

Expanding the Conversation


working for environmental justice

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call


August 31, 2021

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Housekeeping




PLEASE JOIN BY PHONE OR COMPUTER, NOT BOTH



YOU ARE ON MUTE. ENTER COMMENTS INTO THE Q&A POD



IF SELECTED DURING THE DIALOGUE, LIMIT COMMENT TO 1 MINUTE



RECORDING & TRANSCRIPT WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.



Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

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Agenda

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Leadership Updates

Matthew Tejada

DIRECTOR, EPA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

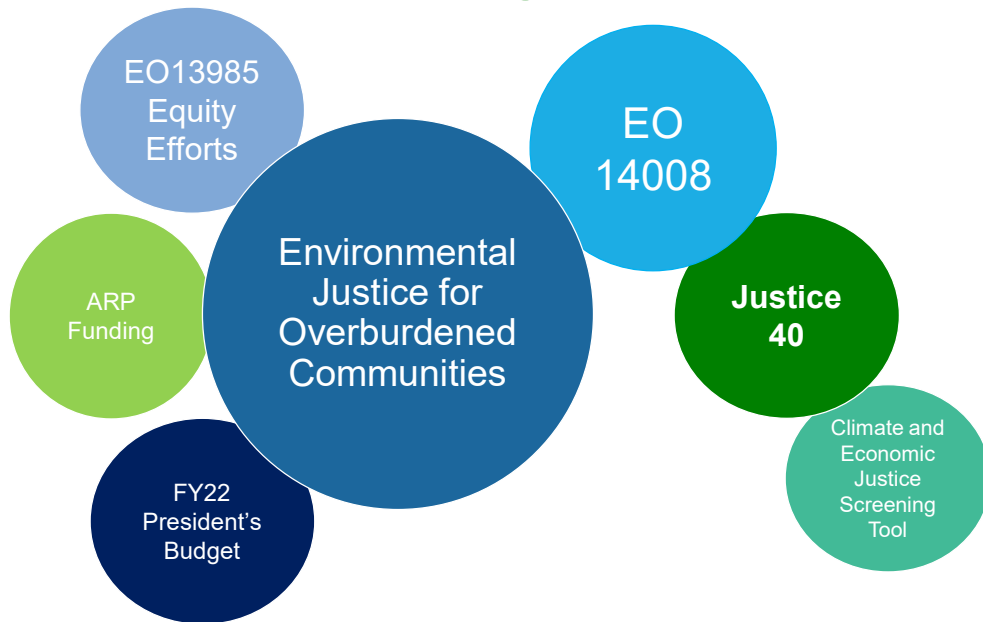
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Justice40 (J40) at EPA

Justice40 is an interagency initiative led by the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC), which is chaired by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

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Justice40 is Part of a Larger Landscape



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What is Justice40? (Sec. 223 of [EO 14008](#) Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad - Jan 27, 2021)

