

EPA AirAware Project

Our Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-funded grant project, in partnership with TD Enviro and IQAir, aims to enhance indoor air quality and community health through collaboration with YMCAs across a three-year period.

Year 1: Establishing Baseline Air Quality



We'll install AirVisual air quality monitors at each participating YMCA to assess indoor and outdoor air quality. Two of the five YMCA locations will also have Black Carbon monitors installed outside to address specific concerns. Concurrently, tailored education programs will be developed for YMCA staff and members, empowering YMCAs to share news of the upgrade to their members, if they so wish. YMCAs may keep the monitors, at no cost, when the project is finished.

Year 2: HVAC System Upgrades and Evaluation

HVAC systems at each YMCA will be upgraded by IQAir to improve indoor air quality. **This HVAC upgrade has a value of \$28,000.** We'll evaluate the effectiveness of these upgrades using the monitors. Our main goal is to track the difference in air quality with upgraded filtration systems while providing YMCAs with resources to share this news with their members if desired.



Year 3: Sustainability and Program Enhancement



Feedback from YMCA partners will inform the finalization of educational outreach. We'll also develop a sustainability plan to help retain your improved indoor air quality. IQAir will provide ongoing servicing for HVAC systems to ensure continued performance for the remainder of the project.

Participation Compensation

Participating YMCAs will receive **\$10,000 in four installments** for their dedication. They'll also retain the air quality monitors and educational materials if desired. This grant is intended solely for community benefit, with no regulatory implications or intentions.



FAQs

What is the purpose of this project?

This groundbreaking project is aimed at tracking indoor and outdoor air quality in historically under-resourced communities located in air quality monitoring "gap-areas." The main goal is to track the difference in air quality with upgraded filtration systems while providing YMCAs with resources to share this news with their members if desired.

What will be installed at each YMCA location?

Air quality monitors will be installed to assess both indoor and outdoor air quality, including sensors for Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Carbon Dioxide (CO2), temperature, and humidity. Two locations will also have Black Carbon (BC) monitoring. These monitors will be accompanied by an accessible dashboard displaying real-time data.

Will the air quality data be shared publicly?

Partner YMCA's are encouraged to share any data they wish, but it is not required. Participating YMCAs may choose to share the data with their communities in real-time to help inform their visitor's health protection actions, or they could release historical data at any time.

When will the monitors be installed?

We estimate the start of the installation process will be between mid-late June of this year.

What does the payment plan look like?

For their participation, each YMCA will receive unrestricted \$10,000 that requires no reporting. This funding will be disbursed in four installments of \$2,500, with the first payment provided in the first quarter of each program year, and the final payment issued at the conclusion of the grant.

Can our YMCA keep the monitors after the project concludes?

Each YMCA will retain the three indoor AirVisual air quality monitors, one outdoor monitor, and the upgraded HVAC system. The black carbon monitors, however, will be removed at the end of the three-year project period.

What does HVAC stand for?

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning.

Can YMCAs opt out of sharing data or participating in educational programs?

Yes, YMCAs have the option to decline sharing data or participating in educational outreach if they prefer. Opting out will not impact the YMCAs funding for participation.

Who will create the educational material after the data is analyzed?

The Coalition for Clean Air will create tailored educational material for each YMCA, if requested.

Who will be in charge of maintenance for the monitors?

Staff at IQAir or CCA are expected to keep up with the maintenance of any monitors. The Black Carbon monitors will need monthly maintenance, which will also be provided by our project partners. *You are not liable for damage to the monitors.*

How many YMCA spots are available for this project?

There are only five spots available.

How will YMCAs be selected?

We want to ensure the five selected YMCAs fall within an air monitoring "gap area" which means we will be selecting YMCAs based on their proximity to other monitors.

Have you worked with any other cities, municipalities or organizations on air quality monitoring?

Yes, we currently have active monitoring projects with LAUSD and UC Riverside. Some of our monitoring areas include but are not limited to schools, churches, trucking facilities and residential homes. We have eight years of air monitoring experience.

Who do we contact if we're interested in participating?

For more information on participating, contact Diana at diana@cclair.org or call (760)791-2807

Who do we contact if we have questions about the data being gathered?

For more information on air quality data, contact Story at story.schwantes@tdenviro.com

