

Sec. 6. COMMUNITY AIR-MONITORING SYSTEMS; PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the terms in this subdivision have the meanings given.

(b) "Agency" means the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

(d) "Community air-monitoring system" means a system of devices monitoring ambient air quality at many locations within a small geographic area that is subject to air pollution from a variety of stationary and mobile sources **in** order to obtain frequent measurements of pollution levels, to detect differences **in** exposure to pollution over distances no larger than a city block, and to identify areas where pollution levels are inordinately elevated.

(e) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Subd. 2. **Establishing program.** A pilot grant program for community air-monitoring systems is established in the agency to measure air pollution levels at many locations within a community.

Subd. 3. **Eligible applicants.** Grants under this section may be awarded to applicants:

(1) consisting of a partnership between a nonprofit organization located in or working with residents located in the area in which the community air-monitoring system is to be deployed and an entity that has experience deploying, operating, and interpreting data from air-monitoring systems; and

(2) located **in** the seven-county metropolitan area.

Subd. 4. **Eligible projects.** Grants may be awarded under this section to applicants whose proposals:

(1) use a variety of air-monitoring technologies approved for use by the commissioner, including but not limited to stationary monitors, sensor-based handheld devices, and mobile devices that can be attached to vehicles or drones to measure air pollution levels;

(2) obtain data at fixed locations and from handheld monitoring devices that are carried by residents of the community on designated walking routes in the targeted community and that can provide high-frequency measurements;

(3) use the monitoring data to generate maps of pollution levels throughout the monitored area; and

(4) provide monitoring data to the agency to help inform:

(i) agency decisions, including placement of the agency's stationary air monitors and the development of programs to reduce air emissions; and

(ii) decisions by other governmental bodies regarding transportation or land use

planning. Subd. 5. **Eligible expenditures.** Grants may be used only for:

(1) planning the configuration and deployment of the community air-monitoring system;

(2) purchasing and installing air-monitoring devices as part of the community air-monitoring system;

(3) training and paying persons to operate stationary, handheld, and mobile devices to measure air pollution;

(4) developing data and mapping systems to analyze, organize, and present the air-monitoring data collected; and

(5) writing a final report on the project, as required under subdivision 9.

Subd. 6. **Application and grant award process.** An eligible applicant must submit an application to the commissioner on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner must develop administrative procedures governing the application and grant award process. The commissioner must act as fiscal agent for the grant program and is responsible for receiving and reviewing grant applications and awarding grants under this section.

Subd. 7. **Grant awards; priorities.** In awarding grants under this section, the commissioner must give priority to proposed projects that:

(1) take place:

(i) in areas with high rates of illness associated with exposure to air pollution, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease, chronic bronchitis, and cancer;

(ii) in or within one mile of a census tract where a facility with a state individual air permit has undergone an enforcement action that required the payment of a civil penalty in the previous two years; or

(iii) in an environmental justice area as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 116.065;

(2) promote public access to and transparency of air-monitoring data developed through the project; and

(3) conduct outreach activities to promote community awareness of and engagement with the project.

Subd. 8. **Report to agency.** No later than 90 days after a project ends, a grantee must submit a written report to the commissioner describing the project's findings and results and any recommendations for agency actions, programs, or activities to reduce levels of air pollution measured by the community air-monitoring system. The grantee must also submit to the commissioner all air-monitoring data developed by the project.

Subd. 9. **Report to legislature.** No later than March 15, 2025, the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over environment policy and finance on the results of the grant program, including:

(1) any changes in the agency's air-monitoring network that will occur as a result of data developed under the program;

(2) any actions the agency has taken or proposes to take to reduce levels of pollution that impact the areas that received grants under the program; and

(3) any recommendations for legislation, including whether the program should be extended or expanded.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.