

Webinar for Federally Recognized Tribes and Alaskan
Native Villages on the Environmental and Climate
Justice (ECJ) Grant Program Design

Presented by US EPA Headquarters

We want to hear your voice!

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U.S. EPA

8/15/2023



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PLEASE DON'T BE ON VPN during the webinar

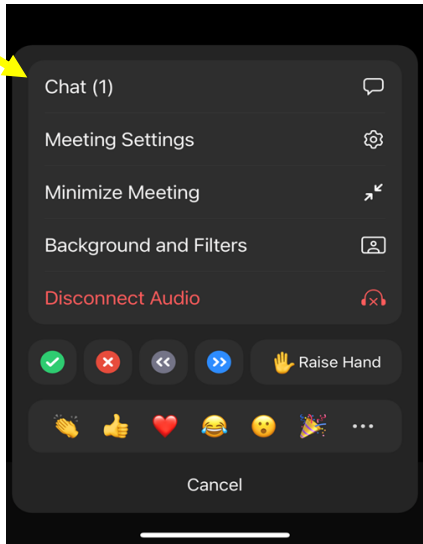
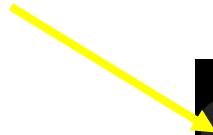


Questions

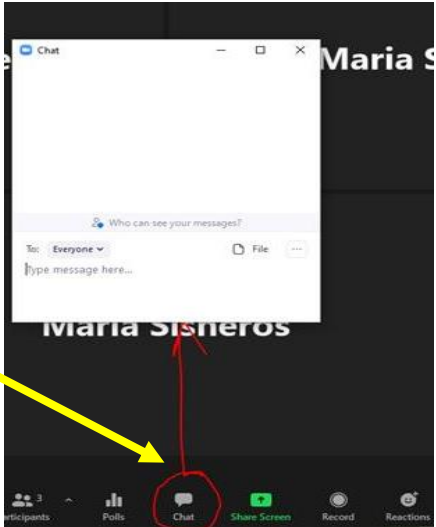
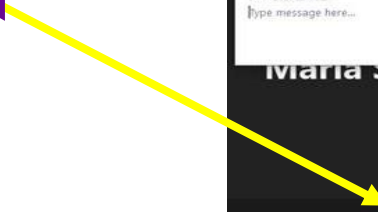
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Disclaimer

Today's event is being **recorded**.




Please note: By participating in today's online event, you acknowledge and consent that your name may be visible and/ or audible to others in the live online meeting, as well as captured in the recording.

We will post today's presentation and main session recording on ***EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice Program*** webpage:

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-environmental-justice-and-external-civil-rights>

AGENDA

- Program overview, background, and goals
- Questions and answers
- Discussion questions for input 



Environmental & Climate Justice (ECJ) Grant Program Development



CLIMATE EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



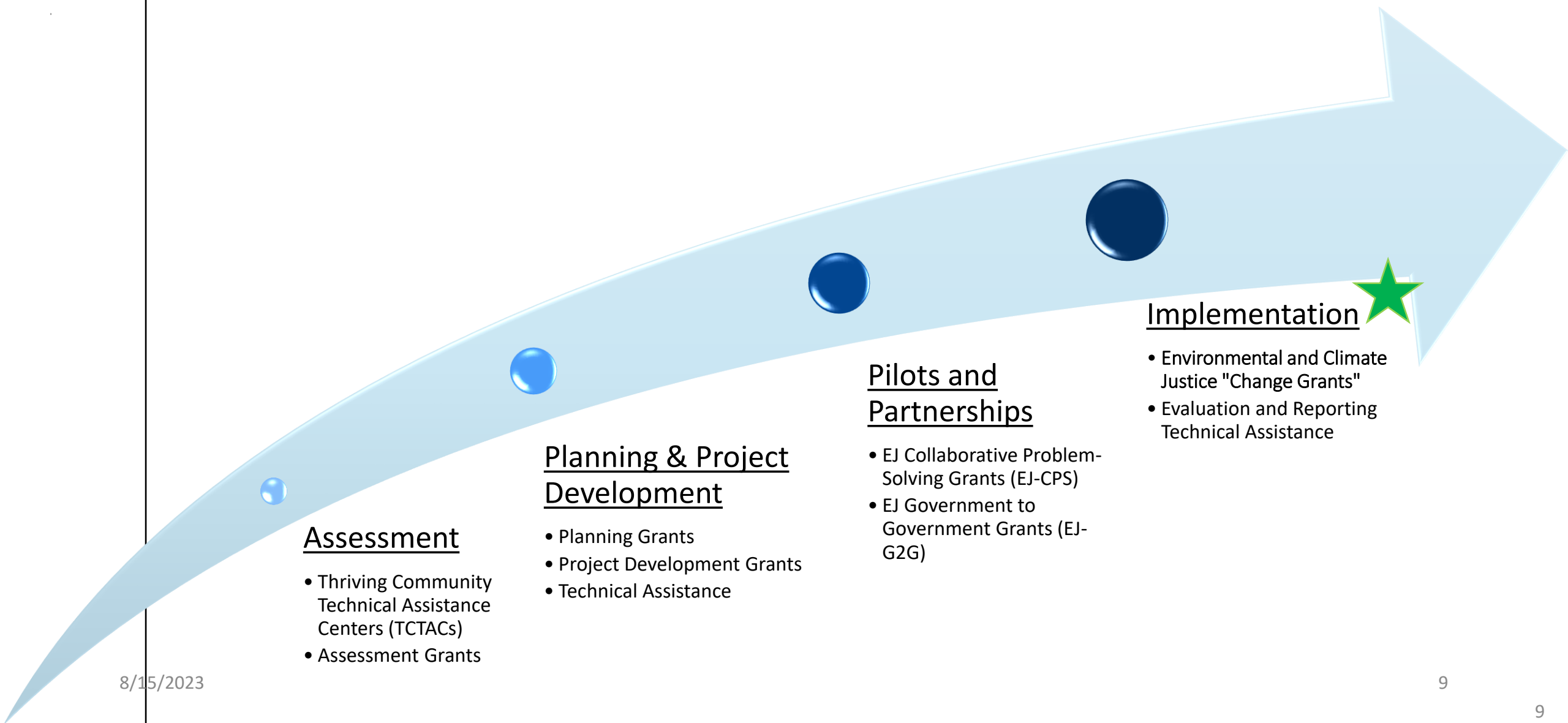
- **Environmental justice** is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
- Striving for **climate equity** is putting these same values into practice when tackling climate change impacts and ensuring that everyone has equal access to resources and safe spaces.
- Learn more: <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-equity>

