

Environment and Energy Committee Meeting Invitation
Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTACs)
and U.S. EPA Community Change Grants
June 18, 2024, 9:30-11 a.m.

EJ TCTACs

There are 16 U.S. EPA [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers \(EJ TCTACs\)](#) across the country that will receive millions to help underserved and overburdened communities with energy and environmental projects. These TCTACs will provide training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, developing strong grant proposals, budgeting, effectively managing grant funding, and reporting to the U.S. EPA.

At this Environment Committee meeting, you can learn about how the EJ TCTACs can help your community as you navigate the [numerous grant opportunities](#) that are open right now.

The two TCTACs in our EPA Region 5 include:

- [Blacks in Green \(BIG\)](#), a nonprofit organization that focuses on environmental justice (EJ) and economic development, and partners, including the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health and the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Minnesota and many partners, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – This Center is called the [Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center \(TCTAC\)](#).

As a reminder, at least 180 communities in our region have Census tracts identified as disadvantaged communities that can be prioritized for financial and technical assistance under the White House's Justice 40 Initiative. Do you know if your community is one of them? Go to the EPA's [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#) to find out or view our reference list of [LIDAC communities here](#) (PDF version from our PCAP – Excel version also available [online](#)). We will mention the various tools to determine EJ or LIDAC status that may be required for certain grants.

Community Change Grants

Speakers will discuss [Community Change Grants](#), which are offered by the U.S. EPA to empower historically disadvantaged communities to address the challenges of climate change, increase resiliency, and transform lives.

There are two tracks for the grants:

1. Track I - Community-driven investments for change – There will be approximately 150 awards of \$10 to \$20 million each.
2. Track II – Meaningful engagement for equitable governance – There will be approximately 20 awards of \$1 to \$3 million each.

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis through Nov. 21, 2024, but early applications may be more competitive. At this meeting, we will discuss and brainstorm ideas for a competitive, aggregated application that includes many communities and partner organizations.