

IMPORTANT: This is a preview of the application that will open on 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

2026 EPIC Air Quality Fund Application

Dear Applicant,

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

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 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. 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
- **Use of AI:** We do not prohibit the use of AI in aiding submission responses, but generically-constructed responses will not be considered competitive.
- **Submission Deadline:** The submission deadline will be announced once applications open. We expect it to be open for approximately 6 weeks.
- **After submission:** You will receive a copy of your submission on email. If you do not receive it, please write: clean-air-info@uchicago.edu
- **Additional note:** If your application is selected, you will be required to fill out one of the following forms below.
 1. 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>
 2. 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

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

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: <https://aqfund.epic.uchicago.edu/call-for-proposals/>

2. **Are you 18+ years of age? ***

Note: You are eligible to apply only if you are 18+ yrs of age

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. **Do you plan to execute a project in a country listed on US Department of State's "State Sponsors of Terrorism" List.**

Note: You are eligible to apply only if the country in which you plan to execute your project is not listed US Department of State's "State Sponsors of Terrorism" List

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. **Is your entity allowed to accept foreign grants/ funds, specifically from the United States and has a functional bank account?**

Note: You are eligible to apply only if your entity is allowed to accept foreign grants/ funds, specifically from the United States and has a functional bank account?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. **Type of air quality monitoring solutions that you are proposing to install. ***

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.

Mark only one oval.

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

☐ Mobile monitoring, indoor monitoring or monitoring using wearable monitors

6. **Are you seeking funding solely for academic purposes? ***

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

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. **Does your proposed project involve developing a new air quality monitor or improving an existing air quality monitoring model?**

Note: If you select Yes, you will NOT be eligible to apply

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Personal Information

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

8. **First name of applicant ***

9. **Last name of applicant ***

10. **Contact number of applicant (please include country code): ***

11. **Mailing address of applicant ***

Please include Street Address, City, State/Province, ZIP/Postal Code, Country.

12. **Date of birth ***

Example: January 7, 2019

13. **Select the option that reflects your gender identity. ***

Mark only one oval.

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Non-binary

☐ Prefer not to say

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

Mark only one oval.

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

15. **How did you learn about the EPIC Air Quality Fund Application? ***

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ EPIC website
- ☐ EPIC Newsletter
- ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ Friend/Colleague
- ☐ EPIC AQ Fund Awardee
- ☐ Other: _____

16. **If you learnt of this opportunity through a friend or colleague, we would appreciate it if you could mention their name in the response box below:**

17. **Select the country in which you plan to execute your project? ***

Note: Preference will be given to projects conducted in ['high' and 'medium high' opportunity score countries](#).

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Afghanistan (High opportunity)
- ☐ Albania (High opportunity)
- ☐ Algeria (Medium-high opportunity)

- ☐ Angola (High opportunity)
- ☐ Argentina (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Armenia (Low opportunity)
- ☐ Azerbaijan (High opportunity)
- ☐ Bangladesh (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Benin (High opportunity)
- ☐ Bhutan (High opportunity)
- ☐ Bolivia (High opportunity)
- ☐ Bosnia and Herzegovina (Low opportunity)
- ☐ Botswana (High opportunity)
- ☐ Brazil (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Burkina Faso (High opportunity)
- ☐ Burundi (High opportunity)
- ☐ Cote d'Ivoire (High opportunity)
- ☐ Cambodia (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Cameroon (High opportunity)
- ☐ Chad (High opportunity)
- ☐ China (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Colombia (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Comoros (High opportunity)
- ☐ Costa Rica (High opportunity)
- ☐ Democratic Republic of the Congo (High opportunity)
- ☐ Djibouti (High opportunity)
- ☐ Dominican Republic (High opportunity)
- ☐ Ecuador (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Egypt (High opportunity)
- ☐ El Salvador (High opportunity)
- ☐ Equatorial Guinea (High opportunity)
- ☐ Eritrea (High opportunity)
- ☐ Ethiopia (High opportunity)
- ☐ Gabon (High opportunity)
- ☐ Gambia (High opportunity)
- ☐ Georgia (Medium opportunity)

- ☐ Ghana (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Guatemala (High opportunity)
- ☐ Guinea (High opportunity)
- ☐ Guinea-Bissau (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Haiti (High opportunity)
- ☐ Honduras (High opportunity)
- ☐ India (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Indonesia (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Iraq (High opportunity)
- ☐ Jamaica (High opportunity)
- ☐ Jordan (High opportunity)
- ☐ Kazakhstan (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Kenya (High opportunity)
- ☐ Kosovo (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Kyrgyzstan (Low opportunity)
- ☐ Laos (High opportunity)
- ☐ Lebanon (High opportunity)
- ☐ Lesotho (High opportunity)
- ☐ Liberia (High opportunity)
- ☐ Macedonia (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Madagascar (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Malawi (High opportunity)
- ☐ Malaysia (High opportunity)
- ☐ Mali (High opportunity)
- ☐ Mauritius (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ México (Low opportunity)
- ☐ Moldova (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Mongolia (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Montenegro (Low opportunity)
- ☐ Morocco (High opportunity)
- ☐ Mozambique (High opportunity)
- ☐ Namibia (High opportunity)
- ☐ Nepal (High opportunity)

