



Local Community Benefits Fund: Round 1 for Benicia and Surrounding Communities

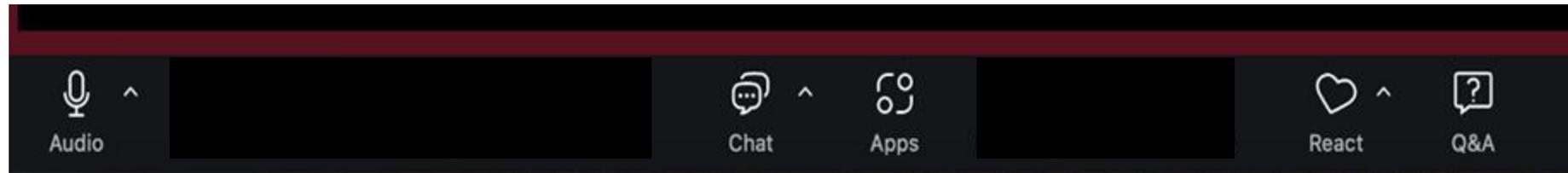
Community Investments Office



Zoom Information



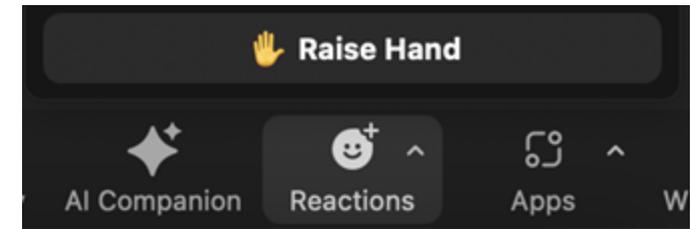
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Audio:
During Q&A, raise your hand and we will invite you to unmute and share. Please mute yourself when not speaking

Chat Feature:
The chat box will not be monitored during this session

Q&A Box:
Submit your questions, uplike any questions in the the queue



Raise Hand Feature:
If you have questions during the Q&A session, use the raise hand feature (remember to lower after)

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance during this event, please text (415) 340-1269 or email support@interethnica.com.



Webinar Info & Participation Principles

- This webinar will be recorded and posted online.
- An FAQ will be posted next week
- Questions may be submitted using the **questions box**
- Technology happens – please be **flexible and patient**.

