

2023 The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) Program Project Summaries

EPA's EJCPS program provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues in their communities. The 98 EJCPS selections, which are all funded through Inflation Reduction Act, will work to address the diverse set of challenges facing communities with environmental justice concerns, including threats from wildfires and other climate impacts; indoor and outdoor air quality; access to healthy food; water quality and toxic pollution; and the ability to develop health impact assessments, emergency response plans, and economic revitalization initiatives. Learn more here: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-5>.

Below are initial project descriptions that are subject to change. Proposed funding amounts per applicant can be found at the bottom of this document.

Region 1

1)

Recipient: Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Project Title: Building Capacity for Disadvantaged Working Waterfront Communities to Engage Constructively in Offshore Wind Development in the Gulf of Maine

Project Location: Portland, ME

Project Description: This project will build capacity for disadvantaged, waterfront communities to have meaningful involvement in the offshore wind (OSW) development process in the Gulf of Maine. This project will create a community of practice that focuses on constructive engagement in the development process to create community benefit arrangements. Gulf of Maine Research Institute will build a shared understanding of communities' informational and engagement needs to tailor outreach resources. They will develop resources and opportunities that inform and prepare communities to participate in the OSW process from the identified knowledge gaps and areas for support (e.g., OSW impacts, procedural process clarity, case studies of success, and engagement in public comment periods), and will share their work through a network of community partners positioned within project communities. The team will build the capacity for communities to engage in community benefit arrangements through collaborative problem-solving and co-creation. They will facilitate workshops to codesign response measures that mitigate or minimize adverse impacts of OSW development on communities. The project team believes that the most equitable form of OSW development emphasizes an optimized, shared use of marine resources and promotes shared success for working waterfront communities' long-term sustainability and resilience. Gulf of Maine Research Institute will build genuine and trusting relationships between developers, government, and communities to ensure that the community of practice persists beyond the project's period of performance.

2)

Recipient: Health Resources in Action

Project Title: Building on HEAL (Healthy Environments Advance Learning)

Project Location: Boston, MA

Project Description: Building on Healthy Environmental Advance Learning (HEAL) is an expansion of HRiA/Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership's (MAAP) current efforts to build knowledge and capacity to improve environmental health conditions within MA schools, optimizing outcomes related to healthy childhood development, particularly for districts where students are most burdened by asthma and extreme heat. This project expands on HRiA/MAAP's current EPA funded project – HEAL: Building Capacity for Resilient Schools in MA – by providing more in-depth capacity building, education, wrap around technical assistance (TA), implementation assistance and funding to two to three high need schools in MA's most ethnically and racially diverse communities.

3)

Recipient: Childhood Lead Action Project, Inc.

Project Title: Community-Based Lead Poisoning Prevention Project

Project Location: Providence, RI

Project Description: The aim of the Childhood Lead Action Project's Community-Based Lead Poisoning Prevention Project is to work strategically in Providence, RI to reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning, improve the safety of rental housing, and increase the capacity of residents, government regulators, housing funding agencies, and other stakeholders to work together to address the lead issue on a local level. Providence has a high incidence of lead poisoning and is home to substantial low-income/minority populations. The activities in this proposal were proposed by residents and allied stakeholders as next steps to build on to current work, including continued meaningful involvement and direction provided by local community members already engaged in leadership roles; a multi-stakeholder group with previously established relationships, trust, mutual goals, and responsibilities agreed to aimed at bringing unsafe rental properties into compliance with lead laws through outreach, financial assistance, and enforcement; a pathway for further community member environmental learning and leadership development through accessible training opportunities in English and Spanish, lead safety and environmental advocacy training for community health workers, and more worker safety (RRP) training. By the end of this project, families living in Providence will have a stronger representation in lead prevention efforts and a deeper commitment to environmental improvements in the parts of the city hardest hit by this environmental injustice.

4)

Recipient: Mystic River Watershed Association

Project Title: Cooling Solutions for Heat and Health

Project Location: Arlington, MA

Project Description: This project will convene stakeholders including residents, in Chelsea, Everett and Malden (combined population of 111,019) –three highly urbanized cities in the Mystic River Watershed where residents are disproportionately impacted by heat and poor air quality–to develop resident-led policy, systems and environmental interventions related to heat. The ultimate outcomes will be increased resilience to extreme heat resulting in a reduction in conditions that exacerbate respiratory incidents and emergency room visits caused by heat. Objectives include: 1) support resident capacity related to heat/health and community action; 2) convene CBOs, health organizations, residents and

municipalities to learn from each other and more holistically address climate change as the public health concern it is; 3) widely engage with residents to inform them about heat and potential interventions; and 4) develop localized cooling interventions and identify related funding streams. Toward achieving these objectives, the team will: convene a resident steering committee; host community workshops; reach residents through direct outreach and engagement; create a toolkit for residents and municipalities on mitigation interventions; develop at least one intervention each community; and share knowledge through webinars and a meeting of regional organizations.

5)

Recipient: Nashua River Watershed Association Inc.

Project Title: Fitchburg Green Solutions Project: Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Impacts in Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Project Location: Groton, MA

Project Description: The project will utilize natural structures and processes to manage stormwater, such as riparian buffer zones, rain gardens, bio swales, pocket forests, bio retention structures, and permeable pavement. Funding from this grant will be used for costs of planning & implementing green infrastructure, including materials, labor, and project management. A project coordinator will oversee the implementation and manage community outreach efforts. These nature-based solutions can reduce stormwater runoff, reduce Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) frequency, improve water quality, and provide numerous co-benefits such as increased access to green space and improved air quality. To achieve Nashua River Watershed Association Inc.'s goals, the team will work with community organizations, residents, and city officials to identify suitable locations for green infrastructure. The team will conduct community outreach and educational workshops to raise awareness about the benefits of green infrastructure and encourage community involvement. Nashua River Watershed Association Inc. also hopes to provide a model for sustainable infrastructure solutions that can be replicated in other urban areas. Fitchburg is an urban area with a history of environmental injustice, where low-income communities and communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by industrial pollution and lack of access to green spaces. The city has experienced increased flash flooding and stormwater runoff due to climate change, exacerbating the negative impacts on the environment and these communities. Fitchburg is located in a valley with the Nashua River running through it, and water management is an issue. The team's project will focus on implementing green infrastructure solutions to address open space access, stormwater management, and heat island issues.

6)

Recipient: New Haven Ecology Project

Project Title: Green Jobs Corps: Growing a New Generation of New Haven Environmental Justice Problem-Solvers

Project Location: New Haven, CT

Project Description: Between Nov 2023 and Dec 2025, NHEP will engage New Haven high school students in at least 200 paid jobs as environmental justice problem-solvers. These young people will work with community organizations and residents to set the vision and tackle goals – e.g., by leading community outreach activities for New Haven's next comprehensive city plan. They will directly engage 1,200+ community members in EJ problem solving and take on education and outreach efforts that

engage 30,000+ people – e.g., through campaigns to generate street tree requests in their own low-income neighborhoods. They will implement on-the-ground responses to climate change, air quality, urban waters, waste, and chemical use challenges – e.g., by helping to operate the team’s composting operation, planting 200+ street trees, and carrying out projects to reduce disproportionate climate impact. In the process, these young people will grow into environmental leaders, travel pathways to EJ careers, and help build their city’s capacity to improve environmental health.

7)

Recipient: Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health

Project Title: Student Organizing for Educational and Environmental Justice in Boston Public Schools (BPS)

Project Location: Boston, MA

Project Description: This project seeks to organize local students disproportionately impacted by environmental harms to build their collective power and influence over repairs, renovations, and new construction in the Boston Public School District (the District), and to directly influence the design and implementation of proposed District infrastructure overhauls like the Green New Deal for Boston Public Schools (BPS). Through youth-led workshops held in BPS classrooms, clubs, and after-school programs, Teens Lead@Work (TL@W) will educate and organize the BPS young people facing the most dire school building conditions. TL@W and its allied organizations will collaborate to create independent spaces for students to discuss grievances, understand the root causes of District issues, and craft campaign strategies and tactics to win their demands. By amplifying the power of the students in BPS, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health hopes to ensure equitable, community-centered solutions that maximize benefits and minimize harm to Boston’s most vulnerable students. Specific outcomes will include a large cadre of educated BPS student organizers, a student-created list of EJ policy recommendations, fact-sheets and reports based on in-person walkthroughs of BPS school environments, and a student-led strategic campaign to implement student recommendations including universal classrooms HVAC systems, equitable renovations and new building constructions that minimize disruption to student communities, green and sustainably powered schools, and academic accommodations for students on very hot days.

8)

Recipient: United Charitable

Project Title: Growing Environmental Justice Through Community Food Forest Development

Project Location: Ashburn, ME

Project Description: This project will work with 11 partner organizations to develop 8 food forests (i.e., diverse orchards that are designed to mimic the natural ecology to maximize the production of healthy food), providing benefits such as improvement of public and environmental health, while serving communities with high rates of food insecurity. This project is focused on creating greater climate resiliency and food security for communities disproportionately impacted by environmental injustice. Information gathered will be shared through a nation-wide network (i.e., Giving Grove) to replicate best practices in developing thriving community food forests across the U.S. United Charitable will plant and distribute 1,870 fruit and nut trees; provide direct educational programs for 500+ individuals; and create systems of ongoing maintenance, including establishing regional AmeriCorps VISTA Community Orchard

Steward positions and documenting best practices and lessons learned that can be shared with affiliated organizations to replicate successes broadly. Specific geographic areas are located within rural areas of Maine (Auburn, Norway, Passadumkeag, Starks, Indian Island, Indian Township, Lewiston, Millinocket), representing communities facing food insecurity.

9)

Recipient: Refugee Development Center

Project Title: Refugee Lead Safety

Project Location: Providence, RI

Project Description: This project seeks to address housing safety and lead poisoning among refugees in Rhode Island. The main objectives are to increase awareness about Lead Safety and decrease the incidence of lead poisoning among refugees. Many refugee families lack important public health knowledge. This project will promote cultural brokerage, eliminate language barriers, educate refugees about lead poisoning, encourage screening for refugee children 0-16, and engage partners to ensure improved housing conditions for refugees in Rhode Island. Therefore, the activities for this project will be preventative home visits and phone check-ins on lead safety with refugee families and collaboration with relevant partners. If signs of lead in the home or lead poisoning among refugee clients are identified, further action will be taken to address these issues through the support of strategic partnerships. The preventative and intervention activities through this proposal will be conducted in partnership with The Rhode Island Department of Health, the State Refugee Coordinator in Rhode Island, and Rhode Island Coalition Against Prejudice and Bias. The hope is that, in the long term, all refugees in Rhode Island will have increased knowledge about lead safety and will spread awareness among their family and friends. In a broader sense, the long term goal is that the majority of refugees in Rhode Island are in safe and healthier living conditions due to advocacy and collaboration with community partners.

10)

Recipient: Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Project Title: Healthy Air Network â Building rural community capacity and youth education on air quality and climate resilience in the Connecticut River Valley

Project Location: Amherst, MA

Project Description: The Healthy Air Network will expand and deepen community-based air pollution monitoring, training and education in the Connecticut River Valley region by adding rural communities to the urban partners already engaged in the network, incorporating extreme heat as a related climate risk, and supporting youth engagement and action. Hitchcock Center for the Environment will develop an integrated approach to the Valley as an "interconnected airshed" since particulate and ozone pollution can travel far from their sources, regional weather patterns influence both air quality and extreme heat, and effective solutions require communities to work together. For example, increasing greenspace (through planting trees, native species, pollinators, and/or gardens) and improving regional public transit can simultaneously improve air quality, reduce heat impacts, and improve health. The team will build on an existing Hitchcock Center program that supports teams of middle/high school youth in environmental action projects and will create an action planning toolkit that will support youth projects on the intersection of climate change, air quality, extreme heat, and health. Hitchcock Center

for the Environment will expand support for the resident advisor model for air sensor maintenance and community outreach and expand public communication via the Network's website and social media. The team will use network-wide data reporting and analysis to identify trends and areas of concern for air quality and extreme heat. Youth and community groups will be able to "adopt a sensor" to monitor air quality and extreme heat, "plant a tree" to improve it, and use monitoring data to explore local impacts.

11)

Recipient: Maine People's Resource Center (MPRC)

Project Title: Frontline-led Clean Energy Career Program for BIPOC Job Seekers

Project Location: Bangor, ME

Project Description: This project outlines a community-led program to invest in the workforce development necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants through clean energy projects. This project has a vision to (1) provide clean energy career pathways for marginalized populations in underserved communities (2) develop the leadership and skills of EJ communities to impact clean energy projects and (3) thereby ameliorate economic and health disparities and reduce adverse climate impacts and build climate resilience.

12)

Recipient: The Nature Conservancy

Project Title: Collaborating for Tree Equity in Providence, Rhode Island

Project Location: Providence, RI

Project Description: Collaborating for Tree Equity in Providence, Rhode Island builds from a 3-year Tree Plan process. The Nature Conservancy will develop community-led approaches to build the capacity to implement the plan's goal to add 30,000 new trees in low canopy, environmental justice neighborhoods. Using the EJCS model, The Nature Conservancy will create community-responsive residential and public tree planting and care pilot programs. The team will plant 1,000 trees and create the foundation for growing an equitable urban forest and ensuring the benefits are equitably shared across Providence. Thoughtful and intentional management of Providence's urban forest is needed to ensure that it can thrive in a way that serves frontline communities and does not lead to displacement. Community Representatives will guide the Steering Committee, and Tree Ambassadors will lead deep community-wide education and engagement. In some communities, this means building capacity for stewardship and a greater understanding of the values of trees. In others, this means building an understanding of the disproportionate impacts of environmental issues and developing program, policy and funding mechanisms for allocating resources equitably. Through the planning process, the team has developed a shared understanding of the issues, created a community vision, and established strategic goals. With this proposal the team seeks EPA's support to build collaborative partnerships and community capacity to create a network of mutual accountability to address barriers to sustain long-term plan implementation. The Nature Conservancy will bring structure to multi-stakeholder partnerships and leverage resources among community organizations, the City, and institutions to establish the path for constructive engagement by relevant stakeholders.

