



OVERVIEW:  
Environmental and  
Climate Justice (E&CJ)  
Communities Grant  
Program

Number of Awards and  
Target Award Dates

JUNE 28, 2023



# OVERVIEW

**EPA received \$3 billion in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**  
\$2.8 billion for grants, \$200 million for technical assistance.

**EPA received \$100 million in the FY-22 and \$108 million in the FY-23 budgets to support EJ activities in OEJECR.**

Over half of those funds are planned to be allocated to grants and technical assistance.

# IRA – E&CJ COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM STATUTORY LANGUAGE / DEFINITIONS

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“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a partnership between—

“(i) an Indian tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education; and

“(ii) a community-based nonprofit organization;

“(B) a community-based nonprofit organization; or

“(C) a partnership of community-based nonprofit organizations.

# IRA – E&CJ COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM STATUTORY LANGUAGE / DEFINITIONS

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(a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Administrator for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

“(1) \$2,800,000,000 to remain available **until September 30, 2026**, to award grants for the activities described in subsection (b); and “(2) \$200,000,000 to remain available **until September 30, 2026**, to provide technical assistance to eligible entities related to grants awarded under this section.

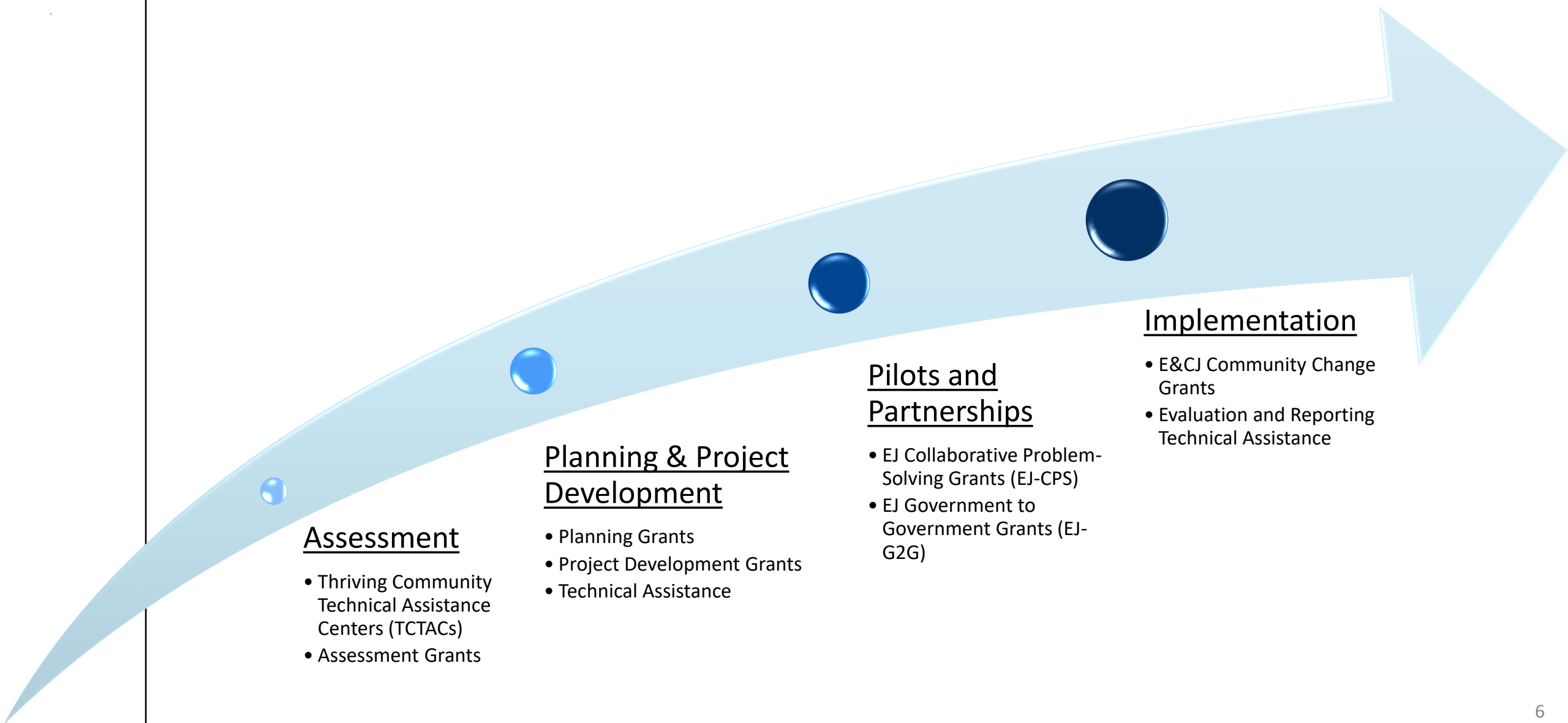
“(b) GRANTS.— “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall use amounts made available under subsection (a)(1) to award grants for periods **of up to 3 years** to eligible entities to carry out activities described in paragraph (2) that benefit disadvantaged communities, as defined by the Administrator.

