



Applicant Information Session 1

Grant Funding to Address Indoor Air Pollution at Schools



Kelley Smith, IAQ Schools Team Co-Lead
Sheila Brown, IAQ Schools Team Co-Lead
Tracy Enger, IAQ Schools Team Member

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- **The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) makes historic investments in climate action** that are expected to reduce U.S. emissions ~40% by 2030 while supporting disadvantaged communities and the clean energy industrial base.
- **IRA investments will drive significant emissions reductions** over the next decade while also laying the groundwork for long-term decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors.
- **EPA will play a major role in delivering these programs.** The Agency received \$41.5 billion in appropriated funds and expects to receive an additional \$11.7 billion in future revenue from reinstating the Superfund Tax on oil and gas production. Funds from methane waste emissions charges will go to the general Treasury.

EPA's Office of Air and the Inflation Reduction Act ^{2/2}



Theme	IRA Provisions	Exp. Year	Use of Funds	Funding
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants	*Climate Pollution Reduction Grants	2031 / 2026	\$250 million for Greenhouse Gas Air Pollution Planning Grants with at least one grant to an eligible entity in every state. \$4.75 billion for grants to implement select Planning Grants.	\$5B
Funding to Address Community Air Pollution	*Air Monitoring & Screening	2031	Grants and other activities to support air monitoring and screening.	\$205.5M
	*Clean Air Act Grants	2031	Funding for Clean Air Act's research, development, and grants program.	\$25M
	*Funding to Address Air Pollution at Schools	2031	Grants and other activities to monitor and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions at schools.	\$50M
Mobile Source Programs	*Grants to Reduce Air Pollution at Ports	2027	Competitive grants and rebates to reduce air pollution at ports.	\$3B
	*Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles	2031	Grants, rebates, and contract support to help cover costs of replacing dirty heavy-duty vehicles with clean zero emission vehicles.	\$1B
	*Diesel Emissions Reductions	2031	Funding for Diesel Emissions Reduction Act program.	\$60M
	Mobile Source Grants	2031	Grants for States to adopt and implement zero-emission standards for mobile sources per Section 177 of the Clean Air Act (i.e., adopt / implement California's mobile source standards).	\$5M
Methane Emissions Program	*Methane Emissions Reduction	2028	Financial (grants, rebates, contracts, loans, etc.) and technical assistance to reduce methane emissions and implement a methane fee.	\$1.55B

* Tribes / tribal entities are eligible recipients

1. Table does not include: Low Emissions Electricity Program, GHG Corporate Reporting, Funding for section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act, and Funding for implementation of the American Innovation & Manufacturing Act.

The Big Picture



Schools, Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), and Opportunities Provided by this New Grant Program

Context

**1/6th of Americans attends
or works in K-12 schools**

**50% of schools do not have
IAQ plans or programs in place**

**Opportunity to build sustainable IAQ
implementation infrastructure**

In states, regions, and nationally by leveraging existing programs and investments

**Most funding EPA has been given
in decades
for IAQ in schools**

Outcomes

**Significant increase in sustainable
comprehensive IAQ plans & programs at EJ
& Tribal schools**

New generation of IAQ mgt leaders
identified, trained, and developed

Expand & better connect IAQ community
Facility management staff, health officers, and key decision makers

**Develop, improve, and accelerate the use
of practical IAQ guidance**
for effective IAQ practices, policies, and procedures

We received 1,364 comments from 354 people/organizations over 6 months from 11 listening sessions, 2 grants.gov requests for public comments, and numerous emails.

