

# FOR PREVIEW ONLY

IMPORTANT: This is a preview of the application that will open 12 March 2026.

Please note: the official application form, when launched, may differ from this one.

For more information: <https://aqfund.epic.uchicago.edu/>

Find errors? Contact: [clean-air-info@uchicago.edu](mailto:clean-air-info@uchicago.edu)

## 2026 EPIC Air Quality Fund Application Form

Dear Applicant,

We are pleased to announce that we will begin accepting applications for the 2026 EPIC Air Quality Fund on 12 March 2026.

Before you begin, please take note of the following:

- **Communication:** This application and communications with the EPIC Air Quality Fund Team must be in English only.
- **Review** all guidelines, eligibility, and selection criteria at the EPIC Air Quality Fund website: <https://aqfund.epic.uchicago.edu/call-for-proposals/>.
- **Please make sure your application directly addresses the core objectives of this funding call:**
  - Measure PM2.5 for a period of 12 months in a place with no or little air quality monitoring.
  - Share these data in a fully open manner.
  - Have a concrete plan to use the data to achieve a specific systemic national-level policy impact. We are looking for specific policy changes (e.g. create or increase ambition of an air quality standard, address a specific policy, achieve specific outcome X).
- **Access a pdf of the application:** To assist you in preparing for the online submission, you can preview the application form here: <https://aqfund.epic.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2026/01/2026-EPIC-Air-Quality-Fund-Application.pdf>
- **Seek Assistance if Needed:** If you encounter any difficulties or have questions while completing the application form, please write: [clean-air-info@uchicago.edu](mailto:clean-air-info@uchicago.edu)
- **Use of AI:** We do not prohibit the use of AI in aiding submission responses, but generically-constructed responses or ones that rely on AI for substantively constructing the proposal, rather than the ingenuity of the proposer will not be considered competitive.
- **Submission Deadline:** All applications need to be submitted before 30 April 2026, 11:59 PM Central European Time (CET). Please note that although the official deadline is stated in CET, the dates displayed on the application form reflects your local time zone. These local dates and times are automatically aligned with the corresponding CET deadline to ensure consistency.
- **After submission:** You will receive a confirmation of your submission by email. Even after submission, you will be able to login and view your submission on [this portal](#).
- **Additional preparation:** If your application is selected, you will be required to fill out one of the following forms below.
  - **For foreign (non-US) entities, W-8 BEN-E** - Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner (Entity): <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw8bene.pdf>
  - **For US-based entities, W-9 - Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification:** <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

We appreciate your interest and wish you the best of luck in your application!

Best Wishes,

**The EPIC Air Quality Fund Team**

For questions, please contact: [clean-air-info@uchicago.edu](mailto:clean-air-info@uchicago.edu)

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\* Question is required for completion of application.

## Registration Details

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

1\* Please acknowledge that you have read the following privacy notice by marking the checkbox.  
(Circle all that apply)

*The Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) is responsible for the personal information you provide in this application. We use this information (including your name, contact details, organization, team information, and project/budget information) to receive and review your application, communicate with you about its status, and, if selected, to administer any award and related reporting. Your data will be accessed only by the EPIC Air Quality Fund team and processed in our online application system hosted by Submit Software Solutions Ltd. We keep your information only as long as needed to run this funding call, manage any awards, and meet our legal and audit obligations. Providing your information is voluntary, but if you do not provide the requested details, we may not be able to consider your application. Depending on your local laws, you may have rights to request access to, correction or deletion of your data, or to object to certain uses; you can contact us about this or with any questions at [clean-air-info@uchicago.edu](mailto:clean-air-info@uchicago.edu).*

a)  I acknowledge, I have read the privacy notice.

