

Empowering Indigenous Communities through Environmental & Climate Justice Grants

An Introduction to Community Change Grant Opportunities

ENDYNA



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Introduction



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EPA received \$3 billion through the Inflation Reduction Act to fund environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities.

- \$2.8 billion for grants including \$2 billion for the Community Change Grants Program
- \$200 million for technical assistance related to the grants
- Grants cannot exceed three years (no extensions)
- Applications are due November 21, 2024
- All grants must be awarded by September 30, 2026



Program Purpose



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The Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (Community Change Grants) aims to:

- Transform disadvantaged communities into healthy, climate-resilient, and thriving communities, and
- Fund community-driven projects that address climate challenges, reduce pollution, and strengthen communities through thoughtful implementation.

Community Change Grant Program Goals



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Reduce and Prevent Pollution:

- Implement projects to monitor, prevent, and remediate air and other types of pollution
- Invest in resilient technologies and related infrastructure

Build Climate Resilience:

- Enhance community resilience through climate action activities
- Implement comprehensive climate strategies to better prepare for and mitigate climate risks



Goals (cont.)



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Enhance Meaningful Engagement:

- Empower communities to participate in government decision-making processes
- Foster strong collaborations with cross-sector partners committed to environmental and climate justice

Expand Economic Opportunities:

- Create high-quality jobs and workforce development opportunities
- Ensure investments benefit local residents both immediately and sustainably



Goals (cont.)



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Bolster Community Strength:

- Strengthen the capacity of communities to drive meaningful positive change
- Ensure that local residents receive and can build upon the benefits of investments for future generations



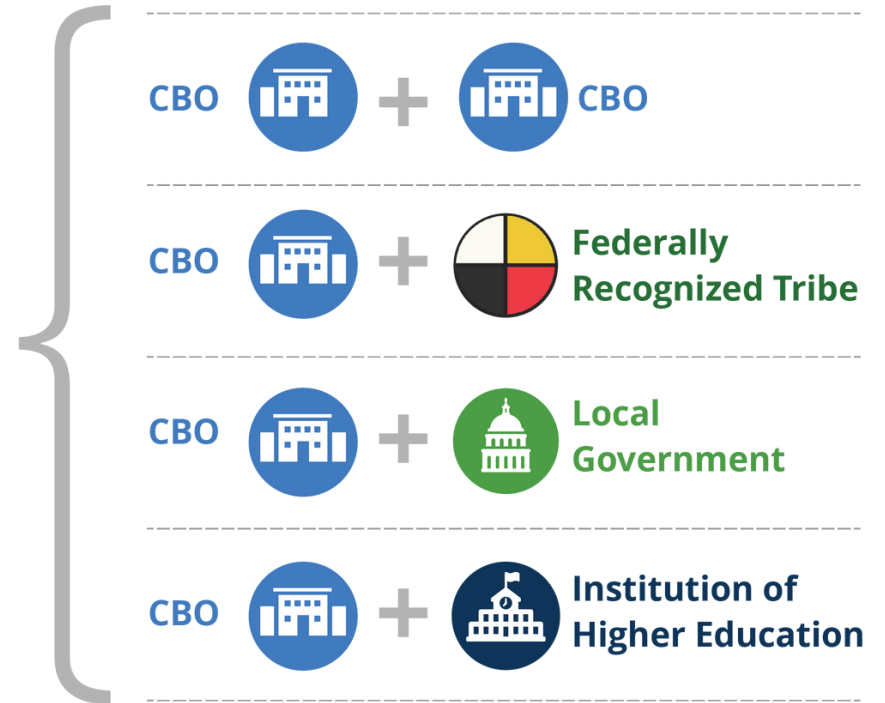
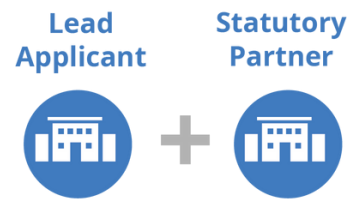
Statutory Partnership



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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 of NOFO](#)).



Note: While the CBO does not have to be the “lead applicant,” all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.