13)

Recipient: Center for an Ecology-Based Economy

Project Title: Increasing Community Resilience Across Municipalities, Schools, and Public Land through Education, Planning and Technical Assistance

Project Location: West ME Foothills, ME

Project Description: To build community climate resilience and protect the environment, this two-year project will build on partnerships with local towns, Center for an Ecology-Based Economy's local school district (MSAD17), and local agencies to support communities with education and planning. The team will support the town of Norway to implement projects and develop a climate action plan linked to their comprehensive plan. Materials developed will be shared to help other local municipalities prepare for future projects and funding opportunities. Center for an Ecology-Based Economy will also accelerate their work with MSAD17 to transition to renewable energy and make building efficiency upgrades, providing education for the school board, staff, and community members to increase support. Energy costs for their district in FY 2021/22 were \$1.3 million, and in FY 2022/23, are projected to exceed \$2.3 million. Locally sourced renewable energy will help stabilize costs and increase resilience. Much of the rural area is forested, with private landowners, the school district, land trust, municipalities, and the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) owning significant parcels. In partnership with OCSWCD, the team will offer educational workshops around forest management practices that can generate income while sequestering carbon and protecting watersheds. Partnering with the Western Foothills Land Trust (WFLT) will provide connections to private and land trust-owned properties suitable for demonstration projects. WFLT staff will share model management practices and connect interested landowners to the project. WFLT will support Center for an Ecology-Based Economy in identifying landscapes particularly suitable for climate adaptation and potential demonstration projects.

Region 2

1)

Recipient: PathStone Corporation

Project Title: Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving in Arecibo, Barceloneta and Utuado, Puerto Rico - PathStone

Project Location: Arecibo, Barceloneta, Utuado, PR

Project Description: This project will assist residents of underserved, high poverty, rural, Hispanic communities to develop emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency skills and plans to minimize exposure to pollutants, exploitation, injury and illness and maximize healthy recovery and thriving before, during and after natural disasters—hurricanes, tornadoes, coastal flooding and earthquakes. These disasters disproportionately impact the environmentally overburdened, low-income, rural communities this EJCS project will serve: Arecibo, Barceloneta, and Utuado in Puerto Rico. Outputs/outcomes will include individuals gaining knowledge and skills for direct use to mitigate negative impacts and manage resources, including water purification, food storage, and preparing shelters; with NIMS ICS certifications for the FEMA Incident Command System. Other outcomes include skills and FCC certifications for emergency communications, and specialized response skills for earthquakes and hurricanes, including preparing for emergency helicopter access. Residents will learn about what is required to attain Community Hub status and contracts with the PR government to obtain/distribute resources. A significant EJ outcome is that residents will engage with Manejo de

Emergencias/Emergency Management to develop or expand three community response plans and gain meaningful involvement in decisions directly affecting their communities.

2)

Recipient: We Stay/Nos Quedamos (NQ)

Project Title: Nos Quedamos Climate Justice, Community Resilience, and Emergency Preparedness Curricula for South Bronx Youth and Adults

Project Location: Bronx, NY

Project Description: Due to a long history of economic, social, and environmental injustice, the South Bronx community NQ serves is ill-prepared for events associated with climate change such as flooding, frequent storms, blackouts, brownouts, and the urban heat island effect. As a frontline organization serving this disproportionately vulnerable constituency, NQ recognizes community resilience to climate change as a critical gap in the fabric of Melrose Commons, and We Stay/Nos Quedamos has undertaken significant steps toward increasing resilience in the form of physical infrastructure. Local Climate Resiliency Hubs currently in development at three public sites within the Melrose footprint will be outfitted with key blue-green infrastructure, including broadband access, solar panels, stormwater collection and treatment, refrigerators, wireless charging stations etc. During emergencies, the Hubs will act as community-led crisis coordinating centers, and in non-crisis times they will be activated as centers for community learning, organizing, and power-building, where residents gain the tools to advocate for long term climate justice. Before the Hubs launch, NQ must bolster community knowledge and support of climate justice, community resilience, and emergency preparedness to truly operationalize the Hubs in a manner that paves the way for community leadership in these areas. NQ proposes to develop and implement training curricula for Melrose Commons residents, ultimately building the capacity of local Youth Leaders to train the wider community, deeply engage in local resilience issues, pursue careers in environmental justice and related fields, and advocate for local, state, and national policies that increase the resilience of environmental justice communities nationwide.

3)

Recipient: Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

Project Title: Bronx River Waterfront Redevelopment Health Impact Assessment

Project Location: Bronx, NY

Project Description: Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ) will lead a formal community-driven Health Impact Assessment to investigate the health impacts/benefits of redevelopment scenarios for brownfield sites located along the Bronx River waterfront in underserved and environmentally overburdened South Bronx catchment area. In partnership with the New York Dept. of State, YMPJ is currently leading a diverse community coalition to develop a Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Plan for this target area through a participatory process to analyze and inventory zoning, land-use, and ownership patterns; brownfield, abandoned, and vacant sites; parks and open spaces; key buildings and historically significant areas; transportation and infrastructure systems; and natural and environmental features in the area. Using that inventory, YMPJ will identify a short list of catalytic priority sites and potential redevelopment options for each based on community and stakeholder input. Focused on a community and population that faces harsh social determinants of health and dramatic health

disparities in the form of high rates of asthma, cancers, cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, and other ailments, the proposed HIA will consider improvements in air quality, healthy food access and local food production/sovereignty, availability of high quality open space for outdoor recreation and safe streets for active transportation, and a range of issues related to climate resilience and disaster preparedness, including strengthening stormwater management, expanding green infrastructure, and addressing built-environment- and housing-related risks extreme heat.

4)

Recipient: The Bronx is Blooming Inc.

Project Title: Program for Leaders Advancing their Community's Environment (PLACE): Partnership Building for Program Expansion and Urban Forestry Workforce Development in Frontline Communities

Project Location: Bronx, NY

Project Description: The Bronx is Blooming's Program for Leaders Advancing their Community's Environment (PLACE) hires local college students to mentor and train Bronx youth to then lead groups of volunteers in park revitalization projects. Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice unique train-the-trainer model flips the mentor structure usually seen in under-resourced communities. In addition to seasonal employment, participants receive training in leadership and horticulture skills, environmental education, exposure to higher education and green vocational jobs, and professional development support. Through new partnerships, The Bronx is Blooming Inc. will scale PLACE to engage more than 300 students to lead 3,000 volunteers in the stewardship of 3,000 trees, planting of 500 new trees and 3,000 native plants in 12 parks over the 3-year period. To provide pathways to employment in the environmental sector for highly engaged students, this project will extend PLACE into the spring and fall bridge seasons, with a focus on advancing technical skills and providing critical maintenance during existing gaps in the program. Incorporating Citizen Pruner training and certification for 120 PLACE participants will help prepare these young people for environmental jobs while establishing a community of tree stewards in areas of the city that are most in need. This project will promote environmental justice by building the capacity of chronically overburdened Bronx communities to address long-standing environmental harms and public health risks, especially those related to air quality, excessive heat, and park access. It leverages existing youth employment and workforce development programs and fosters new partnerships to make tangible improvements and increase climate resiliency.

5)

Recipient: Atma Connect

Project Title: Grassroots Leadership, Education, and a Safe Water Quality Network in Puerto Rico

Project Location: Rural Areas, PR

Project Description: This project will mitigate the health risks from water contamination stemming from poor and failing septic systems and establish a multistakeholder network to promote near and long-term solutions. In Puerto Rico, drinking water is pervasively contaminated, posing a risk to health, yet residents are overwhelmingly unaware of the problem. With 55% of buildings on septic systems, the problem is widespread and complex, involving lack of public knowledge, lax regulatory enforcement,

poverty inhibiting septic system upgrades, and absence of alarms by health professionals. This project focuses on five (5) goals:

- (1) Expand and strengthen a Safe Water Quality Network of residents, community organizations, private sector entities, and health and environmental agencies as the engine to conduct a massive education campaign that mobilizes Puerto Ricans to come together and collaborate towards short and long-term solutions;
- (2) Disseminate to residents guidance, tools, and affordable and no-cost options for testing water and septic systems;
- (3) Assist homeowners and building owners to access public funding programs for septic system upgrades (such as EPA, FEMA, and USDA);
- (4) Engage academics and health professionals to collaborate on data gathering to assess health impact from contaminated water; and
- (5) Collect Lessons Learned from this project. The ultimate goal is to facilitate the engagement of residents, especially from disadvantaged communities, in promoting impactful solutions that will ensure safe drinking water throughout the island. The network will be a durable resource for addressing this complex issue, and additional water safety issues, such as PFAS.

6)

Recipient: Bronx River Alliance, Inc

Project Title: Partnership for Urban Waterways in Bronx and Lower Westchester Counties, New York

Project Location: Bronx, NY

Project Description: The main objective of the project is to work in partnership to gather information about water quality in four rivers (Bronx River, Hutchinson River, Saw Mill River, Tibbetts Brook) in the Bronx/Westchester County, New York region, all communities with environmental justice concerns, and empower local residents to use the data to promote remediation of infrastructure and policies to improve water quality and quality of life. The project will enable hiring an Urban Waterways Environmental Justice Fellow recruited from local communities who will work with local stakeholders to carry out pathogen water quality monitoring, additional monitoring of high polluting outfalls identified through the project, and eDNA testing. Data revealing the environmental health of these waterways for people and wildlife will be analyzed and visualized to be accessible and useful to the public. Public education and outreach including community-based macroinvertebrate studies and public events will take place with stakeholders in each community to discuss solutions to regional water quality issues.

7)

Recipient: Sociedad Ambiente Marino

Project Title: Puerto Rico Planning for Locally Led Adaptation

Project Location: Culebra, Salinas, La Loiza, PR

Project Description: The Puerto Rico Planning for Locally-Led Adaptation (PlaLLA) project aims to improve the adaptive capacity of underserved communities in Puerto Rico to the adverse impacts of climate change. In this project the organization will work together with communities and municipalities

to mainstream locally-led adaptation (LLA) in community management, sectorial, municipal and national planning. The proposed project builds on the PR Citizen Assemblies, which have identified the need for decentralized climate strategies. At its core, the PlaLLA aims to increase the capacities of disadvantaged communities and local governments to adapt to climate variability and change by contributing to local, regional, and federal strategies that foster collective action and cooperation at different levels. The project will deploy the environmental justice collaborative problem-solving model from its inception in order to build and strengthen capacities for climate justice. To this end Sociedad Ambiente Marino has identified three components: (1) improve participation pathways in resilience planning through the coordination of a series of regional citizen climate dialogues to define local and national priorities, (2) strengthen technical capacity of local actors and governments for participatory decision-making through a municipal leaders workshop, and (3) incorporate LLA considerations into community, local, and national planning processes, working closely with municipal governments and national bodies to integrate the proceedings from the citizen assemblies, Community Climate Adaptation Plans, and supporting direct interventions co-designed with members of project communities.

8)

Recipient: Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC)

Project Title: Advancing Environmental Justice and Climate Resiliency through Increasing Tree Canopy in the Ironbound section of Newark

Project Location: Newark, NJ

Project Description: Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC), Ironbound Business Improvement District (IBID), NJ Tree Foundation (NJTF), and the city of Newark will partner to plant trees throughout the Ironbound section of Newark, which has the least amount of tree canopy in the city. This project will reduce urban heat island effect, mitigate flooding, and improve air quality, while engaging hundreds of residents and businesses. ICC and IBID will conduct extensive outreach to residents and businesses to solicit interest and buy-in to receive a tree, respectively, while NJ Tree Foundation will manage the planting of the trees and offer tree stewardship workshops to residents and businesses who sign up for a tree and to the community at-large. The city of Newark will help facilitate permits and other services, while tying the efforts to its larger sustainability and resiliency plans.

9)

Recipient: New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

Project Title: New Jersey EJ Education Collaborative

Project Location: Statewide, NJ

Project Description: There is a significant need to increase the capacity of communities with environmental justice concerns to empower residents to participate in public discourse on issues affecting them. Residents must be educated on how to advocate for their community's best interest in dialogue with government and private entities over siting, permitting and other decisions affecting their environment. These communities are historically difficult to reach, engage and organize, which is why grassroots organizations are critical to this mission. The NJ EJ Law requires enhanced public engagement for residents in EJ communities, allowing them to demonstrate local impact and have permits denied. This has accelerated the need to train communities so they can effectively influence this democratic

process. The NJ EJ Education Collaborative hopes to address these issues by proposing the development of a NJ-specific hub-and-spoke outreach network to community adults and youth. It will create and provide EJ basic information and a blueprint for navigating governmental processes. This will help demystify the core issues for participants and give them skills to substantively promote their community's interests.

10)

Recipient: Sixth Street Community Center, Inc.

Project Title: Sixth Street Community Center Citizen Science from Environmental Health & Climate Resiliency in Lower East Side

Project Location: Manhattan, NY

Project Description: The Lower East Side community exists at the intersection of unhealthy air quality and flood vulnerability, and SSCC is well positioned to fight for local climate resiliency and environmental health. This project will expand the capacity of Sixth Street Community Center, Inc's existing Teen Climate Justice Program (TCJP) as well as their climate organizing initiatives, to conduct air quality monitoring, flood sensing, and public engagement with citizen science. Sixth Street Community Center, Inc. goal is to empower community members through citizen science to make data-backed recommendations for a healthier, more climate resilient community. They hope to leverage this information for political decision making that will protect LES by utilizing a strong base of engaged students and community members. Community partners will host public workshops for community learning on local climate impacts, air quality monitoring, flood sensing, and data analysis. Four or more engaged program participants will be identified to undergo training as Community Facilitators in the workshop curriculum, to assist with future workshops and cultivate more local subject matter experts on climate resilience and citizen science for future needs in the community. Further goals are to install air quality monitors and flood sensors on site at SSCC, install additional stationary air quality monitors in neighboring locations, install additional flood sensors in neighboring locations, and obtain and use handheld air quality monitors for data collection.

Region 3

1)

Recipient: Resilient Virginia

Project Title: Building Community Capacity for Climate Justice in Ward 2, Lynchburg VA

Project Location: Lynchburg, VA

Project Description: The project will build leadership capacity among low-income, minority residents in Lynchburg Ward 2 to address the increased effects of climate change including flooding and extreme heat and other adverse impacts to health, safety and economic well-being. In summary the project elements are: 1) Kick-Off and Project Review to verify a Project Work Plan with Partners, 2) Data collection to assemble the latest hazard, climate, and demographic data relevant to the designated community, 3) Community Engagement to build a community vision and goals for accomplishing climate justice; 4) Community capacity building and leadership development through technical and climate

justice workshops; and 5) Development of a process for environmental justice representatives input in regional resiliency planning.