Webinar Sign in and Networking Form

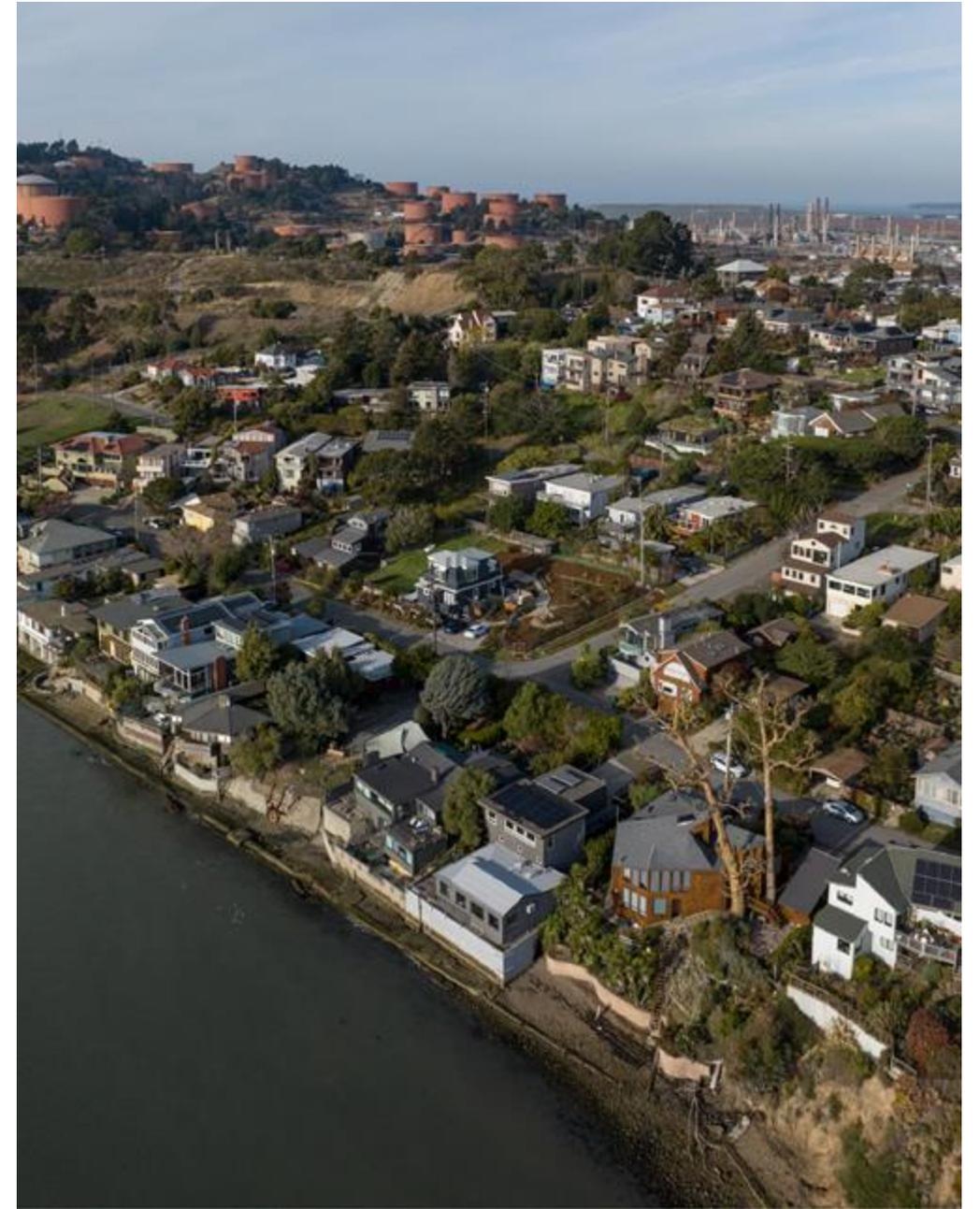
Please take a few minutes to complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/ZrbndjBPoDg5auuK7>



Agenda

- Background
- Eligibility and Application Requirements
- Grant Opportunities & Available Funding
- Application Process & Timeline
- Resources & Technical Assistance
- Q&A





Emi Wang

Bay Area Air District

Officer, Community Investments Office

Background

About the Air District

- Formed in 1955
- Mission to improve air quality to protect public health, reduce historical and current environmental inequities, and mitigate climate change and its impacts
- Regulates stationary sources of air pollution in the 9-county Bay Area



Background

- The Air District collects penalties from entities that violate our air quality regulations
- In May 2024, the Bay Area Air District adopted the **Community Benefits Penalty Funds Policy** to direct resources back to the communities where violations occurred
- Some facilities also commit to providing mitigation funds to improve air quality in the communities affected by their violations
- The Air District has generated over **\$124 million** to date in penalty and mitigation funds to be reinvested into affected communities

