

Alaska Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring

FY2023 Request: \$650,000

Reference No: AMD 64190

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Health/Human Services

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Alice Edwards

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Department of Environmental Conservation will implement a three-year air monitoring project that expands the department’s existing “AQmesh” air quality sensor network to 15 additional communities across Alaska. The AQmesh network is intended to provide baseline air quality data for areas not covered by the State’s regulatory monitoring network. Communities that are proposed to receive the new pods are: Big Lake, Cordova, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Goldstream Valley Fairbanks, Haines, Palmer, Talkeetna, Tok, Wasilla, Willow, Wrangell, McGrath, Galena, and Eagle.

Funding:	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>Total</u>
1265 COVID Fed	\$650,000						\$650,000
Total:	\$650,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$650,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Competitive federal grant funds (\$500,000) are being applied for from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the enhanced air quality monitoring funding program under the American Rescue Plan. The department is also eligible to receive a small direct award of American Rescue Act funding from the EPA for air monitoring equipment upgrades, which would be used in support of the state’s air monitoring network (\$150,000).

Project Description/Justification:

The Environmental Protection Agency is providing American Rescue Act funding for enhanced air monitoring through federal grant awards. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is applying for a competitive community monitoring grant. The grant funding will allow for implementation of a three-year project to expand the existing air quality sensor network using AQmesh sensor pods. DEC currently owns 18 AQmesh pods, nine have already been installed and the rest are scheduled for installation by fall 2022. The AQmesh network is intended to provide baseline air quality data for areas not covered by the state’s regulatory monitoring network. The AQmesh sensor pods measure particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. With the funding DEC will purchase and install 16 additional sensor pods, maintain the entire sensor network, and provide outreach, education, and assistance to the communities with sensors. This project would allow the state and communities to monitor baseline air quality information, which will assist the department and local communities to improve notifications to the public when air quality is significantly

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degraded as well as understanding and addressing air pollution impacts within communities. DEC plans to partner with interested local community members, including local governments and Tribes, to coordinate the locations and operations of this air monitoring network. Communities that are proposed to receive the new pods are: Big Lake, Cordova, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Goldstream Valley Fairbanks, Haines, Palmer, Talkeetna, Tok, Wasilla, Willow, Wrangell, McGrath, Galena, and Eagle. These new communities would fill out the existing or planned network of Anchorage, Bethel, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Seward, Sitka, Skagway, Soldotna, North Pole, Unalaska, and Utqiagvik.

The Division of Air Quality is applying for grant funding under a competitive award process. No state matching funds are required for this federal grant. The project is dependent on the federal grant being awarded.

Funds received from the EPA through a non-competitive direct grant to the state also require no state matching funds and will be used to procure air monitoring equipment to support the Division of Air Quality's air monitoring efforts in Alaska. The amount of the direct award has not yet been identified by the EPA but is anticipated to be no more than \$150,000; the specific equipment to be procured will be detailed in the federal award.