2)

Recipient: Ridge to Reefs

Project Title: Nature-Based Solutions for Clean Water and Community Resilience in Eagle Harbor, MD

Project Location: Eagle Harbor, MD

Project Description:

This project addresses legacy air and water pollution contamination impacts from the Chalk Point Generating Station, a formerly coal-fired power plant located adjacent to the community of Eagle Harbor, MD. Eagle Harbor is the last historically African American (greater than 90%) waterfront community in the entire Chesapeake Bay. The project is a collaboration among local community organizations, community members, scientists, environmental engineers, educators and policymakers to clearly define water quality, soil, and health impacts in Eagle Harbor and track improvements from the implementation of nature based restoration techniques.

3)

Recipient: YESS! of Charles County, Inc.

Project Title: YESS! of Charles County, Inc.

Project Location: Nanjemoy, Charles County, MD

Project Description: This project will scope and understand environmental issues and their effects on the community and the conditions for each household in Nanjemoy, a historically underserved, rural community in Southern Maryland, just a stone's throw from the team's nation's capital. Most residents lack clean water, access to sanitation, and solid waste disposal, and consequently are faced with numerous health issues. This activity will be comprised of two components: community mapping/scoping and community visioning. YESS! of Charles County, Inc. will use the scoping component to understand the geographic extent of the community and the conditions for each household. The visioning process, informed by the scoping, will allow residents to identify and prioritize needs and desires for their community's growth. The team expects this activity to result in a better understanding of the environmental and public health issues facing the community, concise short-, intermediate-, and long-term goals of the community, and increased community leadership and partnerships.

4)

Recipient: Delaware Valley Citizens Council for Clean Air

Project Title: Monitoring Air Toxics and Assessing Benefits of Reduced Air Pollution from the Delaware City Refinery

Project Location: Delaware City, DE

Project Description: The Council will work with air monitoring professionals, public health academics and local organizations to assess real-time air pollution trends from the Delaware City Refinery (DCR),

advanced optical remote sensing air monitors, and the Smell My City crowdsourcing app. Project partners will analyze the data from these and other open data sources in collaboration with community members, to identify impacts of refinery pollution on residents' health and quality of life and identify public health improvements likely to result from reduced pollution from the DCR. The project will also create a network of local organizations in order to prepare impacted residents for potential incidents at the DCR, like accidental fires and dangerous short-term air pollution releases, and take advantage of monitoring and crowd-sourcing strategies to alert residents to potentially harmful air pollution emissions from the DCR. Project partners will assist residents in making pollution complaints regarding the DCR and other nearby pollution sources. This project, via extensive community organizing, air monitoring, and data analysis, will influence the next iteration of the DCR's air pollution permits in the effort to realize the public health benefits of pollution reductions identified as a part of this project. This will be increasingly necessary as the aging DCR is currently expanding its business to use hydrogen, which will expand fossil fuel use. Increased community understanding of air pollution and potential health risks from the refinery and advocacy for better pollution controls is absolutely necessary given the DCR's recent history of fires and other air pollution incidents.

5)

Recipient: Clean Water Fund

Project Title: Learning to Live with Lead—Reducing Exposure in Environmental Justice Communities in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts

Project Location: Philadelphia & Massachusetts Statewide, PA

Project Description: CWF near Boston and Philadelphia, are addressing lead exposure in underserved communities suffering from lead poisoning that originates from multiple sources. This proposed joint effort builds on current initiatives to eliminate lead service lines (LSLs) in Massachusetts and an urgent, focused campaign to provide Philadelphians the knowledge they need to protect themselves from lead hazards. Funding will expand these efforts, adapting the information developed in Philadelphia for Massachusetts, and utilize the local networks and combined experience in both states to empower underserved communities to protect themselves from further exposure.

Clean Water Fund will:

- Work with municipal leaders and via community stakeholder engagement and leadership development in Malden and Chelsea, MA to improve the effectiveness and equity of municipal LSL programs.
- Share developed materials on lead exposure to offer virtual and in-person presentations, and activities to test for lead in soil and plumbing targeting CBOs schools, public events, and social media reaching 2500 to 5000 people directly and thousands more virtually.
- Create and collaborate with “community steering committees” of community leaders and other stakeholders, in Malden and Chelsea, MA and establish relationships with community leaders and residents.
- Collaborate in Philadelphia with two CBOs, hire and train 4 people who live in underserved neighborhoods to host awareness activities.
- These efforts will significantly increase lead awareness in the target communities, reduce exposure, and increase communities' capacity to mobilize and address this health challenge.

6)

Recipient: National Housing Trust

Project Title: Reducing Childhood Asthma by Improving Indoor Air Quality in Affordable Multifamily Housing

Project Location: Washington, D.C.

Project Description: National Housing Trust seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness of combining decarbonization and healthy housing remediation to improve health outcomes for under-resourced children living in multifamily housing while cutting carbon emissions. Recent research has elevated the negative health impacts of fossil fuel combustion in buildings, including triggering asthma episodes in children. But decarbonizing housing alone does not address all asthma causes.

Through a collaborative problem-solving approach that includes residents and diverse community-based housing, health, and academic organizations, The team's project will demonstrate the effects of holistic building upgrades that improve indoor air quality. Specifically, the EPA grant will allow the team of CBOs to integrate healthy housing remediation measures in affordable housing decarbonization retrofits of two Washington, D.C. multifamily buildings. National Housing Trust will target buildings with high rates of children with asthma identified using data from the team's partner Children's National Hospital.

National Housing Trust activities will: identify two low-income multifamily rental properties with a high prevalence of children with asthma and poor energy performance; partner with BIPOC-led CBOs and engage residents through community-facilitated discussions and design charrettes; conduct healthy housing assessments and develop a scope of work; implement remediation measures; measure the impact of resident engagement and building upgrades; disseminate project outcomes, lessons learned, and recommendations for scaling and replicating the pilot.

7)

Recipient: John Bartram Association

Project Title: Strengthening Southwest Philadelphia's Environmental Sovereignty and Climate Resilience through Greening and Youth Workforce Development

Project Location: Philadelphia, PA

Project Description: By working closely with local residents, including youth participants in paid workforce development programs, this project will leverage trusted existing programs to build and strengthen community coalitions as well as partnerships among NGOs, academia, and city agencies to strengthen the community's climate resilience and build long-term environmental sovereignty and justice in a historically underserved neighborhood. This project will create a replicable model for addressing three key issues of environmental and public health: 1) combatting waste and pollution through advocacy and policy development, education, and training in order to end illegal dumping in the neighborhood; 2) greening and tree canopy expansion to mitigate climate and health risks from the urban heat island effect and to improve air quality; and 3) promoting public engagement through youth workforce development, home gardening, neighborhood clean-ups, and other community activities to build local capacity for continued advocacy, education, and empowerment.

8)

Recipient: Nueva Esperanza, Inc.

Project Title: Hunting Park Community-Led Climate Resilience and Empowerment Project

Project Location: Philadelphia, PA

Project Description: The Hunting Park Community-Led Climate Resilience and Empowerment Project (HPCCR) will build the capacity of residents, leaders, and neighborhood infrastructure to improve the climate resiliency of Hunting Park (HP) against the disproportionate health and economic impacts of heat in low-income, predominantly Black and Latino community in one of the city's poorest districts. Numerous measures, including the EPA EJScreen, demonstrate the urgent need for collective problem solving in HP. Building upon a strong foundation of past efforts and current commitments to advance community-led environmental justice work within HP, Esperanza and project partners will utilize the EJCPS model to 1) sustain historic progress in building tree cover within HP by addressing unmet demand for additional trees and expanding youth leadership via coordinated neighborhood tree maintenance; 2) empower residents and leaders with skills-based training in heat mitigation, weatherization, and environmental policy; 3) prioritize block-level and in-home interventions including distributions of cooling kits and AC units; 4) facilitate social cohesion and normalize conversations about climate resiliency through ongoing community dialogue; 5) build awareness of climate related fields and prepare local workforce via solar panel installation trainings; 6) formalize a policy platform for HP to inform sustained calls for future investments; and 7) complete an HIA to gauge the impact of extreme heat on neighborhood health measures. The HPCCR will expand upon lessons and insights from past heat mitigation projects to pilot a robust, comprehensive, and coordinated community-empowered response that advance the health and well-being of residents in HP.

9)

Recipient: Shamokin Creek Restoration AllianceYN

Project Title: Creation of Collaborative Partnership for the Greater Shamokin Area to establish a coordinator position, office space, and lasting relationships.

Project Location: Shamokin, Kulpmont, Coal Township, CA

Project Description: In February 2020, the need for revitalization in the greater Shamokin communities was brought to life in a public forum. Spearheaded by the local Faith Alliance for Revitalization and the EPA's Office for Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, the workshop brought together passionate residents dedicated to improving life in the community. At a Reconvening Workshop in February 2023, several groups recognized the benefit of uniting to pool resources, skills, and volunteers as a means of reaching this goal. These primary groups, the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance, FAR Better Together, and Shamokin Community Gardens, will partner together to establish a brick-and-mortar presence in the community staffed by a full-time coordinator. A Program Manager and Advisory Board, consisting of partner representatives, will coordinate to vet project proposals and expenditures to promote goals of the community. Currently each of these nonprofits is working independently without the benefits of dedicated, paid staff. All engage in fundraising efforts to help advance their goals, but in a small, economically depressed community like Shamokin, these resources are scarce and groups often find themselves in competition for needed resources. Without collaboration, there has been duplication of services and projects; by joining together the organizations will be able to coordinate resources and efforts efficiently. This project will establish office space that is visible and accessible to the community and coordinate collaborative projects to improve the quality of life in the greater Shamokin Area remaining mindful of each organization's mission.

10)

Recipient: Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards

Project Title: Justice in Focus: Community Led Data Collection for Environmental Justice in Virginia's Coal Producing Counties

Project Location: Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, & Wise Counties, VA

Project Description: This project aims to address environmental justice concerns in the coal-impacted counties of Southwest Virginia. Through community-led research, data collection, and outreach efforts, the project seeks to empower low-income and marginalized communities, including communities of color, by providing them with actionable data and analysis of local environmental justice issues. This will enable these communities to engage with policy-making bodies at the local, state, and federal levels and provide meaningful feedback that can inform decision-making processes. The project will also support local leaders and policy-makers in better understanding environmental justice issues in their own communities. By prioritizing the involvement of residents in the project's design and implementation, and by providing capacity-building resources to communities with environmental justice concerns, the project aligns with EPA's commitment to promoting civil rights and reducing disparities in environmental and public health conditions. The project has three primary goals: designing and implementing research and monitoring programs based on community concerns, engaging communities to provide further input, including the possibility of collaboratively designing proposed interventions, and disseminating findings to keep stakeholders informed. The project will produce eight case studies highlighting EJ sites that reflect substantial community concern as well as possible interventions. The proposed budget includes salaries for community outreach workers and a project coordinator, as well as funding for travel, training, and equipment. The project will be evaluated using a logic model that includes tracking progress toward each goal and outcome. A sustainability plan will be developed to ensure the continuation of the project's impact beyond the funding period. The project will also work to integrate environmental justice principles into local policy-making, including engaging local governments to develop frameworks for the establishment of advisory structures.

11)

Recipient: Appalachian Voices

Project Title: Building Community Resilience in Virginia's Coalfields with Place-based Climate Change Adaptation

Project Location: Clinchco, Dante, Dungannon, Pennington Gap, & Pound, VA

Project Description: This project will create a Coalfield Community Resilience Model and toolkit to lead, or be paired with, other redevelopment initiatives; develop skills and capacity within communities to center climate-change adaptation and resilience; and create catalytic, community-based projects leveraged for long-term sustainable-redevelopment strategies.

Region 4

1)

Recipient: E3 Solutions, Inc.

Project Title: Healthy Homes and Training Initiative in Selma, Alabama area

Project Location: Selma, AL

Project Description: This project aims to address the environmental and public health issues of Selma, Alabama and surrounding counties by engaging the community, government partners, and local businesses to develop plans and make progress toward creating healthy homes. The goal is to reduce exposure to toxic pollutants in homes through continued collaborative action at the local level. The project will deliver a curriculum in citizen science education, which will train people in Selma, Dallas County, and Wilcox County to become environmental citizen scientists with a focus on improving healthy homes. The curriculum will be based on scientifically validated sampling methods and will include workshops on preventive measures, such as proper home maintenance, to minimize the recurrence of environmental hazards. The focus will be on reducing lead exposure in homes. The objective of E3 Solutions and its partners is to employ a scientific brand that includes scientists within the model to help build public trust, improve the quality of human lives, establish a good reputation, and create sustainable solutions in Selma.

2)

Recipient: Dream in Green, Inc.

Project Title: Youth Development Project to Tackle Extreme Heat and Food Insecurity in Underserved Communities

Project Location: Miami, FL

Project Description: DIG's main objective, along with public and private stakeholder partners is to develop, plan, and implement activities to educate and provide resources to mitigate the stresses of climate change on local food production and health risks of extreme heat targeting neighborhoods in high hazard flood zones and food deserts. The project supports heat initiatives in Miami-Dade County and promotes youth development of natural resource management skills and knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices to combat food insecurity, adapt to the changing climate, and increase tree canopy.

3)

Recipient: Parks Alliance of Louisville

Project Title: People-Powered Parks: Building a Healthy and Resilient West Louisville Neighborhood

Project Location: Louisville, KY

Project Description: This project will actively engage residents of Louisville's California Neighborhood in the planning, programming, and stewardship of the new 20-acre Alberta O. Jones Park. The first five acres of the park will be completed in November 2023, serving a predominately Black community in an urban heat island where less than 1% of land is dedicated to parks and greenspace. A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) will engage the community in identifying core strategies through which the design of the remaining 15 acres and park programming can impact residents' physical and mental health and wellbeing. The HIA will guide decisions to optimize positive outcomes and mitigate the negative.