Local Community Benefits Fund

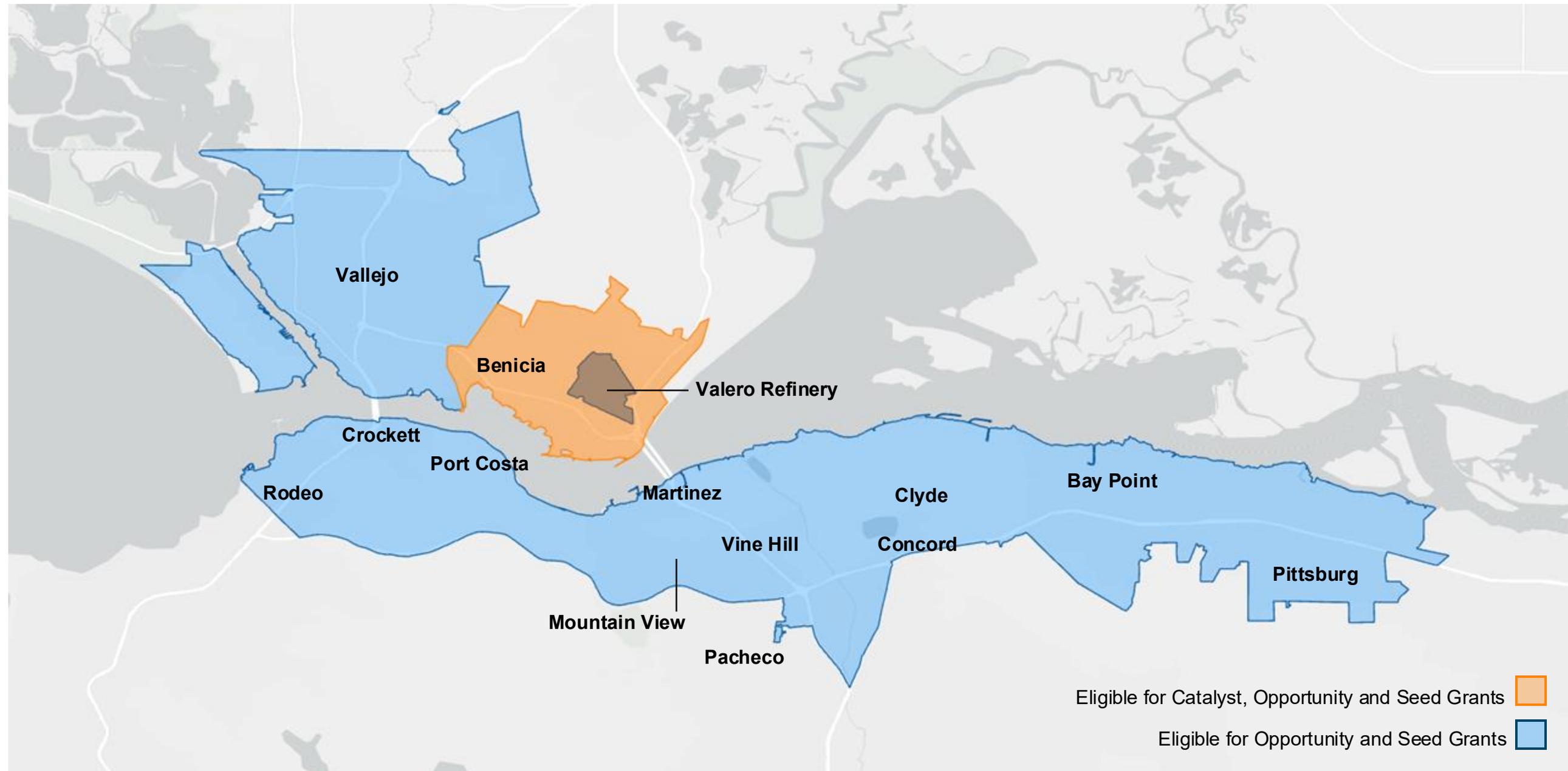
- Penalty funds and other funds from enforcement actions are administered through the **Bay Reinvesting Penalties for Air Improvement and Resilience (REPAIR)** program
- Funds are then allocated according to a funding formula. After meeting a predetermined threshold and split for specific penalty amounts:
 - 80% of funds are allocated to the Local Community Benefits Fund
 - 20% of funds are allocated to the Regional Community Benefits Fund

Program Goals

- The Local Community Benefits Fund **reinvests in the specific communities affected by the air quality violations** that led to the penalty
 - Reduce air pollution or mitigate air pollution impacts, improve public health outcomes and build economic resilience for a just transition away from the harmful effects of a fossil-fuel-based economy
 - Advance integrated projects to holistically meet community needs
 - Strengthen community-led and collaborative solutions

Eligibility and Application Requirements

Eligible Communities



Who Can Apply

Lead Applicants	Co-Applicants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nonprofit organizations, local government agencies, cities, counties, schools, unions and California Native American Tribes• <i>May submit one application each for a Catalyst, Opportunity and Seed Grant (if a non-profit organization)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entities that are eligible to be Lead Applicants, plus for-profit entities• <i>No limit on the number of applications a Co-Applicant may join</i>

Community Needs

- Projects must be driven by **community-identified needs, priorities, and solutions**, and should address an environmental justice, public health and/or just transition challenge(s)
- Applications must include **ongoing community engagement** to ensure that grant implementation continues to be informed by community feedback and expertise, particularly feedback from residents, community-based organizations, and other key stakeholders

