

EPA Community Change Grants Requirement

Community Based Organizations

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environmental
Committee
6-18-2024

Jodi Trendler, ALM Sustainability Candidate
Harvard University Extension School
Founding Chair, Naperville Environment and Sustainability Task Force
jodi@trendler.net
630.886.5159





COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CBO Definition

Grant Objectives & Requirements

CBO Roles

Local CBO Options

References

NOFO DEFINITION: COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOs)

- While the CBO does **not** have to be the “Lead Applicant,” **all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.**
- To qualify as a CBO ..., an organization must demonstrate that they are a “**nonprofit organization**” ... any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that is 1) operated mainly for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purpose in the public interest...
- CBO must also **demonstrate** that they are a public or private nonprofit organization that supports and / or represents a community and/or certain populations ***within a community through engagement, education ... provided to ...community stakeholders.***

Track 1 Objectives

- **Increase community resilience through climate action activities:**
...reduce GHG emissions...
- **Reduce local pollution to improve public health:**
- **Center *meaningful* community engagement: Conduct *robust* community – from design to implementation.**
- ..benefits of the investments accrue to existing residents of disadvantaged communities, .
- **Reach priority populations:** .. who are acutely exposed to and impacted by climate, pollution..
- **Maximize integration across projects:**



Grant Objectives:

PROACTIVE Approach:
Reach beyond the
“Top 10 Engaged Citizens”

**Incorporate into
Level 1, or apply for
Level 2 as primary
objective.**

Community-Led Projects

Assess current **Community-driven** Activities:

Health?

Pollution?

Green Space?

Utilities?

Transportation?

Employment?



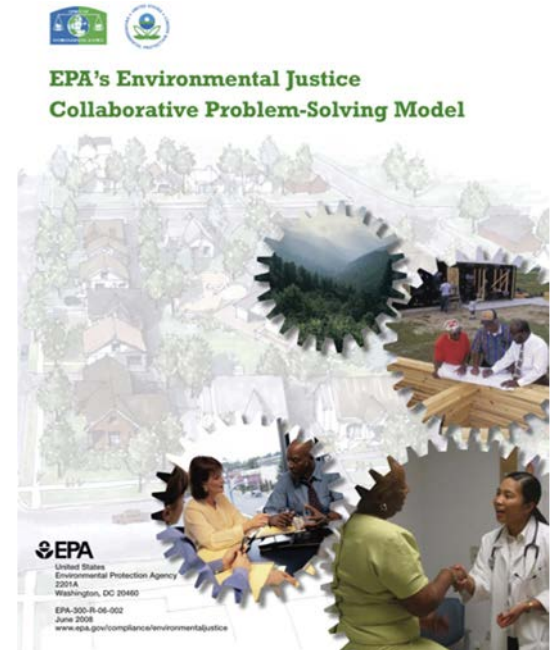
Are there currently active groups working on community initiatives that meet grant objectives and collaboration can be built around?

TRACK 1 - REQUIREMENT 3

Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan

...applicants **must** submit a Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan which should demonstrate:

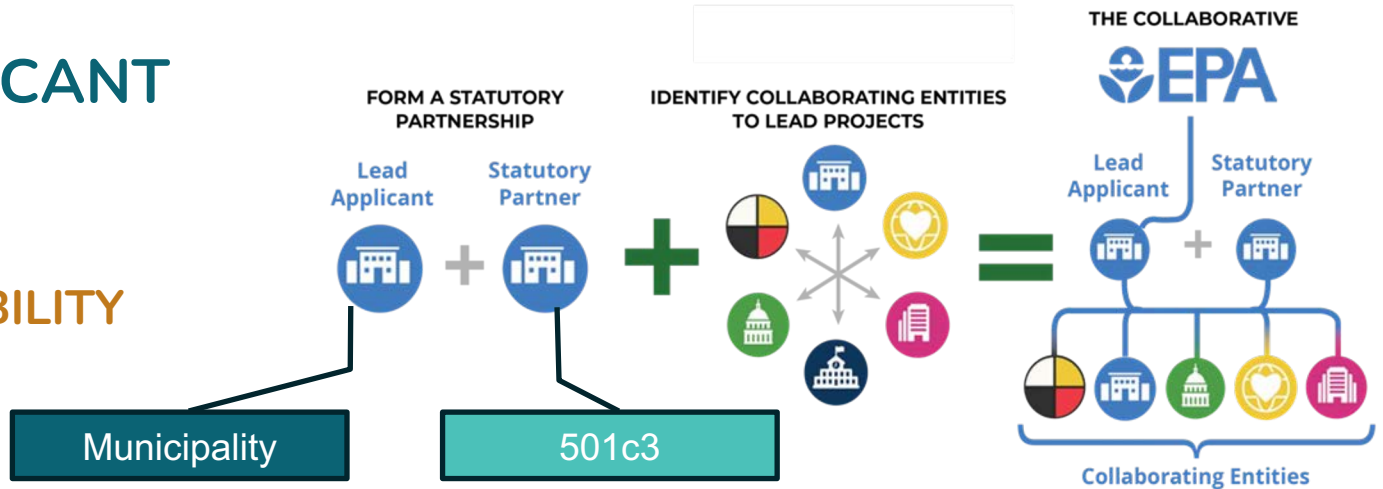
- How the applicant will inform, respond to, and engage community members *throughout project development and implementation*.
- A Collaborative Governance Structure...roles and responsibilities of the Lead Applicant, Collaborating Entities, **and community residents** in implementing the project.



STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TWO ENTITIES

LEAD APPLICANT ROLE:

- FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY
- Reporting





CBOs Roles

Sample Roles in a Partnership

The Community-Based

Organization: Help get desired sector(s) of the community to attend and actively participate in community conversations, possibly serving as a co-hosting partner.

The Local Government Agency:

Design public conversations in such a way that the invited input is meaningful and will be used in decision-making.

Together: Ensure that communications, information and accommodations support the intended audience and that outcomes are shared with the community.

COLLABORATING ENTITIES: Work Group

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., **NON-501c3 CBOs: Environmental Commissions/Task Forces, Smaller Community Groups**, states and territorial governments).





PROJECT EXAMPLE: Community Solar

- **Lead Applicant - Municipality:**
 - Fiduciary Responsibility
 - Reporting
 - Outreach/Engagement
- **501c3 Statutory Partner:**
 - Meeting/Outreach Coordination
- **Collaborating Entities (Receive Subawards through Lead Applicant if necessary)**
 - School/Park District: Siting; Communications, Education, Engagement
 - **Environmental Commissions**
 - PTAs: Communications, Education, Engagement
 - Faith Organizations: Communications, Engagement
 - Utility: Technical; Communication
 - Solar Installer: Project
 - Environmental CBOs: Communication, Engagement

SUBAWARD FUNDING REQUESTS:

- “Typical” Project Expenses



- Outreach and engagement
FOR EACH ENTITY

- Marketing Materials
- Staff Time
- Events
- Communication Tools

Note: 20% cap on indirect costs for certain recipients and subrecipients CCG NOFO pg. 90

Non-Chicago 501c3 CBO Options

Organization	City	Web Address	Focus Area
Clean Power Lake County	Waukegan	https://cleanpowerlakecounty.org/	Clean Energy Justice
Northeast Dupage Family & Youth Services Inc	Addison	http://www.nedfys.org	Mental health care
Mindful Waste	Barrington	www.mindfulwaste.org	Food banks
Families Organizing for Child Welfare Justice	Blue Island	https://www.focwj.org/	Human services
Angelic Organics Learning Center, Inc.	Caledonia	www.learnconnect.org	Agriculture
DeKalb County Community Gardens	Dekalb	http://dekalbgardens.org	Agriculture, fishing and forestry
Evanston Community Foundation	Evanston	www.evanstonforever.org	Arts and culture
Evanston Environmental Association	Evanston	www.evanstonenvironment.org	Environmental education
BLACK - Building Leadership And Community Knowledge	Evanston	https://2blackexcellence.wixsite.com/black	Public affairs
Pizza and Social Justice	Glen Ellyn	https://www.pizzaandsocialjustice.org/	Diversity and intergroup relations
Backyard Nature Center	Glencoe	http://www.backyardnaturecenter.org	Environmental education
Go Green Glencoe	Glencoe	https://gogreenglencoe.org.wordpress.com/	Environmental education
Lake County Sponsors	Libertyville	www.lakecountyunited.org	Civic participation
Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing & Training	Matteson	www.crossroadsantiracism.org	Human rights
Conservation Foundation	Naperville	www.theconservationfoundation.org	Land resources
One Earth Collective	Oak Park	https://www.greencommunityconnections.org/	Environment
Full Circle Foundation	Richmond	http://www.fullcircleinc.org	Arts and culture
The Talking Farm	Skokie	www.thetalkingfarm.org	Education
A Rocha USA Inc	Wheaton	www.arocha.us	Environmental education
Go Green Wilmette	Wilmette	www.gogreenwilmette.org	Education services
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, Inc	Woodstock	www.mcdef.org	Environment
USGBC - Illinois Green Alliance	Regional - Chicago	https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/	Green Building
Illinois Solar Energy Association	Regional - Chicago	https://illinoissolar.org/	Solar Energy
Citizen's Utility Board	Regional - Chicago	https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/	Consumer Protection



COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK!