Throughout the project, partnering organizations will provide educational and recreational opportunities for adults and youth that leverage park infrastructure and programming to promote community empowerment and better health. Informed by the HIA, this could include everything from producing cultural events and distributing fresh food to providing nature-based educational programs. The primary outcome will be the creation of a new model of community-driven park leadership that can be replicated in other Louisville public parks, particularly those in historically underserved and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

4)

Recipient: 2CMississippi: Towards Sustainable, Educated and Empowered M

Project Title: Equitable access to microparks for climate resilience through flood mitigation, education and community revitalization

Project Location: Jackson, MS

Project Description: The “Equitable access to microparks for climate resilience through flood mitigation, education and community revitalization” project is a partnership effort to address climate change-induced increased risk of flooding in the absence of municipal and state investments. It is designed to co-develop with communities nature-based solutions to urban flooding, while providing a range of social, economic, educational, cultural and ecological cobenefits for Jackson’s most overburdened and underinvested neighborhoods. The partnership of multiple organizations provides complementary perspectives, expertise and resources and is expected to create synergies leading to a cumulative, transformative impact for these communities. The project replaces abandoned, blighted properties in West Jackson with a system of microparks. These microparks will be developed directly with community members using previously developed architectural co-design process. The microparks will not only offer natural solutions to urban flooding through rain gardens, but also provide equitable access to green infrastructure and recreational opportunities, build and strengthen community cohesion, improve quality of life, mental and physical health; reduce crime and increases access to climate education and local art. 2CMississippi expects that the project will become a blueprint for building holistic climate, economic and social resilience across Jackson.

5)

Recipient: CleanAIRE North Carolina

Project Title: North Mecklenburg Air Monitoring Network

Project Location: Huntersville and Pottstown, NC

Project Description: CleanAIRE NC, in partnership with North Mecklenburg community-based nonprofit Letha’s 1Stop Shop and North Mecklenburg Economic Mobility Collaborative, will establish an Air Monitoring Cluster Network in four impacted communities across North Mecklenburg to address health impacts associated with air pollution. This work will be focused on the communities of Huntington Green (Huntersville, NC), Pottstown (Huntersville, NC), Smithville (Cornelius, NC), and West Davidson (Davidson, NC). Residents will collect air quality data through the cluster network and partake in CleanAIRE NC’s AirKeeper Academy, engaging in the Healthy Air Education Series, Clean Air Advocacy Training, and Maps and Apps session. CleanAIRE NC will also work with local CBOs, Atrium Health, and the Mecklenburg County Health Department to train Community Health Workers as lead AirKeepers and

conduct a Health Impact Assessment with Lake Norman Community Health Clinic, Mecklenburg County Health Department, Atrium Health and North Carolina State University. A major goal of the Health Impact Assessment will be the Mecklenburg County Health Department's inclusion of environmental justice parameters in its 2027 Community Health Assessment Survey.

6)

Recipient: Steps Coalition

Project Title: Advancing community-led, climate resilient redevelopment in East Biloxi, Mississippi

Project Location: Biloxi, MS

Project Description: East Biloxi is a socially vulnerable community consisting of predominantly Black and Vietnamese populations located in the eastern peninsula of the City of Biloxi in Harrison County, Mississippi. The East Biloxi community is in the 71 percentile or higher for the U.S. EPA EJ Screen demographic index and ranked in the 95-100 percentile using the Flood Risk model. Steps Coalition was established post-hurricane Katrina to address equitable community redevelopment and in partnership with PLACE and GCECR created the Resilient East Biloxi program in 2022. The purpose of this project is to build capacity and technical support for sustainable, climate-smart, community-led redevelopment in East Biloxi. The project activities are to continue providing leadership development trainings, community action meetings, provide capacity building grant opportunities to the leadership cohort, tour of a "model city" in another municipality that is successfully implementing resilient redevelopment work, and exploration of pursuing a community land trust. The project will evaluate its success and metrics through a series of paper surveys and semi-structured interviews to ensure project goals are being met. Additionally, the Resilient East Biloxi action plan will serve as a guiding framework and output to evaluate progress and success of all related resilience projects.

7)

Recipient: Tennessee Environmental Council

Project Title: Community Recycling Roundup Series Expansion

Project Location: Nashville, TN

Project Description: With support from an EPA EJCS Cooperative Agreement awarded in 2021, Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) has built a successful series of high-impact "recycling roundups" taking place in Tennessee's underserved communities, as a way to reduce reliance on landfills, mitigate their impacts on surrounding communities, and advance Tennessee's circular economy. This is an important approach to improving environmental justice in the state. The purpose of this application is to expand this program to new communities, and to build local support to sustain this program as an integral piece of Tennessee's solid waste strategy. Roundups allow residences to drop off electronics, textiles, mattresses, tires, batteries, scrap metals and other items that are difficult to recycle because local infrastructure and awareness are currently not conducive to recycling these items. At each event, certified recycling companies are on-site to collect the materials to be recycled. Under this grant, TEC will execute 20 roundups, and offer technical assistance for an additional 17 communities in order to expand the series and make it self-sustaining. This grant also enables us to expand the public education component of this effort, including quarterly educational videos, an online toolkit to assist communities in organizing their own roundups, an online statewide GreenSpots map of hundreds of local recycling

resources, quarterly online town-hall forums, and annual national forums to promote this concept and share best practices.

8)

Recipient: Glynn Environmental Coalition

Project Title: Community Involvement, Environmental Sampling, and Citizen Science: Developing a Road Map to Dismantle Environmental Racism

Project Location: Brunswick, GA

Project Description: In partnership with local CBOs, state and private universities, and Georgia's Department of Public Health, Glynn Environmental Coalition is proposing three primary activities to empower Brunswick residents to (1) identify the air pollutants historically and currently discharged by local industries and the degree to which these contaminants pose health effects; (2) collect samples for air toxics and sulfur compounds at locations throughout the city including industry fencelines; (3) use sample results to advocate for further investigations or other permit or policy changes as appropriate. Brunswick is a majority-minority Black and low-income community with high social vulnerability. The area has a long history of polluting industries and environmental injustices.

9)

Recipient: Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities

Project Title: Resilience In The SouthEast (RISE) Program

Project Location: North Charleston, NC

Project Description: Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC) will work with community, academic, non-governmental and governmental organizations to increase civic engagement, address environmental and public health concerns in Environmental Justice communities throughout the Southeast. Consistently, this effort targets organizations in the eight states that make up Region IV. LAMC will work together with a series of trainings to better prepare communities and develop leaders to locally prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters while strengthening community capacity to lower vulnerabilities to environmental hazards. LAMC will conduct a series of training using well established training models (Environmental Justice Academy – Charleston (EJAC) and EJSTRONG) to facilitate increasing community capacity to develop resilience plans addressing environmental hazards in predominantly Black and low-wealth communities throughout Region IV (Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida) states. Consistently across all communities regardless of the state, LAMC experiences similar challenges with participating communities' lack of organizational development, organizational capacity, strained stakeholder relationships, and expressions that community concerns are not prioritized at the local level which hinders the effectiveness of community focused training.

Region 5

1)

Recipient: Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.

Project Title: The Miami Valley Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (Ejcps) Cooperative Agreement Program

Project Location: Miami Valley, OH

Project Description: This project seeks to facilitate engagement of disadvantaged communities in Local, State, and Federal processes related to environmental health by building capacity through an EJ partnership. The Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership (MVEJP) will be formed as a collaborative workgroup comprised of stakeholders that will serve communities and jurisdictions occupying the land surrounding the Great Miami River in southwest Ohio. Partnering stakeholders will represent an intersection of higher education, nonprofits, philanthropy, public health, and regional/urban planning entities, working collaboratively to pursue problem-solving efforts on environmental health and environmental justice. By implementing the EJCPM, the MVEJP will prioritize residents, neighborhoods, and community-based organizations so decision-making power is decentralized and a sense of agency is fostered among those most vulnerable to the impact of environmental injustice. The proposed project will: 1) enhance the resource acquisition capabilities of community-based organizations by making grant-writing expertise more accessible to their grassroots efforts, 2) facilitate consensus-building between the MVEJP and Miami Valley residents through equitable allocation of project funds by the Justice40 Initiative, and 3) improve trust and relationships between local stakeholders and the community members they serve via constructive engagement and inclusive involvement in actions and decision-making related to EJ matters.

2)

Recipient: Vincentian Ohio Action Network, d.b.a. ARCH

Project Title: Accompanying Returning Citizens with Hope (ARCH)

Project Location: Columbus/surrounding counties, OH

Project Description: This project seeks to provide justice-involved citizens reentering after serving prison sentences with the opportunity to secure employment through Impact Solar—a collaborative initiative by Columbus Partnership and Community Renewable Energy. ARCH aims to provide justice involving citizens reentering after serving prison sentences with the opportunity to secure employment through Impact Solar. Impact Solar serves Columbus nonprofits by providing low-cost clean energy through on-site solar projects. ARCH has a long-term vision for advancing Impact Solar’s environmental contribution. The initiative is poised to reduce 7,000,000 metric tons of CO2 emissions over 20 years and yield the green energy equivalent of powering 85,000 homes with solar for a year. The skilled workforce emerging from ARCH’s Reentry Solar Program will play a pivotal role in this outcome.

3)

Recipient: Ecolibrium3

Project Title: LNPk 156: Local Food Access and EJ Leadership Capacity Building Initiative

Project Location: Duluth, MN

Project Description: This project seeks to build capacity to implement the Lincoln Park Local Foods Local Places Action Plan to address key social determinants of health in Duluth's Justice40 Lincoln Park neighborhood. Specifically, the project builds capacity through a neighborhood farmer-in-residence position, an EJ-focused Outreach and Equity Projects Coordinator, and the launch of an EJ Coordinating Council in partnership with other urban Minnesota communities. Together this capacity will steward expansion of urban agriculture education, value-added processing and collaborative food preparation, organizing for supportive implementation of a small footprint grocery, expanded land analysis and garden development, and planning for adaptive use of waste heat for food production from the regional wastewater treatment plant located in the neighborhood.

4)

Recipient: Ecology Action Center

Project Title: Bloomington-Normal Climate Responsive Community (BNCRC)

Project Location: Bloomington, IL

Project Description: This project seeks to identify and develop mitigation strategies for disproportionate climate impacts within Bloomington-Normal EJ areas and increase tree equity in urban areas to reduce temperatures during extreme heat events, increase filtration of NAAQS pollutants, and sequester carbon emissions in a cost-effective manner. Through the CDC framework for Building Resilience Against Climate Effects, and Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response and EPA's HIA process, the McLean County Health Department, ISU, United Way of McLean County, and other local organizations will collect data on vulnerabilities and specific threats to EJ populations, including a special focus on precariously-housed populations, which are normally unmeasured and not considered. Using this data, the Ecology Action Center (EAC), along with Bloomington Normal Chapter of the NAACP and West Bloomington Revitalization Project, will lead a collaborative community stakeholder planning process to develop strategies to address these vulnerabilities and threats, resulting in a Climate Adaptation Plan. The EAC, NAACP, ISU Horticulture and Landscape program, U of I Extension Office, and other partners will coordinate an annual tree equity initiative to provide resilient, high quality native tree saplings free of charge for residents and other private property owners in EJ areas. This early action step will help increase visibility of the BNCRC initiative, building trust and participation among EJ area residents and other stakeholders.

5)

Recipient: Community Power

Project Title: Twin Cities Energy Efficiency Cohort and Navigator Project

Project Location: Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

Project Description: The project seeks to address a central bottleneck in access to the cost-savings, health, and safety benefits of efficiency programs: lack of culturally relevant, community-rooted outreach and support to navigate the highly complex network of Minnesota efficiency programs. This work builds on three years of capacity development and relationship building with ~15 local CBOs and community leaders who serve or come from Twin Cities renter, low/moderate income, and BIPOC communities. This group has generated a strong analysis of the barriers as well as the important strategies to intervene in an energy system that is not equitably serving residents

6)

Recipient: Reflo, Inc.

Project Title: A Collaborative to Harmonize Milwaukee CBOs Supporting Summer High School Environmental Internships

Project Location: Milwaukee, WI

Project Description: This project seeks to better serve Milwaukee's youth to build climate resilience and connect mainly young people of color to life skills and environmental sector career pathways. Every summer a dozen organizations individually employ over 125 youth for 20,000 hours across southeastern Wisconsin and throughout the City of Milwaukee. Project partners propose a collaborative EJ alliance to support Milwaukee's environmental youth internships. The expected outcome is a more efficient, effective EJ youth sector focusing on green infrastructure, climate change, network building, land stewardship, and nature's connection to human and environmental health. Expected outputs are a sector-wide annual strategic retreat, collaborative programming, synchronized and competitive environmental sector wages, joint recruitment, youth networking, and common reporting and evaluation to support future expansion.

7)

Recipient: United Congregations of Metro East

Project Title: Comprehensive air pollution monitoring of industrial sources in disproportionately impacted communities in Metro East, Illinois

Project Location: East St. Louis, Cahokia, Centreville, Allerton, Sauget, IL

Project Description:

With East St. Louis having one of the highest rates of child asthma in the country, this project seeks to collect localized air quality data to understand how hazardous air pollutant concentrations vary across the community and provide crucial evidence for pollutants that have not been measured in the community previously (eg, VOCs and PM). Metals in PM concentrations will be measured in the community itself rather than directly at the fenceline of emissions sources. Data will be used to: (1) conduct a health risk assessment that is directly translatable to community exposure, (2) build awareness and capacity in the community to conduct future participatory science, (3) generate emergency preparedness plans in the event of toxic air pollution releases, and (4) provide actionable data to facilitate discussion with the community, government agencies, and industry.

8)

Recipient: One Love Global

Project Title: Building Power among Black and Brown Youth for Water and Public Health Equity in Detroit

Project Location: Detroit, MI

Project Description: This project seeks to advance water equity in Detroit. The main objectives and activities include: (1) improving national and local environmental and public health tools with a water equity lens, (2) supporting Black and Brown youth disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks in the development of their environmental justice knowledge and skills to leverage these tools and lead implementation of water testing and data transparency in community. Outcomes include: (1) a pilot testing tool developed for water equity and water testing in Detroit, (2) Black and Brown youth

involved in the project being trained in environmental justice and water testing, and (3) pilot and full-scale implementation of the tool completed by Black and Brown youth involved in the project. Documentation of the analysis, recommendations, implementation, learning, and achievements with the tool will help to promote its replicability regionally and nationally to advance equitable, community-driven policy and systems transformation across a broader scale.

