

EPA's Office of Environmental  
Justice & External Civil Rights

**EJ Webinar Series  
for Tribes and  
Indigenous Peoples**

**March 27, 2024**



# Today's Webinar Agenda

- 1. OEJECR Updates by Andy Bessler**
- 2. EJ Best Practices: EPA's Ejscreen mapping tool test drive by Matthew Lee**
- 3. An Introduction to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Committee's Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations Work Group by Jade Begay and Carletta Tilousi**
- 4. Open Discussion**



# Office of the Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center

Office of Resource Management and Communications

Office of Community Support

Office of Policy, Partnerships and Program Development

Office of External Civil Rights Compliance

Grants Management Division

Community Engagement and Assistance Division

Policy and Analysis Division

Partnerships and Collaboration Division

Program Development and Learning Division



# Updates: EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

- **New EJ Webinar Series Schedule**
  - On or near the last Wednesday of every month 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm ET
  - Monthly webinar provide OEJECR Updates, Best EJ Practices, Tribal Presenters and Open Discussion
  - What topics would like to see on future webinars?
- **EPA's Environmental Justice Policy on Working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples (EJ TIPA Policy) will be on the agenda for the upcoming National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC) meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> in Houston, TX. Visit the [NEJAC webpage](#) to register for the meeting virtually in the coming weeks.**



# Updates: EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

- New Executive Order 14112 signed by President Biden:
  - *Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations To Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination*
- The White House Council on Native American Affairs released Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse as part of EO 14112.



# Updates: EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

- **HISTORIC \$3 billion of EPA funding and technical assistance opportunities for Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice.**
- **New OEJECR Grants Update Page now live!**
  - Program Updates & Engagement Opportunities
  - Grantee Spotlights
- **To sign up for more OEJECR updates send a blank email to:**
  - [join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov](mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov)



# Updates: EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

- HISTORIC EJ grants through the Inflation Reduction Act
  - Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program(EJ TCTAC's) Program
  - Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers Program (EJ TCGM)
  - Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (Community Change Grants)



# EPA's Historic Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

- **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC)**  
**Program available over the next 5 years from 3 national and 14 regional TCTAC's.**
- First TCTAC meeting in Puerto Rico last month and Region 8 TCTAC recently established at Montana State University.
- EPA's EJ TCTAC Program is part of the Federal Thriving Communities Network Initiative that is working towards a holistic government-wide framework for providing technical assistance.



# EPA's Historic Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

- EPA's Thriving Communities Subgrants through the [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers](#) (i.e., Grantmakers)
- 11 organizations will be providing \$600 million as pass-through entities nationwide with expected availability this summer.
- Statutory partnership criteria exists with eligible entities including:
  - NGO/CBO and other grassroots nonprofit organizations
  - Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia (i.e., a partnership between two or more Tribes that work together to achieve a common objective.)
  - Native American Organizations (includes Indian groups, cooperatives, nonprofit corporations, partnerships, and associations that have the authority to enter into legally binding agreements)
  - Puerto Rico and US Territories
  - Freely Associated States (FAS) – including local governmental entities and local nonprofit organizations in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau Learn more on the Grantmakers' [FAQ Page](#)

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Check out the [Grantmakers FAQ Page](#) that is updated regularly!



Office of Environmental Justice &  
External Civil Rights



Program Overview

# Introduction

EPA received \$3 billion through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to fund environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities.

- \$2.8 billion for grants including \$2 billion for the Community Change Grants Program (CCGP).
- \$200 million for technical assistance related to the grants.
- \$300 million (estimated) for Target Investment Area (TIA) B for projects benefitting Tribes outside Alaska-Section II.B of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Grants cannot exceed three years (no extensions).
- All grants must be awarded by September 30, 2026.