OVERVIEW

\$3 billion under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to support environmental justice activities

- IRA:
 - ✓ \$2.8 billion to provide grants for activities benefiting disadvantaged communities.
 - ✓ \$200 million for technical assistance related to the grants

GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



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

- Environmental and Climate Justice "Change Grants"
- Evaluation and Reporting Technical Assistance

STATUTORY BASIS FOR OEJECR IRA GRANTS

The Environmental and Climate Justice Grants (ECJ) program was created by the Inflation Reduction Act and is contained in Section 138 of the Clean Air Act with flexibility for program design within the following parameters:

- **Funding**: Approximately **\$2 Billion** for the ECJ Change grants. An additional \$200 million is available to provide TA for the IRA funded grants.
- **Period of Performance**: The grants cannot exceed **three years**. No extensions afforded.
- **Eligible Entities For the Grants**:
 - A **community-based non-profit organization** (CBO)
 - A partnership of CBOs
 - A partnership between a CBO and **tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education**

STATUTORY BASIS FOR OEJECR IRA EPA GRANTS

Grants can be for the following activities:

- 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 emissions and other air pollutants;
- Mitigating [climate](#) and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events;
- Climate resiliency and adaptation;
- Reducing indoor toxics and [indoor air pollution](#); or
- Facilitating [engagement](#) of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

Pollution Reduction



Climate Resilience

Community Engagement



Workforce Development



EQUITY IN GOVERNMENT



ECJ “CHANGE GRANTS” PROGRAM VISION

Concentrated, holistic investment for disadvantaged communities to support their multifaceted community-driven projects

- Projects are individually strong and collectively work together to advance a community's vision for change

Strong partnerships with demonstrated history of, and commitment to, working within the community and integrating their input

- Enable the development of long-term partnerships at multiple levels

Community and stakeholder engagement embedded into program design

- Invest in people and social infrastructure in addition to physical infrastructure

Technical assistance and capacity building provided at every level

- Multiple forms of technical assistance to help grantees and communities
- Specific program development support for projects that have a broad and diffuse benefit

Innovative competition features

- 12-month rolling application process with various program offerings at different amounts that applicants can access when ready
- Adding an oral presentation evaluation component to enhance ability of capacity constrained organizations to receive awards

GOALS

- Provide resources as soon as possible for on the ground activities to benefit communities.
- Meet communities at their needs and where they are in their journey.
- Prove that investing in communities is the best investment to solve the toughest problems in places with the biggest challenges.
- Achieve lasting, meaningful change on the ground.
- Be the bottom-up to all the other top-downs!

HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY?



