

1

00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:19,359

Johnathan Garza: Thank you very much  
everyone for taking the time this afternoon.

2

00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:29,733

With everyone just a couple more minutes, right  
now we have 61 people coming in in the lobby,

3

00:00:29,757 --> 00:00:34,800

Oh now we got 64, so we'll just give everyone  
a couple more minutes before we start.

4

00:00:34,800 --> 00:00:38,200

Thanks, everyone.

5

00:01:29,600 --> 00:01:34,720

All right, we are up to 88 participants,  
we'll give everyone one more minute,

6

00:01:34,720 --> 00:01:37,840

see if we can get 100  
people in [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

7

00:01:37,840 --> 00:01:41,840

No prizes guaranteed, but it's always fun.

8

00:01:44,479 --> 00:01:49,040

Matthew Tejada: I think we're definitely  
seeing a little summer slow down

9

00:01:49,040 --> 00:01:51,920

in public webinar in public-- [LAUGHS]

10

00:01:51,920 --> 00:01:54,248

Johnathan Garza: I really hope  
everyone's at least enjoying their summers

11

00:01:54,272 --> 00:01:59,360

taking some time to themselves,  
we all need it that's for sure.

12

00:01:59,759 --> 00:02:03,200

All right, we are at 98.

13

00:02:03,200 --> 00:02:07,538

I think at 99 oh, we  
hit 100 there we go.

14

00:02:07,562 --> 00:02:12,239

All right everyone, so thank you very  
much, we're going to get started right now.

15

00:02:12,239 --> 00:02:15,978

Thank you everyone for taking  
your time this afternoon

16

00:02:16,002 --> 00:02:18,959

to come listen  
to our update call.

17

00:02:18,959 --> 00:02:26,080

We're going to go ahead and go through some  
typical house-- some house rules here.

18

00:02:26,080 --> 00:02:30,342

So we're gonna be asking everyone to join please,  
join through your computer, not your phone.

19

00:02:30,366 --> 00:02:33,888

I'd like to remind everybody that  
everyone right now is on mute,

20

00:02:33,912 --> 00:02:38,186

if you have any questions that are  
going to during the presentation,

21

00:02:38,210 --> 00:02:43,440

please use the question and answer box in  
the Zoom feature to answer ask your questions,

22

00:02:43,440 --> 00:02:48,708

once we enter the Q&A section and  
you're selected to ask your question

23

00:02:48,732 --> 00:02:53,680

in order to maintain some time, we're  
asking you to keep it to one minute please.

24

00:02:53,680 --> 00:02:56,147

As a reminder, this is being recorded,

25

00:02:56,271 --> 00:03:00,800

all information during this presentation  
is going to be uploaded to the OEJ website,

26

00:03:00,800 --> 00:03:03,228

and just for everyone's convenience

27

00:03:03,252 --> 00:03:08,400

in the chat I have already put down  
the emails of our presenters for today.

28

00:03:08,400 --> 00:03:11,812

Today, we're going to be  
having the HUD team present,

29

00:03:11,836 --> 00:03:14,833

and of course Tejada and  
myself are always here as always,

30

00:03:14,857 --> 00:03:18,800

and I have our emails in the chat  
just in case you need them.

31

00:03:18,800 --> 00:03:24,267

So just briefly go through the agenda today  
we're going to go through our mindfulness moment

32

00:03:24,291 --> 00:03:29,948

and then Tejada is going to update us on  
any leadership updates that he has for us

33

00:03:29,972 --> 00:03:33,548

and today we're going to cover  
the housing and urban development.

34

00:03:33,572 --> 00:03:34,535

I'm sorry, excuse me,

35

00:03:34,559 --> 00:03:36,827

the Housing and Urban development  
Department is joining us today

36

00:03:36,851 --> 00:03:41,599

and they're going to offer some information  
on their Office of Lead Hazard Control

37

00:03:41,599 --> 00:03:43,747

and Healthy Homes

and Funding Availability,

38

00:03:43,771 --> 00:03:47,912

I know that is a mouthful, but Damian

is here is going to walk us through it,

39

00:03:47,936 --> 00:03:52,400

so with that being said, I'm going to

go ahead and stop sharing my screen,

40

00:03:52,400 --> 00:03:57,680

and I am going to pass it

over to Tejada.

41

00:03:57,680 --> 00:03:59,768

Matthew Tejada: Thank you

so much Garza.

42

00:03:59,792 --> 00:04:04,588

Hey folks, appreciate everyone

joining us in this middle of summer,

43

00:04:04,612 --> 00:04:09,599

I know that they have certainly turned  
into some dog days of summer for some folks

44

00:04:09,599 --> 00:04:13,760

it is challenging  
out there I know,

45

00:04:13,760 --> 00:04:20,720

especially for a number of communities that  
don't have the resiliency to be able to handle

46

00:04:20,720 --> 00:04:22,079

a lot of this heat.

47

00:04:22,079 --> 00:04:26,160

I also really want to  
thank our colleagues

48

00:04:26,160 --> 00:04:28,560

from HUD, from Housing and Urban  
Development



49

00:04:28,560 --> 00:04:37,152

for joining us today as soon as we had found  
out about this new opportunity over at HUD

50

00:04:37,276 --> 00:04:43,840

dealing with some funding for lead, which has  
been in very short supply for a very long time.

51

00:04:43,840 --> 00:04:48,972

We really wanted to help broadcast and get  
information out there about its availability,

52

00:04:48,996 --> 00:04:55,440

so we're really happy to have HUD joining  
us today to share some of that information.

53

00:04:55,440 --> 00:05:02,612

And then we have, just we have a pretty healthy  
amount of time on the back side of today

54

00:05:02,636 --> 00:05:06,240

just for open questions  
and dialogue and answers,

55

00:05:06,240 --> 00:05:11,247

so looking forward to that, looking  
forward to what people are concerned about

56

00:05:11,271 --> 00:05:14,625

I know on the EPA side we have  
some big things coming up

57

00:05:14,649 --> 00:05:18,560

I'll save that for some of our  
leadership updates in a minute,

58

00:05:18,560 --> 00:05:25,249

as we have been doing, we've been starting  
these off with just a mindfulness moment,

59

00:05:25,273 --> 00:05:31,251

and I've been leading these which  
has been interesting, but I'm trying,

60

00:05:31,275 --> 00:05:36,400

we at EPA have had a real

commitment to practicing mindfulness,

61

00:05:36,400 --> 00:05:42,908

especially over probably about the last  
year as part of our efforts to support staff,

62

00:05:42,932 --> 00:05:44,649

support everyone really,

63

00:05:44,673 --> 00:05:50,188

in all of the challenges we're facing as  
we continue to move through the COVID epidemic

64

00:05:50,212 --> 00:05:53,623

and now that the world is  
mostly fully reopened,

65

00:05:53,647 --> 00:05:57,710

but not all of us are coming  
into the office necessarily,

66

00:05:57,734 --> 00:06:01,419

it's still a pretty challenging

anxiety-filled time

67

00:06:01,443 --> 00:06:06,560

with people moving around the country  
and the world again this summer

68

00:06:06,560 --> 00:06:08,960

that is creating some challenges,

69

00:06:10,319 --> 00:06:13,688

but I did want to for the  
mindfulness moment today,

70

00:06:13,712 --> 00:06:17,919

I wanted to focus on one of the  
things I kind of mentioned before

71

00:06:17,919 --> 00:06:20,560

that we are in the middle of summer,

72

00:06:20,560 --> 00:06:23,600

and that can be a  
real challenge for folks,

73

00:06:23,600 --> 00:06:31,600

especially for folks again and communities  
that do not have the capacity or the resilience

74

00:06:31,600 --> 00:06:35,327

for dealing with high temperatures

75

00:06:35,351 --> 00:06:39,418

and in many parts of our world  
temperatures that are much higher

76

00:06:39,442 --> 00:06:45,280

than are typically experienced  
or that have been prepared for.

77

00:06:45,280 --> 00:06:50,241

So one of the things that actually as I've  
been trying to learn more mindfulness

78

00:06:50,265 --> 00:06:55,599

that I was reflecting on  
over the summer so far is

79

00:06:55,599 --> 00:07:00,160

I actually live in a place  
where I think it's fairly mild,

80

00:07:00,160 --> 00:07:02,698

because I grew up in a  
place that definitely is not,

81

00:07:02,722 --> 00:07:05,759

I grew up in one of the hotter  
parts of the country in Texas

82

00:07:05,759 --> 00:07:10,000

and spent most of my youth outside,

83

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:13,893

so if folks could just think  
about that for a moment,

84

00:07:13,917 --> 00:07:17,120

kind of feel where you are right now,

85

00:07:17,120 --> 00:07:22,560

I'm guessing most of us are probably  
inside, but I think all of us probably have

86

00:07:22,560 --> 00:07:29,199

some pretty deep memory  
recall for when we were younger,

87

00:07:29,199 --> 00:07:31,260

and especially for the summer,

88

00:07:31,284 --> 00:07:35,759

which for most of us of course was a  
time that we looked forward to all year,

89

00:07:35,759 --> 00:07:39,941

because we got to spend a lot of time outside,  
we got to spend a lot of time with friends,

90

00:07:39,965 --> 00:07:44,000

we got to spend time doing  
outdoor activities.

91

00:07:44,000 --> 00:07:47,584

So if you could just think back on that  
wherever you're at right now,

92

00:07:47,608 --> 00:07:50,639

think back to some of those  
times when you were younger

93

00:07:50,639 --> 00:07:54,800

and those times that you would  
spend out of doors in the summer

94

00:07:54,800 --> 00:07:58,479

hopefully, if you were  
lucky and privileged enough

95

00:07:58,479 --> 00:08:05,039

to be doing so at least part of the  
time in nature in open green space,

96

00:08:05,039 --> 00:08:11,120

and one of the things that I used to  
really think about even when I was younger



97

00:08:11,120 --> 00:08:18,240

was that it was okay to be hot, that  
when you're hot your body responds to that

98

00:08:18,240 --> 00:08:20,720

your body starts to sweat,

99

00:08:20,720 --> 00:08:23,277

and one of the things I  
always used to really focus on,

100

00:08:23,301 --> 00:08:25,381

even on some of the hottest days

101

00:08:25,405 --> 00:08:30,671

when I would be running around with my  
friends on the edge of a lake or something

102

00:08:30,695 --> 00:08:36,719

in the middle of the Texas heat, was actually  
feeling those beads of sweat running down my face,

103

00:08:36,719 --> 00:08:40,958

sweet feeling those beads of  
sweat running down your arms,

104

00:08:40,958 --> 00:08:43,569

and really connecting  
to the fact that that's okay,

105

00:08:43,593 --> 00:08:46,739

that's what's going to  
get you through this heat,

106

00:08:46,763 --> 00:08:53,120

that's just how your body naturally  
reacts to what is happening in nature,

107

00:08:53,120 --> 00:08:58,938

and I think especially today  
where so much of our community,

108

00:08:58,962 --> 00:09:06,000

so many of our communities are  
facing temperatures that are a challenge

109

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:12,827

are facing temperatures that probably  
make us potentially not enjoy the things

110

00:09:12,851 --> 00:09:18,548

that we want to be able to enjoy when  
it's otherwise a sunny, bright day outside

111

00:09:18,572 --> 00:09:23,249

is that feeling of being hot,  
that feeling of sweating.

112

00:09:23,273 --> 00:09:29,600

And one of the things I reflect  
on, again is no it's okay, enjoy that,

113

00:09:29,600 --> 00:09:35,440

feel your body reacting to the heat, feel  
that beat of sweat running down your forehead,

114

00:09:35,440 --> 00:09:38,959

and know that your body's

reacted, and it's okay,

115

00:09:38,959 --> 00:09:46,228

to get a little hot, but also to be  
mindful not to get too hot,

116

00:09:46,252 --> 00:09:48,594

that you have to be in touch with nature,

117

00:09:48,618 --> 00:09:53,279

but you have to be in touch  
with your body at the same time.

118

00:09:53,279 --> 00:09:59,120

So to find a little bit of shade,  
make sure you drink a little cool water

119

00:09:59,120 --> 00:10:01,808

and also especially since we're  
talking about environmental justice

120

00:10:01,832 --> 00:10:04,480

don't just

look out for your body,

121

00:10:04,480 --> 00:10:08,489

but look out for the bodies of  
the people around you.

122

00:10:08,513 --> 00:10:13,839

Make sure to remember if you have  
neighbors, you have family members,

123

00:10:13,839 --> 00:10:18,352

and maybe need a little help so that  
they can try to enjoy the heat a little bit

124

00:10:18,376 --> 00:10:22,480

and also try to make sure  
that the heat doesn't hurt them,

125

00:10:22,480 --> 00:10:26,124

to look out for those other  
bodies around you too,

126

00:10:26,148 --> 00:10:31,360

especially as this heat looks like it's  
not going to let up this summer

127

00:10:31,360 --> 00:10:34,160

it's probably not going  
to let up for our lifetimes,

128

00:10:34,160 --> 00:10:40,640

I think this is a good thing to reflect  
on in these months where it is hot.

129

00:10:40,640 --> 00:10:43,519

Thank you all for joining me in that.

130

00:10:43,519 --> 00:10:46,492

Thanks to Garza for reminding  
me earlier to kind of think about

131

00:10:46,516 --> 00:10:50,399

what I was going to share today  
during our mindfulness moment.

132

00:10:51,600 --> 00:10:55,200

I'll keep working on that I feel like,  
I'm still learning how to do those,

133

00:10:55,200 --> 00:10:57,978

but I appreciate y'all  
doing those with us

134

00:10:58,002 --> 00:11:01,508

we've heard from a lot of folks that have  
been attending these monthly meetings

135

00:11:01,532 --> 00:11:04,422

that they actually really  
appreciate having a moment

136

00:11:04,446 --> 00:11:07,667

just to kind of stop and reflect and think,

137

00:11:07,691 --> 00:11:11,788

and I do support that, I think it  
is a good thing for us to practice

138

00:11:11,812 --> 00:11:14,959

whether you're at work at home  
wherever you are in life

139

00:11:14,959 --> 00:11:18,800

spend a little time doing  
mindfulness every day.

140

00:11:18,800 --> 00:11:21,600

Okay, for some of our leadership updates.

141

00:11:21,600 --> 00:11:24,527

I have a number  
of things to share.

142

00:11:24,551 --> 00:11:28,425

One thing I don't have anything  
to point at yet, but we will soon,

143

00:11:28,449 --> 00:11:32,640

so I just want to make  
sure that folks are aware,

144

00:11:32,664 --> 00:11:35,760



if you have not been on  
some of our more recent calls

145

00:11:35,760 --> 00:11:41,120

or if you are not able to attend our National  
Environmental Justice Advisory Council meeting

146

00:11:41,120 --> 00:11:45,608

a few weeks ago,  
is that at EPA we obviously

147

00:11:45,732 --> 00:11:49,761

we have received a significant increase  
in funding for environmental justice

148

00:11:49,785 --> 00:11:55,600

in our fiscal year 22  
appropriation from congress,

149

00:11:55,600 --> 00:12:02,667

and the way that our EJ money at EPA works  
is that it is what we call two-year money,

150

00:12:02,691 --> 00:12:07,120

so we typically have two  
years to spend our money.