## Track I

### **Community-Driven Investments for Change**

Funding Available: approx. \$1.96 billion

Number of Awards: approx. 150

Per Award Amount: \$10M – cannot exceed \$20M

*TIA B-approx. \$300 million for projects benefitting Tribes in the continental US*

## Track II

### **Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance**

Funding Available: approx. \$40 million

Number of Awards: approx. 20

Per Award Amount: \$1M – cannot exceed \$3M



# Target Investment Areas



**\$50M**  
**Disadvantaged  
Unincorporated  
Communities**



**\$150M**  
**Tribes in  
Alaska**



**\$300M**  
**Tribal  
Communities**



**\$100M**  
**Southern  
Border  
Communities**



**\$50M**  
**U.S. Territories**

Note: These Track I investment area amounts are approximate and may be adjusted based on the quantity and quality of applications received.

## Types of TA

- Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)
  - Broad-based pre-award and post-award TA
  - Specialized support for the CCGP (TCTACs is for general requests)
  - Submit an on-line [TA Request Form](#)
  - Call to make a TA Request or ask questions: 1 (800) 540-8123
  - Email: [EJ\\_TechAssist@epa.gov](mailto:EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov)
- Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance (CCER TA)
  - Submit an on-line [TA Request Form](#)
  - More limited and tailored TA focusing on disaster-prone areas



## Community Change TA

- Individualized support- help with development of grant application (but can't write the application), project planning and development, outreach and engagement, and general capacity building.
- Weekly webinars on Tuesdays 3pm to 4pm ET until March 19th. Recordings for past webinars are available via [www.communitychangeTA.org](http://www.communitychangeTA.org)

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# Overview of Threshold Eligibility Criteria



## Eligibility

Applications must meet **all** eligibility criteria, as outlined in Section III of the [NOFO](#), to be considered for funding.



Comply with the content and submission requirements.

Meet the eligibility and statutory partnership requirements in Section III.A.

Meet threshold criteria in Section III.D, including that the projects will benefit disadvantaged communities.

Projects must be completed within three years.

Applications to conduct scientific research; assessment, removal, or remediation of Superfund sites; and permanent community relocation are ineligible.

# Community Relocation

Projects for permanent community or Tribal relocation activities are **not eligible** for funding under the CCGP as noted in Section I.F of the NOFO.

A relocation activity is considered those that are intended to plan or assist the moving of an individual or community from their residence or place of business.

Temporary relocation costs may be allowable in accordance with Federal Highway Administration's guidance on temporary relocation in Appendix A to 49 CFR Part 24.

If you have questions about whether your project is a relocation activity, please email [CCGP@epa.gov](mailto:CCGP@epa.gov)

## Please note:

EPA is working on a separate effort to support communities looking to implement community-driven relocation plans.

# Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible to enter a Statutory Partnership under this NOFO:

- **Community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs)**
  - Demonstrates connection to community through services provided to residents and stakeholders.
  - Recognized as a non-profit organization by IRS or state, Tribal, etc. authority
  - An Intertribal Consortia may meet the definition of CBO if they meet the CBO requirements in the NOFO and 40 CFR 35.504(a) and (c) requirements.
- **Federally recognized Tribe** (as defined by the Clean Air Act-Section III.A.3 of the NOFO)
  - “Any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village, which is federally recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.”
  - Does not include State-recognized Tribes (but they can be collaborative entities-see later slides)
- **Local government**
- **Institution of higher education (IHE)**

