

## 2023 Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program Project Summaries

EPA's EJG2G provides funding at the state, local, territorial, and Tribal level to support government activities in partnership with community-based organizations that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms. The 88 EJG2G selections will address many environmental justice challenges, including indoor and outdoor air quality; exposure to toxic pollution in homes; water quality; access to healthy food and affordable transportation; and emergency preparedness. Learn more here: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-government-government-program>.

**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:** Vermont Agency of Human Services

**Project Title:** Addressing Environmental Justice in the Champlain Valley through Healthy and Energy-Efficient Homes

**Project Location:** Burlington, VT

**Project Description:** The main objective of this proposal is to improve the health and well-being of low-income immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers/asylee households in Burlington and Winooski, Vermont, by creating a Community Ambassador-led Healthy and Energy-Efficient Homes Program. The proposed activities seek to expand the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity's (CVOEO) Community Ambassador program to include environmental justice work through a holistic and grassroots approach to addressing environmental injustice. The Healthy and Energy-Efficient Homes Program will provide home assessments, education, repairs, and improvements, to support climate change resiliency and home environmental health improvement, particularly for community members with poorly controlled asthma or other conditions affected by home environmental conditions. This program will be provided through trusted community partners to residents historically disadvantaged by discrimination, poverty, and toxic environmental exposures, and underserved by health and environmental services. Additionally, to support ongoing, transformative change, the proposed project activities include engaging with residents and community organizations to learn more about environmental burdens affecting community members through community forums and community-based participatory research and evaluation. This approach will blend direct services, with the potential to provide immediate benefits, with training, education, and learning, to identify and plan for long-term environmental justice action. The goal of this initiative is to build and empirically evaluate the efficacy of a Community Ambassador Environmental Justice model and expansion of this model into a statewide Community Inclusion Network designed to increase engagement between underserved residents and organizational partners.

2)

**Recipient:** Rhode Island Department of Health

**Project Title:** Improving Air Quality for Environmental Justice Communities Disproportionately Affected by Asthma in Providence, RI

**Project Location:** Providence, RI

**Project Description:** The Rhode Island Asthma Control Program (RIACP) is proposing to measure the impact of air quality on asthma outcomes among underserved communities living throughout Providence, Rhode Island. RIACP proposes to monitor and improve indoor air quality (IAQ) by installing both low cost, and passive air quality sensors, as well as electric stoves, and air purifiers within single- and multi-family public housing residences, with the goal of reducing exposure to nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) within homes located in areas with a high burden of asthma and poor air quality from sources of environmental pollution. Additionally, RIACP will use the collected data, along with input from the community and an assessment of other costs and benefits, to develop a health impact assessment for housing authorities to replace natural gas stoves with electric stoves.

3)

**Recipient:** City of New Haven

**Project Title:** Electrify New Haven

**Project Location:** New Haven, CT

**Project Description:** This grant would fund an initiative by the City of New Haven and community-based organizations (CBOs) to enroll energy-burdened New Haven residents in a new program aimed at the electrification of aging heating and cooking systems. These systems are often costly, inefficient, and can exacerbate health conditions related to indoor air quality, such as asthma and heart disease. Replacing these systems with new high efficiency electric appliances such as heat pumps and induction stoves can reduce energy bills, improve public health, and reduce climate pollution. Over the three-year grant timeline, the City will partner with local CBOs providing utility assistance to enroll 400 households in energy counseling and energy efficiency programs and to electrify heating and cooking systems in 50-100 “example project” households who have recently received utility assistance. The City plans to concentrate engagement in disadvantaged community census tracts in West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Fair Haven, and the Annex neighborhoods. Through resident engagement and implementation of the example projects in a variety of neighborhoods, the City aims to communicate and demonstrate the beneficial anticipated effects of home electrification: lowered greenhouse gas emissions and indoor air pollution, reduced energy burdens, increased resiliency through improvements to structures’ passive survivability and installation of air condition systems for extreme heat-events. Through a partnership with researchers at Yale University, the City will evaluate the effectiveness of this program through monitoring indoor air quality before and after conversions to heat pumps and electric stoves, weatherization, as well as conducting qualitative research (interviews and focus groups) before and after these interventions.

4)

**Recipient:** City of Boston

**Project Title:** Gas Stove Replacement Program

**Project Location:** Boston, MA

**Project Description:** The City of Boston seeks to partner with Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation and the Boston Housing Authority to improve the indoor air quality and electric infrastructure of properties in Dorchester, MA by replacing gas stoves with standard electric coil ranges and/or induction stoves. The project will involve the replacement of approximately 80 gas stoves, major improvements to electrical infrastructure in individual units and/or entire buildings, and training for residents on how to use induction equipment. The goal of this program is to educate residents on electric cooking and its environmental/health benefits, improve workforce development by catalyzing green jobs, and encourage our partners to consider green options for future projects. The project will also address public health impacts, e.g., asthma, in neighborhoods where there is a disproportionately high number of asthma incidents. To measure the outcomes and impact of this program, the City will partner with Boston University to conduct air quality monitoring, evaluate user experience, and model the health/cost benefits for future projects. More broadly, it will serve as a pilot for future electrification projects as part of the City of Boston's mission to be a carbon-neutral city by 2050.

