

Metro Community Air Monitoring Grant Application Webinar April 25, 2024

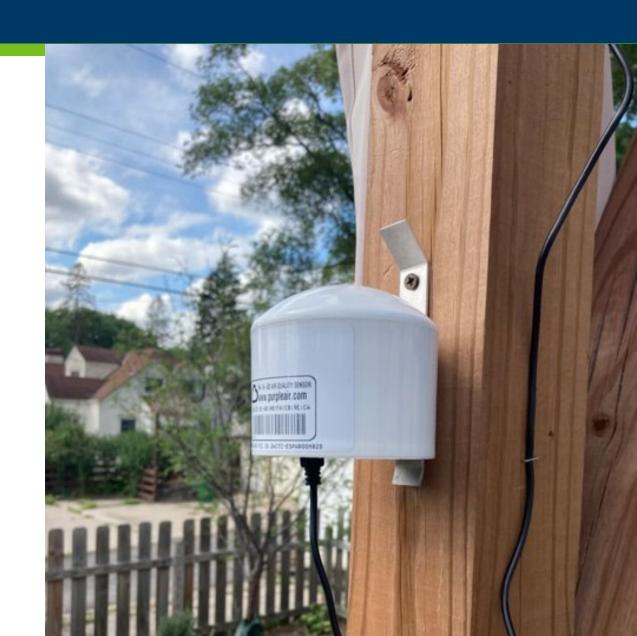
Tyler Ellis, State Program Administrator

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Overview

- Welcome
- Housekeeping
- Legislation and Introduction to Community
 Air Monitoring
- Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Application process
- Application tips
- Q&A



Housekeeping

- Today's questions and answers will be recorded
- To ask a question, either:
 - Type it into the chat box
 - Raise your hand and unmute during the Q&A portion
- Please note: all questions need to be recorded
 - Written
 - Asked in the meeting
 - All Q&A will be included in the Swift Portal
- Webinar will be focused on the RFP

Questions afterwards?

