



COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 5 Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving
Communities Technical Assistance Center

Updated June 18, 2024

Content

1. Links and resources
2. EPA Community Change Grant Technical Assistance
3. EPN resources
4. Purpose of the Community Change Grant
5. Key NOFO dates and info
6. Eligible applicants
7. Applicant limitations
8. Community Change Grant Tracks
9. Track I Target Investment Areas
10. Track I Summary
11. Track II Summary
12. Appendix A - C - Example projects

Links and Resources Reminders

1. Main EPA grant website: [Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program](#)
2. [Biden-Harris Community Change Grant Program NOFO announcement](#)
(Summarizes NOFO)
3. NOFO: [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program](#)
(updated 02/14/2024)
4. [NOFO en español \(02/14/2024\)](#)
5. [EPA NOFO webinar from December 7, 2023](#)
6. [FAQ: Community Change Grant \(updated 03/20/2024\)](#)

Community Change Grants Technical Assistance

1. Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)
 - a. Grant Application Support
 - b. Project Planning and Development
 - c. Outreach and Engagement
 - d. General Capacity Building
 - e. [Click here to request CCTA](#)
2. Online [resources](#)
 - a. Frequently asked questions
 - b. Factsheets and workbooks
 - c. Resource library

Environmental Protection Network (EPN) Resources

1. Guidance on how to apply for [federal funding](#).
2. Connect with [potential partners](#) and share information.
3. [SAM.gov](#) registration [office hours](#) every other Wednesday from 1-2pm Central time.

Goals of the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant program (Community Change Grants)



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

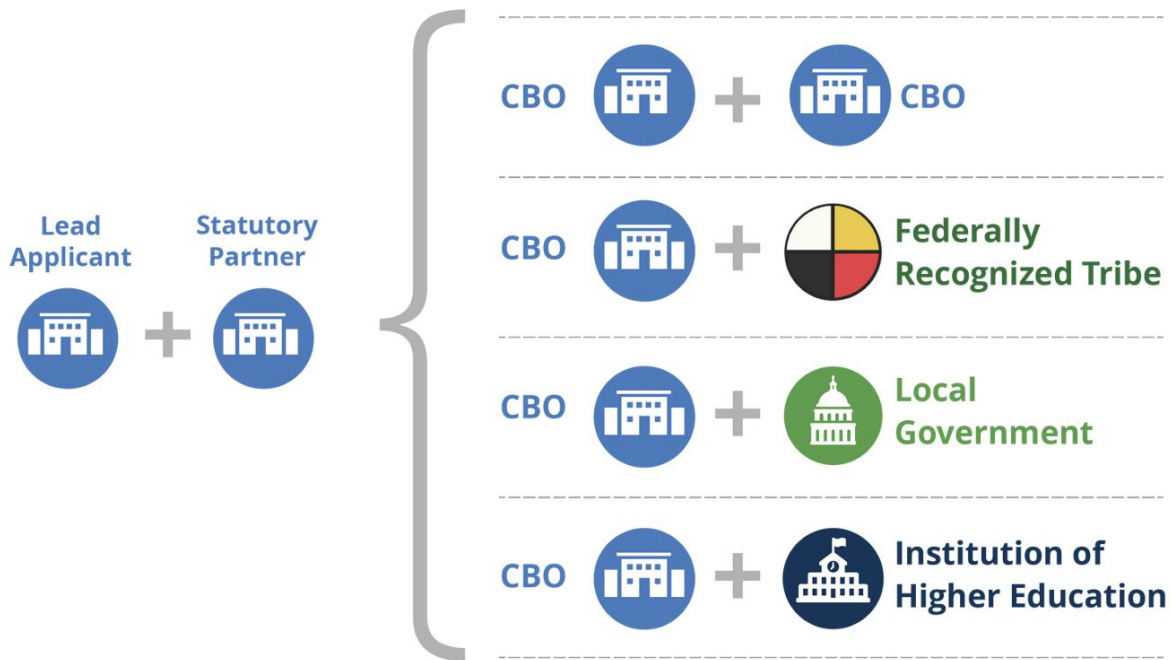
Deliver technical assistance and capacity-building support

Strengthen communities' decision-making power

Key NOFO Dates/ Info

- **Application deadline:** Accepted on a rolling basis until November 21, 2024 11:59 pm ET
 - Allows applicants to request a debrief and possibly re-submit a new application if not initially selected.
- **Anticipated start period for initial selections:**
~June 2024
- **Grant duration:** 3 years maximum
 - No extensions will be granted

