

Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
School Community Grants Program  
Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: January 25, 2019

Please note: FAQs will be updated periodically until the application period ends.

*1. Are non-profit organizations eligible to apply for this grant?*

Yes, non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply to this grant if the majority of funding goes towards the actual project and not towards the applicant's administrative costs.

*2. Can a non-profit organization send in an application on behalf of multiple schools?*

No, a non-profit organization cannot submit an application on behalf of multiple schools. A non-profit organization would need to submit one application for each school site it serves. A non-profit organization can submit multiple applications but each application needs to be approved by the principal who oversees the school where the project will take place.

*3. Can a budget line item be a single line item (ex. cost for attending specific training)?*

Yes, a budget line item can be a single line as long as it provides sufficient information about what the funding will be used for. For example, for professional development or trainings, a single line item on the budget would suffice if it specifies the name of the training and cost to attend the training. For grants that require the purchasing of materials, we prefer a budget that includes specific information about the materials that will be purchased for a project. The Air District will prioritize projects that take into consideration the environmental impact of materials purchased with the funds.

*4. Are private schools eligible to apply?*

No, only public schools for grades K-12 are eligible to apply to the School Community Grants Program.

*5. If my school is located in a pocket of really bad air pollution, according to CalEnviroScreen, will it be eligible to apply to this grant?*

Yes, if your school is in an area with high air pollution according to CalEnviroScreen, it is eligible for funding under this grant. Please describe the area in your narrative.

6. *Can school principals apply directly for funding?*

Yes, principals, parents, student leaders, teachers, or non-profits, can apply for funding. If you are the principal of a school, please note that in Appendix A of the School Community Grants Program Cover Sheet.

7. *Are gift cards/incentives eligible for funding?*

Incentives, such as gift cards, are eligible for funding as long as they are a portion of the grant and not the entire project budget. A maximum of 50% of the grant amount can be used for incentives. However, incentives must be linked to the overall proposal and main funding goals of the grant (to increase the knowledge about the science of air quality, address the connection between air quality and public health, and address the impact of air pollution on the global climate).

8. *Can we include equipment rentals in our proposals? For instance, if we have to rent specific tools for a tree planting project would that be eligible for funding under this grant?*

Yes, equipment rentals are eligible for funding.

9. *I would like to purchase carbon dioxide detectors as part of an idle free campaign for high schoolers and middle schoolers. Will this be eligible for funding?*

Tools such as air sensors and carbon dioxide detectors are eligible for funding under this grant as long as they are used to collect and interpret data for educational purposes only. Please note: *air sensors are intended to be educational and are non-regulatory. They cannot be used for permitting, compliance, policy, or interpretation of health effects. Data from these sensors is considered qualitative and can be used for relative comparisons of levels of air pollution in different places.*

10. *I noticed tree planting is eligible for funding under this grant but what about plants for indoor use? Can indoor plants be eligible for funding?*

Yes, plants used to improve indoor air quality are eligible expenses under this grant.

11. *We would like to encourage teachers to create specific lesson plans on air quality education. As part of this grant, can we provide them with stipends or compensation for this additional work?*

The grant may be used for stipends or hourly compensation. For example, compensation of an hourly rate for a teacher or staff member's time is eligible for funding as well as a stipend. However, a maximum of 50% of the grant may be used for stipends or hourly compensation and must be linked to the overall proposal and

main funding goals of the grant (to increase the knowledge about the science of air quality, address the connection between air quality and public health, and address the impact of air pollution on the global climate).

*12. Is it ok if we are asking for funding for a school project that will already be underway in April? We are hoping to send our staff to a training that starts in March.*

No, the grant cannot be used to fund any work that is conducted prior to the execution of a Grant Agreement between the Air District and the Grantee. Based on our current timeline, we are expecting that Grant Agreements for this grant will be signed in April, but this timeline depends on our legal team.

*13. Can you tell us more about the request in the grant to work with your communications team? How much time is involved?*

Working with our Communications Office usually entails sending in high resolution pictures (with all necessary waivers for the children in the photos) of your project and working with someone in our Communications Office to write a small social media post about your project. Timewise, we expect this to take no longer than 1-2 hours of work. Proposed posts go through an internal review process and are usually posted within a day of receiving a request.

*14. I understand that more than one teacher or student can apply from one school, but can more than one project be granted per school?*

Yes, you can apply for more than one project per school but whether they are selected would depend on how closely your projects align with the overall goals of the grant and air quality education. The Air District aims to fund to as many areas in the region as possible during this grant cycle. The capacity to fund two projects in one school will depend on the number of grants received and availability of funds.

*15. Is the purchasing of bikes for schools with low income students allowed under this grant? It would be to encourage mode shift at our school site.*

Yes, the purchasing of bikes is allowed under this grant, but it should not be the entire grant. If bikes are purchased with these funds, please describe how they relate to air quality education. Purchasing bikes would not lead to mode shift without a strong educational component, thus the connection between any bikes purchased and air quality related education must be detailed in your narrative. Similarly, we would like to know the process by which the bikes would be shared amongst the students and if your school can support the ongoing maintenance, security, and storage of any bikes purchased.

16. *Can you send us information about the school bus conversion program?*

Yes, information about the Carl Moyer Program is available at:

<http://www.baaqmd.gov/funding-and-incentives/businesses-and-fleets/school-buses>

17. *Are field trips to the Air District eligible for funding? More specifically, we are working with a group of students interested in winning a Green New Deal and stopping a Coal terminal in Oakland. We would like to take the students to visit the Air District and provide public comment. Would transportation for this be eligible for funding?*

Thank you for your question. We value environmental justice education at the Air District. However, transportation to our board meetings are not eligible for funding under this grant; we do not fund transportation for individuals to provide public comment. If your school would like to invite Air District staff to visit your school or would like to schedule a tour of the Air District, you can visit <http://www.baaqmd.gov/contact-us/speakers-and-tours> to contact our Community Engagement team. We provide these services free of charge and scheduling is dependent on staff availability. Transportation for an educational tour of the Air District is eligible for funding.

18. *We are a non-profit applying for funding on behalf of a school site. How much of the grant can be used towards our administrative costs?*

A maximum of 10% of this grant may be used for administrative costs.