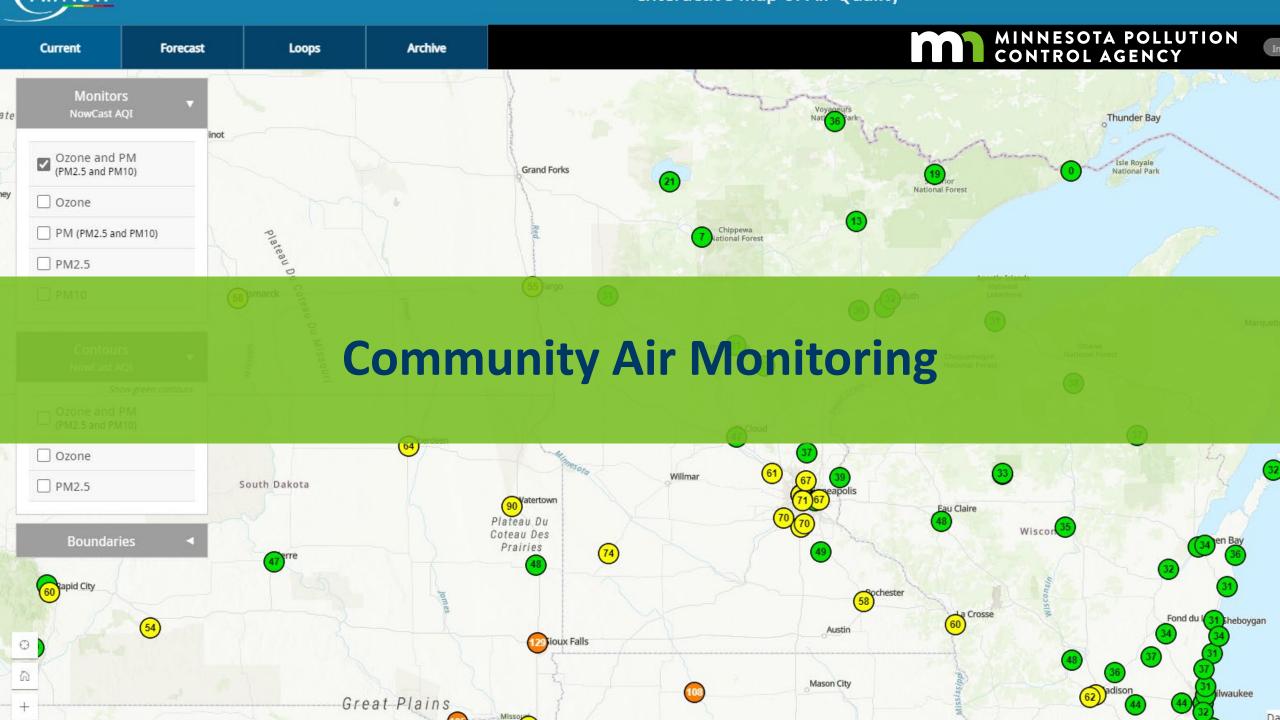


Legislation

- Passed in 2023 legislative session in environmental omnibus (HF2310)
- Calls for a partnership between a non-profit and an entity with community air monitoring experience
- Specifies within the 7-county metro only

Legislation

- Intended for environmental justice and disproportionately impacted communities
- Priorities given for projects in locations matching 3 EJ/Air
 Pollution criteria
- Outreach and public access to data included
- Data also given to MPCA to potentially assist with regulatory monitoring



Community Air Monitoring

Benefits of Metro Community Air Monitoring

- Can measure air quality in places where we don't have official monitors
- Neighborhood Scale Monitoring is possible
- Measures air quality in places relevant to your daily life
- Sensor placement can be informed by the local knowledge, needs, and input of the communities



How to find the RFP

Grants, loans, and contracts



BUSINESS SUPPORT

Training and certification

Grants, loans, and contracts

Federal funding opportunities

Other MPCA funding resources

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

Stay connected

Sign up to be notified when the MPCA makes new funding opportunities available.

Open grants and loans

Grants and low-interest loans are available to help businesses meet or exceed environmental regulations, and to cover costs associated with projects, equipment, investigation and cleanup.

Metro community air monitoring pilot grant program

\$4.85 million to run community air monitoring projects in the 7-county Metropolitan Area (counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington).



How to find the RFP

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants-and-loans/metro-community-air-monitoring-pilot-grant-program

Application deadline

June 28, 2024 4:30 p.m.

Category Grant

Apply online

Contact

Grant questions grants.pca@state.mn.us ☑

Metro community air monitoring pilot grant program

The MPCA requests proposals from eligible applicants to run a community air monitoring pilot grant program. Eligible applicants include community nonprofits and partnering organizations who will develop a network of neighborhood air monitors in the Twin Cities metro area. Partnerships with other entities to achieve all aspects of the project are expected. The MPCA will prioritize projects that are in environmental justice communities, have extensive community engagement, and use a variety of sensors to gather data on a variety of pollutants. This grant is designed to monitor air quality on a neighborhood scale (with deployment of fixed continuous monitoring sensors as dense as is reasonably possible and mobile sensors deployed such that they cover each block within the network) in communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution, to engage those communities in outreach and cooperation, and to provide data to the MPCA that can help with decision making.

Applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Central Time on June 28, 2024.

Questions and answers

Submit questions about this grant to grants.pca@state.mn.us with the subject line "Community Air Monitoring" no later than 4:30 p.m. central time on June 14, 2024.

MPCA employees cannot answer questions about this grant opportunity, and direct contact regarding this RFP with any MPCA personnel may result in disqualification.

Eligibility

Nonprofits within any of the seven counties in the metro area — which can perform neighborhood-scale air monitoring themselves, or that are partnering with entities that have expertise in neighborhood-scale air monitoring — are eliqible to apply.

- Applicants must have experience and connections working with residents located in the area in which the community air-monitoring system is to be deployed.
- For-profit and municipalities may only apply as a partnering entity.

How to apply

The request for proposal (RFP) and application materials can only be viewed through the online SWIFT portal . The RFP is termed an "Event" within the SWIFT system.

- 1. Go to the online SWIFT portal ...
- 2. Click on "Bidding opportunities".
- 3. Find the event by name (MPCA-Metro Community Air Monitoring Pilot Grant Pr) or ID (2000015623).
- 4. Click "View Bid Package" to see the RFP and forms. (There's no need to log in to see the documents.)

Grant applications are only accepted through the SWIFT portal.

- 1. Register as a bidder in the <u>SWIFT Supplier Portal</u> , (Bidding = "applying")
- 2. Choose "Register for an Account" and then "Register as a Bidder".

If you are already registered in the SWIFT system as a supplier (previously known as a vendor), use your supplier ID. Visit the SWIFT Supplier Portal under "Informational Tips" and "Supplier Portal Help" for more information. For questions about applying through SWIFT, please contact the Vendor Assistance Help Desk at 651-201-8100, option 1.