Eligible Applicants



***Projects must benefit a disadvantaged community or communities.**

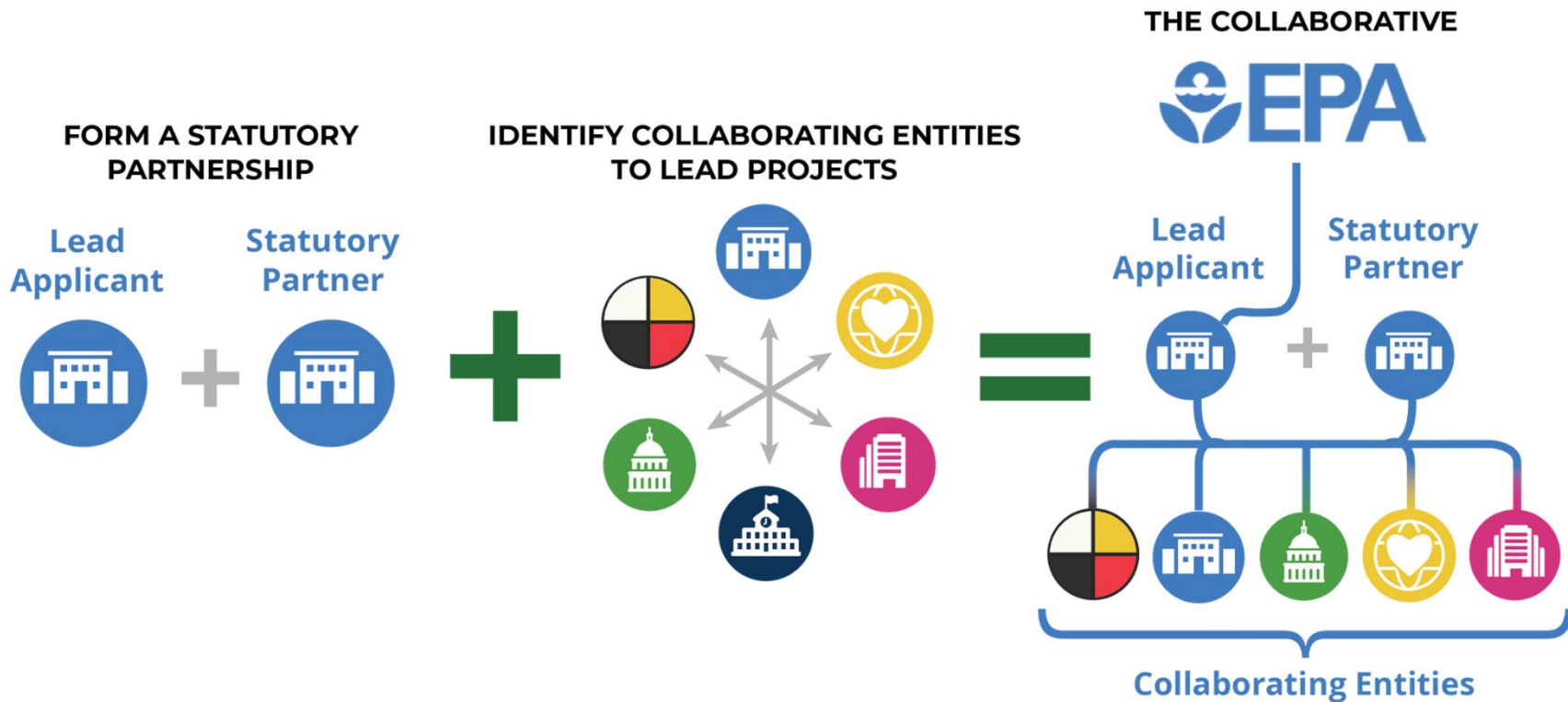
Applicant Structure and Organization Requirements

The grant must include a statutory partnership and collaborating entities underneath.

- Statutory Partnership - comprised of a Lead Applicant who enters into a Partnership Agreement with a Statutory Partner
 - The Lead Applicant will become the grantee and operate as a pass-through entity for the subawards (Statutory Partner and Collaborating entities)
- Collaborating entities
 - Can include entities eligible and not eligible to be Statutory Partners (e.g., states or Tribal governments)
 - *Cannot be for-profit firms and individual consultants or other commercial service providers*



Summary of how it works



Applicant Limitations

- Lead Applicants may submit a maximum of two applications and may receive up to two awards.
 - The two applications may be two Track I applications, two Track II applications, or one of each.
- Lead Applicants who submit more than two total applications will be asked to withdraw the excess one(s).