## See if you're eligible to apply for the EPIC Air Quality Fund.

*Note: Please ensure, you have reviewed all [guidelines](#), [eligibility](#), and [selection criteria](#) at The EPIC Air Quality Fund website before you begin.*

2\* Are you 18+ years of age?  
(Circle your selected answer)

*Note: If you are less than 18 years of age, you are not eligible to apply.*

a)  Yes

b)  No

**Please do not continue**  
(Only applies if you answered 'b' for Q2)

*Based on the information that you have provided, you are not eligible to apply. Please do not continue with this application.*

(Only applies if you answered 'b' for Q2)

3\* Do you plan to implement a project in a country listed on US Department of State's State Sponsors of Terrorism List?  
(Circle your selected answer)

*Note: If you plan to implement your project in a country that is listed on the US Department of State's [State Sponsors of Terrorism](#) List, you are not eligible to apply.*

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a) Yes

b) No

**Please do not continue**  
**(Only applies if you answered 'a' for Q3)**

**Based on the information that you have provided, you are not eligible to apply. Please do not continue with this application.**

**(Only applies if you answered 'a' for Q3)**

**4\*** Do you plan to implement a project in an EU/EEA country?  
**(Circle your selected answer)**

**Note: Applications that plan to implement your project in an EU/EEA country are not eligible to apply.**

a) Yes

b) No

**Please do not continue**  
**(Only applies if you answered 'Yes' for Q4)**

**Based on the information that you have provided, you are not eligible to apply. Please do not continue with this application. (Only relevant if you answered 'Yes' for Q4)**

**5\*** Is your entity allowed to accept foreign grants/ funds, specifically from the United States and has a functional bank account?  
**(Circle your selected answer)**

**Note: If your entity is not allowed to accept foreign grants/ funds, specifically from the United States or does not have a functional bank account at the time of application, you are not eligible to apply.**

a) Yes

b) No

**Please do not continue**  
**(Only applies if you answered 'No' for Q5)**

**Based on the information that you have provided, you are not eligible to apply. Please do not continue with this application.**

**(Only relevant if you answered 'No' for Q5)**

**6\*** Please select the type of air quality monitoring solutions that you are proposing to install.  
**(Circle your selected answer)**

**Note: If you plan to install indoor air quality monitors, mobile air quality monitors and projects that make use of wearable air quality monitors, you are not eligible to apply.**

a) Stationary ambient monitoring (Using low-cost air quality monitors, reference-grade monitors, etc.)

b) Mobile monitoring, indoor monitoring or monitoring using wearable monitors

**Please do not continue**  
**(Only applies if you answered 'b' for Q6)**

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*Based on the information that you have provided, you are not eligible to apply. Please do not continue with this application.*

*(Only applies if you answered 'b' for Q6)*

7\* Are you seeking funding solely for academic purposes?  
(Circle your selected answer)

*Note: If you are seeking funding solely for academic purposes, you are not eligible to apply.*

- a) Yes
- b) No

**Please do not continue**  
(Only applies if you answered 'Yes' for Q7)

*Based on the information that you have provided, you are not eligible to apply. Please do not continue with this application.*

*(Only relevant if you answered 'Yes' for Q7)*

8\* Does your proposed project involve developing a new air quality monitor or improving an existing air quality monitoring model?  
(Circle your selected answer)

*Note: If your proposed project involves developing a new air quality monitor or improving an existing air quality monitoring model, you are not eligible to apply.*

- a) Yes
- b) No

**Please do not continue**  
(Only applies if you answered 'Yes' for Q8)

*Based on the information that you have provided, you are not eligible to apply. Please do not continue with this application.*

*(Only relevant if you answered 'Yes' for Q8)*

9\* Are you a current EPIC AQ Fund awardee (or a core team member) with an active award?  
(Circle your selected answer)

*Note: If you are a current EPIC AQ Fund awardee (or a core team member) with an active award?, you are not eligible to apply.*

- a) Yes
- b) No

**Please do not continue**  
(Only applies if you answered 'Yes' for Q9)

*Based on the information that you have provided, you are not eligible to apply. Please do not continue with this application.*