More information

The 2023 Minnesota Legislature set aside funds for community air monitoring projects centering on the community in HF2310 $\mbox{\em d}$.



- \$4.85 million in funding available
- Must be within the 7-county Metro
- Applicants are nonprofits
- Deadline is June 28, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. CST
- No late applications will be accepted
- Must submit completed application



Eligible and Ineligible Applicants

- Nonprofits within any of the 7 counties in the metro region
 - Can perform neighborhood scale air monitoring themselves, or that are partnering with entities that have expertise in neighborhood scale air

Eligible and Ineligible Applicants

- Nonprofits within any of the 7 counties in the Twin Cities Metro Region
 - For-profit and municipalities only as a partnering entity

- \$750,000 minimum allotted per project
- 2-5 projects will be funded

2. Funding

Approximately \$4.85 million in funding is available. The grant will fund between two and five projects to non-profit groups capable of (or partnering with entities capable of) neighborhood scale air monitoring.

Minimum grant amount will be \$750,000 per project.

The grant is administered under Minn. Stat. §HF2310-4, Section 6, subd.2

 MnTAP and the Great Lakes TCTAC will provide assistance, connecting applicants with potential technical partners

Collaboration

The MPCA recognizes that not all non-profits may have the expertise in both air monitoring and community engagement. As such, multi-organization collaboration with any non-profit grantee is encouraged to fill gaps in technical capacity and to broaden the reach of the community goals of the grant.

The MPCA has partnered with the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) and the Great Lakes Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) to help facilitate technical partnerships. Interested groups or individuals are encouraged to reach out to these groups via <a href="maintenant-search-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-needle-nee

4. Eligible and ineligible projects

Eligible projects

Applicants must meet the minimum requirements to be fully considered for this grant opportunity.

- Projects located within the 7-county metro region of Minnesota. Project involves residents located in the area in which the community air-monitoring system is to be deployed.
- Demonstrated technical expertise for administering an air sensor program.
 - This includes criteria used in scoring, such as a Q/A plan, technological readiness of proposed solutions & sensors included in the plan, the data management plan, etc.
- Demonstrated connection to community and knowledge of a community's needs related to air pollution.
 - o This includes criteria used in scoring, such as questions related to what you trying to learn from this project, what projects have you completed in your community, your experience communicating complex subjects, past experience with EJ communities, and the proposed plan for outreach and data visualization and interpretation to community.
- Demonstrated reasonable ability to facilitate a project of this scale.
 - This includes criteria used in scoring, such as budget, and staff working on proposed project and qualifications via staff matrix.

Ineligible projects

- · Any project that does not fit the intention of the program as described above.
- Projects focused on research and development (R & D) of a particular technology or business.
- Projects focused on anything other than community focused air monitoring.

Technical suggestions

Appendix A: Technical criteria expected in projects

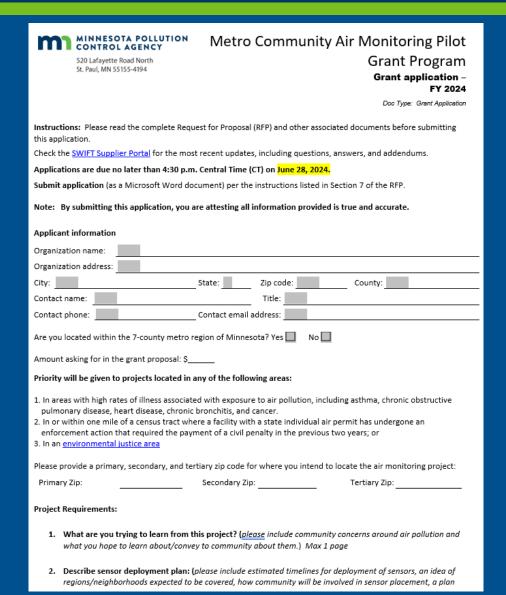
Projects should include the following criteria in order to meet the stated goals of this grant:

