

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC)

Summary of Selections

APRIL 2023



AGENDA

- 1) A Milestone Achievement for EJ!
- 2) Purpose of EJ TCTAC Program and Funding
- 3) Summary of Selections
- 4) Selectee List & EJ TCTAC Hub Locations (Map)
- 5) EPA'S ROLE
 - Cooperative Agreements \leftrightarrow Project Officer Teams

A MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT FOR EJ!

- For years, EJ leaders have called for a system of support that includes accessible technical assistance (TA) to build community capacity from the ground up.
- Through the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative, this milestone is being achieved!
 - **17 centers (called EJ TCTACs)** will be in operation starting this summer supporting underserved communities around the nation!
 - These 17 centers are creating a network of over 160 partners across the country!
- Center structure = **“Hub and Spoke model”**
 - Ensures communities are driving the TA being delivered
 - **Hubs** = main applying organizations; **Spokes** = partners helping to deliver TA locally

PURPOSE/GOALS OF EJ TCTAC PROGRAM

- Goal is to establish a **network** of Regional and National EJ TCTACs (and their partners) providing technical assistance (TA), training, and capacity-building support for organizations, stakeholders, and community partners with environmental justice concerns.
- Partnership with Department of Energy (DOE) and Thriving Communities Network
- Examples of TA and training services provided:
 - **Grant writing to strengthen** applications for environmental and energy justice (EEJ) related funding
 - Managing federal grants (e.g., accounting, policies, controls)
 - Identifying funding sources to apply for (federal, local, private)
 - Navigating government grant systems such as SAM.gov and Grants.gov
 - Developing partnerships and coalitions addressing EEJ issues
 - Community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants

FUNDING BREAKDOWN

❑ **\$177 million** nationwide

- Each EJ TCTAC will receive at least \$10 million funded incrementally
- 5-year project period
- Inter-agency and Intra-agency partners
 - ❑ Department of Energy (DOE)
 - ❑ The EJ TCTAC program is part of the Federal Interagency **Thriving Communities Network**

❑ **Regional EJ TCTACs**

- Each will provide direct TA to communities in assigned EPA regions/geographic area(s)

❑ **National EJ TCTACs**

- Will coordinate with the Regional EJ TCTACs, fill gaps in coverage, develop national databases, host TA summits, etc.
- National EJ TCTAC devoted specifically to addressing the needs of tribal communities

SELECTIONS SUMMARY

▣ **70 applications received**

- Robust response!
- Many organizations and partners jumped into to help fulfill this need for an EJ technical assistance network

▣ **17 selections**

- 17 hubs; 160 spokes!

