



June 13, 2024

CDFA FedFund

BRIEFING

Environmental and Climate Justice
Community Change Grants





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Today's Panelists



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Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights



COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Alexandra Gallo, Special Advisor

Disclaimer

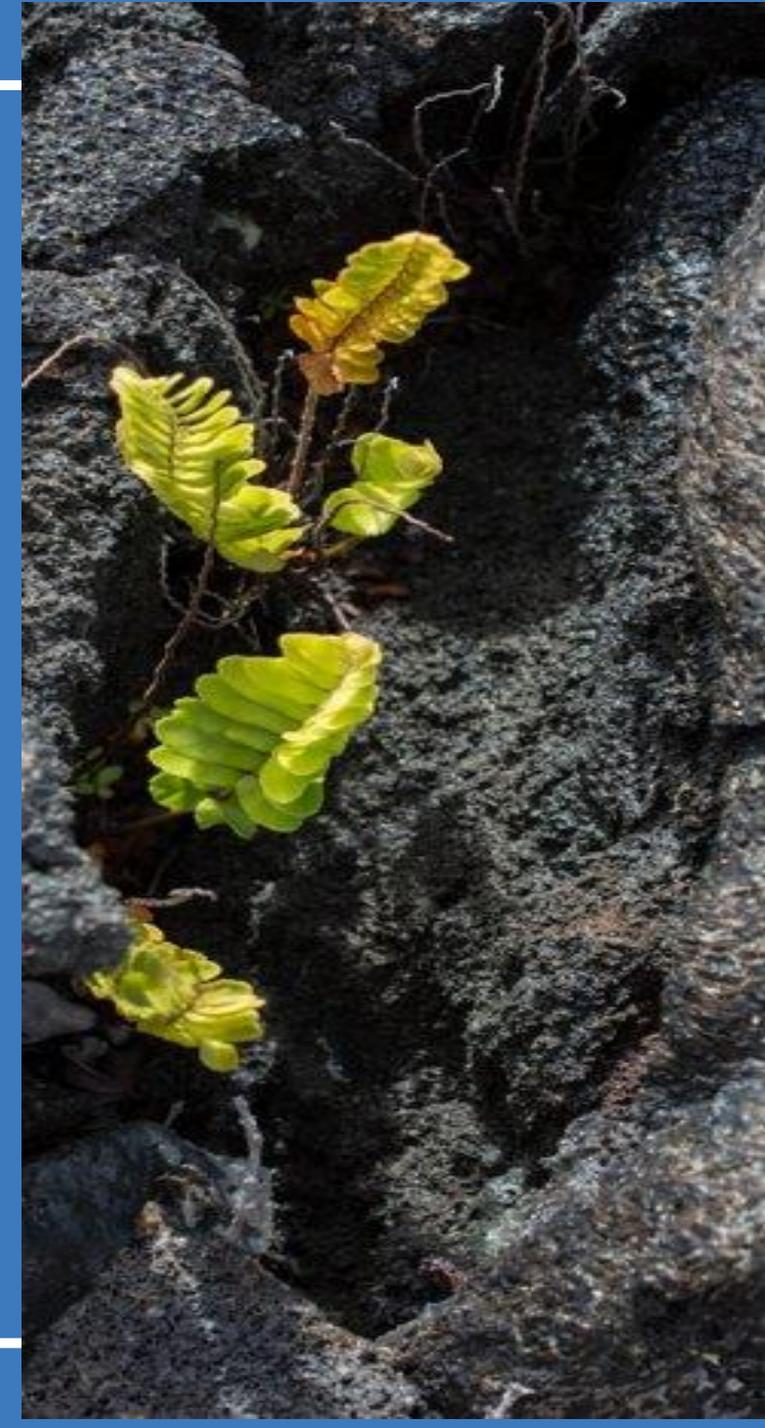
During this webinar, the presenters will not give individualized advice on specific applications, the merits of specific applications, or how an application may be evaluated or scored by EPA. As well, all communities are different; you must apply concepts given in this briefing to your community's situation. This is a competitive grant program.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Overview of Inflation Reduction Act and EJ Investments**
- 3. Overview of Community Change Grants Program (CCG)**
- 4. Overview of Application Submission, Evaluation, and Selection Process**
- 5. Questions and Answers**

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Overview of the
Inflation
Reduction Act
and
EJ Investments



INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

TO REDRESS EJ ISSUES IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES



**\$3
billion**

Advancing Environmental Justice

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA will improve the lives of millions of Americans by reducing pollution in neighborhoods where people live, work, play, and go to school; accelerating environmental justice efforts in communities overburdened by pollution for far too long; and tackling our biggest climate challenges while creating jobs and delivering energy security.