Community Change Grant Tracks

1. **Track I - Community-Driven Investments for Change**
 - a. Focus on multi-faceted applications with Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies to meaningfully improve the environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities
 - b. \$10-20 million limit per award
 - c. EPA expects to make ~150 Track I awards, including those under the Target Investment Areas
 - i. An applicant does not need to identify as a Target Investment Area to be eligible

2. **Track II - Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance**
 - a. Facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice
 - b. \$1-3 million limit per award
 - c. EPA expects to make ~20 Track II awards

Track I Target Investment Areas (TIAs)

EPA has identified five TIAs to help ensure that communities with unique circumstances, geography, and needs can equitably compete for funding. These are:



\$50M
**Disadvantaged
Unincorporated
Communities**



\$150M
**Tribes in
Alaska**



\$300M
**Tribal
Communities**
(lower 48 states + HI)



\$100M
**Southern
Border
Communities**

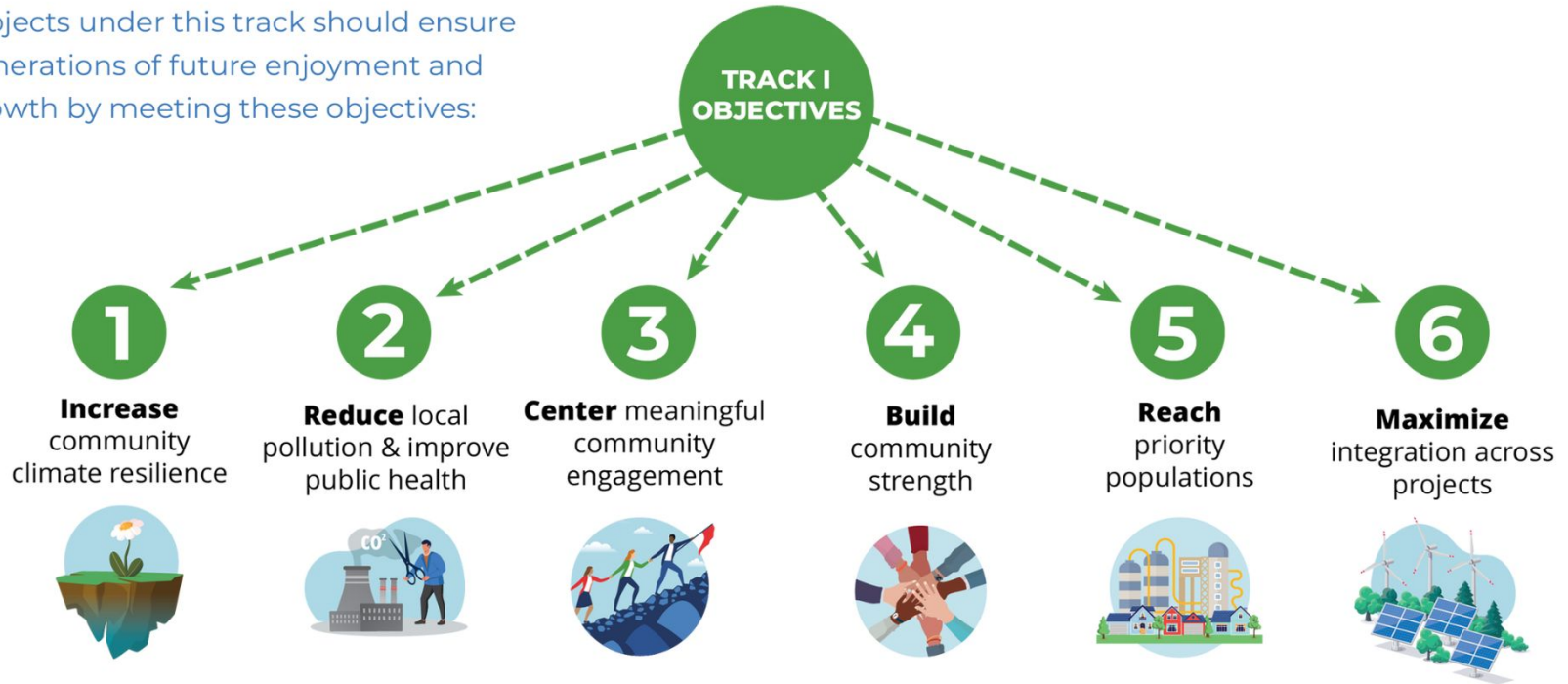


\$50M
U.S. Territories

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 Objectives

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



Note: Projects must be place-based and include a Project Area Map. They are not intended to be regional or state-wide projects, as described in Appendix A.

