Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

EJ Grants for Tribal Public Participation & Other EPA EJ Financial Assistance Programs Available to Tribes & Indigenous Peoples

April 14, 2022

*Please note that this webinar will be recorded and posted on EPA's webpage for public access.

Panelists

- Sarah Frederick, EJSG for Tribes Competition Lead, American Indian Environmental Office, U.S. EPA
- Jacob Burney, Grants Manager, Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA
- Michael Opheim, Environmental Coordinator, Seldovia Village Tribe
- Stephen Payton, Environmental Assistant, Seldovia Village Tribe
- Jane Kahkonen, Air Quality Specialist, Environmental Health Section,
 Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Aubrey Arain, Industrial Hygiene Program Specialist, Cal Poly State University, Lecturer, Oakland University
- Marilyn Yang, Intern, Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA
- Danny Gogal, Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Program Manager, Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA (Facilitator)



American Rescue Plan (ARP)

\$1.6 million in ARP resources are available to fund EJ Small Grants to federally recognized tribal governments to establish or modify public participation programs where fair treatment and meaningful participation priorities have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding

FOR THIS SINGLE EJ SMALL GRANT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY:

- Up to \$1.6 million in ARP funding
- Approximately 16-20 grants will be awarded
 - Applicants may request up to \$100,000
- One time funding opportunity

Eligibility

FOR THIS SINGLE EJ SMALL GRANT FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT ONLY:

- Eligible applicants are limited to federally recognized tribal governments.
- Projects must support tribal governments efforts to establish or modify public participation programs where fair treatment and meaningful participation priorities have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Projects must include activities related to at least one of the following federal environmental statutes:
 - 1. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
 - 2. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3
 - * Public participation programs may address other environmental programs or a broad spectrum of programs, as long as at least one of the required statutes is included.

Meaningful Participation

Meaningful participation or involvement means that:

- 1. potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health;
- 2. the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- 3. the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and
- 4. the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

COVID-19
Impacts

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many tribal, state, local, and federal government public participation processes have been disrupted by the inability to convene community meetings in public forums.

Public Participation

Public participation can be any process that directly engages the public in decision-making and gives full consideration to public input in making that decision.

Helpful Resources:

https://www.epa.gov/internationalcooperation/public-participation-guideintroduction-public-participation

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/powerpoint-meaningful-public-part-web-final.pdf

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2 015-02/documents/ips-final-report.pdf

Forms of Public Participation

Forms public participation might take include:

- 1. Informing the public by providing information to help them understand the issues, options, and solutions;
- 2. Consulting with the public to obtain their feedback on alternatives or decisions;
- 3. Involving the public to ensure their concerns are considered throughout the decision process, particularly in the development of decision criteria and options;
- 4. Collaborating with the public to develop decision criteria and alternatives and identify the preferred solution; and
- 5. Empowering the public by placing final decision-making authority in their hands.

Public Participation

Environmental functions with community involvement requirements typically include:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA),
- permitting actions
- rulemaking
- cleanup and redevelopment
- compliance and enforcement activities

Examples of Eligible Activities related to the Federal Statutes

Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3):

conduct research, investigations, experiments, demonstration projects, surveys, and studies (including monitoring) related to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution.

Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3):

develop and expand the capability to carry out a program (that may combine training, education, and employment) for occupations relating to the public health aspects of providing safe drinking water. Up to \$1.6 million available to fund grants nationwide