**\$200
million**

in ways that deliver effective and equitable solutions at scale.

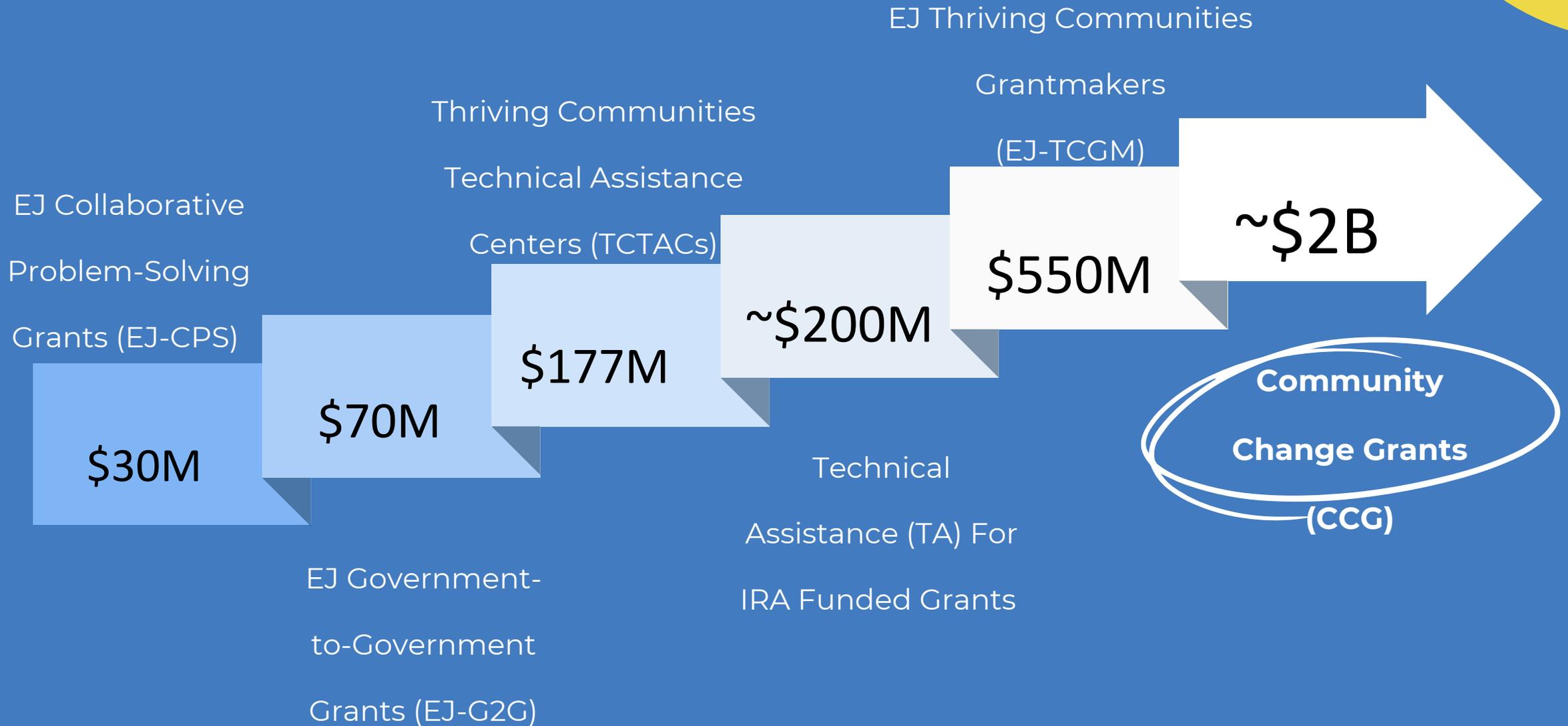
Introduction

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 (CCG) Program.**
- **\$200 million for technical assistance** related to the grants.
- Grants cannot exceed three years (no extensions).
- All grants must be awarded by September 30, 2026



