

# Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

PCFO IGAP Grant Snapshot

November 18, 2022

<u>Agency:</u> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<u>Bureau:</u> N/A
<u>Application Deadline:</u> January 16, 2023	<u>Max Award:</u> \$2 million

## Description

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA has \$75 million to fund a new Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program from 2022-2026. Education and outreach activities under this program include programs that prevent or reduce waste by reducing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, remanufacturing, recycling, composting, or using anaerobic digester systems to treat these types of materials or to reduce related contamination.

Applicants may submit an informal Notice of Intent to Apply by December 15, 2022 to [RecyclingED@epa.gov](mailto:RecyclingED@epa.gov). This is not a required step; however, submission of a Notice will help EPA staff with process management.

## Eligible Recipients

- U.S. States, including Washington, D.C.
- Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
- Local governments
- Federally recognized tribal governments
- Native Hawaiian organizations, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Nonprofit organizations
- Public-private partnerships

## Matching Grant Requirements

None

## Eligible Projects

The EPA is looking to fund projects that increase community engagement and awareness about new or existing residential or community recycling programs. All projects must encourage the collection of recycled materials that are sold to an existing or developing market, (which may also include the prevention, reduction, or diversion of waste and improve the reuse, repair, and remanufacture of materials before materials enter the recycling system) and must achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- Inform the public about residential or community recycling programs;
- Provide information about the recycled materials that are accepted as part of a residential or community recycling program that provides for the separate collection of residential solid waste from recycled material; and/or
- Increase collection rates and decrease contamination in residential and community recycling programs.

Applications may include (but are not limited to) projects that fund:

- public service announcements;
- door-to-door education and outreach campaigns;
- social media and digital outreach;
- an advertising campaign on recycling awareness;
- the development and dissemination of:
  - a toolkit for a municipal and commercial recycling program;
  - information on the importance of quality in the recycling stream;
  - information on the economic and environmental benefits of recycling; and
  - information on what happens to materials after the materials are placed into a residential or community recycling program;
- businesses recycling outreach;
- bin, cart, and other receptacle labeling and signs;
- community recycling ambassador education programs or training of trainer programs; and/or
- other education and outreach activities to improve waste prevention, reuse and recycling and reduce contamination, such as evaluations and evidence-based messaging and strategies associated with preventing or reducing waste and improving reuse, repair, refurbish and remanufacture of materials.

Under this Request for Applications, proposed projects can fall under two tracks:

- Track 1: Projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. EPA anticipates approximately 40% (or \$12,000,000) of the funding will be awarded to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.
- Track 2: Projects that benefit all other communities that do not meet the definition of disadvantaged communities.

In addition, 20%, or \$6,000,000, will be awarded to low income, rural, and Native American Communities. These funds may be set-aside from either Track 1 or Track 2 applicants.

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## **New or Existing Program**

New program

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## **Tips for Being Competitive**

This is a Justice40-covered program, which aims to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, clean water, and other investments to disadvantaged communities.

Potential applicants should also review the EPA's FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan and the National Recycling Strategy to identify and align with the goals and objectives. The central goals and objectives are listed below.

[EPA FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) Goals:

- Goal 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis
- Goal 2: Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights
- Goal 6: Safeguard and Revitalize Communities

[National Recycling Strategy Plan](#) Objectives:

- improve markets for recycled commodities
- increase collection and improve materials management infrastructure
- reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream
- enhance policies and programs to support circularity
- standardize measurement and increase data collection

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**Labor Requirements**

EPA 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**

N/A

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**Agency contact**

RecyclingEd@epa.gov

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**Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions**

Overview of request for application, eligible entities, evaluation criteria, application process, and answer questions (same presentations)

- Nov. 30, 2022 @ 2:00pm – 3:30pm (EST)
- Dec. 6, 2022 @ 6:00pm – 7:00pm (EST)

Review procurement, subawards, and answer questions (same presentations)

- Dec. 15, 2022 @ 2:00pm – 3:30pm (EST)
- Dec. 20, 2022 @ 6:00pm – 7:00pm (EST)

Registration for all 4 webinars can be found [here](#).

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**Types of Partners Required**

None required

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**Total Allocation**

Approximately \$300 million

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**Anticipated Award Date**

Summer/Fall 2023

## Links to Grant Opportunity

- [Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program Homepage](#)
- [Request for Applications](#)
- [Grant Opportunity on Grants.gov](#)
- [Webinar Registration](#)