9)

Recipient: enFocus

Project Title: South Bend's Green Empowerment: Improving resources for green development in historically underserved communities

Project Location: South Bend, IN

Project Description: The enFocus Green Empowerment Team is partnering with strategic community stakeholders to address environmental inequality in five of South Bend's historically marginalized neighborhoods – Kennedy Park, Near Westside, Northwest, Westside, and LaSalle Park. Grant funds will be used to complete two objectives. First, the team will engage and enroll residents into the Greener Homes Initiative and UpskillSB Climate Action Program. This initiative empowers residents to make gains toward climate justice by promoting energy efficiency and conservation in their homes and offering green workforce training and certifications. Second, enFocus will design and execute a tree-planting initiative. This initiative will be targeted to increase South Bend's urban tree canopy (UTC) in historically disadvantaged areas most likely to be affected by extreme heat, poor air quality, and stormwater flooding.

Region 6

1)

Recipient: Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation

Project Title: Engaging K-12 communities in Civic Science to Monitor Air Quality and Watershed Health in Greater Houston

Project Location: Houston, TX

Project Description: This project will cultivate the next generation of environmental justice advocates, equipped with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) skills to protect local watersheds and enhance climate resilience through school-community collaboration. The project will engage Title 1 middle and high schools in economically disadvantaged environmental justice communities of Greater Houston. Leveraging CELF's Civic Science Inquiry to Action Framework, this project will deliver teacher training focused on facilitating data collection and analysis, and legacy student action projects that raise awareness of watershed stewardship strategies and solutions.

2)

Recipient: Thrive New Orleans

Project Title: Cultivating a Diverse Green Economy in New Orleans through Youth Environmental Education and Land Stewardship

Project Location: New Orleans, LA

Project Description: This project aims to empower BIPOC youth in the Desire project by equipping them with culturally-relevant environmental education and skills to transform their communities and life trajectories. Thrive, in collaboration with other community-based nonprofits like Culture of Cleanliness, [the Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development,] the Urban Conservancy, as well as the Stormwater and Green Infrastructure department of the City of New Orleans, will provide an intensive 6-week summer environmental education camp for 50 middle and high school youth. Participants at this camp can expect to gain understanding of the natural environment, native biodiversity, and benefits of water; develop practical green infrastructure skills to increase their household and neighborhood resilience to flood risk; and learn about waste literacy and waste management strategies to keep their communities clean.

3)

Recipient: Earth Care International

Project Title: Justice in the Air: The Partnership for Community Health Equity

Project Location: Santa Fe, NM

Project Description: Earth Care is partnering with the City and County of Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Public School District, the Health Equity Partnership, Mainstreet NM, and the Southside Business Council to conduct a community-led health assessment for the southside of Santa Fe using the collaborative problem-solving framework to develop concrete urban planning, local policy, and community-driven development solutions to the environmental justice and public health challenges facing the area. Earth Care International will use a Health Impact Assessment to establish a foundation for cumulative impacts assessment while considering land-use development proposals. The team will also conduct a citizen-science air-monitoring project focused on emissions from an asphalt plant to empower students and residents in the area with data to inform community advocacy efforts. These complementary projects will engage public institutions, business leaders, decision-makers, and thousands of youth and families in collaborative problem-solving and public policy development. The expected outcome of the community-driven assessment project will be policy and community development directives developed by diverse stakeholders to foster environmental justice, improve community health, and build long-term resilience in the face of climate change.

4)

Recipient: Micah Six Eight Mission

Project Title: Environmental Impact & Education in Southwest Louisiana

Project Location: Cameron Parish, LA

Project Description: This project engages low-income and communities of color in Cameron and Calcasieu parishes (estimated population 210,000) that, according to EJScreen, are highly susceptible to and have high levels of exposure to environmental hazards. Residents bear the burden of disproportionate impacts of pollution from the heavy petrochemical industry in southwest Louisiana and are also extremely vulnerable to climate change. In collaboration with community-based organizations, churches, academic experts, local businesses, and national nonprofits, Micah Six Eight Mission will carry out a capacity building project on air and water pollution and their related health impacts, and links to

climate change. The team will gather existing data on pollution, climate change, and public health and collect further data using air pollution monitors that have been installed by M68M. To engage residents, build public awareness, and understand community needs, Micah Six Eight Mission will conduct a series of workshops, door-to-door outreach, and distribute evidence-based educational materials. This will inform a final action plan, which will detail the steps that must be taken to address community needs. The outcomes will be a percentage increase in the number of households that have an increased understanding of the interlinked risks of pollution and climate change and the capacity of residents to respond to these risks, and the development of a feasible strategy to implement the action plan.

5)

Recipient: The DigDeep Right to Water Project

Project Title: DigDeep's Colonias Water Project will bring short- and long-term safe water solutions to the residents of the Hueco Tanks colonia.

Project Location: Hueco Tanks Colonia, TX

Project Description: DigDeep's Colonias Water Project endeavors to bring short- and long-term safe water solutions to residents of the Hueco Tanks colonia, a rural community less than an hour's drive from the City of El Paso and does not have access to piped water. DigDeep will accomplish this by utilizing each of the tools in the EJCPS Model. It will bring together residents and other stakeholders to build the community's capacity to identify, problem-solve, and advocate for their needs. DigDeep will work closely with Adults and Youth United Development Association, Inc. (AYUDA), DigDeep's CBO subrecipient, to facilitate the outreach, identification, and training of community leaders and develop a community Steering Committee. Utilizing a water feasibility study sponsored by DigDeep, the Steering Committee will review available options for bringing piped water to Hueco Tanks. With support from DigDeep and its partners, the Steering Committee will disseminate information on the advantages and disadvantages of alternative safe water solutions—vital information residents will need to make informed decisions. DigDeep will also facilitate the transfer of hauled water to a local water district until piped water is available. Ultimately, DigDeep's project will lead to increased access to safe and affordable alternative water solutions and a unified community that is equipped to advocate for permanent piped water that is available to all residents.

6)

Recipient: Sewa International Inc.

Project Title: Sewa International Linear Forest Program

Project Location: Alief, TX

Project Description: Sewa International (Sewa) a 501(c) (3) volunteer-based nonprofit organization, along with its partners Alief Super Neighbourhood Council , International Management District , ISeeChange with the support of Houston city council and Alief Independent School district is proposing a Linear forest program. Sewa International Inc. will mobilize youth volunteers to plant and sustain 1000 trees using water collars over the period of three years. The objective is to increase the tree canopy, reduce temperatures and provide environmental justice to the community. Sewa International Inc. will install thermal sensors/cameras in the identified neighborhoods of Alief with the support of partners. The team will also engage with ISeeChange to deploy their community engagement reporting

application and empower the community to collect localized data and report via app in order to support informed solutions addressing heat map issues. The objective is to come up with healthy and sustainably managed urban and peri-urban forests, community forestry that can magnify the health and resilience of cities in the face of changing and increasingly challenging economic, social and physical environments. In order to achieve a sustainable outcome, community engagement will be a key target of this program with the support of the government, local business, community and technology partners.

7)

Recipient: Black United Fund of Texas, Inc.

Project Title: Vulnerable to Vibrant: Solar Workforce Development Trainings, Illegal Dumping Abatement, and Education in an Environmental Justice Community

Project Location: Houston, TX

Project Description: The Greater 5th Ward and Kashmere Gardens communities of Houston are neighborhoods that have historically suffered a disproportionate amount of burden from environmental degradation, economic disadvantage, persistent poverty, high crime rates, and, consequently, adverse health outcomes. This project has three main components that it seeks to address. Firstly, it will establish a free solar workforce development program that not only includes training for solar installation, but also the soft skills and professional development support at-risk populations often need (e.g., previously incarcerated individuals, non-college bound youths, and veterans). Secondly, the project will offer educational opportunities for youth populations to first deepen their understanding of the policy and environmental barriers that environmental justice communities face, and then learn about the resources that can be leveraged to address these issues. Lastly, the project plans to mitigate issues of illegal dumping in the target area by activating students with newly acquired knowledge to become participants in solutions that will lead to a safer and healthier environment for the community. Altogether, this project will strengthen the neighborhood's adaptive capacity for climate resilience, create opportunities for inclusive economic opportunities through workforce development, lower crime and poverty rates due to more gainful employment in the community and throughout Houston as Black United Fund of Texas, Inc. shifts to green energy, and improved quality of life in the target area with community-led programming.

8)

Recipient: Groundwork New Orleans

Project Title: Resilient Communities: The Gentilly Beehive Microgrid Community Resilience Project

Project Location: New Orleans, LA

Project Description: In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida last August, 19 New Orleans residents died from excessive heat, lack of oxygen or carbon monoxide poisoning deaths directly caused by the prolonged power outage. Groundwork New Orleans and its partners seeks to prevent such tragic deaths from happening in the future. New Orleans ranks among the top 10 cities in the U.S. for power outages from severe weather, which have doubled nationwide over the last 20 years, and the frequency and length of power failures are at their highest levels since reliability tracking began. Following Hurricane Ida, nearly one million New Orleanians lost power; some residents remained in the dark more than one month later. When power outages occur, Groundwork New Orleans will be able to conduct needs assessments

and provide for those needs by offering charging stations and small battery distribution, food preparation and distribution, cooling/heating stations, and WiFi access. The Gentilly Beehive Microgrid Community Resilience Project will pilot the integration of mobile solar+ storage systems with a permanent microgrid for layered resiliency. Mobile solar trailers will be parked on site and connected to the stationary microgrid/grid. During grid outages, the site will be used as a resiliency hub for community first and second responders, supply and meal distribution, cooling station, and device (communication, medical, etc.) charging. The solar trailers will be rapidly deployable to power other community needs throughout the affected region. In between grid outages, the stationary and mobile microgrids will also serve as on-site educational and workforce development tools. The project partners include: The Footprint Project, Healthy Community Services and Solar Alternatives, and Educators for Quality Alternatives. This coalition of partners seeks to improve the access to clean energy in the most vulnerable communities in New Orleans. The project also aims to directly improve resilience of underserved coastal communities by engaging youth, community members, and businesses in clean energy production; reduction of fossil fuel generators as an emergency energy source; developing outreach and education programs about the impacts of clean energy for disaster resilience; and sharing and communicating best practices and lessons learned between these disparate Gulf communities.

9)

Recipient: Open Design Collective, Inc.

Project Title: NEOKC Environmental Placekeeping

Project Location: Oklahoma City, OK

Project Description: This project aims to further engage, support, and strengthen community-led efforts in addressing air quality in the geographic area of the historically Black John F. Kennedy neighborhood (JFK) through environmental placemaking. By restoring a public space in the community through environmental placemaking, neighbors can come together to learn, strengthen social connections, and utilize the site to mobilize air quality efforts. To design and construct the environmental placemaking site, Culture Park, and support capacity building needs, Open Design Collective, Inc. will collaborate with a tactical committee made up of community leaders, organizers, and environmental experts, to engage with the project teams through engagement charrettes that will inform design and programming activities. Through Culture Park, neighbors will be able to come together for share joy and connection in a safe outdoor environment. Important objectives include landscaping that restores indigenous plant species back into the community, air monitoring, plantings for shade and air pollution mitigation, ADA accessibility, as well as educational and cultural programming for the community. Open Design Collective, Inc. will collaborate with local entrepreneurs, cultural producers, and community leaders to program the site with activities that continue to raise awareness about air quality while also cultivating a sense of belonging for NEOKC community members within the natural environment. Anticipated outcomes include increase quality of life and health outcomes, access to a healthy outdoor space that is culturally rooted, strengthened awareness of air quality challenges, an increased sense of ownership and responsibility to the environment and capacity building to empower local residents in leading and environmental placemaking projects.

Region 7

1)

Recipient: Springfield Community Gardens

Project Title: Springfield Community Gardens 2040 Collaborative Farming Forward

Project Location: Springfield, MO

Project Description: SCG and project partners seek to mitigate climate and health risks by educating and empowering underserved urban and rural Greene County, MO communities through sustainable, organic food production. Through facilitating the engagement of marginalized communities in local public processes through an Advisory Problem-Solving Committee, 81 workshops, and 4-Week Level I and 16-Week Level II internships, the project will address the City's Comprehensive Plan agriculture/climate goals as well as the needs of community members and college professors who desire longer, paid internships.

2)

Recipient: PedNet Coalition, Inc. (dba Local Motion)

Project Title: Collaborative Transit Master Planning: Addressing environmental justice and public health harms to transform disadvantaged communities

Project Location: Columbia, MO

Project Description: Local Motion will address the environmental justice and public health issues caused by the auto-centric transportation system in Columbia, Missouri, which puts low-income communities and communities of color at higher risk of harm (e.g., air quality, climate change, limited access to basic needs, the workforce, and decision-making processes). Local Motion will use the EJCS model to convene grassroots community members and grassroots leaders, and will facilitate an inclusive, collaborative process to develop a long-range transit master plan (vision, strategic plan, and funding strategy) that will allow Columbia to build out an effective public transit system. The project will focus on disadvantaged and underserved communities (i.e., Qualified Census Tracts, Vision Zero neighborhoods), and will partner with resident leaders and community organizations to engage and educate community members about the environmental and public health issues caused by the transportation system, and empower residents to develop solutions that significantly address these issues.

3)

Recipient: Gamaliel Foundation

Project Title: Climate Action Hubs

Project Location: Kansas City, MO (64109, 64127, 64128); SW Illinois (East St. Louis, 62201; Cahokia Heights, 62206; Granite City, 62040); St. Louis, MO (63136, 63137, 63147, 63118); Milwaukee, WI (53206, 53205), MO

Project Description: Gamaliel Foundation will develop and pilot Climate Action Hubs in each of four metropolitan regions where the team has affiliate organizations. Each community has been harmed by decades of environmental racism, contending with detriments to human health such as toxic industrial zones, illegal dumping, lead exposure, contamination from polluting industries, and outdated infrastructure that is inadequate in the face of climate change. In each community, Gamaliel Foundation will develop hubs of environmental justice (EJ) resources at local congregations. Hubs will be physical

sites that offer climate readiness and EJ programs and resources for community members. Residents will take part in developing emergency readiness plans; they will also have access to information on how to make their homes more energy efficient; how to take advantage of government green energy incentives; and how to access workforce training and jobs linked to climate readiness investments. Hubs will serve as convening spaces where Gamaliel Foundation can build relationships, with the longer-term goal of developing concerned residents into local EJ leaders who use the tools of organizing to win policies that address environmental harms.