Questions? Contact:

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
emakra@mayorscaucus.org

Blacks In Green
Environmental Justice Thriving Communities
Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC)
<https://www.blacksingreen.org/resources/big-justice-tctac>

Jodi Trendler
ALM Sustainability Candidate
Harvard University Extension
School
jodi@trendler.net



Resources



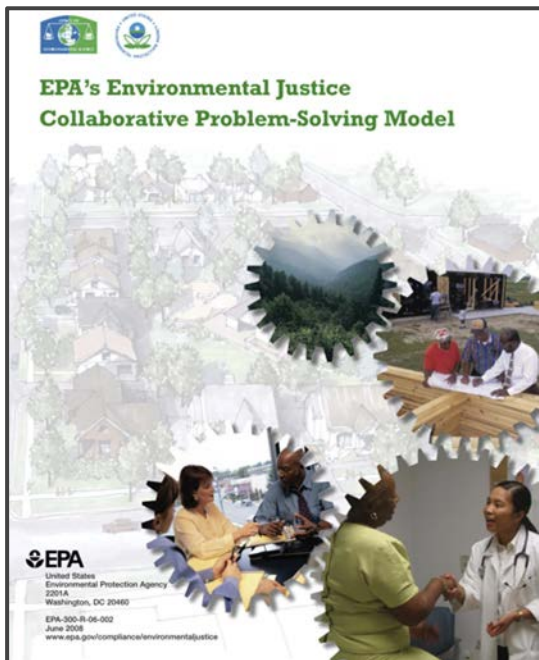
BENEFITS of CBO PARTNERSHIPS

- Extend education and outreach capacities so more residents are aware and informed
- **Balance** the most involved advocates with perspectives representing more of the community
- Reduce misperceptions and mistrust, and **reduce contentiousness**
- Identify broader **community-based resources** and recommendations
- Develop communication channels for keeping people informed **over time**
- **Enhance the cultural competency** of engagement plans, and increase the ability to translate issues into relevant questions/framing and accessible language
- Reach people emotionally as well as physically



https://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/partnering_with_comm_based_orgs_final.pdf?1497553496

