

# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program (EJCPS)

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

January 13, 2023

<u>Agency:</u> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<u>Bureau:</u> N/A
<u>Application Deadline:</u> April 10, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> \$500,000

## Description

The EJCPS Cooperative Agreement Program provides financial assistance to community-based organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues. The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders to develop solutions to environmental or public health issue(s) at the community level.

## Eligible Recipients

- A community-based nonprofit organization (CBO)
- A partnership of community-based nonprofit organization

Under this grant program, a community-based nonprofit organization (CBO) is defined as a “public or private nonprofit organization that supports and/or represents a community and/or certain populations within a community through engagement, education, and other related services provided to individual community residents and community stakeholders.”

Financial partnerships can include a subaward agreement between the direct recipient of EPA funds (a qualifying CBO) and organizations from the following stakeholder groups:

- Other local community-based non-profit organizations
- Local, regional, and national environmental non-profit organizations
- State, local, and tribal governments
- Federal government agencies
- Health care providers
- Faith-based organizations and local houses of worship
- Philanthropic organizations
- Civic organizations
- Local economic and/or community development corporations/organizations
- State, local and tribal government agencies

## Matching Grant Requirements

None required

## Eligible Projects

The EJPCS Program has funded a wide range of projects and project types that address local environmental and public health concerns through collaborative partnerships. All proposed projects should include activities designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to understand the local environmental and public health issues and to identify ways to address these issues at the local level. Types of projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Air quality & asthma
  - Water quality and sampling
  - Food access to reduce vehicle travel and fuel emissions
  - Stormwater issues and green infrastructure
  - Lead contamination
  - Pesticides and other toxic substances
  - Healthy homes
  - Illegal dumping
  - Emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency
  - Environmental job training
  - Youth development relating to Environmental Justice
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## New or Existing Program

Existing

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## Tips for Being Competitive

EPA will give special considerations to applications that address one or more of the following program priorities:

- Projects addressing Climate Change, Disaster Resiliency, and/or Emergency Preparedness
  - Projects in rural areas, which are defined as:
    - Local areas with populations of 50,000 or less that have limited access to public or private resources commonly found in metropolitan areas
    - Community Network areas selected by the Rural Partners Network
    - Coal and Energy Communities
  - Health Impact Assessment (HIA) projects that seek to determine the potential effects of a proposed environmental decision
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## Labor Requirements

The EPA also encourages project labor agreements; the use of an appropriately trained workforce; the use of an appropriately credentialed workforce; and neutrality with respect to union organizing.

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## Examples of Prior Award Recipients

In 2021, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy received a Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant for a “Building Healthy and Resilient Cleveland Neighborhoods through Vacant Land Reuse” project. The purpose of this environmental justice cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Western Reserve Land Conservancy to build upon previous investments in vacant land planning to establish an environmental justice framework for vacant land reuse and management in the City of Cleveland, Ohio. There are over 30,000 vacant lots in the city, many of which experience illegal dumping and pose a legitimate health and safety threat to residents. Vacant land reuse that improves air and water quality, reduces illegal dumping of hazardous material, and

increases access to greenspace will help create communities that are more resilient to climate change and airborne pandemics such as COVID-19. Project activities include engaging major stakeholders in vacant land management to synthesize existing plans and priorities; building a framework for vacant land reuse that establishes metrics for determining the highest and best use of a vacant lot and clear; development of data-driven policies for implementation; and development of a collaboratively-built, open source database and planning tool to guide vacant land reuse projects and management strategies for the advancement of environmental justice, public health, and quality of life. Expected outcomes of the project are adoption of vacant land management strategies, greater sense of resident ownership, improved aesthetics and safety on vacant land, reduction of illegal dumping, and an increase in air quality. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of underserved communities in Cleveland, OH. Partners will participate in the development of the environmental justice framework and metrics and provide staff for planning and coordination.

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**Upcoming Webinars** [EJCPS Live Webinar](#): January 24, 2023 at 2:00-3:30pm ET

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**Types of Partners Required** The main focus of this funding opportunity is collaborative problem-solving, which involves the establishment and/or maintenance of partnerships between and among other stakeholders and the underserved community to address the community's local environmental and/or public health issues.

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**Total Allocation** \$30 million

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**Anticipated Award Date** Applicants should plan for an estimated project period start date of October 1, 2023.

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**Links to Grant Opportunity**

- [Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov](#)
- [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program Page](#)