4)

Recipient: Heartland Conservation Alliance, Inc.

Project Title: Blue River Green Infrastructure Collaborative Action

Project Location: Kansas City, MO

Project Description: Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA) will work with local community leaders to convene community members to implement sustainable landscape elements based upon existing design plans that were created with the input of the community, thus increasing residents' access to multiple benefits of green infrastructure, at three locations: a 40 acre site of vacant and forested land (Palestine Woods), Eastwood Hills Eastwood Park, Sni-a-Bar Rd and Bennington Avenue, and The Water Ranch possibly located at 4600 E 75th Ter., on the west side of City Council District 5. The goal is to demonstrate at these three locations the power and impact of a collaborative problem-solving model so that this work may be extended to other natural, vacant, and/or blighted areas. The community design work for the Palestine Woods project was accomplished thanks to a 2020 EPA EJ grant award.

HCA and partners will work with diverse Kansas City communities who have historically experienced social and environmental inequities, including urban heat island impacts and heat vulnerabilities as well as disproportionate environmental health impacts of an unhealthy and polluted watershed,

exacerbated by a high percentage of blighted properties, and under-resourced parks and recreation facilities. These diverse communities have historically experienced social and environmental inequities primarily concerning their health and cost of living. Health is impacted by illegal dumping, proximity to wastewater discharge, proximity to an impaired stream, proximity to hazardous waste, and exposure to poor air quality. This project is focused on disadvantaged communities and will meet the President's Justice40 goals. HCA will provide tools and resources to residents, city staff and nonprofit organizations to implement green solutions.

5)

Recipient: Iowa Environmental Council

Project Title: Building Capacity for Impactful Environmental Justice Work in Iowa

Project Location: Des, Moines, IA

Project Description: The Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) proposes a project to build leadership and capacity for environmental justice (EJ) in Iowa, improving understanding of EJ issues, growing connections between underserved communities and environmental groups, and facilitating engagement of underserved communities in local, state and federal public projects, processes, advisory groups, and

rulemakings. Building on existing work and partnerships, this project will focus on at least four urban and rural communities, prioritizing those with (1) coal plants, (2) a legacy of pollution, and/or (3) active climate adaptation and disaster resiliency planning efforts. In partnership with universities, government partners, and community-based organizations (CBOs), the team will provide technical support, and expand research and information about EJ issues in Iowa, while building local capacity and connecting underserved communities to local, state, and federal decision-makers and resources. Beginning with these local pilot programs, Iowa Environmental Council aims to sustain and scale this leadership and capacity-building work into other communities across Iowa.

6)

Recipient: Bridging The Gap, Inc.

Project Title: Community Resiliency Investment Program

Project Location: Kansas City, MO

Project Description:

This project seeks to provide education to Kansas City, MO residents in low life expectancy zip codes 64109, 64126, 64127, 64128, 64130, and 64132 and least improvement in life expectancy zip codes: 64134, 64131, 64117, 64138, 64114, and 64133. In the face of volatile energy prices and an unstable economy, protecting consumers should be the highest priority. This means ensuring access to utility assistance programs, preventing service cutoffs, and providing programs that are manageable for a household on tight monthly budgets. Bridging The Gap, Inc. needs approaches that lower energy bills and reduce carbon emissions. The key approach: switching homes from outdated appliances and use more fossil fuels to clean electricity, a strategy also known as electrification. As natural gas costs continue to drastically rise over the next decade, electrification has presented more opportunity for education and opportunity to provide affordable options, like energy star saving refrigerators.

Region 8

1)

Recipient: Bessemer Historical Society, Inc.

Project Title: Electronic bicycles for Pueblo, Colorado:

Project Location: Pueblo, CO

Project Description: This proposal seeks to purchase, distribute and monitor 100 electronic bicycles (e-bikes) to be distributed to residents within Pueblo, Colorado. Steelworks Center of the West will purchase, distribute, and monitor 100 Class 2 electronic bicycles (e-bikes) to members of underserved communities in Pueblo. Program participants' eligibility will be determined using the Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual income limit, including single parent households, veterans, individuals and college students not younger than 18 years old with incomes at or below 80% of area median income. In addition to making transportation more available, the use of these bicycles will: 1) lower greenhouse gas emissions, improving the city's air quality, 2) provide the environmental education to the community, 3) encourage more physical activity, and 4) provide equitable access to transportation. Pueblo, with demographics characterized by high levels of persistent poverty, low-income, and large populations of BIPOC residents, has a large population of people who meet the Justice40 definition of disadvantaged communities.

2)

Recipient: Denver Urban Gardens

Project Title: Denver Urban Gardensâ (DUG) Dig Deeper Initiative (DDI)

Project Location: Denver, CO

Project Description: DUG is proposing to provide the Dig Deeper Initiative (DDI) in targeted West Denver neighborhoods to achieve the following public health and environmental benefits, address environmental justice issues and achieve community health and sustainability: Environmental benefits: 1) Decrease urban heat island in neighborhoods with some of the city's lowest tree equity scores through the DUG Food Forest Initiative which brings fruit bearing trees and perennials to existing community gardens, new gardens and other vacant lots; 2) Increase carbon sequestration capacity of community gardens and other greenspaces within the targeted neighborhoods to improve overall air quality; and 3) Decrease greenhouse gas emissions in the targeted area by increasing local food options, thereby decreasing food miles required for residents to obtain fresh, healthy foods.

3)

Recipient: American Solar Energy Society Inc.

Project Title: Project Tiošpáye: Net Zero Solar Living for Oglala Lakota Affordable & Traditional Housing Initiative at Pine Ridge Reservation

Project Location: Pine Ridge Reservation, SD

Project Description: ASES proposes, in collaboration with Red Cloud Renewable (RCR) and In Our Hands (IOH), to conduct a community-based project to demonstrate how innovative solar energy technologies can address key problems on the Oglala Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation to promote healthy lifestyles, including improved indoor air quality, better on-site water access and quality, improved food access and preservation, and better energy resiliency with solar power technologies for both on-grid and off-grid tribal residences. In cooperation with a recently funded affordable dome housing project underway by RCR and IOH, ASES looks to greatly magnify the positive impact of this project with the addition of solar. This will allow these homes to become net-zero and meet all their own power needs. American Solar Energy Society Inc will also be conducting job training workshops with hands-on solar installation experience for participants, as well as student educational activities with Red Cloud High School (RCHS). American Solar Energy Society Inc will conduct training on solar power systems, solar water pumping, solar refrigeration, solar water purification, and solar business development. Project Tiošpáye, the Lakota word for the traditional form of multigenerational self-governance, will serve as a solar demonstration project to expand to other indigenous communities in South Dakota and around the country.

4)

Recipient: EcoAction Partners

Project Title: Addressing Environmental and Public Health Vulnerabilities Through Access to Environmental Programming

Project Location: San Miguel County and Montrose County, CO

Project Description: This project seeks to address environmental and public health vulnerabilities related to disaster preparedness (wildfire and drought), energy, recreation, and advocacy. Funding from

the EPA will directly bolster access to existing programs that address inequalities around these vulnerabilities in the defined geographic area. As partners in this project, EcoAction Partners (EAP) and Sheep Mountain Alliance (SMA) will build regional resiliency through educational programming and outreach initiatives to underserved residents in the Region. Through these initiatives, the project outcomes aim to remove existing barriers to accessing current climate resiliency programming and to increase public health and environmental resiliency among underserved populations in the Region.

5)

Recipient: National Wildlife Federation

Project Title: Globeville I-70 Green Infrastructure Partnership: Building a Healthy and Resilient Community through Tree Planting and Stewardship

Project Location: Denver, CO

Project Description: NWF's Rocky Mountain Regional Center (RMRC) is working with Green Spaces, Birdseed Collective, The Park People, and The Design Workshop Foundation as part of the 'Green Dot Coalition' to address environmental and public health issues in the neighborhood of Globeville. The Globeville neighborhood is a historically underserved area in the northeast quadrant of Denver, Colorado. The RMRC was selected by the project partners to submit this application because of technical and financial expertise, and the trust of project partners that do not have the capacity to administer complicated funding opportunities. Together, the project team aims to decrease the impact of Interstate-70 (I-70) on the predominantly Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) residents of Globeville by planting climate friendly trees and plants, and installing green infrastructure that will mitigate impacts of the highway on the residential neighborhood by reducing noise, air pollution, polluted runoff, and the heat island effect.

Region 9

1)

Recipient: Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc. dba SD Botanic Gard

Project Title: Partnership Pilot Program for Tribal Community Revitalization and Planning for Climate Resiliency and Adaptation

Project Location: San Diego, CA

Project Description: The project creates and strengthens a partnership of tribal government, community based non-profit, academic, and industry groups to support the federally-recognized tribal communities of Jamul and Viejas Bands of Kumeyaay and Pala Band of Luiseño Mission Indians in San Diego County, CA in their adaptation and resilience to climate change, drought, and wildfire, especially pertaining to plants of cultural significance, tribal health, and wellbeing. The partnership will convene a Tribal Working Group to develop a Cultural Knowledge and Data Sovereignty Agreement to protect indigenous rights and facilitate knowledge sharing, with focus on culturally significant plants of each tribal partner that need protection, conservation, restoration, and/or propagation. With tribal partners, Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc. dba SD Botanic Gard will build capacity, education, and infrastructure for habitat restoration projects; evaluate changing occurrence distributions for the culturally important plants; conduct responsible plant surveys and collections; develop seed banks and gardens or greenhouses in the tribal community; and propagate critically needed plants. The team will

make available and accessible plants needed for cultural practices, tribal health, and wellbeing to the tribal community, including elders who cannot hike distant or difficult terrain to reach retreating plant communities, and youths who desire to learn plant-connected tradition directly from their elders. Some tribal members live off-reservation and will be reached both by the new community infrastructure on tribal land as well as new availability of potted plants and accessible areas in the community-based non-profits. Connecting the people with plants and the environment contributes to the health and well-being of the tribe directly and indirectly.

2)

Recipient: Grades of Green

Project Title: Transforming Communities from the Ground Up through Student Led Action

Project Location: Inglewood/Greater LA, CA

Project Description: Grades of Green will address environmental justice and health issues the Inglewood community faces through school focused action by collaboration with the Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) and community partners. The project will support and catalyze IUSD's compliance with local environmental ordinances (Senate Bill 1383), support community goals as identified by IUSD's Facilities Master Plan & the City of Inglewood's Environmental Justice (EJ) Element publication and mobilize generations of leaders through district-wide planning which engages the IUSD in student-led implementation of experiential learning, environmental education programs. California's SB1383 requires that all local education agencies divert 75% of organic materials from landfill waste streams and redirect 20% of edible materials to food donation organizations and school share tables. This mandate also requires local education agencies to provide organic diversion/recovery education to all stakeholders. Jurisdictions will fine local education agencies for noncompliance, even though SB 1383 and the authoring body does not provide proper funding, programs, or assistance in implementation. This project will provide environmental education, training and programs, address accessibility, develop implementation systems for waste diversion and establish food recovery/donation of edible food at IUSD. This project directly addresses self-identified environmental issues and injustices while empowering generations of community members to lead, foster, and sustain environmental projects.

3)

Recipient: Central California Environmental Justice Network

Project Title: Residents, Researchers, and Regulators Collaborating for Environmental Justice

Project Location: Fresno/San Joaquin Valley, CA

Project Description: This project builds upon and expands existing programs and relationships with residents, researchers, and regulators to create campaigns capable of producing meaningful environmental and public health results. Central California Environmental Justice Network will accomplish this using two approaches: (1) Community-led and -informed air monitoring campaigns that are supported by technical experts (2) Facilitation of the meaningful involvement of resident leaders from rural, disadvantaged communities in public processes that impact their health. The team will partner with grassroots groups and resident leaders from small, disadvantaged communities in the region to create a Rural Communities Environmental Justice Advisory Committee.

4)

Recipient: Red Feather Development Group

Project Title: Red Feather Healthy Heating Education and Access for Hopi and Navajo Communities

Project Location: Navajo Nation, AZ

Project Description: Most Hopi and Navajo families use coal and wood to heat their homes. Solid fuel burning in the home can release high levels of pollution, resulting in poor indoor air quality and contributing to respiratory disease and other health complications. Wood smoke can lead to creosote deposits on chimneys and, if not properly maintained, lead to chimney fires causing potential loss of life and property. Families that choose not to use solid fuels turn to dangerous and expensive heating alternatives like electric space heaters and unvented propane and kerosene heaters. Further, many Navajo and Hopi families live in significant poverty with “energy burdens” far exceeding national averages. Red Feather’s Healthy Heating Education and Access Program was developed to reduce these risks with the broad goals of reducing unnecessary loss of life, improving health, and building the resilience of Navajo and Hopi communities. Programming will include Do-It-Yourself (DIY) workshops for homeowners, customized in-home training and case management including financial assistance for heating system upgrades, and wood stove installation and maintenance classes geared towards trades professionals. These programs will provide homeowners residing on the Hopi or Navajo reservations with the knowledge and tools to reduce indoor air pollution, improve respiratory health and home safety and spur economic development. Project outcomes include: the reduction of environmental health disparities, an increase in climate resilience and efficiency, an increase in the number of Indigenous trade professionals providing quality housing and energy services, and a reduction in the energy burdens experienced by these communities.

5)

Recipient: West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

Project Title: Tracking WOCAP: Collaborative Development of Community Indicators to Measure Progress of the AB617 West Oakland Community Action Plan

Project Location: Oakland/Bay Area, CA

Project Description: Since the California Air Resources Board (CARB) established the Community Air Protection Program in 2017, naming West Oakland one of the most pollution-burdened communities in the state of California, WOEIP and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) have co-lead a multi-stakeholder, community-centered collaborative to develop the West Oakland Community Action Plan (WOCAP), comprised of 89 strategies to reduce air pollution throughout West Oakland by 2030. As the WOCAP strategies continue to be implemented through the application of multi-agency resources and collaborative community development, it has become increasingly critical to measure the efficacy of these efforts and track ongoing disparities. With long-term partners BAAQMD, CARB, UC Berkeley, and EDF, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project is proposing a collaborative project that directly supports the existing WOCAP process by developing and implementing a performance measurement strategy addressing WOCAP's core pillars: reducing emissions, reducing exposure, and improving health and environmental equity. The collaborative, the WOCAP Steering Committee, and West Oakland residents will conduct a participatory process in year 1 to define methodologies that accurately and appropriately measure concentration, exposure, and community equity metrics related to the WOCAP strategies, including an implementation plan for a community-owned air pollution monitoring network to collect data on hyperlocal pollution concentrations. In years 2-3, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project will deploy the monitoring network, conduct data analysis and community reporting,

and use this data in collaboration with the WOCAP Steering Committee and broader West Oakland community to continuously inform implementation of the WOCAP strategies in a manner that embodies the EPA's Collaborative problem-solving process.

