

Overview

EPA Administrator Regan announced the availability of \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funds to address health impacts associated with air pollution and COVID-19

- \$50 million targeted specifically for grants, contracts, and other agency activities that identify and address disproportionate environmental or public health harms and risks in minority populations or low-income populations
- \$50 million for grants and activities for enhanced air quality monitoring under section 103 of the Clean Air Act.

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

\$50 million for Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring

- \$20 million grants competition that will seek proposals from community groups and state, local and tribal air agencies for monitoring projects
- \$22.5 million in direct awards to state, local and tribal air agencies
- \$5 million for enhanced capacity for short-term community monitoring (e.g., mobile air monitoring labs, sensor loan programs)
- \$2.5 million to improve air quality data management and ensure the grants and programs are properly administered, overseen, and tracked.

*No matching will be required for the grant competition. No matching will be required for the direct awards. All funding is “one-time” funding.

Questions

1. In the communities you serve, what are the most important needs for ambient air monitoring data?
2. What do you think are critical criteria (e.g., partnerships, monitoring support, understanding of risk, problem resolution) to include when issuing the grant solicitation for ambient air monitoring?
3. Please comment on the use of ARP funds for regulatory vs. non-regulatory ambient air monitoring.
4. Considering areas with environmental justice concerns, what are the most useful approaches to empower these communities with ambient air monitoring data to help address disproportionate exposures?
5. For Tribes: Should Tribes in nonattainment areas be given priority for grant funds? Are there other priority considerations that Tribes would like to see?