Core Strategies

Reduce Air
Pollution and
Improve
Health
Outcomes

Build
Economic
Resilience for
a Just
Transition

Strategy: Reduce Air Pollution and Improve Health Outcomes

Mitigate air pollution harm, address health impacts exacerbated by air pollution, and **identify opportunities for air pollution reduction**

Eligible projects may:

- Reduce air pollutant emissions
- Reduce human exposure to air pollutant emissions
- Improve understanding of local air quality impacts
- Tangibly improve community health and well-being

Strategy: Build Economic Resilience for a Just Transition

Build economic resilience that supports the **transition away from fossil fuels and delivers critical benefits, such as benefits in air quality, public health or a clean economy**

Eligible projects may:

- Promote high road economic development that ensures that high-quality local jobs benefitting the environment and public health are created
- Build economic resilience through planning and projects that deliver air quality and related health benefits and create clean economy pathways

Measurable Outcomes

- Each project must include a **Measurable Outcomes Plan** that links outcomes, milestones, activities, indicator tracking, and the budget
- **Measurable outcomes** are the specific result or change that occurs as a consequence of a project
- Both quantitative and qualitative outcomes may be submitted; tracking of quantitative outcomes is recommended where applicable
- Projects should then identify **indicators** that will be used to track progress. Indicators (e.g., number of respiratory health services offered) track progress towards achieving measurable outcomes (e.g., improved respiratory health by 15%)

Grant Opportunities & Available Funding

Benicia and Surrounding Communities: Available Funding

- In October 2024, the Air District, in conjunction with the California Air Resources Board, fined Valero Refining Company for air quality violations
- The Local Community Benefits Fund for Benicia and Surrounding Communities has **\$60,011,061** in available funding

Grant Awards

	Seed	Opportunity	Catalyst
Total Funding	\$60,011,061		
Anticipated Awards	1-5 grant awards anticipated	1-5 grant awards anticipated	1- 3 grant awards anticipated
Grant Size	\$100,000 - \$200,000	\$500,000 - \$5 million	\$10 - \$40 million
Grant Term	Up to 2 years	Up to 3 years	Up to 5 years
Eligible Applicants	Open to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, no Co-Applicants	Lead Applicant must partner with at least 1 Co-Applicant(s)	Exemption: no Co-Applicant required
Eligible Communities	Benicia and surrounding communities	Benicia and surrounding communities	Benicia

Seed Grant

- **Funds smaller-scale projects led by non-profit organizations.** Each application should center on one project
- Open to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations only
- Co-Applicants are not allowed
- Grant size ranges between **\$100,000 - \$200,000**
- Grant terms up to two years

Opportunity Grant

- **Funds multi-stakeholder collaboration over one project or multiple projects** to ensure robust and community-driven implementation outcomes
- Lead Applicant must partner with at least one Co-Applicant(s)
- Grant size ranges between **\$500,000 - \$5 M**
- Grant terms up to three years

Opportunity Grant: Re-Granting

- Opportunity Grant applications **may propose re-granting funds to other entities, particularly smaller entities with lower capacity**
- Such re-granting proposals are exempt from the Co-Applicant requirement
- **Re-granting must adhere to and be carried out in accordance with the Grant Guidelines**, and the applicant must demonstrate overall management capacity sufficient to administer a regrantsing process
- If awarded, the Grantee must submit any criteria for regrantsing to the Air District before any requests for proposals can be offered

Catalyst Grant

- **Funds multi-stakeholder collaboration over multiple projects** that address diverse community needs
- Lead Applicant must partner with multiple Co-Applicants
- Grant size ranges between **\$10 - \$40 M**
- Grant terms up to five years

Please note the application deadline is earlier.