- o Community based analysis and outreach
 - Community will be involved in decision making surrounding what pollutants to monitor and where the monitoring will occur.
 - Plans for translating and interpreting data and messages.
- o Community engagement and partnerships
 - Public reporting portals, newsletters, etc.
- Sensor types (category/model) will be submitted to and approved by the MPCA prior to deployment. A
 variety of high-quality sensors will be required.
- Categories of sensors may include but are not limited to: fine particles, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), metals, Ozone, Nitrogen Oxides, Carbon Monoxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs).
 - Collect data on a neighborhood scale resolution.
 - Deploy sensors. Deployment of fixed continuous monitoring sensors as dense as is reasonably
 possible and spatiotemporal (mobile) sensors are deployed such that they cover each block
 within the network
 - Undertake Quality Assurance (QA) of sensors and data.
- Sensor calibration Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be required and approved by the MPCA prior to data collection.
 - Initial SOPs required with deployment plan, before sensors are deployed.
 - Final SOPs required, and timeline considered in the workplan.
- o Data validation Quality Control (QC)
 - Unless already certified, co-location of like sensors will occur prior to data collection, and basic statistics to show that they trend together will be provided to the MPCA.
 - Access to permanent reference facilities may be provided by the MPCA for co-location calibration with regulatory monitors.
 - Drift Analysis of the sensors should occur and be incorporated into data correction.
 - Resource: Quality Assurance & Documentation Citizen Science Handbook
 - Develop a comprehensive data management plan to include but not limited to:
 - MPCA is allowed access to any cloud based data.
 - Final download link (via FTP or similar mechanism) for full dataset by end of project.
 - Performance metrics (# of active sensors, % uptime over network, etc.) provided by end of project
- Data will be visualized (i.e. graphs, maps, etc.) and made publicly available to promote access to and transparency of community air monitoring data.
- o Deployment plan suggested due date is December 31, 2024.
- Checkpoints for engineering solutions to novel deployments are included in the workplan.
- Quarterly reports with data (see Project Overview).

Optional

- A variety of monitoring strategies is encouraged, including but not limited to seasonal monitoring, specific monitoring, and reactive monitoring.
- Screening locations for potential future permanent reference monitors is encouraged.

Application page 1



Application page 2

for troubleshooting sensors in the field, and why particular sensors and areas are chosen.) Max 1 page

- Describe your technical expertise and readiness for administering an air sensor program: (please include a
 list of technologies (specific sensor models and category of monitoring), their effectiveness, whether they are
 in widespread use, and the grantee's experience deploying the technologies.) Max 2 pages
- 4. What is your Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) plan: (please include general narrative outline of plan to Quality Control (QC) sensors (once you have the data) and QA data (before you start measuring), including a general plan for sensor calibration Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).) Max 2 pages.
- 5. What is your data management & validation plan: (please include general plans to house and manage data during the course of the project, general plans to provide access to any <u>cloud based</u> data and full dataset to MPCA by end of project, proposed performance metrics of sensors provided by end of project, and a proposed plan to make data publicly available.) Max 2 pages.
- 6. What projects have you completed in your community? (<u>in</u> relation to the community you're proposing the project with, what projects have you done? One paragraph per project. Please include links if there are websites associated with these projects.) Max 1 page
- 7. Describe past experience with environmental justice: (MPCA uses a geographic definition of <u>areas of concern for environmental justice</u>. Please describe work in these areas, work that has led toward environmental justice, or work with underserved/overburdened communities, etc. Please include links if there are websites associated with these projects and any outcomes of any projects completed.) Max 2 pages
- 8. How have you communicated complex subjects to an interested audience? How will you communicate issues related to this project? (Please include any details related to complex scientific topics, including any experience communicating air sensor data, and plans for doing that for this project) Max 1 page
- 9. Describe plan for outreach and data visualization to community: (Please include a summary of how you will convey results to community groups, including any plans for public reporting portals, newsletters, and other expected communications methods, and plans for translating and interpreting data and messages to communities.) Max 2 pages
- 10. Project Facilitation/staff matrix: (please fill out the following staff matrix with staff expected to work on proposed project and relevant qualifications (e.g. technical staff, support staff...). If you plan to hire positions for this project, please explain the strengths and qualifications sought in the person to be hired. Examples are provided in matrix.)

Staff Matrix:			
Personnel	Personnel Position Role on project		Past relevant projects & experience (summary or
			links)
		(Project Lead)	(Community Air Monitoring
	(Lead		Project in Shelbyville USA:
(example) (Jane Smith)	Researcher)		LINK to Shelbyville
	neseurcher)		Monitoring final
			report/website)

Application page 3

(example) (New Hire)	(Position)	(Missing expertise & strengths added to project)	(8 years data expertise, database management experience, data visualization specialist)

- 11. Does your Executive Director, Tribal Chair, or other member in the Executive Leadership role identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Person of Color?
- 12. Budget: (please include project budget, including subtasks relevant to the project and the amount of the budget expected to go to hard costs and staff time. Staff time should be estimated according to appropriate subtask (e.g., staff time for sensor installations, staff time for community engagement, etc.)