Where to Invest

- ▶ Public Education Campaign
- ▶ Training
- ▶ R&D: IAQ connection to health/edu outcomes
- ▶ Setting IAQ Standards
- ▶ Create one all gov. source for IAQ info
- ▶ Science proven solutions only
- ▶ IAQ sensors in schools
- ▶ Make data public
- ▶ Fund infrastructure updates

Who Should Benefit

- ▶ Prioritize schools with the worst air pollution & disadvantages

Data to track

- ▶ IAQ/GHG pollutant changes
- ▶ Health/educational outcomes
- ▶ Cost-benefit of each solution

Grant Process

- ▶ Max flexibility: funding uses & timelines
- ▶ Simplify processes & oversight
- ▶ EPA should convene & share best practices

Technical Assistance

- ▶ Data/science assistance
- ▶ Grant writing help
- ▶ Provide templates and tips
- ▶ Provide guidance on what IAQ solutions are best

Overview: Key Information

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 1/3



Goal:

Enable more low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal schools to more sustainably address indoor air quality (IAQ) problems, reduce GHG emissions, and improve IAQ system energy efficiency through national IAQ capacity building and the implementation of comprehensive IAQ management plans consistent with EPA's IAQ guidance and best practices.

Eligible Entities:

States, Tribes, Territories, local governments & educational agencies and non-profits.

Total Funding:

\$32,000,000

Length:

5 years

Anticipated Awards:

Between 4-6 grants worth \$5-\$8 million will be awarded to organizations with the ability to execute state, regional, and national IAQ programs and activities.

Contact Us: IAQschools@epa.gov

Learn More: epa.gov/iaq-schools/grant-funding-address-indoor-air-pollution-schools

Apply Today:

grants.gov/search-results-detail/351780

Overview: Project Areas

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 2/3



- 1. IAQ and GHG Reduction Capacity Building** targeting facility management staff, health officers, and key decision makers at K-12 schools and/or school districts in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- 2. Tribal IAQ and GHG Reduction Capacity Building** targeting facility management staff, health officers, and key decision makers at K-12 schools in Tribal communities.
- 3. IAQ and GHG Reduction Training and Education Campaign** for facility management staff and health officers at K-12 schools and school districts in low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities, and/or the development of qualified K-12 school staff necessary to execute comprehensive IAQ and GHG Reduction Plans.
- 4. IAQ and GHG Reduction Research and Demonstration Projects** in K-12 schools located in low-income, disadvantaged, and/or Tribal communities.

Overview: Important Dates

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 3/3



Date	Event
January 11, 2024	Application Window Opens
January 25 from 1-2:30 p.m. ET	Information Session Webinar 1
February 12 from 1-2:30 p.m. ET	Information Session Webinar 2
February 22	Deadline to Submit Optional Notice of Intent to Apply*
March 5	Final Date to Submit Questions to IAQSchools@epa.gov
March 19 by 11:59 p.m. ET	Deadline to Apply
May	Anticipated Notification of Selection
October 2024	Anticipated Awards

*To allow for efficient management of the competitive grant process, EPA requests that applicants email an *optional Notice of Intent to Apply* by **February 22, 2024**, to IAQSchools@epa.gov. The email should include a project title, project area(s), the applicant's name, and the expected funding amount that will be requested. This notice of intent will help EPA anticipate the total staff time required for efficient review, evaluation, and selection of submitted applications.

Visit grants.gov/search-results-detail/351780 and submit an application by **March 19, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)**

Mandatory Application Elements

- **Project Narrative**
- *Application for Federal Assistance*
- *Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs*
- *Pre-Award Compliance Review Report*
- *Key Contacts Form*

Please review the [NOFO](#) for additional application information and guidance.

Warning/Tip: Registering in SAM.gov or Grants.gov for the first time can take a month or more. Applicants are advised to begin their registration process early, so it does not interfere with drafting the application near the deadline.

“I am from the Federal Government and I am here to help.” – Former President Ronald Reagan

Need Help?

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTACs) funded by EPA and in partnership with DOE will help underserved and overburdened communities across the country. TCTAC help will include:

- Training and assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, developing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding;
- Guidance on community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants; and
- Each of the technical assistance centers will create and manage communication channels to ensure all communities have direct access to resources and information.

Learn more or submit a request for assistance [HERE](#).

