



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Air District opens Community Health Protection Grant Program**

*Funding available for projects in Bay Area neighborhoods most impacted by air pollution*

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District will accept proposals for the Community Health Protection Grant Program beginning April 29 for up to \$50,000 from community groups, neighborhood associations and other community-based, local non-profit organizations in designated Bay Area neighborhoods most impacted by air pollution.

Funding will be awarded for activities that increase interest in local air quality issues and broaden a community's ability to partner with the Air District to develop an emission reduction or air monitoring plan. Eligible communities include:

- East Oakland/San Leandro
- Eastern San Francisco
- Pittsburg-Bay Point area
- San Jose
- Tri-Valley
- Vallejo

The Air District is targeting funding to organizations and groups in communities most impacted by air pollution as a cost-effective means to make air quality improvements for local residents. The Community Health Protection Grant Program will consider funding those working directly within their communities to strengthen community engagement and participation in upcoming plans to improve local air quality.

Funded work can include one or more of the following:

1. *Community needs assessment:* Research community needs to participate in discussions about local air quality concerns and potential solutions at the neighborhood level and provide a report on strategies that could help build community interest and participation in a local clean air project.
2. *Community Organizing:* Design and implement strategies to organize the community around air quality and/or other environmental justice issues. This can include leadership development, community mobilizing and coalition building.
3. *Authentic Participation:* Provide communities with resources and information to participate in decisions that impact local environmental health. Strategies may include recommendations

for improved communication and partnerships with community members, training on Air District programs and decision making, or other strategies to help communities partner with the Air District and other local leaders.

The Community Health Protection Grant Program is funded through Assembly Bill 617 which aims to reduce community exposure to air pollutants. AB 617 requires local air districts to identify overburdened communities for implementation years 1 through 5 as areas of focus. Last year, the Air District selected the communities of West Oakland and Richmond for year 1. West Oakland was selected for an emission reduction plan and Richmond was selected for an air monitoring plan. Grant funding aims to provide years 2 through 5 communities: East Oakland/San Leandro, Eastern San Francisco, the Pittsburg-Bay Point area, San Jose, the Tri-Valley and Vallejo, with the resources to create similar air quality improvement plans.

To apply for grant funding, visit <http://www.baaqmd.gov/community-health/community-health-protection-program>. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on June 21, 2019.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

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