

CO-SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

EPA Region 5 (EPA) and Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) agree to co-sponsor the Miami Valley Regional Environmental Justice Academy (MVR-EJA), according to the terms expressed below:

1. Background

Through a series of nine modules, the Environmental Justice Academy (EJ Academy) provides participants with skills to identify their environmental challenges and accomplish their communities' environmental improvement goals. The EJ Academy encourages collaborative problem solving with community-based organizations, local government, small businesses, academic institutions, and industry, to create a shared vision so that all who are a part of the community can have a voice.

The EJ Academy goals are as follows: (1) leverage human, social, intellectual, technical, legal, and financial resources to make long-term progress in communities; (2) use consensus-building processes and skills to help ensure successful collaboration and negotiations; (3) increase capacity to address communities' environmental and/or public health issues; and (4) develop a basic understanding of environmental justice and environmental regulations.

EPA has increased efforts to engage with state, local, and tribal partners by developing several initiatives that center on promoting equity in underserved and underrepresented communities. Through a series of nine modules, hosted both virtually and in-person, the MVR-EJA will cultivate skills so that participants may successfully identify their environmental challenges and accomplish their communities' environmental improvement goals.

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) has served the planning needs of the Miami Valley in Southwest Ohio since 1964. MVRPC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Montgomery, Miami, Greene Counties, plus a portion of Northern Warren County. MVRPC also provides regional and environmental planning support for members in five counties. The EJ Academy aligns with the goals of MVRPC. In October 2020, the MVRPC Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution for ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion in all MVRPC staff, committee, and Board of Director actions. MVRPC's Board has requested the MVRPC Executive Director to develop proactive policies, training programs, and other strategies that increase the understanding of racism, equity, access to opportunity, and diversity among MVRPC staff, boards, committees, and communities. MVRPC has hired a Regional Equity Initiative Manager to lead development and implementation of equity initiatives throughout the region in collaboration with MVRPC members and strategic partners.

EPA and MVRPC share a commitment to building equitable, healthy, and thriving communities. The MVR-EJA provides an opportunity to work with partners in support of this commitment.

2. Responsibilities for Developing the Event

The MVR-EJA will be organized by a Steering Committee, under MVRPC's leadership; EPA will participate as a member. The MVR-EJA will initially be hosted virtually. EPA and MVRPC will amend this co-sponsorship if and when public health conditions permit large in-person gatherings.

Steering Committee Members will decide the format, timing, and duration of the MVR-EJA, taking into account the COVID pandemic and other situational factors.

MVRPC, EPA, and Steering Committee member organizations will share in the facilitation, management, and implementation of the MVR-EJA. The Steering Committee will identify appropriate academic institution partner(s). EPA will provide technical assistance and oversight of the MVR-EJA, train-the-trainer sessions, and academy materials including templates, logistical information, and standard operating procedures, as already developed by and in consultation with EPA Region 4. EPA will assist with identifying presenters and reviewing homework.

3. Registration Fees and Other Charges

There is a \$250.00 registration fee for each participant to attend the EJ Academy.

MVRPC is responsible for collecting registration fees, as well as for fees associated with the cost of refreshments, dinner and continental breakfast, and will ensure that all food costs are within the budget of fees collected for this event. Any shortfalls arising from the collection of registration fees, and costs for food and beverages will be borne solely by MVRPC without recourse to EPA.

EPA employees will be allowed free attendance to the EJ Academy.

MVRPC does not intend to sell any materials that pertain to the event.

4. Independently Sponsored Portions of event

Neither EPA nor MVRPC intend to sponsor any discrete portion of the event independently.

5. Fundraising

MVRPC will make clear, in any solicitation for funds to cover its share of the award event costs, that MVRPC, not EPA, is asking for the funds. EPA does not engage in or encourage any private fundraising. MVRPC will not imply that EPA endorses any fundraising activities in connection with the events. MVRPC will make clear to donors that any gift will go solely toward defraying the expenses of MVRPC, not EPA's.