Partnerships

- Opportunity and Catalyst Grant applicants should **collaborate across multiple sectors, as relevant, to systematically address multiple community needs**
- All applicants should have clearly defined scopes of work, make substantive contributions to project implementation and outcomes, and receive budget allocations that align commensurately with their scope of work

Valero Refinery Closure

- Valero Refining Co. announced that it would close its Benicia refinery in 2026
- Due to the ongoing strain on the Benicia community's civic and organizational capacity resulting from the impending closure, the Air District is making the following exceptions for the Catalyst Grant in Benicia:
 - **Partnerships:** While Co-Applicants will not be a required element for the Catalyst Grant in Benicia, applications demonstrating diverse community support will be prioritized
 - **Application Review and Award Timeline:** Should there be a small number of applications for the Catalyst Grant in Benicia, the Air District may expedite the review of the applications within this grant category

Application Process & Timeline

Application Process

- **Step 1: Submit Application Information Form** -The Lead Applicant submits an Application Information Form. This form requests a brief outline of the overall application and contact information for the Lead Applicant, but does not request application documents or details
- **Step 2: Upload Application Package** - After submitting the Application Information Form, the Lead Applicant will receive an email with an automatically generated unique application number and a link to a portal to upload application documents.

See page 2 in the application instructions for more information

Application Review

- 1. Eligibility Review:** Air District staff review applications to ensure that all applications are fully complete and eligible.
- 2. Application Scoring:** Eligible applications are scored by technical and community reviewers.
- 3. Funding Recommendations:** Air District staff review the highest scoring applications and consider overall portfolio balance. Staff will finalize a recommended portfolio of projects for funding
- 4. Grant Selection and Award:** The Air District's Board of Directors consider the funding recommendations and make the final selection of projects

Scoring (Opportunity and Catalyst Grants)

Category	Description	Score
Overall Narrative (<i>Opportunity and Catalyst Grants</i>)		
Proposal Vision	Overall vision aligned with the Local Community Benefits Fund Program Goals and community needs	10
Partnership Composition	Multi-stakeholder partnerships rooted in community priorities and leadership with demonstrated organizational connections to the community	10
Partnership Co-Management Structure	Meaningful co-management structures with clear roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes that outline how partners will collaborate	10
Lead Applicant Management Capacity	Demonstrated ability and dedicated resources to oversee overall implementation	10
Lead Applicant Financial Capacity	Demonstrated ability to manage public funds efficiently with clear financial management and tracking practices	10
		<u>50</u>

See page 21 in the Round 1 Grant Guidelines for more information

Scoring (All Grants)

Project Narrative (<i>Seed, Opportunity and Catalyst Grants</i>)		
Strategy Alignment	Clear and compelling alignment with one of the Local Community Benefit Fund's strategies	10
Community Need	Identification of specific community needs rooted in community engagement	10
Community Impact	Feasible project approach to addressing identified community needs and challenges	10
Community Engagement	Specific community engagement strategies during project implementation	10
Measurable Outcomes	Specific, feasible, meaningful, and measurable outcomes tied to Local Community Benefits Fund Program Goals with clear indicators	10
Workplan	Detailed Measurable Outcomes Plan linking measurable outcomes to project tasks and milestones	10
Budget	Reasonable and justified budget sufficient to achieve identified measurable outcomes	10
Project Lead Capacity	Demonstrated management capacity, dedicated staffing/resources and experience necessary to complete the proposed project	10
Alignment with Local, Regional or State Priorities	Demonstrated support from and alignment with existing community, local, regional or statewide priorities or initiatives	10
Project Readiness	Identification of necessary permits, approvals, and site control with concrete steps to obtain them, where applicable	10
		100

Timeline

Activity v	Date
Grant Applications Open	January 29, 2026
Informational Webinar	February 18, 2026
Final Day to Submit Questions	April 10 (Catalyst) May 8 (Seed & Opportunity)
Responses to All Submitted Questions Posted	April 22 (Catalyst) May 22 (Seed & Opportunity)
Technical Assistance Response Time	Email response within 24-48 hours
Catalyst Grant Grant Deadline	May 1, 2026 (5pm PT)
Opportunity Grant Deadline	May 29, 2026 (5pm PT)
Seed Grant Deadline	May 29, 2026 (5pm PT)

