

## Community Air Protection Program Community Air Grants

### Applicant Frequently Asked Questions October 2024

The Community Air Grants provide opportunities for community-based organizations and California Native American Tribes to participate in the AB 617 process and to build capacity to become active partners with government.

The information provided in this document includes responses to questions asked previously by interested stakeholders on the topics of eligibility, application requirements, budget, and conceptual categories. CARB staff encourage CAG applicants to read through this document to assist with the development of competitive proposal for the CARB Community Air Grant solicitation.

#### Eligibility

1. **Regarding eligibility, is a charter school that is a 501(c)(3) associated with a public school system eligible to apply for this grant?**

Answer: No, only organizations that meet our eligibility requirements are eligible to apply. Please review the [Request for Applications](#) in Section D (Eligibility). If a non-eligible organization wishes to apply for a Community Air Grant, they must do so in partnership with one of the three types of eligible organizations.

2. **How are disadvantaged/low-income communities defined?**

Answer: Please review the [Request for Applications](#). To maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities, and to provide direct, meaningful and assured benefits to priority populations, projects **must** be wholly located in, and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, as identified pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 39711 and 39713 (added and amended by Senate Bill 535 and AB 1550), or on Tribal lands. Specific project census tract location(s) must be included in Section 1 of the application narrative (see Table 1). CARB's [priority population investments mapping tool](#) may be used for location identification purposes.

Disadvantaged communities are identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency<sup>1</sup> as the top 25% most impacted census tracts in [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#) – a screening tool used to help identify communities disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution and with population characteristics that make them more sensitive to pollution. Low-income communities and households are defined as the census tracts and households, respectively, that are at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income, or at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) [2016 State Income Limits](#).<sup>2</sup>

3. **Our offices are not in a low income or disadvantaged community; would that disqualify**

**us as an applicant?**

Answer: No, although projects *must* be wholly located in and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, office facilities do not have to be in disadvantaged or low-income communities. However, please see [Request for Applications](#) (refer to relevant section of scoring table) applicants must demonstrate their connection to the community they propose to work in for the project.

4. **If we have a project located in two or three communities within five miles of each other, but, people from other adjacent communities attend a community meeting, would that be considered in the definition of “wholly located?”**

Answer: There is no prohibition if people from other adjacent communities attend a community meeting held in a disadvantaged or low-income community or on tribal lands. Please refer to the responses to question 2 above, in addition to, [Request for Applications](#) (RFA).

5. **If a project near me is receiving funds doing the same or similar work as my group. Will my group still be able to apply for a grant?**

Answer: Yes. Awards are based on scoring criteria in [Request for Applications](#).

6. **Can a project focusing on emissions reduction in a non-priority community still qualify for county-wide collaboration?**

Answer: Projects must benefit disadvantage or low-income communities. An emissions reductions strategy expansion (ERSE) project may seek county-wide collaboration.

7. **My organization is not in a low-income community, could we partner with an organization from a low-income community and then apply for a grant?**

Answer: See answer to question 1 in the Eligibility section above. The projects must be wholly located in and benefit low-income or disadvantaged communities or tribal lands. If you meet the criteria in the RFA, you are welcome to apply. Applicants must demonstrate their connection to the community located in and benefit a low-income or disadvantaged community or tribal land.

8. **May I apply for grants in more than one category?**

Answer: Yes, you can apply for all three categories (educational, focused, or technical) however the proposals must be separate and distinct from each other.

9. **Can Air Districts and AQMDs apply? In other words, do Air Districts and AQMDs fall under the definition of a California community-based organization?**

Answer: No, air districts are not eligible to apply for CAG funding.

10. **To identify eligible project areas, should we reference CCI Priority Population 2024 or CalEnviroScreen 4.0? Can you clarify which regions on each map are eligible for grant funding?**

Answer: As outlined in Table 1, Section 1 of the Cycle 5 RFA, the application narrative must include the specific Census tract location(s) of the project. Use CARB's mapping

tool to identify priority populations for your project.