6. Promotional activity

MVRPC will not use the MVR-EJA involving EPA nor its affiliation with EPA primarily as a vehicle to sell or promote products or services. MVRPC will take reasonable steps to ensure that any incidental promotional activity does not imply that EPA endorses any products or services. EPA does not endorse any commercial product, service or enterprise. MVRPC will make reasonable efforts, subject to EPA review, to segregate any incidental promotional activity from the main activities of the award events.

7. Award Event(s) Publicity and Endorsements

MVRPC will not use the name of EPA or any of its components, except in factual publicity for the specific award event, to imply any endorsement of its activities or events. Factual publicity includes

dates, times, locations, purposes, agendas, fees, and speakers involved with the event. Such factual publicity shall not imply that the involvement of EPA in the event serves as an endorsement of the general policies, activities, or products of MVRPC; all publicity should be accompanied by a disclaimer to the effect that no endorsement by EPA is intended or implied.

8. Records

Records concerning the event shall account fully and accurately for the financial commitments, contractual obligations, and expenditures of EPA and MVRPC. Such records shall reflect, at a minimum, the amounts, sources, and uses of all funds.

9. Public Availability

This co-sponsorship agreement, as well as the financial records described in paragraph 8, shall be publicly available.

10. Printing

Where possible, the MVR-EJA will limit the use of paper.

No printing under this agreement can be accomplished by EPA itself, or as a form of in-kind assistance, unless procured through the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Document Production Team. If the item is being printed by a co-sponsor with its own funds, or with EPA financial assistance, then a statement must be added to the document that states "Printing provided by MVRPC", where the name of the appropriate person and/or organization is supplied to complete the sentence (i.e., "Printing provided by XYZ printing"). This statement will make it clear that the EPA did not print this document in case issues regarding things such as multi-color printing and/or recycled content in the paper later arise.

The Environmental Protection Agency's position regarding printing is that the recycled paper specifications be met for all printed documents, regardless of who is providing the printing services.

11. Co-Sponsorship Guidance

EPA and MVRPC will abide by the October 1996 Guidance on Co-Sponsoring Conferences contained in EPA Ethics Advisory 96-15. EPA Ethics Advisory is available at:

<http://intranet.epa.gov/ogc/ethics/96-15.pdf>

12. Academy Web Sites

MV-EJA participants can register to attend the conference through a web site maintained by EPA. EPA agrees that it will develop and maintain a security plan and a privacy protection policy for this web site and ensure that the site contains features that will allow people with disabilities to register for the conference. EPA's policy and procedures on providing web site accessibility to people with disabilities are available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/irmpoli8/policies/2130.pdf> (for the policy) and

<http://www.epa.gov/irmpoli8/policies/2130PSG010.pdf> (for the procedures).

13. Costs.

All activities undertaken by EPA under this co-sponsorship agreement are subject to the availability of appropriations. Each party to this co-sponsorship agreement will bear its own costs, unless EPA and the co-sponsor have entered into a separate transaction such as a grant, cooperative agreement or contract. This co-sponsorship does not alter any authorities, policies and procedures applicable to the separate transaction. MVRPC agrees not to submit a claim for compensation to EPA for services performed in connection with this co-sponsorship agreement except to the extent that the costs are allowable under a separate transaction.

We agree to these terms and provisions:

For the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CHERYL NEWTON

Digitally signed by CHERYL
NEWTON
Date: 2021.03.08 07:51:04 -06'00'

Signature

Cheryl Newton
Acting Regional Administrator
EPA Region 5

Date

For the non-federal entity

Brian O. Martin

Digitally signed by Brian O. Martin
DN: cn=Brian O. Martin, o=Miami Valley
Regional Planning Commission, ou,
email=bmartin@mvrpc.org, c=US
Date: 2021.03.19 11:40:10 -04'00'

Signature

Brian O. Martin
Executive Director
Miami Valley Regional Planning
Commission

Date