

Community Change Grants Program

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

November 29, 2023

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| <u>Agency:</u> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | <u>Bureau:</u> Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) |
| <u>Application Deadline:</u> November 21, 2024 | <u>Max Award:</u> Track 1: \$20 million; Track 2: \$3 million |

Description

The Community Change Grants will support comprehensive community and place-based approaches to redressing environmental and climate injustices for communities facing legacy pollution, climate change, and persistent disinvestment. These concentrated local investments will fund community-driven, changemaking projects that center collaborative efforts for healthier, safer, and more prosperous communities.

Eligible Recipients

Eligible applicants for the Community Change Grants include a partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs), or a partnership between a CBO and one of the following: a Federally recognized Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education (IHE), including Minority Serving Institutions. Other organizations and entities may participate in the Community Change Grants as Collaborating Entities through subawards, or as contractors selected in accordance with competitive procurement requirements.

Lead Applicants may submit a maximum of two applications and may receive up to two awards, if they demonstrate the capacity and capabilities to effectively perform, manage, oversee, and complete the awards within the three-year grant period of performance. The two applications may be two Track I applications, two Track II applications, or one of each.

Eligible Projects

Track I applications – Community-Driven Investments for Change will focus on multifaceted applications with Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies to meaningfully improve the environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities. Awards under Track I are expected to be \$10-20 million each and cannot exceed \$20 million. EPA expects to award approximately \$1.96 billion for approximately 150 Track I awards. The Track I objectives include:

- Increase community resilience through climate action activities

- Reduce local pollution to improve public health
- Center meaningful community engagement
- Build community strength
- Reach priority populations
- Maximize integration across projects

Track II applications – Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance will facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice. Awards under Track II are expected to be \$1-3 million each and cannot exceed \$3 million. EPA will award approximately \$40 million for approximately 20 Track II awards. EPA has provided several example projects for Track II:

- Educational and Training Programs
- Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)
- Collaborative Governance Activities
- Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes

EPA has also dedicated \$200 million to provide technical assistance to prepare grant applications. To request technical assistance, complete the [request form](#).

Matching Grant Requirements

None required

New or Existing Program

New

Tips for Being Competitive

Competitive applications will demonstrate that the proposed project advances the objectives of the Community Change Grants:

- Provide resources for community-driven projects to address environmental and climate challenges in communities facing disproportionate and adverse health, pollution, and environmental impacts, and suffering from generations of disinvestment.
- Invest in strong cross-sectoral collaborations with partners who bring a robust commitment to working with and for communities with environmental and climate justice concerns.
- Unlock access to additional and more significant resources to advance environmental and climate justice goals from across the federal government and other sources.
- Empower communities and strengthen their capacity to drive meaningful positive change on the ground for years to come.
- Strengthen community participation in government decision-making processes that impact them.

In addition, EPA will review and expeditiously select high-quality applications to deliver results and benefits to disadvantaged communities.

Labor Requirements Jobs funded under this program should be high-quality jobs, in alignment with the U.S. Department of Labor and Commerce’s Good Jobs Principles. In addition, projects must comply with the Davis-Bacon Act, which sets labor standards, including prevailing wages and fringe benefits.

Partnership Requirements To be eligible for this grant, applicants must either be (1) a partnership between two community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) as defined below, or (2) a partnership between a CBO and one of the following: a federally recognized Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education.

Agency Contact CCGP@epa.gov

Upcoming Events

- [Register](#) for the NOFO webinar on December 7, 2023 at 2:00 - 4:00pm ET

EPA plans to host multiple webinars. To receive notifications about upcoming webinars, send a blank email to join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov.

Total Allocation \$2 billion

Anticipated Award Date Initial awards will be made in May/June 2024.

How to Apply

- Register with SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity ID (UEI).
- Register with Grants.gov.
- Submit your application to [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59pm ET on November 21, 2024. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis before the final deadline.

Resources

- [Program Page - EPA](#)
- [Technical Assistance Page - EPA](#)
- [Grant Opportunity - Grants.gov](#)