**11. Would the University of California campuses be eligible for funding for this program?**

Answer: No, school districts, universities, or colleges (public or private) are not eligible for grant funding. However, the University of California may may join a project as a project collaborator.

**12. Are small businesses eligible to apply for grants?**

Answer: No, small businesses are not eligible to apply for CAG funding. Please review the [Request for Applications](#) in Section D: Eligibility.

**13. We are a non-profit charter school with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and would like to confirm, are we eligible to apply?**

Answer: No, non-profit charter schools are not eligible for funding. However, the non-profit charter schools may may join a grant project as a project collaborator.

**14. Can several grants be submitted or are applicants limited to just one?**

Answer: There is no limit to the number of applications that an entity can submit, however only one application per applicant will be considered for a given project.

**15. Is it possible for an organization to pursue more than one Cycle 5 CAG grant, such as for education and technical purposes?**

Answer: Yes, you can apply for multiple categories (educational, focused, or technical) but each proposal must be separate and distinct from each other.

**16. Can we implement a project that involves multiple AB 617 communities? Can we collaborate with areas of concern to help businesses transition to safer alternative for reducing emissions?**

Answer: Community air grants have supported projects that benefit several communities highly impacted by air pollution. Please reference the Cycle 5 Request for Applications document on how best to prepare your proposed project in alignment with program priorities and goals.

**17. Does all the work need to be conducted in an identified AB 617 area? Can we operate in one AB 617 area and another disadvantaged community?**

Answer: Community Air Grant projects must be wholly located in and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities to maximize benefits to priority populations. For more details, please refer to page 7 of the RFA. We have previously awarded projects that span multiple communities. You can develop projects that align with our program priorities (see RFA, p. 7) and check our project examples, p.11 in the RFA.

**18. Can a lead applicant that is a 501(c)(3) partner with a community-based organization (CBO) that is not a 501(c)(3) but will be listed as a subcontractor?**

Answer: Yes, the 501(c)(3) entity would be the primary grantee and would be the point of

contact for the grant.

## Application Requirements

1. **Can a project be "Technical" in category if it doesn't include monitoring but does include modeling?**

Answer: Yes, there is not a requirement to conduct air monitoring to be a Technical Project type. Applicants may have other technical elements to project types to be in that category. CARB has previously awarded Technical Projects that included technical elements such as the analysis of data and did not specifically have community air monitoring as an element. See [Request for Applications](#).

2. **When you say, "community-led strategies", do you mean through groups and organizations in the community? Or local government? Or businesses? Or individuals?**

Answer: AB 617 recognizes the range of stakeholders in a community, particularly residents impacted by poor air quality, and including but not limited to the local air district, local governments, and affected sources (business and industry). Please also review page 5 of the [Request for Applications](#) in Section D: Eligibility.

3. **There are very distinct budget categories, and is there an option for "Other" anywhere?**

Answer: In the [2024 Community Air Grants Budget Template](#), the budget categories are specific to whether the item is either "Personnel," "Supplies and Services," "Equipment," or "Subcontractors." If "Other" categories are necessary, the associated task(s) that would not fit into the categories should be included here within "other".

4. **What legal definitions should we use to follow the requirement "Projects must be wholly located in, and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, or on tribal lands?"**

Answer: See responses to question 2 in the Eligibility section above. To maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities, and to provide direct, meaningful and assured benefits to priority populations, projects **must** be wholly located in, and benefit disadvantaged and/or low-income communities, as identified pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 39711 and 39713 (added and amended by [Senate Bill 535 and AB 1550](#)), or on tribal lands. See the [Request for Applications](#) for CARB's *priority population* investments mapping tool may be used for location identification purposes.

5. **We are looking for a grant in the 2024/25 season when should we file? When is the next deadline for the Air Grant application?**

Answer: Please see [Request for Applications](#) for more information. Grant Applications are due November 1, 2024. Electronic applications are due by 11:59 PM on November 1, 2024. Applications will not be accepted after this date.

