

Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge

PCFO IGAP Prize Snapshot

December 29, 2023

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Bureau: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
Application Deadline: Phase 1 deadline is January 30, 2024	Max Award: Varies by Phase

Description

Through the Environmental Justice Community Innovator, HHS aims to develop innovative and effective community strategies to address health disparities in communities and Tribes disproportionately burdened by environmental and climate change-related hazards.

Prize Structure and Timeline

This is a two-phase prize competition.

- **Phase 1:** Submissions are due on January 30, 2024. Up to 12 submissions may be selected for Phase 1, receiving a prize of up to \$25,000.
- **Phase 2:** The application period will open on February 28, 2024. In Phase 2, up to 10 submissions may be selected to receive a minimum prize of \$70,000.

Eligible Recipients

An individual, group of individuals, or entities are eligible to win a prize under this Challenge. Private entities must be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States. Individuals must be citizens or permanent residents of the US.

Matching Grant Requirements

None required

Eligible Projects

This Challenge seeks to develop community-driven strategies to advance health equity and address environmental hazards. This Challenge will provide support to community-based and Tribal organizations in the areas of:

- Development or implementation of innovative and effective community-driven strategies to address health disparities in communities that are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards including those related to climate change, and the cumulative impacts of environmental and other stressors.

- Application of publicly available data tools (i.e., Environmental Justice Index, Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, Environmental Justice Screen) to identify signals or patterns of inequity in the distribution of environmental and climate change-related hazards, support measures of community resilience and research around the effectiveness of exposure mitigation efforts on human health.
- Effective partnerships between community-based or Tribal organizations and other civil organizations, such as faith-based, healthcare and public health and educational organizations, to address environmental and climate change-related hazards and support community resilience.
- Innovative approaches to building capacity in community-based or Tribal organizations on project planning, needs assessment, budgeting, engagement with community members, and grant application writing, to address environmental and climate change-related hazards as drivers of health disparities.
- Novel approaches to addressing the mental health impacts of environmental and climate change-related hazards and other cumulative stressors, especially among children and youth.

Phase 1: Design of Concept (Idea) or Development of Approach (Pilot Project)

Submissions during Phase 1 may take one of two structures: 1) design of an innovative concept (idea) to enhance community-driven efforts to mitigate environmental health disparities and advance environmental health equity within a specific population; or 2) development of an effective approach (pilot project) to support a previously developed innovative concept.

Phase 2: Small-Scale Testing or Implementation

Participants selected to receive a Phase 1 prize may enter Phase 2 to test the dissemination and uptake of their approaches at a small scale/community level. Additionally, separate participant entries (not submitted in Phase 1) of well-developed approaches for community-driven efforts to mitigate environmental health disparities and advance environmental health equity will be accepted.

Tips for Being Competitive

Projects should demonstrate a clear focus on community specific health issues, including mental health issues, and address community or Tribal interests related to environmental and climate change-related exposures and drivers of health disparities.

Agency Contact

Questions can be submitted through the [contact form](#).

Upcoming Events

HHS hosted two informational webinars on Phase 1 of the prize. Recordings can be found on the [Challenge page](#).

Total Allocation

\$1 million

**Anticipated Award
Date**

Not listed

Resources

- [Challenge Program Page](#)