

What is the

EPA Community Air Monitoring Grant?

and how will it improve the lives and health of Houstonians?

Who is the EPA?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a government agency whose mission is “to protect human health and the environment,” part of which is ensuring “Americans have clean air, land, and water.”



What is the EPA's Community Air Monitoring Grant?

The EPA's ARP Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring Grant is awarded to communities to help them **measure air pollution in communities across the country with higher levels of environmental pollution and rates of chronic health conditions.**

This grant is one of the first to track ethylene oxide and air toxics in residential areas the community defines!

Why Do Houstonians Need This Grant?

Historical Redlining, Zoning, and Pollution

Historical redlining policies and lack of zoning in Houston fostered the clustering of chemical manufacturing and refining facilities near our people of color, low-income port communities. **These facilities produce highly reactive air toxics that contribute to Houston's inability to meet clean air standards since the 1990s.**

Climate Vulnerability

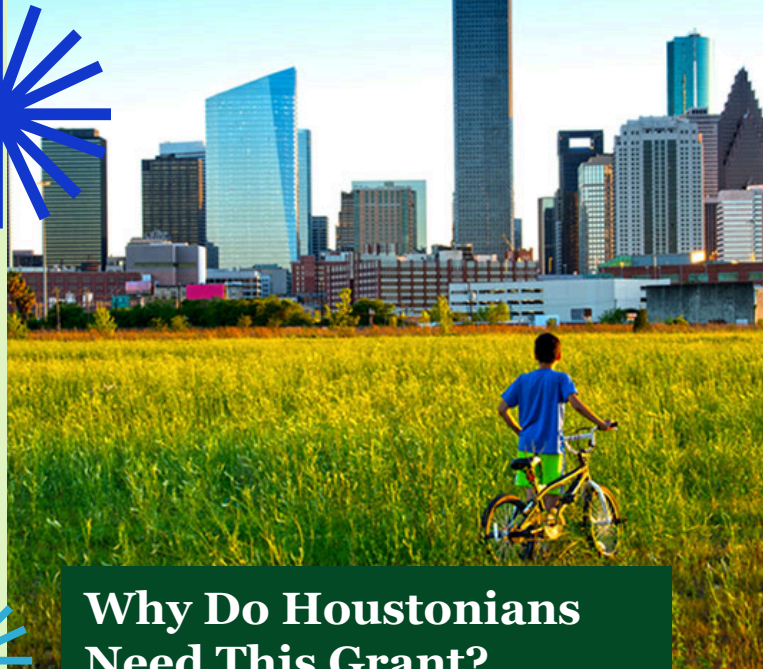
Our communities are some of the most vulnerable in the nation to climate disasters. According to the Climate Vulnerability Index, **Pleasantville, Sunnyside, Fifth Ward, and Galena Park are all in the 99th percentile for climate vulnerability in the nation.**

Demographics of Harris County

Nearly **100%** of Pleasantville, Sunnyside, Fifth Ward, and 88% of Galena Park residents are Black or Hispanic, about a third of our populations lives below the poverty line, and nearly 40% lack health insurance. Prevalence of air pollution related chronic disease like asthma and heart disease are nearly 50% higher than US averages.

Lack of Air Monitoring

Our communities have **critical data gaps in understanding urban air toxic concentrations** as single pollutants and an even greater need to understand the effect of multi-pollutant cumulative exposures and serious long-term health risks to our children, families, and neighbors.





Who Is Receiving the Grant?

- 1] Pleasantville
- 2] Fifth Ward
- 3] Sunnyside
- 4] Galena Park

Additionally, four Houston-based community organizations are conducting participatory science to address critical data gaps in our understanding of urban air toxic pollution.



ACTS Pleasantville



Sunnyside Community Redevelopment Organization



Coalition of Community Organizations Fifth Ward



Environmental Community Advocates of Galena Park

In collaboration with:



Environment Defense Fund



BULLARD CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

TSU Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice

Houston community advocates will be awarded

\$498,813

How will they use it?

Project Objectives

- 1] Define spatially baseline concentrations of ethylene oxide (EtO), butadiene, and acrolein in our residential areas and near permitted “super emitter” industrial facilities in Harris County.
- 2] Increase the capacity of existing community organizations' low-cost sensor networks by purchasing new monitors to expand coverage and the scope of measured pollutants and increase investment in data communication and education.
- 3] Strengthen collaboration with local governments and residents through **data sharing**.

In summary, our four community organizations and their partners will use this grant to help establish baseline pollutant concentrations, build a network of grassroots air sensors, and share the data gathered publicly.

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