6. **Does it favor a re-applicant to submit support letters from the same organizations as it**

**did for the first application?**

Answer: Please review Section S, Letters of Commitment and/or Support, in Table 1, Application Narrative in the [Request for Applications](#). Also, the RFA states: Do not assume the review panel knows anything about your organization or previous project experience. CARB recommends the inclusion of letters of support and/or letters of specific commitment that are up to date and relevant to the proposed project.

**7. Does it favor an applicant to apply more than once for the same application period?**

Answer: There is no limit to the number of applications that an entity can submit but only one application per applicant will be considered for a given project.

**8. Is it an option for an organization to apply with a partner organization?**

Answer: Yes. Community Air Grant project priorities include Projects that propose/ will achieve equitable public participation and demonstrate local partnership building and coordination, resource leveraging, in-kind support, or other forms of collaboration and projects that bring together partners to develop and implement local community emission reduction plans. See the response to question 1 in the Eligibility section, [Request for Applications](#). Applicants for L-CERP projects are required to include at least one letter of specific commitment from a partner organization.

**9. Can 501(c)(3)s include businesses as partners in the proposed project?**

Answer: Yes, see the [Request for Applications](#) in the Application Narrative – Collaboration and Leveraging. Applicants must briefly describe any existing or planned partnerships with any of the following groups, detailing what they are providing for the proposed project. Partnerships can include business entities. Letters of general support and/or specific commitment are strongly encouraged for all projects and at least one letter of specific commitment is required for L-CERP proposals.

**10. Can you give more details about the documents that need signatures before submission?**

Answer: Document that require signatures include the application coversheet, Payee Data Record, and Tribal Government/Nonprofit Organization Board Resolution, all of which can be found on the Cycle 5 Request for Applications webpage.

**11. Can letters of commitment be submitted for proposals that are not part of the L-CERP, and if not, does that affect the 2-point maximum available for Letters of Support?**

Answer: Yes, letters of commitment may be submitted for non L-CERP projects.

**12. Is it necessary to obtain a letter of support or commitment from a regulatory agency? Does it have to come from the AQB, or can it be another agency?**

Answer: L-CERP projects must include at least one letter of commitment as part of a complete application. Letters of commitment should be obtained from any of the following: an air district, another local or state agency, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 9, regarding specific project components. These

letters indicate that an organization, academic institution, or governmental partner indicate an intent to commit either financial or in-kind resources to help implement the project. If the project proposal is a non-L-CERP project, it is not necessary to obtain a letter of support or commitment from a regulatory agency.

**13. What are the start and end dates for the grant period? Also, is 501(c)(3) nonprofit eligible?**

Answer: The grant term implementation period will be June 2025 to March or December 2027 depending on the funding source to award the project. A 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service tax exempt nonprofit organization are eligible.

## **Budget**

**1. How long will I have to implement my project for Cycle 5?**

Answer: Grantees will have approximately 21 to 30 months to implement their projects.

**2. Is the Application Process and awarding of funds an ongoing process each year?**

Answer: No, CAG funds are available as the Legislature appropriated funds to the Program for these technical assistance funds. The amount of funding available has varied since the start of the program from \$0 to \$10 M in a given budget year. This year, funds allocated from two funding cycles have been combined for a total of almost \$16M.

**3. Under Eligible Costs of the Cycle 5 RFA (p.13) it states that external consultants must be pre-approved by CARB. Does that mean that all sub-contractors/sub-grantees must be approved by CARB before submitting the proposal? Are there any budget restrictions for subcontractors?**

Answer: We do not require external consultants to be pre-approved by CARB before a proposal submission. Fees for external consultants, subcontractors and subgrantees should be detailed in project proposals. All external consultant fees must be pre-approved by CARB prior to grant agreement execution. Expenditures and fees should be reasonable.

