

This collection of information is approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq. OMB Control Number: 2035-NEW. Responses to this collection of information are voluntary. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to be three to five hours per response. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden to Director, Information Engagement Division; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2821T); 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW; Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.

Tier 1 Fixed Amount Awards: Noncompetitive Application/Concept Note

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (EJ TCGM) for [Redacted]: [Redacted]

Introduction

The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers (Grantmakers) will work in collaboration with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights to issue subgrants to community-based nonprofit organizations and other eligible organizations representing underserved and marginalized communities. The EPA Region [Redacted] Grantmaker, called [Redacted], will provide \$40 million in grants over 3 years to communities working on environmental justice efforts. We aim to alleviate much of the burden that the federal grants process typically places on small, resource-constrained community-based organizations.

The mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment for all people with an emphasis on assisting those communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health harms and risks. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, EPA received significant investments for environmental justice and in the health, equity, and resilience of these, and all communities, to address past, current, and future environmental health and justice challenges. Additionally, the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) created the Environmental and Climate Justice block grant program in section 138 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and provided EPA with \$2.8 billion in grant funding for the program for projects to benefit disadvantaged communities. To maximize these significant investments, new and innovative strategies and approaches for issues such as community engagement and participation in environmental programs, equitable distribution of financial resources, capacity-building and outreach, and technical assistance and training to enhance access to financial assistance³ opportunities and promote effective grants management and performance, are necessary. This is especially true for underserved and disadvantaged communities that have, and continue to be, plagued by environmental pollution and health, and environmental justice, challenges.

Structure of the subgrants

Community-based nonprofit organizations and other eligible organizations with projects benefiting communities in Region **[Redacted]** seeking subgrant funding will be able to apply for subgrants through three concurrent tiers offered by the **[Redacted]**.

Tier One will consist of grants for \$150,000 for assessment, Tier Two will consist of grants for \$250,000 for planning, and Tier Three will consist of grants for \$350,000 for project development. In addition, \$75,000 will be available for capacity-constrained community-based organizations through a noncompetitive fixed amount award process under Tier One. This application is for the noncompetitive fixed amount award applicants only.

Eligibility

Hundreds of Thriving Communities subgrants will be distributed by the **[Redacted]** to support capacity building in **[Redacted]** communities affected by environmental or public health issues to eligible applicants including:

- Nonprofit organizations, community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations.
- Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia.
- Local governments.
- Institutions of higher education.
- Native American Organizations.
- Puerto Rico.
- US Territories.

Ineligible subrecipients include:

- Individuals.
- For profit businesses.
- State governments.

Eligible Subgrant Activities

Noncompetitive Fixed Award Amount Tier 1 Assessment Projects up to \$75,000 for severely capacity-constrained CBOs.

Examples:

- Research (that is incidental to the project design).
- Sampling.
- Testing.
- Monitoring.
- Investigations.
- Surveys and Studies.
- Public Education.

Application Instructions

Interested organizations should complete our pre-application screening questions that are intended to help you, the applicant, ensure that you are eligible to apply and that your project fits within this subgrant program. One note, as we are not collecting your information as part of the pre-application screening, some of these questions will be asked again during the actual application. If you have any questions about your eligibility, please reach out to [Redacted]. The pre-application screening can be found here (link).

Once the pre-application is completed and you have determined your eligibility, you can complete the Tier 1-3 competitive application here (insert link to Alchemer interface) or the Tier 1 non-competitive concept note here (insert link to Alchemer interface). A pdf and document preview of the application questions can be found in the applicant toolkit (insert link to toolkit here). Applications can be saved and returned to at a later time. For any application questions, you can reach out to [Redacted] or [Redacted].