*\*More details found in Section III.A of the NOFO*

# Additional Information for TIA B

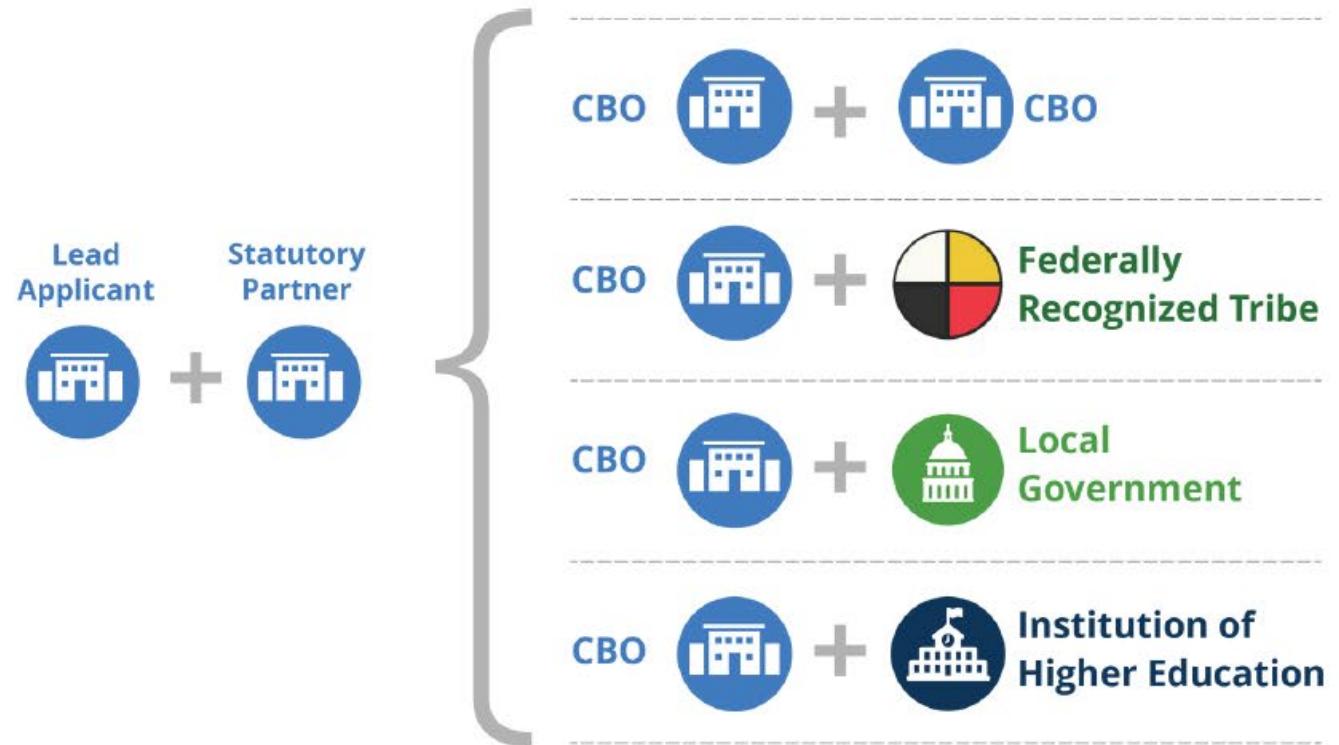
- Intertribal Consortia may qualify as CBOs and partner with a Federally recognized Tribe to apply
- Individual Federally recognized Tribes cannot qualify as CBOs – they are units of government.
- The 20% indirect cost cap in Appendix G of the NOFO does not apply to Tribes and Intertribal Consortia that meet certain requirements as explained in Appendix G

# Statutory Partnership

Applicants must either be a partnership of two community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) or a partnership between a CBO and a federally recognized Tribe, local government or institution of higher education.

Partnerships must be documented and meet certain legal requirements (see [Appendix B](#)).

Additional information on eligibility and partnerships can be found in [Section III](#) of the NOFO.



Note: While the CBO does not have to be the "Lead Applicant," all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.

# Collaborating Entities

Other entities can be involved in projects as **collaborating entities**.

Collaborating Entities may include entities that legally could be Statutory Partners (CBOs, Federally-recognized Tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education) and entities that cannot legally be Statutory Partners (e.g., states and territorial governments).