151

00:12:07,120 --> 00:12:13,228

We got this money halfway through  
the first year of those two years.

152

00:12:13,252 --> 00:12:17,277

So we actually had about 18  
months to spend that money,

153

00:12:17,301 --> 00:12:22,539

which is now down to about  
14 months to spend that money.

154

00:12:22,639 --> 00:12:30,639

We have over 50 million dollars that we are  
planning on pushing out in the next 14 months.

155

00:12:30,639 --> 00:12:39,120

That is by far a record amount for  
EPA's EJ grants and technical assistance.

156

00:12:39,120 --> 00:12:46,160

So this is going to start to come fairly fast  
and fairly furious over the next few months.

157

00:12:46,160 --> 00:12:49,120

One of the first things  
that folks are going to see

158

00:12:49,120 --> 00:12:55,200

hopefully here in the next couple of  
weeks is a request for applications

159

00:12:55,200 --> 00:13:02,880

to stand up a number of regional community  
capacity building technical assistance centers.

160

00:13:02,880 --> 00:13:05,815

We're going to call those  
thriving community centers

161

00:13:05,839 --> 00:13:08,720

in coordination with  
Department of Transportation

162

00:13:08,720 --> 00:13:12,000

and Department of Energy  
and other federal partners,

163

00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:16,468

who are also looking and will be  
making moves over the coming months

164

00:13:16,492 --> 00:13:22,480

to provide more on the ground technical  
assistance to communities and their partners.

165

00:13:22,480 --> 00:13:28,201

So EPA will be one of the first ones out  
with an actual request for applications

166

00:13:28,225 --> 00:13:31,839

we're going to be doing  
this through a grant vehicle,

167

00:13:31,839 --> 00:13:37,489

but that grant vehicle will be looking

for philanthropic organizations,

168

00:13:37,513 --> 00:13:45,680

colleges and universities, intertribal  
consortia, non-profit organizations

169

00:13:45,680 --> 00:13:49,867

that feel that they can take on  
the responsibility and the work

170

00:13:49,891 --> 00:13:57,279

of providing technical assistance  
directly to communities and their partners.

171

00:13:57,920 --> 00:14:01,267

You'll have about 60 days, I think  
we're going to do it for 60 days

172

00:14:01,291 --> 00:14:04,079

this RFA is  
going to be open.

173

00:14:04,079 --> 00:14:05,954

So if you're not thinking about that,

174

00:14:05,978 --> 00:14:11,440

if you want more information about that, the  
information that we've already shared publicly,

175

00:14:11,440 --> 00:14:14,788

please write in, as Garza  
mentioned, our emails are available,

176

00:14:14,812 --> 00:14:19,394

it's just tejada.matthew@  
EPA.gov, garza.jonathan@EPA.gov,

177

00:14:19,418 --> 00:14:23,538

we will get you the information  
that has been shared publicly,

178

00:14:23,562 --> 00:14:28,043

but if that is something that  
your non-profit, your philanthropy,

179

00:14:28,067 --> 00:14:32,320

your educational institution, your  
inter-tribal consortia,

180

00:14:32,320 --> 00:14:35,304

would potentially  
like to apply for it,

181

00:14:35,328 --> 00:14:40,000

is not too early to get started  
thinking and discussing that

182

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:42,447

to get ready for that request  
for applications to come out,

183

00:14:42,471 --> 00:14:46,127

it will be coming out in  
the next couple of weeks.

184

00:14:46,151 --> 00:14:48,057

A little later this summer,

185

00:14:48,081 --> 00:14:53,040

we will be putting out a request  
for applications for our small grants.

186

00:14:53,040 --> 00:14:58,560

This request though will not be for actual  
organizations to apply to get a small grant,

187

00:14:58,560 --> 00:15:03,760

we're going to do a different model  
given the volume of funding we have

188

00:15:03,760 --> 00:15:07,887

and to solve one of the main  
requests and barriers

189

00:15:07,911 --> 00:15:12,000

that have been  
identified by our grantees

190

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:15,588

is that we will be looking  
for one or two, maybe three,

191



00:15:15,612 --> 00:15:19,411

but probably just one or  
two external organizations,

192

00:15:19,435 --> 00:15:22,320

and again, these  
could be non-profit organizations,

193

00:15:22,320 --> 00:15:26,018

philanthropic organizations,  
educational institutions

194

00:15:26,042 --> 00:15:29,963

that will then do the  
subgranting of the small grants.

195

00:15:29,987 --> 00:15:36,248

So we are looking to make one or  
two large awards of multi-million dollars

196

00:15:36,272 --> 00:15:44,240

to some external organizations that would  
then do the EJ small grant sub granting,

197

00:15:44,240 --> 00:15:47,828

which means that  
the actual community

198

00:15:47,852 --> 00:15:51,093

and tribal applicants  
for those small grants

199

00:15:51,117 --> 00:15:56,079

will no longer have to fill out  
the federal assistance application,

200

00:15:56,079 --> 00:16:01,168

they can just go right to this external  
organization with a project proposal

201

00:16:01,192 --> 00:16:02,880

and receive funding.

202

00:16:02,880 --> 00:16:06,959

So that will be coming out  
later in the summer early fall,

203

00:16:06,959 --> 00:16:13,446

and then as soon as we have those two grants  
through the system, we will be coming back

204

00:16:13,470 --> 00:16:18,711

with our Environmental Justice Collaborative  
Problem Solving grant application,

205

00:16:18,734 --> 00:16:23,879

which in the past has been limited  
to 200,000 dollars,

206

00:16:23,879 --> 00:16:29,708

we believe we're going to go up to 500,000  
for that collaborative problem-solving grant,

207

00:16:29,932 --> 00:16:34,000

and again, this is the multi-year  
level of funding that goes to non-profit

208

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:38,807

community-based organizations  
or to tribal organizations

209

00:16:39,031 --> 00:16:45,260

or territorial governments that  
will be available this coming fall,

210

00:16:45,360 --> 00:16:50,733

at the same time or around the same  
time we will also have

211

00:16:50,757 --> 00:16:58,320

our state tribal and local government environmental  
justice cooperative agreement solicitation coming out.

212

00:16:58,320 --> 00:17:01,908

Again, that in the past has been limited  
to about 200,000 dollars,

213

00:17:01,932 --> 00:17:07,330

we think we're going gonna increase that  
to 500,000 or a million dollars,

214

00:17:07,454 --> 00:17:10,480

we're still looking for a

little bit of input on that,

215

00:17:10,480 --> 00:17:12,168

but that'll be coming this fall.

216

00:17:12,192 --> 00:17:19,188

So again, records amount of EJ resources  
are going to be coming out the door

217

00:17:19,212 --> 00:17:21,599

over the next few months,

218

00:17:21,599 --> 00:17:25,640

we have lots of information  
online regarding previous

219

00:17:26,959 --> 00:17:30,832

requests for applications, previous  
grants that have been awarded

220

00:17:30,856 --> 00:17:34,880

there's lots of information  
there to start preparing,

221

00:17:34,880 --> 00:17:40,288

but the time will never be  
better to get your work going,

222

00:17:40,312 --> 00:17:45,760

get folks talking coming together  
on the project proposals and ideas,

223

00:17:45,760 --> 00:17:50,799

there's going to be a lot of support  
coming out of EPA in the next few months.

224

00:17:50,799 --> 00:17:53,156

And now is the time to  
start getting ready for it.

225

00:17:53,180 --> 00:17:56,460

Again, if folks want more  
information, need more information

226

00:17:56,484 --> 00:17:59,743

have missed any of those

previous public opportunities,

227

00:17:59,767 --> 00:18:05,125

please pop us an email and we will get any  
of that publicly shared information to folks,

228

00:18:05,149 --> 00:18:09,520

so that you can  
start getting ready for it.

229

00:18:09,520 --> 00:18:11,528

I also wanted to make  
sure folks were aware,

230

00:18:11,552 --> 00:18:16,320

and I'm going to share my screen with  
some of the things that are already ongoing.

231

00:18:16,320 --> 00:18:22,880

We do have some websites now available  
to start sharing more of that information

232

00:18:22,880 --> 00:18:26,640

about what is already available.

233

00:18:26,640 --> 00:18:32,400

So the first thing I have up is EPA has  
a dedicated public-facing website

234

00:18:32,400 --> 00:18:35,487

just on the Bipartisan  
Infrastructure Law

235

00:18:35,511 --> 00:18:42,720

also sometimes known as IIJA, the Infrastructure  
Investing and Jobs Act.

236

00:18:42,720 --> 00:18:49,440

So this is a page just about EPA's activities  
related to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

237

00:18:49,440 --> 00:18:55,968

has updates on important programs such  
as our strategy for ensuring equity

238

00:18:55,992 --> 00:18:57,869



in the State Revolving Funds.

239

00:18:57,893 --> 00:19:00,375

The State Revolving  
Funds for clean water

240

00:19:00,399 --> 00:19:05,039

and for drinking water are the  
biggest part of EPA's annual budget,

241

00:19:05,039 --> 00:19:08,792

they're also by far the biggest  
part of what we received

242

00:19:08,816 --> 00:19:11,679

through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,

243

00:19:11,679 --> 00:19:17,039

so there is a lot of information  
there on SRF and other programs,

244

00:19:17,039 --> 00:19:22,480

such as our DERA,

Clean School Bus program,

245

00:19:23,679 --> 00:19:31,760

just other things that we have going on in  
terms of whether it is funding announcements,

246

00:19:32,640 --> 00:19:36,036

instructions, information, fact sheets,

247

00:19:36,060 --> 00:19:43,520

you can find all of that information on  
EPA's website [EPA.gov/infrastructure](http://EPA.gov/infrastructure).

248

00:19:43,520 --> 00:19:46,480

Similarly, we have a site just dedicated

249

00:19:46,480 --> 00:19:51,280

to making sure that all of the  
information we have related to Justice40

250

00:19:51,280 --> 00:19:53,446

is available on our website,

251

00:19:53,470 --> 00:20:02,080

it's a little bit longer of a URL, EPA.gov  
environmentaljustice/justice40-EPA.

252

00:20:02,080 --> 00:20:07,840

You can also just google EPA Justice40  
and you'll find it pretty quickly.

253

00:20:09,039 --> 00:20:13,919

But again, so Justice40 is not  
a thing that folks can apply to.

254

00:20:13,919 --> 00:20:16,099

The BIL funding in different ways

255

00:20:16,123 --> 00:20:22,240

there is funding associated with these  
different BIL Infrastructure Law programs.

256

00:20:22,240 --> 00:20:26,960

Justice40 is a framework  
that is helping to ensure

257

00:20:26,960 --> 00:20:30,960

that things like our funding  
through the Infrastructure Law

258

00:20:30,960 --> 00:20:35,748

are processed are implemented  
in an equitable and just way.

259

00:20:35,772 --> 00:20:42,080

So all of the information that we have  
that we can share publicly regarding

260

00:20:42,080 --> 00:20:46,880

Justice40, programs and activities of  
EPA is on this website,

261

00:20:46,880 --> 00:20:50,966

including our list of  
programs at EPA,

262

00:20:50,990 --> 00:20:57,280

The first list of programs at EPA  
that are covered under Justice40.

263

00:20:57,280 --> 00:21:02,880

We were one of the first agencies to  
release this list publicly a few weeks ago,

264

00:21:02,880 --> 00:21:06,159

you can find it here on  
this website along with

265

00:21:06,159 --> 00:21:10,480

all the other information again  
that we have regarding Justice40.

266

00:21:10,480 --> 00:21:15,440

And then I'm also very  
happy to let folks know,

267

00:21:15,440 --> 00:21:20,000

a lot of folks have forgotten that  
before the Infrastructure Law was a thing

268

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:23,440

before Justice40 really

started to take shape,

269

00:21:23,440 --> 00:21:26,640

there was this other thing  
called the American Rescue Plan.

270

00:21:26,640 --> 00:21:31,440

EPA received 100 million dollars  
through the American Rescue Plan

271

00:21:31,440 --> 00:21:36,000

50 million of that went to the air  
program for air quality monitoring,

272

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:41,600

50 million of that went to the  
environmental justice activities across EPA.

273

00:21:41,600 --> 00:21:49,428

So we also have at [EPA.gov/ARP](https://www.epa.gov/arp) for American  
Rescue Plan website available for folks,

274

00:21:49,452 --> 00:21:52,977

again, has a lot of information available.

275

00:21:53,001 --> 00:21:56,559

Just last week we

actually produced a report

276

00:21:56,583 --> 00:22:03,407

on what we have done with our funding

up through the last couple of months.

277

00:22:03,431 --> 00:22:10,640

So a little over a year's worth of ARP

activities are now contained in this report,

278

00:22:10,640 --> 00:22:15,679

so this is another valuable resource for

communities, for states, local governments

279

00:22:15,679 --> 00:22:23,360

any of our partners that want to know what is

going on with these American Rescue Plan funds.

280

00:22:23,360 --> 00:22:25,934

This is the place to find out for that.

281

00:22:25,958 --> 00:22:30,720

And again, if anybody has any other questions or would like more insight

282

00:22:30,720 --> 00:22:34,080

into what is happening across any of these areas,

283

00:22:34,080 --> 00:22:38,030

please just reach out again to [tejada.matthew@EPA.gov](mailto:tejada.matthew@EPA.gov),

284

00:22:38,054 --> 00:22:44,480

I'm very happy to engage individually or with groups of folks on any questions

285

00:22:44,480 --> 00:22:50,480

you might have regarding any of these resources.

286

00:22:50,480 --> 00:22:53,527



A couple other things just quickly for  
folks in terms of leadership updates,

287

00:22:53,551 --> 00:23:00,356

we are planning for the first in-person  
National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

288

00:23:00,380 --> 00:23:08,048

or NEJAC meeting this fall we have  
not yet zeroed in on the actual date.

289

00:23:08,072 --> 00:23:14,422

I believe we are looking for the last week  
in September or the second week in October

290

00:23:14,446 --> 00:23:19,828

where we're looking to see which of  
those will work better for the members

291

00:23:19,852 --> 00:23:24,559

to have the greatest level of  
participation amongst the members,

292

00:23:24,559 --> 00:23:28,688

but that will be coming this fall, I  
know a lot of folks like to travel

293

00:23:28,712 --> 00:23:33,838

for those NEJAC meetings  
so start thinking about

294

00:23:33,862 --> 00:23:38,448

if you would like to, it'll be  
here in Washington DC this fall

295

00:23:38,472 --> 00:23:41,039

an in-person NEJAC meeting.

296

00:23:41,039 --> 00:23:44,640

And as soon as we have that  
date completely squared away,

297

00:23:44,640 --> 00:23:46,799

we will make sure to share that out

298

00:23:46,799 --> 00:23:50,208

through our Twitter, through our listserv  
through this monthly meeting

299

00:23:50,232 --> 00:23:53,679

to make sure folks are aware.

300

00:23:53,679 --> 00:23:56,428

We are also and we don't have  
a whole lot to report out on this,

301

00:23:56,452 --> 00:24:01,200

but maybe by our next call we'll  
have a lot more that we're able to share.

