

1

00:00:00,150 --> 00:00:02,710

>> Ericka Farrell:

And welcome to the EPA

2

00:00:02,710 --> 00:00:06,860

National Environmental Justice  
Community Engagement Call.

3

00:00:07,390 --> 00:00:11,750

And before we get started, we do  
have a few housekeeping rules.

4

00:00:13,940 --> 00:00:19,080

5

00:00:23,920 --> 00:00:28,200

And please join by phone  
or computer, but not both.

6

00:00:29,470 --> 00:00:31,960

If you do so,  
we will get a lot of feedback.

7

00:00:32,600 --> 00:00:34,910

And also,  
ensure you are on mute.

8

00:00:35,510 --> 00:00:38,940

And please enter questions  
and comments into the Q&A pod.

9

00:00:39,640 --> 00:00:43,570

And you also may raise your hand  
if you have any questions

10

00:00:43,570 --> 00:00:45,580

or want to give any feedback

11

00:00:45,580 --> 00:00:47,410

during or after

the presentations.

12

00:00:47,410 --> 00:00:49,180

So, please raise your hand,

13

00:00:49,180 --> 00:00:52,240

and we will select

and unmute you.

14

00:00:52,880 --> 00:00:55,410

And please limit your comments

to one minute.

15

00:00:55,920 --> 00:00:59,270

And recording and transcripts

will be available online

16

00:00:59,270 --> 00:01:02,080

in the near future

after this webinar.

17

00:01:03,220 --> 00:01:06,340

And if you need

Spanish translation,

18

00:01:06,340 --> 00:01:07,580

there's a little globe.

19

00:01:07,580 --> 00:01:09,240

You should see at the bottom

of your screen.

20

00:01:09,240 --> 00:01:10,960

You can click

on that globe,

21

00:01:10,960 --> 00:01:13,330

and it will switch you

to our Spanish channel.

22

00:01:14,910 --> 00:01:18,150

And just a note  
that once you use do select it,

23

00:01:18,150 --> 00:01:19,970

you will not  
be able to hear

24

00:01:19,970 --> 00:01:24,140

if you select to come back  
in the English portion.

25

00:01:24,770 --> 00:01:27,680

You would have to actually  
log out and log back in.

26

00:01:29,630 --> 00:01:32,270

And next up,  
we will have Chitra,

27

00:01:33,480 --> 00:01:35,570

who will give us  
a mindfulness moment.

28

00:01:36,110 --> 00:01:40,050

And that's the agenda.  
And thank you. Chitra?

29

00:01:41,390 --> 00:01:42,650

>> Female Speaker: Ericka, can  
you

30

00:01:42,650 --> 00:01:44,450  
promote Chitra to a panelist?

31

00:01:45,340 --> 00:01:46,630

>> Ericka Farrell:  
I've tried.

32

00:01:46,630 --> 00:01:49,040  
And I'm still trying  
to do that right now.

33  
00:01:49,040 --> 00:01:50,890  
So, now,  
she's finally going through.

34  
00:01:52,340 --> 00:01:53,940  
>> Female Speaker: Okay.

35  
00:01:55,020 --> 00:01:56,950  
>> Ericka Farrell: Do I need  
to send her another link?

36  
00:01:56,950 --> 00:01:58,200  
>> Chitra Kumar: Hey.

37  
00:01:58,200 --> 00:02:03,300  
I'm here. Thank you.  
Thank you all.

38  
00:02:03,300 --> 00:02:05,680  
Thanks for the opportunity  
to share this moment with you.

39  
00:02:05,680 --> 00:02:08,530  
As some of you have been  
attending these calls

40  
00:02:08,530 --> 00:02:10,200  
regularly now,

41  
00:02:10,200 --> 00:02:13,110  
EPA has a new program  
called "Mindful EPA,"

42  
00:02:13,110 --> 00:02:17,610  
where we're promoting the notion  
of mindfulness as a habit,

43

00:02:17,610 --> 00:02:18,980  
as a practice.

44

00:02:18,980 --> 00:02:20,800  
For anyone  
who'd like to join us,

45

00:02:20,800 --> 00:02:24,500  
we just have an exercise  
for you all just to kick off

46

00:02:24,500 --> 00:02:28,420  
this meeting and get us all  
in the right place together.

47

00:02:28,420 --> 00:02:30,840  
And I want to acknowledge  
as a part of that,

48

00:02:30,840 --> 00:02:33,470  
that we are in a new week

49

00:02:33,470 --> 00:02:37,030  
where we've just finished up  
Hispanic Heritage Month.

50

00:02:37,030 --> 00:02:42,400  
We're going into a period  
where a billion people

51

00:02:42,400 --> 00:02:47,900  
around the world celebrate the  
Festival of Lights in South Asia

52

00:02:47,900 --> 00:02:52,180  
and across the world, which is  
a festival of renewal and hope,

53

00:02:52,920 --> 00:02:55,710  
and also connects people,

54  
00:02:55,710 --> 00:03:01,330  
each of us as leaders  
into a community

55  
00:03:01,330 --> 00:03:03,270  
that can help rejuvenate us.

56  
00:03:03,780 --> 00:03:06,790  
And as we do that,  
sometimes it's helpful

57  
00:03:06,790 --> 00:03:10,930  
to also consider  
our own qualities as leaders.

58  
00:03:11,620 --> 00:03:15,510  
And this mindfulness exercise  
that I'm going to share with you

59  
00:03:15,510 --> 00:03:19,550  
does that, sort of helps us  
to really hone in

60  
00:03:19,550 --> 00:03:24,920  
on what is it that we hold dear.

61  
00:03:24,920 --> 00:03:27,240  
So, if you would like  
to come join us now,

62  
00:03:27,810 --> 00:03:29,010  
just get comfortable.

63  
00:03:29,010 --> 00:03:31,870  
Maybe you want to sit  
in a dignified position

64

00:03:31,870 --> 00:03:34,840  
kind of thinking  
about your shoulders.

65

00:03:34,840 --> 00:03:37,380  
Maybe standing a tiny bit  
straighter, or sitting.

66

00:03:37,990 --> 00:03:40,670  
Either one,  
or however you feel comfortable.

67

00:03:42,360 --> 00:03:47,150  
And mindfulness, if you're not  
familiar,

68

00:03:47,150 --> 00:03:51,410  
is the idea of paying attention  
to the present moment

69

00:03:51,960 --> 00:03:53,560  
without judgment.

70

00:03:54,330 --> 00:03:56,600  
So, paying attention  
to the present moment

71

00:03:56,600 --> 00:03:58,890  
on purpose without judgment.

72

00:04:00,530 --> 00:04:04,380  
So, maybe now we're going to  
take three of the deepest

73

00:04:04,380 --> 00:04:05,980  
breaths we've taken today.

74

00:04:07,030 --> 00:04:11,190  
Breathing in through the nose,

out through the mouth,

75

00:04:13,800 --> 00:04:15,850  
relaxing our shoulders again.

76

00:04:17,610 --> 00:04:24,550  
And one more time, in through  
the nose, out through the mouth.

77

00:04:27,050 --> 00:04:28,650  
One more time.

78

00:04:32,110 --> 00:04:35,480  
This is your time.  
Use it as an opportunity

79

00:04:35,480 --> 00:04:38,330  
to set the tone  
for yourself as a leader today.

80

00:04:40,800 --> 00:04:42,400  
So, while you keep breathing,

81

00:04:43,880 --> 00:04:48,870  
you are thinking that  
you are walking and breathing

82

00:04:48,870 --> 00:04:52,350  
as a manifestation  
of the vision, mission,

83

00:04:52,350 --> 00:04:54,860  
and purpose  
of those you serve today.

84

00:04:55,620 --> 00:04:57,969  
Whether you're  
an environmental justice leader,

85



00:04:58,860 --> 00:05:01,730  
an environmental leader,  
whatever kind of leader,

86  
00:05:01,730 --> 00:05:05,440  
even just a mother or father  
or a friend at home,

87  
00:05:06,310 --> 00:05:07,560  
wherever you are,

88  
00:05:07,560 --> 00:05:11,580  
you hold this responsibility  
with respect and integrity,

89  
00:05:11,580 --> 00:05:13,180  
and breathe into it.

90  
00:05:20,920 --> 00:05:23,700  
How do you want your leadership  
to be experienced?

91  
00:05:25,570 --> 00:05:27,600  
Choose the leadership qualities

92  
00:05:27,600 --> 00:05:30,230  
you would like others  
to experience in you.

93  
00:05:34,640 --> 00:05:38,040  
Just take a moment to consider  
even the word "qualities."

94  
00:05:38,720 --> 00:05:42,440  
What does -- what comes to your  
mind when you hear that word?

95  
00:05:45,640 --> 00:05:53,120  
Maybe words like kindness,  
empathy, confidence, wisdom,

96

00:05:54,860 --> 00:06:00,340

love, thoughtful,  
reflective, responsive,

97

00:06:01,770 --> 00:06:07,340

calm,  
inclusive, courageous.

98

00:06:08,850 --> 00:06:12,740

Breathe in those words  
that are most natural to you.

99

00:06:14,240 --> 00:06:41,340

[audio break]

100

00:06:41,890 --> 00:06:46,210

See yourself walking responsibly  
in your power.

101

00:06:49,340 --> 00:06:53,640

Take in this moment  
with each breath.

102

00:07:06,350 --> 00:07:11,170

Feel gratitude for your  
leadership and for your purpose.

103

00:07:13,540 --> 00:07:15,830

Invite yourself  
throughout the day

104

00:07:16,960 --> 00:07:19,340

to recall  
this brief experience.

105

00:07:31,670 --> 00:07:34,540

Now, take on  
the final deep breath.

106

00:07:38,590 --> 00:07:46,330

Exhale.

Rejoin us here on screen.

107

00:07:47,350 --> 00:07:49,850

Maybe opening your eyes,  
if you had them closed.

108

00:07:51,250 --> 00:07:53,200

Maybe wiggling  
your fingers and toes.

109

00:07:56,960 --> 00:07:59,110

And thank you so much  
for joining me today.

110

00:08:01,240 --> 00:08:02,840

Back to you, Ericka.

111

00:08:06,030 --> 00:08:07,280

>> Ericka Farrell:  
Thank you, Chitra.

112

00:08:07,280 --> 00:08:12,110

And now, we'll have  
some leadership

113

00:08:12,110 --> 00:08:16,670

updates and exciting news  
to share with you.

114

00:08:17,220 --> 00:08:19,970

And Matthew Tejada,  
the former director

115

00:08:19,970 --> 00:08:22,340

of the Office  
of Environmental Justice,

116

00:08:22,340 --> 00:08:24,860  
will start sharing  
some of that news with you.

117  
00:08:24,860 --> 00:08:26,760  
>> Matthew Tejada: [laughs]  
Thanks, Ericka.

118  
00:08:26,760 --> 00:08:28,470  
I am now being called  
the former director.

119  
00:08:28,470 --> 00:08:30,400  
It makes me feel like  
something else happened.

120  
00:08:30,400 --> 00:08:31,780  
[laughter]

121  
00:08:31,780 --> 00:08:35,830  
I appreciate that, Ericka.  
So, hey, everyone.

122  
00:08:36,490 --> 00:08:38,450  
Thank you so much  
for joining us today.

123  
00:08:38,450 --> 00:08:41,770  
We do have some exciting  
information news

124  
00:08:42,300 --> 00:08:46,860  
to share with you all,  
so I'm very happy.

125  
00:08:46,860 --> 00:08:49,950  
I want to just turn it over  
to somebody

126  
00:08:49,950 --> 00:08:54,370

that I would think and imagine  
that many of you will know,

127

00:08:55,010 --> 00:08:56,730  
Marianne Engelman-Lado.

128

00:08:56,730 --> 00:08:59,090  
She is going to be  
sharing some information.

129

00:08:59,090 --> 00:09:02,220  
We also have  
my very close colleagues.

130

00:09:02,220 --> 00:09:06,050  
Robin Collin and Lilian Dorka  
are with us here

131

00:09:06,050 --> 00:09:09,990  
for this first section just to  
talk about the big development

132

00:09:09,990 --> 00:09:11,840  
that happened  
at EPA over the last --

133

00:09:12,930 --> 00:09:15,110  
I guess it's a little over --  
no, it's still October --

134

00:09:15,110 --> 00:09:16,850  
in the last few weeks.

135

00:09:16,850 --> 00:09:19,300  
So, Marianne, do you want to --  
please go ahead.

136

00:09:20,200 --> 00:09:21,510  
>> Marianne Engelman-Lado:  
Terrific. Thanks, Matt.

137

00:09:21,510 --> 00:09:22,960

And I'm so  
excited to be here

138

00:09:22,960 --> 00:09:26,970

and to be sharing  
this information with everyone

139

00:09:26,970 --> 00:09:29,220

and look forward  
to engaging on it.

140

00:09:29,220 --> 00:09:32,140

We are so excited,  
as this slide suggests,

141

00:09:32,140 --> 00:09:35,520

that we now have an Office  
of Environmental Justice

142

00:09:35,520 --> 00:09:38,500

and External Civil Rights  
at EPA.

143

00:09:38,500 --> 00:09:41,500

And in my few minutes, I just  
want to share what that means,

144

00:09:42,280 --> 00:09:45,910

what is in this new office,  
how we're comprised,

145

00:09:45,910 --> 00:09:48,610

and why we're so excited  
about it.

146

00:09:48,610 --> 00:09:50,680

So, we can go to the first  
slide,

147

00:09:51,810 --> 00:09:55,200  
or the second slide, I guess.  
So, consistent

148

00:09:55,200 --> 00:09:57,760  
with the priorities  
of this administration --

149

00:09:57,760 --> 00:10:01,820  
and I think about the  
President's first days in office

150

00:10:01,820 --> 00:10:06,030  
signing executive orders about  
equity and environmental justice

151

00:10:06,030 --> 00:10:07,630  
and climate justice.

152

00:10:08,390 --> 00:10:11,480  
And the goals of  
the administrator Michael Regan,

153

00:10:11,480 --> 00:10:13,680  
and I think about  
his first days in office

154

00:10:13,680 --> 00:10:15,720  
in speaking to  
Environmental Justice

155

00:10:15,720 --> 00:10:17,790  
and going on the journey  
to justice

156

00:10:17,790 --> 00:10:21,170  
and integrating  
environmental justice

157

00:10:21,170 --> 00:10:22,830  
and civil rights  
for the first time

158

00:10:22,830 --> 00:10:25,790  
ever as goal two  
in our strategic plan

159

00:10:25,790 --> 00:10:28,040  
and developing  
really an amazing

160

00:10:28,040 --> 00:10:30,420  
and important  
equity action plan.

161

00:10:31,410 --> 00:10:34,160  
From day one, both the President  
and EPA

162

00:10:34,160 --> 00:10:37,060  
have been committed  
to not just making progress

163

00:10:37,060 --> 00:10:39,180  
on environmental justice  
and civil rights,

164

00:10:39,180 --> 00:10:41,470  
but to ensuring  
that environmental justice

165

00:10:41,470 --> 00:10:44,470  
and civil rights are at  
the center of all we do,

166

00:10:44,470 --> 00:10:47,690  
and recognizing that  
to carry out our mission,



167

00:10:47,690 --> 00:10:51,110  
to protect the health  
and environment of all people

168

00:10:51,110 --> 00:10:54,290  
that we have to center  
environmental justice

169

00:10:54,290 --> 00:10:55,540  
and civil rights.

170

00:10:55,540 --> 00:11:00,860  
So, consistent with all that,  
at the end of the last month,

171

00:11:00,860 --> 00:11:02,860  
at the end of September,

172

00:11:02,860 --> 00:11:05,650  
the administrator flew  
to the birthplace,

173

00:11:05,650 --> 00:11:07,950  
or what many people  
think is the birthplace

174

00:11:07,950 --> 00:11:10,110  
of the environmental  
justice movement,

175

00:11:10,110 --> 00:11:12,340  
Warren County,  
North Carolina,

176

00:11:12,340 --> 00:11:18,720  
to announce the reorganization  
of the three existing offices

177

00:11:18,720 --> 00:11:21,280

relating to environmental  
justice and civil rights

178

00:11:21,280 --> 00:11:25,380  
into a single  
new National Program Office.

179

00:11:26,170 --> 00:11:29,060  
So, we took the Office  
of Environmental Justice,

180

00:11:29,060 --> 00:11:32,160  
which was previously in  
the Office of the Administrator

181

00:11:32,160 --> 00:11:34,430  
or technically  
in the Office of Policy,

182

00:11:34,430 --> 00:11:36,400  
and two --  
put two offices,

183

00:11:36,400 --> 00:11:39,010  
the External Civil Rights  
Compliance Office,

184

00:11:39,010 --> 00:11:42,190  
and also Conflict Prevention  
and Resolution Center,

185

00:11:42,190 --> 00:11:45,030  
which were situated in  
the Office of General Counsel,

186

00:11:45,030 --> 00:11:49,590  
took them all and put them  
together and made a new office,

187

00:11:49,590 --> 00:11:53,180

which will elevate these issues  
to the same level

188

00:11:53,180 --> 00:11:56,410  
as our program offices,  
such as the Office of Air,

189

00:11:56,410 --> 00:11:59,480  
Office of Water,  
and other national programs.

190

00:12:00,230 --> 00:12:03,080  
And ultimately, the President  
will nominate

191

00:12:03,080 --> 00:12:06,010  
an assistant administrator  
to lead the office.

192

00:12:06,010 --> 00:12:08,760  
That person will have to be  
confirmed by the Senate.

193

00:12:09,620 --> 00:12:13,880  
In the meantime, we have  
a really great leadership team.

194

00:12:13,880 --> 00:12:19,440  
I'm really honored to be a part  
of it serving as the title --

195

00:12:19,990 --> 00:12:21,760  
none of these words  
meant anything to me

196

00:12:21,760 --> 00:12:23,020  
before I came to EPA.

197

00:12:23,020 --> 00:12:24,400  
So, I don't know

if it'd mean anything to you.

198

00:12:24,400 --> 00:12:28,580  
But it's acting principal  
deputy assistant administrator.

199

00:12:28,580 --> 00:12:31,440  
And I get to work with Matt,  
who's a deputy,

200

00:12:31,440 --> 00:12:33,040  
and Lilian Dorka,

201

00:12:33,560 --> 00:12:36,800  
formerly head of the External  
Civil Rights Compliance Office

202

00:12:36,800 --> 00:12:39,560  
as a deputy,  
and Robin Morris Collin,

203

00:12:39,560 --> 00:12:44,010  
who is the senior EJ advisor  
to the administrator.

204

00:12:44,010 --> 00:12:46,880  
And together with so many  
other people

205

00:12:46,880 --> 00:12:52,130  
that you all know and interface  
with from these three offices,

206

00:12:52,130 --> 00:12:55,470  
and people we're hiring  
are really working together

207

00:12:55,470 --> 00:12:59,870  
to create something new.  
And we're very excited about it.

208

00:12:59,870 --> 00:13:01,350

Next slide.

209

00:13:01,350 --> 00:13:04,940

So, why are we excited?

And why is this important?

210

00:13:05,960 --> 00:13:10,430

In order to carry out this  
new priority, this function,

211

00:13:11,180 --> 00:13:15,010

we knew that we needed  
a high-level, coordinated,

212

00:13:15,010 --> 00:13:18,690

and consistent approach  
across the whole agency,

213

00:13:18,690 --> 00:13:22,300

and leadership on environmental  
justice and civil rights,

214

00:13:22,300 --> 00:13:24,880

not just to house  
some of the work,

215

00:13:24,880 --> 00:13:28,770

but to transform  
how EPA understands

216

00:13:28,770 --> 00:13:30,420

and implements its work,

217

00:13:30,420 --> 00:13:35,790

and how it prioritizes program  
resources, allocates funding,

218

00:13:35,790 --> 00:13:38,660  
implements our authorities,  
and engages community.

219

00:13:38,660 --> 00:13:41,330  
Again, not just within the  
Office of Environmental Justice

220

00:13:41,330 --> 00:13:45,270  
or our Civil Rights program,  
but across the whole of EPA.

221

00:13:45,910 --> 00:13:47,970  
So, just to be really clear  
about this,

222

00:13:47,970 --> 00:13:50,630  
we sort of have two functions  
as a program.

223

00:13:51,180 --> 00:13:55,220  
One is this carrying  
on activities

224

00:13:55,220 --> 00:13:59,730  
that many people will recognize  
as belonging in this

225

00:13:59,730 --> 00:14:02,060  
or housed in this program.

226

00:14:02,060 --> 00:14:04,380  
The work that we do  
on engaging communities,

227

00:14:04,380 --> 00:14:06,710  
the work that just  
for us doing,

228

00:14:06,710 --> 00:14:10,150

the work -- the grants we do,  
so much of, you know,

229

00:14:10,150 --> 00:14:15,380  
the NEJAC, this call  
is housed within the program.

230

00:14:16,280 --> 00:14:20,490  
But this is only if we're doing  
our work right apart

231

00:14:20,490 --> 00:14:25,510  
of the many ways in which  
EPA should be working

232

00:14:25,510 --> 00:14:28,860  
on environmental justice  
pursuing equity

233

00:14:28,860 --> 00:14:32,320  
and trying to integrate  
environmental justice, equity,

234

00:14:32,320 --> 00:14:34,050  
and civil rights  
into our work.

235

00:14:34,050 --> 00:14:36,900  
So, just to use one example,  
some of you have --

236

00:14:37,470 --> 00:14:40,320  
know about  
the Inflation Reduction Act,

237

00:14:40,320 --> 00:14:46,680  
which afforded us about  
\$3 billion for EJ small grants.

238

00:14:47,250 --> 00:14:50,350

But there are also  
other billion dollar pots --

239  
00:14:50,350 --> 00:14:52,040  
multibillion dollar pots,

240  
00:14:52,040 --> 00:14:56,940  
which prioritize low income  
and disadvantaged communities.

241  
00:14:56,940 --> 00:15:00,340  
And so, as an agency,  
we're not just focused

242  
00:15:00,340 --> 00:15:03,520  
in environmental justice  
and equity on the \$3 billion,

243  
00:15:03,520 --> 00:15:07,810  
but also have to think about how  
are we spending that other money

244  
00:15:07,810 --> 00:15:10,320  
to get to the communities  
that need it most.

245  
00:15:10,320 --> 00:15:12,800  
So, this program has what  
we're calling sort of

246  
00:15:12,800 --> 00:15:15,400  
a consultancy role  
throughout the agency

247  
00:15:15,400 --> 00:15:19,110  
to ensure that our work  
is consistent.

248  
00:15:19,110 --> 00:15:21,230  
And then of course,



having a program

249

00:15:21,230 --> 00:15:23,210  
means that the head  
of the program

250

00:15:23,210 --> 00:15:26,780  
will serve at the same levels  
as our Office of Water,

251

00:15:27,300 --> 00:15:32,320  
our Office of Air and Radiation  
to have peer-to-peer discussions

252

00:15:32,320 --> 00:15:35,810  
about changing the way  
the work is done.

253

00:15:35,810 --> 00:15:38,030  
Next slide. This is just a peak,

254

00:15:38,030 --> 00:15:41,410  
so you have a picture  
of our organizational chart.

255

00:15:42,070 --> 00:15:45,020  
The new program will build  
on the synergies

256

00:15:45,020 --> 00:15:46,810  
that have already been created.

257

00:15:47,510 --> 00:15:50,260  
It already exists between  
environmental justice,

258

00:15:50,260 --> 00:15:53,200  
civil rights, and alternative  
dispute resolution,

259

00:15:53,200 --> 00:15:56,100  
or we call it conflict  
prevention and resolution.

260

00:15:57,080 --> 00:16:00,320  
They all had distinct offices.  
But now we're really thinking,

261

00:16:00,320 --> 00:16:02,390  
how do we bring  
these functions together

262

00:16:02,390 --> 00:16:03,720  
and build on the synergy?

263

00:16:03,720 --> 00:16:07,430  
So, one synergy you already  
are very familiar with.

264

00:16:08,640 --> 00:16:12,410  
Historically, our Civil Rights  
program had been criticized

265

00:16:12,410 --> 00:16:14,330  
for not being  
sufficiently transparent

266

00:16:14,330 --> 00:16:16,170  
and not engaging communities.

267

00:16:16,170 --> 00:16:18,860  
This meeting,  
which meets monthly,

268

00:16:18,860 --> 00:16:21,370  
now dedicates one  
of its monthly meetings

269

00:16:21,370 --> 00:16:23,840

every quarter to civil rights.

270

00:16:23,840 --> 00:16:26,390

So, the Office of  
Environmental Justice

271

00:16:26,390 --> 00:16:29,350

had created this  
monthly engagement call.

272

00:16:29,910 --> 00:16:33,090

The Civil Rights program wanted  
to engage with communities.

273

00:16:33,090 --> 00:16:35,170

It was a synergy  
to really figure out

274

00:16:35,170 --> 00:16:36,980

how can this be done together.

275

00:16:36,980 --> 00:16:39,680

That's just one small example --  
important example,

276

00:16:39,680 --> 00:16:43,060

but one small example  
of how we build on synergies.

277

00:16:43,060 --> 00:16:45,440

Already the Conflict Prevention  
and Resolution Center

278

00:16:45,440 --> 00:16:46,940

had worked with Civil Rights

279

00:16:46,940 --> 00:16:50,690

and had worked with the Office  
of Environmental Justice,

280

00:16:50,690 --> 00:16:54,560  
as well as other programs  
throughout the agency

281

00:16:54,560 --> 00:16:56,330  
like the Superfund program.

282

00:16:56,330 --> 00:16:59,760  
So, we're both doing  
the work within the program,

283

00:16:59,760 --> 00:17:03,860  
but also serving  
the whole agency.

284

00:17:03,860 --> 00:17:06,130  
And you can see that we're --

285

00:17:06,130 --> 00:17:09,100  
we have a number  
of different offices.

286

00:17:09,100 --> 00:17:12,910  
The Office of Community Support,  
which deals with grants,

287

00:17:12,910 --> 00:17:15,210  
which is so important right now.