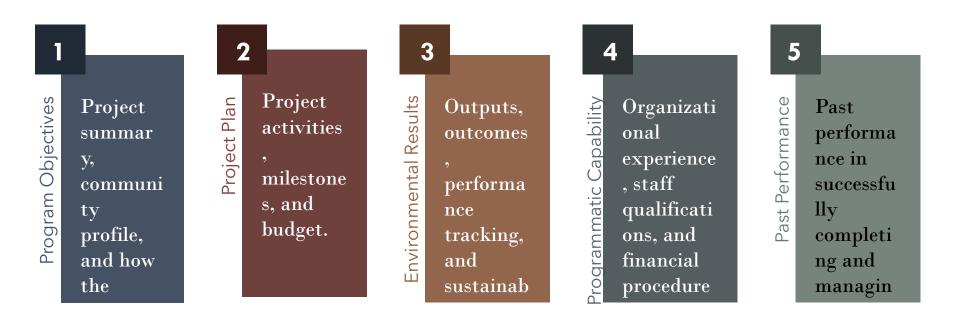
Applicants may request up to \$100,000 (approximately 16-20 grants will be awarded)

1 Application per Applicant

Proposed projects should be scoped for completion in 1 year (i.e., 10/1/22 - 9/30/23)

Other Key Points

Applicants will be evaluated on:



Timeline



Events & Opportunities to Learn More

April 14th, 2:30-4pm ET EJSG Webinar

May 3rd, 2:30-4pm ET EJ Screen Live Demo



Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Request for Applications (RFA)



EPA Environmental Justice Grants Program:

- ✓ Identifying Issues
- ✓ Building Capacity
- ✓ Generating Solutions

Jacob Burney, EPA EJ Grants April 6, 2022

Purpose and Goals

- The EJ grants program provides funding <u>directly</u> to community-based organizations (i.e., local non-profits, grassroots orgs, and tribes), as well as to states and local governments for projects that help residents of underserved communities understand and address local environmental / public health issues that have a <u>disproportionate</u> impact on the local population.
- Communities **Drive** the Projects
- The immediate goals of the EJ grants program:
 - Accessibility The EJ grants program is designed to be one of the most accessible federal grant programs
 - Gaining Familiarity with Federal Grants
 - Building Sustainable Coalitions and Partnerships



Recent EJ Funding Opportunities

- Three different EJ grant opportunities were open from 2020 2021:
 - 1) EJ Small Grants Program (EJSG)
 - 2) EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Program (EJCPS)
 - 3) State EJ Cooperative Agreement Program (SEJCA)
- <u>Focus Areas</u>: 1) COVID-19 impacts, 2) Climate Disaster Resiliency, 3) Ports and Railyards, 4) Small non-profits, and 5) new grantees and applicants
- Available funding between the three opportunities was ~ \$18.4 million
- 154 EJ grants were selected nationwide
 - 99 EJ Small Grants
 - 34 EJCPS awards
 - 21 SEJCA awards



Environmental Justice Small Grants (\$75K)

- Who is eligible to apply?
 - incorporated non-profit organizations
 - tribal governments and tribal organizations
 - US Territories
 - Freely Associated States (FAS) Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands
- Project Length: One-year
- > 99 projects nationwide
 - Designed for smaller community orgs
 - Small Funds are catalytic and can act as "seed" money for organizations and communities



EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (\$200K)

- Who is eligible to apply?
 - incorporated non-profit organizations
 - tribal governments and tribal organizations
 - US Territories
 - Freely Associated States (FAS) Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands
- Project Length Two Years
- Required use of the EJCPS Model during the project
 - This is a tool that helps grantees build sustainable partnerships
- > 34 projects awarded nationwide
 - Designed for larger, more well-established organizations
 - Cooperative Agreements (substantial involvement with EPA)



State EJ Cooperative Agreements (\$200K)

- Who is eligible to apply?
 - State governments
 - Local governments (cities, towns, municipalities, school districts, etc.)
 - Federally recognized tribal governments
 - State recognized tribal governments
 - US Territories
 - Freely Associated States (FAS) Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands
- Project Length Two Years
- > Required use of the EJCPS Model during the project
 - This is a tool that helps grantees build sustainable partnerships
- 21 projects awarded nationwide
 - Designed for governmental organizations to develop and promote their own local EJ programs and EJ analysis tools in partnership with local communities
 - Cooperative Agreements (substantial involvement with EPA)