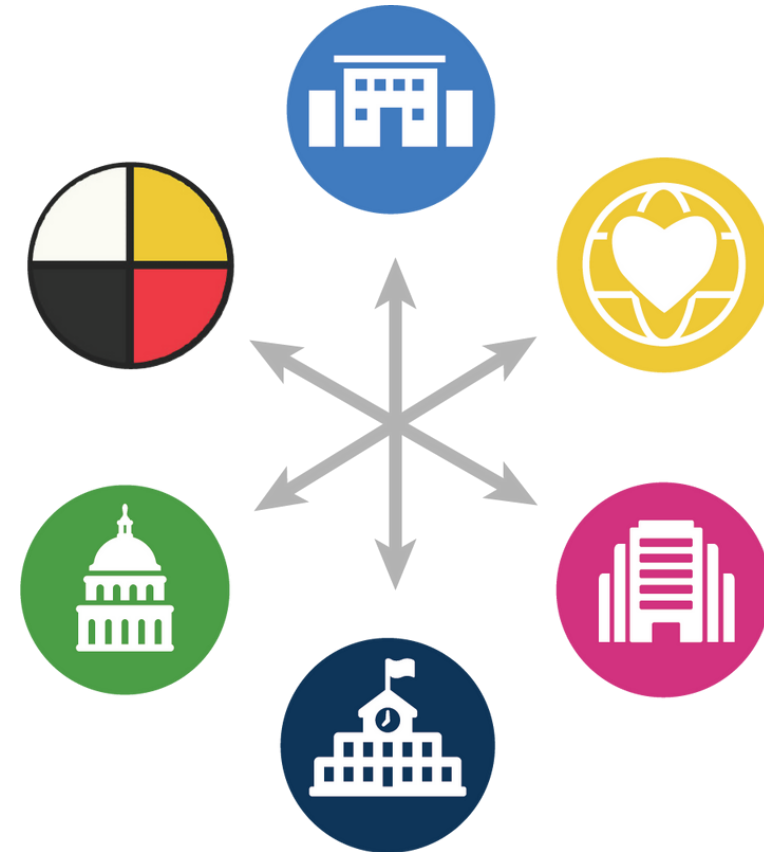
Collaborating Entities



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Other entities can be involved in projects as collaborating entities.

Collaborating entities may include those 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).





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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 (cannot exceed \$3M)



Track I Opportunities



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- Focus on Community-Driven Investments for Change
- Approximately \$1.96 billion available
- Individual awards between \$10-20 million
- Maximum award: \$20 million

Focus on:

Requirement 1 - Climate Action Strategies

Requirement 2 - Pollution Reduction Strategies



Types of Projects Funded Under Track I



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- Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions
- Mobility and Transportation Options
- Energy-Efficient, Healthy, and Resilient Housing and Buildings
- Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience
- Community Resilience Hubs
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Waste Reduction and Management
- Workforce Development Programs



Track II Opportunities



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- Focus on Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance
- Approximately \$40 million available
- Individual awards between \$1-3 million
- Maximum award: \$3 million
- EPA will award ~ 20 recipients





Track II - The Big Picture

- Track II grants:
- Enhance the ability of communities to partake in government decision-making processes, particularly around climate and environmental justice concerns
- Build capacity of communities and governments to work together to address environmental and climate injustices
- Capacity to collaborate with Federal, Tribal, State, and Local governments to give communities a meaningful voice in decisions that impact them

NOFO Section 1H

Types of Projects Funded Under Track II



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- Educational and Training Programs
- Environmental Advisory Boards
- Collaborative Governance Activities
- Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes
- Equity Action Plans



Target Investment Areas within Track I



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\$50M
**Disadvantaged
Unincorporated
Communities**



\$150M
**Tribes in
Alaska**



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



\$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

Target Investment Areas (TIAs)



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Purpose of Target Investment Areas (TIAs):

- **Ensure Fair Competition:** Communities with similar challenges compete against each other.
- **Tailored Solutions:** Projects address unique environmental and climate challenges specific to each area.
- **Focused Resource Allocation:** Directs funding to areas with specific needs for maximum impact.
- **Enhanced Relevance:** Ensures projects are meaningful and beneficial to local communities.
- **Strengthen Community Efforts:** Encourages local partnerships and collaborative efforts.
- **Address Unique Needs:** Recognizes geographic, cultural, and social characteristics, especially in tribal and indigenous communities.