288

00:17:15,210 --> 00:17:18,960  
It is such an exciting moment  
given that for the first time

289

00:17:18,960 --> 00:17:20,990  
we have the kind of resources

290

00:17:20,990 --> 00:17:23,250  
that can make a difference  
in communities.

291

00:17:23,250 --> 00:17:25,710

And also, the Office  
of Community Support

292

00:17:25,710 --> 00:17:28,580

is responsible for community  
engagement and assistance.

293

00:17:29,120 --> 00:17:32,190

We have Office of Policy,  
Partnerships,

294

00:17:32,190 --> 00:17:33,670

and Program Development.

295

00:17:33,670 --> 00:17:36,620

This is going to be critical,  
and we need to build it out.

296

00:17:37,240 --> 00:17:42,030

We are hiring to really engage  
with the whole agency

297

00:17:42,030 --> 00:17:44,350

and with our partners  
on issues of policy.

298

00:17:44,350 --> 00:17:47,050

And of course, we recognize  
that there are aspects

299

00:17:47,050 --> 00:17:49,940

of civil rights enforcement  
that are distinct.

300

00:17:49,940 --> 00:17:53,140

This is a legal  
enforcement program,

301

00:17:53,140 --> 00:17:56,140  
and so the law enforcement  
piece of this

302

00:17:56,140 --> 00:17:58,410  
remains in its own program.

303

00:17:58,410 --> 00:18:01,440  
And so, we will continue  
to enforce civil rights laws

304

00:18:01,440 --> 00:18:03,890  
that together  
prohibit discrimination

305

00:18:03,890 --> 00:18:05,340  
on the basis of race,

306

00:18:05,340 --> 00:18:09,760  
color, national origin, sex,  
disability, or age by applicants

307

00:18:09,760 --> 00:18:13,100  
for and recipients  
of federal financial assistance.

308

00:18:13,100 --> 00:18:16,700  
And we'll continue to provide  
services and expertise

309

00:18:16,700 --> 00:18:19,410  
in alternative  
dispute resolution.

310

00:18:19,410 --> 00:18:21,010  
Next slide.

311

00:18:21,840 --> 00:18:23,660  
So, I'm not going to go

into the details

312

00:18:23,660 --> 00:18:26,180  
of how many staff we have.

313

00:18:26,180 --> 00:18:28,800  
That word FTE,  
as some of you know,

314

00:18:28,800 --> 00:18:30,290  
means full-time equivalent.

315

00:18:30,290 --> 00:18:33,620  
It's essentially  
how many staff we have.

316

00:18:33,620 --> 00:18:36,750  
But I just will say  
it is unprecedented

317

00:18:36,750 --> 00:18:40,420  
that as a result  
of infrastructure money,

318

00:18:40,420 --> 00:18:43,750  
and Inflation Reduction Act,  
we are going to be moving

319

00:18:43,750 --> 00:18:47,370  
to have more than  
200 people at EPA

320

00:18:47,370 --> 00:18:49,270  
dedicated  
to environmental justice

321

00:18:50,050 --> 00:18:52,580  
and civil rights  
and conflict prevention.

322

00:18:52,580 --> 00:18:56,890  
Most of that staff is in  
the environmental justice area,

323

00:18:56,890 --> 00:19:01,170  
and we're getting to 206.  
I'm going to call it staff.

324

00:19:03,550 --> 00:19:08,020  
Many of those,  
110 will be in the regions.

325

00:19:08,020 --> 00:19:11,080  
And for those of you who  
interact with regional offices,

326

00:19:11,080 --> 00:19:13,750  
you may know that  
they're building out

327

00:19:13,750 --> 00:19:16,120  
their environmental  
justice programs.

328

00:19:16,120 --> 00:19:17,580  
There's a lot of creativity,

329

00:19:17,580 --> 00:19:20,590  
a lot of work  
that's happening in the regions.

330

00:19:20,590 --> 00:19:22,730  
And note that this is  
an increase,

331

00:19:22,730 --> 00:19:28,290  
as this line says,  
from 13 to 110.

332



00:19:28,290 --> 00:19:31,990

That's a huge change  
across the regions.

333

00:19:32,600 --> 00:19:35,560

Many of the regions have long  
histories of doing EJ work,

334

00:19:35,560 --> 00:19:39,010

but this will give them capacity  
like they've never had before.

335

00:19:39,870 --> 00:19:43,650

Our environmental -- I'm sorry,  
our Conflict Prevention

336

00:19:43,650 --> 00:19:46,390

and Resolution Center  
is small but mighty.

337

00:19:46,390 --> 00:19:49,210

It has five full-time  
equivalents.

338

00:19:50,160 --> 00:19:51,570

I wish I could say it had more,

339

00:19:51,570 --> 00:19:54,800

but it is able  
to leverage a contract

340

00:19:54,800 --> 00:19:59,300

and really qualified people,  
facilitators,

341

00:19:59,300 --> 00:20:00,990

and others  
across the country.

342

00:20:00,990 --> 00:20:03,410

So, they really leverage  
that staffing

343

00:20:03,410 --> 00:20:07,820  
to make an enormous difference  
and support so many activities,

344

00:20:07,820 --> 00:20:10,480  
including community-based  
activities.

345

00:20:10,480 --> 00:20:16,090  
And the External Civil Rights  
Office enforcement activities,

346

00:20:17,270 --> 00:20:22,000  
while 18, it's still not  
as many as we'd like,

347

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:26,320  
it is a 50 percent increase  
over the number 12,

348

00:20:26,320 --> 00:20:28,820  
which is plus or minus,  
I would say plus or minus,

349

00:20:29,340 --> 00:20:35,440  
the number that has been  
the staffing level

350

00:20:35,440 --> 00:20:40,170  
for the Office of External Civil  
Rights compliance for years.

351

00:20:40,170 --> 00:20:44,240  
So, we're very excited  
to go from 12 to 18.

352

00:20:44,240 --> 00:20:48,870

We're bringing folks on board,  
and we'll see if we can --

353

00:20:48,870 --> 00:20:50,990  
the President's budget  
has asked for more,

354

00:20:50,990 --> 00:20:53,660  
and we'll see what  
the future will bring.

355

00:20:53,660 --> 00:20:59,350  
So, this new office all told  
will put 200 plus EPA staff

356

00:20:59,350 --> 00:21:03,230  
and billions of dollars  
of resources towards solving,

357

00:21:03,230 --> 00:21:05,520  
as you all know,  
some of our most

358

00:21:05,520 --> 00:21:08,600  
vexing pollution challenges  
in communities

359

00:21:08,600 --> 00:21:13,530  
that have been underserved  
and overlooked for far too long.

360

00:21:14,100 --> 00:21:17,100  
Next slide, please.  
This is sort of it.

361

00:21:17,730 --> 00:21:20,080  
You can take down  
the slides or --

362

00:21:20,080 --> 00:21:21,800

let me just say  
a couple of things,

363

00:21:21,800 --> 00:21:26,990  
and then I'll stop, which is  
just how excited we are.

364

00:21:26,990 --> 00:21:30,150  
We turned on the lights for this  
program on September 11th,

365

00:21:30,150 --> 00:21:35,100  
but then we had this launch  
in Warren County later

366

00:21:35,100 --> 00:21:36,820  
in the month.

367

00:21:36,820 --> 00:21:39,230  
The administrator  
went to Warren County,

368

00:21:40,150 --> 00:21:42,150  
because it is the birthplace

369

00:21:42,150 --> 00:21:43,730  
of the environmental  
justice movement,

370

00:21:43,730 --> 00:21:47,570  
which was born 40 years  
or so ago.

371

00:21:47,570 --> 00:21:50,360  
And it was the place  
where community members

372

00:21:50,360 --> 00:21:53,470  
marched for six weeks,  
day in and day out,

373

00:21:53,470 --> 00:21:57,390  
and were jailed fighting  
against environmental racism

374

00:21:57,390 --> 00:21:59,520  
and for the health  
of their community.

375

00:21:59,520 --> 00:22:04,620  
It's in this location  
that it meant so much to so many

376

00:22:04,620 --> 00:22:08,330  
that the administrator committed  
to carrying this work forward

377

00:22:08,330 --> 00:22:09,920  
in decades to come.

378

00:22:09,920 --> 00:22:12,870  
And, you know, I have to say  
as a former teacher

379

00:22:12,870 --> 00:22:15,200  
or professor  
of environmental justice

380

00:22:15,200 --> 00:22:16,600  
and working with students,

381

00:22:16,600 --> 00:22:20,030  
I always think about  
this timeline of key moments,

382

00:22:20,030 --> 00:22:24,080  
and it's driven by what happens  
at the community level.

383

00:22:25,020 --> 00:22:29,190  
The movement has been driven  
by people marching,

384  
00:22:29,190 --> 00:22:30,720  
by people speaking out.

385  
00:22:30,720 --> 00:22:33,920  
And we know that and have  
that ringing in our ears.

386  
00:22:33,920 --> 00:22:37,820  
Ultimately, we know that  
the goal of all of this work

387  
00:22:37,820 --> 00:22:40,270  
is to fulfill our mission  
to protect the health

388  
00:22:40,270 --> 00:22:43,140  
and environment of all people  
across the country

389  
00:22:43,140 --> 00:22:45,460  
and to make a difference  
on the ground,

390  
00:22:45,460 --> 00:22:48,390  
where resources and protection  
are needed most.

391  
00:22:48,390 --> 00:22:50,570  
And that's what  
we're going to try to do

392  
00:22:50,570 --> 00:22:52,620  
using this opportunity.

393  
00:22:52,620 --> 00:22:54,050  
So, I'll stop there.

394

00:22:54,050 --> 00:22:57,500

That's sort of the nuts  
and bolts of our new program.

395

00:22:57,500 --> 00:22:59,100

And I'll hand it  
back to Matt.

396

00:23:01,100 --> 00:23:02,320

>> Matthew Tejada: Thank you so  
much.

397

00:23:02,320 --> 00:23:04,980

So, we have a couple  
of questions

398

00:23:04,980 --> 00:23:07,090

really quickly  
that we can get to.

399

00:23:08,040 --> 00:23:09,750

Magali Sanchez-Hall asked,

400

00:23:09,750 --> 00:23:11,860

"By when will the staffing  
be completed?"

401

00:23:12,820 --> 00:23:15,540

Magali, I wish I could say  
by the end of the month.

402

00:23:16,250 --> 00:23:18,570

We haven't even really started  
advertising positions

403

00:23:18,570 --> 00:23:20,619

yet [laughs].  
We have a lot of positions.

404

00:23:21,150 --> 00:23:23,190

And this doesn't  
even contemplate yet

405

00:23:23,980 --> 00:23:28,030

what we will have to do  
for some hiring

406

00:23:28,030 --> 00:23:31,540

for the Inflation Reduction  
Act program implementation.

407

00:23:32,560 --> 00:23:35,450

We will, however,  
be using this call.

408

00:23:35,450 --> 00:23:38,000

We'll be using our listserv,

409

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:41,290

which I'm hoping everyone here  
is a part of, our Twitter.

410

00:23:41,290 --> 00:23:43,950

We will have an extensive  
outreach campaign

411

00:23:43,950 --> 00:23:46,060

when we start  
to do that hiring

412

00:23:46,060 --> 00:23:49,040

to make sure that folks  
on the ground

413

00:23:49,040 --> 00:23:52,180

from all corners of the  
United States are aware of it.

414



00:23:53,100 --> 00:23:54,580  
I'm personally  
really excited.

415  
00:23:54,580 --> 00:23:58,350  
This will be the first time  
I've been able just in my career

416  
00:23:58,350 --> 00:24:00,410  
in the federal government  
to really do some hiring.

417  
00:24:00,410 --> 00:24:02,850  
I've only hired like  
very small numbers of people

418  
00:24:02,850 --> 00:24:04,520  
in 10 years [laughs].

419  
00:24:04,520 --> 00:24:06,510  
And one of the things  
I'm really excited about

420  
00:24:06,510 --> 00:24:10,910  
is our opportunity to bring  
in folks and this opportunity

421  
00:24:11,870 --> 00:24:15,490  
for the next generation  
of leadership of EPA

422  
00:24:15,490 --> 00:24:18,650  
that have that lived  
experience of equity and justice

423  
00:24:18,650 --> 00:24:20,010  
and civil rights  
on the ground,

424  
00:24:20,010 --> 00:24:22,840

people that have from the  
communities, in the communities,

425

00:24:22,840 --> 00:24:26,520  
working with the communities.  
We need those so desperately,

426

00:24:26,520 --> 00:24:30,600  
not just in the EJ and External  
Civil Rights program,

427

00:24:30,600 --> 00:24:33,080  
but at EPA  
and in the government.

428

00:24:33,080 --> 00:24:35,970  
And this is our opportunity  
to bring in, you know,

429

00:24:35,970 --> 00:24:38,870  
the folks who are out there  
who have the reality.

430

00:24:38,870 --> 00:24:41,470  
It is so critical  
not just for our program,

431

00:24:41,470 --> 00:24:44,220  
but for the government  
and for the agency

432

00:24:44,220 --> 00:24:47,790  
to really maximize this  
opportunity to bring folks in.

433

00:24:47,790 --> 00:24:50,640  
But we're going to need  
your help, right?

434

00:24:50,640 --> 00:24:52,800

You know,  
the labor market aside,

435

00:24:52,800 --> 00:24:55,880  
just general hiring issues,  
which we are already seeing,

436

00:24:55,880 --> 00:25:01,160  
you know, just that it is still  
an applicants' market out there.

437

00:25:02,030 --> 00:25:04,220  
But we really are going  
to need folks' help.

438

00:25:04,220 --> 00:25:06,970  
So, when we send out  
those notices, when we send out,

439

00:25:06,970 --> 00:25:08,920  
you know, a tweet that  
we're hiring for this

440

00:25:08,920 --> 00:25:11,320  
or we're hiring for that,  
we really need folks out there

441

00:25:11,320 --> 00:25:14,650  
to help us broadcast  
that out into the communities,

442

00:25:14,650 --> 00:25:18,590  
into the organizations that work  
with and for those communities,

443

00:25:18,590 --> 00:25:20,580  
to make sure that  
there's awareness

444

00:25:20,580 --> 00:25:22,550

when those opportunities  
come around.

445

00:25:22,550 --> 00:25:26,040  
Let me stop there real quickly  
and just see

446

00:25:26,040 --> 00:25:27,670  
if Robin or Lilian if either --

447

00:25:27,670 --> 00:25:30,130  
if you all have anything you  
all would like to share,

448

00:25:30,130 --> 00:25:32,120  
and I'll look at some more  
questions really quickly to see

449

00:25:32,120 --> 00:25:33,640  
if there's any more specific  
to this

450

00:25:33,640 --> 00:25:35,640  
that we can answer  
before we pass it on.

451

00:25:37,630 --> 00:25:39,230  
>> Lilian Dorka: Go ahead,  
Robin.

452

00:25:45,070 --> 00:25:46,670  
>> Matthew Tejada: She's  
working it.

453

00:25:49,660 --> 00:25:51,260  
>> Lilian Dorka: Oh.

454

00:25:52,300 --> 00:25:54,580  
>> Matthew Tejada: It's down in  
the other corner, Robin.

455

00:25:54,580 --> 00:25:57,730

It's down in your bottom  
left corner probably.

456

00:26:00,120 --> 00:26:01,650

>> Robin Collin: I actually  
viewed from --

457

00:26:01,650 --> 00:26:03,500

>> Lilian Dorka: I bet that  
what's happening --

458

00:26:03,500 --> 00:26:05,100

there you go.

459

00:26:05,790 --> 00:26:06,990

>> Matthew Tejada: Say  
something, Robin.

460

00:26:06,990 --> 00:26:08,230

>> Lilian Dorka: Robin,  
can you --

461

00:26:08,230 --> 00:26:09,460

>> Robin Collin: Can you hear  
me?

462

00:26:09,460 --> 00:26:10,670

>> Lilian Dorka: Yeah.  
>> Matthew Tejada: Yeah.

463

00:26:10,670 --> 00:26:14,660

>> Robin Collin: Oh, okay.  
We're doing Zoom and Teams.

464

00:26:14,660 --> 00:26:19,540

And I'm telling you, this is  
more than I can manage [laughs].

465

00:26:19,540 --> 00:26:23,040

Anyway, I wanted to take  
a moment just to say hello.

466

00:26:23,040 --> 00:26:27,390

And also to re-echo  
what my colleagues are saying.

467

00:26:27,390 --> 00:26:31,990

This is the best time  
to be involved in EJ.

468

00:26:31,990 --> 00:26:36,170

I think in my lifetime  
it's a career opportunity.

469

00:26:36,170 --> 00:26:39,070

And it never --  
I mean, it really wasn't

470

00:26:39,070 --> 00:26:42,390

much of an opportunity  
in terms of careers before.

471

00:26:42,390 --> 00:26:46,720

That was like, you had  
to be ready to get arrested

472

00:26:46,720 --> 00:26:48,010

and go to jail

473

00:26:48,010 --> 00:26:53,230

and all of these other sorts  
of nonstandard career paths.

474

00:26:53,230 --> 00:26:56,630

But we have the opportunities  
here to offer people.

475

00:26:57,170 --> 00:26:59,540

And I hope that  
you'll think about coming

476

00:26:59,540 --> 00:27:04,970

and joining an organization  
that its mission is human health

477

00:27:04,970 --> 00:27:08,310

and the environment.  
That's what we are here to do.

478

00:27:08,310 --> 00:27:11,080

And for many, many years,  
we were --

479

00:27:11,080 --> 00:27:13,240

the people that you see  
in front of you,

480

00:27:13,240 --> 00:27:15,020

a lot of the people  
in this organization

481

00:27:15,020 --> 00:27:17,110  
were doing that work on faith,

482

00:27:17,110 --> 00:27:20,040

because there really wasn't  
much backing it up.

483

00:27:20,040 --> 00:27:21,240

There wasn't the money.

484

00:27:21,240 --> 00:27:23,870

There wasn't the commitment  
from leadership.

485

00:27:23,870 --> 00:27:25,840

All that's different now.

486

00:27:25,840 --> 00:27:28,900

And I'm not sure how long  
it will be different.

487

00:27:28,900 --> 00:27:31,830

But I do know that if you come  
to work with us,

488

00:27:31,830 --> 00:27:37,000

if you use the money that we are  
able to disperse to communities,

489

00:27:37,000 --> 00:27:43,780

it won't matter what the future  
of the kind

490

00:27:43,780 --> 00:27:48,450

of difficult politics  
and difficult people.

491

00:27:48,450 --> 00:27:53,510

We have an opportunity  
to change the way environment

492

00:27:53,510 --> 00:27:56,940

and human health  
is done on a major scale.

493

00:27:56,940 --> 00:28:01,870

So, I know that sounds  
perhaps like a lot to believe.

494

00:28:01,870 --> 00:28:05,010

And it's asking you  
to trust government,

495

00:28:05,010 --> 00:28:09,600

which is not a popular message.  
And I understand that.



496

00:28:09,600 --> 00:28:12,950

But the people here  
are different.

497

00:28:12,950 --> 00:28:16,580

And our sense of the timing,

498

00:28:16,580 --> 00:28:20,340

the opportunities is really once  
in a lifetime.

499

00:28:20,340 --> 00:28:23,780

So, thank you all so much  
for being here.

500

00:28:24,390 --> 00:28:26,170

Stay tuned for  
the next presenter

501

00:28:26,170 --> 00:28:27,470

who's going to talk to you

502

00:28:27,470 --> 00:28:30,960

about many of these dollars  
and opportunities.

503

00:28:30,960 --> 00:28:34,450

But also come join us.  
Join us in the regions.

504

00:28:35,180 --> 00:28:37,180

Thanks.  
So, back to you, Matt.

505

00:28:37,180 --> 00:28:38,410

>> Matthew Tejada: Lilian,  
anything?

506

00:28:38,410 --> 00:28:41,370  
I've got a few questions  
I'll run through really quickly.

507  
00:28:41,370 --> 00:28:42,650  
But Lilian, you please --

508  
00:28:42,650 --> 00:28:44,740  
>> Lilian Dorka: Yeah.  
Thank you.

509  
00:28:44,740 --> 00:28:46,430  
I just wanted to say --  
and again,

510  
00:28:46,430 --> 00:28:49,220  
I'll borrow one  
of my favorite phrases

511  
00:28:49,220 --> 00:28:53,210  
from our colleague out  
in the field, Vernice Williams,

512  
00:28:53,210 --> 00:28:57,290  
that we are just giddy,  
right, silly with excitement

513  
00:28:57,290 --> 00:28:59,890  
about this new program office.

514  
00:28:59,890 --> 00:29:03,270  
It's just so incredible  
from a civil rights perspective,

515  
00:29:04,210 --> 00:29:07,460  
you know, the synergy  
that Marianne referenced

516  
00:29:07,460 --> 00:29:10,880  
is not to be taken lightly.

I mean, to bring --

517

00:29:10,880 --> 00:29:16,520  
to come to the table with more  
than just the great authority

518

00:29:16,520 --> 00:29:18,450  
of our federal  
civil rights laws,

519

00:29:18,450 --> 00:29:24,030  
but to also come, you know,  
with the type of resources

520

00:29:24,030 --> 00:29:26,490  
that we can leverage,  
you know,

521

00:29:26,490 --> 00:29:30,670  
through the environmental  
justice arm of the house,

522

00:29:30,670 --> 00:29:34,810  
and also the conflict  
prevention and resolution,

523

00:29:35,490 --> 00:29:37,830  
the great, you know,  
facilitation efforts

524

00:29:37,830 --> 00:29:42,980  
to even in terms  
of increasing the level

525

00:29:42,980 --> 00:29:46,100  
and quality  
of the engagement

526

00:29:46,620 --> 00:29:49,620  
that we bring to

the civil rights process

527

00:29:50,540 --> 00:29:54,040  
is really,  
really formidable.

528

00:29:54,040 --> 00:29:58,760  
And it's already starting  
to yield incredible results.

529

00:29:58,760 --> 00:30:03,720  
So, again, you know,  
we are better than ever.

530

00:30:04,690 --> 00:30:09,070  
And the numbers speak loudly.  
But even without the numbers,

531

00:30:09,070 --> 00:30:13,260  
I think the synergy  
and the leveraging of resources

532

00:30:13,260 --> 00:30:18,940  
that we have now  
is unprecedented, historic.

533

00:30:18,940 --> 00:30:22,830  
And we are just more  
than excited

534

00:30:23,830 --> 00:30:25,790  
to continue to work  
with you on this.

535

00:30:26,360 --> 00:30:27,580  
>> Matthew Tejada: Thanks,  
Lilian.

536

00:30:27,580 --> 00:30:29,550  
So, let me just

run through real quickly

537

00:30:29,550 --> 00:30:31,060

a few questions  
and answers.

538

00:30:31,060 --> 00:30:33,600

And then I'm going to pass it  
over to our colleagues,

539

00:30:33,600 --> 00:30:37,630

Zealan and Rachel,

540

00:30:37,630 --> 00:30:40,910

about one of our specific  
Inflation Reduction Act programs

541

00:30:40,910 --> 00:30:43,200

that I know a lot of folks  
are excited about.

542

00:30:43,800 --> 00:30:45,850

"How do we best work with you  
when we have ideas

543

00:30:45,850 --> 00:30:48,810

or see a state falling short  
and underrepresented communities

544

00:30:48,810 --> 00:30:51,810

regarding help with Indoor Air  
Quality programs grants?"

545

00:30:51,810 --> 00:30:54,760

Two things. One, we --  
as Marianne was sharing,

546

00:30:54,760 --> 00:30:57,000

we're going to increase  
the staffing by quite a bit,

547

00:30:57,000 --> 00:30:59,630  
by an order of magnitude  
for environmental justice

548

00:30:59,630 --> 00:31:01,110  
in all of our regions.

549

00:31:01,110 --> 00:31:03,840  
So, there will be  
a much more ability

550

00:31:03,840 --> 00:31:07,040  
in all the regions to engage  
with folks on any issue,

551

00:31:07,700 --> 00:31:10,530  
as well as with just engaging  
with states and communities,

552

00:31:10,530 --> 00:31:13,400  
and convening those partners  
in the local area.

553

00:31:13,400 --> 00:31:15,760  
And the regions are  
all developing plans

554

00:31:15,760 --> 00:31:18,510  
right now to come out  
with a lot more engagement

555

00:31:18,510 --> 00:31:20,340  
of community members  
very soon.

556

00:31:20,340 --> 00:31:22,850  
We are also going to have  
a lot more information,

557

00:31:22,850 --> 00:31:26,060  
especially over the next couple  
of months in terms of grants,

558

00:31:26,060 --> 00:31:28,610  
that we'll be rolling out  
over the next year.

559

00:31:28,610 --> 00:31:31,630  
So, please just continue  
to watch these channels

560

00:31:31,630 --> 00:31:34,290  
for more of that information.  
And our regional folks, again,

561

00:31:34,290 --> 00:31:36,550  
they will always be  
on the front line

562

00:31:36,550 --> 00:31:38,640  
of making sure you have  
those information,

563

00:31:38,640 --> 00:31:41,750  
receiving input,  
receiving requests for help.

564

00:31:41,750 --> 00:31:43,300  
Or if there are barriers,

565

00:31:43,300 --> 00:31:46,020  
or if there are issues  
happening with EPA,

566

00:31:46,020 --> 00:31:47,300  
with other  
federal agencies,

567

00:31:47,300 --> 00:31:50,340  
with other government agencies,  
they will be there for that.

568  
00:31:50,870 --> 00:31:53,620  
Somebody asked about the  
Udall Foundation. We do not --

569  
00:31:54,470 --> 00:31:55,850  
I think we do have  
a relationship

570  
00:31:55,850 --> 00:31:57,090  
with the Udall foundation

571  
00:31:57,090 --> 00:31:58,980  
that's not specific  
to our Conflict Prevention

572  
00:31:58,980 --> 00:32:00,420  
and Resolution Center.

573  
00:32:00,420 --> 00:32:02,380  
And we're in a little bit  
of a tricky place right now,

574  
00:32:02,380 --> 00:32:03,690  
because we will be competing

575  
00:32:03,690 --> 00:32:05,620  
a lot of grants  
over the next year.