EJ INVESTMENTS

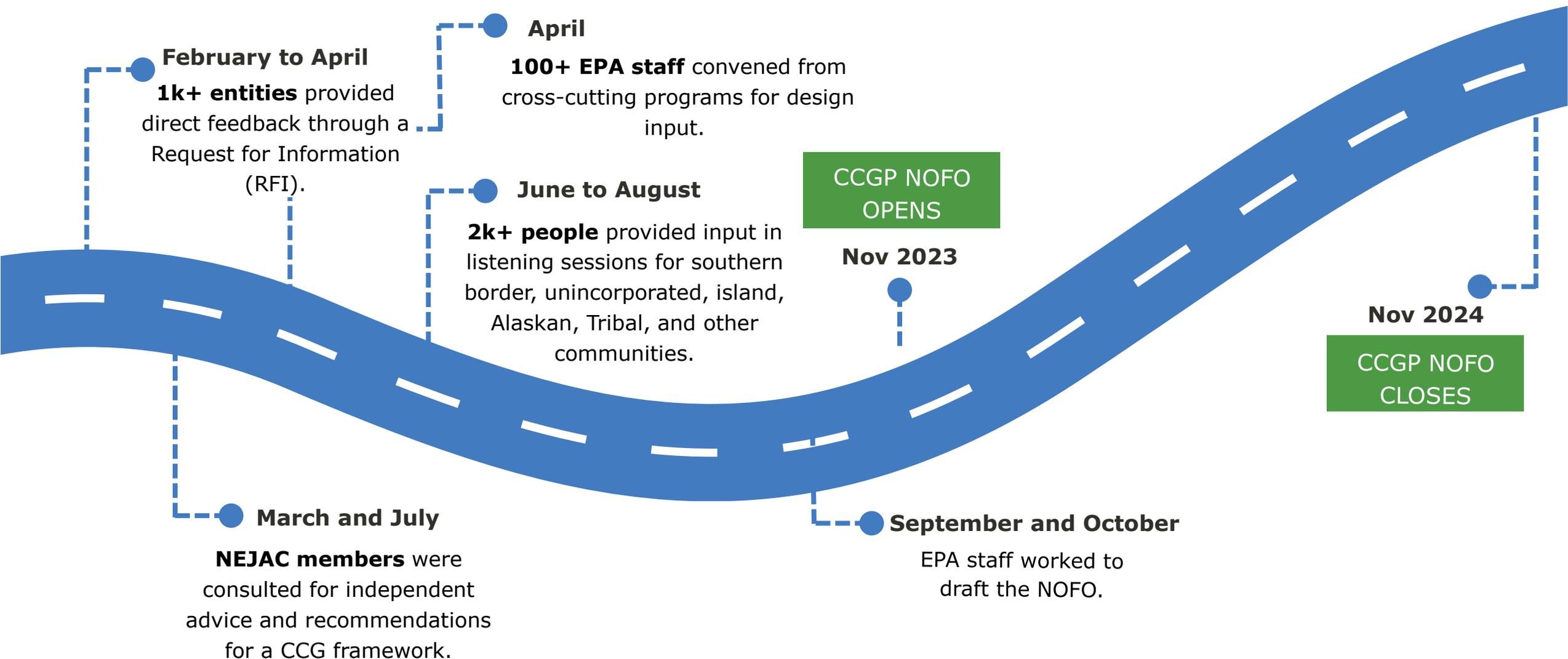


Overview of
Community Change
Grants
Program

3



ENGAGEMENT



Goals

Designed with meaningful community, Tribal and other stakeholder input, the investments EPA makes through the Community Change Grants are intended to achieve the following goals:



Fund community-driven pollution and climate resiliency solutions.



Invest in strong cross-sectoral collaborations with partners working with and for communities.



