



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

September 10, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Audit of the Community-Based Organization Set-Aside Grants Awarded Pursuant to the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant Program
Project No. OA-FY24-0121

FROM: Michael D. Davis, Director *Michael D. Davis*
Environmental Investment and Infrastructure
Office of Audit

TO: Joseph Goffman, Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation

Kimberly Patrick, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Mission Support

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of the EPA's Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities grant program. This audit is part of the OIG's [oversight plan](#) for fiscal year 2024. This audit also addresses the following fiscal year 2024 [top management challenge](#) for the Agency: managing grants, contracts, and data systems.

Our objective is to determine whether the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities grants will achieve their required terms and conditions within the grant agreement project period. We plan to focus our audit on community-based organization set-aside grants awarded under this grant program. We plan to conduct work at the Office of Air and Radiation and its Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, the Office of Mission Support and its Office of Grants and Debarment, and the EPA regions. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards to conduct our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit include identifying potential operational efficiencies to ensure the timely use of federal grant funds and addressing grantee challenges to complete projects designed to enhance air pollution monitoring in and near underserved communities.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective. At that time, we can discuss any concerns that you may have and answer any questions about the audit process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the audit. Throughout the audit, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

To expedite our audit, please provide the following information by September 30, 2024:

- Policies, procedures, and guidance documents from 2021 through September 2024 on managing the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities grant program.
- Any investigations or legal proceedings significant to the audit objective that have been initiated or are in process.
- Any previous engagements or other studies that directly relate to the audit objective and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- Any reports to Congress and EPA leadership on the timeliness and progress of the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities grants.
- Organizational structure, budget, and staffing information pursuant to this grant program for the Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Grants and Debarment, and regions.

We respectfully note that the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, authorizes the OIG to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete our objectives. Similarly, EPA Manual 6500, *Functions and Activities of the Office of Inspector General* (1994), requires that each EPA employee cooperate with and fully disclose information to the OIG. Additionally, Administrator Michael S. Regan, in a June 17, 2024 email to EPA employees, stated that “it is the duty of all EPA personnel to cooperate fully with the OIG and to provide information the office needs to fulfill its oversight responsibilities.” He also indicated that the “OIG’s independent oversight of our agency makes it an indispensable partner in our efforts to protect public health and the environment.” If an Agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested materials to the OIG or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG, we will request that you immediately resolve the situation. Consistent with the Inspector General Act, we may report unresolved access matters to the administrator and to Congress.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epaoig.gov. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this audit should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator

Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator

Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Management, Office of the Administrator

Alejandra Nunez, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation

Elizabeth Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation

Peter Tsirigotis, Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Office of Air and Radiation

Michael Osinski, Director, Office of Grants and Debarment, Office of Mission Support

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