# How It Works

## FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP

Lead Applicant      Statutory Partner



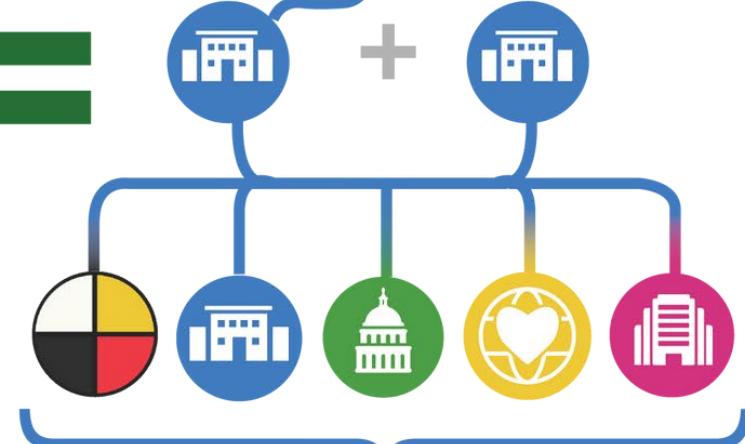
## IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS



## THE COLLABORATIVE



Lead Applicant      Statutory Partner



Collaborating Entities

# Track I and Track II Overview

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# Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change

Track I applications must also address these requirements, as further described in Section I.G and Section IV.B of the [NOFO](#):

## Strategies

- **Climate Action**
  - Green Infrastructure & Nature-Based Solutions
  - Mobility & Transportation Options
  - Energy-Efficient, Healthy and Resilient Housing & Buildings
  - Microgrid Installation
  - Community Resilience Hubs
  - Brownfield Redevelopment
  - Waste Reduction & Management
  - Workforce Development

## • **Pollution Reduction**

- Indoor Air Quality & Community Health
- Outdoor Air Quality & Community Health
- Clean Water Infrastructure
- Hazardous Waste Management

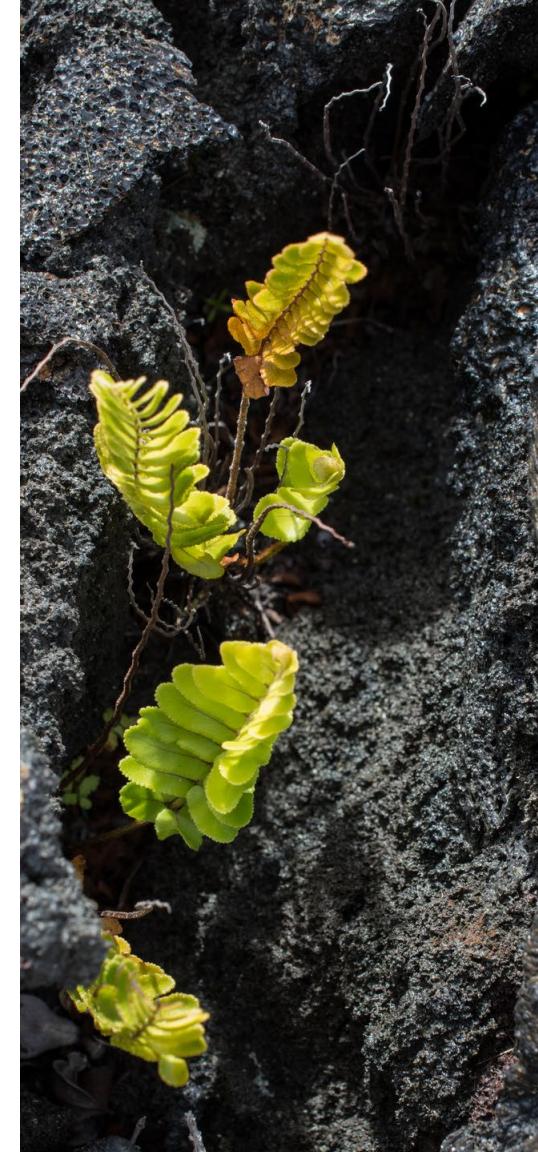
## Plans

- Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan
- Community Strength Plan

## Additional Requirements

- Readiness Approach
- Compliance Plan

Note: Projects must be place-based and include a Project Area Map as described in Appendix A.