Questions and IT Support

Grants.gov:

Visit grants.gov/support.html

SAM.gov:

Visit sam.gov/content/help

Grant Q&A:

Updated weekly [HERE](#) based on applicant questions

General Questions:

Contact EPA at IAQschools@epa.gov

Website and NOFO PDF Demo



epa.gov/iaq-schools/grant-funding-address-indoor-air-pollution-schools

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Search EPA.gov

Environmental Topics ▾ Laws & Regulations ▾ Report a Violation ▾ About EPA ▾

Indoor Air Quality in Schools

CONTACT US

- Indoor Air Quality Homepage
- Indoor Air Quality in Schools Homepage
- Learn about IAQ in Schools
- IAQ Tools for Schools Resources
- On-Demand Training Webinars
- Understanding IAQ Benefits
- Healthy School Renovations
- Connecting and Networking
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Publications

Grant Funding to Address Indoor Air Pollution at Schools

On this page:

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- [Background](#)
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- [Important Dates](#)
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On other pages:

- [Air Grants and Funding](#)

Overview of Grant Program

The Inflation Reduction Act provides funding for grants to “monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants at schools in low-income and disadvantaged communities.” Grantees will assist K-12 schools in low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities in the development and adoption of comprehensive indoor air quality (IAQ) management plans to address air pollution and energy efficiency consistent with EPA’s recommended [best practices](#).

Important Events

NOW OPEN!

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Opened: January 11, 2024
Closes: March 19, 2024

- Funding Opportunity Number: [EPA-R-OAR-APS-24-02](#)
- Review the [Notice of Funding Opportunity and Q&A documents](#).
- Read the [Press Release](#)

Apply now on Grants.gov!

Information Session Webinar 1

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: Grant Funding to Address Indoor Air Pollution at Schools

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Request for Applications (RFA)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-R-OAR-APS-24-02

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 66.034

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 11, 2024	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Opens
January 25, 2024	Information Session I
February 22, 2024	Optional Intent to Apply
February 12, 2024	Information Session II
March 5, 2024	Final Date to Submit Questions
March 19, 2024	NOFO Closes – Application Deadline
May 2024	Anticipated Notification of Selection
October 2024	Anticipated Awards

Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through [Grants.gov](#) no later than **March 19, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)** to be considered for funding.

To allow for efficient management of the competitive process, EPA requests electronic submittal of an *Optional Notice of Intent to Apply* by **February 22, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. (ET)** to iaqschools@epa.gov. Submission of an *Optional Notice of Intent to Apply* email (that announces an organization’s intent to submit an application by providing a project title, project areas, the applicant’s name, and the expected funding amount that will be requested) will help EPA better anticipate the total staff time required for efficient review, evaluation, and selection of submitted applications.

NOTE: Prior to naming a contractor (including consultants) or subrecipient in your application as a “partner,” please carefully review Section IV.d. of [EPA’s Solicitation Clauses](#) that are incorporated by reference in this announcement and discussed in relevant part here. Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses, to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 2 CFR Part 200. Applicants are not required to identify subrecipients and/or contractors (including consultants) in their grant application. However, if they do, the fact that an applicant selected for award has named a specific subrecipient, contractor, or consultant in the application EPA selects for funding does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward and/or competitive procurement requirements as described in Section IV.d. of EPA’s Solicitation Clauses. **Please note that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering, or other firms assisting applicants with the application**

Threshold Evaluation Process

Must meet ALL threshold criteria below to move on to Step 2:

1. Substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in [Section IV](#).

The project narrative, including the cover page, workplan, and budget table and detail, must not exceed a maximum of 10 single-spaced typewritten pages. Pages in excess of the 10-page limit will not be reviewed.

2. Application was submitted by 11:59 PM EST on March 19 through [Grants.gov](#).

Except for the limited circumstances explained in Section IV.

3. Application demonstrates that it supports Goal 1: Objective 1.1, Goal 2: Objective 2.1 & 2.2, and Goal 4: Objective 4.1 & 4.2 in [EPA's Strategic Plan](#).