302

00:24:01,200 --> 00:24:06,494

We are still working to frame up a reorganization  
of the Office of Environmental Justice

303

00:24:06,518 --> 00:24:11,622

into a national program,  
that is something that was contemplated

304

00:24:11,646 --> 00:24:15,048

in the president's budget  
request for last year,

305

00:24:15,172 --> 00:24:17,919

the president's budget  
request for this year,

306

00:24:17,919 --> 00:24:25,120

there has been some reflection of that in some  
things that have happened up on Capitol Hill.

307

00:24:25,120 --> 00:24:29,488

So we are still working on that  
proposal to see what that would look like

308

00:24:29,512 --> 00:24:33,632

and hopefully here in the near future  
we'll have some more information

309

00:24:33,656 --> 00:24:40,080

that we'll be ready to share publicly in  
terms of the Office of Environmental Justice

310

00:24:40,080 --> 00:24:44,720

being elevated into its own  
national program at EPA.

311

00:24:44,720 --> 00:24:49,840

And one of the things that is of  
course critical to that to enabling

312

00:24:49,840 --> 00:24:54,720

that is the funding that congress  
appropriated in fiscal year 22.

313

00:24:54,720 --> 00:25:00,960

So I think Garza that is it  
for my updates for today.

314

00:25:00,960 --> 00:25:02,400

Johnathan Garza: Thank you, Tejada.

315

00:25:02,400 --> 00:25:04,936

Now we're going to go ahead  
and pass it over to Damian.

316

00:25:04,960 --> 00:25:08,640

Damian, you can go ahead and share  
your screen and introduce yourself.

317

00:25:08,640 --> 00:25:09,679

Damian Slaughter: Great.

318

00:25:09,679 --> 00:25:15,000

I'm going to share my  
screen first in a second.

319

00:25:22,159 --> 00:25:26,720

So good afternoon, everyone,  
Garza, Tejada, thanks

320

00:25:26,720 --> 00:25:32,159

to EPA and yourselves for inviting us  
to present on our programs,

321

00:25:33,120 --> 00:25:36,315

and I can get started, my  
name is Damian Slaughter,

322

00:25:36,339 --> 00:25:39,772

I am a Government Technical Representative  
for the Office of Lead Hazard Control

323

00:25:39,796 --> 00:25:41,733

and Healthy Homes.

324

00:25:41,857 --> 00:25:50,567

And I will be presenting our lead hazard  
control grant program to you today.

325

00:25:50,591 --> 00:25:58,315

So this is just an information  
sheet here for contacts for our office,

326

00:25:58,339 --> 00:26:04,320

just in case you have any  
questions after my presentation.

327

00:26:04,799 --> 00:26:06,528

Now I just want to jump right in.

328

00:26:06,552 --> 00:26:10,626

In the office, our mission is of  
course to help all Americans,

329

00:26:10,650 --> 00:26:17,039

especially children and other vulnerable  
population low income households.

330

00:26:17,039 --> 00:26:22,880

We are nationwide leaders in promoting  
health and safety in residential housing,

331

00:26:22,880 --> 00:26:29,840

supporting science research, providing  
technical assistance compliance and enforcement.

332

00:26:31,679 --> 00:26:34,159

Excuse me--

333

00:26:34,240 --> 00:26:40,692

On the efforts to mitigate  
unhealthy housing in our communities,

334

00:26:40,716 --> 00:26:47,200



one thing that we do for our program  
office is preventing injuries and diseases,

335

00:26:47,200 --> 00:26:52,768

reducing work and school absenteeism,  
benefits to the state and local communities,

336

00:26:52,792 --> 00:26:55,440

preserving affordable housing,

337

00:26:55,440 --> 00:27:01,520

as well as building capacity for  
contractors and staff.

338

00:27:05,440 --> 00:27:09,760

Some of those other efforts, the  
main thing I want to point out here

339

00:27:09,760 --> 00:27:18,000

is being able to-- we have proven data  
from what we've done to show the savings

340

00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:30,360

that families have at least 17 dollars for like  
187 billion since the program year 1993.

341

00:27:30,880 --> 00:27:35,360

Excuse me, one second Garza,  
can you give me some assistance?

342

00:27:35,360 --> 00:27:38,607

for some reason-- can  
you guys see my slides?

343

00:27:38,631 --> 00:27:39,573

Johnathan Garza: Yes, sir.

344

00:27:39,598 --> 00:27:43,148

Damian Slaughter: I cannot  
see them clearly on my--

345

00:27:43,172 --> 00:27:45,679

Johnathan Garza: We  
see then coming through.

346

00:27:45,679 --> 00:27:49,600

Damian Slaughter: Okay give me one  
second, let me back up and I do apologize.

347

00:27:49,600 --> 00:27:52,240

Johnathan Garza: No worries.

348

00:27:54,640 --> 00:27:57,440

Damian Slaughter: Okay that's bad.

349

00:27:59,679 --> 00:28:03,399

Okay, I'm gonna continue.

350

00:28:07,120 --> 00:28:11,520

Okay, so our commitment  
to improving communities,

351

00:28:11,520 --> 00:28:16,480

we work with local health and housing  
departments, community based organization,

352

00:28:16,480 --> 00:28:24,770

health and philanthropies, many other groups across  
the country to fix health and safety hazards

353

00:28:24,794 --> 00:28:31,385

in low income housing protecting over  
400,000 at home or at young risk children.

354

00:28:31,409 --> 00:28:35,679

And I apologize for that,  
jumping voice, I apologize.

355

00:28:35,679 --> 00:28:39,547

We expanded our efforts to  
build public-private partnerships

356

00:28:39,671 --> 00:28:47,739

to bring more investments to fix older housing  
and preserve affordable housing in communities.

357

00:28:48,080 --> 00:28:51,508

This is some of the pictures  
that we've taken over the years.

358

00:28:51,532 --> 00:28:55,470

You can see clearly some of the

impact that we have had.

359

00:28:55,494 --> 00:29:01,279

You can see where this home had a lot of  
damage early on and then we were able to get in

360

00:29:01,279 --> 00:29:10,200

and do some remediation on  
the big difference that it did.

361

00:29:16,799 --> 00:29:18,920

So what does  
these funds pay for?

362

00:29:18,944 --> 00:29:23,760

So for our lead funds, it can  
be used for lead soil remediation,

363

00:29:23,760 --> 00:29:28,159

paint removal replacing,  
soffit trims and fascia.

364

00:29:28,159 --> 00:29:33,120

For our healthy homes funds, we can do  
radon testing and remediation,

365

00:29:33,120 --> 00:29:36,240

HVAC repairs and replacement.

366

00:29:36,240 --> 00:29:44,880

We can also do rodent, bed bug, cockroaches  
treatment, electrical safety GFCI

367

00:29:44,880 --> 00:29:46,640

and wiring upgrades.

368

00:29:46,640 --> 00:29:53,760

For partner funds, we can do roof  
replacement correction of code violations

369

00:29:53,760 --> 00:29:59,279

and any foundation repairs that may be  
needed there at the home as well.

370

00:30:07,200 --> 00:30:10,738

Now for our 2022

grant funding availability,

371

00:30:10,762 --> 00:30:14,559

we have approximately

520 million that's available.

372

00:30:14,583 --> 00:30:21,567

I heard Garza talking about how much additional  
funds that EPA has received this year.

373

00:30:21,591 --> 00:30:24,960

We got an influx  
in funding as well.

374

00:30:24,960 --> 00:30:31,568

So we have roughly 100, I mean  
520 million for lead hazard reductions.

375

00:30:31,592 --> 00:30:34,804

For healthy homes, our  
supplemental funding,

376

00:30:34,828 --> 00:30:38,300

we have approximately  
30 million dollars available.

377

00:30:38,324 --> 00:30:43,526

For our older adult home modification  
program, we have about 15 million.

378

00:30:43,550 --> 00:30:51,039

In our tech studies, which is our research grants,  
we have two millions in lead technical studies.

379

00:30:51,039 --> 00:30:55,760

And then the healthy homes technical studies  
we have about 5 million dollars available.

380

00:30:55,760 --> 00:31:00,540

[UNINTELLIGIBLE] One of  
our new programs that we have,

381

00:31:00,564 --> 00:31:04,440

we have about 4 million dollars available.

382

00:31:10,159 --> 00:31:15,888



Again, with the lead hazard reduction,  
we have about approximately 520 million,

383

00:31:15,912 --> 00:31:19,039

our applications are due on August the 8th.

384

00:31:19,039 --> 00:31:23,600

We have a current note for this out  
there, a notice of financial opportunity

385

00:31:23,600 --> 00:31:26,480

that's out for the  
public review at this time

386

00:31:26,480 --> 00:31:30,640

and we encourage as many  
applicants to apply as possible.

387

00:31:30,640 --> 00:31:33,514

Again, that application  
will be due August the 8th,

388

00:31:33,538 --> 00:31:37,200

and keep in mind it is  
a competitive funding.

389

00:31:37,200 --> 00:31:40,249

Healthy homes are  
healthy on southland again,

390

00:31:40,273 --> 00:31:44,135

we have approximately 30 million  
dollars that's going to be available

391

00:31:44,159 --> 00:31:49,840

in addition to the lead  
hazard reduction funding.

392

00:31:53,519 --> 00:31:58,080

So this is just some of the categories  
of our funding and how it will be used

393

00:31:58,080 --> 00:32:01,488

and some of the breakdown and  
funding that we have available.

394

00:32:01,512 --> 00:32:07,689

So with the lead hazard control, we have  
approximately 380 million that's available.

395

00:32:07,713 --> 00:32:13,308

This is primarily for state, cities,  
counties, and tribal government.

396

00:32:13,332 --> 00:32:17,139

The period of performance  
which we refer to as the POP,

397

00:32:17,163 --> 00:32:22,913

will be 48 months, there's a  
statutory requirement as a 10% match

398

00:32:22,937 --> 00:32:25,976

for these federal dollars.

399

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:33,200

The maximum award will be 5 million  
dollars for new never before grantees.

400

00:32:33,200 --> 00:32:37,760

We do have a set aside  
for those type of applicants.

401

00:32:37,760 --> 00:32:41,759

They can request up  
to 4 million dollars.

402

00:32:41,783 --> 00:32:48,320

For our highest abatement need  
jurisdiction, these are large communities

403

00:32:48,320 --> 00:32:55,624

with at least 3,500 owner-occupied  
units or pre-1940 rental units.

404

00:32:55,648 --> 00:33:00,096

It's about 138 million  
dollars available for that.

405

00:33:00,120 --> 00:33:05,360

Again, focusing on state, city,  
county and tribal governments.

406

00:33:05,360 --> 00:33:13,919

Again 48 months, the period of performance  
on the maximum here is 8 million dollars.

407

00:33:13,919 --> 00:33:18,708

Our high impact neighborhood,  
we're not providing that program,

408

00:33:18,732 --> 00:33:21,770

However, of the 22 million  
dollars that's available,

409

00:33:21,794 --> 00:33:25,731

will be utilized to fulfill  
either that hazard control

410

00:33:25,755 --> 00:33:33,200

or highest abatement need jurisdiction  
categories that are over subsidized.

411

00:33:37,440 --> 00:33:42,159

Okay, one of the housing unit  
eligibilities privately owned--

412

00:33:42,159 --> 00:33:48,640

owner and rental housing  
units pre-1978 pre-1940,

413

00:33:48,640 --> 00:33:53,200

we do address vacant units as well.

414

00:33:53,200 --> 00:33:56,628

However, they must be  
available to low-income families

415

00:33:56,652 --> 00:34:03,039

with children under the age of 6,  
individuals and family eligibility.

416

00:34:03,039 --> 00:34:08,239

Low-income families with children under  
the age of 6 of course takes priority.

417

00:34:09,440 --> 00:34:12,879

We do also offer owner occupied units.

418

00:34:12,879 --> 00:34:19,520

All units must be at or under 80%

AMI, Annual Moderate Income,

419

00:34:19,520 --> 00:34:27,040

and at least 90% of those occupied by  
families with a child under the age of 6.

420

00:34:30,560 --> 00:34:35,440

Now for our healthy home supplement fund,  
couple things I would like to point out

421

00:34:35,440 --> 00:34:43,760

with the supplemental fund, you must, or  
the contractor must identify lead hazard

422

00:34:43,760 --> 00:34:49,468

in that home in order to be able  
to utilize the supplement, it's a must.

423

00:34:49,492 --> 00:34:55,359

With those supplemental funds we also  
focus on the 8 principles of healthy homes,

424

00:34:55,359 --> 00:34:58,480

and of course, I'll show you  
a list of those here shortly,

425

00:34:58,480 --> 00:35:04,720

keeping it dry, keeping it clean,  
keeping it safe so on and so forth.

426

00:35:06,960 --> 00:35:13,480

And there's those 8 principles  
of healthy homes for your review.

427

00:35:17,119 --> 00:35:24,868

So with our 22-- 2022 lead NOFO rating  
factors, just to kind of give your feel of that,

428

00:35:24,892 --> 00:35:29,548

I mean this also be  
available in our slide deck,

429

00:35:29,572 --> 00:35:36,480

Rating factor 1 really focus on the capacity



of the applicant and relevant experience,

430

00:35:36,480 --> 00:35:38,800

it's worth like 40 points.

431

00:35:40,079 --> 00:35:43,125

Rating factor 2, it's

worth like 30 points.

432

00:35:43,149 --> 00:35:48,800

This is going to really focus on the  
justification and the description of the need

433

00:35:48,800 --> 00:35:50,800

for in your community.

434

00:35:50,800 --> 00:35:58,000

Collecting the housing data such as  
pre-1940 homes and pre-1978 homes,

435

00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:01,231

rental and owner occupied units as well.

436

00:36:01,255 --> 00:36:08,733

The rating factor 3 focuses on the budget and the fiscal accountability it's worth 30 points,

437

00:36:08,757 --> 00:36:14,758

you'll be required-- applicants will be required to complete a 424 CBW

438

00:36:14,782 --> 00:36:21,440

provided budget narrative, I mean it must have at least a 10% match.

439

00:36:21,440 --> 00:36:30,720

We also have bonuses of 2 points for things such as the section 3 measures as well.

440

00:36:33,440 --> 00:36:42,240

On the 2022 lead NOFO application info all of our applications can be found on grants.gov.

441

00:36:42,240 --> 00:36:52,720

I mean this is just some of the criteria here that those applications must be submitted as.

442

00:36:52,720 --> 00:36:59,236

The cost function breakdown is 65% direct costs for lead hazard control activities,

443

00:36:59,260 --> 00:37:04,747

so that those funding must be spent toward direct lead hazard control activities.

444

00:37:04,771 --> 00:37:07,293

Of course the 10% match,

445

00:37:07,317 --> 00:37:14,800

and for our funding, a 10% administrative cost limit is mandated as well.

446

00:37:19,599 --> 00:37:25,599

Now some of the 2022 Lead NOFO application info allowable activities

447

00:37:25,599 --> 00:37:27,847

just for your knowledge,

448

00:37:27,871 --> 00:37:34,640

examples of allowable activities include  
but not limit to marketing and outreach

449

00:37:34,640 --> 00:37:39,040

completing what's what we call a LIRA,  
Land Inspection Risk Assessment,

450

00:37:39,040 --> 00:37:44,400

building partnerships,  
hiring and training for staff.