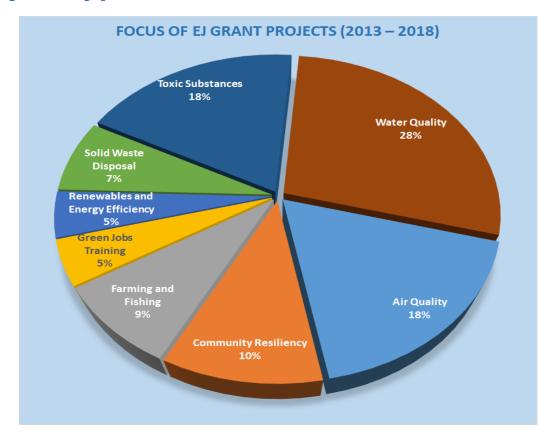
Flexibility in Project Type

- Projects can incorporate activities allowable under SEVEN different environmental statutes (must include at least one)
 - Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Fed Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act;
 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Solid Waste Disposal Act; Toxic Substances Control Act
- Eligible project types:
 - Air Quality and Asthma
 - Water Quality, Sampling, and Stormwater Issues
 - Lead, Pesticide, and Toxic Substances
 - Agriculture and Fishing
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Environmental Job Training and Youth Development
 - ...and more!!!





Project Type Breakdown





EJ Grant Projects and Stories

People for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo) (Buffalo New York)

- 2016 EJCPS project
- Environmental Workforce Development and GI Installation
- Objectives: Create a pipeline of qualified workers to address Buffalo River Watershed issues

















More EJ Grant Projects and Stories

Friends of the Kaw (Wyandotte County, KS)

- 2015 EJ Small Grant project
- Project focused on providing local students with hands-on experiences and opportunities to learn how water quality impacts their community





Project Details:

- Classes and instruction provided to over 625 students at county schools
- Curriculum included introductions and instruction on watersheds and water cycles, data collecting and analysis, field experiences, and environmental planning meetings.







- 1) The project idea should be developed from within the community
- 2) Work to ensure there is broad-based community support for the project
- 3) The project should build on existing projects or programs
- 4) Clearly identify and describe the population to be served
 - a. Include demographic and geographic data, and community history.
 - Applicants are strongly encouraged to use EPA's <u>EJSCREEN</u> tool and/or data from studies, census, and other sources to describe the target community.
 - c. If data is limited for a particular community, then applicants can include first-person accounts and/or a community's impressions of the environmental and/or public health issues impacting their communities.



- 4) Convey the Story of Your Community / Strategic Storytelling
 - a. Don't just simply plug in data, facts & figures
 - b. Use data to effectively convey the story of your community. Remember that those of us who will review your applications are people too. And people relate to stories.
 - c. In addition to including data and metrics in your project narrative, weave in information and experiences from the community. Personalize it!
 - d. For example, quotes from community members, as well as short stories/testimonials from residents about living in the community and/or successes working with your organization are great supplements to the data and metrics you provide.



- Develop strong partnerships with local institutions and community groups
- 6) Proposal should identify specific outputs, target accomplishments, estimated budgets for each goal, and target dates for completion
- 7) Pay attention to the point allocations in the Eval Criteria
 - a. In general, you should spend more time and effort in the sections that are worth more points.
 - b. Don't spend hours on something worth two points and only spend 30 minutes on something worth 10 points.



- 8) Find ways to save space in your workplan
 - a. 11 14 pages goes faster than you think
 - b. Be concise where possible
 - Include attachments and use in-text references specifically referring readers of your application to view those attachments
 - d. Using footnotes may also save space



- 9) Work to make your application easy-to-read
 - a. Don't cram in absolutely everything with no white space
 - Strategically use graphs, charts, pictures, and hyperlinks to help organize your workplan and break-up the white space
 - c. Remember, the people reviewing your application are people too. They have a lot of applications to review, so if you make it easy on them or even fun to read your application, that may work in your favor.



