

Webinar for U.S. Territories on the Environmental and
Climate Justice (ECJ) Program Design
Presented by US EPA Headquarters

We want to hear your voice!

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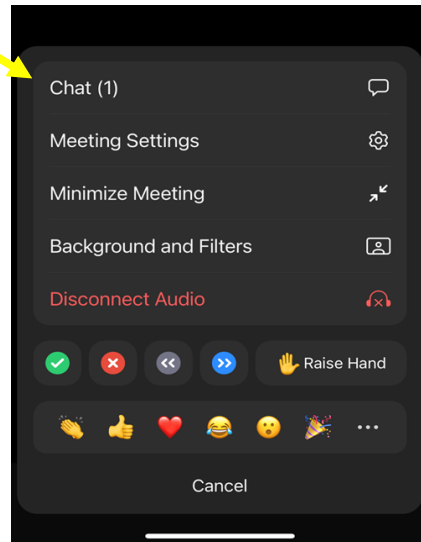
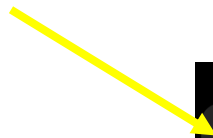


Questions

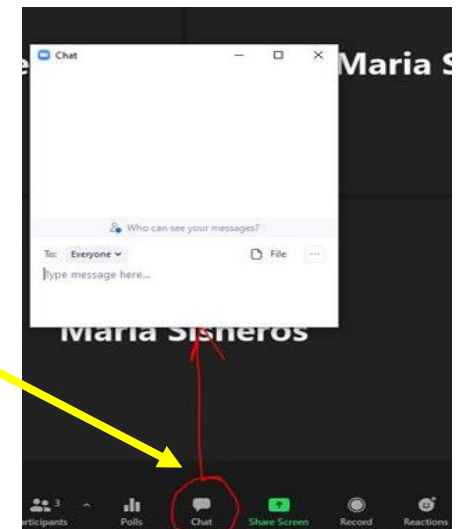
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Disclaimer

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 "Community 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 Community 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 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.

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!

ECJ “COMMUNITY 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

HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY?

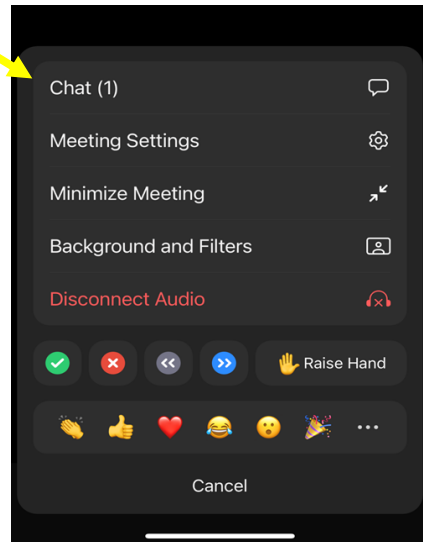
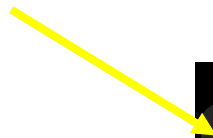
- Find your partners and plan now – eligibility is not changing!
- Build your coalitions
- Identify meaningful transformative projects implementing strategies to help address environmental and climate justice concerns within 3 years (larger award sizes, up to \$20M)
- Identify governmental policies and 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)

Questions

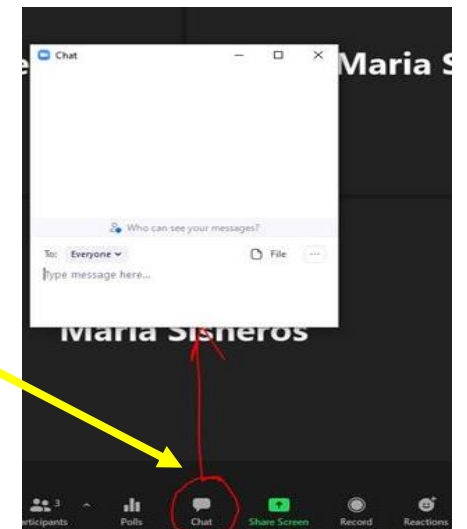
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DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What projects provide the most benefit to US Territories?
- 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