451

00:37:48,480 --> 00:37:52,848

Also clearance testing, data  
sharing, analysis and systems,

452

00:37:53,072 --> 00:37:59,816

we really encourage data sharing working with  
let's just say for instance, health departments

453

00:38:00,040 --> 00:38:05,119

how to get the data in regards  
to the kids that's been lead infected

454

00:38:05,119 --> 00:38:10,720

throughout the communities with  
high elevated-- their lead levels

455

00:38:10,720 --> 00:38:15,880

monitoring oversight for  
contractors and sub-grantees.

456

00:38:19,280 --> 00:38:24,916

2022 lead NOFO application  
information,

457

00:38:25,040 --> 00:38:29,648

purchases on property, purchasing of  
equipment over 5,000 dollars,

458

00:38:29,672 --> 00:38:34,560

completing or gut  
rehab and demolition.

459

00:38:34,560 --> 00:38:43,346

All of these are not eligible and are

not allowable with our funding.

460

00:38:43,370 --> 00:38:50,238

Okay, let's talk about some  
more grant funding assistance

461

00:38:50,262 --> 00:38:55,359

that we have supporting local  
programs providing funds to state,

462

00:38:55,359 --> 00:39:01,428

to start state and local programs to identify  
and address a lead-based paint hazards

463

00:39:01,452 --> 00:39:03,987

and safety hazards in homes.

464

00:39:04,011 --> 00:39:07,220

We also do demonstrate through research and  
pilot programs,

465

00:39:07,244 --> 00:39:15,375

demonstrate that providing safe and healthy

environments, and feasible affordable and beneficial.

466

00:39:15,499 --> 00:39:20,720

And also to create public  
and private market demands

467

00:39:20,720 --> 00:39:26,720

to integrate health outcomes into housing  
and infrastructure projects and planning.

468

00:39:26,720 --> 00:39:29,986

And also train workforce.

469

00:39:30,010 --> 00:39:37,957

Now, this is the map as  
of March of 2022 this year.

470

00:39:38,081 --> 00:39:41,518

These are some of the  
communities that we are actively

471

00:39:41,542 --> 00:39:44,328

serving with some of our grants right now.

472

00:39:44,352 --> 00:39:48,160

You can see that it's a lot of  
activities throughout the state,

473

00:39:48,160 --> 00:39:53,440

but trust me it's a lot  
more that needs to be done.

474

00:39:55,680 --> 00:40:01,016

Where do we need to be? Again, you  
can just kind of see this overlay here

475

00:40:01,040 --> 00:40:04,188

of all the properties  
that we are present,

476

00:40:04,212 --> 00:40:10,079

but you can also see a lot of  
areas that need our funding,

477

00:40:10,079 --> 00:40:12,942

where the income level is slow,



478

00:40:12,966 --> 00:40:20,458

there's a lot of health and hazards in these communities that we can really focus on,

479

00:40:20,482 --> 00:40:24,909

so there's definitely a need.

480

00:40:24,933 --> 00:40:32,931

Again, feel free to contact us, here's a list of our names of individuals in our office

481

00:40:32,955 --> 00:40:37,200

that will be able to assist you with any questions that you may have

482

00:40:37,200 --> 00:40:43,200

as in regards to lead that has control and healthy homes.

483

00:40:47,680 --> 00:40:50,628

I'm going to stop sharing.

484

00:40:50,652 --> 00:40:53,599

Johnathan Garza: Thank  
you very much, Damian.

485

00:40:53,599 --> 00:40:54,916

Damian Slaughter: I apologize--

486

00:40:54,940 --> 00:40:56,468

Johnathan Garza: No,  
no worries Damian, all right.

487

00:40:56,492 --> 00:41:00,880

Hi, everyone so we're gonna go to go ahead  
and open up to any questions that you may have.

488

00:41:00,880 --> 00:41:05,167

The Q&A box is open for any other  
questions that you'd like to ask,

489

00:41:05,191 --> 00:41:09,968

If you'd like to ask a question  
live, please raise your hand,

490

00:41:09,992 --> 00:41:12,320

and then I'll ask you to unmute.

491

00:41:13,440 --> 00:41:16,880

And I see you one question already in  
the Q&A box we're going to take a second

492

00:41:16,880 --> 00:41:20,400

to find the right answer for  
you, so we see it coming in.

493

00:41:20,400 --> 00:41:23,640

Thank you.

494

00:41:39,440 --> 00:41:41,440

Matthew Tejada: I can  
take the one that's in chat.

495

00:41:41,440 --> 00:41:43,119

Johnathan Garza: Sure, sounds good.

496

00:41:43,119 --> 00:41:50,319

Matthew Tejada: Somebody in chat is asking,  
[CLEARS THROAT]

497

00:41:50,640 --> 00:41:54,720

well let me just read it, is the  
federal funding required by legislation

498

00:41:54,720 --> 00:41:58,720

or statute or other to be distributed  
through a competitive grant process

499

00:41:58,720 --> 00:42:02,248

or does the EPA actually have the  
authority to redesign the process

500

00:42:02,272 --> 00:42:07,108

and actually assess needs prioritize those  
communities with those few motive urgent needs

501

00:42:07,132 --> 00:42:10,476

for benefits and allocate funding directly

502

00:42:10,500 --> 00:42:15,282

to local CBO nonprofit appropriate  
accountable organizations,

503

00:42:15,306 --> 00:42:19,200

minority women, business, entrepreneurs,

504

00:42:19,200 --> 00:42:23,328

I think that's what MWBE stands for  
implementers to control

505

00:42:23,352 --> 00:42:26,480

who benefits from the  
economic development as well as

506

00:42:26,480 --> 00:42:29,807

health outcomes for  
those margins that's a lot.

507

00:42:29,831 --> 00:42:34,960

My understanding and I can go back to  
our lawyers just to double double check,

508

00:42:36,079 --> 00:42:43,839

because I learned something new about how  
budgets and appropriations work every week.

509

00:42:43,839 --> 00:42:48,880

But the competitive grant process  
because of the authority we have

510

00:42:48,880 --> 00:42:54,480

and the actual account  
that this money comes to EPA in

511

00:42:55,760 --> 00:43:04,000

requires or limits us to distribution of the  
funds through a competitive grant process.

512

00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:12,240

There are different ways that taxpayer dollars  
can be distributed out of the federal government,

513

00:43:12,240 --> 00:43:16,800

a certain amount of that is  
dictated by which account,

514

00:43:16,800 --> 00:43:23,601

it goes into a lot of folks who haven't worked  
in government at any level, we still operate,

515

00:43:23,625 --> 00:43:27,834

we still operate in much the same  
way that a business or a nonprofit does

516

00:43:27,958 --> 00:43:30,205

we have different accounts  
that do different things,

517

00:43:30,229 --> 00:43:35,904

and we try to get funding into  
those accounts from different ways,

518

00:43:35,928 --> 00:43:41,428

and the account that EJ  
dollars are put into by congress,

519

00:43:41,452 --> 00:43:47,064

and from which we spend whether  
it's for our payroll for our staff

520

00:43:47,088 --> 00:43:49,086

or our grants or the rent we pay.

521

00:43:49,110 --> 00:43:52,308

A lot of people don't realize  
that we actually have to pay rent

522

00:43:52,457 --> 00:43:55,896

to another part of the government  
to be in a government building

523

00:43:55,920 --> 00:43:59,692

we have to pay, like I have to pay  
for the electricity that my staff uses

524

00:43:59,716 --> 00:44:04,065

for the space that we inhabit  
in a government building

525

00:44:04,165 --> 00:44:07,133

with taxpayer dollars that  
the government gave to us



526

00:44:07,157 --> 00:44:09,444

and then I get back to  
another part of the government,

527

00:44:09,505 --> 00:44:14,729

but the way that we get those monies,

528

00:44:14,753 --> 00:44:18,265

it does mean that we have to  
compete them in order to expend them.

529

00:44:18,365 --> 00:44:25,145

So that is a very good question and  
in some of the conversations we had

530

00:44:25,145 --> 00:44:32,085

with some of the appropriators last year  
that was one of the things that came up.

531

00:44:32,185 --> 00:44:37,824

There were some folks on the Hill who asked  
well should we keep your money in this account

532

00:44:37,848 --> 00:44:41,305

or should we potentially  
move it into this other account

533

00:44:41,329 --> 00:44:45,329

where we have a lot of the money that  
goes to states and tribes.

534

00:44:45,353 --> 00:44:52,693

And part of the thinking there  
was "well, that might give us a way at least

535

00:44:52,717 --> 00:44:55,692

for states and tribes to be able to  
award that money to states and tribes

536

00:44:55,716 --> 00:44:59,016

to work in environmental justice but  
what would that mean for communities?"

537

00:44:59,040 --> 00:45:02,480

and it just got really  
convoluted and difficult,

538

00:45:02,480 --> 00:45:07,119

so it was kept in the account that  
we're in right now since we at least have

539

00:45:07,119 --> 00:45:12,400

a competitive program  
that I know doesn't work perfectly

540

00:45:12,400 --> 00:45:20,240

but we have been developing this program  
for close to 25 if not over 25 years now

541

00:45:20,240 --> 00:45:24,400

and we continue to  
evolve and refine it.

542

00:45:24,400 --> 00:45:29,280

One of the things just to make sure-- and  
I started to speak about this earlier

543

00:45:29,280 --> 00:45:36,207

in terms of the fact that this is two-year money

and at this point we have 14 months to spend it

544

00:45:36,231 --> 00:45:40,887

and if we do not spend these

50 plus million dollars that we have,

545

00:45:40,911 --> 00:45:48,123

if they're not off our book by

September 30th of 2023, they disappear,

546

00:45:48,147 --> 00:45:54,079

like they go back to the treasury

automatically on October 1st of 2023.

547

00:45:54,079 --> 00:46:02,880

So we're pushing to get this stuff spent in at

least the very good way that we already know.

548

00:46:02,880 --> 00:46:08,960

On a parallel track and we actually just had

our kickoff meeting for this this afternoon,

549

00:46:10,160 --> 00:46:13,586

we're working on a lot of--

550

00:46:13,610 --> 00:46:18,079

we're working on 25 plus  
years of experience and feedback

551

00:46:18,079 --> 00:46:22,095

to get these grants stood up  
this year and get this money spent,

552

00:46:22,119 --> 00:46:26,691

but on this parallel track we are going  
to have an effort over the coming months

553

00:46:26,715 --> 00:46:32,098

to really do a much deeper look and a  
much deeper engagement holistically

554

00:46:32,122 --> 00:46:37,028

but also with different environmental  
justice leaders with past grantees,

555

00:46:37,052 --> 00:46:39,839

with environmental justice organizations

556

00:46:39,839 --> 00:46:44,160

because this grant, this whole  
grant and technical assistance effort

557

00:46:44,160 --> 00:46:47,971

is something that we're going to  
work to evolve over the coming years

558

00:46:47,995 --> 00:46:53,599

to really make sure that now that we  
have actual, some actual serious money,

559

00:46:53,599 --> 00:47:00,960

50 million dollars in excess of that we're  
really standing up that grant program in a way

560

00:47:00,960 --> 00:47:07,888

that best matches the needs of the recipients  
and that the process itself works in the way

561

00:47:07,912 --> 00:47:11,228

that works best for the recipients,  
it's never going to be perfect,

562

00:47:11,252 --> 00:47:17,760

there's always going to be some  
rules and laws that we have to abide by

563

00:47:17,760 --> 00:47:22,559

that don't always match the way that our  
recipients would like for things to work

564

00:47:22,559 --> 00:47:26,559

but we're going to be as creative  
as we can to stay within the law

565

00:47:26,559 --> 00:47:34,400

but to make our grant programs best match  
the needs and requests of our recipients

566

00:47:34,400 --> 00:47:37,280

over the coming years.

567

00:47:37,359 --> 00:47:38,274

Johnathan Garza: Thank you, Matt.

568

00:47:38,298 --> 00:47:40,219

We're going to go ahead  
and move on to Martha,

569

00:47:40,243 --> 00:47:45,520

I'm going to go ahead and  
let you unmute right now.

570

00:47:46,960 --> 00:47:48,658

Martha Armas-Kelly: Good afternoon.

571

00:47:48,682 --> 00:47:52,468

First of all, I am really excited  
to hear about the programs

572

00:47:52,492 --> 00:47:57,908

that are upfront for our  
communities here in across the nation

573

00:47:57,932 --> 00:48:00,171

and especially in California.



574

00:48:00,195 --> 00:48:05,147

Here in California I am  
working with Catholic Charities,

575

00:48:05,171 --> 00:48:12,063

as an environmental justice coordinator and  
I am also the first inaugural cohort member

576

00:48:12,087 --> 00:48:18,388

of the strategic growth council's Pace  
Program Partners Advancing and Climate Equity

577

00:48:18,412 --> 00:48:24,079

and this year I have the pleasure of being  
a UC Davis first inaugural cohort member

578

00:48:24,079 --> 00:48:27,348

of the fellowship for  
environmental justice.

579

00:48:27,372 --> 00:48:31,760

I'm very happy and I'm proud

to say that I'm part of this movement

580

00:48:31,760 --> 00:48:34,422

for environmental justice

and raising the narrative

581

00:48:34,446 --> 00:48:40,307

but we have to really look at the

ground floor of how we're doing things

582

00:48:40,331 --> 00:48:45,984

and when we're hearing about folks

mentioning intentional equity and mindfulness,

583

00:48:46,008 --> 00:48:49,808

we really have to think about

how we structure our meetings

584

00:48:49,832 --> 00:48:53,680

and the way we are able to

bring everyone to the table.

585

00:48:53,680 --> 00:48:57,608

For myself, I would love to be able to go  
to Washington D.C and partake

586

00:48:57,632 --> 00:49:02,480

in the decision making and the  
structure and strategy of a program

587

00:49:02,480 --> 00:49:06,088

but I don't have the finances  
and the capacity in my organization

588

00:49:06,112 --> 00:49:11,359

will not allow for me to  
travel to Washington D.C.

589

00:49:11,359 --> 00:49:15,920

So I look at this and I think to myself  
again we're being excluded.

590

00:49:15,920 --> 00:49:19,387

We have the money and we have the  
leadership, we have the people

591

00:49:19,411 --> 00:49:24,880

that are the proponents for change that  
are doing the work and we need to consider

592

00:49:24,880 --> 00:49:30,006

that we need to make opportunities available  
for those that would normally not be able

593

00:49:30,030 --> 00:49:35,408

to participate and that includes myself and  
others that I'm sure are here at the table.

594

00:49:35,432 --> 00:49:38,545

I'm listening and looking for an  
opportunity to be able

595

00:49:38,569 --> 00:49:42,960

to bring some of that good stuff  
to their own communities to make

596

00:49:42,960 --> 00:49:47,228

[UNINTELLIGIBLE] change  
happen and bring forth the good.