4. Application requests EPA funds at or between \$5,000,000 and \$8,000,000.

5. Does not request funds for permanent improvements or renovations to buildings.

Except for research and demonstration projects in schools.

6. Includes activities under two or more of the four project areas provided in [Section I.B](#).

Activities unrelated to one of the four project areas will not be reviewed.

7. Applicants can submit no more than one application per organization.

If an applicant submits more than one application, EPA will contact the applicant to determine which application(s) to withdraw. If the applicant does not respond to EPA within two business days of being contacted, EPA will only review the last application submitted.

Ineligible Activities

Applicants are encouraged to review [RAIN-2019-G02, “Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance”](#) for further guidance on determining if a cost is eligible. **The inclusion of ineligible activities may lead to a portion, or all of the application not being reviewed.**

- a. For Project Areas 1-3, EPA will not consider activities that promote the use of air cleaning and energy efficiency technologies of unknown or unclear performance against indoor air pollutants and GHG reductions such as bipolar ionization, ozone generators, ionizing air cleaners, and oxidizing air cleaners. All tasks and activities must be supported by robust scientific evidence in peer-reviewed publications and be consistent with EPA’s [IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit](#) and [Framework, Energy Savings Plus Health Guidance, Preventive Maintenance Guidance](#), and other EPA recommended IAQ best practices.
- b. For Project Area 4, EPA will not consider proposals that do not include both research and demonstration components. EPA will also not consider proposals that fund the research or demonstration of bipolar ionization, ozone generators, ionizing air cleaners, and oxidizing air cleaners.
- c. Except for in demonstration projects, funding cannot be used to make permanent facility improvements.
- d. Human subject studies will not be funded through this NOFO. If you are unsure whether a proposed research and demonstration activity would be considered human subject research, contact EPA at IAQSchools@epa.gov.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Overview

- Each eligible application will be evaluated by an EPA evaluation team.
- Proposals are ranked and scored by the evaluation criteria shown in the graphic to the right.
- The EPA evaluation team will provide preliminary funding recommendations to the EPA Headquarters Selection Official based on the proposal scores.
- Final funding decisions will be made by the Selection Official based on ranking and preliminary recommendations of the evaluation team and other factors including: 1) the availability of funds 2) the quantity and quality of applications received 3) the broadest geographic impact of activities 4) EPA priorities and 5) other applicable considerations.

Evaluation Criteria	Score
1. Project Summary and Approach <small>Track B applications include R&D activities while Track A does not</small>	30 (Track A) 40 (Track B)
2. Environmental Results — Outputs, Outcomes and Performance Measures	20
3. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	15
4. Environmental Justice and Underserved Communities	20
5. Project Sustainability	5
6. Budget	15
Total Possible Points	105 (Track A) 115 (Track B)

Questions?



Application Evaluation Criteria

Criteria 1

EPA will evaluate applications based on the extent and quality of the applicant's project summary, overall approach, and need for funding. Specifically, EPA will evaluate applications based upon how the proposed activities (in two or more of the four project areas from Section I.B.) provide the most/best IAQ monitoring and improvements and GHG monitoring and reductions for K-12 schools and school districts located in low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities using the following criteria (as appropriate):

Tracks A & B

- A. (15 points):** The highest likely number of comprehensive IAQ plans that K-12 schools and/or school districts develop or enhance and adopt as a result of the proposed activities.
- B. (5 points):** Ability for schools, school districts, or states/territories/Tribes to access grant activity benefits and adopt, replicate, enhance, or institute similar IAQ plans, policies, and programs.
- C. (10 points):** Highest likelihood of increased and/or improved of state, regional, and/or national systems/capacity to address IAQ issues and reduce GHG emissions in K-12 schools and/or school districts.

Track B applications only

- D. (10 points):** Quality of research and demonstration project design and likelihood of providing useful/actionable IAQ data and findings that K-12 school and/or school district facility management staff, health officers, and key decision makers can incorporate into their comprehensive IAQ management plans and programs.

Under this criterion, EPA will evaluate:

- a. (10 points)** The extent and quality to which the applicant identifies and proposes outputs and outcomes, as described in Section I.C of this announcement.
- b. (5 points)** The quality of the proposed quantitative and qualitative performance measures and effectiveness of the applicant's plan for tracking and measuring its progress toward achieving the expected project outputs and outcomes, including those identified in Section I.C of this announcement.
- c. (5 points)** The reasonableness of the proposed timeline including key milestones for specific tasks and the likelihood of completion of the project's goals and objectives by project end.

Under this criterion, EPA will evaluate applicants based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project considering their:

- a. (5 points)** Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in the project narrative as described in Section IV.C of the announcement.
- b. (5 points)** History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in the project narrative as described in Section IV.C. of the announcement, including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not.
- c. (5 points)** Organizational experience, including staff expertise and qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, and experience working with low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal schools, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Criteria 4

Under this criterion, EPA will evaluate applications based on the extent to which they demonstrate how the project will address the disproportionate and adverse (see below) human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts, resulting from industrial, governmental, commercial and/or other actions that have affected and/or currently affect communities, including affected low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. As part of this evaluation, applications will be evaluated based on:

- A. (5 points)** How effectively the project will benefit K-12 schools and/or school districts, and their Tribal communities, that have experienced a lack of resources or other impediments to addressing the impacts identified above that affect their community;
- B. (5 points)** How effectively the project will benefit K-12 schools and/or school districts, and their low-income and disadvantaged communities, that have experienced a lack of resources or other impediments to addressing the impacts identified above that affect their community;
- C. (5 points)** How effectively the project will assess, quantify, and report on benefits and avoided disbenefits to K-12 schools, school districts, and nearby low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities throughout the grant period;
- D. (5 points)** The extent to which the project addresses engagement with these affected low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities and/or populations (see A above), especially local residents and school/school district officials responsible for developing and adopting comprehensive IAQ plans (facility management staff, health officers, and key decision makers), to ensure their meaningful participation with respect to the design, planning, and performance of the project.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Criteria 4

Under this criterion, EPA will evaluate applications based on the extent to which they demonstrate how the project will address the disproportionate and adverse (see below) human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts, resulting from industrial, governmental, commercial and/or other actions that have affected and/or currently affect communities, including affected low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. As part of this evaluation, applications will be evaluated based on:

- A. (5 points)** How effectively the project will benefit K-12 schools and/or school districts, and their Tribal communities, that have experienced a lack of resources or other impediments to addressing the impacts identified above that affect their community;
- B. (5 points)** How effectively the project will benefit K-12 schools and/or school districts, and their low-income and disadvantaged communities, that have experienced a lack of resources or other impediments to addressing the impacts identified above that affect their community;
- C. (5 points)** How effectively the project will assess, quantify, and report on benefits and avoided disbenefits to K-12 schools, school districts, and nearby low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities throughout the grant period;
- D. (5 points)** The extent to which the project addresses engagement with these affected low-income, disadvantaged, and Tribal communities and/or populations (see A above), especially local residents and school/school district officials responsible for developing and adopting comprehensive IAQ plans (facility management staff, health officers, and key decision makers), to ensure their meaningful participation with respect to the design, planning, and performance of the project.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Criteria 5 & 6



Under criteria 5 (5 points), EPA will evaluate applicants based on the extent to which the project results and benefits are sustainable and are most likely to be continued after project completion.

Under criteria 6, EPA will evaluate applicants based on the extent and quality to which:

- A. (5 points)** The proposed budget provides a detailed breakout by funding type in the proper budget category for each activity the applicant is requesting funding.
- B. (5 points)** The proposed costs are reasonable to accomplish the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes; and
- C. (5 points)** The applicant's approach, procedures, and controls will ensure that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.



Thank you for your interest in this funding opportunity!

- Applications are due by March 19
- Submit questions to IAQSchools@epa.gov by March 5
- www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/grant-funding-address-indoor-air-pollution-schools