576  
00:32:05,620 --> 00:32:08,310  
So, you know, having a lot  
of in-depth conversations

577  
00:32:08,310 --> 00:32:10,550  
about what we do and what  
they do can get a little weird,



578

00:32:10,550 --> 00:32:12,850  
because we don't want  
to conflict the folks out.

579

00:32:12,850 --> 00:32:15,830  
But we certainly  
do have had relationships

580

00:32:15,830 --> 00:32:18,490  
and conversations  
with the Udall center over time.

581

00:32:19,300 --> 00:32:21,660  
Alexis is asking about  
a research division

582

00:32:21,660 --> 00:32:23,260  
for environmental justice.

583

00:32:23,960 --> 00:32:28,970  
Somebody else asked about  
actual research scientists,

584

00:32:28,970 --> 00:32:30,780  
such as  
environmental toxicologists

585

00:32:30,780 --> 00:32:32,260  
or the social scientists.

586

00:32:32,260 --> 00:32:35,170  
We will be looking  
for actual hard scientists

587

00:32:35,170 --> 00:32:36,660  
to come into the office.

588

00:32:36,660 --> 00:32:38,100

We don't have the level  
of staffing

589

00:32:38,100 --> 00:32:39,710  
to have a whole division

590

00:32:39,710 --> 00:32:42,940  
just related to environmental  
justice and science.

591

00:32:42,940 --> 00:32:44,960  
But we will have  
a significant number of folks

592

00:32:44,960 --> 00:32:46,970  
coming into our policy shop.

593

00:32:46,970 --> 00:32:49,010  
In addition to folks  
that have a legal background,

594

00:32:49,010 --> 00:32:50,810  
we will be looking  
for social scientists,

595

00:32:50,810 --> 00:32:53,600  
we will be looking  
for Earth scientists

596

00:32:53,600 --> 00:32:56,650  
and physical scientists  
to come into that policy shop.

597

00:32:56,650 --> 00:32:58,480  
So, that will be  
some of the advertising

598

00:32:58,480 --> 00:33:00,460  
we do over the next  
several months

599

00:33:00,460 --> 00:33:04,800  
to try to fill in those slots,  
in addition to internship --

600

00:33:04,800 --> 00:33:08,050  
paid internship opportunities.  
Hopefully by this spring,

601

00:33:08,050 --> 00:33:09,980  
we will be standing up  
some solicitations

602

00:33:09,980 --> 00:33:13,890  
or some availability,  
not just in the OEJEER program.

603

00:33:13,890 --> 00:33:15,340  
But that's one of  
the commitments we have

604

00:33:15,340 --> 00:33:17,930  
in our strategic plan  
for all of EPA

605

00:33:17,930 --> 00:33:20,300  
to start offering paid  
internships again.

606

00:33:20,300 --> 00:33:22,390  
And we definitely want  
to lead by example.

607

00:33:22,390 --> 00:33:25,400  
So, that is one of the things we  
are working on for this fall --

608

00:33:25,400 --> 00:33:28,080  
or for the spring  
is to get some more unpaid

609

00:33:28,080 --> 00:33:29,680  
internship opportunities  
out there.

610

00:33:29,680 --> 00:33:32,500  
And again, we'll be advertising  
those making sure folks

611

00:33:32,500 --> 00:33:36,240  
are aware of those through these  
different channels such as this.

612

00:33:37,010 --> 00:33:39,490  
And then Edith Pestana,  
I'm very glad to see,

613

00:33:39,490 --> 00:33:41,310  
is asking about,

614

00:33:41,310 --> 00:33:43,750  
"How do we impact  
the performance partnership

615

00:33:43,750 --> 00:33:45,460  
agreements  
with state agencies?"

616

00:33:45,460 --> 00:33:48,260  
That, again, is a commitment  
we have in our strategic plan

617

00:33:48,260 --> 00:33:50,630  
that we're going to start making  
sure that those performance --

618

00:33:50,630 --> 00:33:51,900  
that those grant agreements --

619

00:33:51,900 --> 00:33:53,620  
and there's  
lots of different names,

620  
00:33:53,620 --> 00:33:54,980  
performance  
partnership agreements

621  
00:33:54,980 --> 00:33:56,350  
or performance  
partnership grants,

622  
00:33:56,350 --> 00:33:57,830  
or there's other names  
for them.

623  
00:33:57,830 --> 00:33:59,340  
But we are working  
closely right now

624  
00:33:59,340 --> 00:34:00,620  
with folks  
in the headquarters

625  
00:34:00,620 --> 00:34:03,460  
and our regions to develop  
over the next year

626  
00:34:04,100 --> 00:34:05,790  
what are some ways  
that we can really make sure

627  
00:34:05,790 --> 00:34:08,370  
that environmental justice  
and compliance with civil rights

628  
00:34:08,370 --> 00:34:10,040  
are showing up  
in those agreements.

629

00:34:10,040 --> 00:34:11,380

That's going to be  
a big piece of work,

630

00:34:11,380 --> 00:34:14,630

it's why it's a big commitment  
in our strategic plan.

631

00:34:15,380 --> 00:34:18,160

So, I think I ran through those  
all as quickly as I could.

632

00:34:18,160 --> 00:34:19,430

I don't want to take  
any more time,

633

00:34:19,430 --> 00:34:21,550

because Mr. Hoover  
is here with us.

634

00:34:22,210 --> 00:34:23,620

So, thank you,  
Marianne, Lilian,

635

00:34:23,620 --> 00:34:25,600

and Robin so much  
for joining us today.

636

00:34:26,190 --> 00:34:27,520

But I think we are  
going to move on.

637

00:34:27,520 --> 00:34:30,330

And I'm going to pass it  
right over to our senior advisor

638

00:34:30,330 --> 00:34:33,230

on all things at EPA  
to do with infrastructure

639

00:34:33,230 --> 00:34:36,350  
and Inflation Reduction Act,  
Zealan Hoover,

640  
00:34:36,350 --> 00:34:38,040  
and I believe we have Rachel

641  
00:34:38,040 --> 00:34:40,070  
from the administrator's office  
as well,

642  
00:34:40,070 --> 00:34:42,030  
who are going to talk  
a little bit about

643  
00:34:42,030 --> 00:34:45,740  
where we are  
with the green bank

644  
00:34:45,740 --> 00:34:48,620  
that we received funding for  
in the Inflation Reduction Act.

645  
00:34:48,620 --> 00:34:50,440  
I'll just remind Zealan  
and Rachel

646  
00:34:50,440 --> 00:34:51,900  
and anyone else  
who's about to talk,

647  
00:34:51,900 --> 00:34:54,820  
we do have interpretation  
happening simultaneously.

648  
00:34:55,580 --> 00:34:58,179  
So, I'm about at the upper range  
of speed right now.

649  
00:34:59,510 --> 00:35:00,830

>> Zealan Hoover: Right.  
Thank you, Matthew.

650  
00:35:00,830 --> 00:35:04,020  
And thank you all for  
the opportunity to join today

651  
00:35:04,020 --> 00:35:07,840  
and to speak with you all  
about the exciting programs

652  
00:35:07,840 --> 00:35:11,270  
that we are implementing under  
the Inflation Reduction Act.

653  
00:35:12,480 --> 00:35:17,160  
As Matthew noted, this is  
a big time for the agency

654  
00:35:17,160 --> 00:35:20,290  
and for our ability to reach  
communities across the country.

655  
00:35:20,890 --> 00:35:24,430  
And you heard about a few  
of these programs that I joined,

656  
00:35:24,430 --> 00:35:26,890  
as Marianne was talking  
about the \$3 billion

657  
00:35:27,580 --> 00:35:30,780  
for climate and Environmental  
Justice Block Grants

658  
00:35:30,780 --> 00:35:33,930  
that are being implemented  
by the new program office.

659  
00:35:34,500 --> 00:35:37,670



I want to first start by  
just taking a step back

660

00:35:37,670 --> 00:35:39,610  
and making sure that  
all of you understand

661

00:35:39,610 --> 00:35:41,700  
what is in  
the Inflation Reduction Act

662

00:35:42,570 --> 00:35:46,020  
around climate change  
and specifically what is

663

00:35:46,020 --> 00:35:48,360  
in the Inflation  
Reduction Act at EPA.

664

00:35:49,020 --> 00:35:50,840  
And then I'll take  
a bit more time

665

00:35:50,840 --> 00:35:56,300  
to talk specifically about the  
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund,

666

00:35:56,300 --> 00:35:59,099  
because I know that it's an area  
of particular interest.

667

00:35:59,720 --> 00:36:02,590  
And will do my best to keep  
an eye on the chat as well

668

00:36:02,590 --> 00:36:05,590  
and make sure that we save  
some time for questions.

669

00:36:06,120 --> 00:36:09,470

So, first off,  
just at a top line,

670

00:36:09,470 --> 00:36:13,000  
the Inflation Reduction Act  
is a huge deal

671

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:15,500  
for climate action  
and environmental justice.

672

00:36:15,500 --> 00:36:20,500  
We are just so excited,  
because the research is showing

673

00:36:20,500 --> 00:36:24,030  
that the modelers  
who have dedicated their careers

674

00:36:24,030 --> 00:36:27,610  
to modeling emissions reductions  
in energy systems

675

00:36:27,610 --> 00:36:30,530  
are projecting that  
this legislation alone

676

00:36:30,530 --> 00:36:35,280  
will reduce U.S. emissions  
40 percent by 2030,

677

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:39,330  
which puts us well  
on our way towards meeting

678

00:36:39,330 --> 00:36:42,460  
the President's commitment under  
the Paris Climate Agreement

679

00:36:42,460 --> 00:36:45,850

of reducing emissions  
50 percent by 2030.

680

00:36:45,850 --> 00:36:47,540  
An important point that I want  
to drive home

681

00:36:47,540 --> 00:36:51,490  
is that 40 percent  
is just the programs

682

00:36:51,490 --> 00:36:53,180  
in this new piece  
of legislation.

683

00:36:53,720 --> 00:36:57,120  
So, when you take that  
40 percent emissions reduction

684

00:36:57,120 --> 00:36:59,530  
from the Inflation  
Reduction Act or the IRA,

685

00:37:00,100 --> 00:37:03,030  
and then you add  
in all of the regulations

686

00:37:03,030 --> 00:37:07,420  
that EPA is working on  
that will reduce emissions,

687

00:37:07,420 --> 00:37:10,940  
and then you add in all of  
the state and local action

688

00:37:10,940 --> 00:37:13,870  
that will continue  
to increase an ambition,

689

00:37:14,420 --> 00:37:18,030

and then you add in new  
technologies and advances

690

00:37:18,030 --> 00:37:19,990  
in the private sector.

691

00:37:19,990 --> 00:37:25,360  
And we feel very confident that  
with successful implementation

692

00:37:25,360 --> 00:37:27,190  
and a lot of hard work,

693

00:37:27,190 --> 00:37:30,100  
we're going to hit  
that 2030 target.

694

00:37:30,900 --> 00:37:33,540  
And importantly, we're going  
to lay the groundwork

695

00:37:33,540 --> 00:37:36,760  
to go far beyond  
that 2030 target

696

00:37:36,760 --> 00:37:42,280  
and get to a net zero economy  
both in the U.S. and globally.

697

00:37:43,900 --> 00:37:46,360  
EPA is going to be  
a major player

698

00:37:46,360 --> 00:37:48,660  
in delivering the programs  
in the IRA.

699

00:37:49,320 --> 00:37:54,880  
We received \$41.5 billion  
in appropriated funds.

700

00:37:55,450 --> 00:38:02,170

And we expect to receive  
another \$11.5 billion in future

701

00:38:02,170 --> 00:38:05,630

revenue from reinstating  
the Superfund Tax

702

00:38:05,630 --> 00:38:07,670

on oil and gas production.

703

00:38:07,670 --> 00:38:11,580

And so, taken together,  
this is a huge investment

704

00:38:11,580 --> 00:38:14,400

in EPA's climate and  
environmental justice mission.

705

00:38:16,400 --> 00:38:18,510

I'm going to jump forward  
to the next page

706

00:38:18,510 --> 00:38:20,490

and just spend  
one more moment

707

00:38:20,490 --> 00:38:23,580

talking about what's happening  
across all of government.

708

00:38:23,580 --> 00:38:26,770

And then we're going  
to hone in on EPA,

709

00:38:26,770 --> 00:38:29,270

and then we're going  
to focus specifically

710

00:38:29,270 --> 00:38:31,380  
on the Greenhouse  
Gas Reduction Fund.

711

00:38:32,290 --> 00:38:37,430  
So, first off, the single  
biggest source of funding

712

00:38:37,430 --> 00:38:39,950  
in the Inflation Reduction Act  
is tax credits,

713

00:38:39,950 --> 00:38:43,270  
that top bar,  
about \$270 billion.

714

00:38:44,330 --> 00:38:46,000  
And these are tax credits

715

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:49,230  
that will go towards  
a wide range of sectors.

716

00:38:49,230 --> 00:38:51,829  
There's a lot of funding  
for the electricity sector,

717

00:38:52,440 --> 00:38:57,320  
manufacturing, energy  
efficiency, electric vehicles,

718

00:38:57,320 --> 00:38:59,190  
low carbon fuels.

719

00:38:59,190 --> 00:39:02,440  
Some of these  
are consumer facing.

720

00:39:02,440 --> 00:39:08,090

So, you will be able to as  
an individual access tax credits

721

00:39:08,090 --> 00:39:11,500  
for electric vehicles  
both new and used

722

00:39:11,500 --> 00:39:13,100  
and benefit  
from that directly.

723

00:39:13,710 --> 00:39:18,380  
You will be able to access  
the investment tax credit

724

00:39:18,380 --> 00:39:22,900  
if you want to put rooftop  
solar on your home.

725

00:39:24,020 --> 00:39:26,640  
But many of these tax credits  
will also be working

726

00:39:27,870 --> 00:39:32,130  
in the background  
of the energy system.

727

00:39:32,900 --> 00:39:35,770  
We're seeing, you know,  
huge investments being made

728

00:39:35,770 --> 00:39:39,170  
by manufacturers that are built  
that are taking advantage

729

00:39:39,170 --> 00:39:41,400  
of new  
manufacturing tax credits

730

00:39:41,400 --> 00:39:46,660

to build domestic low carbon  
manufacturing supply chains,

731

00:39:47,470 --> 00:39:50,460  
electric power players who are  
making big investments

732

00:39:50,460 --> 00:39:53,750  
in zero emission,  
power production,

733

00:39:53,750 --> 00:39:56,020  
wind, solar, geothermal.

734

00:39:56,980 --> 00:39:59,360  
And so, a lot of this  
is going to get driven

735

00:39:59,360 --> 00:40:00,890  
from the tax credits.

736

00:40:00,890 --> 00:40:03,570  
Coming in second place is EPA.

737

00:40:03,570 --> 00:40:07,030  
We continue to punch  
above our weight

738

00:40:08,240 --> 00:40:10,340  
in both the infrastructure  
law last year

739

00:40:10,340 --> 00:40:12,540  
and now in  
the Inflation Reduction Act.

740

00:40:12,540 --> 00:40:15,640  
There's that \$56 billion  
that I showed on the prior page.



741

00:40:16,250 --> 00:40:19,020

And then after that,  
the Department of Agriculture

742

00:40:19,020 --> 00:40:21,710

got about \$47 billion,  
the Department of Energy,

743

00:40:21,710 --> 00:40:24,030

and then there's about  
15 other agencies

744

00:40:24,030 --> 00:40:27,220

that received about  
\$24 billion in total.

745

00:40:27,220 --> 00:40:28,450

It's a lot of money.

746

00:40:28,450 --> 00:40:30,260

It's going to fund  
some really exciting stuff

747

00:40:30,260 --> 00:40:36,120

from electric postal trucks  
to low carbon federal buildings.

748

00:40:37,210 --> 00:40:39,120

I won't go through  
all of that in more detail,

749

00:40:39,120 --> 00:40:41,560

but I'm going to stay  
focused on the EPA piece.

750

00:40:42,240 --> 00:40:44,290

I just want to take  
one more moment

751

00:40:44,290 --> 00:40:47,540  
to put in perspective  
that \$56 billion number.

752  
00:40:47,540 --> 00:40:50,820  
So, we received \$56 billion

753  
00:40:50,820 --> 00:40:52,150  
through the  
Inflation Reduction Act.

754  
00:40:52,150 --> 00:40:54,000  
We received over \$70 billion

755  
00:40:54,760 --> 00:40:58,050  
through the Bipartisan  
Infrastructure Law,

756  
00:40:58,050 --> 00:41:01,140  
taking together  
well over \$100 billion

757  
00:41:01,930 --> 00:41:06,190  
in new funding for EPA to  
administer in the coming years.

758  
00:41:06,700 --> 00:41:11,980  
And EPA's regular annual budget  
is about \$9.5 billion.

759  
00:41:13,170 --> 00:41:17,100  
So, we are more than tripling  
the amount of funding

760  
00:41:17,100 --> 00:41:20,530  
that this agency is getting  
out the door next year.

761  
00:41:20,530 --> 00:41:24,660  
It is a huge increase.

And Matt mentioned hiring.

762

00:41:24,660 --> 00:41:27,620

We are working hard  
to increase our hiring.

763

00:41:27,620 --> 00:41:30,080

We're working hard to increase  
our ability

764

00:41:30,080 --> 00:41:33,050

to administer grants,  
to get contract support in place

765

00:41:33,050 --> 00:41:35,850

to provide technical  
assistance to applicants.

766

00:41:36,520 --> 00:41:39,590

We are scaling  
on all dimensions.

767

00:41:41,610 --> 00:41:43,660

So, I said that the next thing  
I wanted to do

768

00:41:43,660 --> 00:41:46,380

is hone in on EPA.

769

00:41:46,380 --> 00:41:48,820

And this page  
is hopefully helpful,

770

00:41:48,820 --> 00:41:53,470

because it focuses  
on the six programs

771

00:41:53,470 --> 00:41:57,810

that collectively represent  
98 percent of the total

772

00:41:57,810 --> 00:41:59,520  
funding we received

773

00:41:59,520 --> 00:42:03,200  
in the appropriated  
Inflation Reduction Act.

774

00:42:03,200 --> 00:42:07,210  
So, 24 new  
and existing programs overall,

775

00:42:07,210 --> 00:42:09,840  
but six of them account  
for most of the money.

776

00:42:10,660 --> 00:42:13,110  
You already heard  
about the Environmental

777

00:42:13,110 --> 00:42:14,910  
and Climate  
Justice Block Grants.

778

00:42:14,910 --> 00:42:17,610  
That's the \$3 billion,  
third bullet down.

779

00:42:17,610 --> 00:42:18,990  
We're going to talk  
in a moment

780

00:42:18,990 --> 00:42:23,050  
about the \$27 billion  
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

781

00:42:24,440 --> 00:42:27,270  
I will very briefly speak  
to the other bullets

782

00:42:27,270 --> 00:42:28,900  
that may be new  
to some of you.

783

00:42:28,900 --> 00:42:32,810  
So, one, we received  
\$5 billion

784

00:42:32,810 --> 00:42:35,660  
for Climate Pollution  
Reduction Grants.

785

00:42:35,660 --> 00:42:40,010  
These are grants that EPA  
will give to state, local,

786

00:42:40,010 --> 00:42:44,110  
and tribal grantees  
to first implement a plan

787

00:42:44,110 --> 00:42:46,560  
and then go -- first --  
sorry, first design a plan

788

00:42:46,560 --> 00:42:51,740  
and then go implement a plan to  
reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

789

00:42:51,740 --> 00:42:53,390  
and will have at least one grant

790

00:42:53,390 --> 00:42:55,480  
to an eligible entity  
in every state.

791

00:42:56,900 --> 00:43:00,460  
Second is Grants to Reduce  
Air Pollution at Ports.

792

00:43:01,030 --> 00:43:03,840  
We're quite excited  
about that \$3 billion program,

793  
00:43:03,840 --> 00:43:07,460  
because we know that there are  
significant air pollution

794  
00:43:07,460 --> 00:43:09,270  
and environmental  
justice concerns

795  
00:43:09,270 --> 00:43:11,580  
in and around  
our nation's ports.

796  
00:43:11,580 --> 00:43:13,670  
And the significant share  
of that funding

797  
00:43:13,670 --> 00:43:17,700  
is specifically dedicated  
towards non-attainment zones.

798  
00:43:17,700 --> 00:43:20,110  
So, those areas  
with the worst air quality.

799  
00:43:22,300 --> 00:43:25,040  
Below that, we have  
the \$1.5 billion

800  
00:43:25,040 --> 00:43:27,070  
Methane Emissions Program.

801  
00:43:27,070 --> 00:43:30,920  
So, this has two parts to it.  
We're both going to implement

802  
00:43:30,920 --> 00:43:34,440

the first ever fee  
on methane emissions.

803

00:43:34,980 --> 00:43:36,880  
And we're going  
to provide grants

804

00:43:36,880 --> 00:43:40,330  
to accelerate the reduction  
of methane emissions

805

00:43:40,330 --> 00:43:42,830  
from petroleum  
and natural gas systems.

806

00:43:43,770 --> 00:43:46,090  
And then the bottom bullet  
is our \$1 billion

807

00:43:46,090 --> 00:43:49,060  
Clean Heavy-Duty  
Vehicles Program.

808

00:43:49,060 --> 00:43:50,790  
And this is another one  
where there's funding

809

00:43:50,790 --> 00:43:54,310  
that's specifically set aside  
for those communities

810

00:43:54,310 --> 00:43:57,150  
with the most  
of your air pollution.

811

00:44:01,170 --> 00:44:03,950  
Page five here shows  
the other programs.

812

00:44:03,950 --> 00:44:06,800

So, the 2 percent of programs

813

00:44:06,800 --> 00:44:08,800  
that represent  
the remainder of the --

814

00:44:09,410 --> 00:44:10,650  
2 percent of funding

815

00:44:10,650 --> 00:44:12,949  
that represents  
the remainder of the programs.

816

00:44:14,030 --> 00:44:16,210  
There's a lot of really  
amazing work here.

817

00:44:16,210 --> 00:44:20,310  
And again, I don't want these  
programs to be overshadowed

818

00:44:20,310 --> 00:44:23,540  
by the programs that have  
three extra zeros behind them,

819

00:44:24,180 --> 00:44:29,590  
because this is big, serious  
real money for initiatives

820

00:44:29,590 --> 00:44:33,540  
like air monitoring,  
air pollution in schools,

821

00:44:33,540 --> 00:44:37,400  
action on highly  
polluting HFCs,

822

00:44:37,970 --> 00:44:39,960  
improving  
our environmental reviews



823

00:44:39,960 --> 00:44:41,620  
and permitting processes.

824

00:44:41,620 --> 00:44:44,640  
And so, we are putting  
significant focus

825

00:44:44,640 --> 00:44:47,680  
in implementing  
these programs as well.

826

00:44:47,680 --> 00:44:49,310  
But in the interest of time,

827

00:44:49,310 --> 00:44:53,740  
I'm going to jump forward  
to the next page

828

00:44:53,740 --> 00:44:56,710  
and talk a bit specifically  
about the Greenhouse

829

00:44:56,710 --> 00:44:58,730  
Gas Reduction Fund.

830

00:44:58,730 --> 00:45:03,490  
So, there's a lot going on  
in the statute

831

00:45:03,490 --> 00:45:07,570  
that created this program.  
And really what it does

832

00:45:07,570 --> 00:45:10,700  
is it sets out  
three streams of funding.

833

00:45:11,880 --> 00:45:15,470

So, the first stream of funding  
is \$7 billion

834

00:45:16,650 --> 00:45:19,190  
that have to be awarded  
in competitive grants.

835

00:45:19,740 --> 00:45:24,840  
And they can go to four types  
of recipients,

836

00:45:24,840 --> 00:45:27,730  
states, municipalities,

837

00:45:28,740 --> 00:45:32,310  
tribal governments,  
and eligible recipients.

838

00:45:32,310 --> 00:45:33,530  
And it's always  
a little confusing

839

00:45:33,530 --> 00:45:35,600  
when one of  
your eligible recipients

840

00:45:35,600 --> 00:45:38,000  
is defined  
as eligible recipients,

841

00:45:38,000 --> 00:45:40,690  
but the statute goes on  
and further defined that.

842

00:45:40,690 --> 00:45:44,300  
And you can see this in the  
second row right-hand side.

843

00:45:45,070 --> 00:45:46,990  
Eligible recipients are defined

844  
00:45:46,990 --> 00:45:50,090  
as nonprofits  
that provide capital

845  
00:45:51,050 --> 00:45:57,130  
and invest in essentially  
zero carbon projects.

846  
00:45:57,130 --> 00:46:00,700  
And so, the way you can think  
of eligible recipients

847  
00:46:00,700 --> 00:46:05,020  
is essentially nonprofit  
financial institutions.

848  
00:46:05,020 --> 00:46:08,500  
And so, that first \$7 billion  
that goes to states,

849  
00:46:08,500 --> 00:46:10,440  
municipalities,  
tribal governments,

850  
00:46:10,440 --> 00:46:11,840  
and as a shorthand  
we'll call them

851  
00:46:11,840 --> 00:46:14,400  
"nonprofit financial  
institutions."

852  
00:46:15,000 --> 00:46:17,630  
And still in that funding  
stream one,

853  
00:46:18,160 --> 00:46:21,800  
eligible recipients  
can use the funding

854

00:46:23,030 --> 00:46:26,530  
to provide a whole range  
of financial assistance.

855

00:46:26,530 --> 00:46:30,910  
So, grants, loans,  
technical assistance.

856

00:46:30,910 --> 00:46:35,920  
And it can be used to fund  
distributed technologies,

857

00:46:35,920 --> 00:46:38,730  
like rooftop solar and storage,

858

00:46:38,730 --> 00:46:42,320  
in addition to other  
zero-emission technologies.

859

00:46:42,320 --> 00:46:45,360  
It's quite broad  
in how the funds get used

860

00:46:45,360 --> 00:46:47,450  
by those eligible recipients.

861

00:46:47,450 --> 00:46:49,720  
The important thing  
is that the funds

862

00:46:49,720 --> 00:46:54,420  
must go to low income  
in disadvantaged communities.