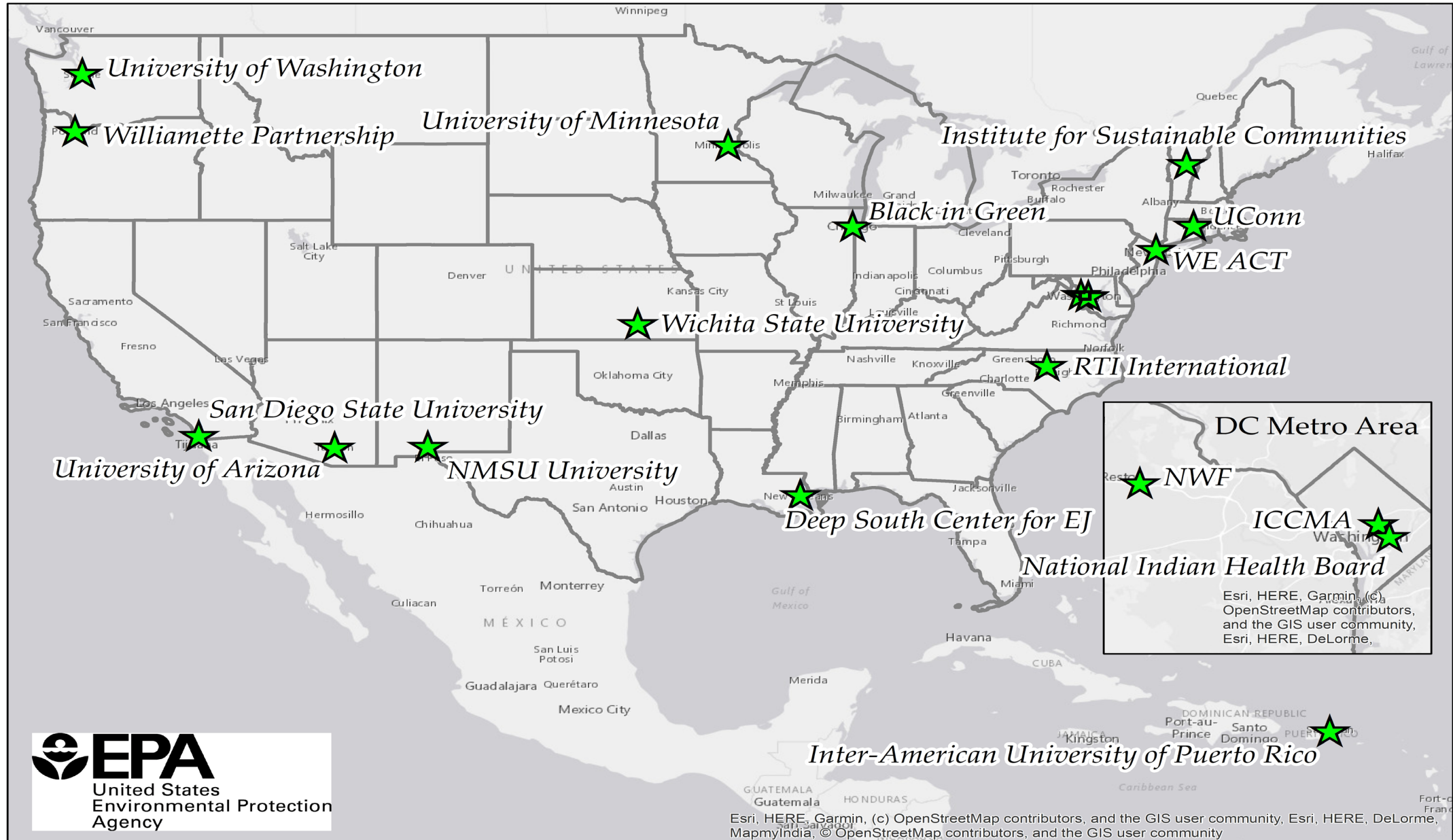
▣ **EJ TCTAC Geographic Coverage**

- Three Regions have one EJ TCTAC each (1, 3, and 7)
- Four Regions will have two EJ TCTACs each (2, 5, 9, and 10)
- 3 EJ TCTACs will coordinate to cover Regions 4 and 6 (southern US communities)
- 3 National EJ TCTACs are being selected
 - ▣ Note – There was not a robust response of applications proposing a Region 8 EJ TCTAC, so one of the National EJ TCTACs will take the lead and provide TA to Region 8 communities for the time being
- We have a national EJ TCTAC exclusively serving tribal communities!

SELECTEE LIST

- 1) University of Connecticut (EPA Region 1)
- 2) West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (EPA Region 2)
- 3) Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metro Campus (EPA Region 2)
- 4) National Wildlife Federation (EPA Region 3)
- 5) Deep South Center for EJ (EPA Regions 4 and 6)
- 6) Research Triangle Institute (EPA Region 4)
- 7) Blacks in Green (EPA Region 5)
- 8) University of Minnesota (EPA Region 5)
- 9) New Mexico State University (EPA Region 6)
- 10) Wichita State University (EPA Region 7)
- 11) University of Arizona (EPA Region 9)
- 12) San Diego State University (EPA Region 9)
- 13) Willamette Partnership (EPA Region 10)
- 14) University of Washington (EPA Region 10)
- 15) International City/County Management Association (National TCTAC)
- 16) Institute for Sustainable Communities (National TCTAC)
- 17) National Indian Health Board (National TCTAC)

TCTAC Selections



EPA'S ROLE

■ **Cooperative Agreements / Substantial EPA Involvement**

- Team of EPA Project Officers assigned to each EJ TCTAC
- Each team will work hand-in-hand with their EJ TCTAC and meet regularly for collaboration, strategizing, and assessment
- Substantial involvement will ensure meaningful progress and efficient/effective grant performance
- DOE personnel will also provide guidance and oversight to the TCTAC network

■ **Coordination with Other Agency TA Efforts**

- EJ TCTACs will plan and coordinate with other federal TA providers to leverage each other's offerings and minimize duplication (as much as practicable).