

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



## PILOT FUNDING TO REDUCE NEUROTOXIC EXPOSURES + LEVERAGE FEDERAL FUNDS

Healthy Babies Bright Futures will award **four \$25,000 grants** for cities to plan a locally appropriate action that reduces neurotoxic exposures and facilitates relationship development and/or project planning to support a successful federal funding application.

Securing climate-conscious federal funding to reduce toxic exposures isn't always easy, so Healthy Babies Bright Futures' pilot grants will help build momentum for positive change in communities – while laying the groundwork for larger amounts of federal funding.

Most city have community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) that collaborate with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses, local government, medical service providers, academia, etc.) to develop solutions that significantly address environmental and/or public health issue(s) in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks.

In recognition of this work, the EPA released the "Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program" with \$150,000 to \$500,000 in grants to CBOs and their partners to develop strategies that address local environmental and public health issues. It is highly anticipated that this RFP will be released again in early January 2024.



Applicants for the RFP can choose to coordinate their proposed project with an anticipated EJCS application or any other relevant federal or state grant program. Both the [Federal Funding Sources for Municipal Sustainability Tool](#) and [Local Infrastructure Hub](#) offer resources to subject-matter experts, office hours, individualized coaching sessions, and peer-to-peer learning to engage with experts and other applicants going through federal grant application processes. Please check out these helpful resources when planning your application.

Project proposals must include activities that reach expectant families and children under 2 years. Examples:

- Transition city-properties to chemical-free turf maintenance ([Boulder, CO](#))
- Create community organic gardens with educational programming
  - [100 Resilient Yards](#) – South Portland, Maine
  - [Community Garden + Food Forest](#) – Salem, Massachusetts
- Develop online fresh produce ordering system ([Lynn, MA](#))
- Community gardening ([San Rafael, CA](#) and [Columbia, SC](#))
- Sustainable purchasing policies ([Duluth, MN](#))
- Lead service line replacement in child-centered areas ([Flint, MN](#) and [Youngstown, OH](#))
- Planting trees/vegetative barriers to reduce air toxics ([Petaluma, CA](#) and [Tempe + Phoenix, AZ](#))



## FOUR SELECTED CITIES WILL RECEIVE

- \$25,000 grant
- Technical assistance
- A published blog featuring your model
- Connections to peer cities with related initiatives

To be considered, proposals must include a city-CBO partnership and include a:

- Short description of your city's plan to reduce neurotoxic exposures in pregnant people and children under 2 + facilitates relationship development and/or project planning to support a successful federal funding application.
- Description of your plan to incorporate this action into a federal or state grant proposal
- Project timeline with short (12 month) and long term goals
- Anticipated project impact(s)
- Project budget and justification, including any matching funding
- Maximum of three pages

**PROPOSALS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

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Award recipients will be notified by October 16, 2023, and funds will be dispersed at the outset of the project. Grant recipients will be asked to co-author a blog midway through the project, and submit a two page final report, including qualitative and quantitative metrics of evaluation as described in your proposal, photographs of events, quote(s) from participants, and a short description of what worked well and what could be improved.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Kyra Naumoff Shields, PhD, Bright Cities Program Director  
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