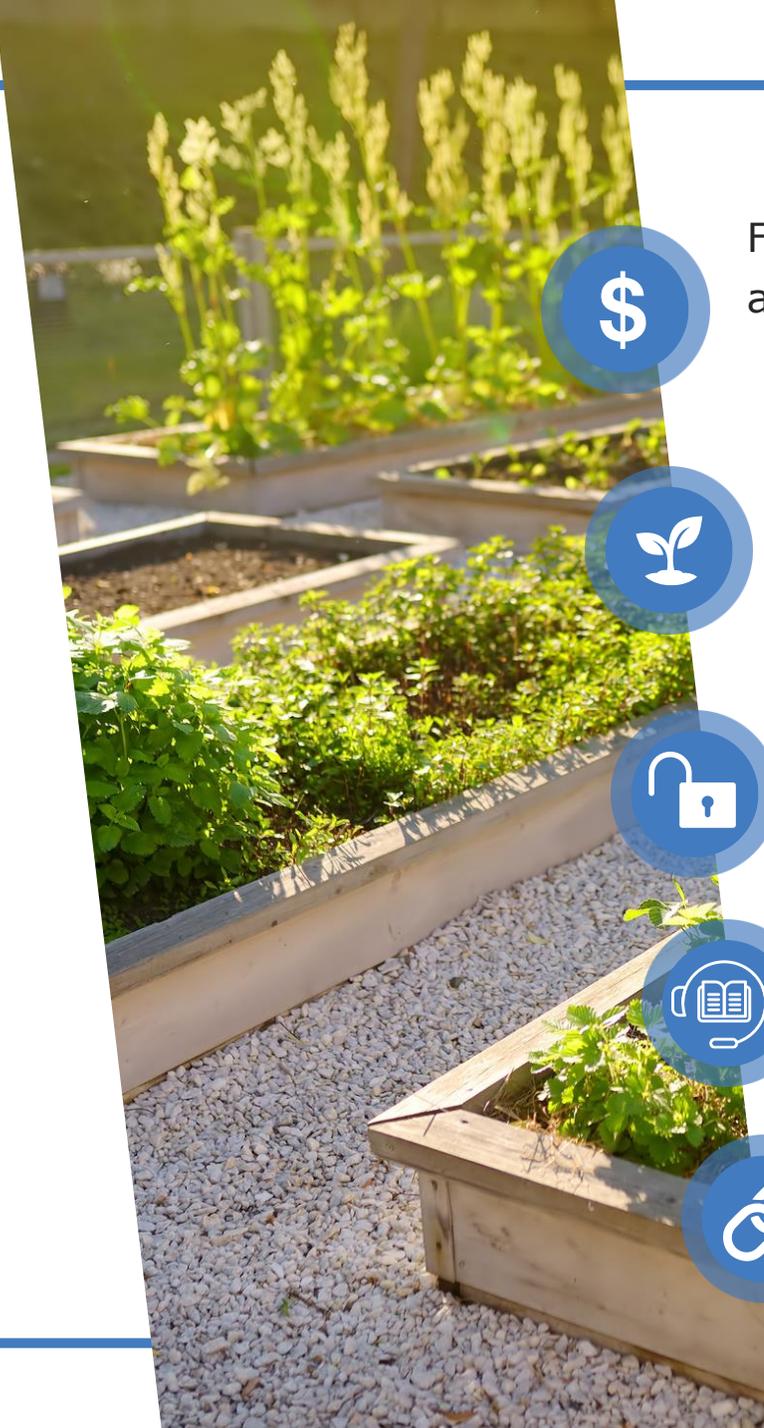
Unlock access to more significant resources.



Deliver technical assistance and capacity-building support.



Strengthen communities' decision-making power.