597

00:49:47,252 --> 00:49:50,768

So I just-- that question

and that comment,

598

00:49:50,792 --> 00:49:53,988

so that you'll just think about

when you're structuring that money

599

00:49:54,012 --> 00:49:59,908

and making that money go out, make

sure that you include that notion of equity

600

00:49:59,932 --> 00:50:07,768

at every level, basal level, from the

ground floor all the way up to the top.

601

00:50:07,792 --> 00:50:11,037

How do we make sure that all

the people that need to be there

602

00:50:11,061 --> 00:50:14,160

are available to be

there and can be included?

603

00:50:14,160 --> 00:50:16,788

I'm looking forward to writing for  
some of that funding

604

00:50:16,812 --> 00:50:18,826

because California needs a lot of help.

605

00:50:18,850 --> 00:50:21,488

We have wildfires and all  
kinds of other things going on

606

00:50:21,512 --> 00:50:23,910

and with the gentleman  
that's doing the lead,

607

00:50:23,934 --> 00:50:27,609

I'm hoping that maybe there'll be  
some funding available for those houses

608

00:50:27,633 --> 00:50:31,440

that are more dilapidated that  
do need to be brought up to code

609

00:50:31,440 --> 00:50:37,663

and folks don't have the money to just  
bring their houses to that level of goodness

610

00:50:37,687 --> 00:50:42,640

for our people that are  
out there, so thank you.

611

00:50:44,800 --> 00:50:45,837

Matthew Tejada: Thank you, Martha.

612

00:50:45,861 --> 00:50:51,119

I mean that, that was a lot but there  
was a lot, a really great points in there.

613

00:50:51,119 --> 00:50:56,640

A couple things that I was thinking as  
you were speaking that I was reflecting on,

614

00:50:56,640 --> 00:51:03,359

is absolutely, one of the things  
aside-- well, there's a few things.

615

00:51:03,359 --> 00:51:11,988

Aside from our grant programs and wanting  
to get that funding out as quickly as we can

616

00:51:12,012 --> 00:51:17,456

in ways that are most easily accessible,  
especially for those small grants

617

00:51:17,480 --> 00:51:22,319

to be as easily accessible to  
especially lower capacity communities

618

00:51:22,319 --> 00:51:26,160

that are really just starting  
out, don't have a lot of support,

619

00:51:26,160 --> 00:51:30,559

that's not the only thing that  
we're excited about though.

620

00:51:31,599 --> 00:51:38,640

One of the things that I'm also super excited



about is internally with the funding we received

621

00:51:38,640 --> 00:51:41,848

is we're going to be standing up in  
actual, as I mentioned before,

622

00:51:41,872 --> 00:51:48,964

of a national program on environmental justice  
and the biggest investment we've made internally

623

00:51:48,988 --> 00:51:52,400

aside from our grant program,  
that's the single biggest investment

624

00:51:52,400 --> 00:51:54,785

we're making with the  
funding we've received.

625

00:51:54,809 --> 00:52:03,163

The next biggest investment we are making is  
just in that program, in the EJ program at EPA

626

00:52:03,187 --> 00:52:09,200

and the lion's share of that funding  
is going out to our regional offices

627

00:52:09,200 --> 00:52:14,388

because our regional offices are on the front  
lines of actually engaging and supporting

628

00:52:14,412 --> 00:52:17,860

with our community leaders  
and community organizations,

629

00:52:17,884 --> 00:52:23,157

they're on the front lines of them going  
to the states or going to the local city

630

00:52:23,181 --> 00:52:28,128

or going to the tribe or going back into  
our regional office to the water division

631

00:52:28,152 --> 00:52:31,200

or the air division, the  
enforcement division,

632

00:52:31,200 --> 00:52:36,567

so we're making a big investment in  
those regional environmental justice teams.

633

00:52:36,591 --> 00:52:43,839

For about 15 years, we have supported  
a grand total of on average one person

634

00:52:43,839 --> 00:52:49,661

in each of the regions and that one person  
was trying to do EJ for the entire region

635

00:52:49,685 --> 00:52:56,400

for all the communities, all the states, all  
the divisions, it's an impossible task, really.

636

00:52:56,400 --> 00:53:05,668

So we're increasing that, so that now every  
region will have between 10 and 12 dedicated staff

637

00:53:05,692 --> 00:53:10,606

just on environmental justice and one  
of the big things that we're working on

638

00:53:10,630 --> 00:53:15,886

and that I'm excited about  
is that engagements like this

639

00:53:15,910 --> 00:53:22,400

and you're sharing your thinking with us on  
a national call that happens once a month,

640

00:53:22,400 --> 00:53:27,844

like that should be one element and  
one kind of appendage of an element

641

00:53:27,868 --> 00:53:31,839

to our overall engagement  
with communities.

642

00:53:31,839 --> 00:53:37,897

A lot of that really needs to happen, closer  
to the front lines through our regional offices.

643

00:53:37,921 --> 00:53:45,839

A very similar point to yours was made by  
another EJ leader in Oakland, Margaret Gordon

644

00:53:45,839 --> 00:53:48,240

on our call three or four months ago

645

00:53:48,240 --> 00:53:52,400

that "hey, these national calls  
should be driven by regional engagement.

646

00:53:52,400 --> 00:53:54,720

what's happening at the regional level?"

647

00:53:54,720 --> 00:53:59,868

So in addition to actually having more  
staff in the regions to have that engagement

648

00:53:59,892 --> 00:54:04,186

and have that relationship  
building with community leaders,

649

00:54:04,210 --> 00:54:08,079

we're also making sure that  
there's going to be additional support

650

00:54:08,079 --> 00:54:13,508

for our folks to come out to communities  
to actually travel out to engage with folks

651

00:54:13,532 --> 00:54:19,760

in their communities for community leaders  
to be able to come into to travel for us

652

00:54:19,760 --> 00:54:25,588

to pay for folks to travel into when  
there are opportunities for them to engage

653

00:54:25,612 --> 00:54:29,804

with EPA staff and leadership in  
those regional offices--

654

00:54:29,828 --> 00:54:32,240

or also there's been  
some really great efforts

655

00:54:32,240 --> 00:54:37,782

in the past, I think back to our  
Region 6 office, a number of years ago

656

00:54:37,806 --> 00:54:43,988

when Ron Curry was the Regional Administrator,  
worked very closely with EJ leaders in Region 6

657

00:54:44,012 --> 00:54:49,040

in the Texas, New Mexico,  
Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas area

658

00:54:49,040 --> 00:54:55,251

and they actually went state by state and  
would support folks in convening in each state

659

00:54:55,275 --> 00:54:59,442

EJ leaders and communities to come  
up with well what do we want to do

660

00:54:59,466 --> 00:55:01,507

in this state, what do we  
want to do in this state

661

00:55:01,531 --> 00:55:04,799

and then they had a coming

together across the whole region,

662

00:55:04,799 --> 00:55:09,467

for everyone in the region to come together

in-- I don't think it was in Dallas

663

00:55:09,491 --> 00:55:11,927

I can't remember where it

was but they all came together

664

00:55:11,951 --> 00:55:13,880

and said "okay, this is a region,

what do we want to do?

665

00:55:13,904 --> 00:55:17,190

What do the communities want this

region to do on environmental justice?"

666

00:55:17,214 --> 00:55:22,000

So that's the sort of stuff that I'm really

excited about in addition to our grant program,

667

00:55:22,000 --> 00:55:25,839



these grants are not the only  
element of this, it is one element

668

00:55:25,839 --> 00:55:30,325

that we're working on in the next couple  
of years to really be able to provide

669

00:55:30,349 --> 00:55:35,288

that support to be able to provide a new level of  
consistent engagement and relationship building

670

00:55:35,312 --> 00:55:38,665

and we're also extending that  
to the rest of the agency at EPA.

671

00:55:38,689 --> 00:55:43,847

We have some commitments in our strategic  
plan about providing capacity building

672

00:55:43,871 --> 00:55:48,128

or providing capacity support to  
communities not from the EJ program

673

00:55:48,152 --> 00:55:54,000

but from the rest of EPA that when  
we're actually relying on community leaders

674

00:55:54,000 --> 00:55:59,327

to do things like give us information or  
prepare a community visit or something else

675

00:55:59,351 --> 00:56:03,607

that they should be compensated for that,  
they shouldn't be expected to do that for free.

676

00:56:03,631 --> 00:56:06,124

So there's a lot of  
different elements of this

677

00:56:06,148 --> 00:56:09,574

but we really appreciate  
Martha engaging with us on this

678

00:56:09,598 --> 00:56:11,837

and continuing to  
kind of lift that up

679

00:56:11,861 --> 00:56:16,400

and make sure that as we start to  
put these different things into place,

680

00:56:16,400 --> 00:56:19,408

they're not going to be perfect, they're  
not going to be 100% right,

681

00:56:19,432 --> 00:56:23,847

we're doing that based on your feedback, we're  
doing it based on the experience we've had

682

00:56:23,871 --> 00:56:28,344

but we're also doing it knowing that we're  
going to continue to evolve and refine

683

00:56:28,368 --> 00:56:33,440

all of these different pieces as  
we implement them based upon

684

00:56:33,440 --> 00:56:37,520

how they're received, whether they work  
or not, could they be done better,

685

00:56:37,520 --> 00:56:43,359

so just continuing to give us that  
feedback is one of the most important parts.

686

00:56:43,359 --> 00:56:46,608

Martha Armas-Kelly: Well, I  
appreciate that I also wanted to say that

687

00:56:46,632 --> 00:56:51,040

when we're looking at creating  
the narrative for environmental justice

688

00:56:51,040 --> 00:56:56,640

like Catholic Charities is the only one in the  
whole nation as far as catholic charities that is

689

00:56:56,640 --> 00:57:01,508

in the central valley that is an  
environmental justice, a program of itself.

690

00:57:01,532 --> 00:57:07,308

I'm pretty proud of that and it's exciting for

me, I also work as a tribal advocate for UTOC

691

00:57:07,332 --> 00:57:12,960

which is United Tribes of  
California and in understanding this

692

00:57:12,960 --> 00:57:18,533

there's a need for a space where children  
can learn about environmental justice,

693

00:57:18,557 --> 00:57:22,400

I know that it's moving into  
our curriculum for education

694

00:57:22,400 --> 00:57:27,579

and it would be nice to be able to see  
maybe even a cultural center

695

00:57:27,603 --> 00:57:32,559

or even a museum of sorts where kids  
can learn about environmental justice

696

00:57:32,559 --> 00:57:39,334

in many communities across the state  
and really develop the understanding

697

00:57:39,358 --> 00:57:46,468

at a core level as little as five years old  
knowing how important our environment is

698

00:57:46,492 --> 00:57:52,567

and so that we don't have to redo this again  
because we're at a critical mass right now

699

00:57:52,591 --> 00:57:55,228

as far as what we're going to do for  
the next 10 years

700

00:57:55,252 --> 00:57:59,520

and I think that we need to speak  
to the children first too as well.

701

00:57:59,520 --> 00:58:03,280

Matthew Tejada: No right on and I  
would love if you would pop me an email

702

00:58:03,280 --> 00:58:06,447

what you just said about catholic  
charities and a few other things.

703

00:58:06,471 --> 00:58:09,748

I know there's at least a  
couple people in our team here

704

00:58:09,772 --> 00:58:13,427

that would love to engage with you on  
that on some of our faith-based efforts

705

00:58:13,451 --> 00:58:16,047

and supporting communities around that.

706

00:58:16,071 --> 00:58:22,880

So if you wouldn't mind popping me an email  
so that we can connect, that'd be great.

707

00:58:22,880 --> 00:58:23,982

Martha Armas-Kelly: Not a problem, thank you.

708

00:58:24,006 --> 00:58:26,240

Matthew Tejada: Awesome, thanks Martha.

709

00:58:26,240 --> 00:58:31,200

Johnathan Garza: all right Matthew, if we can  
move over to Cheryl's question about EJSCREEN.

710

00:58:31,200 --> 00:58:35,857

Matthew Tejada: Sure so  
we have a question in chat,

711

00:58:35,881 --> 00:58:41,839

so both the EJSCREEN tool and  
CEJST tools have very large data gaps,

712

00:58:41,839 --> 00:58:46,707

for instance, no oil and gas wells,  
injection wells, waste processing facilities

713

00:58:46,731 --> 00:58:50,480

coal slurry impoundments  
appear on the EJ screening tool.

714

00:58:50,480 --> 00:58:51,968



How is this planning to be addressed?

715

00:58:51,992 --> 00:58:56,000

And if current pollution sources  
do not appear on either tool,

716

00:58:56,000 --> 00:58:59,488

how will that impact places like  
Washington county and Pennsylvania

717

00:58:59,512 --> 00:59:04,319

that has current highest number of frackwell  
infrastructure acquiring funds allocated

718

00:59:04,319 --> 00:59:05,127

to Justice40?

719

00:59:05,151 --> 00:59:13,134

I don't understand that last sentence so  
much but on the broader point, absolutely,

720

00:59:13,158 --> 00:59:18,047

there are huge gaps in EJSCREEN,

there are huge gaps in CEJST,

721

00:59:18,071 --> 00:59:21,359

I want to be real clear though  
for folks just to make sure.

722

00:59:21,359 --> 00:59:28,559

So we at EPA, we operate  
and own EJSCREEN,

723

00:59:28,559 --> 00:59:31,529

we do not and are not  
responsible for the CEJST tool,

724

00:59:31,553 --> 00:59:34,168

a Climate and Economic  
Justice Screening Tool,

725

00:59:34,192 --> 00:59:38,799

that is the tool that was  
mandated in Executive Order 14008,

726

00:59:38,799 --> 00:59:45,206

it is being developed and operated  
by the White House, it is in its beta form,

727

00:59:45,230 --> 00:59:47,748

I know they  
received a lot of feedback on it

728

00:59:47,772 --> 00:59:51,708

and are working on releasing it in its  
final form based upon that feedback,

729

00:59:51,732 --> 00:59:53,760

they're not there yet.

730

00:59:53,760 --> 00:59:58,368

They're different tools, the CEJST tool is  
creating a map of the United States

731

00:59:58,392 --> 01:00:05,599

and labeling census tracts as either  
disadvantaged or not disadvantaged

732

01:00:05,599 --> 01:00:10,640

so that map can be used for  
implementation of Justice40.

733

01:00:10,640 --> 01:00:16,160

EJSCREEN does not create a map of the united  
states and labeled places as EJ or not EJ,

734

01:00:16,160 --> 01:00:20,287

it allows the user to really investigate  
well, what potentially is happening

735

01:00:20,311 --> 01:00:24,079

in environmental justice  
terms in a part of the country.

736

01:00:24,079 --> 01:00:28,799

So they're different tools, CEJST  
uses a lot of EJSCREEN information

737

01:00:28,799 --> 01:00:36,079

but it uses it for a very distinct and  
different purpose than the EJSCREEN tool overall.

738

01:00:36,079 --> 01:00:37,070

Going back to your question.