Track I – Community-Driven Investments for Change Application Requirements

Track I applications must address the following six requirements:

- 1. Climate Action Strategy**
 - a. Applications must include at least one project aligned with at least one of the Climate Action Strategies identified in NOFO
- 2. Pollution Reduction Strategy**
 - a. Applications must include at least one project aligned with at least one of the Pollution Reduction Strategies identified in NOFO
3. Community engagement and collaborative governance plan
4. Community strength plan
5. Readiness approach
6. Compliance plan

Track II – Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

- Track II applications should focus on breaking down systemic barriers to community participation in government processes impacting environmental and climate justice.
- Capacity building
- Help close equity gaps

Project Examples

The following slides include project examples for:

- Track I Climate Action Strategies
- Track I Pollution Reduction Strategies
- Track II project examples

Appendix A: Track I Climate *Action Strategy* project examples

Strategy 1: Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions

Examples:

- Building climate resilience and carbon sequestration through tree planting
- Multi-benefit stormwater projects
- Public parks and open spaces

Strategy 2: Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience

Examples:

- Construct new or enhanced bikeways, walkways, or non-motorized urban trails.
- Implement “[Complete Streets](#)” projects to improve walkability, bike-ability, and transit use, including improved access for people with disabilities.
- Implement climate resilience measures on bike/trailways.
- Conduct work necessary to submit a competitive application for state/federal funding for large-scale improvements.
- Purchase, lease, or contract for the use of zero-emission vehicles for community car sharing.
- Purchase, construct, and / or install infrastructure, equipment, or facilities to create and / or support low or zero-emission transportation options.

Appendix A: Track I Climate *Action Strategy* project examples continued

Strategy 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings

Examples:

- Install energy efficiency measures (e.g., insulation, double/triple glazed windows, “cool roof”, etc.) and energy management systems in public buildings.
- Install ventilation systems to help improve indoor air quality during pollution-related events.
- Install/ retrofit homes/ multi-family housing with higher-efficiency electric heating/ cooling/ cooking systems.
- Reduce heat island effects by installing cool roofs on homes, multi-family housing, or public buildings.
- Implement other similar projects qualified under HUD’s Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP).

Strategy 4: Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience

Examples:

- Construct microgrid infrastructure.
- Install microgrids with onsite renewable energy generation and storage.
- Install ancillary energy infrastructure necessary to support microgrids.
- Install other energy infrastructure for microgrid operations.

Appendix A: Track I Climate *Action Strategy* project examples continued

Strategy 5: Community Resilience Hubs

Examples:

- Design a plan to mitigate specific risks by creating or upgrading community facilities to serve as resilience hubs that remain operable during an emergency.
- Purchase and install backup power equipment.
- Implement structural and non-structural retrofits to enhance the resilience of the hub.
- Implement wildfire mitigation measures.
- Purchase and install communications devices that can operate even with loss of local power and telecommunications systems.

Appendix A: Track I Climate *Action Strategy* project examples continued

Strategy 6: Brownfields Redevelopment

Examples:

- Build/ upgrade existing structures and sites to improve community use while reducing GHG emissions and / or improving climate resilience.
- Implement greening efforts that mitigate GHG emissions and / or improve climate resilience.
- Install low or zero emission energy infrastructure (solar).
- Conduct deconstruction and green demolition activities to support adaptive reuse or new construction.
- Acquire land to enable a brownfield redevelopment that has emissions mitigation and / or climate resilience benefits.

Strategy 7: Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy

Examples:

- Implement a community-scale composting program that includes an educational campaign.
- Implement a community-scale recycling program.
- Reduce emissions from food waste by implementing programs that distribute unused food to project area residents.

Appendix A: Track I Climate *Action Strategy* project examples continued

Strategy 8: Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce GHG Emissions and Air Pollutants

Examples of career pathways that may be part of a workforce development program include but are not limited to:

- electricians, steamfitters, pipefitters, laborers, and other skilled trades occupations that support building electrification, renewable energy projects, and other similar activities;
- occupations related to the manufacturing of low- and zero-emission technologies;
- careers in low- and zero-emissions transportation such as vehicle mechanics supporting electric vehicle technologies;
- community health and outreach workers that assist households in reducing their emissions and addressing sources of pollution;
- and other careers related to emissions reduction, such as methane mitigation or agricultural carbon mitigation.