Tasks/subtasks	Hard Costs (\$)	Staff time (expected hours and \$)	Total
Task A – Community			
Engagement and Outreach			
Task A-1 (optional)-			
Task A-2 (optional)-			
Task B – Technical Planning			
(including but not limited			
to subgrants, purchasing			
equipment, etc.)			
Task B-1 (optional) -			
Task B-2 (optional) -			

Evaluation

Exhibit A: Application evaluation score sheet

A 100 – point scale will be used to evaluate eligible applications and develop final recommendations.

Projects will be evaluated and ranked according to the following criteria (please refer to the application for specific questions that need to be addressed in the proposal):	Maximum points		
Technical expertise and plan (40 points max)	40		
 Technological readiness of proposed solutions & sensor types and variety (up to 10 points) Quality Assurance & Quality Control plan (up to 10 points) Data management plan (up to 10 points) Deployment plan (up to 10 points) 			
Community engagement plan, environmental justice (EJ) and vulnerable population benefits (45 points max)			
 What are you trying to learn from this project?(up to 5 points) 			
 What projects have you completed in your community?(up to 5 points) 			
 How have you communicated complex subjects to an interested audience, and how do you plan to communicate about this project?(up to 5 points) 			
 Past experience with environmental justice(up to 10 points) 			
 Proposed plan for outreach and data visualization to community(up to 15 points) 			
 Priority given to projects based on location described in Priorities section, and application (EJ, Facilities, Health)(up to 5 points) 			
Project facilitation (15 points max)			
 Budget(up to 5 points) Staff working on proposed project and qualifications (staff matrix) (up to 5 points) Executive Director, Tribal Chair, or other member in the Executive Leadership role identifies as Black, Indigenous, and/or Person of Color. (up to 5 points) 			
Total score			

Swift Portal

Nicole Pedro, Contract Specialist

Nicole.Pedro@state.mn.us

SWIFT terminology and things to know

- The RFP is labeled an event in SWIFT.
- Bidding = Applying
- The supplier portal is "homebase" for navigating to find the RFP, applying or bidding on the RFP, and resources for questions and information.
- You do not need any credentials or log-in information for viewing the RFP, application, etc.
- You will have to register as a bidder to apply or bid. <u>REGISTER AND APPLY EARLY!</u> Do not wait until the last day to register to bid and/or upload any documents. The MPCA cannot answer questions and or help with technology related issues associated with SWIFT.
- Questions can be directed to the Vendor Assistance Help Desk at 651-201-8100, option 1.

How to find the RFP

https://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants-and-loans/metro-community-air-monitoring-pilot-grant-program

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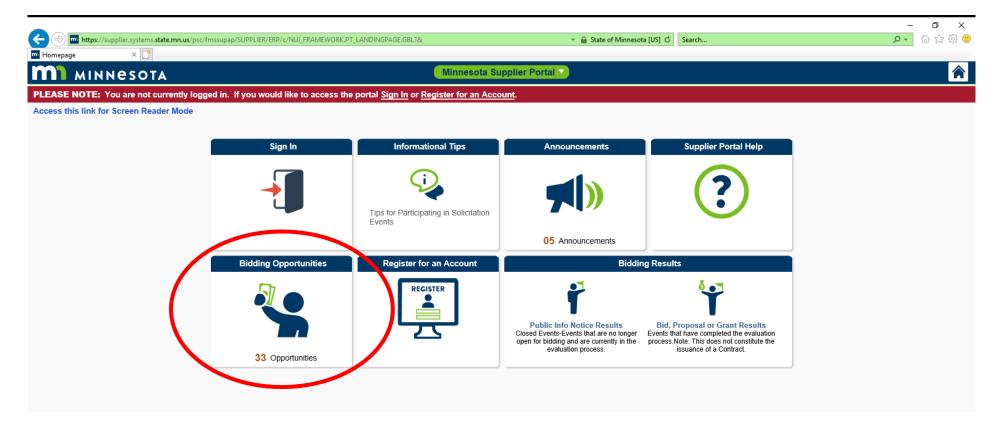
More information

The 2023 Minnesota Legislature set aside funds for community air monitoring projects centering on the community in HF2310 $\mbox{\em d}$.



