



Drivers and Environmental Impacts of Energy Transitions in Underserved Communities

Informational Webinar for Applicants

EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Request for Applications (RFA)

February 10, 2022

- Review information in the EPA STAR RFA:

Drivers and Environmental Impacts of Energy Transitions in Underserved Communities

- Provide guidelines for eligibility, submission, and technical aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process

- During the presentations, you may type your questions in the comment box.
- Questions will be addressed after the presentation.
- No specific research project or idea can be discussed but clarifying questions regarding what is written in the RFA announcement may be answered.
- These slides are posted online on the RFA webpage.



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RFA & Award Information

- RFA will close on **April 28, 2022** at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time
- Estimated Number of Awards: 11 (6 regular, 5 early career)
- Anticipated Funding Amount: \$10M total for all awards.
- Potential Funding per Award and Duration:
Up to a total of **\$1,125,000 for a regular award** and up to a total of **\$650,000 for an early career award**, including direct and indirect costs, with a maximum duration of 4 years.

Read the RFA very carefully. All necessary information is provided.



Research Areas (abbreviated)

See [Section I.D Specific Research Areas of Interest/Expected Outputs and Outcomes](#) for more details

- Early Career applications should address at least **one** of the five research areas.
 - Regular applications should address at least **two** of the five research areas.
1. How might air quality, the environment, and public health in underserved communities be improved through the large-scale transformation of the energy sector?
 2. What approaches or strategies can be employed to meet the goals of improving air quality and reducing other environmental health burdens while meeting the energy and mobility needs of underserved communities?
 3. How do socioeconomic, cultural, behavioral, institutional, and systems factors drive individual and household decisions? What are the barriers and enablers of adoption?
 4. How do socioeconomic, organizational, and institutional factors affect decisions at the organizational, governmental and community levels?
 5. What multi-pollutant and/or multi-sectoral approaches could be effective at the achieving climate, air quality, and other environmental goals in ways that maximize potential positive impacts and minimize potential negative impacts to underserved communities arising from such large-scale transformation?



Expected Outcomes

Section I.D Specific Research Areas of Interest/Expected Outputs and Outcomes

...improved scientific foundation for the design of robust, behaviorally-informed policies and programs to support sustainable transitions to renewable and low-carbon energy systems such that these transitions will increase the resiliency of underserved communities and bring about equitable distribution of costs and benefits

Examples:

- improved awareness, understanding, and ability to predict the potential public health and environmental risk tradeoffs in underserved communities due to the energy transitions
- enhanced socioeconomic, cultural, and behavioral insights that can be applied to increase the adoption and diffusion of desired energy efficient measures, new energy technologies, and mobility options



Eligibility Information (1)

Eligible Applicants

Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations

Public and private institutions of higher education

Hospitals located in the U.S.

State and local governments

Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments

U.S. territories or possessions

For early career applicants, additional criteria apply.



Eligibility Information (2)

- Entities that are **NOT eligible**
 - Profit-making companies
 - Foreign governments
 - International organizations
 - Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)
 - Federal agencies
- Some non-eligible institutions/organizations may be on subawards of eligible applicants
- For profit companies may be consultants
 - For profit companies are **NOT eligible** and may **NOT** be subawardees
 - Consultants are not to be considered key personnel on a grant application
 - Contracts/Consultants are subject to competitive procurement requirements (see Section (IV.C.7.b.6))



Application Materials

- Details are provided in **Section IV. “Application and Submission Information”**
- Required application materials include
 - Community Engagement Plan
 - Quality Assurance Statement (QAS)
 - Human Subject Research Statement (HSRS)
 - Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)
 - Early Career Verification (early career applicants only)
- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at **Grants.gov**
 - For further submission information see: **Section IV.F. “Submission Instruction and other Submission Requirements”**
 - Note: This section was updated on February 7, 2022 to reflect updated forms
- Note: All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, except for the current and pending support form, which is available at:
<https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/research-funding-opportunities-how-apply-and-required-forms>



Application Review Information



- **Peer Review Criteria**

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Research Merit | 4. Environmental Justice |
| 2. Responsiveness | 5. Community Engagement |
| 3. Project Management | 6. Other Factors |

- **Relevancy Review Criteria**

1. The degree to which the proposed science/research is relevant to EPA's priorities as described in this solicitation and the following goals and objectives: Goal 1: Objectives 1.1 & 1.2; and Goal 4: Objectives 4.1 & 4.2, of EPA's Draft [FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#).
2. The degree to which results (i.e., outputs/outcomes) of the research have broad application or affect large segments of society
3. The degree to which the research is designed to produce data and methods that can immediately and/or with little to no translation be utilized by the public, states, and tribes to better assess or manage environmental problems.

- **See Section V for more detail on the above criteria and other review components**

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- **Electronic Submissions:** Debra M. Jones, Administrative Officer (jones.debram@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7839 
- If interested in joining the **Peer Review Panel**, rather than applying, please contact Ron Josephson (josephson.ron@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7823

Thank you!