



May 2021

U.S. EPA REGION 7

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION DIGEST

## 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.*



### [Fact Sheet on EPA's Office of Environmental Justice](#)



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## Headlines



### [May is National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month](#)

One in 13 Americans (nearly 25 million) live with asthma, a disease affecting the lungs and causing repeated episodes of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing. Although asthma cannot be cured, you can control your asthma successfully to reduce and to prevent asthma attacks, also called episodes, with successful asthma management and an Asthma Action Plan.



### [La Agencia de Protección Ambiental tiene un nuevo sitio web en español para la seguridad del plomo en el hogar, la reducción del plomo y otros temas importantes. \(Translation: The Environmental Protection Agency has a new website in Spanish for home lead safety, lead abatement, and other important topics.\)](#)

In a step toward ensuring that Spanish-speaking communities have equal access to critical information about lead, EPA is launching a Spanish-language website to cover lead-related issues. For the first time, all of EPA's Spanish-language resources about lead are accessible in one place. Este sitio web provee información sobre la exposición

al plomo, las fuentes potenciales de plomo, y cómo proteger a su familia y a usted del plomo. (Translation: This website provides information on lead exposure, potential sources of lead, and how to protect yourself and your family from lead.) The "plomo" web area makes it easier for Spanish-speaking communities and families across the United States, including Puerto Rico, to access information about lead exposure, potential sources of lead, and how to protect themselves and their families from lead.



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### [EPA Region 7 Trash-Free Waters Challenge for Students](#)

Under the umbrella of the EPA Healthy Environments Challenge program, the Trash-Free Waters Challenge seeks to help mitigate our impact on water quality, wildlife, and human health. Educators and other youth leaders can get started by visiting the EPA Healthy Environments Challenge website to find helpful instructions on how to complete the social media challenge, and then challenge others using the hashtag #HealthyEnvironmentsChallenge and website link.



### [EPA Administrator Announces Agency Actions to Advance Environmental Justice](#)

EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan directed all EPA offices to clearly integrate environmental justice considerations into their plans and actions.

### [White House Announces Environmental Justice Advisory Council \(WHEJAC\) Members](#)

The advisory council will provide advice and recommendations to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council on how to address current and historic environmental injustices, including recommendations for updating Executive Order 12898.

### [EPA Celebrates Collaborations on Indoor Air Quality with Tribal Partners](#)

The Tribal Healthy Homes Network (THHN) aims to promote healthy tribal homes, families and communities by connecting tribes with one another and serving as a clearinghouse for technical support, program guidance, resources and funding. The THHN has an abundance of tools and training and one-to-one support available.

### [EPA's Urban Waters Program and Progress Report](#)

The Urban Waters program works with urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are under-served and economically distressed, to connect with their watersheds and work to improve them. The program is pleased to share the latest Progress Report from the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.



#### [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

### [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\) – Rural Residency Planning and Development Technical Assistance Program](#)

**Due date: May 21, 2021**

The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to provide technical assistance to HRSA's Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD) Program award recipients in order to support the creation of new rural residency programs that will expand the rural physician workforce.

### [Coming Soon: U.S. Small Business Administration – Community Navigator Pilot Program for Small Businesses and Minorities](#)

**Date: Projected release for Notice of Funding Opportunity by April 30**

This program will strengthen outreach to underserved businesses through a \$100 million investment to establish Community Programs for individuals with disabilities and/or in minority, immigrant, rural, and other underserved communities across the country.

### [U.S. Small Business Administration – Federal and State Technology \(FAST\) Partnership Program](#)

**Due date: June 3, 2021**

This program will provide funding to organizations to execute state/programs that increase the number of Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) proposals from women, socially/economically disadvantaged individuals, and small businesses in underrepresented areas, typically rural states.



## **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Building Resilience Against Climate Effects: Implementing and Evaluating Adaptation Strategies that Protect and Promote Human Health**

**Due date: June 18, 2021**

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) describes a systematic approach for applicants to identify their climate-related challenges and subsequent opportunities to facilitate social system reorganization, changes, and learning, e.g., implementing and evaluating adaptation actions (Cutter, 2008). In implementing and evaluating adaptation actions, this NOFO intends to develop health department and community resilience, advance health equity, and generate evidence for use in larger-scale and more widespread adaptation actions designed to protect health from climate-related hazards.

## **U.S. Department of Agriculture – Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grants**

**Due date: June 4, 2021**

The DLT program provides financial assistance to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas. DLT grant funds support the use of telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. These grants are intended to increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope.

## **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS)**

**Due date: June 30, 2021**

This program is focused on community-driven projects designed to grow local economies, strengthen Native American families, including the preservation of Native American cultures, and decrease the high rate of current challenges caused by the lack of community-based businesses, and social and economic infrastructure in Native American communities.

## **National Science Foundation – Racial Equity in STEM Education**

**Due date: July 13, 2021**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) seeks to support bold, groundbreaking, and potentially transformative projects addressing systemic racism in STEM. Proposals should advance racial equity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and workforce development through research (both fundamental and applied) and practice. Core to this funding opportunity is that proposals are led by, or developed and led in authentic partnership with, individuals and communities most impacted by the inequities caused by systemic racism.

## **Meetings, Conferences and Events**

### **EPA Region 7 Launches 2021 ‘See a Bloom, Give It Room: Urban Waters Edition’ Video Challenge**

**Due date: Aug. 1, 2021**

The theme for this year’s competition is urban waters located in the Kansas City, Missouri, metropolitan area. This competition is supported by EPA’s Office of Research and Development and calls for videos that promote public awareness of harmful algal blooms through creative filmmaking. EPA will select first, second, and third prize winners who will split an \$11,000 prize pool.

### **National Brownfields Conference 2021**

**Dates: Dec. 8-11, 2021 (new dates)**

The National Brownfields Training Conference is the largest event in the nation focused on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Held every two years, the conference attracts over 2,000 stakeholders in brownfields redevelopment and cleanup to share knowledge about sustainable reuse and celebrate the EPA Brownfields program’s success. This year’s conference will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

### **Tahoe Truckee Green Lodging Virtual Workshop**

**Dates: May 11 and 12, 2021 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. CDT**

The Sierra Green Business Network and the Nevada Green Business Network are hosting a two-day workshop intended for operators of small and medium size hotels and lodges, and others in the hospitality industry. The workshop will cover best practices in energy efficiency, food and waste management, customer engagement, and sustainable transportation.

### **EPA Announces White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) 2021 Virtual Public Meeting**

**Date: May 13, 2021 | noon to 4 p.m. CDT**

Registration is required. When registering, please provide your name, organization, city and state, and email address for follow-up. Please also indicate whether you would like to provide public comment during the meeting, and whether you are submitting written comments at the time of registration.

## Webinars and Conference Calls

### [EPA Webinar: RE-Powering America's Land Initiative – Interconnection: Plugging RE-Powering Sites into the Electric Grid](#)

**Date:** May 13, 2021 | noon to 1 p.m. CDT

This free webinar will describe the steps, timing, typical cost ranges, and tips for efficiently navigating the process of interconnecting RE-Powering projects to power transmission and distribution systems.

### [Health Resources and Service Administration \(HRSA\), Office of Federal Assistance Management \(OFAM\): 2021 Healthy Grants Virtual Workshop Series](#)

**Dates:** May 18, June 1, 15 & 29, July 13 & 27, and Aug. 10 & 24, 2021 | All webinars begin at noon CDT

These workshops are for current HRSA grantees only and will help you manage your grants. This series will include presentations on the most requested topics. There is no cost to attend and you can attend as many sessions as you would like. Registration is required.



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