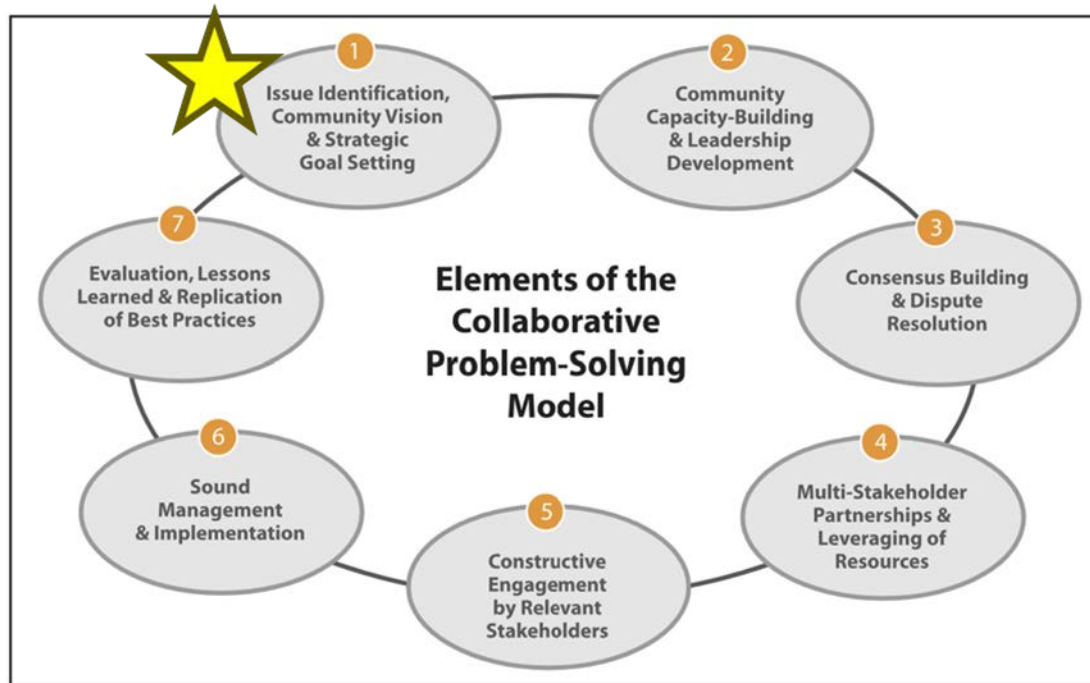
Community Engagement Planning



Develop a plan with community involvement that outlines the benefits and disbenefits that the local community will receive and defines when and how community engagement will occur throughout and beyond the entirety of the project. This plan should include:

1. Community engagement goals
2. Decision-making criteria
3. Reporting mechanisms
4. Accountability measures
5. Timeline
6. Community concerns and goals
7. Established metrics and data collection systems
8. Levers for change
9. Strategies for reducing community burden

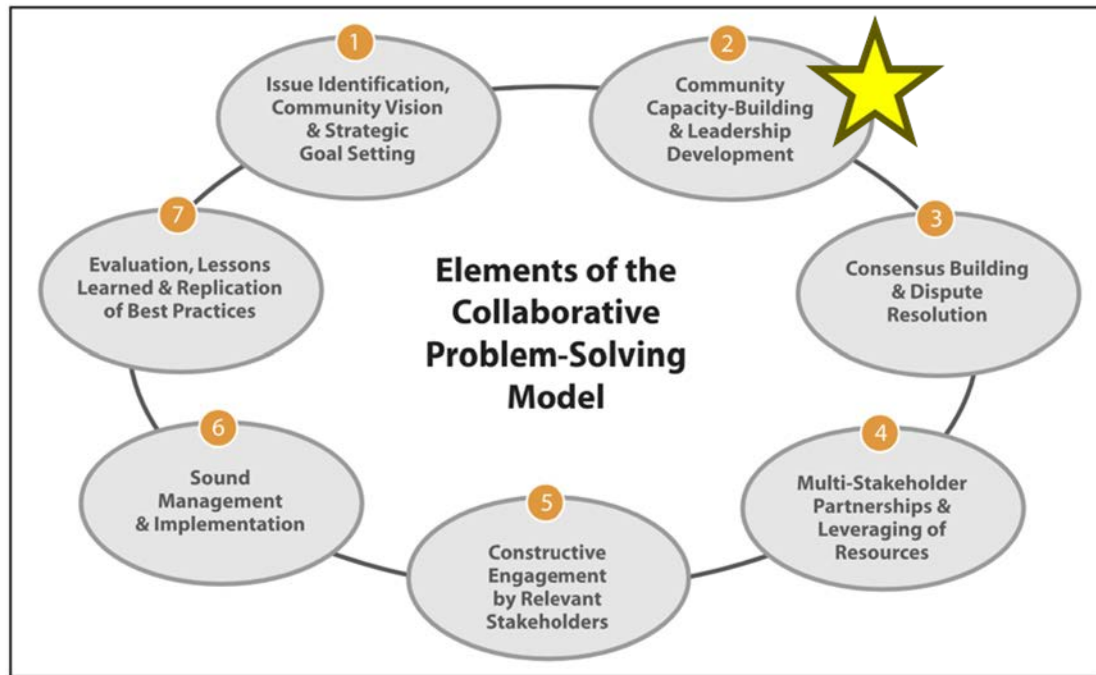
EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model



CPS Element 1 at a glance:

- Build upon existing leadership and experience in the community.
- Involve community residents early in identifying concerns.
- Identify partners.
- Build on community plans and goals.
- Involve community residents in planning and goal setting (e.g., forums, workshops).

