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After reviewing the [EPA's guidebook](#) for setting up and maintaining an [air monitoring network](#), can your organization easily follow these guidelines?

Yes, this is manageable with partners

What barriers do you see in undertaking this project?

Overall technical expertise

Data collection and documentation

Site logistics

In addition to covering the cost of the sensors and their maintenance, how would you use the grant funding?

Staffing to maintain the sensors

Data collection and sharing

How should the MPCA consider an applicant's approach to community outreach and engagement during the grant application process?

I think that community outreach is key to make the data more meaningful. Not only does every project need a community outreach component, but community members should be the ones collecting the data. It is not enough to have people from somewhere else come in and collect data, even if they are not professionals. The community needs to feel like they have a say in the project. All grants should require that the community be involved from the beginning. No grant should qualify without community engagement. I am a middle school science teacher at a school located in a low income area that has more than its share of pollution. From an environmental justice perspective, we need to get more people from these areas involved in citizen science for two reasons. First, many of the people that grow up in low income areas and or are BIPOC don't see themselves as able to do scientific research. Second, many people that have the highest health risk from pollution do not know the extent that they are exposed to environmental hazards, or that they could be involved in changing the risk to their communities. The only way change can happen is if there is data available to quantify the risk.

What other information should the MPCA consider during the community air monitoring grant process?

Low income, predominantly BIPOC, and traditionally underserved areas should be considered before more affluent areas, or areas that are predominantly white.