**4. Regarding the budget, should one budget or a budget for each task be provided?**

Answer: A single budget is required. You can find the Grant Budget Template on the [Cycle 5 Website](#) in Appendix H or directly at this link: [https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/CAG\\_Cycle5\\_Appendix\\_H\\_BudgetTemplate\\_090324\\_F.xlsx](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/CAG_Cycle5_Appendix_H_BudgetTemplate_090324_F.xlsx)

## **Focused Projects**

**1. Can you give examples of community air protection?**

Answer: Community air protection activities include implementing strategies to reduce exposures or emissions in specific communities by bringing together residents and partners to better understand local air quality, prioritize air quality concerns and developing community emission reduction plans. Community air protection can also include developing and implementing community air monitoring plans, (CAMPs), or

shared learning with community members based on existing air quality information. Please see Community Air Grant Project Concept Overview, Section H: Examples of Project Activities of the [Request for Applications](#), for examples of elements and activities for the different project categories.

**2. Can you give examples of Focused Projects for Emission Reduction Strategies Expansion?**

Answer: This type of project could support activities to expand on an emission reduction strategy in use in other Program communities, such developing a strategy to increase electric vehicles in a specific disadvantaged or low-income community.

**3. Can you give examples of Focused L-CERP projects?**

Answer: An L-CERP could include the following:

1. Actions focused on exposure reduction incentives projects such as air filtration in homes or schools. CARB's CAP Incentives Guidelines allow these projects to be funded through CAP incentives with no further approval from CARB. This update will allow air districts, CARB, and other agencies (local, State, and Federal) to partner on funding for priority projects, as feasible.
2. Priority actions focused on land use, such as the need for a truck re-routing study to guide a local government in updating truck routes. Such projects would require active participation and partnership with local planning entities.
3. Identify truck idling or other mobile source compliance concerns that could be addressed through a community-focused enforcement approach that CARB's Enforcement Division could lead, in partnership with air districts, as air district resources allow.

**4. If a Focused project is being considered, what level of commitment is required from the Local Air District? Will a Local Community Emission Reduction Plan (L-CERP) still be actionable without the local air district?**

Answer: Air Districts are not required to implement the strategies in an L-CERP developed by a grantee. CARB strongly encourages applicants to contact their Air District well before application submittal, to secure the participation of the Air District, including a letter of specific commitment and any other federal, state or local agencies or other potential partners whose jurisdictions overlap with issues expected to be surfaced during developing the L-CERP. For example, if an applicant's proposal focuses on the air quality impacts from local land use decisions, CARB encourages reaching out to local planning departments. As part of CARB's administration of FY 23-24 implementation funds to Air Districts, CARB has advised Districts that these funds can support staff costs associated with participating in the L-CERP process. The applicant should not sub-award Community Air Grant funds to Air Districts.

CARB acknowledges that implementation funds to Air Districts have not increased, despite an increase in the number of AB 617 communities and that Districts must prioritize their



limited resources. Early and meaningful involvement of all parties will increase the likelihood that Air Districts can plan for and implement any priorities that fall within their jurisdiction; however, they are not required.

## Educational Projects

1. **We are considering a project on indoor air quality (IAQ) since there's more data on outdoor air quality (OAQ). Would this qualify under the technical category? If we also want to develop a program for IAQ education/outreach, can that be a separate project with a separate application?**

Answer: Yes, community air grants have funded indoor air quality projects as technical projects. The education/outreach project would need to be distinct from another project, such as an outdoor air quality project, to qualify as separate proposals.

2. **We are interested in applying for a CAG but are unsure about the educational project type. Can educational projects be solely community outreach campaigns?**

Answer: Yes, educational projects can be purely educational community outreach campaigns. You can also find Sample Objectives on page 18 of the RFA. More details are available on the Cycle 5 RFA website: [www.arb.ca.gov/capp-cag/cycle-5-request-for-applications](http://www.arb.ca.gov/capp-cag/cycle-5-request-for-applications)

3. **We are planning an educational outreach project, and a technical monitoring project. What is meant by 'separate and distinct projects' if we submit two applications?**

Answer: Two or more different projects with project objectives or elements that when described side by side would not be confused with one another. It also means there is no overlap between applications with respect to the tasks described in the Work Plans (i.e., scope of work). For example, the same project proposal should not be submitted under multiple project type categories.