739

01:00:37,094 --> 01:00:40,160

There are huge data  
gaps, we have always--

740

01:00:40,160 --> 01:00:45,119

every time we train folks on EJSscreen, that's  
one of-- I think that's like slide five,

741

01:00:45,119 --> 01:00:49,200

there are big gaps here there are  
limitations in the data

742

01:00:49,200 --> 01:00:53,040

and that is because  
the data do not exist

743

01:00:53,040 --> 01:00:57,359

and that's not to say that the data  
don't exist at all like your point,

744

01:00:57,359 --> 01:00:59,737

you can go to different parts  
of the United States

745

01:00:59,761 --> 01:01:06,640

and there's excellent information on  
oil and gas activities or on waste sites or--

746

01:01:06,640 --> 01:01:10,880

to Martha who apparently is from  
California, to things like pesticides

747

01:01:10,880 --> 01:01:15,520

but you cross a state border and  
all that data disappears,

748

01:01:15,520 --> 01:01:21,280

and that's one of our real barriers  
when we're developing national tools

749

01:01:21,280 --> 01:01:26,880

such as EJSCREEN and such as CEJST,  
is you have to have national data

750

01:01:26,880 --> 01:01:31,267

and that data has to be  
consistent across the United States

751

01:01:31,291 --> 01:01:34,554

and none of it is 100%  
consistent across the United States

752

01:01:34,578 --> 01:01:37,888

because if you get to Guam,  
you get to the US Virgin Islands,

753

01:01:37,912 --> 01:01:42,319

if you get up in the north slope of Alaska,  
almost all the data starts to disappear

754

01:01:42,319 --> 01:01:43,748

in some parts of the United States.

755

01:01:43,772 --> 01:01:48,467

But for the most you need to have  
pretty generally consistent coverage

756

01:01:48,491 --> 01:01:54,771

of that data across the entire United States,  
you need it to be fairly consistent data

757

01:01:54,795 --> 01:02:01,440

across the United States and you also need  
that data for environmental justice purposes

758

01:02:01,440 --> 01:02:07,200

to be fairly granular, you need it at  
a fine spatial resolution,

759

01:02:07,200 --> 01:02:11,356

and those are two things that really  
operate at opposite purposes.

760

01:02:11,380 --> 01:02:15,628

There's not many data sets  
that we really are interested in

761

01:02:15,652 --> 01:02:21,359

from an environmental justice point of  
view that are both nationally consistent



762

01:02:21,359 --> 01:02:27,888

but very finely granular  
from a spatial point of view.

763

01:02:27,912 --> 01:02:31,428

And you pointed a few like oil  
and gas, that's a huge hole,

764

01:02:31,452 --> 01:02:37,920

drinking water is a huge data gap, pesticide  
use and agricultural use is a huge data gap,

765

01:02:37,920 --> 01:02:41,277

fish consumption or efficient fishing  
advisory information,

766

01:02:41,301 --> 01:02:43,488

there's huge data  
gaps across the board

767

01:02:43,512 --> 01:02:45,848

when you're looking at it

from a national perspective.

768

01:02:45,872 --> 01:02:49,387

One of the things that I  
think is most exciting though

769

01:02:49,411 --> 01:02:55,520

about this real proliferation of  
tools and the use of these tools

770

01:02:55,520 --> 01:03:00,868

is that we're seeing more and more of these  
tools being created at the state level

771

01:03:00,892 --> 01:03:07,280

or at even a local level and anytime you can  
go from having something being a national

772

01:03:07,280 --> 01:03:12,640

to being just a state or being even you  
know smaller than a state, a local area,

773

01:03:12,640 --> 01:03:16,049

then those data  
problems start to disappear

774

01:03:16,073 --> 01:03:20,697  
because you can use those much  
more specific, much more refined data sets

775

01:03:20,721 --> 01:03:25,599  
that a state has access to or that  
just a city or county have access to,

776

01:03:25,599 --> 01:03:30,026  
so I'm very hopeful that we'll see more  
and more of these tools

777

01:03:30,050 --> 01:03:33,760  
start to fill those gaps  
for parts of the country

778

01:03:33,760 --> 01:03:39,359  
and eventually I think that leads to more  
of that data being more available nationally

779

01:03:39,359 --> 01:03:44,979

but I don't think these national tools are  
ultimately going to be the tools that are used

780

01:03:45,003 --> 01:03:50,640

because we're always going  
to have some data limitations

781

01:03:50,640 --> 01:03:54,787

that just don't exist once you  
get down to actual smaller scales

782

01:03:54,811 --> 01:04:02,319

or smaller parts of the country,  
but absolutely that's their gaps in them.

783

01:04:02,319 --> 01:04:06,960

We are reliant upon other EPA  
programs and other federal agencies

784

01:04:06,960 --> 01:04:11,680

to actually create that data, the EJ  
program itself isn't creating any data

785

01:04:11,680 --> 01:04:13,375

that goes into EJSCREEN.

786

01:04:13,399 --> 01:04:17,947

We're using publicly available data  
from trusted sources in other places

787

01:04:17,971 --> 01:04:22,868

and we talk about it very honestly  
and we talk with our colleagues

788

01:04:22,892 --> 01:04:26,523

in the government very honestly  
like "hey, that lack of water data--

789

01:04:26,547 --> 01:04:31,280

that lack of drinking water data is a big  
issue for us, what can we do to help to--

790

01:04:31,280 --> 01:04:33,200

are you all thinking about that?"

791

01:04:33,200 --> 01:04:34,748

We're working a lot with NASA.

792

01:04:34,772 --> 01:04:39,125

NASA is very interested in using--

how can they use their satellite data

793

01:04:39,149 --> 01:04:41,188

to try to fill some of those gaps.

794

01:04:41,212 --> 01:04:46,567

If we can't get 50 states and all the territories

to agree on how they want to report data

795

01:04:46,591 --> 01:04:51,771

about something to us, well maybe a satellite

in the sky can just cut through all that.

796

01:04:51,795 --> 01:04:59,708

We are very focused on trying to

reduce those numbers of data gaps

797

01:04:59,732 --> 01:05:05,067

but they absolutely exist and it's going to  
be part of the evolution of this entire area

798

01:05:05,091 --> 01:05:10,960

of screening tools trying to fill  
in more and more of those data gaps.

799

01:05:14,480 --> 01:05:15,553

Johnathan Garza: All right, thank you.

800

01:05:15,577 --> 01:05:20,920

Tejada we got Terrence Marasco.

801

01:05:24,319 --> 01:05:25,882

Terrence Marasco: Can you hear me?

802

01:05:25,906 --> 01:05:26,685

Johnathan Garza: Yep, we can hear you.

803

01:05:26,709 --> 01:05:28,388

Terrence Marasco: Hi, Salt Lake city, Utah.

804

01:05:28,412 --> 01:05:33,520

I work with a group called The West  
Side Coalition which was put together

805

01:05:33,520 --> 01:05:38,155

to look at environmental and  
many other issues on the west side

806

01:05:38,179 --> 01:05:42,640

which happens to be the  
most polluted part of the state

807

01:05:42,640 --> 01:05:50,400

and I'm curious if there could be a  
staff member that comes down to Salt Lake

808

01:05:50,400 --> 01:05:55,987

who we walk around and talk about these  
issues, point out the sources of pollution,

809

01:05:56,011 --> 01:06:06,640

the issues in the homes, etc., and then give  
us advice as to what is the best place to go



810

01:06:06,640 --> 01:06:11,599

at the EPA to address these issues.

811

01:06:13,359 --> 01:06:16,268

Johnathan Garza: Hey Terrence, I  
believe I answered your previous question.

812

01:06:16,292 --> 01:06:20,165

The best person to be in contact  
with is your local EJ coordinator.

813

01:06:20,189 --> 01:06:22,439

I went ahead and typed  
that into the chat for you

814

01:06:22,463 --> 01:06:25,039

but I could go ahead and  
put it in the chat, again.

815

01:06:25,039 --> 01:06:28,123

Terrence Marasco: Well, would this person  
be available to come into the community

816

01:06:28,147 --> 01:06:32,359

and where is  
this person located?

817

01:06:32,480 --> 01:06:37,119

Matthew Tejada: Yep, we actually have a  
couple of folks in our Denver office.

818

01:06:37,119 --> 01:06:43,679

That is the office-- that's where our Region 8  
office is located and Utah is part of Region 8.

819

01:06:43,703 --> 01:06:47,906

I know we have had a number of  
activities recently in Salt Lake city,

820

01:06:47,930 --> 01:06:51,607

please don't ask me what they are  
because I can't recall at the moment

821

01:06:51,631 --> 01:06:57,599

but I know I've seen-- I know the Region 8  
folks, the EJ team and the regional administrator

822

01:06:57,599 --> 01:07:04,160

have been keenly aware of and involved  
in some things happening in Salt Lake city

823

01:07:04,160 --> 01:07:07,599

and those would be the folks-- again,  
going back to that--

824

01:07:07,599 --> 01:07:12,347

we for the first time in a long time  
actually have money for more staff

825

01:07:12,371 --> 01:07:15,359

and money for those  
staff to be able to travel,

826

01:07:15,359 --> 01:07:20,148

and one of the principal reasons we travel  
is when communities need us to come out

827

01:07:20,172 --> 01:07:23,908

and walk their streets with them and

actually see firsthand what their issues are

828

01:07:23,932 --> 01:07:27,039

and engage with them on  
the ground in their communities.

829

01:07:27,039 --> 01:07:33,599

And I'm always happy to as well, I'm  
pretty filled up over the next few months

830

01:07:33,599 --> 01:07:36,880

had a lot of requests for  
me to be visiting communities

831

01:07:36,880 --> 01:07:40,098

but I'm always happy as well if there's  
a need or an interest

832

01:07:40,122 --> 01:07:45,119

in having somebody from headquarters  
come out with our regional staff.

833

01:07:45,119 --> 01:07:48,665

We do that fairly often, I was just  
out in the Bay Area a few weeks ago,

834

01:07:48,689 --> 01:07:53,280

I'm headed down to Puerto Rico next week,  
I'm going to Cincinnati the week after that

835

01:07:53,280 --> 01:07:58,251

I'm headed to Laredo in  
September, so if there's a need--

836

01:07:58,275 --> 01:08:03,668

but we always coordinate that with  
our regional environmental justice staff,

837

01:08:03,692 --> 01:08:06,000

so that's always the  
best place to start.

838

01:08:06,000 --> 01:08:10,319

Terrence Marasco: By the way, the  
EPA over the years, we've met with them

839

01:08:10,343 --> 01:08:15,530

and have they've been very helpful on particularly  
in the air quality issues that we have.

840

01:08:15,554 --> 01:08:18,880

I have another small question,  
I'm not sure if you touch this

841

01:08:18,880 --> 01:08:23,737

but I just finished a report which  
I'm going to submit to the legislature

842

01:08:23,761 --> 01:08:28,799

on additional funding for  
public schools.

843

01:08:28,799 --> 01:08:36,641

For example, does the environmental justice  
department touch this particular issue?

844

01:08:36,665 --> 01:08:38,880

Let me give you an example.

845

01:08:38,880 --> 01:08:44,560

There are schools on the west side,  
multicultural highly diverse schools

846

01:08:44,560 --> 01:08:52,719

where only 15 or 12% of the students  
are reading at grade level by third grade.

847

01:08:52,719 --> 01:09:03,759

Is that a piece that EJ touches when these schools  
are so out of whack with minority communities?

848

01:09:04,319 --> 01:09:06,527

Matthew Tejada: Not directly, no.

849

01:09:06,551 --> 01:09:12,647

We do fund quite a few projects  
that work in and with schools

850

01:09:12,671 --> 01:09:17,439

on environmental or environmental  
justice projects or issues.

851

01:09:17,439 --> 01:09:21,347

We actually have-- not  
our office but a sister office,

852

01:09:21,371 --> 01:09:25,600

the Office of Public Engagement  
and Environmental Education.

853

01:09:25,600 --> 01:09:30,508

They actually have a whole other  
grant program that is specific to grants

854

01:09:30,532 --> 01:09:36,000

to support environmental education, they  
don't really get to that more fundamental

855

01:09:36,000 --> 01:09:42,640

just literacy or learning or  
that's straight up--

856

01:09:42,640 --> 01:09:46,976

would be with the local or  
state school officials



857

01:09:47,000 --> 01:09:49,679

or with the  
department of education.

858

01:09:49,679 --> 01:09:54,828

So that sort of fundamental  
educational piece is not something

859

01:09:54,852 --> 01:09:57,199

that we directly intersect with.

860

01:09:57,199 --> 01:09:59,086

Terrence Marasco: Okay, thank you.

861

01:09:59,110 --> 01:10:00,159

Matthew Tejada: You're welcome, sir.

862

01:10:00,159 --> 01:10:02,239

Johnathan Garza: Thank you Terrence.

863

01:10:02,239 --> 01:10:07,040

All right we're going to go over to

Kevin Hamilton, go for it.

864

01:10:10,239 --> 01:10:13,400

Kevin Hamilton: Hi good morning, thank you  
for your time for the presentation today.

865

01:10:13,424 --> 01:10:18,121

My name is Kevin Hamilton, I lead the  
Central California Asthma Collaborative

866

01:10:18,145 --> 01:10:20,159

in the San Joaquin Valley,

867

01:10:20,159 --> 01:10:27,600

we're a member of this 17-member San Joaquin  
Valley Environmental Justice Steering Committee

868

01:10:27,600 --> 01:10:33,840

which is 17 EJ organizations including Catholic  
Charities that Martha's part of that works

869

01:10:33,840 --> 01:10:42,590

in this huge region that is so desperately

poor and affected by air pollution

870

01:10:42,614 --> 01:10:50,719

as we're the dirtiest air base in the nation  
even surpassing Los Angeles many years

871

01:10:50,719 --> 01:10:58,560

but I'm more interested in- at this point  
our work around climate and our communities

872

01:10:58,560 --> 01:11:05,280

and specifically what we're  
seeing in terms of investment in

873

01:11:05,280 --> 01:11:12,908

and infrastructure in these communities to  
ensure that our residents aren't left behind

874

01:11:12,932 --> 01:11:19,920

in this rush to this new zero  
net carbon, zero net energy future.

875

01:11:19,920 --> 01:11:25,520

It would be great to have a tool  
like the EJ tool that you've created

876

01:11:25,520 --> 01:11:27,008  
which you pointed out the gaps in it

877

01:11:27,032 --> 01:11:30,328  
but I've watched it get better  
and better over the years

878

01:11:30,352 --> 01:11:37,040  
and quite honestly other than CalEnviroscreen,  
there's not much else out there,

879

01:11:37,040 --> 01:11:40,928  
so it always adds to the conversation at  
least while not taking away from it

880

01:11:40,952 --> 01:11:47,348  
but its work, it's going to take  
probably generations of investment

881

01:11:47,372 --> 01:11:54,337

to get to where it needs to be but a big  
hole in it is our ability to assess housing

882

01:11:54,361 --> 01:11:59,120

and how that housing,  
how old that housing is

883

01:11:59,120 --> 01:12:04,640

and through that allowing us to get an idea  
of what kind of investment it's going to take

884

01:12:04,640 --> 01:12:08,788

to do things like re-roof the houses and  
put electrical services on them

885

01:12:08,812 --> 01:12:18,560

that allow us to install solar with a battery,  
make them energy efficient and seal them up

886

01:12:20,000 --> 01:12:24,328

to weatherize them in other words and  
maybe get a used EV in the driveway

887

01:12:24,352 --> 01:12:27,348

and that way we're not  
gentrifying people's homes,

888

01:12:27,372 --> 01:12:30,400

we're not displacing them, it's  
still the same house in the same place

889

01:12:30,400 --> 01:12:37,040

with the same old stucco on the outside  
or wood or whatever it happens to be.