# GOALS

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- Provide resources as soon as possible on the ground to communities and their partners.
- Meet communities at their needs and where they are in their journey.
- Prove that investing in communities are the best investments to solve the toughest problems in places with the biggest challenges.
- Achieve lasting, meaningful change on the ground.
- Provide substantial oversight and tracking of all E&CJ awards to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse and achieve program objectives.

# ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM



## Assessment

- Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)
- Assessment Grants

## Planning & Project Development

- Planning Grants
- Project Development Grants
- Technical Assistance

## Pilots and Partnerships

- EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants (EJ-CPS)
- EJ Government to Government Grants (EJ-G2G)

## Implementation

- E&CJ Community Change Grants
- Evaluation and Reporting Technical Assistance

# ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

TCTAC awards are in process and being  
awarded in June/July 2023

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# FIRST STEP – FUNDAMENTAL SUPPORT

Competition  
Complete

## EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)

- **Background/Purpose:**
  - TCTACs will provide fundamental technical assistance (TA) services, including grant writing training, grant mgmt training, and capacity-building support to underserved communities throughout the nation. Centers are funded by both EPA and Dept. of Energy (DOE).
- **Access:** Ground floor, front door entry point for communities. No barrier to entry.
- **Grant Funding and number of Awards**
  - **No IRA Funds**, 100% of funding provided by baseline EJ appropriations (plus DOE funds)
  - \$177 million total; \$10 - \$13 million million per Award (5-year Project Period)
  - 13 Regional TCTACs – delivering direct TA to communities in their Regions
  - 3 National TCTACs – lift up and support the Regional TCTACs; fill gaps in coverage
  - Region 8 and Region 1 plan to open competitions for their TCTACs in July 2023
- **Award Status**
  - 6 TCTACs awarded as of June 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Other TCTACs are on track for award by mid July



# ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Competition in early 2023 to establish EJ Thriving Communities Grantmakers (i.e., pass-through funders). Grants awarded to pass-through funders in February 2024.



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# STEP TWO – ACCESSIBLE GRANT FUNDING

## EJ Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (EJ TCGM)

- **Background/Purpose:**
  - EPA will fund 11 pass-through entities (i.e., Grantmakers) nationwide to provide (sub)grants to community-based nonprofits and other eligible subrecipients for assessment, planning, and project development activities.
- **Grant Funding**
  - \$550 million total; \$50 million per Award
  - 100% IRA funds (approximately)
  - 80% of total awarded funds must go to communities via subgrants (Eligibility Criteria)
  - Grantee Type(s): Colleges/Universities; Large Nonprofits; Tribal Govt./Organizations
  - Eligible Subrecipients: CBOs, Tribal entities, US Territories, local governments, colleges/universities
- **Access:**
  - Low barrier to entry. Ability to provide thousands of subgrants nationwide in next 3 years w/simplified process.
- **Timing**
  - RFA closes June 30th. Selections in November 2023. Awards in February 2024.

Competition  
closes on  
June 30<sup>th</sup>

# ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Open January 10<sup>th</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup> for applications. Directly awarded by EPA in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY2024.



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# STEP 3 – LEGACY EJ GRANT PROGRAMS

Applications  
currently  
under  
review!

## EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants (EJCPS)

- Description: Cooperative agreement grants to CBOs. Expansion of EPA’s legacy EJ community grant program with larger awards to pilot implementation activities through community-centered collaborative partnerships
- Grant Funding: \$30 million of IRA funds. Up to \$500K per project.
- Target Number of Projects Awarded: 83
- Timing: Selections announced in September 2023 and awards in November/December

## EJ Government to Government Grants (EJG2G)

- Description: Grants to government agencies partnered with CBOs. Expansion of EPA’s legacy EJ government grants program with larger awards to gov. agencies partnering with communities to develop plans, projects, and pilot implementation activities
- Grant Funding: \$40 million of IRA funds and \$30 million of baseline. Up to \$1 million per project.
- Target Number of Projects: 70
- Timing: Selections announced in September 2023 and awards in December

# ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Winter/spring 2023 received public feedback on design of the implementation grants. RFA to be released in September 2023.



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# STEP 4 – LARGE IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

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## Environmental and Climate Justice (E&CJ) Community Change Grants

- **Background/Purpose:**
  - Change grants will provide levels of funding to communities to change the reality on the ground (i.e., infrastructure, revitalization work, and significant implementation activities) related to EJ issues
- **Grant Funding:**
  - Up to \$2 Billion of IRA funds
  - Directly funded through EPA
- **Timing:**
  - Grant competition window opens in September 2023. One-year open window for receiving proposals. Proposals scored on a monthly basis.
- **Innovative Application Process:**
  - Written applications, oral presentations, and rolling application period

Launch  
Competition  
in September  
2023

# STEP 4 – LARGE IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

## Environmental and Climate Justice (E&CJ) Community Change Grants

- **Funding per Award (cooperative agreements):**
  - \$10 million - \$20 million per award
  - Awards made in the Regions and HQ
  - 3-year Project Period
- **Award Timing and # of Awards:**
  - Change grants will begin being awarded in Q2 FY24
  - Change grants awarded on a rolling basis for at least one year
  - # of awards will be significant over the one-year period
  - # of awards depends on volume of applications received
- Compliance with **Build America Buy America (BABA)** and **Davis-Bacon**

Launch  
Competition  
in Summer  
2023

# KEY PROGRAM MILESTONES (2023-2025)

Launch  
RFA/RFP



Award  
Grant/Contract



- Program Design
- Competition & Review
- Funds Awarded

Program	Funds	FY 2023			FY 2024				FY 2025
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4
TCTACs	\$100M								
Grantmaker	\$550M	 Pass-through funders apply to EPA for funding			 EPA selects 5-11 pass-through funders who each then award assessment, planning, and project development grants to subgrantees in discrete regions of the country				
EJ-CPS	\$30M								
EJ-G2G	\$70M								
E&CJ Community Change Grants Round 1	Up to \$2B							Change Grants awarded on a rolling basis beginning Q1	



# IRA – E&CJ COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM STATUTORY LANGUAGE / DEFINITIONS

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## Subtitle B—Hazardous Materials

### SEC. 60201. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE BLOCK GRANTS.

The Clean Air Act is amended by inserting after section 137, as added by subtitle A of this title, the following: “SEC. 138. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE BLOCK GRANTS.”

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“(1) \$2,800,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2026, to award grants for the activities described in subsection (b); and “(2) \$200,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2026, to provide technical assistance to eligible entities related to grants awarded under this section.

“(b) GRANTS.— “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall use amounts made available under subsection (a)(1) to award grants for periods of up to 3 years to eligible entities to carry out activities described in paragraph (2) that benefit disadvantaged communities, as defined by the Administrator.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity may use a grant awarded under this subsection for—

“(A) community-led air and other pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation, and investments in low- and zero emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure and workforce development that help reduce greenhouse gas (as defined in section 211(o)(1)(G) (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section)) emissions and other air pollutants;

“(B) mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events;

“(C) climate resiliency and adaptation;

“(D) reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution; or

“(E) facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal public processes, including facilitating such engagement in advisory groups, workshops, and rulemakings.

“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a partnership between—

“(i) an Indian tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education; and

“(ii) a community-based nonprofit organization;

“(B) a community-based nonprofit organization; or

“(C) a partnership of community-based nonprofit organizations.

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Administrator shall reserve 7 percent of the amounts made available under subsection (a) for administrative costs to carry out this section.”