



Fact sheet

Community Action Planning

How were the communities selected?

The [Community Air Action Planning](#) pilot program is designed to support communities with complex air pollution challenges to understand their air quality at a community scale and co-create potential solutions. During the three year pilot phase of the program, DEQ has the resources to partner with four communities across the state to test [our approach](#). This fact sheet explains the process DEQ used to select the four pilot communities.

Overview of the process to identify communities

In November 2023, DEQ began working with a ‘co-design group’ of individuals from around the state representing community-based organizations, advocacy groups, research institutions, local government authorities and state government agencies. This co-design group advised DEQ on many aspects of the CAAP program, including the community selection process. The group’s advice, which DEQ followed, was to ask individuals from around the state to self-nominate communities and then evaluate those nominations against [environmental justice](#) criteria.

DEQ received a large number of nominations from the public through questionnaire. To be selected as one of the four communities, DEQ evaluated all of the questionnaire responses across two sets of indicators:

- **Community indicators**
 - A heatmap that ranked every census block group in Oregon based on demographic, health, socioeconomic and pollution data (*see annex for details*).
- **Pollution Indicators**
 - Evaluated each census block group based on AQI data and exposure to PM 2.5 and diesel particulate matter.

Selected communities

The four selected communities for the pilot phase of CAAP are:

- Wilkes East and Rockwood (NE Gresham)
- McMinnville
- Downtown Medford and North Medford
- Chiloquin

Translation or other formats

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800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov

DEQ is working with our project partner [Neighbors for Clean Air](#) to begin outreach and relationship building with residents, community-based organizations, schools and leaders in these four communities. Please send us an [email](#) if you would like to get involved with CAAP's work in one of these communities.

While DEQ is excited to be partnering with these four communities, we acknowledge many other communities expressed interest in participating in the CAAP program. As a place-based program, DEQ is unable to work directly with every community interested in CAAP during the pilot phase of the program. However, DEQ aims to make all of the resources and insights produced through CAAP available to the public on our [web page](#). These materials will be intended to be useful to any person with air quality concerns.

Annex – Heatmap equity analysis indicators

DEQ created a 'heatmap' of the following set of indicators that were layered on top of each other. This heatmap can also be thought of as an 'equity analysis', an evaluation of each census block group scored against common criteria. CAAP is a program being led by the concept of [environmental justice](#) and this heatmap is an important tool DEQ created to ensure equity, justice and historical disproportionate impacts are systematically considered within decision-making. The heatmap indicators are:

- People under age 5
- People over age 64
- People of color
- Low life expectancy
- Low income
- Unemployed
- Limited English-speaking households
- Less than a high school education
- Cardiovascular disease rate
- Cancer rate
- Asthma rate
- Food deserts
- Uninsured
- Renter occupied housing
- PM 2.5 (small particulate matter)
- Diesel particulate matter

Program contacts

Visit the [CAAP web page](#) for more information and to find our most up to date information. If you have questions about CAAP, please send an email to CAAP@deq.oregon.gov.

Non-discrimination statement

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