See page 1 in the application instructions for more information

Resources & Technical Assistance

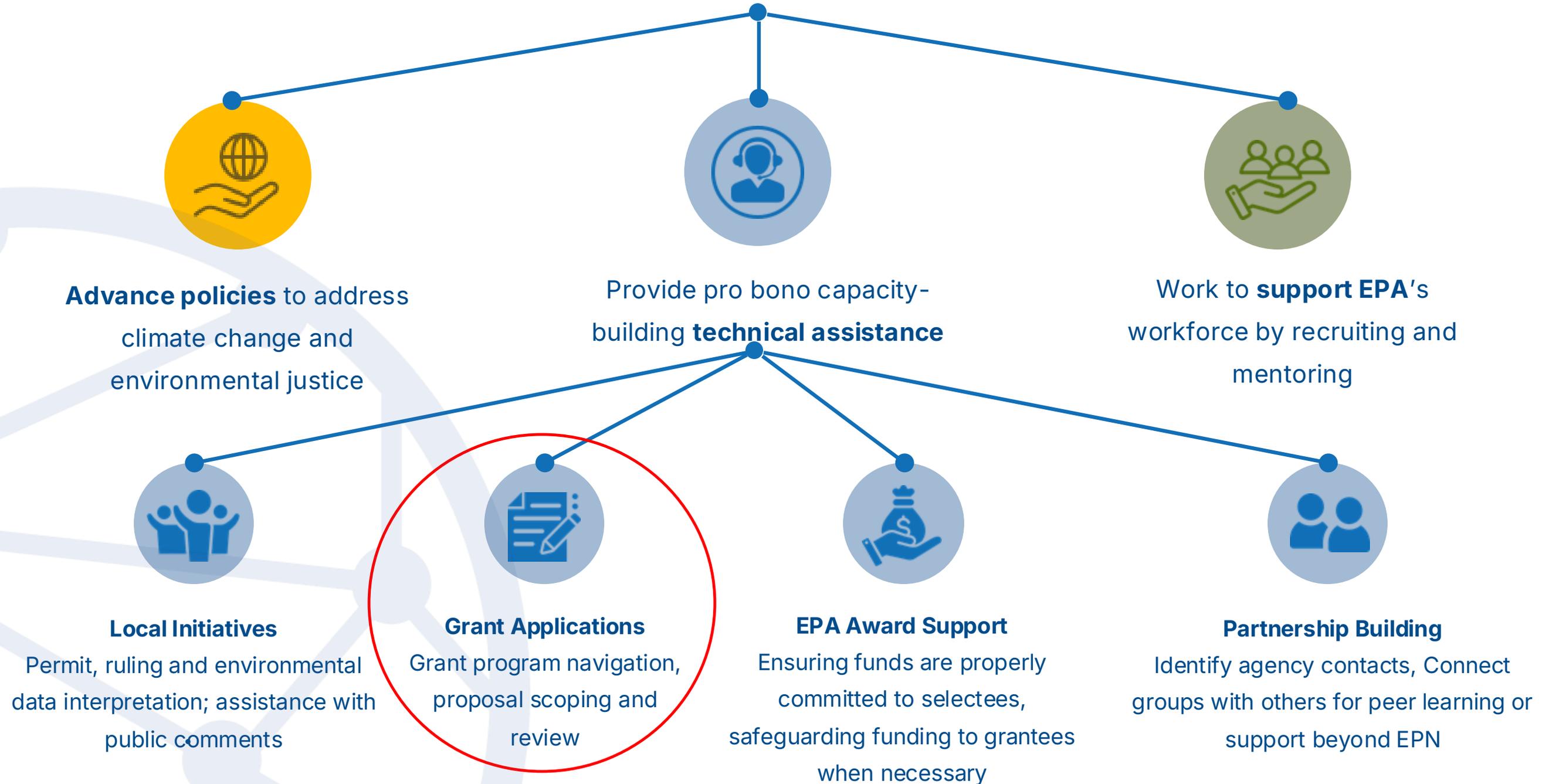
Ariadne Sambrano

Environmental Protection Network

Pro bono Capacity Building Technical Assistance Program
Community Outreach Associate, Region 9

Environmental Protection Network (EPN)

Leveraging our network of 700+ EPA alumni volunteers



General Flow of Grants Support of EPN



TA Request Submitted

Applicant submits EPN's Technical Assistance Intake Form and identifies LCBF support needs.

[TA Request Form](#)

Day 0



Initial Review & Response

Region 9 Outreach Associate reviews the request and follows up to confirm needs, timing, and application status

Within 24-48 hours



1:1 Intake & Triage Meeting

Applicant meets with EPN staff to discuss eligibility, grant type, scope, and next steps.