Appendix B: Track I Pollution *Reduction Strategy* project examples

Strategy 1: Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements

Example:

- Remediate/ mitigate harmful substances in buildings
- Install/ upgrade/ replace HVAC and/ or filtration systems
- Equip community centers and community buildings in agricultural worker communities with decontamination stations (e.g., publicly available shower and laundry stations) to eliminate take-home pesticide exposures
- Purchase equipment that can enable “do-it-yourself” upgrades using research-based methods, to distribute within communities impacted by smoke
- Replace wood heaters that do not meet EPA’s New Source Performance Standards
- Education on air toxins, how to monitor them, direct assessment and remediation to reduce air pollution

Appendix B: Track I Pollution *Reduction Strategy* project examples continued

Strategy 2: Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements

Examples:

- Reduce exposure from mobile and stationary sources by:
 - developing or expanding vegetative barriers.
 - creating alternate truck route programs to decrease impacts to sensitive communities.
 - providing grants/ rebates/ subsidies to replace portable diesel equipment such as lawn mowers with zero-emission alternatives.
- Create clean air zones/ low-emission zones such as:
 - Electrifying local government-owned fleets providing services to communities
 - Implementing urban designs that promote air flow and reduce the concentration of pollution
- Implement sustainable construction practices such as minimizing dust and emissions
- Replace toxic play surfaces that emit harmful pollutants
- Develop other policies that promote reductions in air pollution from transportation such as land use and zoning policies

Appendix B: Track I Pollution *Reduction Strategy* project examples continued

Strategy 3: Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience

Examples:

- Perform targeted infrastructure upgrades such as:
 - Replacing private-side lead lines during full lead service line replacement
 - Septic to sewer conversions that connect homes to nearby community water systems
 - Installing water fountains at schools/ parks
- Prepare & apply for state or federal water infrastructure funding to address community needs (e.g., leak detection and pipe replacement plan, a PFAS action plan, or other water upgrades that reduce pollution) by:
 - Assessing the problem through water monitoring
 - Developing a plan (e.g., design and engineering work)
 - Preparing an application for federal funding to one of several sources
- Provide emergency interventions such as:
 - Providing recurring point-of-use filters while communities await lead service line replacement.
 - Providing alternate water supplies for communities and buildings that have contaminated water in communities with contaminated water systems.
 - Adopting facility procedures or system upgrades that allow for service flexibilities, mobility, and continuity in the event of an emergency due to climate-related disaster events.

Appendix B: Track I Pollution *Reduction Strategy* project examples continued

Strategy 4: Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Example:

- Purchase equipment for hazardous waste sampling to determine classification.
- Collect, process, recycle, or otherwise dispose of household hazardous waste and electronics programs and infrastructure.
- Conduct compliance oversight for the collection, processing, recycling, storage and disposition of household hazardous waste and electronics.
- Develop or expand hazardous waste collection, recycling, and safe recycling programs and infrastructure.
- Develop or expand safe disposal technologies for hazardous waste.
- Reduce demand for single-use plastic products (by installing public water bottle refill stations and water fountains or implementing community and city-scale water reuse and refill systems), and phasing out single-use products that may be unnecessary.

Appendix C: Track II Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance examples

Example 1. Educational and Training Programs

- Leadership development program that trains community members to identify, strategize, and recommend actions on climate justice challenges to governmental authorities.
- Training program for communities to effectively participate in advisory boards or other bodies that involve community members in climate related policy making.
- Partnering with a government to develop and / or implement Equity Action Plans.

Example 2. Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)

Facilitating the engagement and involvement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes in matters such as:

- Permitting decisions for factories or industrial sites.
- Community infrastructure upgrades to address pollution.
- Zoning and siting guidance for fence-line / frontline communities such as highway construction.
- Issues and actions of municipal and public utilities related to workforce development, aging wastewater treatment infrastructure, etc. in / near disadvantaged communities.

Appendix C: Track II Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance examples continued

Example 3. Collaborative Governance Activities

Facilitating the engagement and involvement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes in matters such as:

- Participating in the development of one or more community benefits agreements.
- Creating a governance body or “development community” for a brownfields post-cleanup redevelopment project.
- Creating a source water protection plan.
- Recommending organizational changes to government entities.

Example 4. Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes

- Designing a program where the community identifies problems, evaluates proposals, and recommends decisions for public funding of projects that implicate environmental and climate justice issues.

If you are ready to
start working on
your CCG, reach out
to us!



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intake form



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