890

01:12:37,040 --> 01:12:43,828

And there seems to be a real  
aversion in talking to even state officials,

891

01:12:43,852 --> 01:12:49,276

even the leader of our EPA and sort of  
approaching that because there are so many of them

892

01:12:49,300 --> 01:12:53,808

but the flip side of that is 40%  
of the population in this state

893

01:12:53,832 --> 01:12:57,360

and probably at least that in many  
states live in these homes.

894

01:12:57,360 --> 01:13:03,199

So the alternative is, we tear them all down  
and rebuild them, that doesn't make much sense.

895

01:13:03,199 --> 01:13:07,540

What kind of thoughts-- what  
thoughts might you have

896

01:13:07,564 --> 01:13:12,408

and maybe what kind of programs  
might you be thinking about development

897

01:13:12,432 --> 01:13:18,090

that could address this sort of  
egregious environmental injustice

898

01:13:18,114 --> 01:13:23,022

of probably the biggest magnitude I think  
I've ever seen

899

01:13:23,046 --> 01:13:28,480

since some of the dumping  
brownfield events?

900

01:13:31,120 --> 01:13:33,760

Matthew Tejada: Hey, that's  
an interesting question, Kevin.

901

01:13:33,760 --> 01:13:37,920

And I think the best  
way for me to answer it is,

902

01:13:37,920 --> 01:13:44,108

one of the things that I have wanted  
to do ever since I came into EPA

903

01:13:44,132 --> 01:13:48,948

almost 10 years ago now in this  
position and I have failed to do it,

904

01:13:48,972 --> 01:13:52,000

I'll acknowledge that



we have failed to do it,

905

01:13:52,000 --> 01:13:59,343

is to actually connect what we fund  
through our grants with the sort of issue

906

01:13:59,367 --> 01:14:02,467

that you're you're teeing up  
there--

907

01:14:02,491 --> 01:14:08,640

like that is a deep policy  
multiple program implementation issue

908

01:14:08,640 --> 01:14:13,488

and the answer to that  
I don't think would come from us

909

01:14:13,512 --> 01:14:18,408

but I bet the answers to that are actually  
out there on the ground in communities.

910

01:14:19,040 --> 01:14:22,368

How can you act, I mean you  
kind of you kind of started to--

911

01:14:22,392 --> 01:14:26,488

I think tie together multiple of the  
pieces you know like a charging station

912

01:14:26,512 --> 01:14:31,788

and weatherization and use EVs  
and I'm sure there's other pieces there

913

01:14:31,812 --> 01:14:32,781

but how could you actually--

914

01:14:32,805 --> 01:14:38,480

what are the pieces of that that the community  
would actually need to see come together

915

01:14:38,480 --> 01:14:45,760

to make available or open  
up their ability to participate

916

01:14:45,760 --> 01:14:53,760

in a cleaner more sustainable carbon  
neutral or carbon not so intensive future.

917

01:14:53,760 --> 01:14:59,064

And we would want those answers to  
come from the community

918

01:14:59,088 --> 01:15:04,846

and what we failed to do just  
because again going back to the--

919

01:15:04,870 --> 01:15:12,400

our realities inside of government is we haven't  
had the staff to both operate our grant program

920

01:15:12,400 --> 01:15:20,320

but then take the learning from it and take  
what communities are doing with that funding

921

01:15:20,320 --> 01:15:25,057

and actually carry that into  
the rest of what EPA does

922

01:15:25,081 --> 01:15:29,317

and into our relationships with  
states and local governments.

923

01:15:29,341 --> 01:15:36,000

So that's one of the things that  
I'm excited about our opportunity to do

924

01:15:36,000 --> 01:15:40,222

is to evolve our grant program, I mean the  
things we're doing over the next year or two

925

01:15:40,246 --> 01:15:43,228

are going to be kind of big  
broad stroke grant programs

926

01:15:43,252 --> 01:15:47,199

because we've got a bunch of money  
that we need to move out effectively.

927

01:15:47,199 --> 01:15:51,440

We'd like to over the years  
be able to get more refined

928

01:15:51,440 --> 01:15:56,967

so that something that you're  
pointing to there that is a real issue,

929

01:15:56,991 --> 01:16:01,040

for EPA is a real issue for state  
and other partners,

930

01:16:01,040 --> 01:16:05,828

like how could we take some of our grant  
funding and actually go out and fund folks

931

01:16:05,852 --> 01:16:10,740

who are working on actual implementable  
solutions from the community side

932

01:16:10,764 --> 01:16:16,000

that are going to be driven to come  
up with those answers to then inform

933

01:16:16,000 --> 01:16:20,348

"oh we need to do-- we need to change this  
policy piece and this program is missing

934

01:16:20,372 --> 01:16:23,748

and this program would work but  
you just need to turn it on its side

935

01:16:23,772 --> 01:16:26,080

and then it'll do that."

936

01:16:26,080 --> 01:16:30,047

That's the sort of thing that we need to  
actually use our grant investment

937

01:16:30,071 --> 01:16:37,440

to help inform how the government responds to  
and better matches the needs of communities.

938

01:16:37,440 --> 01:16:42,640

Kevin Hamilton: I would see EPA as a coordinator,  
I mean we've worked with community groups

939

01:16:42,640 --> 01:16:46,800

with our partners, we pretty much  
identified this as a model

940

01:16:46,800 --> 01:16:50,175

that we're putting forward is, this is  
what needs to happen,

941

01:16:50,199 --> 01:16:53,679

identified the programs that  
exist, we can find the cars

942

01:16:53,679 --> 01:16:57,840

because California's got  
cool car programs for EVs,

943

01:16:57,840 --> 01:17:02,960

we can find the solar because California's  
got cool solar program for these roofs

944

01:17:02,960 --> 01:17:07,890

but what we can't find is money to do the  
other sort of simple things that I mentioned,

945

01:17:07,914 --> 01:17:11,888

nobody's got money to put a roof on a house,

nobody's got money to put electrical service

946

01:17:11,912 --> 01:17:15,760

on a house and these

kinds of those missing pieces

947

01:17:15,760 --> 01:17:19,902

and it would seem that

your agency could act as--

948

01:17:19,926 --> 01:17:24,400

I mean DOA might have money for that I suppose

but we wouldn't know how to approach that

949

01:17:24,400 --> 01:17:31,748

and the community certainly doesn't, and the

residents that we're working with certainly don't

950

01:17:31,772 --> 01:17:34,783

but we really believe that

an investment in a pilot to--

951

01:17:34,807 --> 01:17:38,640



there's an aversion to even  
doing it because once you do it

952

01:17:38,640 --> 01:17:45,040

then you don't have to understand that the  
transformation it could create for these families

953

01:17:45,040 --> 01:17:49,920

both in their physical health, economic health  
and their ability to sort of move upward

954

01:17:49,920 --> 01:17:54,028

and because suddenly they're  
not paying for electricity now,

955

01:17:54,052 --> 01:18:01,513

so they're not balancing whether food rent  
or the electric bill at least where we are

956

01:18:01,537 --> 01:18:04,640

with the investor on utilities, I can tell you,

957

01:18:04,640 --> 01:18:07,679

that electric bill scares you  
when it comes in the mail.

958

01:18:07,679 --> 01:18:11,788

So it's like how do we  
change that paradigm?

959

01:18:11,812 --> 01:18:15,207

Well, we've got to get these assets  
on the ground for these same people

960

01:18:15,231 --> 01:18:18,480

that others are enjoying  
in upper income levels

961

01:18:18,480 --> 01:18:24,068

who sit around here and have no  
electric bill in a brand new house

962

01:18:24,092 --> 01:18:26,670

or even a house that's been retroed a bit

963

01:18:26,694 --> 01:18:30,239

because they were able to  
afford a newer type of house.

964

01:18:30,239 --> 01:18:36,376

So this is inequity, this is certainly environmental  
injustice, as well as a social injustice

965

01:18:36,400 --> 01:18:39,268

but I mean it really takes  
somebody at the top to say

966

01:18:39,292 --> 01:18:42,400

"oh yeah, well you need this, you need  
this agency, this agency

967

01:18:42,424 --> 01:18:45,280

and we'll all come together  
and let's talk about that.

968

01:18:45,280 --> 01:18:48,864

And let's do 30 houses so  
we can see how much it costs"

969

01:18:48,888 --> 01:18:52,304

because no one will even  
commit to how much it costs to do it,

970

01:18:52,328 --> 01:18:56,788

and until you figure that out  
you can't put a budget on it, right?

971

01:18:56,812 --> 01:19:03,520

So somebody's got to step up and  
say "all right, why don't you guys try this

972

01:19:03,520 --> 01:19:10,640

and we'll supervise it, we'll fund it and  
let's see what this does, let's test it"

973

01:19:10,640 --> 01:19:17,280

But it seems like it's been  
very difficult let's just say

974

01:19:17,280 --> 01:19:19,280

because people are afraid of the answer.

975

01:19:19,280 --> 01:19:22,168

Yeah I believe at least government is  
because once you have that answer

976

01:19:22,192 --> 01:19:27,628

then you gotta move forward  
and there are a lot of them, I always say,

977

01:19:27,652 --> 01:19:31,440

but what I tell my staff  
it's a big project, let's start

978

01:19:31,440 --> 01:19:33,988

because if we don't start  
nothing will happen, right?

979

01:19:34,012 --> 01:19:37,527

And the worst thing that we  
could have happen is nothing.

980

01:19:38,239 --> 01:19:42,787

Anyway, I get your spot that here and  
there but I'm not asking you to commit

981

01:19:42,811 --> 01:19:46,057

to anything but I would ask  
you to think about it.

982

01:19:46,081 --> 01:19:51,040

Matthew Tejada: No, I appreciate  
that and I appreciate you pointing this out.

983

01:19:51,040 --> 01:19:58,360

There are some big scary  
answers that I think prevent people

984

01:19:58,384 --> 01:20:03,584

from sometimes asking those questions  
because once we get a good answer

985

01:20:03,608 --> 01:20:06,590

it might put us in the government  
into a place where it's like

986

01:20:06,614 --> 01:20:09,208

"well, how the hell  
do we do that then?"

987

01:20:09,232 --> 01:20:16,908

and that works on a lot of different sides and  
government isn't very good at that last mile

988

01:20:16,932 --> 01:20:20,480

or that last hundred  
yards or that last fitting.

989

01:20:20,480 --> 01:20:24,636

We can fix a lot of stuff but then  
when you actually get to the people

990

01:20:24,660 --> 01:20:27,608

that need the help the most,  
you haven't done anything for them,

991

01:20:27,632 --> 01:20:32,400

even if you've changed out all their water  
lines going all the way up to their meter,

992

01:20:32,400 --> 01:20:35,401

they still got lead all over the pipes

in their house and fitting,

993

01:20:35,425 --> 01:20:39,840

so we haven't really helped  
them at all and we're not--

994

01:20:39,840 --> 01:20:43,288

we are very rarely good at answering  
that last most important question

995

01:20:43,312 --> 01:20:46,084

and making it relate back  
to the overall policy piece.

996

01:20:46,108 --> 01:20:47,928

So I appreciate you looking that up.

997

01:20:47,952 --> 01:20:51,520

I will share that in the  
conversations I have been involved in

998

01:20:51,520 --> 01:20:58,960

particularly with colleagues at other



agencies such as HUD, energy transportation,

999

01:20:58,960 --> 01:21:05,440

they are looking at the infrastructure dollars  
they've received and how can they start to do

1000

01:21:05,440 --> 01:21:10,239

kind of what you were suggesting I think, like  
let's stop being scared of asking the questions

1001

01:21:10,263 --> 01:21:13,508

because of what the answer might  
be, let's get out there and start using

1002

01:21:13,532 --> 01:21:16,639

some of this funding to figure  
some of these things out on the ground

1003

01:21:16,639 --> 01:21:19,280

in the places that we  
can get them to work

1004

01:21:19,280 --> 01:21:24,930

and bring that back to informing  
whether it is future requests to congress

1005

01:21:24,954 --> 01:21:29,678

or whether it is future implementation  
of already existing programs.

1006

01:21:29,702 --> 01:21:35,280

I believe there are a lot of folks in  
this administration that are not afraid

1007

01:21:35,280 --> 01:21:39,888

to ask the hard questions because they  
might result in scary answers

1008

01:21:39,912 --> 01:21:44,771

but we're still in the throes  
of asking them right now.

1009

01:21:44,795 --> 01:21:48,639

So I appreciate the thoughts.

1010

01:21:49,679 --> 01:21:52,639

Johnathan Garza: We can move  
on to the next anonymous question

1011

01:21:52,639 --> 01:21:55,440  
about redesigning the grant process.

1012

01:21:55,440 --> 01:21:58,488  
Matthew Tejada: Oh sure yeah and this  
one-- so an anonymous that Cindy wrote in

1013

01:21:58,512 --> 01:22:02,093  
it said "Thanks for the response how can  
we work with you to redesign and improve

1014

01:22:02,117 --> 01:22:08,137  
the grant process if there is no other bucket  
that allows for a more just allocation of funds

1015

01:22:08,161 --> 01:22:12,400  
without overburdening communities  
in a competitive grant process?"

1016

01:22:12,400 --> 01:22:16,468

I mean the best way and I don't know  
who you are anonymous attendee

1017

01:22:16,492 --> 01:22:22,468

but you're very welcome-- this is  
exactly why literally about two hours ago

1018

01:22:22,492 --> 01:22:28,639

we had our kickoff call with a contracting  
outfit that we have contracted with

1019

01:22:28,639 --> 01:22:35,808

to go out and engage with folks  
and get this sort of conversation going

1020

01:22:35,832 --> 01:22:41,975

and get these sorts of thinking and  
feedback to us over the coming months

1021

01:22:41,999 --> 01:22:46,719

so that we can really develop a  
grant program that starts to get at

1022

01:22:46,719 --> 01:22:49,908

exactly the sort of questions  
that you are you are asking.

1023

01:22:49,932 --> 01:22:55,988

So we have not scheduled out like exactly  
what that engagement is going to look like

1024

01:22:56,012 --> 01:22:59,855

over the next few months and there's  
going to be some bigger conversations,

1025

01:22:59,879 --> 01:23:05,308

there'll probably be some smaller  
conversations, please sign up for our listserv,

1026

01:23:05,332 --> 01:23:10,111

I think when we close out today, we'll have  
information on how to sign up for our listserv,

1027

01:23:10,135 --> 01:23:15,119

how to sign up for our Twitter  
feed, it's @EPAEnvJustice.

1028

01:23:15,143 --> 01:23:21,199

Any of those opportunities  
we'll be broadcasting for folks,

1029

01:23:21,199 --> 01:23:26,036

so that folks can hopefully attend those and  
give us that feedback in the broader ones.