EJ Grant Writing Pitfalls

- 1) Applicant applies for a grant they are **not** eligible for
- 2) Applicant submits an ineligible project for a grant their organization <u>is</u> eligible for
 - a. E.g., Construction, human trafficking, routine program implementation
 - b. During the solicitation open period, interested applicants should contact the program to run their project idea by the funder
- Community (and community members) did not appear to be an integral part of the planning process
- 4) Lack of strong partnerships and/or letters of commitment



EJ Grant Writing Pitfalls cont.

- 5) Applicant provides little detail, data, or figures on the disproportionate environmental/public health issues plaguing the community
- 6) Budget is not detailed and/or calculations are incorrect
- 7) Project activities, steps, and milestones are not clear
 - a. It is difficult to understand exactly what the applicant is doing or how the project activities will lead to environmental/health improvements for the community
- 8) Methods for evaluating the scope and size of the project are unclear (e.g., broad / generic metrics, few specific outputs/outcomes listed in the logic model)







SELDOVIA VILLAGE TRIBE

YOU SURVIVED A NATURAL DISASTER, NOW GRABYOUR EPB

Providing the community with knowledge of potential disasters and how to prepare for them, react during, and what to expect after.

Supplement this knowledge with resources including emergency preparedness buckets.

This will result in a more prepared and resilient community.



EJSCREEN Report (Version 2018)

5 mile Ring Centered at 59.440622,-151.711970, ALASKA, EPA Region 10

Approximate Population: 409 Input Area (sq. miles): 78.53

Seldovia

	cidovia						
Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Environmental Indicators							
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in µg/m³)	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.54	N/A	9.53	N/A
Ozone (ppb)	N/A	N/A	N/A	36.1	N/A	42.5	N/A
NATA [®] Diesel PM (μg/m³)	0.00175	0.416	11	1.06	<50th	0.938	<50th
NATA* Cancer Risk (lifetime risk per million)	25	39	18	39	<50th	40	<50th
NATA [®] Respiratory Hazard Index	0.71	1.8	31	2.8	<50th	1.8	<50th
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	0	220	17	380	2	600	2
Lead Paint Indicator (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.095	0.083	77	0.23	40	0.29	36
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.0033	0.068	18	0.12	3	0.12	- 1
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.0069	0.49	9	0.63	2	0.72	0
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.0074	0.41	10	1.5	0	4.3	0
Wastewater Discharge Indicator	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.038	N/A	30	N/A
(toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)							
Demographic Indicators							
Demographic Index	51%	32%	84	29%	89	36%	74
Minority Population	56%	38%	78	27%	90	38%	71
Low Income Population	46%	25%	88	32%	77	34%	73
Linguistically Isolated Population	1%	2%	58	3%	51	4%	48
Population With Less Than High School Education	4%	8%	34	10%	29	13%	23
Population Under 5 years of age	8%	7%	56	6%	68	6%	69
Population over 64 years of age	15%	9%	86	14%	62	14%	61



ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTE

CLEAN WATER ACT, SECTION 104(B) (3); SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT, SECTION 1442(B) (3); SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ACT, SECTION (A)1008

List of Other Factors to qualify for Special Considerations: Projects addressing Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness







Projects addressing Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness

During an emergency the majority of Seldovias residence evacuate to the school. In the event of a natural disaster Seldovias remote location and aged infrastructure could mean long wait times for help with no drinking water, limited shelter, and no way to dispose of waste.



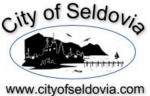














Originally had three partners in the project (Ground Truth Trekking, SVT Health and Wellness, and Seldovia Volunteer Fire and EMS.) Thanks to other departments in SVT partners grew, allowing the project to grow.





CHALLENGES

- The only real challenge faced during the life of the project was the appearance of COVID-19.
- At the beginning of the project covid-19 arose and health mandates quickly escalated. Community meetings could no longer be held in person with distance requirements met.

 The Seldovia Village Tribe adapted quickly to online video applications and was able to continue the meetings virtually.
 There was no drop in attendance when meetings went virtual.