863

00:46:54,420 --> 00:46:58,680  
And it must be used to ensure  
that those communities benefit

864

00:46:58,680 --> 00:47:01,580  
from zero emission technologies.

865  
00:47:01,580 --> 00:47:05,250  
And so, we're putting  
a lot of thought

866  
00:47:05,250 --> 00:47:07,500  
into the design of this program

867  
00:47:07,500 --> 00:47:11,210  
to make sure that  
we are reaching low income

868  
00:47:11,210 --> 00:47:14,870  
and disadvantaged communities in  
a direct and high impact manner,

869  
00:47:15,460 --> 00:47:18,640  
and that we are getting  
as much leverage

870  
00:47:18,640 --> 00:47:20,910  
and impact out of these funds  
as possible.

871  
00:47:20,910 --> 00:47:23,230  
So, \$7 billion is  
a lot of money.

872  
00:47:23,230 --> 00:47:26,120  
But against the significant need  
that is out there,

873  
00:47:26,120 --> 00:47:27,470  
we want to be really smart

874  
00:47:27,470 --> 00:47:29,030  
with how we are making  
these investments.

875

00:47:29,030 --> 00:47:33,050

We want to use this money  
to pool in funding

876

00:47:33,050 --> 00:47:37,700

and drive as much  
positive impact as possible.

877

00:47:39,150 --> 00:47:41,880

So, I'm now going to move over  
to the column

878

00:47:41,880 --> 00:47:44,700

on the right-hand side,  
funding streams two and three.

879

00:47:45,330 --> 00:47:47,490

So, these funding streams,

880

00:47:47,490 --> 00:47:49,870

there's about \$12 billion  
and \$8 billion.

881

00:47:50,780 --> 00:47:53,180

They still have to be run  
as competitive grants.

882

00:47:54,060 --> 00:47:55,950

When talking about  
eligible recipients,

883

00:47:55,950 --> 00:47:58,220

the key difference here  
is that

884

00:47:58,220 --> 00:48:02,730

this is only for those nonprofit  
financial institutions.

885

00:48:02,730 --> 00:48:06,000

So, these pots of money  
cannot go to states,

886

00:48:06,000 --> 00:48:08,640

municipalities,  
or tribal governments.

887

00:48:08,640 --> 00:48:10,880

And again, all of this  
is derived out of the statute.

888

00:48:10,880 --> 00:48:12,800

So, this is --  
and think about this page

889

00:48:12,800 --> 00:48:15,930

as essentially  
the base requirements

890

00:48:15,930 --> 00:48:18,240

that EPA is operating within

891

00:48:18,240 --> 00:48:20,690

as we move forward  
with our program design.

892

00:48:20,690 --> 00:48:24,350

So, we've got a \$12 billion pot,  
an \$8 billion pot,

893

00:48:24,350 --> 00:48:25,670

and they have to go

894

00:48:25,670 --> 00:48:28,360

to those nonprofit  
financial institutions.

895

00:48:28,910 --> 00:48:30,810

What can they use them for?

896

00:48:30,810 --> 00:48:34,400

They can use them to invest  
in projects that reduce

897

00:48:34,400 --> 00:48:36,720

or avoid greenhouse  
gas emissions

898

00:48:36,720 --> 00:48:38,430

and other forms  
of air pollution.

899

00:48:39,180 --> 00:48:42,590

And they can both invest  
directly in projects,

900

00:48:42,590 --> 00:48:46,600

or they can take the money  
and create other entities

901

00:48:46,600 --> 00:48:48,720

that will then  
invest in projects.

902

00:48:48,720 --> 00:48:54,040

So, you could give funding to  
one entity at the state level,

903

00:48:54,040 --> 00:48:55,870

who would then give money  
to other,

904

00:48:55,870 --> 00:48:59,580

say, local or regional grantees,  
who would then go do more work.

905

00:48:59,580 --> 00:49:03,060

That would be an allowable use



of funds within the statute.

906

00:49:04,130 --> 00:49:07,810

The key difference is  
that of the funding streams

907

00:49:07,810 --> 00:49:09,060

two and three,

908

00:49:09,060 --> 00:49:11,820

that \$8 billion  
has to go to low income

909

00:49:11,820 --> 00:49:13,880

and disadvantaged communities.

910

00:49:13,880 --> 00:49:18,160

That \$12 billion  
is not statutorily required

911

00:49:18,160 --> 00:49:21,330

to go to those low income  
and disadvantaged communities.

912

00:49:23,990 --> 00:49:25,800

The last point  
I would just hit on

913

00:49:25,800 --> 00:49:27,710

are the key statutory deadlines

914

00:49:27,710 --> 00:49:30,860

on the far  
right-hand side of this page.

915

00:49:30,860 --> 00:49:33,950

So, we have to begin  
making grants

916

00:49:33,950 --> 00:49:35,230  
on a competitive basis

917  
00:49:35,230 --> 00:49:38,640  
within 180 days of enactment  
that would be in February.

918  
00:49:39,840 --> 00:49:44,060  
There are a number of different  
activities that we can kick off

919  
00:49:44,060 --> 00:49:45,950  
to meet  
that statutory requirement.

920  
00:49:45,950 --> 00:49:49,150  
So, we're not putting out  
any specific commitments yet on

921  
00:49:49,150 --> 00:49:53,110  
when we're going to open  
an application for these grants,

922  
00:49:53,110 --> 00:49:57,070  
but we are moving very quickly  
to get the grant process moving.

923  
00:49:58,350 --> 00:50:01,950  
And then we have to have all of  
the funding awarded in 2024.

924  
00:50:01,950 --> 00:50:06,070  
So, essentially, we have  
two years to get all \$27 billion

925  
00:50:07,690 --> 00:50:11,130  
awarded out  
to those eligible recipients.

926  
00:50:12,790 --> 00:50:15,230

The last point I will make,

927

00:50:15,230 --> 00:50:19,900  
and then happy to take questions  
until Matt cuts me off,

928

00:50:20,430 --> 00:50:24,450  
is how to get involved  
beyond this call.

929

00:50:24,450 --> 00:50:26,860  
So, I've had  
the opportunity today

930

00:50:26,860 --> 00:50:28,090  
to also talk

931

00:50:28,090 --> 00:50:31,530  
with our Environmental  
Finance Advisory Board,

932

00:50:31,530 --> 00:50:33,990  
which is having a public meeting  
out in Denver,

933

00:50:34,910 --> 00:50:36,340  
and with a subcommittee

934

00:50:36,340 --> 00:50:38,440  
of our local government  
advisory committee,

935

00:50:38,440 --> 00:50:42,390  
which is gearing up for their  
public meeting in November.

936

00:50:43,050 --> 00:50:46,750  
We also are looking forward  
to discussing

937

00:50:46,750 --> 00:50:48,410  
the Inflation Reduction Act

938

00:50:48,410 --> 00:50:53,280  
in detail at the NEJAC meeting  
next month and plan

939

00:50:53,280 --> 00:50:55,740  
on also meeting with the WHEJAC

940

00:50:56,550 --> 00:50:58,830  
and with our Clean Air  
Advisory Committee.

941

00:50:58,830 --> 00:51:02,780  
There are a lot of programs  
as you've now deduced

942

00:51:02,780 --> 00:51:04,350  
from what I've talked through.

943

00:51:04,350 --> 00:51:09,240  
So, each of our program offices  
is going to be launching

944

00:51:09,240 --> 00:51:13,410  
a number of program  
specific public meetings

945

00:51:13,410 --> 00:51:15,370  
and stakeholder sessions.

946

00:51:15,370 --> 00:51:20,130  
We also plan on issuing requests  
for information

947

00:51:20,130 --> 00:51:23,410  
where we will publish very  
specific questions that we are

948

00:51:23,410 --> 00:51:26,340  
looking for the public's input  
and great ideas on.

949

00:51:27,310 --> 00:51:31,550  
And we'll make sure that we use  
listservs like this one

950

00:51:31,550 --> 00:51:32,820  
to get the word out,

951

00:51:32,820 --> 00:51:35,990  
so that you all know when you  
have additional opportunities

952

00:51:35,990 --> 00:51:37,910  
to provide your thoughts

953

00:51:37,910 --> 00:51:40,750  
and input  
to the amazing folks at EPA

954

00:51:40,750 --> 00:51:43,530  
who will be developing  
these programs.

955

00:51:43,530 --> 00:51:47,290  
So, with that, I'm going to go  
ahead and pull down the slides.

956

00:51:47,290 --> 00:51:49,080  
I'm happy to put them back up,

957

00:51:49,080 --> 00:51:51,490  
if relevant to any  
of the questions.

958

00:51:51,490 --> 00:51:54,340

But with that,  
happy to take questions.

959

00:51:54,340 --> 00:51:56,470

And I'll start --

it looks like we got a few

960

00:51:56,470 --> 00:51:59,960

that came through the Q&A,

so I'll start there

961

00:52:00,650 --> 00:52:02,900

and then we can continue on.

So --

962

00:52:02,900 --> 00:52:04,170

>> Matthew Tejada: So, you --

>> Zealan Hoover: Yeah.

963

00:52:04,170 --> 00:52:05,670

>> Matthew Tejada:

Well, go ahead, Zealan.

964

00:52:05,670 --> 00:52:06,960

>> Zealan Hoover: Awesome.

965

00:52:06,960 --> 00:52:09,580

So, just looking at the first

question from Rami [phonetic sp]

966

00:52:09,580 --> 00:52:11,030

is, "How much does

the federal government

967

00:52:11,030 --> 00:52:14,120

rely on carbon

captured technologies to meet

968

00:52:14,120 --> 00:52:16,710

its 40 percent

emissions reduction?"

969

00:52:17,250 --> 00:52:24,150

So, what's quite exciting about  
the Inflation Reduction Act

970

00:52:24,150 --> 00:52:28,360

is that it invests  
in a wide range of technologies

971

00:52:28,360 --> 00:52:31,590

without requiring  
specific technologies

972

00:52:31,590 --> 00:52:33,220

as part of the solution.

973

00:52:33,220 --> 00:52:38,230

So, I -- you saw that top bar  
of tax credits that included --

974

00:52:38,860 --> 00:52:40,660

that was about \$270 billion.

975

00:52:41,460 --> 00:52:45,920

One of the tax credits that  
Congress funded is called 45Q.

976

00:52:45,920 --> 00:52:50,610

And that is a tax credit  
for carbon capture

977

00:52:50,610 --> 00:52:53,910

and sequestration.  
And so, that likely will drive

978

00:52:53,910 --> 00:52:57,200

a number of different  
carbon capture projects

979

00:52:57,200 --> 00:52:58,500  
across the country,

980

00:52:58,500 --> 00:53:00,849  
because of that additional  
financial incentive.

981

00:53:01,690 --> 00:53:05,000  
The way that the 40 percent  
figure was reached

982

00:53:05,000 --> 00:53:10,180  
was by three to four  
different modeling groups.

983

00:53:10,180 --> 00:53:11,760  
Three of them outside  
of the government,

984

00:53:11,760 --> 00:53:14,240  
one of them  
the Department of Energy

985

00:53:14,240 --> 00:53:16,320  
that run different models

986

00:53:16,320 --> 00:53:19,360  
that look at the costs  
of different technologies.

987

00:53:19,360 --> 00:53:22,970  
And then they're able to run  
essentially simulations

988

00:53:22,970 --> 00:53:24,640  
of the next decade

989

00:53:24,640 --> 00:53:29,280  
to see based off of those



additional investments

990

00:53:29,280 --> 00:53:30,530  
and price supports

991

00:53:30,530 --> 00:53:34,100  
and the impact that will have  
on the cost of producing energy

992

00:53:34,100 --> 00:53:37,450  
and vehicles  
how will emissions trend.

993

00:53:37,450 --> 00:53:40,360  
So, that was a long-winded way  
of saying CCUS

994

00:53:40,360 --> 00:53:43,940  
likely will be part  
of that 40 percent emissions.

995

00:53:43,940 --> 00:53:48,490  
But that's coming from the value  
of the tax credit

996

00:53:48,490 --> 00:53:50,250  
in the current  
economic structure,

997

00:53:50,250 --> 00:53:57,740  
not because there is a specific  
action of the federal government

998

00:53:57,740 --> 00:54:01,460  
that is setting a sector  
by sector or technology

999

00:54:01,460 --> 00:54:04,710  
by technology target.  
So, hopefully that is helpful.

1000

00:54:06,250 --> 00:54:11,830  
Next, I want to go to Magali's  
question on Justice40.

1001

00:54:12,400 --> 00:54:13,620  
And so, yes,

1002

00:54:13,620 --> 00:54:18,290  
all of these programs  
are going to be administered,

1003

00:54:18,290 --> 00:54:22,390  
you know, consistent with the  
President's Justice40 targets.

1004

00:54:22,390 --> 00:54:26,090  
I am quite confident  
that we will meet

1005

00:54:26,090 --> 00:54:30,860  
or exceed the Justice40 goals  
for all of these programs.

1006

00:54:30,860 --> 00:54:34,880  
We have been working hard  
in close collaboration

1007

00:54:34,880 --> 00:54:37,270  
with the Office  
of Environmental Justice

1008

00:54:37,270 --> 00:54:41,300  
and External Civil Rights  
to successfully implement

1009

00:54:41,300 --> 00:54:44,370  
Justice40 in the  
Bipartisan Infrastructure

1010

00:54:44,370 --> 00:54:48,400

Law programs that we have been  
implementing over the past year.

1011

00:54:48,400 --> 00:54:50,360

We're off to a great  
start there.

1012

00:54:50,360 --> 00:54:52,980

And we're feeling very confident  
in our ability

1013

00:54:52,980 --> 00:54:56,980

to similarly ensure  
that these funds

1014

00:54:56,980 --> 00:54:59,830

are reaching the  
communities of greatest needs.

1015

00:55:01,390 --> 00:55:02,840

Moving on, I see  
Amy [phonetic sp]

1016

00:55:02,840 --> 00:55:04,770

has a question  
about public universities

1017

00:55:04,770 --> 00:55:08,830

and their eligibility  
to apply for any grant funds.

1018

00:55:08,830 --> 00:55:10,420

One of the best opportunities

1019

00:55:10,420 --> 00:55:15,120

is for the \$3 billion  
environmental justice grant.

1020

00:55:15,120 --> 00:55:17,740  
So, Matt, do you maybe  
want to take that question?

1021  
00:55:19,070 --> 00:55:20,280  
>> Matthew Tejada: Yes.

1022  
00:55:20,280 --> 00:55:21,820  
So, that will be  
one of the things,

1023  
00:55:21,820 --> 00:55:25,250  
Amy, that we'd discuss  
probably next month

1024  
00:55:25,250 --> 00:55:29,010  
in much greater detail  
in terms of our plans

1025  
00:55:29,010 --> 00:55:35,350  
for the Environment and Climate  
Justice Block Grants.

1026  
00:55:35,900 --> 00:55:39,490  
It's really the first time that  
we've been specifically directed

1027  
00:55:40,520 --> 00:55:43,660  
to provide funding  
for academic institutions.

1028  
00:55:44,410 --> 00:55:46,670  
Those institutions  
will have to be partnered

1029  
00:55:46,670 --> 00:55:49,170  
with a community-based  
organization,

1030  
00:55:49,170 --> 00:55:50,950

which I'm excited about.

1031

00:55:51,760 --> 00:55:54,190  
Having once run  
a community-based organization

1032

00:55:54,190 --> 00:55:56,980  
that always tried to work  
with academic institutions

1033

00:55:56,980 --> 00:55:59,250  
and somehow always  
managed to feel like

1034

00:55:59,250 --> 00:56:01,110  
I was on the outside  
looking in,

1035

00:56:01,110 --> 00:56:02,810  
that's going to change  
the dynamic

1036

00:56:03,490 --> 00:56:07,540  
in terms of how community-based  
organizations sit at that table.

1037

00:56:08,530 --> 00:56:11,000  
And I'm also just excited,  
though, as well, you know,

1038

00:56:11,000 --> 00:56:16,720  
to have EJ dedicated funds for  
academic institutions to see,

1039

00:56:16,720 --> 00:56:19,250  
you know, how can  
we really leverage those

1040

00:56:19,250 --> 00:56:21,500  
and get those

academic institutions

1041

00:56:21,500 --> 00:56:25,240

not only engaging  
the communities

1042

00:56:25,240 --> 00:56:26,840

in a different dynamic,

1043

00:56:27,550 --> 00:56:30,280

but also just to focus  
in on issues of equity

1044

00:56:30,280 --> 00:56:34,570

and justice more directly  
with some EPA EJ dollar.

1045

00:56:34,570 --> 00:56:38,300

So, I think that will be  
an exciting facet

1046

00:56:38,300 --> 00:56:40,100

of how we develop  
those grant programs.

1047

00:56:40,100 --> 00:56:43,790

And we'll be engaging --  
you know, in this forum,

1048

00:56:43,790 --> 00:56:45,020

we will be engaging

1049

00:56:45,020 --> 00:56:48,090

with the National Environmental  
Justice Advisory Council.

1050

00:56:48,090 --> 00:56:50,410

We'll be having an in-person  
public meeting

1051

00:56:50,410 --> 00:56:51,630  
of the NEJAC the week

1052

00:56:51,630 --> 00:56:54,050  
after Thanksgiving here  
in the D.C. area.

1053

00:56:54,790 --> 00:56:56,570  
That will, again, be something  
that we send out

1054

00:56:56,570 --> 00:56:59,450  
over our listserv  
and on our Twitter handle

1055

00:57:00,100 --> 00:57:03,200  
as soon as all of that material  
is ready to be shared,

1056

00:57:03,200 --> 00:57:05,350  
but it will be the week  
after Thanksgiving.

1057

00:57:06,470 --> 00:57:08,180  
So, yeah, that'll be something  
we look forward to.

1058

00:57:08,180 --> 00:57:11,530  
Zealan, we have one person  
with her --

1059

00:57:11,530 --> 00:57:14,300  
I believe it's a her,  
and forgive me if I'm wrong --

1060

00:57:14,300 --> 00:57:15,900  
a hand up.

1061

00:57:16,710 --> 00:57:20,570

Ericka, can we unmute  
Kristine Taniguchi

1062

00:57:20,570 --> 00:57:24,390  
and have Kristine ask her  
answer -- ask her question?

1063

00:57:30,080 --> 00:57:33,310  
I hope Ericka is still with us,  
or Victoria.

1064

00:57:33,310 --> 00:57:34,880  
Can one of you  
unmute Kristine and --

1065

00:57:34,880 --> 00:57:36,110  
>> Ericka Farrell: I'm still  
here.

1066

00:57:36,110 --> 00:57:37,320  
>> Matthew Tejada: Oh, there  
you go.

1067

00:57:37,320 --> 00:57:38,980  
>> Ericka Farrell: I'm still --

1068

00:57:38,980 --> 00:57:40,400  
>> Female Speaker: Yes, I've  
already

1069

00:57:40,400 --> 00:57:41,640  
asked her to  
unmute her line.

1070

00:57:41,640 --> 00:57:42,870  
>> Matthew Tejada: Okay.

1071

00:57:42,870 --> 00:57:45,970  
Kristine, if you can unmute  
your line on your end as well,



1072

00:57:47,000 --> 00:57:49,000  
you should be able  
to ask your question.

1073

00:57:53,080 --> 00:57:54,330  
>> Female Speaker: Oh, wait a  
second.

1074

00:57:54,330 --> 00:57:56,120  
>> Matthew Tejada: You said  
she's unmuted.

1075

00:57:56,120 --> 00:58:00,200  
No? Try again, Kristine.

1076

00:58:07,250 --> 00:58:09,650  
Well, we might have to  
come back to it, Zealan,

1077

00:58:10,190 --> 00:58:11,790  
maybe later in the program.

1078

00:58:14,010 --> 00:58:16,240  
So, I think a few of these  
we can now do --

1079

00:58:16,960 --> 00:58:19,210  
unless you see any that  
you want to answer live, Zealan,

1080

00:58:19,210 --> 00:58:25,400  
I think we can probably  
answer these in the Q&A pod

1081

00:58:25,400 --> 00:58:28,680  
and then move on  
to the next session.

1082

00:58:29,590 --> 00:58:30,850  
>> Zealan Hoover: Yeah, that  
sounds great.

1083  
00:58:30,850 --> 00:58:33,760  
I will say just very quickly,  
Stephanie [phonetic sp],

1084  
00:58:33,760 --> 00:58:37,010  
agree completely about the value  
of a one-stop shop

1085  
00:58:37,010 --> 00:58:39,210  
to understand  
all of the programs.

1086  
00:58:39,210 --> 00:58:41,880  
The White House did that  
for the infrastructure program.

1087  
00:58:41,880 --> 00:58:46,570  
You can find that at build.gov,  
B-U-I-L-D.gov.

1088  
00:58:46,570 --> 00:58:48,090  
They're working  
on something similar

1089  
00:58:48,090 --> 00:58:49,760  
for the  
Inflation Reduction Act,

1090  
00:58:49,760 --> 00:58:51,610  
and that will hopefully  
go live soon.

1091  
00:58:52,370 --> 00:58:54,010  
And then a few other questions

1092  
00:58:54,010 --> 00:58:58,240

we can respond  
to through the chat function.

1093

00:58:58,240 --> 00:59:00,539  
And thank you all  
for the opportunity to join.

1094

00:59:01,080 --> 00:59:03,080  
>> Matthew Tejada:  
Thank you, Zealan.

1095

00:59:03,080 --> 00:59:04,360  
>> Female Speaker: Matthew,  
this is Victoria.

1096

00:59:04,360 --> 00:59:05,620  
There's --  
Latonya Jackson [phonetic sp]

1097

00:59:05,620 --> 00:59:06,900  
has her hand raised.

1098

00:59:06,900 --> 00:59:08,270  
If we're going to  
move with her --

1099

00:59:08,270 --> 00:59:09,490  
>> Matthew Tejada: Okay. Sure.

1100

00:59:09,490 --> 00:59:10,700  
>> Female Speaker: -- I'll go  
ahead

1101

00:59:10,700 --> 00:59:12,440  
and allow her to talk.

1102

00:59:12,440 --> 00:59:14,040  
>> Matthew Tejada: Okay.  
Thank you.

1103

00:59:15,650 --> 00:59:17,710

Latonya, I see your --

1104

00:59:17,710 --> 00:59:19,290

I should be able  
to hear you, Latonya.

1105

00:59:19,290 --> 00:59:20,640

>> Latonya Jackson: Yes. Can  
you all hear me okay?

1106

00:59:20,640 --> 00:59:21,870

>> Matthew Tejada: Yes.

1107

00:59:21,870 --> 00:59:24,560

>> Latonya Jackson: Awesome.  
All right. My question is this.

1108

00:59:25,160 --> 00:59:27,180

I see that there is  
a lot of funding

1109

00:59:27,180 --> 00:59:29,570

going for carbon capturing

1110

00:59:29,570 --> 00:59:34,110

and a lot of airtight things  
in environmental justice,

1111

00:59:34,110 --> 00:59:36,570

but a lot of it has to do  
with air and electricity.

1112

00:59:36,570 --> 00:59:37,770

What about water?

1113

00:59:37,770 --> 00:59:40,990

Like, is there  
any specific funding

1114  
00:59:40,990 --> 00:59:45,140  
that's going out for water  
pollution and things like that?

1115  
00:59:45,140 --> 00:59:47,330  
>> Matthew Tejada: Sure.  
So, a couple things on that.

1116  
00:59:47,330 --> 00:59:49,420  
So, in the Inflation  
Reduction Act,

1117  
00:59:50,230 --> 00:59:53,730  
we didn't get I think  
any specific money for water.

1118  
00:59:54,520 --> 00:59:59,250  
And part of that is maybe  
because we got a lot of money

1119  
00:59:59,250 --> 01:00:03,160  
for water pollution  
in drinking water,

1120  
01:00:04,200 --> 01:00:07,470  
lead service line replacements  
in the Inflation --

1121  
01:00:07,470 --> 01:00:10,210  
in the Bipartisan  
Infrastructure Law,

1122  
01:00:10,210 --> 01:00:11,930  
which passed around  
this time last year.

1123  
01:00:11,930 --> 01:00:14,150  
I think it was  
November of last year.

1124  
01:00:14,150 --> 01:00:16,050  
So, we -- at EPA,

1125  
01:00:16,050 --> 01:00:18,330  
we've received the  
American Rescue Plan funding,

1126  
01:00:18,330 --> 01:00:19,540  
which was a little bit.

1127  
01:00:19,540 --> 01:00:23,990  
It was \$100 million back  
in the spring of 2021.

1128  
01:00:23,990 --> 01:00:26,390  
And then last fall of 2021,

1129  
01:00:26,390 --> 01:00:28,420  
we received approximately  
\$60 billion

1130  
01:00:29,450 --> 01:00:31,540  
through the Bipartisan  
Infrastructure Law.

1131  
01:00:31,540 --> 01:00:34,140  
And the biggest part of that  
was to deal with water

1132  
01:00:34,140 --> 01:00:35,930  
and water infrastructure.

1133  
01:00:35,930 --> 01:00:37,640  
And then what Zealan  
was just sharing

1134  
01:00:37,640 --> 01:00:38,990  
was the

Inflation Reduction Act,

1135

01:00:38,990 --> 01:00:41,140  
where we received  
an excess of \$40 billion.

1136

01:00:42,150 --> 01:00:45,280  
But a lot of that  
is going to some air quality

1137

01:00:45,280 --> 01:00:46,550  
and climate change things.

1138

01:00:46,550 --> 01:00:48,610  
Now, I will share one  
of the things

1139

01:00:49,500 --> 01:00:55,620  
that we are focused on right now  
is in terms of the Environment

1140

01:00:55,620 --> 01:00:57,519  
and Climate  
Justice Block Grant money.

1141

01:00:58,330 --> 01:01:00,230  
Even though it's in  
the Clean Air Act,

1142

01:01:00,230 --> 01:01:02,470  
and it talks a lot  
about climate change

1143

01:01:02,470 --> 01:01:05,740  
and air quality pollution  
and air quality monitoring,

1144

01:01:05,740 --> 01:01:07,540  
it also talks about  
other pollution.

