

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**AGENCY:** ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

**TITLE:** "Targeted Air Shed Grant Program"

**ACTION:** Request for Applications (RFA) Questions and Answers (Q/A)

**RFA #:** EPA-OAR-IO-10-07

**SUMMARY:** Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFA

**DATE:** May 20, 2010

**Q1)** Please provide a listing of the eligible entities for the Targeted Air Shed RFA.

**A1)** Please see chart.

**List of Current Direct-Funded Clean Air Act section 105 Air Pollution Control Agencies**

EPA Region	State	CAA 105 Air Pollution Control Agency	Geographic Area
<u>Targeted air shed area: Liberty-Clairton, PA</u>			
R3	PA	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	State-wide
R3	PA	Allegheny County Health Department	Pittsburgh
<u>Targeted air shed area: Birmingham, AL</u>			
R4	AL	Alabama Department of Environmental Management	State-wide
R4	AL	Jefferson County Department of Health	Birmingham
<u>Targeted air shed area: Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN</u>			
R4	KY	Kentucky Natural Res. & Environmental Protection Cabinet	State-wide
R5	IN	Indiana Department of Environmental Management	Entire State
R5	OH	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	Majority of State
R5	OH	Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services	Greater Cincinnati

Targeted air shed areas:

Los Angeles South Coast Air Basin, CA; San Joaquin Valley, CA;  
LA-San Bernardino Cos (W Mojave), CA; Sacramento Metro, CA;

Riverside Co (Coachella Valley), CA.

R9	CA	California Air Resources Board	Majority of State
R9	CA	Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District	Sacramento
R9	CA	San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District	Stockton/Modesto
R9	CA	South Coast Air Quality Management District	Los Angeles

**Above data current as of 5/1/10.**

**Disclaimer:** The chart above was compiled based on currently available information from EPA internal sources for tracking CAA 105 grant recipients. However, EPA is providing the list for informational purposes and does not intend the list above to exclude any other entity that can demonstrate that it meets the statutory criteria for eligibility of funding.

- Q2)** Are the funding guidelines the same as for diesel collaborative projects? Will each diesel collaborative review applications, or, will they be reviewed at EPA headquarters? Will the \$10M be apportioned out to the states involved with the grant, or is it allocated in some other manner?
- A2)** The Targeted Air Shed Grant Program is a completely separate program from the National Clean Diesel Campaign (DERA). As a result, there is not an allocation of funding for the Targeted Air Shed Grant Program. This is entirely a competitive grant program. Eligible entities will need to construct their applications in accordance with the criteria and requirements stated in the Targeted Air Shed RFA.
- Q3)** Can a Canadian professor (working at a Canadian university) apply for this (or any) EPA grant?
- A3)** EPA's funding announcements or request for applications (RFA) list specific eligible entities that can apply. Many EPA and other Federal funding announcements have a wide range of eligible entities, including universities and international organizations. However, the Targeted Air Shed RFA has a select group of eligible entities which are listed in Section III. Part A of the RFA document (please see below). No, a university (US or International) is not an eligible entity for the Targeted Air Shed RFA.

### III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

#### A. Eligible Entities

Entities eligible to submit applications under this announcement are those air pollution control agencies, as defined by Section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), that: (a) have been delegated substantial responsibilities for development and implementation of the state implementation plan (SIP) to attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards for either ozone or PM<sub>2.5</sub> within an area identified in Section I.A of this announcement, and (b) are currently receiving a continuing air program grant under Section 105 of the CAA to carry out those responsibilities.

- Q4)** On page 4 of the notice, the announcement says: "The goal of the Targeted Air Shed Program is to implement programs, projects and approaches which demonstrate documentable reductions in ozone and/or PM air pollution in the designated areas...."

What are your requirements for the documentation? Can you clarify that a bit? For example, if we replace 100 pieces of diesel equipment with zero emissions versions of the equipment, and measure the emissions reductions from the new equipment versions, is that sufficient? I'm just wanting to make sure we structure the proposal to include things necessary to support the program needs (like the proper measurements)....

- A4)** For the 'Targeted Air Shed Grant Program', unfortunately there is not a standard, one-size fits all approach for applicants to demonstrate how their project will achieve ozone and/or PM 2.5 emission reductions. Due to the fact that there are a number of possible projects that could achieve these reductions, EPA will not prescribe a standard format to measure emission reductions for applicants. Applicants will be evaluated on how they can demonstrate achievable PM 2.5 and/or ozone emission reductions. Please review page 7 of the Targeted Air Shed RFA in Section I. Part C. Performance Measures. This section provides guidance for applicants on how they can demonstrate and measure emission reductions pertaining to their proposed project.

Section I. Part C. 4 Performance Measures.

**Performance Measures.** The applicant should also develop performance measures they expect to achieve through the proposed activities and describe them in the application. These performance measures will help gather insights and will be the mechanism to track progress concerning successful process and outcome and output strategies and will provide the basis for developing lessons to inform future recipients. It is expected that the description of performance measures will include an estimate of ozone and/or PM<sub>2.5</sub> reductions including the assumptions used to make those estimates. If an applicant is unable to calculate ozone and/or PM<sub>2.5</sub> reductions, they may include estimates of other quantifiable outputs that have a direct relationship with ozone and/or PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels. Examples of such outputs include kilowatt hour savings, vehicle miles traveled reductions, or reduced engine idle time.

The following are questions to consider when developing output and outcome measures of quantitative and qualitative results:

- 1) What are the measurable short term and longer term results the project will achieve?
- 2) How does the plan measure progress in achieving the expected results (including outputs and outcomes) and how will the approach use resources effectively and efficiently?

- Q5)** "Please clarify and/or provide a list of what Clean Air Act Section 105 grants are. Specifically, would a grant from RFA EPA-ARRA-OAR-OTAQ-09-06 be considered a Clean Air Act Section 105 grant?".

- A5)** Clean Air Act §105 (CAA 105) grants are awarded to eligible air pollution control agencies who are charged with the responsibility to develop and implement a continuing air program to attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for criteria air pollutants. The agencies use these grants to support a variety of workplan activities including those that are required to carry out the state's air quality implementation plan (SIP) for their NAAQS. This includes planning and analysis, monitoring, modeling, inventorying emissions, education and outreach, oversight and compliance, and implementation of specific control measures. Since each CAA §105 grant can support a variety of different activities, projects, and control measures, you should contact the appropriate air pollution control agency to determine what is covered by the CAA 105 grant. Note that the Targeted Air Shed RFA's proposed activities can complement but must not duplicate the CAA 105 grant activities that an eligible entity is currently conducting. The economic stimulus/ diesel emission reduction grants you referred to under RFA EPA-ARRA-OAR-OTAP-09-06 were awarded under the separate authority of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (and Recovery Act) and are not considered CAA §105 grants.
- Q6)** Our project would involve a collaboration of two airports, one in XX, the other in XX.
- These are two different air districts, with different air pollution control agencies. Could one air agency submit on behalf of the collaborative project (benefitting two air districts), or do you need both air agencies to submit something?
- A6)** There are not any stipulations in the Targeted Air Shed RFA preventing one eligible entity to submit an application on behalf of another eligible entity or as a collaboration of eligible entities. However, applicants must be certain that any application submitted meet the specific requirements stated in section I, the threshold criteria in section III. part D and the evaluation criteria in section V part A of the Targeted Air Shed RFA.