SUCCESSES

- Partners
- Meetings
- Community growth
- Agency growth

Meeting List

- Epidemics/Pandemics
- Household Emergency Plan
- Geologic Hazards
- Fire Hazards
- Emergency Responses
- Emergency Power/ Generators
- Disaster Planning
- Emergency Food
- Safe Drinking Water











EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant Funding



"Understanding Environmental Pollution in the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community" EJ Project

Presented by Jane Kahkonen, Air Quality Specialist, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community & Aubrey Arain, Industrial Hygiene Program Specialist, Oakland University

Who We Are

The Keweenaw Bay Ojibwe were signatories to the 1842 Treaty of La Pointe

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) was federally recognized in 1934

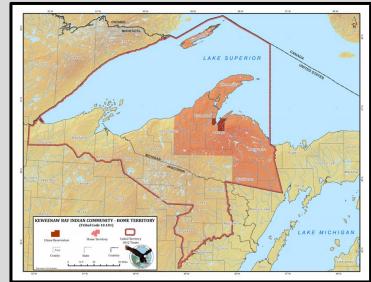
Over 4,000 enrolled members

Obligation to care for the community in which we live

Protection of the land, air, water and more - thanhuman – relatives that share our environment

Dependence on fish, plants, and animals for sustenance and cultural practices

Sustainability for the next 7 Generations





Developing Statement of Need for Our Concerns

#1 Electric Generating Biomass Plant

Located ½ mile from reservation boundary

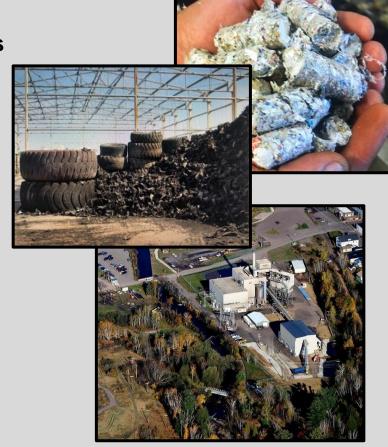
Toxic Air Emissions

Plastic Pellets, Tires, & Treated Railroad Ties used as supplemental fuel

Deposition of air contaminants on land and water

Bio-accumulation of toxins

Respiratory problems, cancer, and other health issues



#2 Legacy Pollution From Copper Mining

Mercury and heavy metals

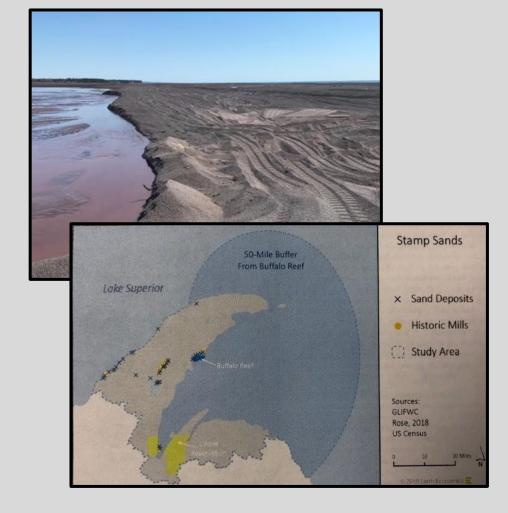
Bio-magnification of toxins

Need for Fish Consumption Advisories

Loss of fish spawning habitat

Ability of stamp sand and dust to travel great distances

Respiratory problems, cancer, and other health issues



Outcomes and Results

Assemble data to oppose the current methodologies used for

setting maximum toxic exposure risks

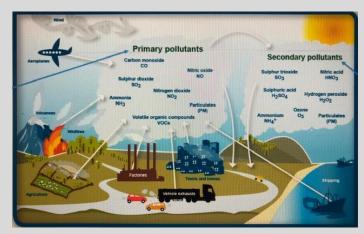
Analyze minimum risk level estimates based on tribal consumption rates of local fish, game, and plants

Create toxic risk equations indicative of KBIC population and their reliance on natural resources

Develop Health Risk Assessment that reflects KBIC tribal community - NOT general population

Deliverables include

- *A scientific report summarizing literature and risk assessment findings.
- *Educational resources targeted for community members.
- *An educational summit for community members to discuss findings.