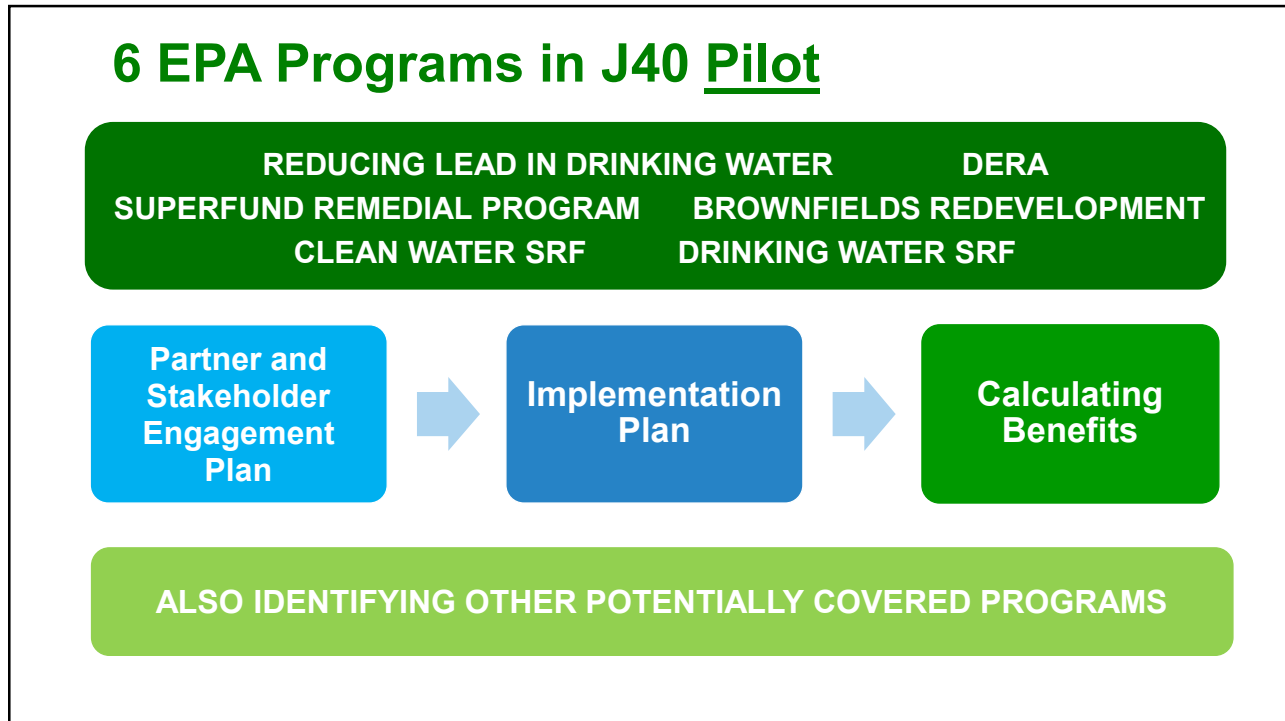
Within 120 days, Chair of CEQ, Director of OMB and the National Climate Advisor, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall jointly publish recommendations on how certain Federal investments might be made toward a goal that **40 percent of the overall benefits** flow to disadvantaged communities. ... focus on investments in the areas of **clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of critical clean water infrastructure.**

In developing recommendations, the Chair of CEQ, Director of OMB and National Climate Advisor shall consult with affected disadvantaged communities.

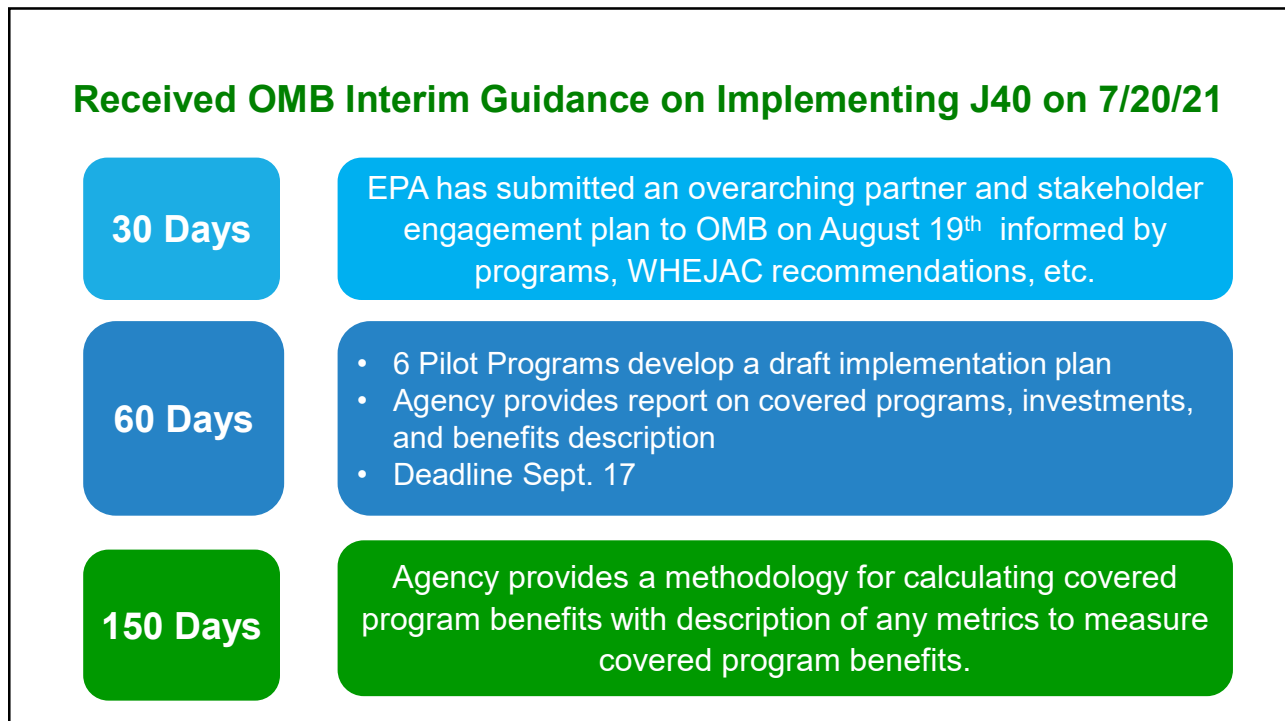
Within 60 days... agency heads shall identify applicable program investment funds based on the recommendations...