1145

01:01:08,070 --> 01:01:10,800

And I believe this is something  
we'll be discussing

1146

01:01:10,800 --> 01:01:13,370

and taking feedback on over  
the next couple of months.

1147

01:01:13,370 --> 01:01:16,720

But I believe the fact that it  
does reference other pollution

1148

01:01:17,530 --> 01:01:20,320

means that we are going  
to be able to use those

1149

01:01:20,320 --> 01:01:23,070

EJ dollars  
for air pollution,

1150

01:01:23,070 --> 01:01:26,560

but also for water and for  
other forms of pollution.

1151

01:01:26,560 --> 01:01:28,170

So, that's something  
that we'll be developing

1152

01:01:28,170 --> 01:01:29,390

over the next couple of months

1153

01:01:29,390 --> 01:01:31,290

and, you know, sharing  
and getting feedback on.

1154

01:01:31,290 --> 01:01:32,510

>> Latonya Jackson: Thank you.

1155



01:01:32,510 --> 01:01:33,750  
>> Matthew Tejada: You're  
welcome.

1156  
01:01:33,750 --> 01:01:35,030  
Thank you for the question.

1157  
01:01:35,030 --> 01:01:39,970  
Kristine, it looks like you  
can talk. Oh, no.

1158  
01:01:40,550 --> 01:01:42,030  
Kristine,  
are you still there?

1159  
01:01:42,030 --> 01:01:48,060  
Kristine Taniguchi?  
It looks like your mic is on,

1160  
01:01:48,060 --> 01:01:49,660  
but I can't hear you.

1161  
01:01:55,510 --> 01:01:57,210  
>> Ericka Farrell: Yeah, all she  
has to do is unmute.

1162  
01:01:59,000 --> 01:02:00,990  
>> Matthew Tejada: I'm sorry,  
Ericka?

1163  
01:02:00,990 --> 01:02:02,710  
>> Ericka Farrell: I was saying  
all she had to do is unmute.

1164  
01:02:02,710 --> 01:02:04,100  
Kristine, are you there?

1165  
01:02:04,100 --> 01:02:05,550  
>> Matthew Tejada: I know.  
But it looks like she is,

1166

01:02:05,550 --> 01:02:06,820  
but something's  
not working.

1167

01:02:06,820 --> 01:02:09,170  
Kristine, we'll keep trying,  
if you want to hang in with us.

1168

01:02:09,170 --> 01:02:11,020  
I'm not sure if maybe  
your mic is unmuted

1169

01:02:11,020 --> 01:02:13,720  
or if you have another mic  
you can try to use.

1170

01:02:13,720 --> 01:02:16,340  
But we'll hang in with you,  
if you want to keep trying.

1171

01:02:16,340 --> 01:02:17,560  
We do have a few more things.

1172

01:02:17,560 --> 01:02:20,370  
Let me go back to the chat,  
the Q&A pod.

1173

01:02:20,370 --> 01:02:25,520  
I'm going to see if I can answer  
any of these questions

1174

01:02:25,520 --> 01:02:27,930  
in the pod by typing

1175

01:02:28,830 --> 01:02:34,150  
while I turn it over  
to our colleague, Alison Savage.

1176

01:02:34,150 --> 01:02:36,600  
Another of our colleagues from  
the Office of Air and Radiation

1177  
01:02:36,600 --> 01:02:40,300  
is going to give some  
information about another grant

1178  
01:02:40,940 --> 01:02:44,460  
we have on wildfire  
smoke preparedness

1179  
01:02:44,460 --> 01:02:46,780  
in community buildings.  
Alison, go ahead.

1180  
01:02:48,710 --> 01:02:49,970  
>> Alison Savage: Sure.

1181  
01:02:49,970 --> 01:02:51,290  
I'm actually going to pass it  
to Sharon right away.

1182  
01:02:51,290 --> 01:02:51,860  
>> Matthew Tejada: Oh, there  
you go.

1183  
01:02:51,860 --> 01:02:52,740  
>> Alison Savage: My colleague  
Sharon White

1184  
01:02:52,740 --> 01:02:53,940  
is going to kick us off.  
[laughter]

1185  
01:02:53,940 --> 01:02:55,180  
>> Matthew Tejada: Great. Hi,  
Sharon.

1186  
01:02:55,180 --> 01:02:57,220

>> Sharon White: That's all  
right. Hi, everybody.

1187  
01:02:57,220 --> 01:02:59,660  
Good afternoon.  
My name is Sharon White.

1188  
01:02:59,660 --> 01:03:02,240  
Today, my colleague  
Alison Savage and I

1189  
01:03:02,240 --> 01:03:05,820  
will be presenting information  
on a new grant program

1190  
01:03:05,820 --> 01:03:09,490  
on wildfire smoke preparedness  
in community buildings.

1191  
01:03:10,510 --> 01:03:13,260  
Alison and I work  
for EPA's Office of Air

1192  
01:03:13,260 --> 01:03:16,220  
and Radiation in the Indoor  
Environments Division.

1193  
01:03:16,800 --> 01:03:18,899  
The Indoor Environments  
Division is the --

1194  
01:03:19,490 --> 01:03:21,570  
will be managing  
this grant program.

1195  
01:03:22,290 --> 01:03:23,890  
Next slide, please, Alison.

1196  
01:03:26,600 --> 01:03:29,290  
To give you an overview

of our presentation today,

1197

01:03:29,290 --> 01:03:32,600

we will first provide some  
background on wildfire smoke

1198

01:03:32,600 --> 01:03:34,800

and its impact  
on community buildings.

1199

01:03:35,580 --> 01:03:38,290

Then we'll give you an overview  
of the wildfire

1200

01:03:38,290 --> 01:03:42,090

smoke preparedness in community  
buildings grant program

1201

01:03:42,090 --> 01:03:44,360

as it is described  
in the fiscal year

1202

01:03:44,360 --> 01:03:47,610

2022 Consolidated  
Appropriations Act.

1203

01:03:48,250 --> 01:03:51,140

So, you just heard a lot about  
the Inflation Reduction Act

1204

01:03:51,140 --> 01:03:53,080

and the Bipartisan  
Infrastructure Law.

1205

01:03:53,900 --> 01:03:57,470

This wildfire smoke  
preparedness grant

1206

01:03:57,470 --> 01:04:01,250

came from the 2022

Appropriations Act,

1207

01:04:01,250 --> 01:04:03,540  
so to get a different  
funding stream.

1208

01:04:04,680 --> 01:04:07,500  
After that, we will review  
the topics and questions

1209

01:04:07,500 --> 01:04:10,080  
that we are seeking stakeholder  
input on

1210

01:04:10,080 --> 01:04:12,800  
in order to design  
this new grant program.

1211

01:04:13,370 --> 01:04:15,960  
And then finally, we'll conclude  
with some next steps

1212

01:04:15,960 --> 01:04:19,510  
and a reminder about other ways  
we are collecting feedback.

1213

01:04:20,350 --> 01:04:22,870  
So, with that, I will turn  
things over to Alison

1214

01:04:22,870 --> 01:04:24,919  
to provide some background  
on this topic.

1215

01:04:27,000 --> 01:04:28,900  
>> Alison Savage: Thanks,  
Sharon.

1216

01:04:28,900 --> 01:04:31,570  
So, to talk a bit about

the purpose of this session,

1217

01:04:31,570 --> 01:04:34,320  
we're seeking input today on the  
design of a new grant program,

1218

01:04:34,320 --> 01:04:37,470  
the Wildfire Smoke Preparedness  
in Community Buildings Program.

1219

01:04:38,020 --> 01:04:39,740  
And we're seeking  
input to inform

1220

01:04:39,740 --> 01:04:42,020  
the types of projects,  
buildings, and communities

1221

01:04:42,020 --> 01:04:44,360  
that would benefit  
from this assistance.

1222

01:04:44,360 --> 01:04:45,830  
We're also looking  
for feedback

1223

01:04:45,830 --> 01:04:47,860  
that can inform  
the funding priorities,

1224

01:04:47,860 --> 01:04:49,960  
and number and size  
of individual awards

1225

01:04:49,960 --> 01:04:51,560  
for this program.

1226

01:04:52,120 --> 01:04:54,330  
And so, please note  
that we'll not be able

1227

01:04:54,330 --> 01:04:58,400  
to answer substantive questions  
about this grant program today.

1228

01:04:58,400 --> 01:05:00,650  
Instead, this session  
is an opportunity for us

1229

01:05:00,650 --> 01:05:02,590  
to hear from you  
about the things

1230

01:05:02,590 --> 01:05:05,439  
that we should be considering  
as we develop this program.

1231

01:05:06,910 --> 01:05:08,870  
If we're not able  
to hear your comment today,

1232

01:05:08,870 --> 01:05:10,840  
or you think of something else  
you'd like to share with us

1233

01:05:10,840 --> 01:05:13,350  
after the meeting,  
you can also send your feedback

1234

01:05:13,350 --> 01:05:15,780  
to the email address  
on your screen,

1235

01:05:15,780 --> 01:05:19,880  
wildfiresmokegrants\_  
feedback@epa.gov

1236

01:05:19,880 --> 01:05:21,480  
through November 2nd.



1237

01:05:26,170 --> 01:05:28,850

So, to transition back to giving  
a little bit of background,

1238

01:05:28,850 --> 01:05:30,220

as many of you know,

1239

01:05:30,220 --> 01:05:33,000

wildfire smoke is a significant  
public health problem.

1240

01:05:33,000 --> 01:05:34,220

In 2021, nearly --

1241

01:05:34,220 --> 01:05:34,865

>> Matthew Tejada: Hey, Alison.

1242

01:05:34,865 --> 01:05:35,510

>> Alison Savage: Yeah?

1243

01:05:35,510 --> 01:05:37,000

>> Matthew Tejada: Just  
remember pacing

1244

01:05:37,000 --> 01:05:38,260

for our interpreters.

1245

01:05:38,260 --> 01:05:39,470

>> Alison Savage: Yeah, no  
problem. Sorry.

1246

01:05:39,470 --> 01:05:41,070

>> Matthew Tejada: Thank you.

1247

01:05:42,320 --> 01:05:44,130

>> Alison Savage: So, as I was  
saying,

1248

01:05:44,130 --> 01:05:47,730  
wildfire smoke is a significant  
public health problem.

1249  
01:05:47,730 --> 01:05:52,890  
In 2021, nearly 60,000 fires  
burned over 7 million acres

1250  
01:05:52,890 --> 01:05:57,120  
in the U.S. Smoke impacts --  
excuse me,

1251  
01:05:57,120 --> 01:05:59,400  
smoke plumes  
can impact large populations,

1252  
01:05:59,400 --> 01:06:01,900  
in many cases  
much larger populations

1253  
01:06:01,900 --> 01:06:04,160  
than the flames  
from the fire itself.

1254  
01:06:04,160 --> 01:06:05,940  
And many communities  
are impacted

1255  
01:06:05,940 --> 01:06:08,920  
repeatedly each year  
in over multiple fire seasons.

1256  
01:06:10,750 --> 01:06:13,170  
The health effects of wildfire  
smoke range

1257  
01:06:13,170 --> 01:06:16,420  
from relatively mild like eye  
and throat irritation

1258

01:06:16,420 --> 01:06:19,640  
to more moderate and severe  
impacts like asthma attacks,

1259

01:06:19,640 --> 01:06:22,140  
cardiovascular events,  
and even premature death.

1260

01:06:23,380 --> 01:06:25,700  
Certain groups may be at greater  
risk of health effects

1261

01:06:25,700 --> 01:06:27,970  
based on existing  
health conditions

1262

01:06:27,970 --> 01:06:29,840  
and social  
and demographic factors.

1263

01:06:30,780 --> 01:06:33,870  
In addition, wildfire events  
can cause

1264

01:06:33,870 --> 01:06:36,270  
psychological stress  
and mental health concerns.

1265

01:06:41,160 --> 01:06:43,740  
Wildfire  
smoke can also impact buildings.

1266

01:06:43,740 --> 01:06:45,000  
The smoke can enter buildings

1267

01:06:45,000 --> 01:06:47,420  
and make the indoor air  
unhealthy to breathe.

1268

01:06:48,660 --> 01:06:50,580

Indoor environments  
are really varied

1269

01:06:50,580 --> 01:06:52,700  
and don't all provide  
the same level of protection

1270

01:06:52,700 --> 01:06:53,900  
against smoke.

1271

01:06:53,900 --> 01:06:56,290  
And some of the factors  
that can influence

1272

01:06:56,290 --> 01:06:58,720  
how well a building  
protects us against smoke

1273

01:06:58,720 --> 01:07:01,950  
can include the type  
and condition of the heating,

1274

01:07:01,950 --> 01:07:03,150  
ventilation,

1275

01:07:03,150 --> 01:07:05,740  
and air conditioning system  
or HVAC system,

1276

01:07:07,330 --> 01:07:10,930  
its flow rates and how often  
and how long it runs,

1277

01:07:12,160 --> 01:07:14,420  
the type of filter  
that's installed in that system

1278

01:07:14,420 --> 01:07:17,690  
and how efficient it is,  
how well it fits in the system,

1279

01:07:17,690 --> 01:07:19,290  
and how well it's maintained.

1280

01:07:20,650 --> 01:07:22,450  
And then also the tightness  
of the building

1281

01:07:22,450 --> 01:07:23,670  
can impact how much smoke

1282

01:07:23,670 --> 01:07:25,740  
comes in through  
unintentional openings,

1283

01:07:25,740 --> 01:07:28,430  
like gaps and cracks  
around doors and windows

1284

01:07:28,430 --> 01:07:32,740  
or penetrations for things  
like powering outdoor lights.

1285

01:07:35,640 --> 01:07:37,340  
Wildfire smoke events  
often occur

1286

01:07:37,340 --> 01:07:39,340  
with heat events  
or power outages,

1287

01:07:39,340 --> 01:07:42,270  
and that can complicate how we  
respond to smoke in buildings.

1288

01:07:42,270 --> 01:07:45,780  
So, for example, if it's too hot  
to keep the windows closed

1289

01:07:45,780 --> 01:07:49,090  
and a building doesn't have  
central air conditioning,

1290  
01:07:49,090 --> 01:07:50,880  
it can be really hard  
to keep smoke out

1291  
01:07:50,880 --> 01:07:52,480  
during a wildfire smoke event.

1292  
01:07:54,990 --> 01:07:58,400  
PM2.5 or fine particles are  
the most abundant pollutant

1293  
01:07:58,400 --> 01:07:59,690  
in wildfire smoke

1294  
01:07:59,690 --> 01:08:02,289  
and the pollutant of greatest  
public health concern.

1295  
01:08:03,810 --> 01:08:05,670  
Research suggests  
that patterns of exposure

1296  
01:08:05,670 --> 01:08:07,730  
to fine particles  
from wildfire smoke

1297  
01:08:07,730 --> 01:08:10,800  
are different from other sources  
of fine particles,

1298  
01:08:10,800 --> 01:08:12,980  
meaning that communities  
that are disproportionately

1299  
01:08:12,980 --> 01:08:17,420  
exposed to PM2.5 from sources

like traffic or industry

1300

01:08:18,300 --> 01:08:20,810  
may not be as heavily  
impacted by wildfire smoke.

1301

01:08:21,690 --> 01:08:24,530  
Instead, disparities  
and exposure to wildfire smoke

1302

01:08:24,530 --> 01:08:28,060  
may reflect the ability to take  
action to reduce exposure,

1303

01:08:28,060 --> 01:08:30,290  
such as by purchasing  
portable air cleaners

1304

01:08:30,290 --> 01:08:32,280  
to use indoors  
during smoke events.

1305

01:08:38,390 --> 01:08:41,670  
EPA has created many resources  
and is conducting research

1306

01:08:41,670 --> 01:08:43,480  
addressing wildfire smoke  
in buildings.

1307

01:08:43,480 --> 01:08:46,329  
And several of these projects  
are pictured on this slide.

1308

01:08:46,830 --> 01:08:48,470  
We've posted these slides  
on our website

1309

01:08:48,470 --> 01:08:51,440  
where you can click

on the hyperlinked images

1310

01:08:51,440 --> 01:08:53,040  
to access the resources.

1311

01:08:54,290 --> 01:08:56,950  
These resources identify  
several recommended actions

1312

01:08:56,950 --> 01:08:59,010  
to reduce wildfire  
smoke exposure,

1313

01:08:59,010 --> 01:09:02,640  
including staying indoors  
with the doors and windows

1314

01:09:02,640 --> 01:09:06,050  
closed and limiting smoke  
infiltration from outdoors,

1315

01:09:07,310 --> 01:09:11,570  
using a portable air cleaner  
or high efficiency HVAC filter

1316

01:09:11,570 --> 01:09:13,630  
or even  
a do-it-yourself air cleaner

1317

01:09:13,630 --> 01:09:15,630  
to filter particles  
from the indoor air,

1318

01:09:17,680 --> 01:09:19,729  
reducing sources  
of indoor air pollution,

1319

01:09:21,250 --> 01:09:24,250  
airing out the building when  
smoke clears even temporarily,



1320

01:09:26,540 --> 01:09:30,200  
wearing an N95 respirator mask  
if you must be outdoors,

1321

01:09:30,200 --> 01:09:33,070  
and going to a public  
cleaner airspace if,

1322

01:09:33,070 --> 01:09:36,520  
for example, you can't stay cool  
at home or the power goes out.

1323

01:09:38,400 --> 01:09:40,740  
Some of the resources  
also discuss

1324

01:09:40,740 --> 01:09:44,590  
how monitoring PM2.5 levels  
both indoors and outdoors

1325

01:09:44,590 --> 01:09:47,580  
can help inform what actions  
to take during a smoke event.

1326

01:09:50,940 --> 01:09:53,220  
So, to transition to talking  
a bit more

1327

01:09:53,220 --> 01:09:55,610  
about this specific  
grant program,

1328

01:09:55,610 --> 01:09:58,590  
the Wildfire Smoke Preparedness  
in Community Buildings

1329

01:09:58,590 --> 01:10:02,260  
Grant Program  
sets aside up to \$4 million

1330  
01:10:02,260 --> 01:10:05,020  
in grants of which no more  
than 25 percent

1331  
01:10:05,020 --> 01:10:07,410  
may go to recipients  
in any one state.

1332  
01:10:09,220 --> 01:10:11,680  
There's also a 10 percent  
cost-share requirement,

1333  
01:10:11,680 --> 01:10:13,330  
but this can be waived  
for facilities

1334  
01:10:13,330 --> 01:10:15,160  
in economically  
distressed communities.

1335  
01:10:15,160 --> 01:10:16,990  
And that's the term  
that's used in the language

1336  
01:10:16,990 --> 01:10:18,590  
that authorizes this program.

1337  
01:10:20,460 --> 01:10:23,340  
That language also authorizes  
that the eligible entities

1338  
01:10:23,340 --> 01:10:26,940  
can include states,  
tribes, public preschools,

1339  
01:10:26,940 --> 01:10:31,200  
local educational agencies,  
and nonprofit organizations.

1340

01:10:32,770 --> 01:10:34,820

And the activities  
that can be funded

1341

01:10:34,820 --> 01:10:37,930

under this program  
include research,

1342

01:10:37,930 --> 01:10:42,820

investigations, experiments,  
demonstrations, surveys,

1343

01:10:42,820 --> 01:10:44,790

and studies  
intended for the --

1344

01:10:44,790 --> 01:10:47,400

oops, excuse me,  
for the assessment,

1345

01:10:47,400 --> 01:10:51,320

prevention, control,  
or abatement of wildfire

1346

01:10:51,320 --> 01:10:53,550

smoke hazards  
in community buildings,

1347

01:10:53,550 --> 01:10:55,810

including schools,  
and related activities.

1348

01:11:00,720 --> 01:11:04,080

So, now, I'll start to open the  
floor a bit for some feedback.

1349

01:11:04,080 --> 01:11:05,910

We would like to hear  
from the audience.

1350

01:11:05,910 --> 01:11:08,330

And we've prepared a series  
of topics and questions

1351

01:11:08,330 --> 01:11:11,670

to help guide the discussion.  
There are five topics in total.

1352

01:11:12,710 --> 01:11:15,000

I'll start by reading  
the first three --

1353

01:11:15,000 --> 01:11:17,010

the questions  
from the first three topics

1354

01:11:17,010 --> 01:11:18,270

to help frame the discussion,

1355

01:11:18,270 --> 01:11:20,800

and then ask the meeting  
organizers to help me

1356

01:11:21,760 --> 01:11:23,890

with unmuting anyone  
who would like to speak

1357

01:11:23,890 --> 01:11:25,939

or reading any submissions  
from the chat.

1358

01:11:28,780 --> 01:11:32,150

So, the first topic that  
we have prepared

1359

01:11:32,150 --> 01:11:33,720

is on buildings  
and communities.

1360

01:11:33,720 --> 01:11:37,570

And we're interested in,  
what types of buildings

1361

01:11:37,570 --> 01:11:40,590  
are most in need of wildfire  
smoke preparedness assistance?

1362

01:11:42,680 --> 01:11:46,770  
Who do these buildings serve?  
What factors could be considered

1363

01:11:46,770 --> 01:11:49,640  
in prioritizing building types  
or communities?

1364

01:11:51,910 --> 01:11:55,290  
Our second topic is on gaps  
and challenges to address.

1365

01:11:57,040 --> 01:11:59,690  
So, our question there is,  
what is needed to better

1366

01:11:59,690 --> 01:12:01,900  
prepare buildings  
for wildfire smoke events?

1367

01:12:02,840 --> 01:12:05,890  
And our third topic is  
on financial resource needs,

1368

01:12:06,800 --> 01:12:10,560  
including questions about,  
what are the costs associated

1369

01:12:10,560 --> 01:12:13,109  
with preparing buildings  
for wildfire smoke events?

1370

01:12:13,910 --> 01:12:15,770  
Which of these costs  
are the largest?

1371  
01:12:15,770 --> 01:12:19,110  
And which of these costs have  
no existing funding mechanisms?

1372  
01:12:22,550 --> 01:12:25,810  
So, I'm going to try to find  
my Q&A window again here

1373  
01:12:25,810 --> 01:12:29,290  
[laughs].

1374  
01:12:29,290 --> 01:12:32,260  
>> Matthew Tejada: You do not  
have anything yet, Alison.

1375  
01:12:32,260 --> 01:12:33,860  
>> Alison Savage: Okay.

1376  
01:12:37,220 --> 01:12:39,980  
>> Matthew Tejada: We do have,  
though, a new person.

1377  
01:12:39,980 --> 01:12:43,270  
I see Kristine still has  
her hand up and mic open,

1378  
01:12:43,270 --> 01:12:45,140  
but I don't think  
we've heard from her.

1379  
01:12:45,140 --> 01:12:49,730  
We have though a phone number  
starting an area code 814.

1380  
01:12:49,730 --> 01:12:50,385  
Could we please open --

1381

01:12:50,385 --> 01:12:51,040

>> Female Speaker: Oh, hello.

1382

01:12:51,040 --> 01:12:52,330

>> Matthew Tejada: There we go.  
814 is open.

1383

01:12:52,330 --> 01:12:53,550

>> Female Speaker:  
[unintelligible]. Hi there.

1384

01:12:53,550 --> 01:12:55,030

>> Matthew Tejada: Go ahead,  
814. Hey, go and --

1385

01:12:55,030 --> 01:12:56,250

>> Female Speaker: I have a  
question

1386

01:12:56,250 --> 01:12:58,860

about the benzene  
released in fires

1387

01:12:58,860 --> 01:13:01,860

when pipes burn and everything.  
I thought that might --

1388

01:13:01,860 --> 01:13:03,850

some of that might be in the air  
that's hard to get out,

1389

01:13:03,850 --> 01:13:05,160

not PM2.5.

1390

01:13:05,160 --> 01:13:08,040

It's hard to block out or just  
insulate the buildings better,

1391

01:13:08,040 --> 01:13:09,839  
but what would you  
think about that?

1392  
01:13:11,270 --> 01:13:12,990  
>> Alison Savage:  
That's a great point.

1393  
01:13:12,990 --> 01:13:14,890  
And I -- like I said earlier,

1394  
01:13:14,890 --> 01:13:17,240  
I don't know that we'll  
necessarily be able to speak

1395  
01:13:17,240 --> 01:13:20,340  
to the specifics of what this  
program will look like today.

1396  
01:13:20,340 --> 01:13:22,920  
But we're still kind of  
in the design phase

1397  
01:13:22,920 --> 01:13:25,800  
and developing what this program  
will look like.

1398  
01:13:25,800 --> 01:13:30,080  
And the release of other gases  
like benzene from pipes

1399  
01:13:30,080 --> 01:13:31,340  
and things like that

1400  
01:13:31,340 --> 01:13:33,960  
is certainly something  
we can keep in mind,

1401  
01:13:33,960 --> 01:13:35,560  
so thank you



for that feedback.

1402

01:13:39,440 --> 01:13:41,260

>> Sharon White: Alison,  
someone in the chat says

1403

01:13:41,260 --> 01:13:44,460

that long-term care facilities  
and childcare centers

1404

01:13:44,460 --> 01:13:46,570

represent some of  
the most vulnerable.

1405

01:13:48,250 --> 01:13:49,590

>> Alison Savage: Excellent.  
Thanks.

1406

01:13:49,590 --> 01:13:52,030

I also see one  
about migrant farm worker

1407

01:13:52,030 --> 01:13:54,360

housing that often this housing  
is substandard

1408

01:13:54,360 --> 01:13:57,170

and in remote areas  
vulnerable to wildfire smoke

1409

01:13:58,030 --> 01:14:00,930

and the workers are already  
exposed during their work day.

1410

01:14:02,200 --> 01:14:08,430

>> Matthew Tejada: Great. Is  
this to you, Alison?

1411

01:14:08,430 --> 01:14:11,820

"Will some of the new funding

go to SBIR grants

1412

01:14:11,820 --> 01:14:14,150  
for new types of solutions  
to the increasing wildfire

1413

01:14:14,150 --> 01:14:16,890  
smoke in buildings problem?"  
SBIR grants?

1414

01:14:17,430 --> 01:14:20,170  
>> Alison Savage: I'm not sure  
I'm familiar with that acronym.