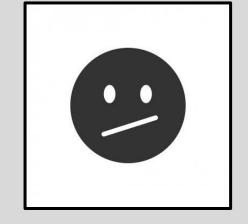
Lessons Learned & Problems to Date

Be prepared for extended wait time for award notification

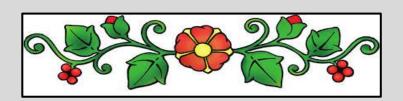
Expect delayed processing of actual award funding

Anticipate delays of work plan start dates

Develop good communications with project partners and contractors



Miigwech and Thank You

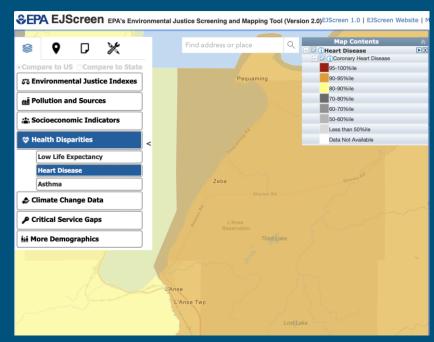


EPA EJSCREEN – DEMONSTRATION

EJ Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

EJSCREEN – EPA'S EJ SCREENING & MAPPING TOOL

- EJSCREEN combines environmental and demographic data to highlight areas with potential EJ concerns
- Accessible to anyone on the internet, including a new mobile version of the tool
- Updated version, EJSCREEN 2.0, provides further insight into EJ concerns with improved features and additional data

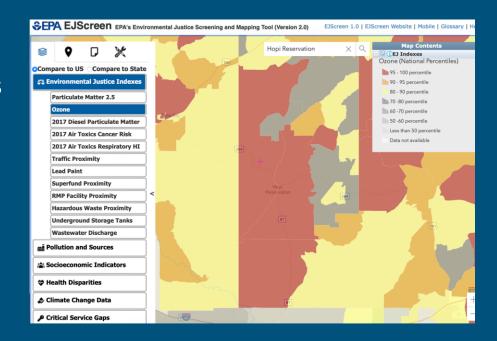


EJSCREEN's Health Disparities, Heart Disease Data for the L'Anse Reservation

EJSCREEN – INDICATORS & INDEXES

- EJSCREEN includes:
 - 12 environmental indicators
 - 7 demographic indicators
 - o 12 EJ indexes

 Each EJ Index combines the demographic factors with a single environmental factor



EJSCREEN's Ozone EJ Indicator for the Hopi Reservation

EJ INDEXES ENVIRONMENTAL & DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

→ 12 Environmental Indicators

- O Particulate Matter 2.5
- o Ozone
- Diesel Particulate Matter
- Air Toxics Cancer Risk
- Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index
- Traffic Proximity
- Lead Paint
- Risk Management Plan (RMP) FacilityProximity
- Hazardous Waste Proximity
- Superfund Proximity
- Underground Storage Tanks (UST)
- Leaking UST (LUST)
- Wastewater Discharge

• 7 Demographic Indicators

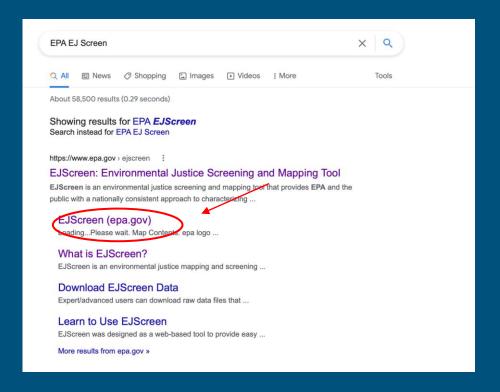
- O People of color:
- o Low income:
- Unemployment rate
- Linguistic isolation
- Less than high school education
- O Under age 5
- O Over age 64