6)

Recipient: Casa Familiar Inc.

Project Title: La Semilla/The Seed Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Project

Project Location: San Ysidro, CA

Project Description: La Semilla (The Seed) Project is located in a neighborhood in San Ysidro, CA, in close proximity to the US/Mexico border, considered a “disadvantaged community” by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 under SB 53. In San Ysidro, 21% of the population lives below the federal poverty level, 94% are of Hispanic origin, 90% speak Spanish and 65% of residents are food insecure. The overall goal of La Semilla Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Project is a neighborhood environmental justice and climate resiliency project set to address environmental and public health issues. The project will protect human health and the environment for the residents of San Ysidro which have been adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health harms. Once La Semilla is constructed the project will include shared community spaces for EJ programs, housing, cleaner modes of mobility, connections to transit, and green technology incorporated into the construction.

7)

Recipient: Council for Watershed Health

Project Title: ReDesignLA is a mentor-mentee model of technical assistance and capacity building for CBOs and Tribes to to develop community-led green infrastructure and climate resiliency projects.

Project Location: Pasadena/Greater LA, CA

Project Description: Council for Watershed Health’s (CWH) mission is to advance the health and sustainability of the region’s rivers, streams, and habitats in both natural areas and urban neighborhoods. CWH utilizes a mentor-mentee model of technical assistance and capacity building, called ReDesignLA, to empower local leaders, community-based organizations (CBOs) and Tribes to redesign their neighborhoods, schools, and communities to achieve environmental, public health, and social impacts through community-led projects that access infrastructure resources. If awarded, CWH and a team of six CBOs and one Tribe, known as ReDesignLA mentors, will provide technical assistance and capacity building support to seven new CBO and Tribal mentees. ReDesignLA mentors will support mentees as they develop and implement green infrastructure projects and apply for infrastructure funding within underserved and historically underinvested communities across the Los Angeles Region.

8)

Recipient: Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates Inc.

Project Title: Neighborhood-Based Environmental Justice Policy Platform

Project Location: San Francisco/Bay Area, CA

Project Description: This project is focused on the Bayview-Hunters Point community of San Francisco CA. The predominantly Black, Latinx, and Asian American residents of neighborhoods have endured decades of environmental racism and resulting debilitating health outcomes. This industrialized neighborhood bears the scars of systemic neglect in the form of literally hundreds of unmitigated hazardous and toxic waste sites, including the decommissioned naval shipyard still polluting the soil with radioactive contaminants. The immediate outcome of this two-year initiative will be the development of an Environmental Justice Policy Platform, grounded in the neighborhood's own lived experiences and community science – documentation and mapping of environmental toxic exposures and adverse health effects to past and present residents and workers, building an accessible library of local environmental issues, potential mitigation measures, and substantive policy changes. This approach is crucially important – first, because hyper-local, community-centered data is scarce and not often pursued by policymakers, and second, because it addresses missing or suppressed multi-generational data on long-term negative health impacts. The project connects multiple community-led efforts into a larger, cohesive program of pollution reduction, public health advocacy, and neighborhood empowerment. A major result of the program will be the development of new cadres of trained and experienced community environmental health activists, including youth advocates. Ultimately, through community-led research and evidence-based advocacy, residents should realize a cleaner environment and better health. The community empowerment program developed here will be adaptable to other marginalized communities in need of environmental justice and the chance to determine their own future.

9)

Recipient: Community Health Councils

Project Title: Environmental justice and BIPOC women's health

Project Location: Los Angeles, CA

Project Description: Community Health Councils is proposing to launch an advocacy and education campaign spearheaded by Promotoras/Community Health Workers (CHW lay health educators), related to the impact of environmental chemicals on breast cancer and reproductive health. The main objective is to mobilize and educate BIPOC women of reproductive age about the hidden hazards of poor air, soil, and water to take action in reducing their exposures. Toxins in personal care and household cleaning products will also be addressed to advocate for the adoption of safer, affordable, and realistic choices and behaviors within their financial, employment, and housing limitations. The activities include education and coaching Promotora/CHWs to teach their friends, families, and other community members about lowering their risks for breast cancer and reproductive harm by reducing exposure to toxins. Promotoras/CHWs will be supported by peer-to-peer learning, and training in community organizing and advocacy where they will engage in, and/or launch, local environmental justice movements. The outcomes are creating collective actions targeting elected officials and other stakeholders to influence policy, regulations, and practices impacting the built environment and women's health. Outcomes for individual adoption of practices and behaviors to reduce risks from toxins will also be realized through this campaign. The geographic areas of focus are South and Central Los Angeles, hot spots for high concentrations of toxic exposures in densely populated urban under resourced communities.

10)

Recipient: Kaunalewa

Project Title: Wai Ola (Water is Life): Sustaining Water Quality in Waiawa Ahupuaa

Project Location: Kauai, HI

Project Description: Kaunalewa and its community partners propose a comprehensive environmental mitigation and revitalization program that will elevate the capacity of existing programs and widely supported initiatives. The project will leverage an EPA Brownfield Job Training awarded in FY2022 and previous EJCPS grant-funded projects and programming, leading to improvements in water quality awareness, testing, enforcement, and management. This broad initiative will include community-oriented and collaborative inclusion that will lead to greater participation of Native Hawaiian families across the project. Core proposed activities include lead exposure testing in households, mitigation of solid waste and pesticides along aquatic passageways, community remediation programs to reduce negative environmental activities (e.g., illegal dumping), and the creation of an open-sourced visual inventory of environmental assets and hotspots. This comprehensive environmental justice program will further serve to advance local economic development, which is heavily dependent on agricultural output and, by extension, environmental stewardship.

11)

Recipient: Northern Nevada Institute for Public Health

Project Title: Water quality of private wells in rural Nevada: A community-driven assessment, education, and sustainability project

Project Location: Reno, NV

Project Description: Nevadans living in rural communities often rely on private water sources (e.g., wells) for their water. The water quality from these sources is unregulated by state and local governments and is left up to the individual owner of the water source. As a result, many Nevadans relying on private water sources do not routinely test the quality of their water. Studies have highlighted that dangerous metals and contaminants (e.g., arsenic) may be present at unsafe levels in these sources. The main aims of this proposed project are to conduct water quality assessments for private well owners, to improve education and resources related to water quality, and to develop a community-driven sustainability and future actions plan that identifies strategies for continued improvement of water quality assessment in the future.

12)

Recipient: Rebuild Superior, Inc.

Project Title: Rebuild Superior Blight Reduction Program

Project Location: Superior, AZ

Project Description: The Rebuild Superior Blight Reduction Program will increase the capacity of the Town of Superior to use its 'clean and lien' program. While the many towns in Arizona have the authority to clean up blight in their communities, like Superior, communities do not have the financial resources to take on larger projects. Grant funds will be used to fill a financial hole that no other funding sources can fit. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Copper Corridor Blight Busters brownfields coalition have been successful in assessing and cleaning up properties. Rebuild Superior, Inc. will also cleanup properties on the behalf of the Town so it can place a lien on the

property and ultimately create a revolving blight reduction fund. The legal hurdles associated with establishing a revolving blight reduction fund will be overcome using other funding and partner in-kind services. The goal is to create a model that can be replicated in other rural Arizona communities.

13)

Recipient: Amistades, Inc.

Project Title: Justica Juntos (Justice Together)

Project Location: Tucson, AZ

Project Description: Arizona Latino-led/Latino-serving community development and social/environmental justice advocates have joined forces to building community capacity in Tucson, Arizona to address the critically increasing heat severity and its impact in disproportionately affected Latino-dominant communities where socioeconomic and cultural barriers and historical trauma from barrio eradication promote system mistrust and sustained disparity. These efforts jumpstart the City of Tucson 2022 Tucson Resilient Together Climate and Adaptation Plan goals by building heat severity resilience in Tucson's 85706 zip code, which currently has six Latino neighborhoods with excessive heat index and low shade tree equity. Specific project objectives will be to 1) engage and inform Latino residents about the urban heat island effect; 2) build capacity to respond to extreme heat events and advocate for environmental justice issues specific to their neighborhoods, and 3) create access to resources and adaptive strategies that help them stay safe, cool, and bring temperatures down. Project activities will focus on culturally specific community outreach and engagement and partnership development; climate resiliency education and planning using the EJCPS model; and youth and adult advocacy and mobilization training as advocates in regional environmental justice advisory groups and committees.

14)

Recipient: Bisbee Science Exploration & Research Center

Project Title: Bisbee Science Exploration & Research Center: Community Environmental Field Station Design

Project Location: Bisbee, AZ

Project Description: The Bisbee Science Exploration & Research Center's (BSERC) Community Environmental Field Station Design Project is an extension of the Backyard Project: A Regenerative Learning Ecosystem; a community driven design project that will reimagine 8 unused acres at a decommissioned middle school located only 3 miles from the U.S./Mexico border into an outdoor educational facility that is focused on education, environment, engagement and exercise (funded). Bisbee Science Exploration & Research Center has conducted over a years' work of community engagement and the need for increased environmental education has become clear. In order to fully address this facet of the project, the team is partnering with Creative Machines to design five research field stations that will focus on the most pertinent environmental issues in the community.

15)

Recipient: Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

Project Title: Solarize808, providing underserved communities with access to alternative energy to reduce financial burden

Project Location: Kapolei, HI

Project Description: Community-led, Solarize808 is an initiative co-designed with community stakeholders, prioritizing low and moderate-income (LMI), asset limited, income constrained, employed (ALICE) households and Native Hawaiian families. This past year, the team convened stakeholder groups to create new approaches, including priorities and tools to ensure equity and energy sovereignty for at-risk customers and communities. The Project Team, a private-public collaboration, includes members from the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Hawaii Energy, Hawaii State Energy Office, Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority, Hawaiian Electric, Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency, L.E.I. Foundation, Solar Crowdsource, and Hui o Hauula. The project team has been laying the foundation and thoughtfully implementing this initiative to meet the needs of the Waianae and Koolauloa communities throughout the past year by hosting 4 energy fairs incorporating community feedback and issued a Request for Proposal for a solar contractor. Solarize808's inaugural campaign, with its holistic and grassroots approach for community adoption through its consortium of partners, is committed to supporting at least 100 households with energy efficiency education, home audits, bulk-purchased solar PV+storage installations, inclusive financing options, and stipends.

16)

Recipient: Friendship House Association of American Indians

Project Title: The Village SF Urban Indian Project: Indigenous Community Garden and Ceremonial Space

Project Location: San Francisco, CA

Project Description: The Indigenous Community Garden will provide an environmentally sustainable and culturally significant space for San Francisco's American Indian and Alaska Native community members. Among the key outcomes planned are:

- 3.5-acres of ancestral lands returned to Native stewardship as ceremonial, gardening and workforce development space
- Revitalization of Indigenous cultures and Native food sovereignty
- 8,000 pounds of traditional foods and herbal plants projected per year – distributed to families experiencing food hardship and insecurity
- 12 internships focused on urban agriculture and social work for Indigenous youth, Natives in recovery, and the general Indigenous community – a number that will increase over time
- Increase in healthy food consumption and improvement in overall health and economic opportunities for underserved communities

Providing a greater sense of social connectedness, youth, elders, Friendship House clients, the SF Bay Area AI/AN community, and the general public will have access to new restored open space and an opportunity to observe and learn from traditional practices.

Region 10

1)

Recipient: Alaska Municipal League

Project Title: Health Climate Planning that Strengthens Alaska's Rural Communities

Project Location: State-wide rural communities, AK

Project Description: The project will utilize health impact assessments (HIAs) to evaluate the impact of climate change and natural disasters on disadvantaged communities in rural areas of Alaska, resulting in climate action and resilience plans for dozens of communities. HIAs will be employed to develop the basis for future climate action and disaster resilience plans. AML will work with partners to develop a model for rapid implementation that is consistent with the limited capacity of these communities. This project will increase the competency of disadvantaged communities to participate in state and federal opportunities, including for federal infrastructure investments that require this level of planning and assessment. The project will include all coastal communities as part of its outreach and engagement, with disadvantaged communities directly benefiting and dozens of others receiving best practices and training. Project activities include community engagement through a city's public processes, development of assessment and planning tools by the project team, assessment of health impacts of climate change, evaluation by the project team, development of climate action plan, and identification of potential state and federal investments. The objectives of the project are to produce a health impact assessment and climate action and resilience plan for each participating community, with outcomes that include increased public health and access to federal funding that improves living conditions.

2)

Recipient: TerraGraphics International Foundation Inc

Project Title: Adapting the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for emergency response to achieve meaningful input on mining (NIMS4MIM)

Project Location: Duck Valley Indian Reservation, ID

Project Description: Like many Tribal communities, the Shoshone-Paiute (Sho-Pai) Tribe of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation (DVIR) is experiencing intense mining pressure related to minerals needed for low-carbon energy. Tribes have a short time to engage in government-to-government consultation on proposed mine operations through the National Environmental Protection Act, which requires them to review thousands of pages of environmental impact statements, identify potential impacts, coordinate with stakeholders and community members, and provide feedback. As a small reservation, the Tribe's limited resources are quickly overwhelmed, thus the need for an emergency response strategy. Objective: Partners will utilize the EJCS Model to develop and implement an innovative strategy for DVIR to use when engaging in government-to-government consultation. Using all seven EJCS elements, partners will adapt the federal National Incident Management System (NIMS) framework for disaster preparedness and response to achieve meaningful input on mining (NIMS4MIM). The result will be a rapid response strategy using the three components of the federal NIMS for emergency response and preparedness: resource management, coordination, and communications. Activities: NIMS4MIM will be developed through workshops, trainings, community forums, and hands-on activities. Outputs include development of baseline datasets, workshops, trainings, community forums, engaging K-12 youth, and the NIMS4MIM rapid response strategy. Outcomes include increase in local knowledge, enhanced technical capacity to assess potential mining impacts, stronger collaborative decision making in responding to proposed mining activities, the protection of DVIR environmental, wildlife, and cultural resources for future generations, and adaptation and adoption of NIMS4MIM by other Tribes.