*(Only relevant if you answered 'Yes' for Q9)*

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**Personal Information**

*In this section, please provide complete and accurate details of the primary applicant.*

**10\*** What title would you prefer we use?  
*(Circle your selected answer)*

- a) Prof.
- b) Dr.
- c) Miss
- d) Mrs.
- e) Mr.
- f) Other

**10.F.1** Please specify *(Complete question if you answered 'f' for Q10)*

**11\*** First name of primary applicant

**12\*** Last name of primary applicant

**13\*** Contact number of primary applicant (please include country code):

**14\*** Postal address of primary applicant

**15\*** Date of birth of primary applicant

**16\*** Select the option that reflects your gender identity.  
*(Circle your selected answer)*

- a) Man
- b) Woman
- c) Non-binary
- d) Prefer not to say

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**17\*** Have you previously served as the primary applicant or principal investigator on an air quality project?

*(Circle your selected answer)*

**Note: Prior experience serving as a primary applicant/lead investigator will not confer any advantage or disadvantage in the review process.**

- a) This is my first air quality project as a primary applicant or principal investigator.
- b) I have led an air quality project before
- c) I have led multiple air quality projects before

**18\*** How did you learn about the EPIC Air Quality Fund Application?

*(Circle your selected answer)*

- a) EPIC website
- b) EPIC Newsletter
- c) LinkedIn
- d) Twitter
- e) Facebook/Instagram
- f) Friend/Colleague
- g) EPIC AQ Fund Awardee
- h) Other

**18.H.1** Please specify *(Complete question if you answered 'h' for Q18)*

**19** If you learnt of this opportunity through a friend, colleague or an EPIC AQ Fund Awardee we would appreciate it if you could mention their name in the response box below.

**20\*** Select the country in which you plan to implement your project.

*(Circle your selected answer)*

**Note: Preference will be given to projects conducted in 'high' and 'medium high' opportunity score countries. If you do not see your country listed here, select "other."**

- a) Afghanistan (High opportunity)
- b) Albania (High opportunity)
- c) Algeria (Medium-high opportunity)
- d) Angola (High opportunity)
- e) Argentina (Medium opportunity)
- f) Armenia (Low opportunity)
- g) Azerbaijan (High opportunity)
- h) Bangladesh (Medium-high opportunity)

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i)	Benin (High opportunity)
j)	Bhutan (High opportunity)
k)	Bolivia (High opportunity)
l)	Bosnia and Herzegovina (Low opportunity)
m)	Botswana (High opportunity)
n)	Brazil (Medium-high opportunity)
o)	Burkina Faso (High opportunity)
p)	Burundi (High opportunity)
q)	Cote d'Ivoire (High opportunity)
r)	Cambodia (Medium-high opportunity)
s)	Cameroon (High opportunity)
t)	Chad (High opportunity)
u)	China (Medium opportunity)
v)	Colombia (Medium opportunity)
w)	Comoros (High opportunity)
x)	Costa Rica (High opportunity)
y)	Democratic Republic of the Congo (High opportunity)
z)	Djibouti (High opportunity)
aa)	Dominican Republic (High opportunity)
ab)	Ecuador (Medium-high opportunity)
ac)	Egypt (High opportunity)
ad)	El Salvador (High opportunity)
ae)	Equatorial Guinea (High opportunity)
af)	Eritrea (High opportunity)
ag)	Ethiopia (High opportunity)
ah)	Gabon (High opportunity)
ai)	Gambia (High opportunity)
aj)	Georgia (Medium opportunity)
ak)	Ghana (Medium opportunity)
al)	Guatemala (High opportunity)
am)	Guinea (High opportunity)
an)	Guinea-Bissau (Medium opportunity)
ao)	Haiti (High opportunity)
ap)	Honduras (High opportunity)
aq)	India (Medium opportunity)