Target Investment Areas (TIAs)



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Examples:

- **Urban Areas:** Reduce urban heat islands, improve air quality
- **Rural Areas:** Enhance climate resilience, sustainable agriculture
- **Coastal Areas:** Mitigate sea-level rise, storm impacts
- **Tribal Areas:** Address tribal environmental and cultural needs
- **ANCSA Lands:** Redevelop historically contaminated lands

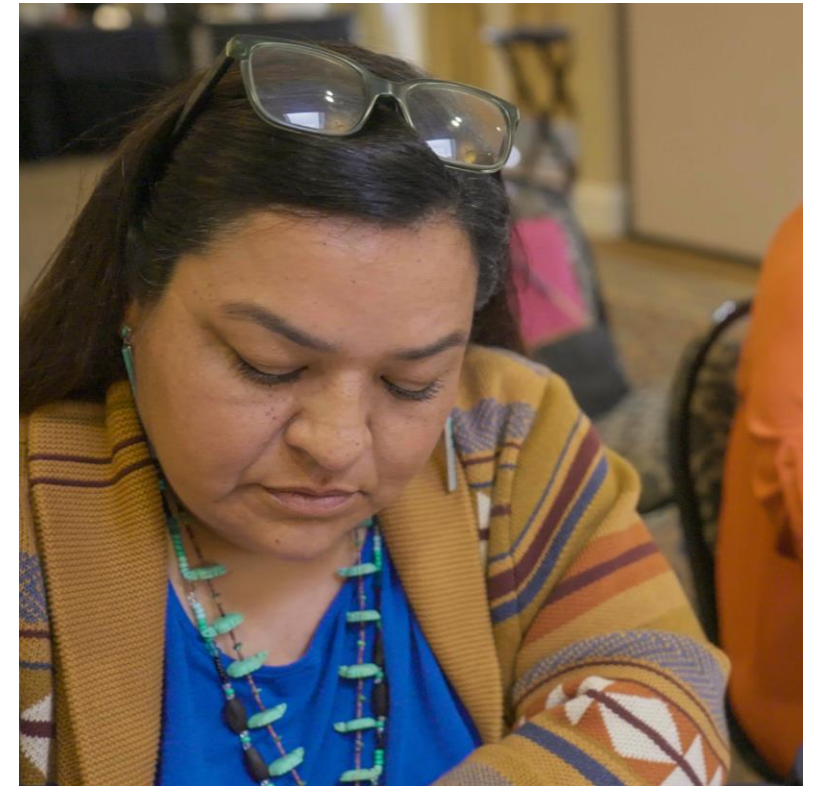
Detailed descriptions and maps of TIAs are found in the appendices of the NOFO document. Review Appendix A for an overview and Appendix H for guidance on specific areas like ANCSA lands.

Free Technical Assistance Offered



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- Free support for project design, application preparation, and partnership facilitation
- Post-award assistance for grant management, project implementation, and performance measurement
- Specialized support in climate resilience, pollution reduction, and community engagement



Purpose

- Free technical assistance is available for:
 - pre-award support including but not limited to designing a project, preparing an application, grants.gov support, or facilitating partnerships, and
 - post-award support to help grant recipients manage, oversee, perform, and report on the grants
- TA **does not** include writing an application for an applicant
- Receiving Technical Assistance does not guarantee that applicants will be selected for funding



Request for Technical Assistance

- Contact Information
- Type of Organization
- Intent to apply
- Location of Community
- Project benefits for Disadvantaged Community
- Type of Project
- Type of TA needed

Questions about how to make a TA Request:

1(800)540-8123

Email: EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov



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REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Community Change Grants Technical Assistance Request Form

OMB Control No: 2030-0051
Expiration Date: 04/30/2024

This form is to express interest in receiving technical assistance (TA) for the EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Program's [Community Change Grants](#).

To request TA for preparing a Community Change Grant application, please fill out this form or call 1 (800) 540-8123 if you have any questions or need help in filling out the form.

Receiving TA does not guarantee that you will receive funding under any EPA program or other program. If you have any questions or concerns about this form, please contact: EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov.

Name*

First

Last

E-mail*

Phone Number*

Preferred Method of Contact (phone or email)*

www.communitychangeta.org/request-technical-assistance

Application Process



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- Review eligibility and requirements
- Prepare your application: Project narrative, budget justification, community engagement plan, technical documentation
- Submit through Grants.gov
- Rolling submission until November 21, 2024
- Review and evaluation process
- Award notification and project initiation



Important Dates and Deadlines



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- NOFO Opening Date: November 21, 2023
- Application Closing Date: November 21, 2024
- Initial Award Selections: April 2024
- Start of Performance Period: June 2024
- **Funds must be spent in 3 years after award**



Benefits for Tribal Communities



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- Address specific environmental and climate justice challenges
- Strengthen community resilience and health
- Enhance economic opportunities and workforce development
- Foster meaningful engagement in government processes

For more information see:

<http://epa.gov/community-change-grants>

<https://communitychangeta.org/>

E-mail us at CCGP@epa.gov





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Discussion