1415

01:14:20,170 --> 01:14:21,400  
But --

1416

01:14:21,400 --> 01:14:24,420  
>> Matthew Tejada: Blake,  
can you write us a new question

1417

01:14:24,980 --> 01:14:26,480  
and let us know  
what those are?

1418

01:14:26,480 --> 01:14:28,980  
Maybe give us a little more  
context to it, please.

1419

01:14:36,550 --> 01:14:39,690  
Joanna Stancil, one of  
our federal colleagues,

1420

01:14:39,690 --> 01:14:42,060  
is saying eldercare schools,  
rehab centers,

1421

01:14:42,060 --> 01:14:44,160  
places where people  
have limited mobility.

1422

01:14:45,700 --> 01:14:47,300

>> Alison Savage: So, thanks.

1423

01:14:51,990 --> 01:14:53,210

>> Matthew Tejada: Elizabeth Walker is

1424

01:14:53,210 --> 01:14:56,140

a two-time EPA EJ  
small grant recipient

1425

01:14:56,140 --> 01:14:58,780

and is using funds  
to build smoke-ready communities

1426

01:14:58,780 --> 01:15:01,630

and rural  
Central Washington County

1427

01:15:01,630 --> 01:15:03,780

with very low  
population density.

1428

01:15:03,780 --> 01:15:06,230

So, Elizabeth, we can  
get that information

1429

01:15:06,230 --> 01:15:09,420

to Alison and Sharon  
to take a look at your grant

1430

01:15:09,420 --> 01:15:11,069

and to do  
any follow-up with you.

1431

01:15:14,060 --> 01:15:15,260

Okay.

1432

01:15:15,260 --> 01:15:18,190  
So, Blake is writing the Small  
Business Innovation Research

1433  
01:15:18,190 --> 01:15:23,380  
under the Small Business  
Administration or SBA.

1434  
01:15:24,320 --> 01:15:26,320  
>> Alison Savage: I think we'll  
have to get back

1435  
01:15:26,320 --> 01:15:29,020  
to that one.  
I have -- like I said,

1436  
01:15:29,020 --> 01:15:30,640  
we're kind of still  
in the design phase,

1437  
01:15:30,640 --> 01:15:32,350  
so it's definitely  
helpful to think

1438  
01:15:32,350 --> 01:15:34,570  
about some of the other  
funding that's available.

1439  
01:15:34,570 --> 01:15:36,800  
Also, we, you know,  
recognize \$4 million

1440  
01:15:36,800 --> 01:15:39,500  
may not seem like a whole lot  
when we're talking about

1441  
01:15:41,230 --> 01:15:43,100  
potentially renovating buildings  
in some ways.

1442

01:15:43,100 --> 01:15:46,870  
So, that's definitely something  
we'll keep in mind as well.

1443  
01:15:46,870 --> 01:15:48,130  
>> Matthew Tejada: Okay.

1444  
01:15:48,130 --> 01:15:50,800  
Joanna is offering  
animal shelters missions

1445  
01:15:50,800 --> 01:15:54,930  
and homeless centers as some  
additional considerations.

1446  
01:15:55,680 --> 01:15:56,910  
Todd [phonetic sp]

1447  
01:15:56,910 --> 01:15:59,090  
is also offering  
SBIR grants

1448  
01:15:59,090 --> 01:16:02,890  
are typically used  
with military E&T efforts.

1449  
01:16:04,950 --> 01:16:06,550  
>> Alison Savage: Okay. Great.

1450  
01:16:07,220 --> 01:16:10,090  
>> Matthew Tejada: And  
Elizabeth Walker is offering

1451  
01:16:10,090 --> 01:16:11,370  
on question one,

1452  
01:16:11,370 --> 01:16:14,040  
"Ask the community to identify  
what building serve

1453

01:16:14,040 --> 01:16:16,430  
disproportionately  
impacted folks."

1454

01:16:18,110 --> 01:16:20,009  
>> Alison Savage: Excellent.  
Thanks for that suggestion.

1455

01:16:21,990 --> 01:16:23,260  
>> Matthew Tejada: Joanna is  
just following up

1456

01:16:23,260 --> 01:16:26,420  
that those sorts of facilities,  
especially homeless shelters,

1457

01:16:26,420 --> 01:16:28,500  
I would imagine serve  
the most vulnerable.

1458

01:16:28,500 --> 01:16:32,610  
I would absolutely agree.  
Maggie Shepherd Farley

1459

01:16:32,610 --> 01:16:35,710  
is offering the old concrete  
buildings with poor seals

1460

01:16:36,280 --> 01:16:37,880  
are in consideration.

1461

01:16:40,110 --> 01:16:41,710  
>> Alison Savage: Great.

1462

01:16:43,120 --> 01:16:44,360  
>> Matthew Tejada: And  
Stephanie Coates,

1463

01:16:44,360 --> 01:16:45,580

as you mentioned,

1464

01:16:45,580 --> 01:16:47,380  
fire sometimes happen  
with extreme heat,

1465

01:16:47,380 --> 01:16:48,640  
so buildings designated

1466

01:16:48,640 --> 01:16:50,790  
as emergency community  
cooling centers.

1467

01:16:54,200 --> 01:16:56,200  
>> Alison Savage: Excellent.  
That's a great point as well.

1468

01:16:59,190 --> 01:17:01,710  
>> Matthew Tejada: Okay. Anybody  
have anything

1469

01:17:01,710 --> 01:17:03,340  
you would like to offer

1470

01:17:03,340 --> 01:17:05,460  
by raising your hand  
and coming on --

1471

01:17:05,460 --> 01:17:06,980  
coming off mute?

1472

01:17:06,980 --> 01:17:08,240  
>> Ericka Farrell: Yes.

1473

01:17:08,240 --> 01:17:12,950  
M. Hayden had their hand up  
and I selected them to unmute.

1474

01:17:12,950 --> 01:17:14,550

>> Matthew Tejada: Oh, great.  
Thank you, Ericka.

1475  
01:17:15,790 --> 01:17:18,490  
Oh, M. Hayden,  
you're back on mute now.

1476  
01:17:18,490 --> 01:17:21,370  
If you want to come off mute.  
There you go.

1477  
01:17:21,370 --> 01:17:21,980  
>> Melva Hayden: Hi.

1478  
01:17:21,980 --> 01:17:22,590  
>> Matthew Tejada: There you go.

1479  
01:17:22,590 --> 01:17:23,860  
>> Melva Hayden: Hi. How are  
you all, Matt?

1480  
01:17:23,860 --> 01:17:26,430  
It's Melva Hayden  
in EPA Region 2.

1481  
01:17:26,430 --> 01:17:27,640  
>> Matthew Tejada: Okay. Hey,  
Melva.

1482  
01:17:27,640 --> 01:17:31,180  
>> Melva Hayden: Yeah. I think  
one of the other attendees

1483  
01:17:31,180 --> 01:17:36,400  
did allude to my suggestion  
about buildings in communities,

1484  
01:17:36,400 --> 01:17:38,540  
I absolutely agree  
the most vulnerable.



1485

01:17:38,540 --> 01:17:41,860

I would add, in addition to that  
person already said schools,

1486

01:17:42,400 --> 01:17:48,430

but also hospitals, as we know,  
pregnant women or any place

1487

01:17:48,430 --> 01:17:51,050

where, you know,  
pregnant women are served,

1488

01:17:51,580 --> 01:17:53,700

because children  
and pregnant women

1489

01:17:53,700 --> 01:17:56,580

are some of our most  
vulnerable populations,

1490

01:17:56,580 --> 01:18:00,880

and of course, those who  
are suffering from asthma.

1491

01:18:01,480 --> 01:18:05,060

So, we might also be talking  
about urban areas as well.

1492

01:18:05,060 --> 01:18:07,130

Environmental  
justice communities

1493

01:18:07,130 --> 01:18:09,260

with environmental  
justice concerns,

1494

01:18:09,260 --> 01:18:11,230

such as elevated,

1495

01:18:11,230 --> 01:18:14,290  
you know, disproportionate  
incidences of asthma.

1496

01:18:14,290 --> 01:18:16,320  
Thanks for the presentation.

1497

01:18:16,320 --> 01:18:17,610  
>> Matthew Tejada: Thanks,  
Melva.

1498

01:18:17,610 --> 01:18:19,400  
>> Melva Hayden: Thank you.

1499

01:18:19,400 --> 01:18:20,920  
>> Matthew Tejada: So, we do  
have a few more folks

1500

01:18:20,920 --> 01:18:22,520  
with their hands up now.

1501

01:18:26,140 --> 01:18:27,830  
Ericka, since you have  
the controls,

1502

01:18:27,830 --> 01:18:31,590  
do you want to facilitate  
who to come on off of mute?

1503

01:18:36,060 --> 01:18:39,520  
>> Ericka Farrell: Yes. The  
next one, Joanna.

1504

01:18:40,630 --> 01:18:41,840  
>> Matthew Tejada: Stancil?

1505

01:18:41,840 --> 01:18:43,490  
>> Joanna Stancil: Hi.  
Yes, Joanna.

1506

01:18:43,490 --> 01:18:45,850  
Since this is wildfire smoke,

1507

01:18:45,850 --> 01:18:48,410  
I wonder how are we looking  
at these rural areas.

1508

01:18:48,410 --> 01:18:52,210  
Like outside the forest service,  
our national forest

1509

01:18:52,210 --> 01:18:54,140  
and the configurations  
of houses,

1510

01:18:54,140 --> 01:18:57,500  
cities, these little areas  
are laid out.

1511

01:18:57,500 --> 01:18:59,810  
Some of them, you know,  
are going to be older homes.

1512

01:18:59,810 --> 01:19:02,700  
They're going to be  
more susceptible

1513

01:19:02,700 --> 01:19:03,920  
to even catching fires,

1514

01:19:03,920 --> 01:19:07,480  
and some of the other homes  
might be and their proximity

1515

01:19:07,480 --> 01:19:10,630  
to areas that historically  
have wildfires

1516

01:19:10,630 --> 01:19:12,260  
or can be  
pretty well predicted

1517  
01:19:12,260 --> 01:19:14,730  
are going to experience  
wildland fires

1518  
01:19:14,730 --> 01:19:16,500  
more intensively  
in the future.

1519  
01:19:16,500 --> 01:19:21,200  
How are we looking at that  
from the community level out?

1520  
01:19:23,520 --> 01:19:25,790  
>> Alison Savage: That's a  
great point.

1521  
01:19:26,390 --> 01:19:28,430  
I'm sorry,  
I'm getting some feedback.

1522  
01:19:28,430 --> 01:19:31,260  
Okay. I think it's gone.  
That's a great point,

1523  
01:19:31,260 --> 01:19:33,120  
and definitely something  
we can think about,

1524  
01:19:33,120 --> 01:19:36,670  
you know, how rural areas can  
best be served by this program.

1525  
01:19:37,520 --> 01:19:38,720  
Thank you for that.

1526  
01:19:38,720 --> 01:19:39,950

>> Joanna Stancil: Forest  
Service is here

1527  
01:19:39,950 --> 01:19:41,590  
to help you.  
Thank you.

1528  
01:19:44,780 --> 01:19:46,090  
>> Ericka Farrell: And next  
stop,

1529  
01:19:46,090 --> 01:19:49,450  
we have Ashley James.  
Ashley, you can unmute.

1530  
01:19:51,910 --> 01:19:53,510  
>> Ashley James: Hi, everyone.

1531  
01:19:54,410 --> 01:19:58,340  
My name is Ashley James.  
I'm an ORISE fellow at EPA.

1532  
01:19:59,060 --> 01:20:04,570  
I just wanted to add for  
question one that public housing

1533  
01:20:05,180 --> 01:20:08,230  
could be an important type  
of building to consider.

1534  
01:20:10,490 --> 01:20:11,700  
>> Alison Savage: Thank you,  
Ashley.

1535  
01:20:11,700 --> 01:20:13,300  
>> Matthew Tejada: Thank you,  
Ashley.

1536  
01:20:14,000 --> 01:20:15,560  
And I believe

Blake Isaacs [phonetic sp]

1537

01:20:15,560 --> 01:20:17,859  
would like to share  
something as well, Ericka.

1538

01:20:20,670 --> 01:20:22,270  
>> Ericka Farrell: One second.

1539

01:20:24,130 --> 01:20:26,790  
Okay. Blake,  
you're clear to unmute.

1540

01:20:28,480 --> 01:20:32,100  
>> Blake Isaacs: Thank you.  
Okay. Now, I'm unmuted?

1541

01:20:32,100 --> 01:20:33,870  
>> Matthew Tejada: Yeah, we can  
hear you, Blake.

1542

01:20:33,870 --> 01:20:35,110  
>> Blake Isaacs: Okay. Good.

1543

01:20:35,110 --> 01:20:39,220  
So, we had some pretty  
severe wildfire smoke problems

1544

01:20:39,220 --> 01:20:40,820  
where I live.

1545

01:20:41,670 --> 01:20:44,320  
Two years ago was much worse  
than this last season,

1546

01:20:44,320 --> 01:20:46,450  
although we did have  
some bad times.

1547

01:20:46,450 --> 01:20:48,400  
So, I've got  
some experience with this.

1548  
01:20:49,410 --> 01:20:55,950  
The one of the problems  
is that when the smoke is high,

1549  
01:20:55,950 --> 01:20:58,540  
yes, going inside where  
there's good filtration --

1550  
01:20:58,540 --> 01:21:00,990  
and by the way, it has to be  
very high efficiency

1551  
01:21:01,600 --> 01:21:04,160  
as probably MERV 15 or higher

1552  
01:21:04,160 --> 01:21:06,770  
to really capture  
those smoke particles.

1553  
01:21:07,350 --> 01:21:10,970  
But then the filters have to  
be changed a lot more often,

1554  
01:21:10,970 --> 01:21:12,930  
because they fill up quickly.

1555  
01:21:12,930 --> 01:21:16,770  
And so, that's a big kind  
of maintenance job for people.

1556  
01:21:16,770 --> 01:21:18,440  
So, I think it's important  
to point out

1557  
01:21:18,440 --> 01:21:22,040  
that the regular filter

change schedule

1558

01:21:22,040 --> 01:21:23,940  
is not going to be enough.

1559

01:21:23,940 --> 01:21:26,190  
At least they need  
to change much more often.

1560

01:21:27,940 --> 01:21:30,320  
Another thing that happens  
when the fires are there

1561

01:21:30,320 --> 01:21:31,710  
is that the air --

1562

01:21:31,710 --> 01:21:33,870  
the smoke particles  
are also a desiccant.

1563

01:21:33,870 --> 01:21:35,780  
That is they dry  
the air out even more.

1564

01:21:35,780 --> 01:21:38,410  
The air is already dry,  
but now it's really dry,

1565

01:21:39,380 --> 01:21:40,880  
you know,  
when there's fires around.

1566

01:21:40,880 --> 01:21:43,380  
So -- and the air  
gets too dry.

1567

01:21:43,380 --> 01:21:46,180  
And even just dryness,  
not just smoke,



1568

01:21:46,180 --> 01:21:50,460  
but the dryness of the air is --  
can be harmful and unhealthy.

1569

01:21:51,410 --> 01:21:56,310  
So, I'll be quick  
about this part.

1570

01:21:56,310 --> 01:22:01,570  
My company makes a filterless  
air cleaner for industry,

1571

01:22:01,570 --> 01:22:03,170  
for agriculture mostly.

1572

01:22:03,830 --> 01:22:07,990  
But my -- the landlord work  
where I have my office,

1573

01:22:07,990 --> 01:22:12,560  
so there's an office building,  
learned about that,

1574

01:22:12,560 --> 01:22:14,630  
asked me to build a prototype  
for the building.

1575

01:22:14,630 --> 01:22:18,740  
I did that.  
Two years ago, we used it.

1576

01:22:18,740 --> 01:22:20,760  
And we've used it  
for two years now.

1577

01:22:21,380 --> 01:22:24,130  
And when the smoke gets bad,  
this is where people come,

1578

01:22:24,690 --> 01:22:29,440  
because the air is much better.  
And I'm trying to figure out

1579  
01:22:29,440 --> 01:22:33,870  
where to engage with the EPA  
to explore that further.

1580  
01:22:33,870 --> 01:22:36,080  
Is --  
can anyone help me with that?

1581  
01:22:40,820 --> 01:22:42,140  
>> Alison Savage: I think it's  
something

1582  
01:22:42,140 --> 01:22:43,360  
we could look into Blake.

1583  
01:22:43,360 --> 01:22:45,000  
I'm not sure  
who the right contact

1584  
01:22:45,000 --> 01:22:46,370  
would be for that  
at the moment.

1585  
01:22:46,370 --> 01:22:47,610  
>> Blake Isaacs: Okay.

1586  
01:22:47,610 --> 01:22:48,840  
>> Alison Savage: But if you  
would like

1587  
01:22:48,840 --> 01:22:50,060  
to reach out,

1588  
01:22:50,060 --> 01:22:55,200  
you can always email me  
at [savage.alison@epa.gov](mailto:savage.alison@epa.gov).

1589

01:22:55,200 --> 01:22:56,470

>> Blake Isaacs:

Okay. Got it.

1590

01:22:56,470 --> 01:22:58,270

I will send you an email,

Alison. Thank you.

1591

01:22:58,270 --> 01:22:59,510

>> Alison Savage: Sure.

1592

01:22:59,510 --> 01:23:01,070

>> Matthew Tejada: Thanks,

Blake.

1593

01:23:01,070 --> 01:23:05,840

So, we had a few more thoughts  
in the chat, in the Q&A pod.

1594

01:23:05,840 --> 01:23:08,090

If we had a fire  
outside of Boulder,

1595

01:23:08,090 --> 01:23:10,460

and they had  
to evacuate the hospital,

1596

01:23:10,460 --> 01:23:12,950

just reemphasizing  
kind of the sensitive

1597

01:23:12,950 --> 01:23:16,470

building locations  
and populations,

1598

01:23:17,720 --> 01:23:20,000

how does the state  
coordinate proposals

1599

01:23:20,000 --> 01:23:22,820  
to make sure that all funded  
projects in the state

1600

01:23:22,820 --> 01:23:24,420  
are less than \$1 million?

1601

01:23:25,670 --> 01:23:29,870  
Any thoughts on how to help  
coordinate proposals in states?

1602

01:23:30,980 --> 01:23:32,350  
>> Alison Savage: That is  
something we'll be

1603

01:23:32,350 --> 01:23:33,660  
thinking about  
as we move forward.

1604

01:23:33,660 --> 01:23:35,660  
It's a question that I think  
has come up

1605

01:23:36,370 --> 01:23:37,970  
from a couple  
of interested folks.

1606

01:23:37,970 --> 01:23:41,220  
So, something we'll be thinking  
about as we design this program.

1607

01:23:42,230 --> 01:23:43,520  
>> Sharon White: And if you  
have thoughts

1608

01:23:43,520 --> 01:23:46,850  
on how we should do that,  
please feel free to email us.

1609

01:23:46,850 --> 01:23:50,310  
And a couple of slides will  
give you that information again

1610  
01:23:50,310 --> 01:23:52,430  
about how to email us  
your thoughts

1611  
01:23:52,430 --> 01:23:54,530  
on how to implement  
some of these things.

1612  
01:23:55,240 --> 01:23:57,570  
>> Matthew Tejada: Okay.  
Just a few more comments then.

1613  
01:23:57,570 --> 01:23:58,790  
Herman [phonetic sp]

1614  
01:23:58,790 --> 01:24:02,500  
share that churches, especially  
in poor and rural areas.

1615  
01:24:03,150 --> 01:24:04,360  
An anonymous attendee,

1616  
01:24:04,360 --> 01:24:07,040  
"assisted living in  
senior centers," of course.

1617  
01:24:09,090 --> 01:24:12,750  
"A piece on gaps and challenges.  
I think about making sure

1618  
01:24:12,750 --> 01:24:14,940  
the warnings are communicated  
in advance

1619  
01:24:14,940 --> 01:24:18,080  
and are in many different

languages other than English."

1620

01:24:18,680 --> 01:24:23,940  
Great. EJ civil rights comment.  
Todd and Wally

1621

01:24:24,490 --> 01:24:26,880  
[phonetic sp],  
"Urban poor at serious risks,

1622

01:24:26,880 --> 01:24:29,890  
and MERV 16 as needed  
but pretty expensive.

1623

01:24:30,660 --> 01:24:35,260  
H2O2 plasma machines  
should be considered as well.

1624

01:24:37,290 --> 01:24:39,270  
And communication  
to the public

1625

01:24:39,270 --> 01:24:41,620  
about what to expect  
from building filtration,

1626

01:24:41,620 --> 01:24:43,170  
how to ask questions,

1627

01:24:43,170 --> 01:24:44,820  
and what standards  
are being used

1628

01:24:44,820 --> 01:24:47,130  
was terrible for air quality  
around COVID.

1629

01:24:47,660 --> 01:24:50,750  
I don't expect as much better  
for wildfire smoke.

1630

01:24:50,750 --> 01:24:53,600

Please include provisions  
for public communication

1631

01:24:53,600 --> 01:24:54,930

in your grant program."

1632

01:24:54,930 --> 01:24:57,130

Great comment.

Thank you anonymous attendee.

1633

01:24:58,190 --> 01:24:59,970

Okay. I think Alison and Sharon

1634

01:24:59,970 --> 01:25:01,260

need to move  
towards closing out.

1635

01:25:01,260 --> 01:25:02,480

>> Sharon White: Sure.

>> Alison Savage: Sure.

1636

01:25:02,480 --> 01:25:03,710

>> Sharon White: So, Alison,

1637

01:25:03,710 --> 01:25:04,940

if you could go  
to the next slide.

1638

01:25:04,940 --> 01:25:07,420

And we did have a couple more  
topics and questions

1639

01:25:07,420 --> 01:25:08,660

that maybe we  
don't have time

1640

01:25:08,660 --> 01:25:10,810

to get a lot of feedback  
on right now.

1641  
01:25:10,810 --> 01:25:12,990  
But I'll just  
overview them for you.

1642  
01:25:12,990 --> 01:25:14,300  
And again, we'll --

1643  
01:25:14,300 --> 01:25:17,490  
we're very receptive  
to your input in our email box.

1644  
01:25:18,030 --> 01:25:20,490  
Also, anything that you put  
in the chat here,

1645  
01:25:20,490 --> 01:25:23,240  
we will add to other feedback  
that we've received.

1646  
01:25:24,030 --> 01:25:27,230  
So, on two more topics.  
Sustained improvements.

1647  
01:25:27,230 --> 01:25:29,280  
How could measures  
to prepare buildings

1648  
01:25:29,280 --> 01:25:33,000  
for smoke through these grants  
be sustained in the long term?

1649  
01:25:33,000 --> 01:25:35,520  
What lessons could be learned  
from these projects

1650  
01:25:35,520 --> 01:25:37,370  
to better inform the goals?



1651

01:25:37,370 --> 01:25:39,830

And then our last area  
of inquiry

1652

01:25:39,830 --> 01:25:41,500

is on potential applicants.

1653

01:25:42,670 --> 01:25:46,460

What barriers might  
your organization

1654

01:25:46,460 --> 01:25:48,280

face in applying  
for these grants?

1655

01:25:48,280 --> 01:25:50,070

What kind of support  
would you need?

1656

01:25:50,070 --> 01:25:52,700

How can EPA best  
reach low income

1657

01:25:52,700 --> 01:25:55,510

and disadvantaged communities  
through these grants?

1658

01:25:55,510 --> 01:25:57,440

How should  
economically distressed,

1659

01:25:57,440 --> 01:26:01,300

as Alison mentioned the language  
in the authorization,

1660

01:26:01,300 --> 01:26:02,790

communities be defined?

1661

01:26:02,790 --> 01:26:05,280  
So, we're looking for your  
thoughts and feedback

1662  
01:26:05,280 --> 01:26:06,690  
on any of these topics

1663  
01:26:06,690 --> 01:26:09,500  
as we work to design  
this grant program.

1664  
01:26:10,780 --> 01:26:12,380  
Alison, next slide, please.

1665  
01:26:14,180 --> 01:26:16,300  
So, we want to thank  
everyone for your --

1666  
01:26:16,300 --> 01:26:18,520  
who provided feedback  
to us today.

1667  
01:26:18,520 --> 01:26:20,890  
If you submitted comments  
in the questions box,

1668  
01:26:20,890 --> 01:26:22,450  
please know that we received it.

1669  
01:26:22,450 --> 01:26:25,140  
And even if we didn't have time  
to read your comment

1670  
01:26:25,140 --> 01:26:28,470  
during today's session, we will  
include it in our analysis.

1671  
01:26:29,140 --> 01:26:31,550  
If we were not able  
to hear your comments today,

1672

01:26:31,550 --> 01:26:33,440  
or you think there's something  
else that you'd like --

1673

01:26:33,440 --> 01:26:35,230  
we should consider after today,

1674

01:26:35,230 --> 01:26:37,220  
you can also submit  
your feedback

1675

01:26:37,220 --> 01:26:38,790  
to our email box  
at

1676

01:26:38,790 --> 01:26:43,630  
wildfiresmokegrants\_  
feedback@epa.gov.

1677

01:26:44,280 --> 01:26:47,090  
We are collecting feedback  
through November 2nd.

1678

01:26:47,790 --> 01:26:49,640  
And then for the latest  
information

1679

01:26:49,640 --> 01:26:50,990  
about this grant program,

1680

01:26:50,990 --> 01:26:53,000  
you can subscribe  
to our mailing list.

1681

01:26:53,000 --> 01:26:56,220  
And you see the link here  
on the slide. Visit our webpage.

1682

01:26:56,840 --> 01:27:00,820  
And also, follow us on Twitter  
for updates at EPAair.

1683  
01:27:01,520 --> 01:27:05,190  
And we will try to drop  
these links in the chat for you

1684  
01:27:05,190 --> 01:27:06,580  
and get the slides out,

1685  
01:27:06,580 --> 01:27:09,740  
so that you will be able  
to have those at your disposal.

1686  
01:27:10,290 --> 01:27:11,890  
>> Matthew Tejada: Great.  
>> Sharon White: Next slide.

1687  
01:27:13,500 --> 01:27:14,730  
>> Matthew Tejada: So, we do  
have one more.