Bidding Opportunities

Click on "Bidding Opportunities"



4/30/2024 26

Finding the Event/RFP

- Click on "MPCA-Metro Community Air Monitoring Pilot Grant Program," Event ID: 2000015623
- Note: May help to double click on the "Business Unit" sort feature to find Pollution Control Agency

RECS RFP Design Roofing Replacement, MCF-St.Cloud	Admin - Real Estate & Constr	2000015572	Sell	RFx	36 days	03/19/2024 08:00 AM CDT	05/14/2024 12:00 PM CDT	>
Construction Solicitation virtual Plan Room	Admin/State Procurement	2000015626	Sell	RFx	38 days	03/28/2024 11:03 AM CDT	05/16/202 4 08.99 PM CDT	>
MPCA-Metro Community Air Monitoring Pilot Grant Pr	Pollution Control Agency	2000015623	Sell	RFx	81 days	03/27/2024 03:30 PM CDT	06/28/2024 04:30 PM CDT	
MDE LETRA Services for Minnesota Districts	Education Department	2000014472	Sell	RFx	445 days	06/05/2023 12:00 PM CDT	06/27/2025 02:00 PW CDT	>

Viewing the Bid Package

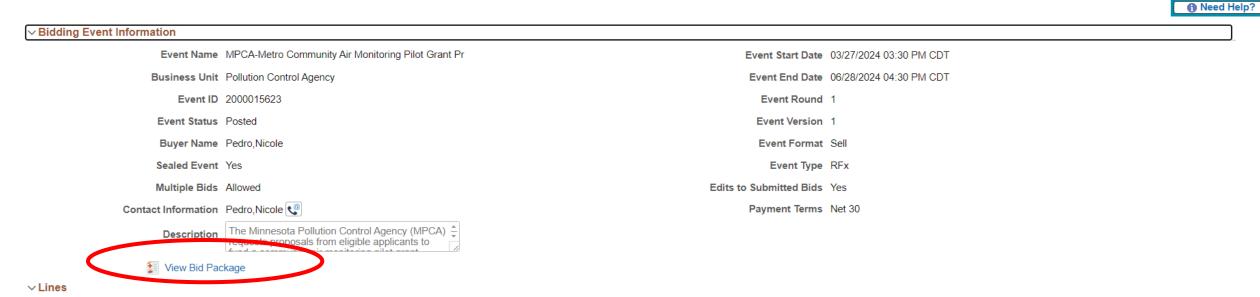
Click on View Bid Package

Event Details

PLEASE NOTE: You are not currently logged in. If you would like to access the portal Sign In or Register for an Account.

Access this link for Screen Reader Mode

Communications related to solicitations, quotes, or purchase orders will come from an email address ending in @state.mn.us.



					↑↓
Line Number	Bid Mandatory	Item Description	Requested Quantity/UOM	Comments and Attachments	
1	No	Metro Community Air Monitoring Pilot Grant Program	1.0000 EACH		28