4. **We want to apply for the educational projects grant and would like to confirm if the grant term ends in whether the educational project grant term ends in March 2027 (FY 22-23) or December 2027 (FY 23-24)?**

Answer: The grant term for projects funded from the 2022 Budget Act will end in March 2027 and projects funded from the 2023 Budget Act ends in December 2027.

5. **Is there any technical assistance available to help us understand CEQA process for cycle 5? I've read the template several times and want to know if we need permits for adding purple air monitors to residential homes, given that it's low impact and may only need CEQA acknowledgement.**

Answer: The CEQA description in the RFA asks applicants to confirm whether any plans or permits are needed; if so, list them. For all applicants, the CEQA acknowledgement applicants are required to provide should be sufficient.

## Air Quality Data



**1. What is AQview?**

Answer: *AQview* is a data visualization platform that CARB has developed to provide easy access to air quality data to community members for their community-science-driven initiatives through transparency of how data are collected and processed. AQview is designed with simple, intuitive, and mobile-friendly interfaces.

Major features of AQview include a real-time PM2.5 map which is updated hourly, a time-series tool for analyzing recent trends at multiple sites, and a high-performance data download tool for the public to access all community-focused monitoring data.

**2. Do you have to be a grant recipient to get access to the data?**

Answer: No, you don't have to be a grant recipient to get access to the data in AQview. AQview is publicly accessible online at <https://aqview.arb.ca.gov/>.

**3. What data is in AQview?**

Answer: Currently, AQview hosts community air monitoring data from seven air districts across the State. The data primarily comes from the AB 617 communities selected for Community Air Monitoring Plans (CAMPs), along with community networks established through Community Air Grants, as well as other independent community monitoring efforts. The data in the AQview system dates to February 2019.

Besides PM2.5, the other monitoring data currently available in the AQview system include those for PM10, ozone, nitrogen oxide, sulfur oxide, Black Carbon, hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds, particulate metals, and pesticides, depending on the sites and communities. AQview also provides air quality information from more than 7,000 Purple Air sensors across California after applying robust California-specific correction algorithms and innovative quality control routines to the data.

However, CARB's Aerometric Data and Analysis Management system (ADAM) website has monitoring data for hexavalent chromium as part of the statewide air toxics monitoring network. The ADAM website includes [statewide summaries](#) and summaries that can be viewed by monitoring site. For more information about data in ADAM, please reach out to the Air Quality Data Section at [aqmis@arb.ca.gov](mailto:aqmis@arb.ca.gov).

**4. How far back does CARB's data go? How will this data benefit us and how do we use it if you are only starting with data as far back as 2019? How do we show we have reduced pollution in the long term?**

Answer:

Ambient Air Monitoring Data:

1. CARB's Air Quality and Meteorological Information System (AQMIS) provides real-time air quality monitoring data from all regulatory sites across California dating back to 1980.

2. CARB's *ADAM* system provides air quality data statistics dating back to the early 1970s (depending on pollutant and site).
3. Toxics monitoring data in ADAM dates to 1985.

For more information about data in AQMIS and ADAM, please reach out to the Air Quality Data Section at [aqmis@arb.ca.gov](mailto:aqmis@arb.ca.gov).

Refinery related air monitoring data:

The websites below provide information about air pollutant levels at the refinery fence-line (and sometimes in the community) and long-term variations and trends of refinery related emissions.

**Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)**

Refinery Fence-line Monitoring Systems

- [Chevron Richmond Refinery](#)
- [Phillips 66 Rodeo Refinery](#)
- [Valero Benicia Refinery](#)
- [Martinez Refinery](#)
- [Marathon Martinez Refinery](#)

**South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD):**

- [SCAQMD Rule 1180 Community Air Monitoring](#)

Refinery Fence-line Monitoring Systems

- [Chevron El Segundo Refinery](#)
- [Torrance Refining Company](#)
- [Marathon Los Angeles Refinery \(Carson and Wilmington Operations\)](#)
- [Phillips 66 \(Carson and Wilmington Refineries\)](#)
- [Valero Wilmington Refinery](#)

**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD):**

- [SJVAPCD Petroleum Refinery Air Monitoring](#)
- [Kern Oil and Refining Company Community Air Monitor](#)
- [Kern Oil and Refining Company Community Fenceline Monitoring](#)
- [San Joaquin Refinery Company Community Monitor](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also has the [Benzene Fenceline Monitoring Dashboard](#).

5. **Will funds be collected from Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Program or is it going to be funds to continue the project from the grantee collecting the data and then the funds come from that?**

Answer: SEP Program funding has limitations. Please see the [Supplemental](#)

*Environmental Project (SEP) Program FAQ* for more information.

- 6. Does the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) have funding separate from CARB for technical grants? How do I apply and what is the deadline?**

Answer: Yes, please visit the [BAAQMD](#) website for details.

### Eligible/Associated Costs

- 1. Is equipment an eligible cost?**

Answer: Please review a list of eligible and ineligible costs on pages 12-17 of the RFA: Cycle 5 Request for Applications.

- 2. Are there any restrictions on using funding for strategies/actions identified by the CSC in their CERP development? Are CAG funds meant to implement AB 617 CERPs or for other activities?**

Answer: CAG funds can be used for activities that support strategies/actions identified by CSCs in their AB 617 CERPs.

- 3. If we have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement for 2024 but the air grants work starts in 2025, do the 2024 rates still apply?**

Answer: If the grant work will begin in 2025, the cost rates for 2025 will apply not 2024. Budget for the appropriate rates to ensure the budget stays within the grant award amount.

- 4. Are stipends for community residents an eligible expense?**

Answer: Community participation compensation (e.g., stipends) are eligible expenses with the appropriate accounting tracking. You can also find the full list of other eligible costs starting on page 12 and ineligible costs on page 15 of the RFA.

### General Information

- 1. Are there office hours for potential applicants to ask questions regarding their projects?**

Answer: No, however you can email [airgrants@arb.ca.gov](mailto:airgrants@arb.ca.gov) with any questions or call our CAG Coordinator, Leah Asay at 916-282-6250.

- 2. Will the workshop webinar be available later for clarification?**

Answer: Yes, workshop summaries, recorded workshop presentations, and PowerPoint presentation materials from pre-application assistance workshop series will be posted after the last workshop on our Cycle 5 RFA website:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp/cag/cycle-5-request-for-applications>

- 3. How much funding is available for these grants? You mentioned it was a record-breaking cycle?**

Answer: Nearly \$16 million is available for funding.

4. **Where can I find the actual RFA?**

Answer: You can obtain it here: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp/cag/cycle-5-request-for-applications>

5. **Where can I download the application template?**

Answer: There isn't an application template, but you can find the [Cycle 5 Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) which includes the application instructions, scoring criteria, application coversheet, budget template, work plan template, resolution templates.

6. **Can we apply for multiple grants (ex. educational and technical) if each project is distinct?**

Answer: Yes, there is no limit to the number of applications an entity can submit.

7. **If my program targets a region (e.g., Orange County) are we eligible if we focus on specific AB617 communities within that region?**

Answer: Projects must be wholly located in and benefit disadvantaged and or low-income communities. You can use CARB's priority population investments mapping tool in the Request for Applications for location identification.

8. **Can we collaborate with different communities?**

Answer: Yes, collaborating with different communities is acceptable.

9. **Should we submit a multilocation proposal. or multiple proposals for each location?**

Answer: It's up to you how to design your project. Regardless of the approach, the proposal should be feasible, clear, and easy to help the grant reviewer evaluate its potential for success (see page 4 of the RFA).