Technical Assistance

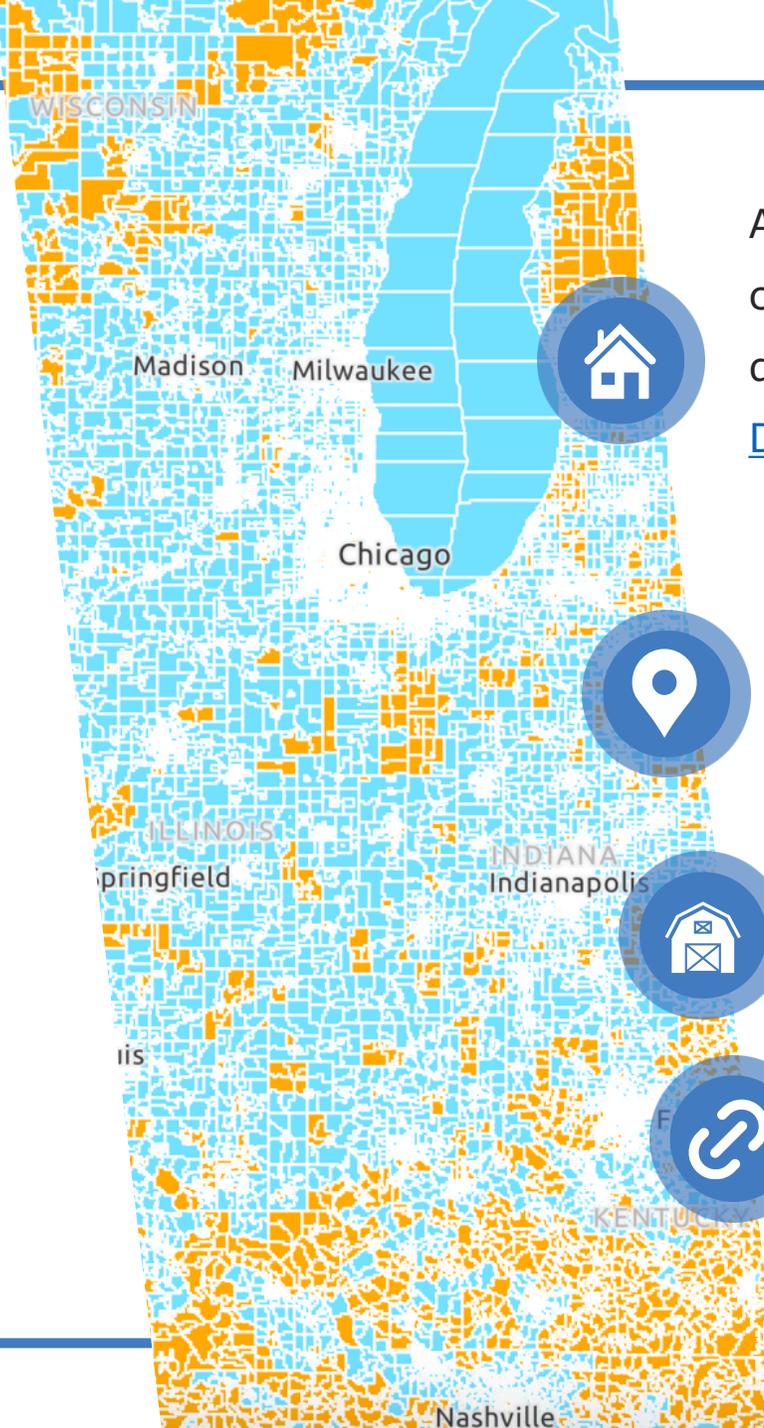


- Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)
 - Broad-based pre-award and post-award TA
 - Submit an on-line TA Request Form
 - Call to make a TA Request or ask questions: 1 (800) 540-8123
 - Email: EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov
- Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)

Disadvantaged Communities

Applicants must demonstrate that the projects in their application will benefit a disadvantaged community.

EPA is defining disadvantaged community as one that meets at least one of the following criteria:



A geographically-defined community identified as disadvantaged on the EPA IRA [Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)



A Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)

OR



A farmworker community



More information can be found in [Appendix A](#) of the NOFO.

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.

Track I

Community-Driven Investments for Change

Funding Available: approx. \$1.96 billion

Number of Awards: approx. 150

Per Award Amount: \$10M - \$20M each

Track II

Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Funding Available: approx. \$40 million

