

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

**Expanding the
Conversation**



**working for
environmental
justice**

Housekeeping



Please join by phone or computer, not both



You are on mute, please enter questions and comments into the Q&A pod



If selected to speak during dialogue, please limit comment to 1 minute



Recording and transcript will be available online in the near future

En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.



Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- ☐ *How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- ☐ *Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- ☐ *Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

***MINDFULNESS
MOMENT***



mindful
EPA

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Mindfulness Moment
- Management Updates
- Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) program Request for Information (RFI)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Updates with Q & A
- Closing Remarks/Adjourn



Environmental and Climate Justice Grant Program Development

FEBRUARY 2023



AGENDA

1. Environmental and Climate Justice Program (ECJ Program) Overview
 - a) Environmental and Climate Justice grants to benefit disadvantaged communities
2. Request for Information (RFI) Overview – **Due March 17, 2023**
 - a) ECJ Program Design
 - b) Eligible Projects
 - c) Eligible Recipients
 - d) Reporting and Oversight
 - e) Technical Assistance
 - f) General Comments
3. Q & A

ECJ PROGRAM BACKGROUND

OVERVIEW

\$3 billion under the IRA and \$100 million in the FY-22 budget (and similar amount in FY 23 budget) to support environmental justice activities

- IRA:
 - \$2.8 billion to provide grants for activities benefiting disadvantaged communities.
 - \$200 million for technical assistance related to the grants.
- FY-22:
 - \$100 million to enhance the agency's ability to infuse equity and environmental justice principles and priorities into all EPA practices, policies, and programs.

IRA – E&CJ COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

STATUTORY LANGUAGE / DEFINITIONS

(a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Administrator for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

“(1) \$2,800,000,000 to remain available **until September 30, 2026**, to award grants for the activities described in subsection (b); and “(2) \$200,000,000 to remain available **until September 30, 2026**, to provide technical assistance to eligible entities related to grants awarded under this section.

“(b) GRANTS.— “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall use amounts made available under subsection (a)(1) to award grants for periods **of up to 3 years** to eligible entities to carry out activities described in paragraph (2) that benefit disadvantaged communities, as defined by the Administrator.

IRA – E&CJ COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM STATUTORY LANGUAGE / DEFINITIONS

“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a partnership between—

“(i) an Indian tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education; and

“(ii) a community-based nonprofit organization;

“(B) a community-based nonprofit organization; or

“(C) a partnership of community-based nonprofit organizations.

IRA – E&CJ COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM STATUTORY LANGUAGE / DEFINITIONS

“(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity may use a grant awarded under this subsection for—

“(A) community-led air and other pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation, and investments in low- and zero emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure and workforce development that help reduce greenhouse gas (as defined in section 211(o)(1)(G) (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section)) emissions and other air pollutants;

“(B) mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events;

“(C) climate resiliency and adaptation;

“(D) reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution; or

“(E) facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal public processes, including facilitating such engagement in advisory groups, workshops, and rulemakings.

GOALS

- Provide resources as soon as possible for on the ground activities to benefit communities.
- Meet communities at their needs and where they are in their journey.
- Prove that investing in communities are the best investments to solve the toughest problems in places with the biggest challenges.
- Achieve lasting, meaningful change on the ground.
- Be the bottom-up to all the other top-downs!

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)



Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant - Request for Information (RFI)

Created by the **Environmental Protection Agency**

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Memo Openings Docket for Public Access
Agency Environmental Protection Agency | Posted Feb 9, 2023 | ID EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2023-0023-0001

Comment

SUPPORTING & RELATED MATERIAL
Request for Information on the Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant Program

RFI POLICY TOPICS

- a. ECJ Program Design
- b. Eligible Projects
- c. Eligible Recipients
- d. Reporting and Oversight
- e. Technical Assistance
- f. General Comments

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
February 9, 2023	<u>Request for Information (RFI)</u> Posted
March 17, 2023	RFI Comments Submission Deadline
Early Summer 2023	<u>Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers</u> expected to begin operations
Late Summer 2023	ECJ Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Posted (\$2 Billion)

QUESTIONS?

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RELEVANT LINKS

- Request for Information Webpage: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2023-0023/document>
- Request for Information Press Release published February 9, 2023: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-seeks-input-inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program>
- To learn more about the Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Communities Grant Program, you can access this YouTube video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2xy4XZ5Oks>
- More information on US EPA environmental justice grant programs: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>