1688  
01:27:14,730 --> 01:27:16,630  
We have Magali  
who has her hand up.

1689  
01:27:17,450 --> 01:27:20,249  
And so, Magali, if you can  
please go ahead real quickly?

1690  
01:27:21,150 --> 01:27:22,940  
>> Magali Sanchez-Hall:  
Yes. Sure.

1691  
01:27:22,940 --> 01:27:24,470  
I just --  
I don't know if I missed it,

1692  
01:27:24,470 --> 01:27:25,740

but I just wanted to know

1693

01:27:25,740 --> 01:27:27,870  
if you have basic information  
on what to do

1694

01:27:27,870 --> 01:27:31,550  
when smoke is coming  
inside the home buildings.

1695

01:27:31,550 --> 01:27:36,010  
You know, massive campaign  
of what to do next in case,

1696

01:27:36,010 --> 01:27:37,960  
because most  
disadvantaged communities

1697

01:27:37,960 --> 01:27:40,360  
don't have air  
filtration system.

1698

01:27:40,360 --> 01:27:44,680  
And there's no education  
whatsoever on what to do

1699

01:27:44,680 --> 01:27:47,180  
when smoke is coming  
inside the houses,

1700

01:27:47,180 --> 01:27:50,410  
since they do have to keep  
the windows open, doors open,

1701

01:27:50,410 --> 01:27:53,130  
so in order for them  
to breathe most of the times

1702

01:27:53,130 --> 01:27:55,450  
when there's heat waves.

1703

01:27:55,450 --> 01:27:57,490

And I'm speaking  
on behalf of my community

1704

01:27:57,490 --> 01:28:01,480

in Wilmington, California  
where we have five refineries

1705

01:28:01,480 --> 01:28:04,800

and also the one  
of the largest port

1706

01:28:04,800 --> 01:28:07,110

and massive movement of goods.

1707

01:28:07,110 --> 01:28:10,030

And we do have to keep  
our windows open

1708

01:28:10,030 --> 01:28:13,470

and everything open for us  
to be able to breathe.

1709

01:28:14,010 --> 01:28:16,630

However, when the smoke --  
when there's burning, you know,

1710

01:28:16,630 --> 01:28:20,060

fires, and the smoke comes,  
there's nothing --

1711

01:28:20,060 --> 01:28:21,530

we don't know what to do,  
basically.

1712

01:28:21,530 --> 01:28:22,730

>> Sharon White: Okay.

1713

01:28:22,730 --> 01:28:23,940  
>> Magali Sanchez-Hall:  
And most of the communities

1714  
01:28:23,940 --> 01:28:25,450  
don't have internet access

1715  
01:28:25,450 --> 01:28:29,800  
that they can search  
in my neighborhood, in my area.

1716  
01:28:29,800 --> 01:28:33,450  
So, I don't know, developing  
an educational material

1717  
01:28:33,450 --> 01:28:37,200  
on basic things  
that are not technology based.

1718  
01:28:37,200 --> 01:28:39,780  
>> Sharon White: Right.  
Great question, Magali.

1719  
01:28:39,780 --> 01:28:42,980  
So, what I will point to you  
in the immediate time

1720  
01:28:42,980 --> 01:28:47,380  
we have right now  
is to the EPA website, epa.gov.

1721  
01:28:47,380 --> 01:28:52,120  
And if you put in the search  
box emergencies and IAQ,

1722  
01:28:52,120 --> 01:28:54,120  
stands for  
indoor air quality,

1723  
01:28:54,120 --> 01:28:56,700

you will have  
our latest information

1724  
01:28:56,700 --> 01:29:00,180  
on emergency  
preparedness response

1725  
01:29:00,180 --> 01:29:04,220  
and recovery guidance  
recommendation resources

1726  
01:29:04,220 --> 01:29:07,150  
that we have for many  
different scenarios

1727  
01:29:07,150 --> 01:29:08,990  
that affect  
indoor air quality,

1728  
01:29:08,990 --> 01:29:13,300  
but including wildfire smoke,  
flood recovery, power outages.

1729  
01:29:14,040 --> 01:29:17,460  
So, that is our most up-to-date  
information on that.

1730  
01:29:17,460 --> 01:29:21,460  
And we do the very best we can  
to have all of that information

1731  
01:29:21,460 --> 01:29:23,860  
translated into  
multiple languages.

1732  
01:29:24,500 --> 01:29:29,090  
We do have some videos on how  
to create a clean room at home.

1733  
01:29:29,090 --> 01:29:30,890



So, I would suggest  
you start there.

1734

01:29:30,890 --> 01:29:33,890  
You can also reach out to us  
if you're looking for something

1735

01:29:33,890 --> 01:29:35,180  
that you're not seeing there.

1736

01:29:35,180 --> 01:29:37,570  
This is a growing  
program for us,

1737

01:29:37,570 --> 01:29:40,530  
and we're looking to definitely  
serve the communities --

1738

01:29:40,530 --> 01:29:43,990  
the impacted communities  
as best we can.

1739

01:29:43,990 --> 01:29:46,160  
And connecting with people  
in those communities

1740

01:29:46,160 --> 01:29:49,060  
is a great way to find out  
what we still need to be doing.

1741

01:29:50,770 --> 01:29:52,020  
>> Matthew Tejada: Great.

1742

01:29:52,020 --> 01:29:54,950  
So, I know we've received  
a number of additional thoughts

1743

01:29:56,150 --> 01:29:57,440  
in the Q&A pod.

1744

01:29:57,440 --> 01:29:58,880

We're going to mark  
those as read,

1745

01:29:58,880 --> 01:30:00,540

but that'll keep them  
in the queue,

1746

01:30:00,540 --> 01:30:02,700

so that Alison and Sharon  
and her colleagues

1747

01:30:02,700 --> 01:30:04,990

can look at them  
and bring them in.

1748

01:30:04,990 --> 01:30:09,470

I even see some folks asking  
for some for reach back in that,

1749

01:30:09,470 --> 01:30:12,590

which is great.  
So, thank you, everyone,

1750

01:30:12,590 --> 01:30:16,300

for the attention during  
this part on wildfire smoke.

1751

01:30:16,300 --> 01:30:18,310

Anything else,  
Sharon and Alison?

1752

01:30:18,310 --> 01:30:19,590

>> Sharon White: The last thing  
we'll say

1753

01:30:19,590 --> 01:30:23,120

is stay tuned for the actual  
Request for Application,

1754

01:30:23,120 --> 01:30:25,890  
and then it will be posted  
on Grants.gov.

1755

01:30:25,890 --> 01:30:27,440  
And we expect to award  
the grants

1756

01:30:27,440 --> 01:30:30,410  
under this program  
by the summer of 2023.

1757

01:30:30,980 --> 01:30:32,180  
>> Matthew Tejada: Great.

1758

01:30:32,180 --> 01:30:33,410  
>> Sharon White: And I would  
say that's it.

1759

01:30:33,410 --> 01:30:34,750  
Thank you.

1760

01:30:34,750 --> 01:30:36,350  
>> Matthew Tejada: Thank you  
both so much.

1761

01:30:37,710 --> 01:30:40,120  
Okay. I think we're going  
to move on now

1762

01:30:41,540 --> 01:30:44,390  
to our Acting Director

1763

01:30:44,390 --> 01:30:46,880  
of our Office  
of Children's Health Protection,

1764

01:30:47,680 --> 01:30:51,480  
who's going to be talking

about some of the stuff going on

1765

01:30:51,480 --> 01:30:53,980

with one of our  
closest colleague offices,

1766

01:30:54,660 --> 01:30:56,550

sibling offices at EPA,

1767

01:30:56,550 --> 01:30:58,610

the Children's Health  
Protection Office.

1768

01:30:58,610 --> 01:31:00,020

Grace, it is great to see you.

1769

01:31:00,020 --> 01:31:02,720

I'll just remind that we have  
live interpretation.

1770

01:31:02,720 --> 01:31:04,990

So, mind your pace, please,  
if you would.

1771

01:31:04,990 --> 01:31:06,470

And it is all yours.

1772

01:31:06,470 --> 01:31:07,890

>> Grace Robiou: All right.  
Can everybody hear me okay?

1773

01:31:07,890 --> 01:31:09,100

>> Matthew Tejada: Yup.

1774

01:31:09,100 --> 01:31:10,470

>> Grace Robiou: I just want to  
do a sound check.

1775

01:31:10,470 --> 01:31:14,140

This is the first time  
that I do this arrangement.

1776

01:31:14,140 --> 01:31:19,250  
So, I'm looking forward  
to the conversation today,

1777

01:31:19,250 --> 01:31:24,370  
or maybe even in future sessions  
if we have such an opportunity.

1778

01:31:24,370 --> 01:31:29,050  
So, as Matt said, I'm Grace.  
And I am serving currently

1779

01:31:29,050 --> 01:31:32,370  
as the acting director  
of office of the --

1780

01:31:32,370 --> 01:31:34,770  
of EPA's Office of Children's  
Health Protection.

1781

01:31:36,290 --> 01:31:42,880  
And I'll wait for the slides  
to officially come back in.

1782

01:31:46,130 --> 01:31:49,300  
And before I start,  
I want to tell you

1783

01:31:49,300 --> 01:31:52,450  
that I don't plan  
to read my slides,

1784

01:31:52,990 --> 01:31:56,590  
in the interest  
of being succinct

1785

01:31:56,590 --> 01:31:59,940

and allowing the interpreters  
to,

1786

01:32:01,580 --> 01:32:05,430  
you know, translate  
simultaneously what I'm saying.

1787

01:32:06,120 --> 01:32:07,960  
But I did provide  
a lot of information

1788

01:32:07,960 --> 01:32:10,160  
in the slides  
for your future reference.

1789

01:32:13,200 --> 01:32:17,090  
I don't have the slides  
in front of me.

1790

01:32:17,090 --> 01:32:20,310  
Should I have them folks?  
Oh, here you go.

1791

01:32:22,220 --> 01:32:23,440  
>> Matthew Tejada: I think  
Ericka is just trying

1792

01:32:23,440 --> 01:32:24,710  
to get her [unintelligible]  
out again.

1793

01:32:24,710 --> 01:32:26,270  
>> Grace Robiou: Okay, no  
problem out again.

1794

01:32:26,270 --> 01:32:28,190  
>> Matthew Tejada: Ericka,  
we're seeing both of your views,

1795

01:32:28,190 --> 01:32:30,750

the presenter view  
and the public view,

1796

01:32:31,290 --> 01:32:36,830  
side by side.  
She pulled them down.

1797

01:32:36,830 --> 01:32:39,870  
And now --  
it's always a challenge, right?

1798

01:32:44,850 --> 01:32:48,460  
>> Grace Robiou: Maybe while  
Ericka does that,

1799

01:32:48,460 --> 01:32:52,790  
I'll kind of tell you  
what our mission is

1800

01:32:52,790 --> 01:32:59,630  
and what we do in my office.  
Our mission is to protect

1801

01:32:59,630 --> 01:33:02,270  
and promote children's  
environmental health.

1802

01:33:03,070 --> 01:33:08,240  
And clearly, the connection  
to this conversation

1803

01:33:08,240 --> 01:33:12,120  
is to the fact that children  
who live in highly exposed

1804

01:33:12,120 --> 01:33:15,420  
or socially  
vulnerable communities

1805

01:33:15,420 --> 01:33:18,450

may have reduced resilience  
and ability

1806

01:33:18,450 --> 01:33:21,240  
to recover  
from exposure to,

1807

01:33:21,240 --> 01:33:23,340  
you know, pollutants  
or contaminants.

1808

01:33:24,120 --> 01:33:27,450  
And they require more attention,  
more focus,

1809

01:33:28,400 --> 01:33:30,650  
and more safeguards  
to protect their health.

1810

01:33:32,250 --> 01:33:45,680  
So, my office was created as  
a result of an executive order

1811

01:33:45,680 --> 01:33:50,750  
that President Clinton  
signed in 1997,

1812

01:33:50,750 --> 01:33:53,630  
I think, called  
Protection of Children

1813

01:33:53,630 --> 01:33:56,350  
from Environmental Health Risks  
and Safety Risks.

1814

01:33:56,350 --> 01:33:58,050  
It wasn't -- you know,  
it's kind of

1815

01:33:58,050 --> 01:34:00,290



like subsequently  
to that action.

1816  
01:34:00,960 --> 01:34:06,960  
And in --  
you can pass some slides

1817  
01:34:06,960 --> 01:34:08,560  
because I started already.

1818  
01:34:13,130 --> 01:34:17,830  
In 1995, prior  
to that executive order,

1819  
01:34:17,830 --> 01:34:22,540  
Administrator Carol Browner had  
issued an internal EPA policy --

1820  
01:34:22,540 --> 01:34:24,080  
next slide, please --

1821  
01:34:24,080 --> 01:34:27,800  
instructing EPA to consider  
the risks of act --

1822  
01:34:28,310 --> 01:34:32,020  
the risks to infants  
and children in their action.

1823  
01:34:32,020 --> 01:34:35,060  
So, that was kind of  
the precedent setting action.

1824  
01:34:36,180 --> 01:34:40,820  
Well, that policy that, again,  
was initially --

1825  
01:34:40,820 --> 01:34:45,060  
it started with Carol Browner.  
It was recently updated

1826

01:34:45,060 --> 01:34:49,390  
by Administrator  
Michael Regan last year.

1827

01:34:49,390 --> 01:34:58,090  
And this policy is important  
because it institutionalizes

1828

01:34:58,090 --> 01:35:01,950  
the consideration of children's  
health throughout EPA

1829

01:35:03,250 --> 01:35:05,700  
and makes it  
a public commitment.

1830

01:35:07,120 --> 01:35:11,880  
I included a hyperlink  
to the policy

1831

01:35:13,010 --> 01:35:16,390  
so people can have access to it,  
if you'd like to read it.

1832

01:35:17,510 --> 01:35:22,580  
Our bread and butter, however,  
is really working with an EPA

1833

01:35:22,580 --> 01:35:25,900  
to ensure that children  
are considered

1834

01:35:25,900 --> 01:35:27,940  
during the development  
of regulations,

1835

01:35:28,880 --> 01:35:30,700  
during risk assessments,

1836

01:35:30,700 --> 01:35:35,790  
during policy, research,  
and outreach.

1837

01:35:35,790 --> 01:35:39,510  
So, we touch on many  
different intersection points

1838

01:35:39,510 --> 01:35:43,730  
throughout the -- you know,  
the role that EPA plays.

1839

01:35:44,880 --> 01:35:46,220  
So, for example, you know,

1840

01:35:46,220 --> 01:35:49,840  
every one year we influence  
about 25 regulations

1841

01:35:50,730 --> 01:35:52,940  
and about 25  
risk assessments,

1842

01:35:54,150 --> 01:35:57,880  
on average, that touch  
on air pollution,

1843

01:35:57,880 --> 01:36:03,170  
water pollution, dust levels,  
you know, chlorpyrifos,

1844

01:36:04,490 --> 01:36:09,060  
PFAS, lead, breast milk exposure  
and a ton of different things.

1845

01:36:10,720 --> 01:36:12,320  
Next slide, please.

1846

01:36:18,950 --> 01:36:20,650

Can I have the next slide,  
please?

1847  
01:36:21,950 --> 01:36:24,270  
So, this policy,  
what it does is

1848  
01:36:24,270 --> 01:36:30,590  
that it really expands  
what we define as a child.

1849  
01:36:30,590 --> 01:36:36,340  
It includes the period  
from conception through infancy,

1850  
01:36:36,340 --> 01:36:38,690  
early childhood,  
through adolescence up

1851  
01:36:38,690 --> 01:36:42,200  
until the age of 21.  
So, it's broader.

1852  
01:36:42,200 --> 01:36:45,780  
It also acknowledges the effects  
that early life exposures

1853  
01:36:46,750 --> 01:36:49,770  
to environmental contaminants  
have on children.

1854  
01:36:49,770 --> 01:36:52,440  
And not only children  
like now,

1855  
01:36:52,440 --> 01:36:57,390  
but exposures that might happen  
now that might be like --

1856  
01:36:57,390 --> 01:37:00,370

see themselves, like manifests  
themselves in adulthood,

1857

01:37:00,370 --> 01:37:03,470  
or even for some pollutants  
in later generations.

1858

01:37:04,610 --> 01:37:08,350  
And for the first time in 2021,

1859

01:37:08,910 --> 01:37:14,130  
we recognized that highly --  
that underserved communities

1860

01:37:14,130 --> 01:37:16,850  
may have reduced  
biological resilience

1861

01:37:16,850 --> 01:37:18,630  
and ability to recover.

1862

01:37:18,630 --> 01:37:21,140  
So, this the first time  
that EJ elements

1863

01:37:21,140 --> 01:37:23,270  
get folded  
into this policy.

1864

01:37:23,270 --> 01:37:24,870  
Next slide.

1865

01:37:27,130 --> 01:37:29,530  
Now, why do we want  
to focus on environmental --

1866

01:37:30,180 --> 01:37:31,970  
on children's  
environmental health?

1867

01:37:31,970 --> 01:37:35,040

So, again, I'm not going to read every piece of every slide.

1868

01:37:36,100 --> 01:37:42,460

But fundamentally, children are affected differently

1869

01:37:42,460 --> 01:37:47,540

by environmental contamination. They have unique vulnerabilities

1870

01:37:48,560 --> 01:37:51,980

because they are undergoing developmental growth.

1871

01:37:52,790 --> 01:37:55,120

They also have different behaviors --

1872

01:37:55,990 --> 01:37:59,450

so, like the hand to mouth activity, for example --

1873

01:37:59,450 --> 01:38:01,400

and they have different exposures,

1874

01:38:01,400 --> 01:38:03,150

for example, through breastfeeding.

1875

01:38:04,900 --> 01:38:10,240

And so, we know that children eat more, drink more,

1876

01:38:10,240 --> 01:38:14,560

and breathe more air relative to their size.

1877

01:38:14,560 --> 01:38:16,500

So, these are  
all important considerations

1878

01:38:16,500 --> 01:38:19,930

that we factor  
into our analysis.

1879

01:38:19,930 --> 01:38:21,530

Next slide.

1880

01:38:22,700 --> 01:38:26,520

Now, I just want  
to kind of show you some data

1881

01:38:26,520 --> 01:38:28,990

because I think data is helpful,  
and I like data.

1882

01:38:30,300 --> 01:38:33,720

Asthma,  
as an important indicator,

1883

01:38:34,440 --> 01:38:36,490

doesn't really impact  
children equally.

1884

01:38:38,110 --> 01:38:40,240

Black and Hispanic children  
are twice

1885

01:38:40,240 --> 01:38:44,630

as likely to be hospitalized  
for asthma as White children,

1886

01:38:45,370 --> 01:38:50,860

and four times as likely to die  
from asthma as White children.

1887

01:38:51,730 --> 01:38:53,560  
And here are some statistics

1888  
01:38:54,540 --> 01:38:57,090  
taken from several  
different sources --

1889  
01:38:57,090 --> 01:39:00,040  
and if you're interested in  
the source, I can provide it --

1890  
01:39:01,270 --> 01:39:07,460  
about the impacts  
that asthma have on children

1891  
01:39:08,460 --> 01:39:10,810  
and the economy  
and other factors.

1892  
01:39:10,810 --> 01:39:16,880  
Next slide.  
Now, the next few slides,

1893  
01:39:16,880 --> 01:39:19,800  
I want to show you  
some additional data.

1894  
01:39:21,430 --> 01:39:24,760  
So, in this case,  
a little bit more about asthma.

1895  
01:39:26,140 --> 01:39:28,630  
There's about  
5.1 million children

1896  
01:39:28,630 --> 01:39:30,529  
in the United States  
that have asthma,

1897  
01:39:31,710 --> 01:39:34,009



or have officially been  
diagnosed with asthma.

1898

01:39:34,540 --> 01:39:37,070

But again, not all of those  
are at equal risk.

1899

01:39:37,070 --> 01:39:43,170

About 10.5 percent of children  
living below the poverty level

1900

01:39:43,170 --> 01:39:47,250

reported to have asthma  
compared to 7.2

1901

01:39:49,360 --> 01:39:51,480

if they were above  
the poverty level.

1902

01:39:51,480 --> 01:39:56,780

And another interesting  
statistic, 13.8 --

1903

01:39:56,780 --> 01:39:59,530

about 14 percent  
Black children that have asthma

1904

01:40:00,750 --> 01:40:05,720

or have asthma as compared to  
about like 7.4 of White children

1905

01:40:05,720 --> 01:40:09,000

and about 4.7 percent  
of Asian children.

1906

01:40:09,530 --> 01:40:11,320

A lot of information,  
the point --

1907

01:40:11,320 --> 01:40:14,470

the overall, you know,  
point of this is to tell you

1908

01:40:14,470 --> 01:40:18,860  
that children  
are not at equal risk

1909

01:40:18,860 --> 01:40:20,860  
for asthma, as an example.

1910

01:40:20,860 --> 01:40:23,960  
Next slide.  
Now, we just exited

1911

01:40:23,960 --> 01:40:28,400  
an interesting  
briefing about wildfires,

1912

01:40:28,400 --> 01:40:30,390  
so I want to touch  
on climate change.

1913

01:40:32,010 --> 01:40:36,970  
Of course, climate change can  
increase outdoor air pollutants,

1914

01:40:36,970 --> 01:40:39,470  
dust, smoke, pollen.

1915

01:40:40,170 --> 01:40:43,690  
Also, ground-level ozone  
and particulate matter

1916

01:40:43,690 --> 01:40:46,530  
are associated  
with increases in asthma

1917

01:40:46,530 --> 01:40:49,070  
and other respiratory  
conditions in children.

1918

01:40:51,340 --> 01:40:53,950

Also, higher  
outdoor temperatures

1919

01:40:53,950 --> 01:40:58,210

can lead to children  
spending more time indoors,

1920

01:40:58,810 --> 01:41:01,630

where they can be exposed  
to indoor pollutants,

1921

01:41:01,630 --> 01:41:05,670

like tobacco smoke or mold.

1922

01:41:06,390 --> 01:41:10,720

So, in this example,  
in this slide,

1923

01:41:10,720 --> 01:41:13,560

we have some information  
about Native American

1924

01:41:13,560 --> 01:41:16,850

or Alaska Native infants,  
which are --

1925

01:41:16,850 --> 01:41:21,840

or who are hospitalized  
more for diarrheal diseases

1926

01:41:21,840 --> 01:41:25,240

than infects in  
the general population. Why?

1927

01:41:25,810 --> 01:41:30,340

Because -- for lack  
of safe drinking water.

1928

01:41:32,640 --> 01:41:34,240

Next slide.

1929

01:41:35,090 --> 01:41:39,020

In this one, I tell you a little  
bit about lead exposure.

1930

01:41:39,020 --> 01:41:43,240

Of course, this is  
a pretty old problem.

1931

01:41:44,590 --> 01:41:50,170

Lead-poisoned children are more  
likely to struggle academically,

1932

01:41:50,980 --> 01:41:54,390

drop out of school.  
In fact, interestingly,

1933

01:41:54,390 --> 01:41:58,840

there's a relationship between  
lead exposure and children

1934

01:41:58,840 --> 01:42:01,330

becoming involved in  
the criminal justice system.

1935

01:42:02,230 --> 01:42:09,510

And they also earn less income  
over their lifetime,

1936

01:42:11,800 --> 01:42:13,440

if you're exposed to lead.

1937

01:42:14,570 --> 01:42:19,870

So, next week, we're going  
to be participating in

1938

01:42:20,730 --> 01:42:28,270

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week,  
which is a annual celebration

1939

01:42:28,270 --> 01:42:31,860

I guess hosted by the World  
Health Organization.

1940

01:42:33,580 --> 01:42:37,300

And so, there you'll be  
seeing some messaging

1941

01:42:37,300 --> 01:42:39,810

and some information  
go out about that.

1942

01:42:40,960 --> 01:42:43,090

This is really important.

1943

01:42:43,090 --> 01:42:46,750

And I want to make sure  
that you track

1944

01:42:46,750 --> 01:42:49,910

what we are doing  
in social media

1945

01:42:49,910 --> 01:42:51,560

and share it,

1946

01:42:53,580 --> 01:42:56,610

and really contribute  
to the conversation

1947

01:42:56,610 --> 01:42:59,680

about the importance  
of preventing lead exposure

1948

01:42:59,680 --> 01:43:02,870

in particularly young children  
on the age of six.

1949

01:43:04,380 --> 01:43:05,810

Of course, as you know,

1950

01:43:05,810 --> 01:43:08,420

their growing bodies

absorb more lead than adults,

1951

01:43:09,090 --> 01:43:12,050

and their developing brains

and nervous systems

1952

01:43:12,050 --> 01:43:14,150

are more sensitive.

1953

01:43:14,150 --> 01:43:20,110

Also, babies and young children

exposed to lead can be --

1954

01:43:21,410 --> 01:43:24,180

their exposure can be higher

because they put --

1955

01:43:24,180 --> 01:43:25,720

you know,

that hand mouse movement

1956

01:43:25,720 --> 01:43:29,010

that I was talking about,

very important topic.

1957

01:43:30,430 --> 01:43:33,500

Next slide. We don't --

1958

01:43:33,500 --> 01:43:36,650

let's also not forget

the health of the mothers

1959

01:43:36,650 --> 01:43:41,970

or the persons  
that give birth to children.

1960

01:43:42,800 --> 01:43:46,620  
Maternal health is  
a an important subject.

1961

01:43:46,620 --> 01:43:49,920  
I don't know if you've seen the  
statistics of the United States

1962

01:43:49,920 --> 01:43:54,100  
really deteriorating in its  
statistics for maternal health.

1963

01:43:55,980 --> 01:44:01,990  
Preterm and low birth  
weight infants that are --

1964

01:44:02,600 --> 01:44:07,250  
you know, preterm  
and low birth infants

1965

01:44:07,250 --> 01:44:10,760  
are obviously also at greater  
risk for mortality

1966

01:44:10,760 --> 01:44:14,120  
and a variety  
of developmental problems,

1967

01:44:14,120 --> 01:44:16,490  
both in childhood  
and in adulthood.

1968

01:44:17,040 --> 01:44:21,120  
And maternal health is another  
thing that our office works on.