RFP and Application Materials

• You are able to download and save the documents from here

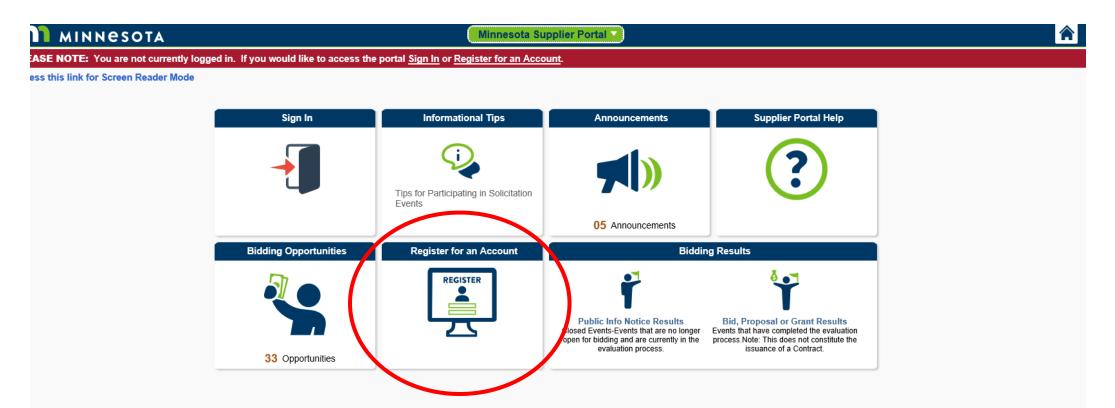
View Bid Package ×

∨ Attachments

Filename	Description
MPCA-Metro_Community_Air_Monitoring_Pilot_Grant_Pr.xml	Event Bid Package
MPCA-Metro_Community_Air_Monitoring_Pilot_Grant_Pr.pdf	Event Details
Community_Air_Monitoring_RFP.docx	RFP
Community_Air_Monitoring_RFP_Application.docx	Application
Sample_grant_agreement.pdf	Sample Grant Agreement

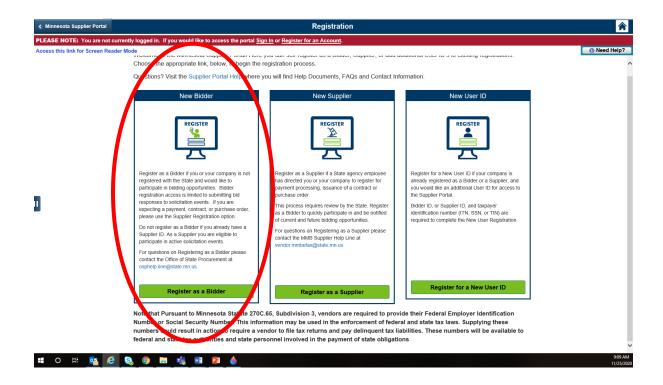
How to Apply in SWIFT

- To apply or bid on the RFP, you must register as a bidder.
 - Note: If an applicant is already registered in the SWIFT system as a supplier (previously known as a vendor), they do not need to register as a bidder. They will need their supplier ID.
- Go to the supplier portal page and click on register for an account.



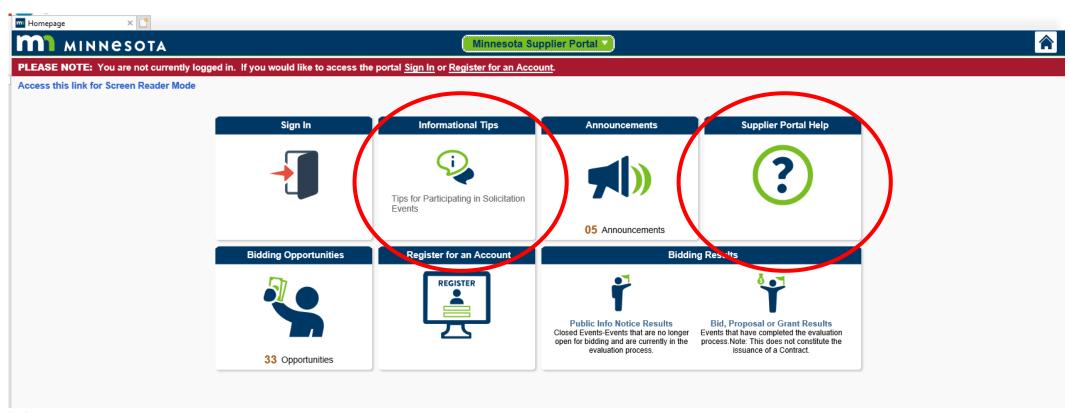
Registering as a Bidder

- Click on Register as a Bidder and complete the screens that follow (Note: It can take up to 2 business days for registration to complete).
- You will use that information to sign in on the Supplier Portal page.



SWIFT Questions and Assistance

• Questions can be directed to 651-201-8100, option 1; or by clicking on **Informational Tips** and/or **Supplier Portal Help.**



Questions?

- Q&A from today's webinar is recorded and will be posted through the Supplier Portal under "View Bid Package" and "Questions and Answers"
- The webinar and slides will be posted on the Metro Community Air Monitoring Pilot Grant Program website
- Email questions to grants.pca@state.mn.us with the subject line, "Community Air Monitoring"
- All questions need to be received by Friday, June 14, 2024, 4:30 p.m. CDT

Helpful Tips

- Read through the entire Request For Proposal (RFP)
- Allow ample time to write proposal (Deadline: June 28, 4:30 pm)
 - We have allowed 90 days because we're asking for a lot of information
 - SWIFT will not allow you to upload after 4:30 pm
- Make sure to fill out your application accurately and thoroughly



Contacts & Resources