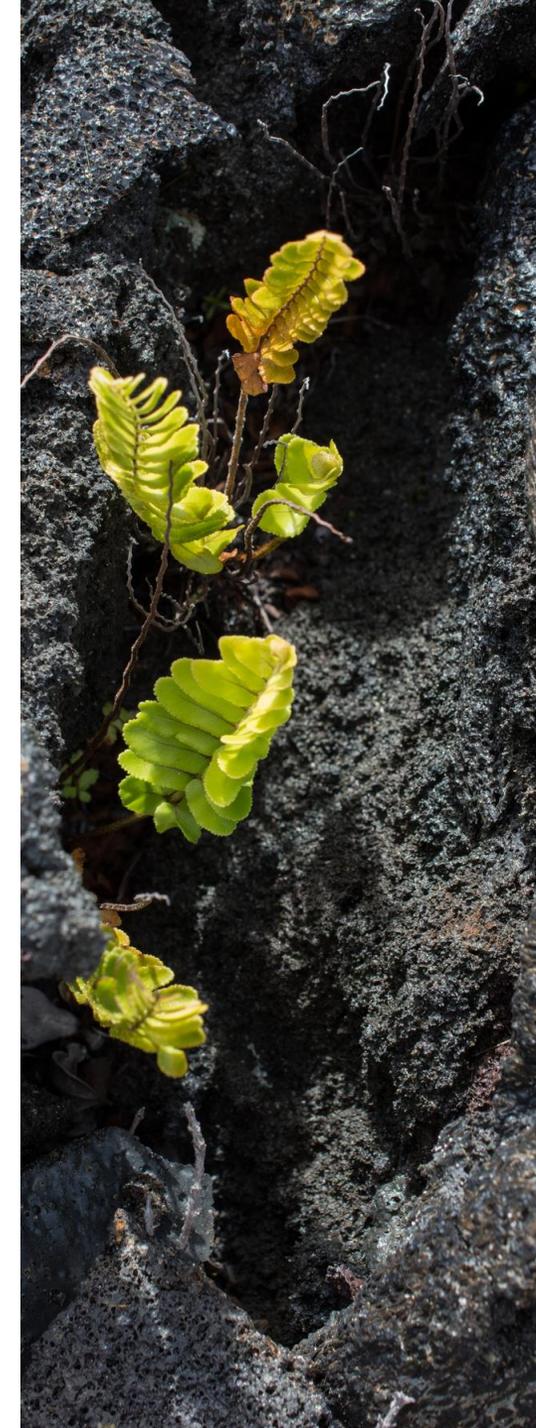
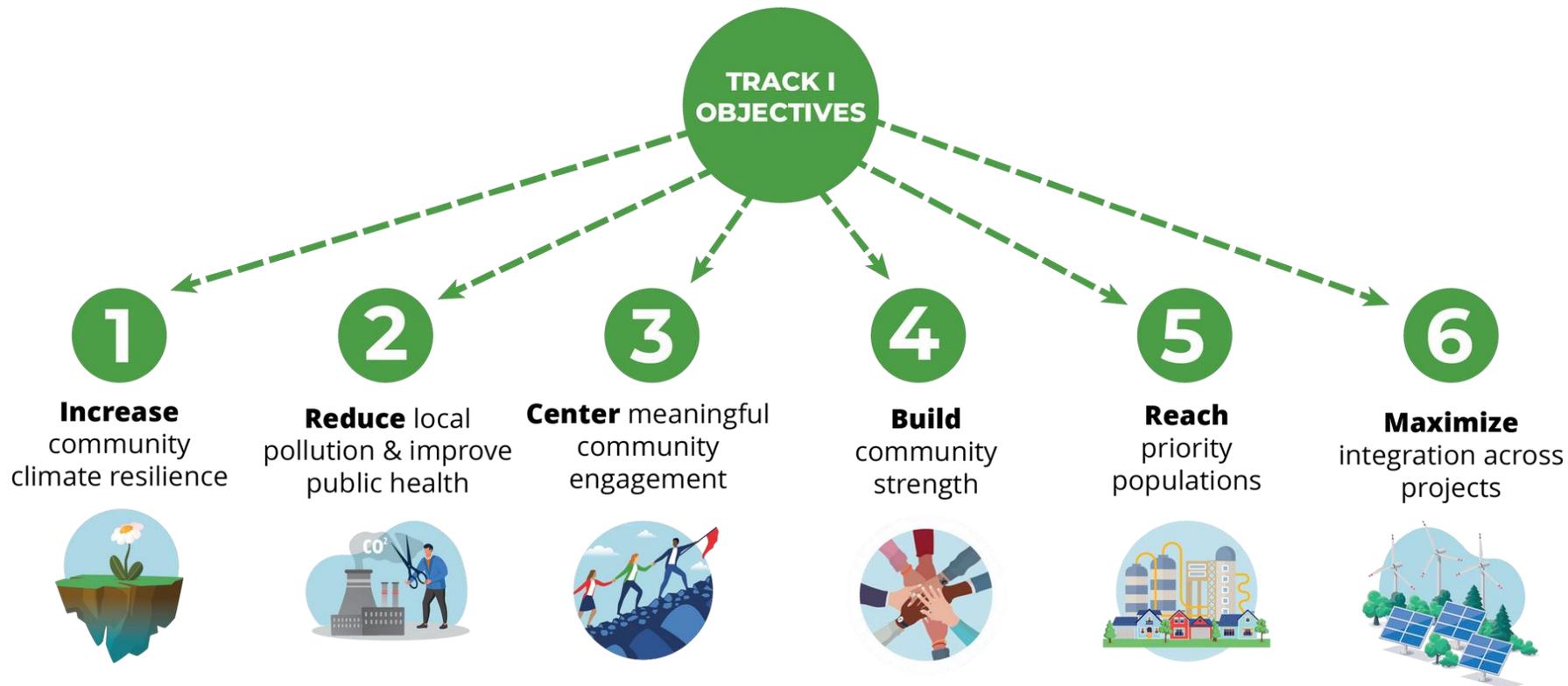
Number of Awards: approx. 20

Per Award Amount: \$1M - \$3M each



Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change

Projects under this track should ensure generations of future enjoyment and growth by meeting the below objectives:



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 –**at least one**
 - 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-**at least one**
 - Indoor Air Quality & Community Health
 - Outdoor Air Quality & Community Health
 - Clean Water Infrastructure
 - Hazardous Waste Management