1969

01:44:22,230 --> 01:44:24,460

Here are some statistics  
in this slide about

1970

01:44:25,770 --> 01:44:36,010  
Back mothers giving birth  
to premature children in 2019.

1971

01:44:37,110 --> 01:44:41,010  
That's -- we're in one in seven.  
That's true for --

1972

01:44:41,780 --> 01:44:44,630  
which is different  
from one in ten for all races.

1973

01:44:47,270 --> 01:44:49,360  
Another data point.

1974

01:44:49,360 --> 01:44:51,330  
All right. So, next slide.

1975

01:44:51,330 --> 01:44:55,390  
So, how is how does my office  
address these disparities?

1976

01:44:56,120 --> 01:44:59,600  
So, we have  
a ton of information.

1977

01:44:59,600 --> 01:45:02,060  
I just selected a few things  
to tell you about.

1978

01:45:03,100 --> 01:45:05,550  
Recently, in the past two years,  
we've granted --

1979

01:45:06,320 --> 01:45:10,240  
we've given out grants  
to various organizations



1980

01:45:11,780 --> 01:45:14,600  
to work on the --

1981

01:45:15,170 --> 01:45:18,050  
on what we call  
Healthy Learning Environment.

1982

01:45:18,050 --> 01:45:20,990  
So, this is about schools,  
daycares,

1983

01:45:20,990 --> 01:45:23,630  
places where kids spend  
a lot of their time

1984

01:45:23,630 --> 01:45:27,490  
that is outside of our house.  
So, these are the organizations

1985

01:45:27,490 --> 01:45:31,160  
that were the awardees  
of the total \$2 million

1986

01:45:31,160 --> 01:45:36,310  
that we gave out  
between 2019 and 2020.

1987

01:45:36,310 --> 01:45:37,650  
Next slide.

1988

01:45:37,650 --> 01:45:41,010  
And I can get more information  
about those grants,

1989

01:45:41,010 --> 01:45:42,610  
if people are interested.

1990

01:45:45,130 --> 01:45:48,890

Another thing we do is that  
every year or every two years,

1991

01:45:48,890 --> 01:45:50,750  
depending on the data,

1992

01:45:50,750 --> 01:45:54,520  
we publish something called  
America's Children

1993

01:45:54,520 --> 01:45:58,830  
and the Environment.  
This is an online tool

1994

01:45:59,460 --> 01:46:07,560  
that tracks national trends  
in children's health,

1995

01:46:08,630 --> 01:46:14,890  
using chemical exposure  
information, biomonitoring data,

1996

01:46:15,440 --> 01:46:23,910  
and other health data to put it  
kind of in a nice format

1997

01:46:23,910 --> 01:46:30,050  
that people can download, graph,  
and use for decision making.

1998

01:46:30,930 --> 01:46:34,720  
So, there's -- for example,  
beyond lead,

1999

01:46:34,720 --> 01:46:38,370  
which I talked about,  
we have data about mercury,

2000

01:46:40,980 --> 01:46:47,650  
PFAS, childhood obesity,

childhood cancer,

2001

01:46:50,440 --> 01:46:58,120  
tobacco smoke I mentioned,  
pesticides -- let me see --

2002

01:46:58,120 --> 01:47:01,110  
other like air pollutants,  
et cetera.

2003

01:47:01,820 --> 01:47:04,920  
So, this is a real  
good resource.

2004

01:47:04,920 --> 01:47:07,450  
The website appears  
on the left side

2005

01:47:07,450 --> 01:47:10,000  
there for you to take a look.

2006

01:47:10,990 --> 01:47:14,350  
We really have big plans  
for this tool.

2007

01:47:14,350 --> 01:47:17,180  
We think that there --  
it has huge potential

2008

01:47:17,990 --> 01:47:20,250  
to grow further

2009

01:47:20,250 --> 01:47:23,790  
into this space of  
social determinants of health.

2010

01:47:24,830 --> 01:47:28,380  
And so, we're looking forward to  
partnering with our colleagues

2011

01:47:28,380 --> 01:47:32,270  
in the new EJ program office  
to do this.

2012

01:47:32,270 --> 01:47:34,170  
Next slide.

2013

01:47:34,170 --> 01:47:38,550  
Now, one real important thing  
that we do in my office

2014

01:47:38,550 --> 01:47:44,250  
is to support this fantastic  
national network of pediatrician

2015

01:47:44,810 --> 01:47:50,180  
and public health practitioners  
who --

2016

01:47:50,180 --> 01:47:53,270  
whose expertise is children's  
environmental health.

2017

01:47:54,440 --> 01:47:57,530  
So, the -- they're called  
the Pediatric Environmental

2018

01:47:57,530 --> 01:48:00,510  
Health Specialty Units,  
and there's 10 of these.

2019

01:48:02,390 --> 01:48:09,880  
And these are usually  
co-positioned with hospitals,

2020

01:48:11,220 --> 01:48:14,280  
major hospitals,  
and they are --

2021

01:48:14,280 --> 01:48:17,620  
they have the right people  
properly trained

2022  
01:48:17,620 --> 01:48:22,100  
to address medical service  
needs for children

2023  
01:48:22,100 --> 01:48:24,180  
in underserved communities.

2024  
01:48:24,180 --> 01:48:27,320  
We've intentionally funded them  
in the past two years

2025  
01:48:27,320 --> 01:48:35,840  
with more money to be able  
to support communities

2026  
01:48:35,840 --> 01:48:37,440  
that are underserved.

2027  
01:48:38,450 --> 01:48:42,230  
We want to do some more  
of this in the future also.

2028  
01:48:43,540 --> 01:48:45,140  
Next slide.

2029  
01:48:45,850 --> 01:48:48,420  
Now, we also have  
a few other things.

2030  
01:48:48,420 --> 01:48:51,340  
Just quickly, we have --

2031  
01:48:51,340 --> 01:48:54,870  
we work in kind of  
with other federal agencies

2032

01:48:55,930 --> 01:48:59,060  
under something called  
the President's Task Force.

2033

01:49:00,850 --> 01:49:03,390  
This is the main way  
in which we collaborate

2034

01:49:03,390 --> 01:49:07,770  
with the Health Department,

2035

01:49:07,770 --> 01:49:14,510  
the, you know, housing,  
and other federal people

2036

01:49:15,470 --> 01:49:18,240  
to make sure that we are  
coordinating our activities

2037

01:49:18,240 --> 01:49:22,320  
on lead, asthma,  
climate change.

2038

01:49:23,210 --> 01:49:28,170  
We also have a federal  
advisory committee.

2039

01:49:28,680 --> 01:49:31,420  
Like, you have the NEJAC,  
we have the CHPAC.

2040

01:49:31,420 --> 01:49:35,060  
The CHPAC, or Children's Health  
Protection Advisory Committee,

2041

01:49:36,670 --> 01:49:39,690  
it's an expert group  
that provides

2042

01:49:39,690 --> 01:49:44,870  
EPA with recommendations  
on regulations, research,

2043  
01:49:44,870 --> 01:49:47,620  
communications  
related to children's health.

2044  
01:49:49,610 --> 01:49:53,110  
Lastly, I want to tell you  
that recently,

2045  
01:49:53,110 --> 01:49:54,780  
as in August,  
a few months ago,

2046  
01:49:55,510 --> 01:49:59,350  
we hosted a workshop  
with the nationally --

2047  
01:49:59,350 --> 01:50:02,510  
National Academies  
of Science that --

2048  
01:50:05,350 --> 01:50:07,370  
where experts talked about

2049  
01:50:07,370 --> 01:50:09,610  
what's the future  
of children's health,

2050  
01:50:11,130 --> 01:50:13,260  
what should we be  
focusing on,

2051  
01:50:13,260 --> 01:50:16,800  
what are the things that we need  
to be thinking about now

2052  
01:50:16,800 --> 01:50:19,670

in order to be impactful  
in the future.

2053

01:50:19,670 --> 01:50:21,630

We got really  
good information.

2054

01:50:22,310 --> 01:50:27,500

The report is not yet available,  
but it will be in early 2023.

2055

01:50:28,150 --> 01:50:31,150

And that will help  
our office here

2056

01:50:31,950 --> 01:50:34,130

inform our future direction.

2057

01:50:35,000 --> 01:50:36,600

Next slide.

2058

01:50:39,100 --> 01:50:42,570

Now, this is a little bit  
kind of out of sorts here.

2059

01:50:42,570 --> 01:50:43,770

But I just wanted to tell you

2060

01:50:43,770 --> 01:50:46,700

that we did a strategic plan  
for our office,

2061

01:50:46,700 --> 01:50:50,440

and we have like  
three objectives in that plan.

2062

01:50:50,440 --> 01:50:53,950

And one is specifically  
about addressing disparities.



2063

01:50:53,950 --> 01:50:55,210

I just want to make sure

2064

01:50:55,210 --> 01:50:59,440

that this is being

kind of folded into the --

2065

01:50:59,990 --> 01:51:06,140

our nerves and

we're taking it seriously.

2066

01:51:06,140 --> 01:51:07,770

Next slide.

2067

01:51:07,770 --> 01:51:13,050

So, I wrote down

some discussion questions here

2068

01:51:14,060 --> 01:51:17,070

because I feel like

I've talked enough.

2069

01:51:17,690 --> 01:51:19,290

I want to hear from you.

2070

01:51:19,840 --> 01:51:24,070

There are several ways

that you can give feedback,

2071

01:51:24,860 --> 01:51:28,030

as you've already

experienced here.

2072

01:51:28,030 --> 01:51:30,430

You can request

to come off mute,

2073

01:51:30,430 --> 01:51:33,760

you can submit a statement

through the questions box,

2074

01:51:34,310 --> 01:51:38,150  
or you can email me  
or Isabella Bennett --

2075

01:51:38,150 --> 01:51:42,580  
whose email is at the bottom  
here -- with your questions.

2076

01:51:42,580 --> 01:51:45,340  
So, these are some thoughts  
that I could think

2077

01:51:45,340 --> 01:51:47,550  
about to provoke conversation.

2078

01:51:48,590 --> 01:51:52,390  
For example, what are the most  
pressing environmental issues

2079

01:51:52,390 --> 01:51:54,090  
facing children  
in your community?

2080

01:51:55,990 --> 01:51:59,160  
What are ways that these issues  
can be addressed?

2081

01:52:01,200 --> 01:52:03,660  
Tell me maybe  
what organizations

2082

01:52:03,660 --> 01:52:06,880  
or EPA grant opportunities  
can address these issues.

2083

01:52:06,880 --> 01:52:09,820  
It be helpful to know  
if you have such data.

2084

01:52:09,820 --> 01:52:14,540

And, you know, how can we start working on this

2085

01:52:14,540 --> 01:52:15,760

from your perspective?

2086

01:52:15,760 --> 01:52:19,160

So, I'll keep quiet there and turn it over to Matt.

2087

01:52:19,160 --> 01:52:20,390

Thank you, Matt.

2088

01:52:20,390 --> 01:52:21,590

>> Matthew Tejada: Yes.

No, thank you, Grace.

2089

01:52:21,590 --> 01:52:25,270

So, we have one person.

I think it's the same --

2090

01:52:25,270 --> 01:52:27,550

is that Melva again, the 814 number?

2091

01:52:29,370 --> 01:52:34,400

Can we give that person a shot, Ericka?

2092

01:52:36,560 --> 01:52:37,820

Here you go, 814 --

2093

01:52:37,820 --> 01:52:39,420

>> Melva Hayden: Really, before I was going to mention

2094

01:52:39,420 --> 01:52:43,750

preventing wildfire smoke by  
keeping the brush down, right?

2095

01:52:43,750 --> 01:52:45,800

Then, clearly,  
trees they make more brush

2096

01:52:45,800 --> 01:52:49,020

and stuff on the ground  
that actually can go on fire

2097

01:52:49,020 --> 01:52:50,420

that will protect  
people better.

2098

01:52:50,420 --> 01:52:53,210

And also a lot of poverty  
is an issue,

2099

01:52:53,210 --> 01:52:56,790

like there's a real issue  
in protecting children, I feel.

2100

01:52:57,730 --> 01:53:00,190

Because we can --  
they can have better diet

2101

01:53:00,190 --> 01:53:02,140

that's like not polluted  
with lead.

2102

01:53:02,140 --> 01:53:05,430

And even the school lunch is  
contaminated with heavy metals,

2103

01:53:05,430 --> 01:53:10,180

like up to like --  
was it like 6,293 times higher

2104

01:53:10,180 --> 01:53:13,270

than the EPA maximum level  
allowed and drinking water.

2105

01:53:17,410 --> 01:53:19,270

>> Grace Robiou: Yeah.

I mean, you know,

2106

01:53:19,270 --> 01:53:22,550

these issues are so layered  
sometimes in communities

2107

01:53:22,550 --> 01:53:24,199

that it's hard  
to tease them out.

2108

01:53:25,010 --> 01:53:27,420

You've mentioned there,  
you know, smoke,

2109

01:53:27,420 --> 01:53:30,390

you've mentioned drinking water,  
you've mentioned lead.

2110

01:53:30,390 --> 01:53:32,350

Sometimes I think  
that's the challenge,

2111

01:53:32,350 --> 01:53:36,330

being able to discern

2112

01:53:36,330 --> 01:53:39,160

what exactly is going on  
in the community

2113

01:53:40,310 --> 01:53:42,240

so that that  
we can take action.

2114

01:53:44,810 --> 01:53:46,280

>> Matthew Tejada: Thank you

for that, Grace. So --

2115

01:53:46,280 --> 01:53:47,660

>> Melva Hayden: And also --

2116

01:53:47,660 --> 01:53:48,890

>> Matthew Tejada:

Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

2117

01:53:48,890 --> 01:53:50,490

>> Grace Robiou: Yeah.

2118

01:53:51,690 --> 01:53:53,290

>> Matthew Tejada: Oh, I think we lost her.

2119

01:53:54,350 --> 01:53:57,550

So, Stephanie is asking for you to go back to the slide

2120

01:53:57,550 --> 01:54:01,090

with the questions, if you could, please, Ericka.

2121

01:54:01,090 --> 01:54:02,870

Yeah, there we go.

I saw your mouse move there.

2122

01:54:02,870 --> 01:54:04,750

A couple of people are asking me

2123

01:54:04,750 --> 01:54:06,180

for the slides with the questions.

2124

01:54:06,180 --> 01:54:07,390

>> Ericka Farrell: Here you go.

2125

01:54:07,390 --> 01:54:08,950  
>> Matthew Tejada: So, an  
anonymous attendee

2126  
01:54:08,950 --> 01:54:10,720  
has put in  
"One of the reasons

2127  
01:54:10,720 --> 01:54:13,720  
that there is such health  
disparity in the Black community

2128  
01:54:13,720 --> 01:54:15,880  
is that this is taught  
in medical school books,

2129  
01:54:15,880 --> 01:54:17,760  
none of the organization's  
look into this.

2130  
01:54:17,760 --> 01:54:20,860  
I would suggest an overview  
of the medical school books.

2131  
01:54:20,860 --> 01:54:22,800  
You'd be surprised to find  
that there are sections

2132  
01:54:22,800 --> 01:54:25,590  
that explain how Black people  
can withstand more pain

2133  
01:54:25,590 --> 01:54:27,950  
than other groups  
because of their muscle mass,

2134  
01:54:27,950 --> 01:54:30,580  
and should therefore not receive  
as much pain medication.

2135

01:54:30,580 --> 01:54:32,930  
I actually saw this  
in medical school book

2136  
01:54:32,930 --> 01:54:35,380  
that their incoming classes  
are required to buy."

2137  
01:54:35,920 --> 01:54:37,490  
So, it was from  
an anonymous attendee.

2138  
01:54:37,490 --> 01:54:42,490  
But a good point, something else  
to potentially look into, Grace.

2139  
01:54:42,490 --> 01:54:43,980  
>> Grace Robiou: So, I do want  
to tell you

2140  
01:54:43,980 --> 01:54:46,250  
that there's work going on  
in this space.

2141  
01:54:47,190 --> 01:54:50,260  
The American Academy  
of Pediatrics

2142  
01:54:52,570 --> 01:54:55,610  
develops continuing education

2143  
01:54:55,610 --> 01:54:57,760  
courses on children's  
environmental health.

2144  
01:54:58,690 --> 01:55:04,690  
And this is part of the training  
that the specialized units staff

2145  
01:55:04,690 --> 01:55:08,170



have to take in order  
to work in these places.

2146  
01:55:08,170 --> 01:55:09,480  
But I appreciate that feedback.

2147  
01:55:09,480 --> 01:55:13,300  
And I was not aware  
of those outrageous comments.

2148  
01:55:14,800 --> 01:55:16,740  
>> Matthew Tejada: So, just a  
few more comments.

2149  
01:55:16,740 --> 01:55:18,450  
And then I think  
we're going to have to start

2150  
01:55:18,450 --> 01:55:20,150  
to close her up  
for the day

2151  
01:55:20,150 --> 01:55:22,350  
because we're right  
almost at the hour.

2152  
01:55:22,350 --> 01:55:24,660  
So, Magali has again --  
has offered.

2153  
01:55:24,660 --> 01:55:28,370  
"I did not see any data  
on Latino, Latina impact."

2154  
01:55:29,000 --> 01:55:30,990  
I know that children's  
health protection

2155  
01:55:30,990 --> 01:55:35,030  
does look at Latino

and Hispanic community impacts."

2156

01:55:35,030 --> 01:55:36,630

Anything you want to say  
to that, Grace?

2157

01:55:36,630 --> 01:55:38,230

>> Grace Robiou: Yeah.

I actually --

2158

01:55:38,850 --> 01:55:42,850

I'll be very transparent for --  
I'm Hispanic.

2159

01:55:43,480 --> 01:55:49,150

So, I wanted to include some  
data for Hispanics in the --

2160

01:55:49,840 --> 01:55:52,440

in our communications  
for Hispanic Heritage Month.

2161

01:55:53,820 --> 01:55:56,810

So, we didn't get around  
to doing that.

2162

01:55:56,810 --> 01:55:59,320

But I --  
and I can follow up

2163

01:55:59,320 --> 01:56:01,270

with some  
interesting information.

2164

01:56:01,790 --> 01:56:05,230

However, for the most part,  
generally talking,

2165

01:56:06,520 --> 01:56:09,450

the Black, they --

2166

01:56:11,300 --> 01:56:14,830  
the statistics for Black is  
even worse than for Hispanics.

2167

01:56:16,150 --> 01:56:20,630  
So, that's --  
the largest comparison

2168

01:56:21,310 --> 01:56:25,490  
is to Blacks usually,  
not to Hispanics,

2169

01:56:25,490 --> 01:56:28,010  
except there might be  
some specific pollutants

2170

01:56:28,010 --> 01:56:30,000  
for which that's different.

2171

01:56:30,000 --> 01:56:33,020  
That's why I didn't  
pick those for today.

2172

01:56:35,150 --> 01:56:36,590  
>> Matthew Tejada: So, just a  
few more comments

2173

01:56:36,590 --> 01:56:37,820  
real quickly.

2174

01:56:37,820 --> 01:56:41,430  
Sara Mangan from the Farmworker  
Association of Florida,

2175

01:56:41,430 --> 01:56:44,470  
which is a great association  
that we've worked with before.

2176

01:56:44,470 --> 01:56:46,650  
"Pesticide exposure  
to farmworker children

2177  
01:56:46,650 --> 01:56:49,820  
via drift water contamination  
exposure of parents

2178  
01:56:49,820 --> 01:56:53,410  
or spraying on trees or crops  
adjacent to farmworker housing

2179  
01:56:53,410 --> 01:56:56,320  
is a huge issue for children  
in farmworker communities."

2180  
01:56:56,320 --> 01:56:57,530  
>> Grace Robiou: It is.

2181  
01:56:57,530 --> 01:56:58,830  
>> Matthew Tejada: "More  
studies and regulations

2182  
01:56:58,830 --> 01:57:00,230  
on pesticide proximity

2183  
01:57:00,230 --> 01:57:02,790  
to farmworker housing  
could have a huge impact."

2184  
01:57:03,300 --> 01:57:05,290  
An anonymous attendee offers,

2185  
01:57:05,290 --> 01:57:10,040  
"One of the biggest issues  
in the schools

2186  
01:57:10,040 --> 01:57:13,060  
or in the source for waters  
coming to the schools

2187

01:57:13,060 --> 01:57:15,110  
is old lead pipes.

2188

01:57:15,110 --> 01:57:18,960  
But this person lives in an  
older, marginalized community."

2189

01:57:20,190 --> 01:57:21,510  
Lee Waters [phonetic sp]

2190

01:57:21,510 --> 01:57:22,950  
from the Community  
Housing Coalition,

2191

01:57:22,950 --> 01:57:24,830  
"Environmental issues  
in a rural area

2192

01:57:24,830 --> 01:57:28,160  
are largely in the home,  
mold, dust, et cetera."

2193

01:57:29,100 --> 01:57:32,740  
And "You have a great  
presentation, very well done.

2194

01:57:32,740 --> 01:57:34,850  
Happy Children's Health Month,"  
from [unintelligible].

2195

01:57:34,850 --> 01:57:36,160  
>> Grace Robiou: Thank you.

2196

01:57:36,160 --> 01:57:39,640  
I do want to say that some  
of the infrastructure funding

2197

01:57:39,640 --> 01:57:46,200

is going to be helping  
replace those lead pipes and --

2198

01:57:46,200 --> 01:57:52,060  
there was something else  
I wanted to mention, I forgot.

2199

01:57:52,060 --> 01:57:55,970  
But I welcome the opportunity  
to talk about --

2200

01:57:55,970 --> 01:57:57,420  
like dive in on a topic

2201

01:57:57,420 --> 01:57:59,719  
that people might be interested  
in the future.

2202

01:58:00,710 --> 01:58:06,910  
We've just been -- know that  
our internal collaboration

2203

01:58:06,910 --> 01:58:08,570  
between the children's  
health work

2204

01:58:08,570 --> 01:58:12,060  
and the EJ work  
is integral, it's --

2205

01:58:12,060 --> 01:58:15,940  
we see these  
as real issues that are --

2206

01:58:15,940 --> 01:58:21,010  
that go hand in hand in like --  
in the ground, in the field.

2207

01:58:21,010 --> 01:58:24,580  
So, thank you. And I appreciate

the opportunity,

2208

01:58:24,580 --> 01:58:28,250  
and I look forward to  
more interaction in the future.

2209

01:58:28,250 --> 01:58:29,640  
>> Matthew Tejada: Thank you.  
Thank you, Grace.

2210

01:58:29,640 --> 01:58:31,510  
So, we're right --  
we've got a minute left.

2211

01:58:31,510 --> 01:58:33,840  
Thank you to everyone  
who hung in there

2212

01:58:33,840 --> 01:58:39,430  
with us there until the end.  
We will -- I can't remember

2213

01:58:39,940 --> 01:58:42,540  
if this is going to happen  
during the week of Thanksgiving.

2214

01:58:42,540 --> 01:58:44,900  
I don't think so.  
But we'll figure that out.

2215

01:58:44,900 --> 01:58:47,750  
And we'll get information out  
about the next of these.

2216

01:58:47,750 --> 01:58:50,330  
We will not have one  
during the week of Thanksgiving.

2217

01:58:50,330 --> 01:58:51,780  
Good, I am I'm going

to take some time off,

2218

01:58:51,780 --> 01:58:53,530

and I hope everyone  
else does, too.

2219

01:58:54,180 --> 01:58:56,230

But thank you all so much  
for being with us today.

2220

01:58:56,230 --> 01:58:57,910

This was a very informative --

2221

01:58:57,910 --> 01:59:00,240

I hope for everyone --  
conversation.

2222

01:59:00,240 --> 01:59:02,570

And again, especially  
in the next couple of months,

2223

01:59:02,570 --> 01:59:07,040

we will be talking a lot more in  
these forums, in this meeting,

2224

01:59:07,040 --> 01:59:11,390

about the upcoming EJ inflation  
Reduction Act grants.

2225

01:59:12,150 --> 01:59:14,570

So, especially for the  
community-based organizations

2226

01:59:14,570 --> 01:59:16,560

that want information  
and want to give us feedback

2227

01:59:16,560 --> 01:59:18,840

on the design  
of those grant programs,



2228  
01:59:18,840 --> 01:59:20,410  
that is going  
to be happening now.

2229  
01:59:20,410 --> 01:59:23,140  
And this is going to be  
one of our critical meetings

2230  
01:59:23,140 --> 01:59:27,100  
to discuss those things.  
So, please look out for it.

2231  
01:59:27,750 --> 01:59:29,520  
We have some news  
releases up here

2232  
01:59:29,520 --> 01:59:33,320  
on some additional information.  
All of this is on our website.

2233  
01:59:33,320 --> 01:59:37,410  
You can just look EPA,  
National EJ Community Call,

2234  
01:59:37,410 --> 01:59:39,850  
it will take you to a page  
that has all the information

2235  
01:59:39,850 --> 01:59:43,070  
from all of the calls we do,  
cataloged for you.

2236  
01:59:43,660 --> 01:59:45,720  
Ericka, anything else  
in closing out?

2237  
01:59:50,790 --> 01:59:53,790  
>> Ericka Farrell: No, except  
for the next call.

2238

01:59:54,330 --> 01:59:55,950

It should be November 15th.

2239

01:59:55,950 --> 01:59:57,540

It's actually a week

before Thanksgiving. So --

2240

01:59:57,540 --> 01:59:58,750

>> Matthew Tejada: Perfect.

Great.

2241

01:59:58,750 --> 02:00:00,020

Okay.

We don't have to worry about it.

2242

02:00:00,020 --> 02:00:01,290

>> Ericka Farrell: Yes.

2243

02:00:01,290 --> 02:00:02,550

>> Matthew Tejada: So, November  
15 will be

2244

02:00:02,550 --> 02:00:04,630

our next call.

Thank you, Ericka.

2245

02:00:04,630 --> 02:00:06,280

Thank you everyone

that helps support this.

2246

02:00:06,280 --> 02:00:10,320

Thank you to our interpreters,  
Julie and Samuel.

2247

02:00:10,320 --> 02:00:12,070

And we will see you  
all next month.