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ar)	Indonesia (Medium-high opportunity)
as)	Iraq (High opportunity)
at)	Jamaica (High opportunity)
au)	Jordan (High opportunity)
av)	Kazakhstan (Medium opportunity)
aw)	Kenya (High opportunity)
ax)	Kosovo (Medium opportunity)
ay)	Kyrgyzstan (Low opportunity)
az)	Laos (High opportunity)
ba)	Lebanon (High opportunity)
bb)	Lesotho (High opportunity)
bc)	Liberia (High opportunity)
bd)	Macedonia (Medium opportunity)
be)	Madagascar (Medium-high opportunity)
bf)	Malawi (High opportunity)
bg)	Malaysia (High opportunity)
bh)	Mali (High opportunity)
bi)	Mauritius (Medium-high opportunity)
bj)	México (Low opportunity)
bk)	Moldova (Medium opportunity)
bl)	Mongolia (Medium-high opportunity)
bm)	Montenegro (Low opportunity)
bn)	Morocco (High opportunity)
bo)	Mozambique (High opportunity)
bp)	Namibia (High opportunity)
bq)	Nepal (High opportunity)
br)	Nicaragua (High opportunity)
bs)	Niger (High opportunity)
bt)	Nigeria (Medium-high opportunity)
bu)	Pakistan (Medium-high opportunity)
bv)	Papua New Guinea (High opportunity)
bw)	Paraguay (High opportunity)
bx)	Peru (Medium-high opportunity)
by)	Philippines (High opportunity)
bz)	Republic of the Congo (High opportunity)

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ca)	Rwanda (High opportunity)
cb)	Senegal (Medium-high opportunity)
cc)	Serbia (Low opportunity)
cd)	Sierra Leone (High opportunity)
ce)	Solomon Islands (High opportunity)
cf)	South Africa (Medium opportunity)
cg)	South Sudan (High opportunity)
ch)	Sri Lanka (High opportunity)
ci)	Suriname (High opportunity)
cj)	Swaziland (High opportunity)
ck)	Tajikistan (High opportunity)
cl)	Tanzania (High opportunity)
cm)	Thailand (Medium opportunity)
cn)	Timor-Leste (High opportunity)
co)	Togo (High opportunity)
cp)	Tunisia (High opportunity)
cq)	Turkey (High opportunity)
cr)	Turkmenistan (High opportunity)
cs)	Uganda (High opportunity)
ct)	Ukraine (Medium-high opportunity)
cu)	Uzbekistan (High opportunity)
cv)	Vietnam (Medium opportunity)
cw)	Yemen (High opportunity)
cx)	Zambia (High opportunity)
cy)	Zimbabwe (High opportunity)
cz)	Other

**20.CZ.1 Please specify which country do you plan to implement your project.**  
*(Complete question if you answered 'cz' for Q20)*

**21\*** **Are you currently residing in the country where you plan to implement your project?**  
*(Circle your selected answer)*

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| a) | Yes |
| b) | No  |

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**Based on the information you have provided, you do not reside in the country you plan to execute your project (*Only applies if you answered 'No' for Q21*)**

**21.B.1** Please provide a justification for why you still consider yourself a 'local actor'. Preference will be given to those who can reasonably be considered 'local actors' in the communities they seek to implement their project. (*Complete question if you answered 'No' for Q21*)

**22\*** What language(s) is(are) spoken in the country in which you will implement your project?

*Please state your response as primary language and additional languages*

**23\*** Are you fluent in the primary language spoken in the country in which you will implement your project?  
(*Circle your selected answer*)

a) Yes

b) No

## Entity Information

*In this section, please provide complete and accurate details of the entity*

**24\*** Name of the entity

*Note: If you are currently working independently, please name the host entity that has agreed to support your project.*

**25\*** Please select entity type.  
(*Circle all that apply*)

*Choose all that apply.*

a) Nonprofit

b) For profit

c) Academic institution

d) Government entity

e) Other

**25.E.1** How would you describe your entity type?  
(*Complete question if you answered 'e' for Q25*)

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26\* Date of establishment/incorporation of entity.