EJSCREEN includes a "Demographic Index" based on the average of the low income and people of color indicators

1. On your web browser, look up:

"EPA EJScreen"

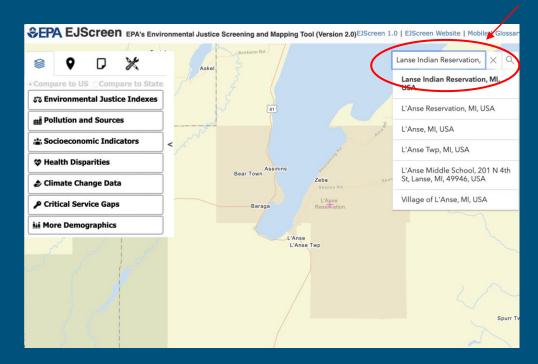
2. Click on: "EJScreen (epa.gov)"



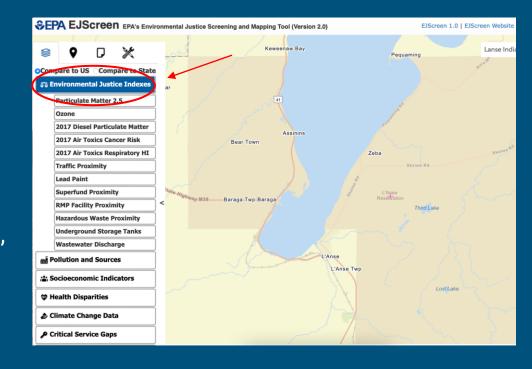
3. At the top right of the page, locate the search bar

4. Type in the search bar:

"L'Anse Indian Reservation, MI"



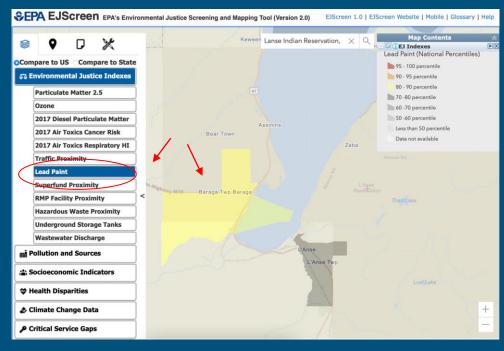
- 5. At the top left, locate and click on the "Environmental Justice Indexes" tab
- A drop down menu will expand,listing the 12 EJ indexes



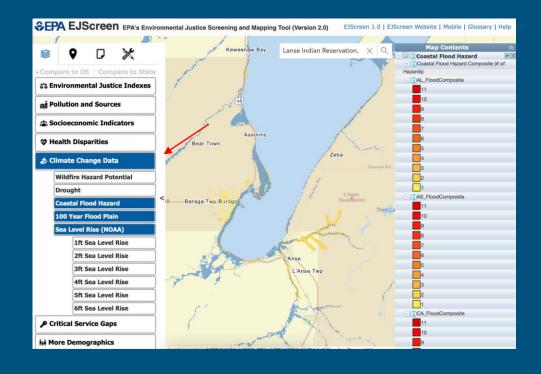
7. Click on any of the EJ indexes

(such as "Lead Paint" which is

shown in the picture to the right")