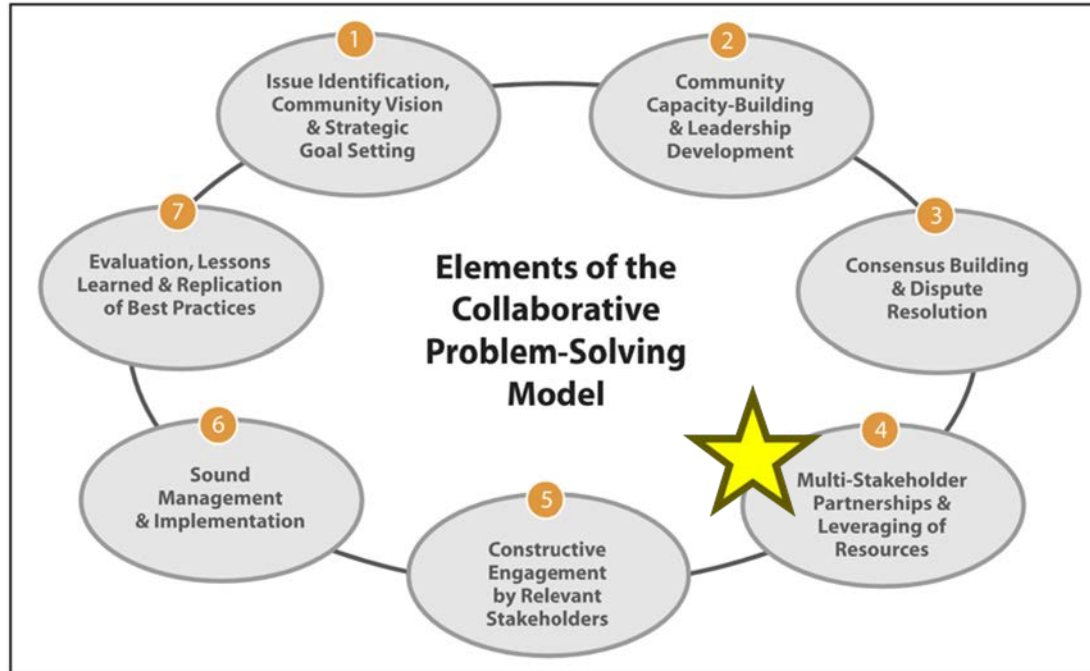
EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model



CPS Element 2 at a glance:

- Build upon community efforts/work.
- Identify ways to work with community needs.
- Ensure community leaders and members have the ability to participate in collaborative problem-solving processes.
- Provide training, mentoring, technical help, and funding support.
- Nurture the leadership skills of key individuals in a project.
- Build trust.

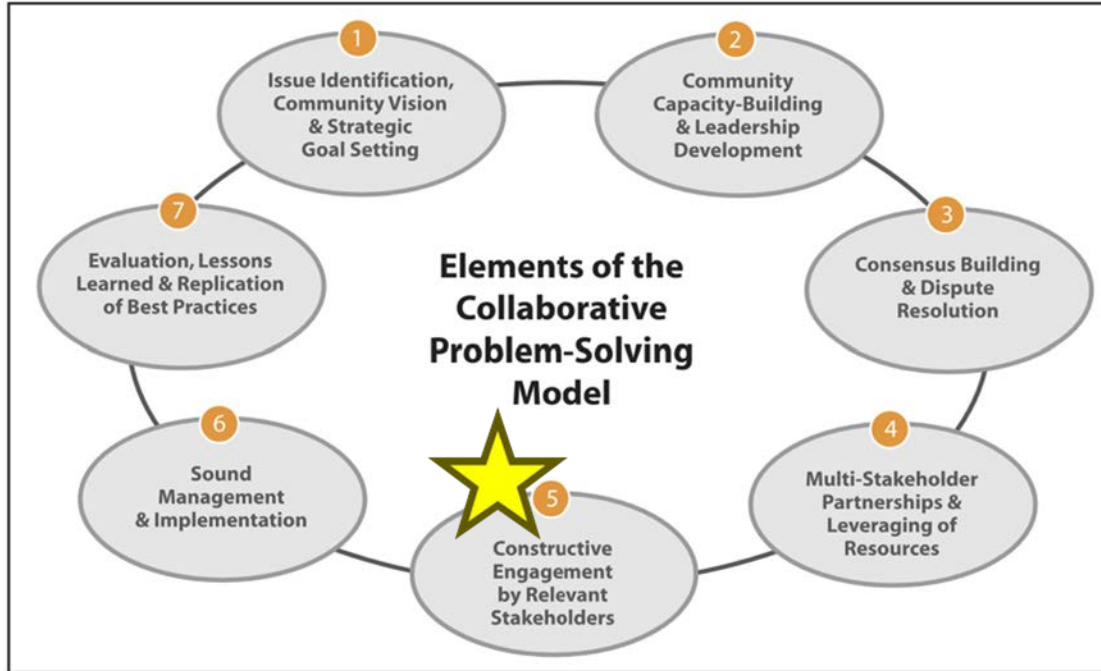
EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model



CPS Element 4 at a glance:

- Talk early and often with possible partners who need to be involved in addressing concerns.
- Create a common vision, goals, and objectives among the partners.
- Develop a clear and workable plan to address identified issues.
- Identify and invite partners to share their resources (e.g., human, institutional, technical, legal, financial).
- Look for new partners to help address issues as new issues and needs are identified.

EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model



CPS Element 5 at a glance:

- Identify where the government can support the efforts of the community to address issues through information resources, technical assistance, financial assistance, or even policy changes.
- Seek support and cooperation from industry or business.
- Use academic institutions for technical assistance such as research and analysis.
- Engage civic organizations to help raise the community's awareness of the issues and mobilize support.



Municipal Tools for Community Engagement

- Granicus: <https://granicus.com/government/local/>
- GoVocal: <https://www.govocal.com/>
- ZenCity: <https://zencity.io/>
- PublicInput: <https://publicinput.com/>

Platform considerations:

<https://www.cocoflo.com/resources/citizen-engagement-software-features>



Additional Resources

MRSC Community Engagement Resources:

<https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/engagement/resources/community-engagement-resources#web>

Institute for Local Government: <https://www.ca-ilg.org/partnering-community-based-organizations> https://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/partnering_with_comm_based_orgs_final.pdf?1497553496

Groundworks Best Practices: https://groundworkusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/GWUSA_Best-Practices-for-Meaningful-Community-Engagement-Tip-Sheet.pdf

Video: University of Illinois Extension Community Change Grants Overview: <https://youtu.be/CiR4AZLMYVc?feature=shared>



Video: EPA, “The Power of Partnerships”:
<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/wEldQBtUwfg?rel=>

Community Change Grant Priorities

Environmental Justice Indexes

Particulate Matter 2.5

Ozone

Diesel Particulate Matter

Air Toxics Cancer Risk

Air Toxics Respiratory HI

Toxic Releases to Air

Traffic Proximity

Lead Paint

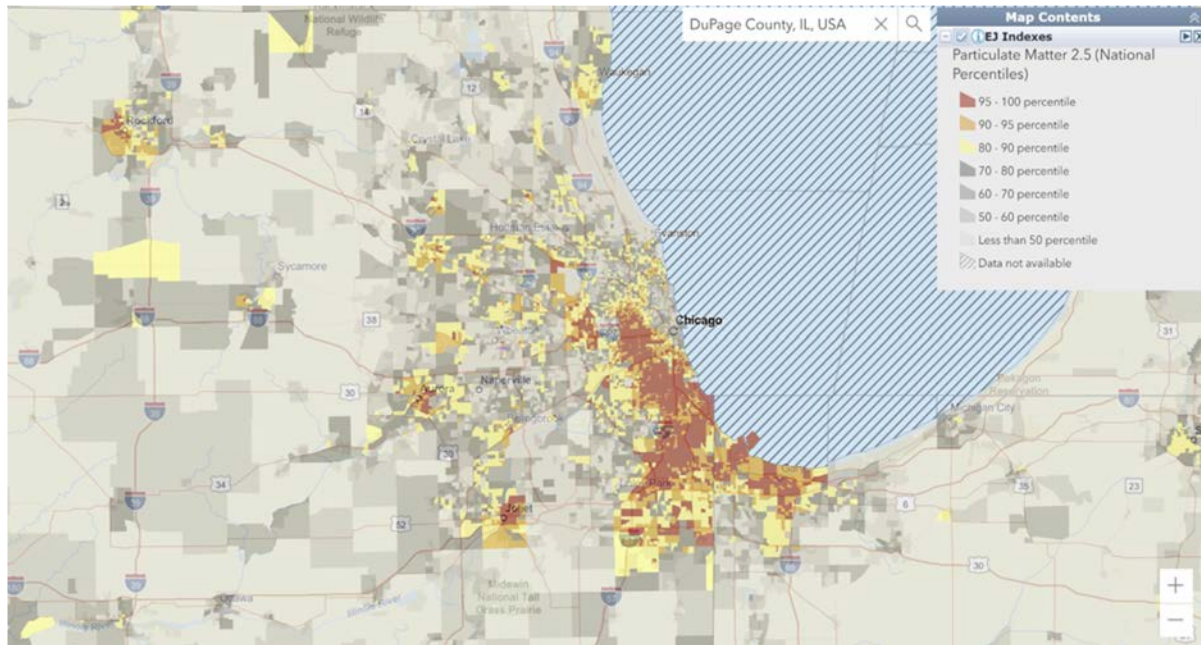
Superfund Proximity

RMP Facility Proximity

Hazardous Waste Proximity

Underground Storage Tanks

Wastewater Discharge



<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>