3)

Recipient: The Trust for Public Land

Project Title: Madras Community Schoolyard Environmental Justice

Project Location: Madras, OR

Project Description: Through extensive community engagement, TPL is partnering with rural communities in Oregon to transform outdated schoolyards into vibrant green spaces that reflect local cultures, create opportunities for physical activity, advance community goals, strengthen climate resiliency, and build local capacity for future community projects. In Madras, Oregon, TPL is partnering with the school district, students, teachers, community organizations, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to design and create a green schoolyard at Madras Elementary School. The project will directly address the environmental and public health issues of lack of access to physical activity amenities, exposure to air pollution, and vulnerability to excessive heat as air temperatures rise due to climate change. The new schoolyard will reduce asphalt, add more drought tolerant, native plants and shade to help keep the schoolyard cool and accessible during hot weather, and provide educational multi-lingual signage and art installations throughout the site that reflect the community's diverse and vibrant cultures. The final built project will provide an opportunity to deepen student and community knowledge of the local ecosystem, the impacts of climate change on that system, and elevate Traditional Ecological Knowledge and history through specific design elements and plants.

4)

Recipient: Center for Intercultural Organizing

Project Title: Oregon Climate Resilience

Project Location: Oregon, Jefferson, Cook, Deschutes, Jackson, and Josephine Counties, OR

Project Description: The Oregon Climate Resilience project will work Central Oregon and Rogue Valley communities with high climate disaster risk, pre-existing pressures on economic and environmental health, and where community leaders are stepping forward to act. In these rural and tribal areas, Unite Oregon and our partners across Indigenous and other community-led organizations, local government, and rural electric co-ops will collaborate to 1) Strengthen the capacity of community leaders in Central Oregon and the Rogue Valley to organize around climate justice, and take action on policies and other systemic inequities affecting their communities; 2) Create two Community Resilience Hubs so communities with limited English proficiency, immigrants, rural Oregonians, and people of color have the same access to disaster response assistance from government, the private sector, and their neighbors; and 3) Reduce home energy costs by increasing rural and tribal community access to residential home energy efficiency incentives from federal, state, and utility sources.

5)

Recipient: Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc.

Project Title: Wildfire Preparedness and Resiliency in Farmworker Communities

Project Location: Statewide, WA

Project Description: Farmworker Justice's project will build capacity among farmworker-serving partners to perform community outreach and improve wildfire emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency among farmworker communities by providing access to information and links to resources. During the three-year project, FJ will partner with organizations in Washington state to create a toolkit of resources as well as SMS/text messages to more than 15,000 farmworkers in Washington state.

During the first two years of the project, FJ, its project partners, and the National Advisory Committee will pilot the toolkit in Washington with the aim of scaling the project to the national level during year 3.

6)

Recipient: Methow Valley Citizens Council

Project Title: Empowering Environmental Justice communities to build climate resiliency through community-oriented solutions, equitable fuels reduction programs and protecting health from poor air quality.

Project Location: Okanogan County, WA

Project Description: Okanogan County is a geographically isolated, under-resourced rural area with residents dispersed among the east slopes of the Cascade Mountains with year-round PM2.5 exposures from smoke (predominantly wildfire, prescribed fire, outdoor burning, and woodsmoke). With growing anticipation of annual wildfires due to a changing climate and prescribed burning in the forests surrounding towns in Okanogan County, measures to ensure climate change resiliency, encourage alternatives to burning, and protect public health from smoke are of critical importance. MVCC recently led a two-year, community-based climate action planning process that evaluated climate change vulnerabilities and identified priority adaptation and mitigation solutions. Advancing the area as a fire- and smoke-ready community is named as a top strategy towards building climate resiliency. Furthermore, North Central Washington is comprised of many organizations, businesses, and government entities with similar missions, visions, and values regarding climate resiliency. In 2025, MVCC and partners will host an Air and Climate Conference in North Central Washington to engage the broader region and procure commitments from local governments on action items directly related to strengthening climate resiliency for vulnerable and overburdened communities. It is anticipated that this work will inform, engage, and deepen connections between overburdened and vulnerable communities across North Central Washington.

7)

Recipient: Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation

Project Title: Tribal Youth Environmental Justice and Climate Leadership Program

Project Location: Boise, ID

Project Description: USRT's work in the last several years has focused on improving the climate literacy of member tribes' communities and youth. USRT accomplished this work by creating a K-12 climate curriculum, hosting climate workshops for tribal educators, and hosting climate camps and field trips for tribal students. However, this work was only the beginning for USRT. This project will build off of previous efforts to implement a stronger, better prepared generation of tribal environmental leaders. There are three focus areas in which USRT can engage tribal youth on climate hazards and environmental justice concerns: 1) improve the environmental justice literacy of tribal youth; 2) authentically connect tribal youth to local and regional environmental justice issues that impact their community through collaborative civic engagement; and 3) empower tribal youth to take action through career and workforce development in climate and environmental justice.

The overarching goal of this program will be to provide collaborative experiences, training, and opportunities that will help the next generation of tribal leaders address their most pressing environmental justice concerns within their own communities, regionally, and beyond. USRT will

accomplish this work with the continued implementation of a climate curriculum and suite of environmental justice-focused programming.

8)

Recipient: Prince William Sound Science and Technology Institute

Project Title: Drying seaweed using waste heat: a proof of concept to build community resilience for food security and economic diversity in PWS, AK.

Project Location: Cordova, AK

Project Description: Prince William Sound (PWS), located in southcentral Alaska, is home to five communities, Chenega, Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez, and Whittier. Their economy is disproportionately affected by environmental issues because of their dependence upon commercial salmon fisheries. Since 2016, PWS has experienced five fisheries disasters, drastic population declines, that have affected all five salmon species native to this region. The COVID-19 pandemic added to economic strain and food insecurity by disrupting supply chains that provide 95% of Alaska's food. The State of Alaska and the PWS Economic Development District have identified the mariculture industry to increase economic diversity and food security. PWS currently holds 26% of Alaska's seaweed farm permits and thousands of pounds of kelp is harvested each year. However, there is no dedicated capacity to process seaweed. This is a barrier that prevents growth of an industry that can increase economic diversity and food security. The goal of this project is to address this barrier by determining if waste heat can be used to efficiently dry large quantities of seaweed. The objectives are to 1) establish a temporary structure that uses waste heat from a diesel power plant to dry seaweed efficiently, 2) identify long-term options for processing and assess business viability, 3) build acceptance or social license for mariculture and 4) provide training to increase the mariculture workforce. These objectives will provide dedicated capacity and directly support mariculture industry growth for PWS and coastal Alaskan communities.

9)

Recipient: Oregon Coast Visitors Association

Project Title: Creating Equitable and Low-Impact Transportation To and Along the Oregon Coast

Project Location: Astoria, Seaside, Cannon Beach, Manzanita, Nehalem, Garibaldi, Tillamook, Pacific City, Lincoln City, Newport, Waldport, Yachats, Florence, Portland, Salem, Eugene, OR

Project Description: This project aims to expand equitable and inclusive movement to and along the Oregon Coast. OCVA will do this by developing social, environmental, financial, and technical strategies to assess the critical points of technical and social infrastructure needed for equitable and low impact transportation. The grant will support three communities burdened by environmental justice issues relating to transportation to and along the Oregon coast: people of color who reside in the Portland metro, Salem, and Eugene areas who wish to visit the Oregon coast as tourists, the tourism workforce who commute to their employment on the Oregon coast, and residents residing in congested traffic ways along the north and central Oregon coast. The grant aims to reduce the nature gap observed in the Portland Metro, Salem, and Eugene areas, reduce barriers, and increase feelings of safety for people of color visiting the Oregon coast, decrease workforce traffic and burden, and decrease traffic congestion and air pollution at highly visited coastal destinations.

10)

Recipient: Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative

Project Title: Southern Oregon Wildfire Resilience Education for All

Project Location: Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Coos, and Curry Counties, OR

Project Description: Collaboratively planned fire education for k-12th grade students and youth workforce training and development in Southern Oregon will facilitate greater coordination among organizing partners and achieve the mission set forth in the National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy for – Fire-adapted communities: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property. An extended network of formal and non-formal educators supports students and youth to be fire-adapted citizens who: understand forest health, can prepare in advance of wildfire, make informed decisions through awareness and knowledge of forest and fire ecology, understand Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK), are familiar with fire science, fire behavior, and fire prevention. Coordination and implementation of wildfire education will provide a conduit for reaching student populations who are vulnerable to smoke and wildfire and facilitate a greater depth of diversity, equity and, inclusion for local wildfire planning and preparedness. Projects partners and the education community will facilitate actionable education outcomes and goals for student populations and youth for the Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan (RVIFP), as part of the Jackson County Community Response Plan for Smoke, Ashland Community Response Plan for Smoke (CRP), local community wildfire protection plans (CWPP)s and community forest planning. The target population for services are k-12th grade students in urban and rural communities and youth 18-24 who will have comprehensive wildfire resilience education that creates a pathway for careers in wildland fire and forestry. The geographic area ranks in the 86 percentiles for PM 2.5 particulate exposure when low income, limited English speaking, less than high school education, unemployment, and low life expectancy populations are included for risk factors. The project area is in the extreme or high-risk categories for wildfire which requires more climate disaster planning and community wildfire resilience education for student and youth populations.

Total Amounts Proposed to Award Per EJCS Applicant

EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
Region 01	Gulf of Maine Research Institute	\$500,000
	Health Resources in Action	\$500,000
	Childhood Lead Action Project, Inc.	\$500,000
	Mystic River Watershed Association	\$500,000
	Nashua River Watershed Association Inc.	\$500,000
	New Haven Ecology Project	\$500,000

EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
	Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health	\$150,000
	United Charitable	\$500,000
	Refugee Development Center	\$500,000
	Hitchcock Center for the Environment	\$500,000
	Amy Halsted	\$500,000
	The Nature Conservancy	\$500,000
	Center for an Ecology-Based Economy	\$150,000
Region 02	PathStone Corporation	\$500,000
	We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.	\$500,000
	Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Inc.	\$500,000
	The Bronx is Blooming, Inc.	\$150,000
	Atma Connect	\$500,000
	Bronx River Alliance, Inc	\$500,000
	Sociedad Ambiente Marino	\$500,000
	Ironbound Community Corporation	\$327,900
	New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance	\$500,000
	Sixth Street Community Center, Inc.	\$150,000
Region 03	Resilient Virginia	\$150,000
	Ridge to Reefs	\$370,775
	YESS! of Charles County, Inc.	\$500,000
	Delaware Valley Citizens Council for Clean Air	\$500,000
	Clean Water Fund	\$500,000
	National Housing Trust	\$500,000
	John Bartram Association	\$500,000
	Nueva Esperanza, Inc.	\$500,000

EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
	Shamokin Creek Restoration AllianceYN	\$500,000
	Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards	\$150,000
	Appalachian Voices	\$500,000
Region 04	E3 Solutions, Inc.	\$500,000
	Dream in Green, Inc.	\$150,000
	Parks Alliance of Louisville	\$500,000
	2CMississippi: Towards Sustainable, Educated and Empowered M	\$500,000
	CleanAIRE North Carolina	\$500,000
	Steps Coalition	\$500,000
	Tennessee Environmental Council	\$500,000
	Glynn Environmental Coalition	\$500,000
	Ernest Clifford Muhammad	\$500,000
Region 05	Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.	\$500,000
	Ecolibrium3	\$500,000
	Vincentian Ohio Action Network, d.b.a. ARCH	\$500,000
	Ecology Action Center	\$500,000
	Community Power	\$500,000
	Reflo, Inc.	\$500,000
	United Congregations of Metro East	\$500,000
	enFocus	\$500,000
	One Love Global	\$500,000
Region 06	Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation	\$425,694
	Earth Care International	\$500,000
	Thrive New Orleans	\$500,000
	Micah Six Eight Mission	\$150,000

EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
	The DigDeep Right to Water Project	\$500,000
	Sewa International Inc.	\$500,000
	Black United Fund of Texas, Inc.	\$500,000
	Groundwork New Orleans	\$500,000
	Open Design Collective, Inc.	\$500,000
Region 07	Springfield Community Gardens	\$500,000
	PedNet Coalition, Inc. (dba Local Motion)	\$500,000
	Gamaliel Foundation	\$500,000
	HEARTLAND CONSERVATION ALLIANCE, INC.	\$500,000
	Iowa Environmental Council	\$500,000
	Bridging The Gap, Inc.	\$500,000
Region 08	Bessemer Historical Society, Inc.	\$500,000
	Denver Urban Gardens	\$500,000
	AMERICAN SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY INC	\$500,000
	EcoAction Partners	\$50,000
	National Wildlife Federation	\$500,000
Region 09	Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc. dba SD Botanic Gard	\$500,000
	Grades of Green	\$500,000
	Council for Watershed Health	\$500,000
	Central California Environmental Justice Network	\$500,000
	Red Feather Development Group	\$500,000
	West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project	\$500,000
	Casa Familiar Inc.	\$500,000
	Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates Inc.	\$500,000
	Community Health Councils	\$500,000

EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
	Kaunalewa	\$500,000
	Northern Nevada Institute for Public Health	\$500,000
	Rebuild Superior, Inc.	\$150,000
	Amistades, Inc.	\$166,666
	Bisbee Science Exploration & Research Center	\$150,000
	Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement	\$500,000
	Friendship House Association of American Indians	\$500,000
Region 10	Alaska Municipal League	\$500,000
	TerraGraphics International Foundation Inc	\$434,715
	The Trust for Public Land	\$500,000
	Center for Intercultural Organizing	\$500,000
	Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc.	\$500,000
	Methow Valley Citizens Council	\$460,504
	Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation	\$335,418
	Prince William Sound Science and Technology Institute	\$382,806
	Oregon Coast Visitors Association	\$500,000
	Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative	\$360,000