- ☐ Nicaragua (High opportunity)
- ☐ Niger (High opportunity)
- ☐ Nigeria (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Pakistan (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Papua New Guinea (High opportunity)
- ☐ Paraguay (High opportunity)
- ☐ Peru (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Philippines (High opportunity)
- ☐ Republic of the Congo (High opportunity)
- ☐ Rwanda (High opportunity)
- ☐ Senegal (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Serbia (Low opportunity)
- ☐ Sierra Leone (High opportunity)
- ☐ Solomon Islands (High opportunity)
- ☐ South Africa (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ South Sudan (High opportunity)
- ☐ Sri Lanka (High opportunity)
- ☐ Suriname (High opportunity)
- ☐ Swaziland (High opportunity)
- ☐ Tajikistan (High opportunity)
- ☐ Tanzania (High opportunity)
- ☐ Thailand (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Timor-Leste (High opportunity)
- ☐ Togo (High opportunity)
- ☐ Tunisia (High opportunity)
- ☐ Turkey (High opportunity)
- ☐ Turkmenistan (High opportunity)
- ☐ Uganda (High opportunity)
- ☐ Ukraine (Medium-high opportunity)
- ☐ Uzbekistan (High opportunity)
- ☐ Vietnam (Medium opportunity)
- ☐ Yemen (High opportunity)
- ☐ Zambia (High opportunity)

☐ Zimbabwe (High opportunity)

18. **Which country are you presently residing in?** If it is not the same as the country you plan to execute the project in, 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.

19. **What language(s) is(are) spoken in the country in which you will execute your project?**

Please state your response as primary language and additional languages

20. **Are you fluent in the primary language spoken in the country in which you will execute your project?**

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Entity Information

21. **Name of the entity ***

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

22. **Please select entity type (choose all that apply) ***

Check all that apply.

☐ Nonprofit

☐ For profit

☐ Academic institution

☐ Government entity

☐ Other:

23. **Date of incorporation of entity, if entity has been incorporated for less than three years**

Example: January 7, 2019

24. **Please state country/ countries in which entity is registered/ incorporated ***

25. **Please state entity's registration/ incorporation number ***

(If not applicable, please put 'NA')

26. **Share link to webpage, if available: (otherwise, put: 'NA') ***

27. **Please acknowledge the following: ***

Mark only one oval.

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

28. **Full name of secondary contact person ***

This person will be contacted in the event we are unable to contact the applicant.

29. **Designation of secondary contact person ***

30. **Email of secondary contact person ***

31. **Contact number of secondary contact person (please include country code): ***

Compliance Checklist

32. **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?**

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

33. **Does your entity have a bank account that can receive foreign grants or funds? ***

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

34. **Does the entity's bank accept transfers in USD? ***

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

35. **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?**

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ It is currently in progress

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. 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).

36. **Project Title ***

37. **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.

Word limit: Up to 300 words

38. **Does your country's government have an air quality monitoring network (reference-grade low-cost)?**

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, reference-grade monitor/s
- ☐ Yes, low-cost monitor/s
- ☐ Yes, a hybrid network of both reference-grade or low-cost air quality monitoring units
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know.
- ☐ Other: _____

39. **How do you plan to generate PM_{2.5} data, at what time resolution, and for how long? ***

Word limit: Up to 300 words

40. **How many air quality monitoring units do you aim to deploy? ***

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

41. **Please select the air quality monitoring units that you aim to deploy**

Mark only one oval.

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

42. **How do you plan to share the PM_{2.5} data in a fully open manner?**

We define “a 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)

Please 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 company data policies meet our open data requirements.

43. **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?**

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.

Check all that apply.

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

44. **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.**

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

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

The brief description of each activity must contain name of activity, tentative timeline (eg: Mar 2025) and its importance in achieving the national-level impact that you are seeking to achieve.

Word limit: Up to 500 words

46. **Please enlist the project team members and each of their expected roles. ***

Word limit: Up to 250 words

47. **Do you have any previous or ongoing work that this project directly or indirectly ties into?**

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

Word limit: Up to 150 words

48. **Enlist any existing or potential partnerships and collaborations outside of your core team that will support the project's implementation or enhance its impact.**

Word limit: Up to 150 words

49. **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.)

50. **Anything else you want to share?**

Project Budget

51. **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 and roughly 75,000 USD for groups using regulatory grade equipment.

52. **Please follow the steps given below to submit your budget:**

1. Make a copy: Click on the budget

template <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wLGkp4dhJ1FIRUmhd-bNtjelQNXuX3BlslONlhKoKok/edit?usp=sharing>, 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').

2.Fill Out the Template: Complete all required fields in the budget template.

3. Share the File: Upload the completed file.

NOTE: Please ensure you attach the correct excel file. If you attach an incorrect file, your submission would be considered as incomplete. If you have any questions, please write: clean-air-info@uchicago.edu.

Files submitted:

53. **Please indicate a point of contact for all finance-related queries. ***

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

Mark only one oval.

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

54. **Please share the following details about the designated person in your team who will be handling all finance related queries:**

Full name:

Designation:

Contact number:

Email address:

Other attachments

55. **Share a PDF of your CV/Resume ***

Please ensure you attach the correct PDF file. If you attach an incorrect file, your submission would be considered as incomplete.

Files submitted:

Consent

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

Check all that apply

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

57. Do we have your permission to share your application with other funders? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

PREVIEW ONLY