EJ Scorecard published by February 2022

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Planned Engagement

- EPA's Justice40 programs will build on a national engagement plan to ensure consistency of content and to reduce burden across the agency and amongst communities, partners, and stakeholders and needs.
 - Convene bi-weekly community engagement calls for as long as they are necessary
 - Managing engagement with bodies such as the NEJAC, ECOS, etc.
 - All programs relevant to Justice40 can utilize these venues in coordination with OEJ and on an as-needed basis.
- Programs under Justice40 will carry out engagement activities tailored to their own unique legal, regulatory, and programmatic considerations and the needs of their unique communities, partners, and stakeholders.

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J40 PILOT: Brownfields Program Overview

- **Definition of Brownfields**
 - "A brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." (from CERCLA 101(39))
- **EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program supports brownfields revitalization with grants and technical assistance to promote:**
 - planning, assessment, clean up and reuse of brownfield sites
 - environmental workforce development and job training
- **Competitive Brownfields Grants:**
 - Assessment
 - Cleanup
 - Multipurpose
 - Revolving Loan Fund
 - Job Training
- **For more information, visit:**
<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>



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J40 PILOT: Brownfields Program Approach to J40

• Justice40 Approach for Competitive Brownfields Grants

- Analyzing our most recent grant competitions to identify grant awards made to disadvantaged communities
- Changes to FY22 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grant guidelines to reflect Justice40 goals and improve benefits tracking
- Stakeholder engagement through EPA's National EJ Community Engagement Call series and activities with brownfields stakeholders

• Engagement and Outreach Objectives

- Find out if Justice40 stakeholders are aware of brownfield sites in their communities and EPA's brownfields grant opportunities
- Describe the direct benefits of the brownfields program and find out if stakeholders experience additional benefits
- Inform the program how benefits can be maximized in disadvantaged communities

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J40 PILOT: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program



Credit: FY 16 National Program Port Project, Alabama Department of Transportation, Historic Gees Bend Ferry Converted from Diesel to Electric Power

- The DERA program reduces emissions by funding replacements and retrofits of older diesel engines.
- DERA funding provides both a public health and climate benefit and can be directed to areas with the greatest need.
- DERA funding is generally targeted to areas with air quality challenges and funding is prioritized for projects that benefit communities with environmental justice concerns and have a community engagement element.
- In addition to directly funding cleaner technologies, EPA builds capacity of prospective grantees and promotes additional emissions reductions by working with stakeholders, including community organizations, through both the DERA and Ports Initiative programs.
 - EPA's Ports Initiative provides tools and assistance to help accelerate adoption of cleaner technologies, clean air planning practices such as emissions inventories, and community engagement to address diesel emissions at ports across the country.

