilitator introduced herself and explained the meeting's language access features, encouraging participants to use the global icon for their preferred language. She emphasized the importance of clear speech, using audiphones, and turning off cameras when not in use. The meeting was conducted in English and Spanish (simultaneous translation was provided) to ensure language justice. The Community Air Grants Manager welcomed participants to the workshop. CARB staff also outlined the objectives of the workshop series to support applicants in developing good projects and proposals. Staff highlighted the record-breaking amount of almost $16 million available for award. This amount is also record-breaking as it's the first time there has been this much available in a single cycle. The Workshop Facilitator discussed the agenda, including an overview of the Community Air Grant program, Cycle 5 Request for Applications (RFA), and introductions. She conducted a poll showing most participants were community organizations and previous grant recipients interested in educational and technical projects. CARB staff then provided a detailed overview of the RFA document, which includes information on eligibility, priorities, eligible and ineligible costs, project types, scoring criteria, and timeline.

Program Overview and Eligibility

The Community Air Grants Lead discussed Community Air Grant funding and eligibility criteria. CARB staff emphasized the importance of the application deadline for the 5th cycle. This cycle has combined funding from two budget years. Staff encouraged participants to review the Cycle 5 RFA on the program's website as early as possible. CARB staff also

highlighted the information on eligible and ineligible costs, project types, scoring criteria, and CARB resources. CARB staff highlighted the eligibility criteria for the program, which includes being a California community-based non-profit organization holding a current tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The program provides grants to community-based non-profit organizations and California Native American Tribes for technical assistance and community participation in the community air protection program.

Priorities and Project Guidelines

CARB staff discussed the Community Air Grants' priorities for Cycle 5, highlighting equitable participation, partnership building, workforce development, and environmental justice. Projects must benefit disadvantaged communities and low-income communities. The SMARTIE approach of making projects Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely, Inclusive, and Equitable was outlined. CARB staff recommended applicants plan, and collaborate, with potential partners like air districts, and request letters of commitment early in the application development process. CARB staff advised thoroughly reviewing applications, especially work plans and budgets.

Timeline

CARB staff discussed the grant timeline, with the application deadline on November 1, and selected projects starting implementation in June 2025 through 2027. Questions were raised about eligibility criteria, mapping for eligible regions, and the approval process for external consultants or sub-contractors. CARB staff clarified that working with air districts is encouraged.

Grant Questions Discussion and Clarification

Workshop participants asked about the overlap between grant cycles 4 and 5, demographics in consideration of award selection, using funds beyond the grant term, and the development of a budget proposal for a consortium applicant. CARB staff highlighted that the grant proposal should include a detailed budget, with each task or component clearly outlined. Questions were asked about the requirements for the strategies expansion project, to which CARB staff clarified that the project design is up to the applicant. CARB staff mentioned that responses to questions would also be included in the [Frequently Asked Questions document](). CARB staff confirmed that there is no limit to the number of applications an entity can submit. Funds must be used within the grant term timeframe and cannot extend past the grant term end date. CARB staff mentioned that it is developing racial equity tools. The California Climate Investments Program, which funds the Community Air Grants program, has a map that pulls together CalEnviroScreen and low-income communities. CARB staff advised workshop participants to consult with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to address concerns about impacted communities removed from or not identified in CalEnviroScreen.

Community Air Quality Viewer (AQview) Overview

CARB staff provided an overview of CARB's Air Quality Viewer ([AQview]()), a centralized data system that brings together community-scale air monitoring data from various sources in

California. AQview currently has data from 7 air districts and 12 counties, including almost 200 community monitoring sites. The data are quality-checked and made readily available online. CARB staff also highlighted the platform's features, including the Continuous Data Download Tool (with a comprehensive summary of the current data available), the Reports Page for non-continuous data, visualization tools, and a feedback form for user suggestions and issues. CARB staff emphasized the importance of community monitoring efforts and data to improve AQview and encouraged users to reach out for more information.

Workshop Highlights

- All applicants are encouraged to review the Cycle 5 Request for Applications (RFA) document thoroughly before applying.
- Applicants considering Local Community Emission Reduction Plan (LCERP) projects should obtain at least one letter of commitment from project partners.
- All applicants must ensure proposed projects are located in and benefit disadvantaged or low-income communities.
- Applicants should use the SMARTIE approach when writing grant objectives
- Applicants with questions should contact the CAG Coordinator (airgrants@arb.ca.gov).
- All applicants should prepare and submit applications by no later than November 1, 2024, at 11:59 PM, PST.