Within 1 Week



Target Grant Support

EPN provides application support, such as project scoping work plans, budgeting, and document guidance

Ongoing through the application period



Expert Review & Follow up

When requested, EPN coordinates the EPA alumni review and continues follow-up through submission

As drafts become available

TYPES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR AIR DISTRICT

LCBF APPLICANTS

March 3rd | 9:00–10:00 AM PST

Grant Writing Webinar for LCBF Applicants

Featuring an EPN volunteer expert



GRANT GUIDELINE NAVIGATION

- Grant type guidance (Seed, Opportunity, Catalyst)
- Interpretation of LCBF guidelines and requirements
- Navigational support for the Air District's Microsoft survey
- Clarifying timelines and required application components



ELIGIBILITY NAVIGATION & SUPPORT

- Geographic eligibility navigation (Benicia & Richmond)
- Partnership eligibility support
- Project type eligibility guidance
- Clarifying applicant and project alignment with LCBF goals



APPLICATION & REVIEW SUPPORT

- Project scoping support
- Budgeting guidance
- Work plan development
- Required document navigation and guidance
- Submission support
- Application review by an EPA alumni using the Air District's scoring rubric

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INTAKE FORM

US State/Territory:

City:

Tribe/Tribal Consortia:

Technical and Funding Assistance

- We have a **Technical Assistance request** (for example, help navigating or understanding government programs, data, or processes; or gaining access to partners, allies, or decision-makers)
- We are seeking assistance with an **application** for the Bay Area Air District **Local Community Benefits Fund**
- We are seeking assistance with a **Federal Grant application**
- We have **been selected for a Federal Grant** and we need assistance with compliance, termination, freeze, and/or implementation
- We are seeking **development/fundraising assistance** (including identifying potential funding, or reviewing grant applications)



EPN and the Bay Area Air District have partnered to provide grant navigation and application assistance to make the Local Community Benefits Fund accessible to eligible applicants within the project area.

How to Request Technical Assistance

- Scan the QR code or visit the intake form link
- Fill out the form & Select California as your state
- Choose "Bay Area Air District Local Community Benefits Fund"
- Complete the short intake form (5 minutes)
- EPN Region 9 staff will follow up within 24-48 hours





THANK YOU!

**COMPLETE OUR
INTAKE FORM**



For any additional questions, please contact

Ariadne Sambrano

Community Outreach Associate, Region 9

ariadne.sambrano@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org

Helpful Links

- **Grant Guidelines (Round 1 guidelines):** <https://tinyurl.com/CIOGuidelines>
- **Community Investments Office Website:** <https://tinyurl.com/CIOSite>
- **Application Instructions:** <https://tinyurl.com/CIOAppInstructions>
- **Local Community Benefits Fund Eligibility Maps:**
<https://tinyurl.com/FundEligibilityMaps>
- **Technical Assistance: Intake Form Instructions:** <https://tinyurl.com/LCBFTechnical-Assistance>
- **Application Information Form:** <https://tinyurl.com/LCBFInformation-Form>
- Sign up for the newsletter to receive the latest updates

Air District's Community Investments Office at communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov.

Upcoming Support Opportunities

Activity	Date
Grant Writing Webinar https://tinyurl.com/Grantwritingsession	March 3, 2026 (9:00am)
Tips and Tricks Webinar https://tinyurl.com/Tips-and-Tricks-Webinar	Tuesday, March 10, 2026 (11:00am)
In-person networking session <i>Details will be shared when the event is confirmed</i>	**Thursday March 19, 2026 (TBD)

Stay informed

 Community Investments Office

Sign up to receive updates on the latest Community Investments Office activities via email notifications.

Email Address

 SUBSCRIBE

• *For more information, sign up to receive email notifications:*
www.baaqmd.gov/en/community-health/community-investments-office

Q&A

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Questions

Do you have any **questions**?

Please state your first name and organization before asking your question.

You can also submit any questions to communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov

Additional Opportunities

- The Air District's Community Advisory Council has created the People's Air Grant Program, which will be released in the coming weeks. Please visit the Air District website for more information.

Thank you

If you have additional questions to
communityinvestments@baaqmd.gov