- Find your partners and plan now – eligibility is not changing!
- Build your coalitions
- Identify meaningful transformative projects implementing strategies to help address environmental and climate justice concerns within 3 years (larger award sizes, up to \$20M)
- Identify governmental policies and programs that can be improved with community voices (smaller award sizes)
- Stay up to date with Environmental and Climate Justice Program funding opportunities
- Become familiar with federal mapping tools
 - Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
 - Environmental Justice Screening Tool (EJ Screen)

Listening Sessions on the Environmental and Climate Justice Program Design

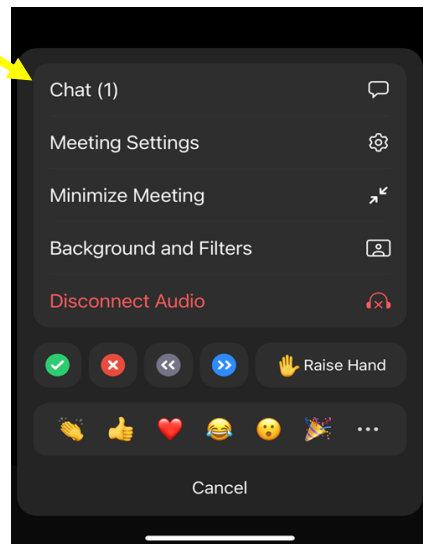
Listening Session	Location	Date and Time
Territories: Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands NEJAC Public Comment Period on the Environmental and Climate Justice Program Design	Hybrid, submit written comments on NEJAC Website	Live: 7/25-7/27 Written: submit through 8/9/23
Tribes: Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Alaskan Native Villages, Tribal Community Representatives, and more	Virtual, visit ECJ Program Website	8/3/23 1:30-3:30pm EDT
Territories: American Samoa	Virtual, visit ECJ Program Website	8/8/23 5:00pm SST
Territories: Guam, CNMI	Virtual, visit ECJ Program Website	8/9/23 5:00pm GMT+10

Questions

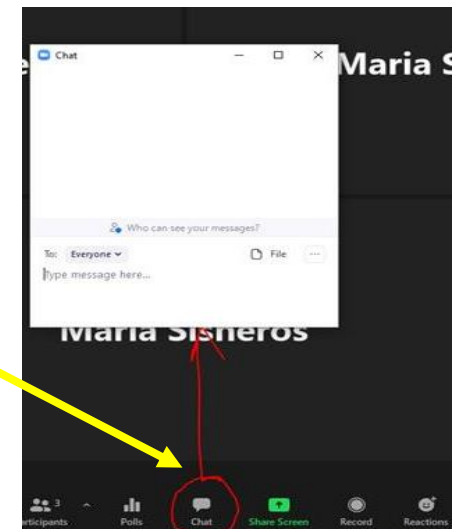
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Breakout Sessions Next!

*Recorded only for notetaking purposes; will not be posted online****

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Main channel: Contractor Support

Room 1: Emily Good; Regions 1 –5

Room 2: Jesse Lindsey; Regions 6 - 8

Room 3: Gabby Plotkin; Regions 9 – 10 (not including Alaskan Native Tribes)

Room 4: Alessandro Molina; Alaskan Native Tribes (R10)

Room 5: Jade Alvey; All other attendees – local governments, universities, national organizations)

BREAKOUT ROOMS: REGIONS/STATES

Room 1: Emily Good; **Regions 1 –5**

STATES: ME, MA, VT, NH, CT, RI, NY, NJ, PR, PA, VA, VW, DE, MD, DC, KY, TN, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS, FL, WI, MI, IL, OH, IL, IN, MN

Room 2: Jesse Lindsay; **Regions 6 – 8**

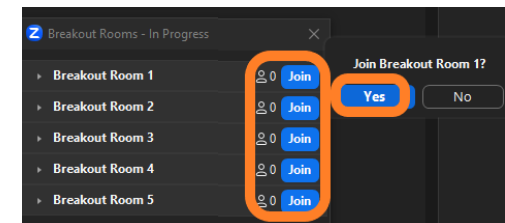
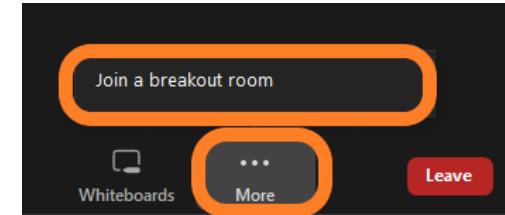
STATES: NM, TX, OK, AR, LA, NE, KS, IA, MO, MT, WY, ND, SD, CO, UT

Room 3: Gabby Plotkin; **Regions 9 – 10 (not including Alaskan Native Tribes)**

STATES: CA, NV, AZ, HI, WA, OR, ID, AK

Room 4: Alessandro Molina; **Alaskan Native Tribes (R10)**

Room 5: Jade Alvey; **All other attendees – local governments, universities, national organizations)**



DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What projects provide the most benefit to Tribes, Tribal communities, and Alaskan Native Villages?
- How can we strengthen community capacity to ensure long-term impact of these projects?
- What has kept you from applying for environmental justice funding in the past?

Thank You for Joining Us!

The presentation slides and the recording will be available soon on our Environmental and Climate Justice Program website:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program>

You can follow-up with questions at: ECJRFI@epa.gov

Sign-up for our EPA EJ listserv by sending a blank email to:

join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov