

## **Basis of the JCS grants**

The 2021-8-23 [James Cary Smith Community Grants Program Guidelines](#) as well as Frequently Asked Questions [2021 BAAQMD JCS FAQ](#) provide the basis for JCS grants. JCS grants focus on “local efforts that improve air quality and reduce exposure to air pollution.”

JCS Grants Program Guideline Section 5 extracted below discusses what kind of work we are funded to do:

### **WHAT KIND OF WORK CAN BE FUNDED?**

The Air District seeks to strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations so that more Bay Area advocates have the information and resources they need to fully engage with Air District programs and policies.

Through the James Cary Smith Community Grant Program, the Air District will expand and support its network of community partners and work collaboratively to improve community members’ ability to partner with the Air District to improve local air quality.

These grants will fund activities that increase a community’s ability to partner with the Air District. Funded work must include one or more of the following:

1. **Community Needs Assessment:** Research what the proposed project’s target community or communities need to participate in discussions about local air quality concerns and potential solutions at the neighborhood level. Through talking with residents and leaders in the target community, learn about and report on the kinds of strategies that would help increase engagement and build community knowledge about air quality and best practices.
2. **Community Organizing:** Design and implement strategies to organize the target community or communities around air quality and other environmental justice issues. This can include leadership development, community mobilizing, and coalition building.
3. **Authentic Participation:** Design strategies to implement any combination of the following:
  - Provide communities with the resources and information to meaningfully participate in decisions that impact local environmental health.
  - Plan activities that help communities learn about local air quality issues, explore the root causes of air pollution and its impact on residents, and identify agencies that may address their concerns.
  - Provide advocacy training, leadership training, and/or facilitation training as needed.
  - Make recommendations to Air District staff on how to:
    - Better communicate and partner with community members;
    - Train community members on Air District programs and decision-making;
    - and/or
    - Implement other strategies to help communities work with local, regional, state, and federal government agencies.