



U.S. EPA REGION 7

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION DIGEST

April 2021

## Welcome to the latest EPA Region 7 Digest!

EPA Region 7's Community Information Digest provides communities with the latest news about funding and technical assistance opportunities, webinars, conferences, and other activities related to human health and the environment.

The Community Information Digest comes from the Communities Section located in EPA Region 7's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Regional Administrator's Office. This small but mighty group leads Environmental Justice, Environmental Education, and Children's Environmental Health activities for the region.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

1. The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
2. Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work.

Still have questions? [Contact your Regional Staff.](#)

*An \* indicates a new item*

*Please Note: Headings are linked to more detailed source information.*



[Factsheet on the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice](#)



### Jump to a Section:

- [Headlines](#)
- [Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities](#)
- [Meetings, Conferences & Events](#)
- [Webinars & Conference Calls](#)



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## Headlines



### [EPA's President's Environmental Youth Award Competition](#)

**Due date has been extended to April 30, 2021**

The President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) recognizes outstanding environmental projects by K-12 youth. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement.

### [EPA's Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators Competition](#)

**Due date has been extended to April 30, 2021**

The Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning for their students. Up to two teachers from each of EPA's 10 regions, from different states, will be selected to receive this award.



### [EPA Announces Two Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Requests for Applications for EJ Small Grants and EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving \(CPS\) Cooperative Agreements](#)

**Due date: May 7, 2021 (for both RFAs)**

Small Grants: \$50K each for one year – 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.



Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants: \$160K each for two years – Proposed projects should include activities to develop solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issue(s) at the local level through collaborations and partnerships with other stakeholders.

**Areas of Emphasis:**

- COVID-19 Impacts on Underserved Communities (both)
- Climate/Disaster Resiliency (both)
- Ports Initiative Projects (Small Grants)
- Projects from Small Nonprofits (10 or fewer staff, Small Grants)
- New Applicants and Grantees (both)

**Eligible entities include:** Nonprofits, U.S. territories, Tribal governments (federally recognized and state-recognized), and Native American organizations.



**Attention All Non-Profits and Tribal Governments!**  
Apply for one of EPA's Environmental Justice (EJ) Grant Programs  
**Applications Due May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
Small Grants: \$50K each for one year  
Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants: \$160K each for two years  
**Areas Of Emphasis**  
COVID-19 Impacts on Underserved Communities (Both)  
Climate/Disaster Resiliency (Both) Ports Initiative Projects (Small Grants)  
Projects from Small Non-Profits (10 or < Staff) (Small Grants)  
New Applicants and Grantees (Both)  
For more info go to:  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-availability-6-million-annual-environmental-justice-grants>

**[EPA Announces Availability of Up to \\$6 Million in Annual Environmental Justice Grants](#)**

**[EJ Small Grants Program FY 2021 Request for Applications](#)**

**[The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program](#)**

**April is Earth Month!**

To kick off the [Earth Day 2021](#) theme of Restore Our Earth, we will start by supporting our local communities, focusing on areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental issues. Those living on the front lines of these environmental crises don't always have the resources to deal with the damage. So how can we make a difference? Participate in a local cleanup!



**[EARTHDAY.ORG and Global Partners Unite for Three Parallel Climate Summits](#)**

**Dates: April 20-21, 2021**

EARTHDAY.ORG, along with lead organizers Education International, Hip Hop Caucus, and Earth Uprising, are organizing three separate, parallel climate action summits on April 20 and 21 ahead of the Biden administration's global leaders' climate summit. The parallel summits are focused respectively on climate literacy, environmental justice, and a broad range of youth-led, climate-focused issues. Earth Week will also bring thousands of groups and millions of voices together to stand up for climate action and bring awareness to humanity's greatest existential threat. On Earth Day, EARTHDAY.ORG will bring together its partners, activists, educators, researchers, musicians, artists, influencers, and more for its second annual Earth Day Live.

**[EPA, Kansas, Missouri Announce Change in Fuel Requirements for Suppliers in KC Metro Region](#)**

EPA has announced the approval of the removal of the low Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) gasoline requirements in the Kansas City metro area, which allows for E15 fuel to be sold in the area year-round. Both the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) worked with EPA in removing these requirements.

**[EPA Seeks Public Comment on Protecting Human Health and the Environment from PBT Chemicals](#)**

**Due date: May 17, 2021**

EPA announced a 60-day public comment period to collect additional input on five final rules for persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals issued on Jan. 6, 2021, under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

**[EPA Requests Additional Input on Revised Lead and Copper Rule](#)**

**Due date: June 17, 2021**

EPA is announcing that it is extending the effective date of the Revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) so that the Agency can seek further public input, particularly from communities that are most at risk of exposure to lead in drinking water. EPA is committed to ensuring that the revised LCR protects families and communities – especially children – from lead, which can cause irreversible and lifelong health effects, including decreasing IQ, focus, and academic achievement.