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J40 PILOT: DERA Program Approach to J40

- **Approach**

- The DERA program will appropriately prioritize the J40 goals in regular program updates to ensure benefits reach underserved communities

- **Goals for engagement:**

- Hear more from communities regarding concerns about diesel activity and emissions
- Learn about additional outreach and education that is needed
- Help communities partner with eligible DERA applicants

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J40 PILOT: Superfund Remedial Program

- The Superfund program cleans up the nation's most contaminated and complex hazardous waste sites.
- In the late 1970s, toxic waste dumps received national attention when the public learned about the risks to human health and the environment posed by contaminated sites.
- In response, Congress established the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) in 1980.
- CERCLA is informally called Superfund. It allows EPA to clean up contaminated sites. It also forces the parties responsible for the contamination to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work.
- When there is no viable responsible party, Superfund gives EPA the funds and authority to clean up contaminated sites.
- Superfund's goals are to:
 - Protect human health and the environment by cleaning up contaminated sites
 - Make responsible parties pay for cleanup work
 - Involve communities in the Superfund process
 - Return Superfund sites to productive use

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J40 PILOT: Superfund Program Approach to J40

- **Evaluate opportunities to modify or enhance our existing processes to maximize benefits in communities:**
 - Superfund Community Involvement
 - Superfund Job Training Initiative
 - Superfund Redevelopment Program
 - OLEM EJ Action Plan
 - NEJAC Recommendations
- **Engagement and Outreach Objectives**
 - Listen carefully to our stakeholders
 - Enhance opportunities for communities to influence site cleanup and reuse decisions
 - Tailor our community involvement to meet the needs of the communities we serve

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J40 PILOT: Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

Program Description

- The CWSRF is a delegated program in which EPA awards capitalization grants to 51 partners (each state and Puerto Rico) to implement the program based on state specific priorities with EPA oversight. Our state partners loan out the money at subsidized, below-market rates to recipients for projects that meet the eligibilities of the Clean Water Act.
- There are numerous partners and stakeholders in this process as well as many steps along the way from EPA awarding capitalization grants to a community receiving a loan from its state and constructing a project which delivers environmental, public health and economic benefits to its residents.

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J40 PILOT: Clean Water SRF Program Approach to J40

Overview

- Through coordination of a network of partners and stakeholders, EPA will develop and implement strategies for expanding outreach and maximizing benefits to disadvantaged communities

Engagement and Outreach Objectives

- Engage disadvantaged communities directly and through partner NGO's and universities
- Engage our state partners who direct benefits and are critical to ensuring disadvantaged communities are included and receive CWSRF benefits
- Engage grantees who assist EPA with education and training for the CWSRF program
- Seek administrative resources for direct engagement activities with partners and disadvantaged communities

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J40 PILOT: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program (DWSRF)

Program Description

- The DWSRF is a delegated program in which EPA awards capitalization grants to 51 partners (each state and Puerto Rico) to implement the program based on state specific priorities with EPA oversight. Our state partners loan out the money at subsidized, below-market rates to recipients for projects that meet the eligibilities of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- In addition, the DWSRF allows states to take up to 31% of the capitalization grant as set-asides to provide non-infrastructure assistance to water systems, including helping these systems develop the capacity to apply for a loan.
- There are numerous partners and stakeholders in this process as well as many steps along the way from EPA awarding capitalization grants to a community receiving a loan from its state and constructing a project which delivers environmental, public health and economic benefits to its residents.

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J40 PILOT: Drinking Water SRF Program Approach to J40

Overview

- Through coordination of a network of partners and stakeholders, EPA will develop and implement strategies for expanding outreach and maximizing benefits to disadvantaged communities

Engagement and Outreach Objectives

- Engage disadvantaged communities directly and through partner NGO's and universities.
- Engage our state partners who direct benefits and are critical to ensuring disadvantaged communities are included and receive DWSRF benefits.
- Engage grantees who assist EPA with education and training for the DWSRF program.
- Seek administrative resources for direct engagement activities with partners and disadvantaged communities.