1030

01:23:26,060 --> 01:23:31,129

If you have more specific thoughts,  
please email me or email Garza,

1031

01:23:31,153 --> 01:23:38,480

our emails have been listed a few times  
Tejada.Matthew@EPA.gov, Garza.Jonathan@EPA.gov

1032

01:23:38,480 --> 01:23:42,960

and we will put you, we will  
connect you with our grants shop

1033

01:23:42,960 --> 01:23:48,575

to make sure that they are in  
contact with you and if they can engage

1034

01:23:48,599 --> 01:23:53,034

or if this new contracting outfit  
once can be part of engaging with you

1035

01:23:53,058 --> 01:23:55,137

to have this conversation ongoing,

1036

01:23:55,161 --> 01:24:00,159

that's exactly what we're trying  
to do over the next few months.

1037

01:24:00,159 --> 01:24:04,960

Johnathan Garza: All right, Matt, we  
got one more question in the QA box.

1038

01:24:05,440 --> 01:24:09,199

Matthew Tejada: Yeah so  
this one is from Iris Stuart Frey.

1039

01:24:09,199 --> 01:24:12,800

The question of data is a really  
important one as the scale determines

1040

01:24:12,800 --> 01:24:17,920

the usefulness on the community scale, we  
talked about the pesticide data in California.

1041

01:24:17,920 --> 01:24:22,307

Reality is that most recent data is from  
2019 not a scale, it would be relevant

1042

01:24:22,331 --> 01:24:26,080

to looking at pesticide  
exposure school children.

1043

01:24:26,080 --> 01:24:30,208

How can your office support efforts to  
make data more up-to-date more accessible

1044

01:24:30,232 --> 01:24:31,334

for communities?

1045

01:24:31,358 --> 01:24:33,807

What role can academic  
institutions play in that?



1046

01:24:33,831 --> 01:24:36,480

Those are great-- I

mean that's a great point.

1047

01:24:36,480 --> 01:24:40,960

Even if-- that was going

back to that granularity issue,

1048

01:24:40,960 --> 01:24:45,027

like there's lots of data sets

that are available nationally to us

1049

01:24:45,051 --> 01:24:50,159

that we could put into EJSCREEN

but it'd be at the county level

1050

01:24:50,159 --> 01:24:55,440

or it'd be at the zip code level and

that doesn't really help anybody do EJ.

1051

01:24:55,440 --> 01:24:58,960

It has to be at a much finer resolution.

1052

01:24:58,960 --> 01:25:05,440

So academic partners, whether  
it is the development of data

1053

01:25:05,440 --> 01:25:09,600

or how we can take some of the data that  
maybe is not as granular

1054

01:25:09,600 --> 01:25:15,520

and using all sorts of mathematical or  
statistical wizardry which I have no idea about,

1055

01:25:15,520 --> 01:25:19,508

actually make that data more  
useful at a more granular level

1056

01:25:19,532 --> 01:25:24,960

or if they're like if you actually look in  
EJSCREEN, a lot of what is in EJSCREEN

1057

01:25:24,960 --> 01:25:26,880

is actual proxy data.

1058

01:25:26,880 --> 01:25:36,038

We have a lead in homes indicator  
in EJSCREEN, that's not HUD telling us

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01:25:36,062 --> 01:25:42,159

where there is lead in homes, that census  
data that tells us how old the homes are

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01:25:42,159 --> 01:25:48,400

and our lead paint indicator in EJ screen is based  
on nothing other than the age of housing stock.

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01:25:48,400 --> 01:25:53,440

So one of the big things that  
our academic partners can do

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01:25:53,440 --> 01:25:59,348

is to innovate out in front of us-- if there's  
data that can be used in different ways,

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01:25:59,372 --> 01:26:02,143

if there's data proxies that

can be used in different ways,

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01:26:02,167 --> 01:26:06,223

if there's different ways to cut data  
to actually get it down to that level

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01:26:06,247 --> 01:26:08,564

where it's useful for environmental justice.

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01:26:08,588 --> 01:26:13,028

We are always looking at what everyone  
else is doing on any of these other tools

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01:26:13,052 --> 01:26:17,828

and if there's an innovation there that  
we can steal, we will gleefully steal it

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01:26:17,852 --> 01:26:20,888

and use it for EJSCREEN and  
then we will tell folks

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01:26:20,912 --> 01:26:25,280

and give credit where it is due

but I think any of these efforts

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01:26:25,280 --> 01:26:28,800

that are out there right now looking at  
environmental justice and equity data,

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01:26:28,800 --> 01:26:33,548

looking at the tools and then use those,  
it is a big open worker space

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01:26:33,572 --> 01:26:41,168

and I think everyone really wants and is hungry  
for any new participants to come into that

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01:26:41,192 --> 01:26:47,280

and to help innovate new things  
that we can all follow behind on.

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01:26:47,440 --> 01:26:48,988

Johnathan Garza: Thank you, Tejada.

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01:26:49,012 --> 01:26:52,778

And here we're going to close

out with Adriana Ross's question.

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01:26:52,802 --> 01:26:54,320

Go ahead Adriana.

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01:26:54,320 --> 01:26:57,320

Yes.

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01:27:08,000 --> 01:27:11,600

Matthew Tejada:

Adriana, you're still on mute.

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01:27:13,600 --> 01:27:14,787

Adriana Ross: There you  
go, can you guys hear me?

1080

01:27:14,811 --> 01:27:15,199

Matthew Tejada: Yes.

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01:27:15,199 --> 01:27:16,727

Johnathan Garza: There you go.

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01:27:16,751 --> 01:27:17,920

Adriana Ross: Okay, thank you so much.

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01:27:17,920 --> 01:27:19,600

Of course, my name is Adriana Ross and

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01:27:19,600 --> 01:27:25,280

I'm from the Central Valley Water Quality  
Control Board here in central California

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01:27:25,280 --> 01:27:31,528

and I have a comment and a  
question combined, of course.

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01:27:31,552 --> 01:27:35,868

My comment is that, of course we have  
a lot of disadvantaged communities here

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01:27:35,892 --> 01:27:40,480

in Fresno, central  
California, agricultural area

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01:27:40,480 --> 01:27:45,679

and I'm the Community Engagement and  
Tribal Coordinator.

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01:27:45,679 --> 01:27:49,760

When we go out to communities, of course  
we want to know their needs

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01:27:49,760 --> 01:27:56,639

and what funds can the EPA offer or  
the Water Board offer to them

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01:27:56,639 --> 01:27:59,360

but then they have to apply for a grant.

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01:27:59,360 --> 01:28:02,800

Where are the grant writers?

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01:28:03,040 --> 01:28:06,800

We tell them "this is what we can offer,  
this is the money that you guys can get

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01:28:06,800 --> 01:28:10,984

for pesticide clean up and



water issues, all that kind of stuff."

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01:28:11,008 --> 01:28:13,008

But they say "Ok, so how can we apply?."

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01:28:13,040 --> 01:28:15,360

"Well you have to apply to a grant."

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01:28:17,280 --> 01:28:21,837

"We don't have grand writers, the  
board doesn't have grand writers."

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01:28:21,861 --> 01:28:25,628

I have spoken to other non-profits  
and they don't have grand writers.

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01:28:25,652 --> 01:28:32,816

So how can we allocate this money if  
they cannot even understand the forms

1100

01:28:32,840 --> 01:28:35,840

because a lot of  
them are Spanish-speaking.

1101

01:28:35,840 --> 01:28:44,080

A lot of them-- even Spanish is not their  
first language because they have native languages.

1102

01:28:44,080 --> 01:28:48,154

So again where can  
we get those resources?

1103

01:28:48,178 --> 01:28:50,159

They need the money.

1104

01:28:50,159 --> 01:28:54,880

I mean we can see it here and how much  
disadvantage for communities are.

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01:28:54,880 --> 01:28:57,920

But again how can we get the help?

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01:28:57,920 --> 01:28:59,440

Thank you very much.

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01:28:59,440 --> 01:29:02,560

Matthew Tejada: No,  
thank you, Adriana.

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01:29:02,560 --> 01:29:06,880

It actually feels like I paid you to ask that  
question because that is a great question.

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01:29:06,880 --> 01:29:12,548

I spoke earlier about these thriving  
community technical assistance centers

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01:29:12,572 --> 01:29:16,719

that is going to be the first request  
for applications that we put out

1111

01:29:16,719 --> 01:29:18,719

hopefully in the next couple of weeks.

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01:29:18,719 --> 01:29:23,764

That is why those centers are  
the first thing we want to stand up

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01:29:23,788 --> 01:29:28,448

because that is exactly one  
of the core responsibilities

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01:29:28,472 --> 01:29:31,908

that we want those centers to  
carry and that's why we want to try

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01:29:31,932 --> 01:29:35,720

to do as many of them as we  
can across the United States,

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01:29:35,744 --> 01:29:42,568

it's to help support communities in getting  
the money in writing the application

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01:29:42,592 --> 01:29:48,320

and understanding what has to go  
into it and helping to raise their capacity

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01:29:48,320 --> 01:29:55,040

so that they are much more able and have  
the competitive strength to reach up there

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01:29:55,040 --> 01:29:56,108

and get this money.

1120

01:29:56,132 --> 01:30:01,840

I mean it was a huge idea in  
the Build Back Better agenda

1121

01:30:01,840 --> 01:30:07,199

that was dominated so much of what we  
were talking about last year in 2021.

1122

01:30:07,199 --> 01:30:12,383

There was a quarter billion dollars in  
the Build Back Better agenda for that,

1123

01:30:12,407 --> 01:30:15,360

for capacity building for communities,

1124

01:30:15,360 --> 01:30:20,960

and we really saw it and I think a lot of folks  
on the environmental justice side really saw

1125

01:30:20,960 --> 01:30:25,745

that capacity building money is absolutely  
critical when there's going to be

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01:30:25,769 --> 01:30:28,807

all of these hundreds of  
billions of other dollars going out

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01:30:28,831 --> 01:30:34,737

to actually do the things like healthier  
homes and water lines and transit

1128

01:30:34,761 --> 01:30:39,360

and all these things that the  
infrastructure bill was paying for

1129

01:30:39,360 --> 01:30:44,080

but that technical assistance, that  
capacity building piece got cut,

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01:30:44,080 --> 01:30:47,588

so we've been working  
ever since then to figure out

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01:30:47,612 --> 01:30:52,800

"well, okay, if we don't get the money to actually  
do the technical assistance that is needed

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01:30:52,800 --> 01:30:56,168

for the communities that need those  
infrastructure dollars the most

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01:30:56,192 --> 01:31:00,320

but have the least capacity  
to reach up and grab them,

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01:31:00,320 --> 01:31:02,400

how can we do that?"

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01:31:02,400 --> 01:31:06,039

And as soon as we got our  
fiscal year 22 budget it was like

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01:31:06,063 --> 01:31:09,679

"okay, we've got-- it's  
not a quarter billion dollars

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01:31:09,679 --> 01:31:13,040

but we got enough here  
to try to make this work."

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01:31:13,040 --> 01:31:16,694

So we immediately started working  
on, okay how can we take a big chunk

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01:31:16,718 --> 01:31:21,868

of our fiscal year 22 money and we've been  
working with some other programs inside of EPA

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01:31:21,892 --> 01:31:27,440

that had like everyone has the  
similar need of providing capacity building.

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01:31:27,440 --> 01:31:32,988

It's a question of going back to that  
other question of how our budgets work

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01:31:33,012 --> 01:31:36,800

and the statutory limitations  
on almost every dollar



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01:31:36,800 --> 01:31:40,247

depending upon which program it goes  
into different parts of the agency

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01:31:40,271 --> 01:31:44,930

and which account, so we've worked  
across and we found some parts of EPA

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01:31:44,954 --> 01:31:47,920

that their money can work  
with our money.

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01:31:47,920 --> 01:31:51,840

We've also been working with another  
agency, I'm not going to say who

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01:31:51,840 --> 01:31:56,468

but I think we're actually about to sign an  
agreement with another agency outside of EPA,

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01:31:56,492 --> 01:32:02,320

that's actually going to buy into this

with us but that's why we want to set up

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01:32:02,320 --> 01:32:05,391

those thriving community

technical assistance centers.

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01:32:05,415 --> 01:32:14,239

There's other things to it as well but that

fundamental basic capacity support for communities

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01:32:14,239 --> 01:32:20,423

to be able to go get the money is

job one, like that is a core responsibility

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01:32:20,447 --> 01:32:24,227

for those centers, that is why

we want that to be the first thing

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01:32:24,251 --> 01:32:28,400

that we work to get out the door

because that money's out there

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01:32:28,400 --> 01:32:32,880

and communities need the support to reach up there and get it.

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01:32:33,040 --> 01:32:34,400

Johnathan Garza: Thank you, Tejada.

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01:32:34,400 --> 01:32:37,679

We have one more quick question, Damian if you can answer it,

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01:32:37,679 --> 01:32:41,199

it's in the Q&A box.

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01:32:41,199 --> 01:32:42,320

Damian Slaughter: Okay.

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01:32:42,320 --> 01:32:43,838

Matthew Tejada: I'll read it, Damian.

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01:32:43,862 --> 01:32:46,388

Hi Damian, thanks for your answer about the property taxes.

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01:32:46,412 --> 01:32:51,199

Is the restriction on homes  
and floodplains a HUD restriction?

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01:32:51,199 --> 01:32:53,888

Damian Slaughter: So with the floodplains,

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01:32:53,912 --> 01:32:57,920

that has to go through our  
environmental review process.

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01:32:57,920 --> 01:33:07,520

Now whether the government requires flood  
insurance, that's going to be a local decision

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01:33:07,520 --> 01:33:17,280

but that home will first be clear if possible  
through the environmental review process.

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01:33:18,560 --> 01:33:20,639

Johnathan Garza: Great, thank you, Damian.

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01:33:20,639 --> 01:33:22,842

All right everyone, we're going  
to close out today's meeting.

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01:33:22,866 --> 01:33:26,480

I'm going to go  
ahead and share my screen.

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01:33:30,480 --> 01:33:34,617

All right, so our next engagement  
call is going to be August 16th.

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01:33:34,641 --> 01:33:38,598

I've already placed in the chat if you'd  
like to be a part of our EJ listserv

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01:33:38,622 --> 01:33:41,679

where all this information  
is going to be shared.

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01:33:41,679 --> 01:33:47,280

It's in the chat, it's  
[join-epa-EJ@lists.EPA.gov](mailto:join-epa-EJ@lists.EPA.gov).

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01:33:47,280 --> 01:33:50,239

I went ahead and shared that in the chat.

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01:33:50,239 --> 01:33:53,370

So again I'd like to thank everyone,  
thank you very much

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01:33:53,394 --> 01:33:56,441

for an informative call, thank  
you very much for your questions

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01:33:56,465 --> 01:34:03,280

and have a great call-- have a great--  
have a good afternoon everyone, thank you.

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01:34:03,280 --> 01:34:04,672

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Garza.

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01:34:04,696 --> 01:34:05,482

Johnathan Garza: Thanks, everyone.

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01:34:05,506 --> 01:34:07,928

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, everyone.

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01:34:07,952 --> 01:34:10,120

Johnathan Garza: Bye, adios.