

2024-2025 UCAIR Grants Request for Proposals

Our Mission

The Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to make it easier for individuals, businesses, and communities to make small changes to improve Utah's air. Every small change contributes to collective bigger steps toward better health, a better economy, and better overall quality of life for Utahns.

Since 2013, the UCAIR Grants Program has encouraged businesses, public entities, and nonprofit organizations to propose creative and innovative projects to address air quality. The UCAIR Grants Program aims to reduce emissions of criteria and precursor pollutants that cause Utah's year-round challenges with poor air quality. This complex issue requires a comprehensive approach, and applicants are encouraged to propose innovative and impactful projects in any area that advances our air quality mission and our pillars of Education, Partnership, and Participation. Read more about UCAIR's pillars at UCAIR.org/About.

Key Funding Priorities

We encourage applicants to think creatively and propose projects that accomplish at least one of the following objectives:

- ***Reduce Emissions***
 - Target the reduction of emissions and criteria air pollutants that contribute to summertime ozone pollution and wintertime inversion.
 - Implement emerging technologies to achieve measurable reductions in emissions.
- ***Address Air Quality in Underserved Areas***
 - Target emissions reduction in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.
 - Focus on areas of opportunity (geographic, industry, sector) that have not received adequate resources or support.
 - Extend UCAIR's mission beyond the Salt Lake Valley to communities throughout Utah.
- ***Educate on Air Quality Issues and Invite Participation***
 - Educate communities about air quality issues and inspire behavior changes that reduce emissions.
 - Reduce barriers to make participation more accessible for all Utahns, especially historically underrepresented groups.
 - Engage youth and young adult populations.
- ***Build Partnerships for Lasting Impact on Air Quality***
 - Foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders to address air quality challenges.
 - Actively involve and benefit local community organizations and resident feedback.
 - Create opportunities for future pursuit of innovative approaches to air quality issues.

Project Scope & Duration

For the 2024-25 funding cycle, the UCAIR Grant Selection Committee will consider both planning and implementation grants to support projects that improve air quality in Utah. Planning grants are

designed to assist with the initial development of innovative ideas, while implementation grants provide funding for the execution or expansion of developed projects. Whether you are at the stage of brainstorming solutions or ready to put your plans into action, our grants aim to inspire and facilitate impactful improvements to our air.

The average UCAIR Grant awarded is around \$20,000, but proposals of varying sizes are accepted. We recommend limiting your project duration to one year. Longer projects will be considered, but a timeline outlining the distribution of UCAIR funds until project completion will be required. If you are submitting proposals for multiple projects, please indicate the order of priority.

Inclusion of Criteria and Precursor Air Pollutants

Criteria pollutants are the primary air pollutants of concern that are regulated by both state and federal agencies due to their harmful effects on health and the environment. These include particulate matter (PM), ground-level ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and lead (Pb). Precursor pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), methane (CH₄), and ammonia (NH₃), contribute to the formation of some criteria pollutants.

While it's important to address how your project will reduce emissions, *precise emissions reduction calculations are not required for your application*. Focus on clearly outlining the potential impact and benefits of your project in mitigating these pollutants, either directly or indirectly. For more details on criteria pollutants, please visit the Utah Division of Air Quality's website at

<https://deq.utah.gov/division-air-quality>

Eligible Applicants

Applications will be considered from any private, public, or nonprofit organization operating in the state of Utah. UCAIR Grants will not be awarded to individuals. Grants awarded to for-profit organizations will be capped at 50% of the total project budget or a maximum of \$20,000. For-profit organizations will also be expected to contribute matching funds.

Areas Not Eligible for Funding

While UCAIR is supportive of all efforts to lower emissions, we recognize that some areas do not align with our mission or are being addressed through alternative funding mechanisms. To maximize the impact of our limited grant resources, the UCAIR Grant Selection Committee has advised a restriction of funding to the following areas:

- Lobbying, political speech, or any form of political activity.
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

We encourage you to contact our team for more information regarding alternative funding opportunities that may be available for these areas.

Application and Evaluation Process

To be considered for a UCAIR Grant, please submit a brief Letter of Intent (LOI) using the form available at www.UCAIR.org/Grants. The LOI stage is designed to benefit applicants, as it allows UCAIR staff and the Grant Selection Committee to offer initial feedback and determine the project's suitability. LOIs must be emailed to grants@ucair.org by the specified deadline.

After LOIs are reviewed by the UCAIR Grant Selection Committee, a select number of applicants will be invited to submit full applications. Final applications will undergo a comprehensive review by the Grant Selection Committee before being voted on by the UCAIR Board of Directors. In the case that you did not submit an LOI but are interested in completing a full application, please contact the UCAIR Program and Grants Manager.

At each stage, proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** Alignment with UCAIR’s Funding Priorities and Mission.
- **Sustainability:** The potential for long-term impact and continued benefits.
- **Feasibility:** The practicality of the project plan and budget.
- **Innovation:** The creativity and originality of the proposed solution.

2024-25 Funding Timeline

Request for Proposals Released	Friday, June 21, 2024
Letter of Intent Form Due	Friday, August 2, 2024
Responses to Letters of Intent Sent Select Applicants Invited to Submit Full Application	Monday, August 19, 2024
Full Applications Due	Friday, September 20, 2024
Grant Recipient Announcement	Monday, November 18, 2024

**Please note that this timeline is subject to change at the discretion of UCAIR.*

Informational Session

We will host an informational Zoom call in July to provide an overview of the RFP and address any questions from prospective applicants. This session will be designed to inspire and help applicants prepare a strong Letter of Intent for submission. A recording of the call will be made available. Please visit UCAIR.org/Grants for updated information about this call.

Contact Information

For questions or additional information, please contact the UCAIR Program and Grants Manager at grants@ucair.org.