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J40 PILOT: Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN) Reduction in Lead via Drinking Water Exposure Grant Program

Program Description

- The 2016 WIIN Act addresses, supports, and improves America's drinking water infrastructure. There are two fundamental policy objectives articulated in the authorizing WIIN legislation for these three grant programs:
 - Enhanced public health protection via drinking water.
 - Assistance to economically disadvantaged entities.
- The program principally establishes eligibility to the states, territories, and tribes to support these communities with funding for projects eligible under WIIN.
- The program engages regional offices when conducting outreach to disadvantaged communities on the Request for Application (RFA), emphasizing projects based on lead exposure and state specific priority. Additionally, the Grant Program uses administrative allotments to facilitate and provide technical assistance and resources to water systems.
- This effort leads to developing a foundation focused on successfully prioritizing the Grant Program objectives of improved public health; delivering access to safe drinking water; and maintaining/enhancing system compliance in these communities.

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J40 PILOT: Reduction in Lead via Drinking Water Program Approach to J40

Overview

- Through coordination of a network of partners and stakeholders, EPA will coordinate with states, territories, and tribal nations to develop and implement strategies for expanding outreach and maximizing benefits to disadvantaged communities

Engagement and Outreach Objectives

- Collaborating with Federal partners to construct a cross matrix of additional available funding/resources to communities to broaden the impact of the grant funding improvements (e.g. *US Department of Health & Human Services Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)*).
- Engage disadvantaged communities directly and through State, Federal partnerships (e.g. *3Ts MOU*), and Water Associations.
- Engage our state partners who have direct experience and resources that can provide critical support to ensuring disadvantaged communities are included and receive grant funding.
- Constructing inclusive strategic planning to increase outreach and engagement with disadvantaged communities without experience and resources to obtain needed funding and engage with federal, state, and associated partner collaborations.

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More Information on Justice40

EPA is committed to working with its partners and stakeholders to engage and receive feedback.

[Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative from OMB](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf)

www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf

[Final Recommendations from WHEJAC on Justice40 and other topics](https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council-final-recommendations)

www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council-final-recommendations



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Listening Session and Dialogue



**WRITE ANY
COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS
IN THE Q&A POD**



**WHEN PROMPTED, RAISE
YOUR HAND TO ASK A
QUESTION**

**USING A PHONE? PRESS
*9 TO RAISE YOUR HAND**



**PLEASE LIMIT
QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS TO 1
MINUTE**

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Listening Session and Dialogue

Questions

- What do you want from these meetings moving forward? What do you hope is accomplished by them?
- What do you need in order to better engage about Justice40?
- What can we do to make sure there is clear understanding about where EPA is and where it is going with implementation of Justice40?

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Points of Contact for J40 in OEJ

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Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

- **September 15:** [Traditional Knowledge – Federal Agencies’ Considerations](#): A webinar on how some federal agencies are considering traditional knowledge in the implementation of their missions.
- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples#webinars>

EPA EJ Screen Office Hours

- **October 20:** Join these open discussions and learn about EJSSCREEN, as well as get your questions answered. For more information on EJSSCREEN, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

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Upcoming Engagement Opportunities (cont.)

FY 2022 Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants

Applications due October 5: EPA is soliciting applications to deliver Brownfields Job Training (JT) programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment across a spectrum of brownfield-related activities. Learn more about this opportunity and see available resources: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-jt-grants>

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Closing Remarks

- ❑ **Next Steps**
- ❑ **Next National EJ Community Engagement call:**
 - September 14, 2021, at 2 p.m. Eastern
- ❑ **Subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv** for up-to-date information about EJ funding opportunities, events, and webinars:
 - Send a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- **Follow us on Twitter:**
 - [@EPAEnvJustice](https://twitter.com/EPAEnvJustice)
- ❑ **Send follow-up questions or comments to:**
 - Environmental-Justice@epa.gov



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