

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

This is only a summary; applicants should not rely on it to meet application requirements. Study the full grant opportunity announcement before applying for any federal grant.

Program Description – The program will make funding available to support community-driven projects that build capacity for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges, strengthen their climate resilience, and advance clean energy.

Opportunity Numbers – EPA-R-OEJECR-OCS-23-04	Agency – US EPA, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)	
Obligation Deadline: All funds must be awarded by Sept 30, 2026; Limited by statute to three years in duration from award date; no project extensions will be considered	Closing – November 21, 2024, 11:59 PM EST (applications will be accepted on a rolling basis based on available funding)	BCA Required? No, but Budget Template and Guidance is provided (pgs. 87-90)
Available Funding: Approximately \$2B; expected awards between \$10-20M for multi-faceted projects (Track I -- approximately 150 awards expected); smaller awards between \$1-3M on facilitating engagement with disadvantaged communities (Track II – 20 awards expected). Initial awards to be made May/June 2024	NOFO & Related – https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program#NOFO	
Award Limits: Track I (Community-Driven Investments) – awards cannot exceed \$20M; Track II (Meaningful Engagement) – awards cannot exceed \$3M	Eligible Project Cost Restrictions: None although there may be a 20% cap on indirect costs for certain recipients and subrecipients; cap does not extend to indirect costs on procurement contracts	
Eligibility: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximum of two applications from lead applicants 2. Applicants can receive up to two awards 3. Track I is the primary emphasis for the Community Change grants. 4. All applications must comply with content and submissions requirements listed on pages 31-33 5. Applications must be in English only 	Required Cost Share: No cost-sharing or matching required	
	Statutorily Required Target Investment Areas (TIA): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TIA A – Tribes in Alaska -- \$150M 2. TIA B – Tribes in the US and HI -- \$300M 3. TIA C – Territories -- \$50M 4. TIA D – Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities -- \$50M 5. TIA E – US – Southern Border Communities -- \$100M 	

Track I Requirements – Community Vision Description

Climate Action Strategy	Pollution Reduction Strategy	Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan	Community Strength Plan	Readiness Approach	Compliance Plan
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Eligible Applicants – (1) A partnership between at least two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs); (2) A partnership between a CBO and one or any combination of the following: A Federally-recognized Tribe; a local government, or an institution of higher learning.

Examples of Project Activities under Track I: (see pages 71-86)

1. Green Infrastructure and Nature-based solutions
2. Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate resilience
3. Energy-efficient, healthy, and resilient housing and buildings
4. Microgrid Installation for Community Energy resilience
5. Community Resilience Hubs
6. Brownfield redevelopment for emissions reduction and climate resilience
7. Waste reduction and management to support a circular economy
8. Workforce development programs for occupations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants
9. Indoor air quality and community health improvements
10. Outdoor air quality and community health improvements
11. Clean Water infrastructure to reduce pollution exposure and increase overall system resilience
12. Safe management and disposal of solid and hazardous waste

Examples of Project Activities under Track II: (see page 86)

1. Educational and Training Programs
2. Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)
3. Collaborative Governance Activities
4. Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes

Eligible Activities to be performed:

1. Climate resiliency and adaptation
2. Mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events
3. Community-led air and other (including water and waste) pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation
4. Investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure.
5. Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.
6. Reducing indoor toxic and indoor air pollution.
7. Facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

Application & Narrative Requirements – Mandatory Documents

Required components include: **SF-424, SF-424A, EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54, EPA Preaward Compliance Review Report Form 4700-4, Project Narrative Attachment Form and Attachments (A through H – dependent on application being Track I or II)**. The Project Narrative for Track I applications will have two sections – an Executive Summary not to exceed three pages, and a Project Workplan – Narrative must not exceed twenty (20) single-spaced pages total. The Project Narrative for Track II applications will have two sections – an Executive Summary not to exceed two pages, and a Project Workplan -- The Project Narrative for Track II applications must not exceed fifteen (15) single spaced pages total. All applications will be on letter size pages (8 ½ X 11 inches). Excess pages will not be reviewed for either Track I or II applications. Links to external websites or content will not be reviewed or considered. It is recommended that applicants use a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman, Calibri, and Arial) and a 12-point font size with 1- inch margins.

Track I applications will be evaluated on a 200-pt scale (see pages 47-54)

Track II applications will be evaluated on a 100-pt scale (see pages 54-57)