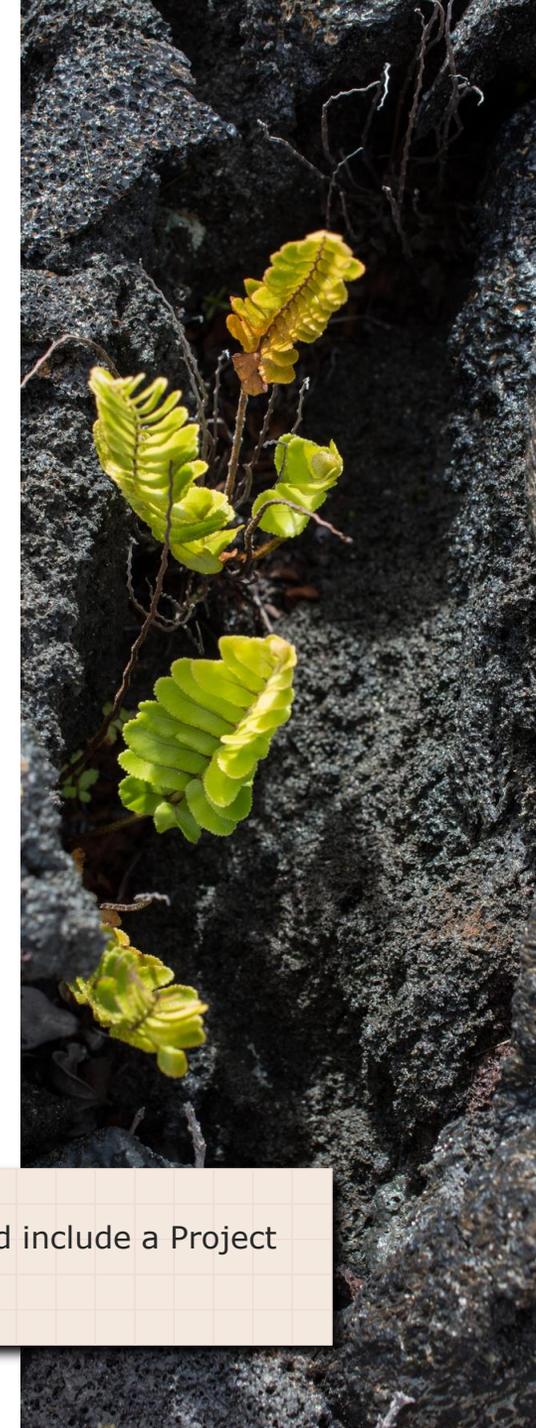
Plans

- 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.

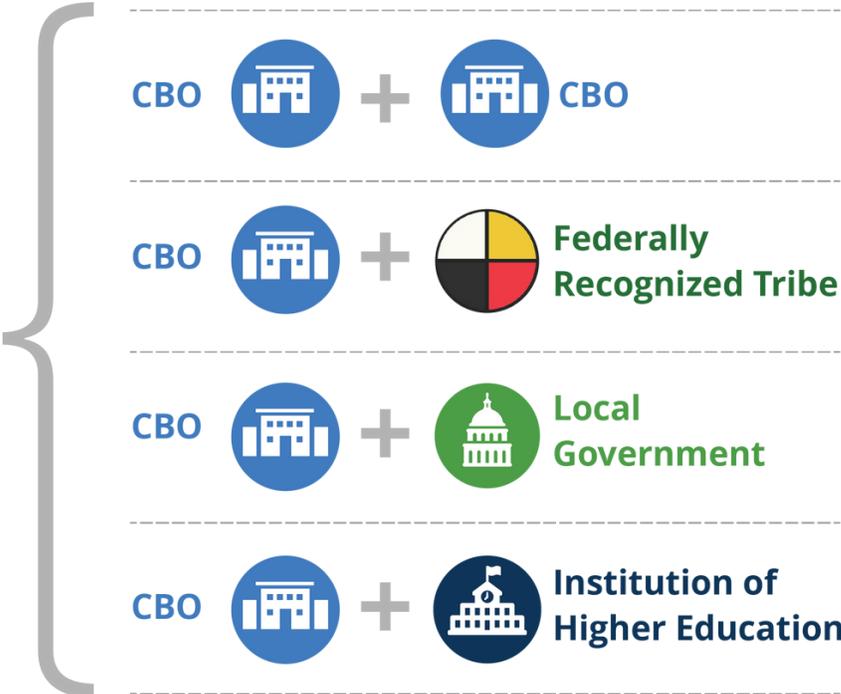
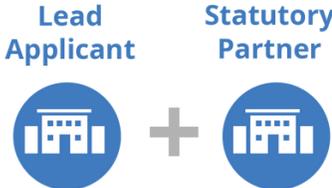


Eligible Entities and Statutory Partnership

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.

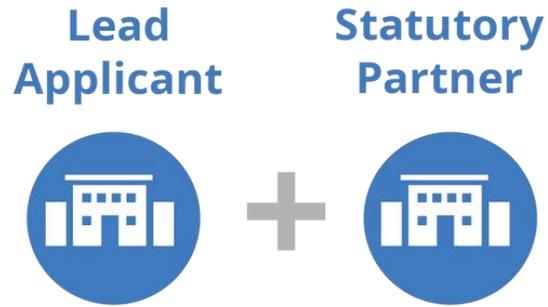
Collaborating Entities may include entities that legally could be Statutory Partners (CBOs, Federally-recognized Tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education) and entities that cannot legally be Statutory Partners (e.g., states and territorial governments).

Foreign organizations could be collaborating entities in some circumstances.