27\* Please state country/ countries in which entity is registered/ incorporated?

28\* Please share the link to your entity's website

29\* Please acknowledge the following by marking the checkbox.  
(Circle all that apply)

- a) I affirm that as an applicant, I will serve as the principal point of contact for all communications related to this application.

## Details of a secondary contact person.

*In the event we are unable to connect with the primary applicant, we will reach out to the secondary contact person.*

30\* Full name of secondary contact person

31\* Designation of secondary contact person

32\* Email of secondary contact person

33\* Contact number of secondary contact person (please include country code):

## Compliance checklist

34\* Is your entity in compliance with all relevant local, state, and national laws and regulations of your country with respect to accepting foreign (US) grants/funds, and you are able to accept funds in USD from us immediately, if successful in your proposal?  
(Circle your selected answer)

- a) Yes  
b) No

35\* Does your entity have a bank account that can receive foreign grants or funds?  
*(Circle your selected answer)*

- a) Yes
- b) No

36\* Does the entity's bank accept transfers in USD?  
*(Circle your selected answer)*

- a) Yes
- b) No

37\* Does your entity have all the required documentation and approvals to transfer funds internationally for the procurement of air quality monitors from outside your country?  
*(Circle your selected answer)*

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) I am not sure

### Project details

*Please make sure the project directly addresses the core objectives of this funding call:*

- 1. Measure PM2.5 for a period of 12 months in a place with no or little air quality monitoring.**
- 2. Share these data in a *fully open manner*.**
- 3. Have a concrete plan to use the data to achieve a specific systemic national-level policy impact. We are looking for specific policy changes (e.g. create or increase ambition of an air quality standard, address a specific policy, achieve specific outcome X).**

38\* What is your Project Title?

39\* Provide a project summary and impact goals.

*Please provide an overview of your project and describe its goals. In your summary, please make sure impact goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound.*

40\* Does your country's government have an air quality monitoring network (reference-grade or low-cost)?  
*(Circle your selected answer)*

- a) Yes, low-cost monitor/s

- b) Yes, reference-grade monitor/s
- c) Yes, a hybrid network of both reference-grade or low-cost air quality monitoring units
- d) No, my country does not have an air quality monitoring network
- e) I don't know.
- f) Other

**40.F.1 Please specify (Complete question if you answered 'f' for Q40) (Max 150 words)**

**41\* How do you plan to generate PM2.5 data, at what time resolution, and for how long? (Max 300 words)**

**42\* How many air quality monitoring units do you aim to deploy?**

*Note: The EPIC Air Quality Fund will only support projects that propose to establish stationary, outdoor/ambient air quality.*

**43\* Select the air quality monitoring units that you aim to deploy. (Circle your selected answer)**

- a) Reference-grade air quality monitoring units
- b) Low-cost air quality monitoring units
- c) Hybrid network (use of both reference-grade & low-cost air quality monitoring units)

**44\* How do you plan to share the PM2.5 data in a fully open manner?**

**(Max 300 words)**

*We define "fully open manner" as data that is:*

- 1. In physical units (e.g. ug/m3, not as a unitless AQI value)*
- 2. Shared with station-level coordinates out to five decimal places*
- 3. Generated and shared in near real-time (e.g. not a month after the data are generated)*
- 4. In a manner that can be easily incorporated into other open data platforms like OpenAQ (e.g. in a structured CSV file)*
- 5. Is shared with a cc-by-4.0 license (or in a more permissible form)*

*Note: The EPIC Air Quality Fund requires that all projects supported by it make their data fully open, so that the data produced can be maximally utilized and the progress of our supported work can be measured publicly. Please see [this Guidelines document](#), which further outlines the open data requirements of these awards and an assessment of whether popular air quality monitoring companies' data policies meet our open data requirements.*

45\* How do you plan to make the air quality data openly accessible, such that a platform like OpenAQ, who we partner with, will be able to access the data under a cc-by-4.0 license?