10. **Can a 501(c) (3) partner with a non-501(c)(3) as a subcontractor?**

Answer: Yes, the 501(c)(3) entity would be the primary grantee and would be the point of contact for the grant.

11. **Can we submit two separate applications for two different CBOs?**

Answer: Yes.

12. **As a CAG Cycle 4 grantee, can I apply for Cycle 5 grants, even with overlapping terms?**

Answer: Yes, both previous and current grantees are eligible to apply for Cycle 5 grants.

13. **Can CBOs to submit projects that reduce PM-2.5 precursors, such as ammonia and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which contribute to PM-2.5 formation but aren't designated as Criteria Air Pollutants?**

Answer: Yes, applicants can submit projects that reduce PM-2.5 precursors like VOCs. The projects **must be in California** and benefit disadvantage/low-income communities.

**14. Would establishing gardens and urban forests be considered pollution reduction strategies?**

Answer: Yes, urban greening can reduce air pollution.

**15. Is there technical assistance available to help us understand the CEQA process for cycle 5? Specifically, do we need permits for adding purple air monitors to residential homes, or is CEQA acknowledgement enough?**

Answer: The CEQA description in the RFA is general, and CARB asks applicants to provide a description of the project. See the CEQA project description template on the Application Coversheet. For all applicants, CEQA acknowledgement should be sufficient.

## Project Types

**1. Can you provide more information and examples of workforce development projects we should consider?**

Answer: Examples are listed on pages 11 and 19 of the RFA under Technical projects.

**2. What type of projects are eligible for this grant?**

Answer: Please review p.11 of the RFA for examples.

**3. Can you provide an example of an education project please?**

Answer: Examples of project activities are on page 11-12 of the RFA, and educational project types are on page 18. You can find more details in Section H of the RFA here: [Cycle 5 Request for Applications | California Air Resources Board](#).

**4. Are workforce development, education, or training program projects acceptable?**

Answer: Workforce development is a priority for community air grants and can be an element of either an educational, technical or focused project. The project type category is up to the applicant. Community air grants are for the implementation of projects that applicants design rather than to “get technical assistance.” A technical community air grant would be awarded to an applicant to implement a technical project of their design. It’s up to the applicant if you want to apply for a Local Community Emissions Reduction Plan or L-CERP to work with a specific community on local air quality impacts and actions.

**5. Are the vehicle miles traveled policies and strategies from the 2022 Scoping Plan eligible for funding? – Additionally, is there a geographic preference for applications? Answer:**

Please review the Examples of Project Activities, starting on page 11 and the Sample Objectives by Project Type on page 18 of the RFA. Community Air Grant projects must be wholly located in and benefit disadvantaged or low-income communities to maximize benefits. The California Climate Investments Program defines Priority Populations as disadvantaged communities and low-income communities. Use [CARB’s priority population investments mapping tool](#) for location identification. Specific census tract locations must be included in Section 1 of the application narrative (see Table 1-Application Narrative criteria).

6. I am requesting contact information for someone at SJVAPCD to discuss about my project proposal.

**I have a question about AQ monitoring methods for our technical project application. I've reviewed Blueprint 2.0, which outlines methodologies, equipment, and reporting for AQ monitoring, as well as the CARB AB 617 website. I understand these requirements apply to the 19 designated AB 617 areas. If we operate our monitoring system in line with these guidelines, will we need to follow all the same monitoring requirements as an AB 617 areas for monitoring AQ?**

Answer: For specific requirements for air monitoring projects, contact Jessica Olsen at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (559-230-5988) or [jessica.olsen@valleyair.org](mailto:jessica.olsen@valleyair.org).

You can also find details in Table 1 of the RFA and elements 1-5 in [Table E-2 Checklist for Community Air Monitoring Evaluation webpage](#). Yes, we advise monitoring project proposals to follow the guidelines identified in Blueprint 2.0.

7. **Does a Tribal Resolution Letter need to be submitted with the grant application, or can this be submitted at the time of the award?**

Answer: The Tribal Resolution letter should be submitted with the application.