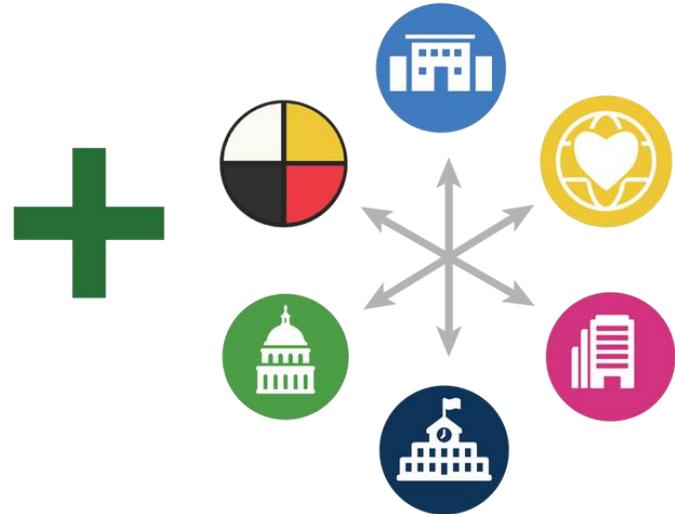


How It Works

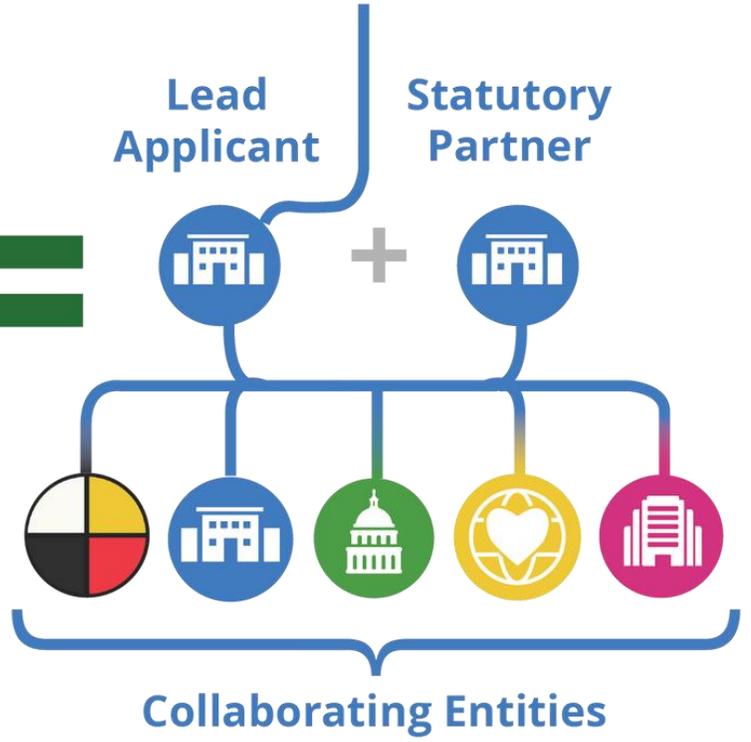
FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP



IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS



THE COLLABORATIVE



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



4

Overview of
Application Submission,
Evaluation and Selection
Process



SELECTION PROCESS

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 evaluation, 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 I

Track II

Eligibility

Applications reviewed for threshold eligibility.

Written Evaluation

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



Final Consideration

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

ROLLING APPLICATION TIMELINE



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://www.grants.gov).

Note: Letters of support are not required, and applicants should not submit attachments other than those required in the application instructions - additional attachments will not be evaluated.

Program Innovations

Rolling Applications

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis to provide flexibility to the maximum extent practicable.

Innovative Evaluation

Each track has its own evaluation process, with oral presentations for Track I, and is reviewed approximately monthly for final consideration.

Expedited Selection

Evaluating and selecting applications on a rolling basis facilitates expedited awards to communities.

Debriefing and Resubmission

Eligible applicants who are not selected for funding may, after timely requesting and receiving a debriefing, resubmit.



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).
- Each TIA has unique requirements (Section II.B).
- Though it was not covered today, review the [NOFO](#) to understand the post-award and other 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.



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**



Stay Updated with Us

- **NOFO Modifications:** The NOFO will likely be modified a few times while it is open to clarify issues, as necessary. Make sure you are referencing the most updated version of the NOFO on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** FAQs will be posted to the [CCG website](#) and updated regularly to address NOFO questions.
- **Future Webinars:** Check the [CCG website](#) often for dates for future webinars and recordings; to get email reminders and join our listserv send a blank email to join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- **Specific Questions:** email CCGP@epa.gov



Ask Your Questions!