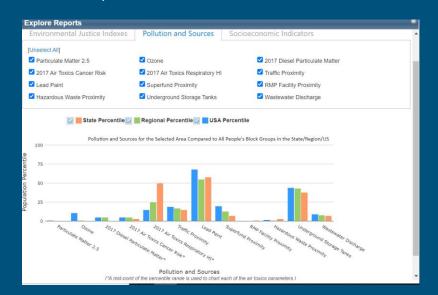


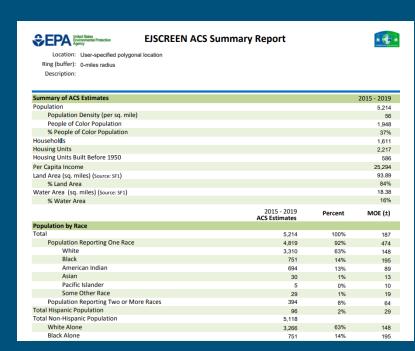
8. To examine additional data
within the area, explore the
other tabs such as "Health
Disparities", "Climate Change
Data", and "Critical Service
Gaps"



EJScreen Reports

- American Community Survey (ACS) Report provides a report with US Census Bureau data in PDF format
- Explore Reports EJ Indexes, Pollution and Sources, and Socioeconomic Indicators.



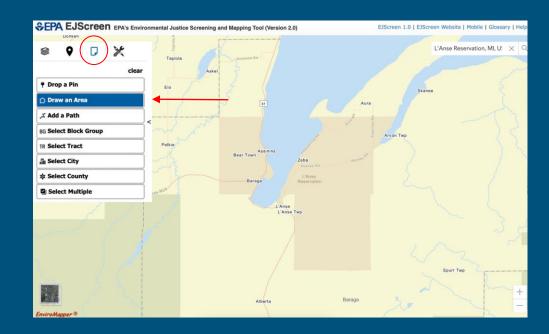


- 9. To create a Standard Report,
 first, look at the bottom right of
 the page and locate the + and signs
- 10. Click on the sign to zoom out, until you can view the entire L'Anse

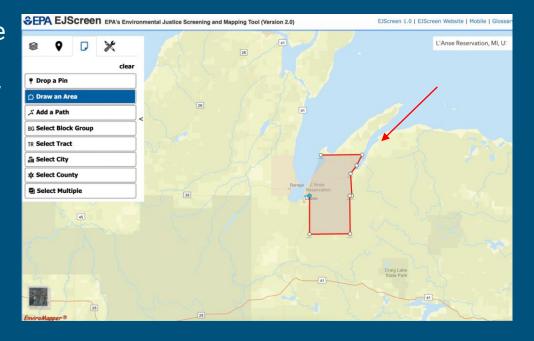
Reservation area

11. At the top left of the screen,locate the icons above the tabs.Click on the third icon from theleft that looks like a paper witha fold.

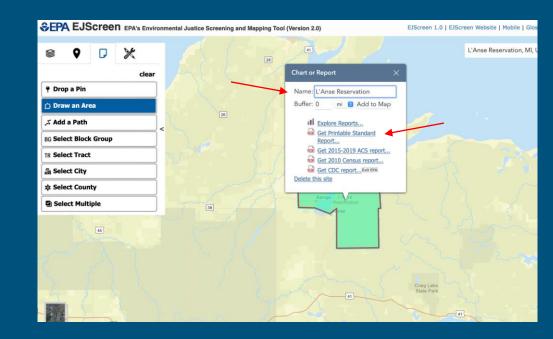
12. Click on Draw an Area.



Reservation and continuously click around the edges until the entire area is selected.



- 14. After completing the drawing, a pop up box will appear. In the Name box type "L'Anse Reservation".
- 15. Generate a report by clicking on Get Printable Report.



16. After clicking on Get Printable

Report. A separate tab will

open with a 3 page Standard

Report.







Visual example of an EJScreen Standard Report, not meant to represent the actual Standard Report for the L'Anse Reservation.

Questions and Answers Period & Evaluation

- Please type your questions in the chat box.
- We would appreciate your feedback on the webinar and ask that you complete the short online survey. Link posted in chat box: https://forms.gle/F8urKrCqvbXeVWzj7

Contacts

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Sarah Frederick, EJSG for Tribes Competition Lead, American Indian Environmental Office, U.S. EPA, frederick.sarah@epa.gov	Jacob Burney, Grants Manager, Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA, <u>burney.jacob@epa.gov</u>	
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