# Track II: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

## Objectives

- To build the capacity of communities to evaluate and redress environmental and climate injustices.
- To give disadvantaged communities a meaningful voice in government decision-making processes

## Project Examples

- Educational and Training Programs
- Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)
- Collaborative Governance Activities
- Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes



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## Overview of Application Submission, Evaluation and Selection Process



# ROLLING APPLICATION



November 21,  
2023

Applications  
Open

Applications will be  
accepted, reviewed  
and awarded on a  
rolling basis.



November 21,  
2024

Applications  
Close

Application packages will  
be accepted until  
November 21, 2024, at  
11:59 PM (Eastern Time)  
through [grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

# SELECTION PROCESS

## Track I

### Eligibility

Applications reviewed for threshold eligibility.

### Written Evaluation

Written applications that receive a score of 110 or higher (out of 155) will be invited to give an oral presentation.

### Oral Presentations

Worth a maximum of 45 points.  
Applications with a combined score of 170 or more, based on written and oral evaluations, move to final selection consideration.

### Final Consideration

Applications receiving a combined score of between 110 and 169 will be ranked and reviewed approx. monthly for final selection consideration.

## Track II

Applications reviewed for threshold eligibility.

Written applications that receive a score of 85 or higher (out of 100) will move to final selection consideration.



Applications receiving a score below 85 will be ranked and reviewed approx. monthly for final selection consideration.



## Debriefings and Disputes

Applicants who are deemed ineligible or who are not selected for funding may request a debriefing.

For more information on the debriefing and dispute process, see Section VI of the [NOFO](#).

## Resubmission

Applicants who are deemed eligible but are not selected for funding may, after timely requesting and receiving a debriefing on the application, resubmit.

For more information see Section II.C of the [NOFO](#).

# Key Points

## Check for Eligibility

- We know the [NOFO](#) is long but read it carefully!
- Make sure you meet the partnership eligibility requirements (Section III.A) and applicable threshold eligibility requirements (Section III.D).

## Understand the Requirements for Different Tracks

- There are different requirements and evaluation criteria for Track I and II applications (Sections IV.B and V).
- Though it was not covered today, review the [NOFO](#) to understand the post-award and other grant requirements (Section VI).

## Triple Check Your Application

- Make sure you do not exceed the page limits for the Project Narrative portion of the application package and other Attachments (Section IV.B).
- Include all applicable Attachments and forms to the application package (Section IV.B).
- Letters of support are not required, and additional Attachments will not be evaluated.



# Important Links

In addition to the application requirements in the [NOFO](#), it's important to understand what will be expected of grantees if they are awarded a grant. Below are a few important links to programmatic and administrative information - be sure to read the [NOFO](#) in full to understand them:

- [Fraud, Waste & Abuse](#)
- [Davis Bacon Act](#)
- [Build America Buy America](#)
- [EPA's General Terms and Conditions](#)
- [EPA's Solicitation Clauses](#)
- [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreement](#)
- [Methods of Procurement \(2 CFR 200.320\)](#)
- [Participant Support Costs \(2 CFR 1500.1\)](#)
- [Reporting Requirements \(Section VI\)](#)
- [Appendix G: Indirect Costs](#)



# Future Developments

- **NOFO Modifications:** The [NOFO](#) has been modified to clarify issues. Make sure to read the most updated version on [grants.gov](#).
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** FAQs were posted to the [CCGP website](#) and will be updated as needed to address [NOFO](#) questions.
- **Future Webinars:** Check the [CCGP website](#) often for dates for future webinars and recordings.



# Final Thoughts



Find partners and build coalition



Identify meaningful transformative projects to address environmental and climate justice concerns that can be completed within 3 years

↗ (Track I)



Identify governmental policies and programs that can be improved with community voices



(Track II)



Register on **SAM.gov** and **Grants.gov** now  
(this process can take up to a month)



You can follow up with questions at  
**CCGP@epa.gov**



Stay up to date on webinars by signing up for EPA EJ listserv by sending a blank email to  
**join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov**



*Thank You*

- ▶ **Questions/Concerns?**
- ▶ **Email bessler.andy@epa.gov**