*(Circle your selected answer)*

*Note: We do not encourage applicants building dashboards from scratch to share data openly, unless done for specific strategic reason, and then we also suggest using another ready-made data-sharing method.*

- a) Develop a dashboard (not recommended for the sole purpose of sharing data)
- b) Use a sensor manufacturer that enables automatic data sharing to platform like OpenAQ. (See Guidance Document)
- c) Other

45.C.1 Please specify  
*(Complete question if you answered 'c' for Q45) (Max 100 words)*

46\* Please list and describe the positive national, systemic, policy-related impact you seek to achieve by using the data and share your plan on how to achieve it.  
(Max 300 words)

*How we define national-level impact: Impacts that have a systemic policy effect on how air pollution is viewed or addressed.*

*Examples of national-level impact:*

- Creation of new air quality standard
- Help implement an existing standard
- Activate an influential group of domestic leaders to advocate for air pollution policy

*Non-examples of National-Level Impact*

- Mitigation measures (e.g. masks, filters, etc.)
- Academic papers

47\* Provide a brief description of each of the project activities that you plan to implement to achieve your objectives over an 18 month period.



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Name	Expected roles	Email	City, Country

**50\*** Share a PDF of CV/Resume.  
(Not applicable for paper form.)

*Note: We only require the CV/resume of the primary applicant. However, if you would like to include CVs/resumes for additional team members, please combine them into a single PDF and upload as one file.*

**51\*** Do you have any previous or ongoing work that this project directly or indirectly ties into?  
(Max 150 words)

*Please describe and provide any references/links to your previous work (can include data, studies, academic papers, press releases).*

**52\*** Enlist any existing or potential partnerships and collaborations outside of your core team that will support the project's implementation or enhance its impact.  
(Max 150 words)

**53\*** Are there country-specific opportunities coming up in the near future that make it especially compelling to launch an air quality program right now? (e.g. election in a year, revamping air quality standards in the next 3 years, etc.)  
(Max 300 words)

**54** Anything else you would like to share?  
(Max 200 words)

**Project Budget**

**55\*** Total project amount (in USD)

*Please Note: We expect award amounts to be roughly 50,000 USD for groups proposing to deploy lower cost sensors only and roughly 75,000 USD for groups using regulatory-grade equipment or a hybrid network.*

**56\*** Please follow the steps given below to submit your budget:

1. Access the budget template by clicking on [THIS LINK](#).
2. Make a copy: Click on File > Download > Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) and rename the downloaded file to include the applicant's name and the entity's name (e.g., 'Jane Doe - XYZ Foundation').
3. Fill out the details: Complete all fields in the budget template.
4. Share the File: Upload the completed file in the Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) format only

*(Not applicable for paper form.)*

**57\*** Budget Justification  
(Max 1000 words)

*Please write approximately 2-4 paragraphs, justifying the budget.*

**58\*** Please indicate a point of contact for all finance-related queries.  
(Circle your selected answer)

*Note: The designated individual must be fully informed about your entity's tax requirements and have all the tax-related information*

- a) Primary applicant
- b) Secondary contact
- c) We have a designated person in our team who will be handling all finance related queries

**Please provide the details of the person who will be handling all finance related queries (Only applies if you answered 'c' for Q58)**

**58.C.2\*** Full name (Complete question if you answered 'c' for Q58)

**58.C.3\*** Designation (Complete question if you answered 'c' for Q58)

**58.C.4\*** Contact number (Complete question if you answered 'c' for Q58)

58.C.5\* Email address *(Complete question if you answered 'c' for Q58)*

## Consent

59\* Please carefully read and acknowledge each of the following statements by marking the checkbox next to each item:

*(Circle all that apply)*

- a)  I understand only one application per team at an entity is accepted.
- b)  I certify that the information provided in this award application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- c)  I agree to comply with all terms and conditions associated with this award if awarded.
- d)  If granted an award, our org has the capacity to invoice within the first 30 days of a signed agreement