## [EPA Updates EJSCREEN, Community EJ Mapping Tool](#)

EPA released an update of EJSCREEN, the Agency's publicly available, award-winning environmental justice screening and mapping tool. This update is an important refresh of the environmental and demographic data contained in EJSCREEN and enhances the tool by adding new and improved functionality. An exciting new feature of the update is the addition of climate change indicators. Users can now add flood and sea level rise data for the first time.



### [Report Environmental Violations](#)

Please contact EPA if you see what appears to be a possible violation of an environmental law or regulation. Environmental Justice Hotline: toll-free at 1-800-962-6215 or email at [EJHotline@epa.gov](mailto:EJHotline@epa.gov)  
More information, visit: [EPA Hotlines](#)

## Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities

### [Duke University Community Mini-Grants and Rapid Research Pilot Program Grants for COVID-19 Testing and Conducting Community-Engaged Research on COVID-19 Testing](#)

**Due dates for Letter of Interest: April 23, July 19, and Oct. 22, 2021**

**Due dates for Full Application: April 16, May 14, Aug. 13, and Nov. 12, 2021**

Community organizations can apply for up to \$50,000 in funds to support increased testing for COVID-19 through the RADx-UP Community Collaboration Mini-Grant Program. These funds are available to community serving organizations, faith-based organizations, community-based clinics, and tribal nations and organizations. Researchers from institutions of higher education – especially historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), tribally controlled colleges and universities (TCCUs), Hispanic-serving institutions, and other minority-serving institutions – as well as industry, state and local governments, and community-based organizations are all encouraged to apply.

### [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) - Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19](#)

**Due date: April 20, 2021**

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) and the Office of Minority Health (OMH) will offer the funding as health literacy grants to localities, who will partner with community-based organizations to reach racial and ethnic minority, rural, and other vulnerable populations. Cities, counties, parishes, or other similar subdivisions may apply for the funding.

### [FY 2021-22 EPA Region 7 Healthy, Resilient and Sustainable Materials Management Grant](#)

**Due date: May 3, 2021**

EPA is accepting applications for funding to improve community health, resilience and sustainability through sustainable materials management in EPA Region 7. Eligible entities include states; local, county, and tribal governments; interstate and intrastate government agencies and instrumentalities; public educational institutions; and nonprofit organizations that are not 501(c)(4) organizations that lobby, including nonprofit educational institutions and nonprofit hospitals and hospitals that are operated by state, tribal or local governments. Eligible projects must take place within EPA Region 7, which serves Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and nine Tribal Nations.

### [U.S. Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Announces the Availability of \\$385 Million for the Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Grant Program](#)

**Due date: TBD – updated information coming soon**

The Lead Hazard Reduction and Healthy Homes Grant programs make homes lead-safe and healthy. Specifically, these grants assist states, cities, counties/parishes, Native American Tribes, or other units of local government in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards and other housing-related health hazards in eligible privately owned rental and owner-occupied housing.

## Meetings, Conferences and Events

### [EPA Announces National Environmental Justice Advisory Council \(NEJAC\) 2021 Public Meetings](#)

**May 6 and June 17, 2021 | 11:30 a.m. CDT**

EPA has two remaining dates for the NEJAC public meetings, which are free and open to the public. Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments relevant to the specific issues being considered by the NEJAC.



## Webinars and Conference Calls

### [EPA's Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series: Redlining and the Climate Crisis](#)

**April 6, 2021 | 11 a.m. to noon CDT**

This webinar session of EPA's Environmental Justice (EJ) and Systemic Racism Speaker Series will focus on redlining and the climate crisis. Understanding structural racism and the climate crisis is key to shaping urban governance and the future of America's cities.

### **EPA's Two-Part Webinar Series: Wildfires and Air Quality**

**April 8 and 21, 2021 | 1:30 to 3 p.m. CDT**

EPA is hosting a two-part series addressing wildfires and air quality impacts. These webinars are part of the EPA's Environmental Justice (EJ) Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples – to build the capacity of tribal governments, indigenous peoples, and other EJ practitioners, and discuss priority EJ issues of interest to tribes and indigenous peoples.

[Part 1, April 8](#)

[Part 2, April 21](#)

### [EPA's Building Climate Change Resilience Virtual Trainings](#)

**April 13, 15 and 20, and May 4, 2021 | 10 a.m. to noon CDT**

EPA's Creating Resilient Water Utilities Initiative is providing free virtual training sessions on its Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) for the Southern Great Plains climate region of the country (Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and other surrounding states).



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