5)

**Recipient:** Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)

**Project Title:** Building and Expanding Equitable Active Transportation Networks in Northwestern Vermont

**Project Location:** St Albans, VT

**Project Description:** Municipalities in this region are at varying stages of planning and building safe bicycle and pedestrian networks but are often challenged in moving projects from paper plans to shovel ready due to a lack of staff capacity and funding. The issue is compounded by infrastructure gaps in areas serving the most vulnerable or historically marginalized populations. Inequitable access to quality bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure can ultimately limit necessary travel for employment and impede recreational activity and physical exercise. This project will enable NRPC and community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) to direct resources to the region's most vulnerable populations affected by inequitable access. As a result, NRPC will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing the number of automobile trips, increase physical activity and health outcomes for populations that have disproportionate rates of obesity related disease, and strengthen existing partnerships and connections between CBOs in areas that serve these populations. To achieve this goal, the project team will assess and prioritize 5-8 active transportation proposals for their ability to have the greatest impact on improving quality and strengthening access to infrastructure for disproportionately impacted populations. The team will provide critically needed capacity and technical resources to move active transportation plans forward and provide support and programming necessary to ensure equitable access and use that will improve environmental and health outcomes.

6)

**Recipient:** City of Bridgeport

**Project Title:** City of Bridgeport - Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Application

**Project Location:** Bridgeport, CT

**Project Description:** The project focuses on implementing Complete Streets, a design approach that accounts for all transportation users in the public right-of-way, and Vision Zero, a strategy to eliminate all transportation-related serious and fatal injuries, along a key commercial corridor within Bridgeport's East Side neighborhood (zip code 06608). The project will be informed by baseline data analysis and a bottoms-up approach to community input through at least 6 outreach events. Improving safety conditions for multiple transportation users reduces traffic-related injuries and fatalities, makes the area more inviting to all ages and abilities, supports mode shift to active transportation which reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, removes cost barriers associated with personal vehicle use, and expands equitable transportation access. In addition, adding green infrastructure improves air quality, absorbs carbon emissions, and reduces area temperatures, thereby improving the experience of streetscape users while reducing cooling demand on nearby buildings.

7)

**Recipient:** City of Waterbury

**Project Title:** City of Waterbury, CT - Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program

**Project Location:** Waterbury, CT

**Project Description:** The City of Waterbury-Department of Public Health proposes to pilot a community-engagement project in one of the most impoverished areas of the city. The three-block radius area includes 1st Ave, 2nd Ave, Central Street, Holmes Street, and Mitchell Ave, bordered by Prospect Street, Hill Side Avenue, Grove Street, and Willow Street. The City has specifically targeted a few streets in this neighborhood to launch this pilot program with the goal of public education and increased community participation in lead- and asbestos-remediation, blight, and recycling. This area is considered a historically disadvantaged community and an area of persistent poverty. If awarded, the Waterbury Health Department (WHD) will act as Project Manager, overseeing the timeline, budget, and activities provided by all partners, to:

- Engage community in small-scale neighborhood clean-ups.
- Engage residents in increased participation in recycling.
- Engage property owners in lead and asbestos remediation education and efforts.

The proposed outputs include: Increased recycling as measured by recycling bucket participation and tonnage collected, Increased the number of properties enrolled in the Waterbury Lead Healthy Homes program, and proposed EPA-funded asbestos remediation repairs.

8)

**Recipient:** Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)

**Project Title:** GPCOG EJG2G Community Resilience

**Project Location:** Portland, ME

**Project Description:** Utilizing National Service Members to add capacity to climate resilience and environmental justice projects happening at the grassroots, municipal, and regional level, GPCOG will assist communities in creating and implementing action steps to respond to climate change with a special focus on addressing energy insecurity and climate adaptation for underserved, disadvantaged, and rural populations in Cumberland and York Counties in Maine. Specific activities include: data collection and analysis, mapping, research, report writing, developing written resources, public education, community meetings and trainings, outreach, engagement, workforce development, weatherization projects, and volunteer recruitment. Project outputs consist of public workshops, window insert builds, increased volunteer and organizational capacity, written resources (such as fact sheets, checklists, journey maps, flow charts, articles, and reports), and job placements. The primary project outcomes include the creation of a robust and extensive network of diverse community members educated about and invested in addressing environmental challenges associated with climate change. Finally, the model of partnerships that this project creates can be replicated across the state and country, further strengthening connections between community members and local and state government.

9)

**Recipient:** Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)

**Project Title:** MA Environmental Justice Government-Government (EJG2G) Program

**Project Location:** Springfield, Holyoke, and Chicopee, MA

**Project Description:** The Addressing Inequities through a comprehensive CHW Home Visiting Model (AIM) will address inequities in asthma outcomes in populations experiencing disparities in access to safe and healthy housing and increased vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Working in partnership with Revitalize Community Development Corporation (Revitalize CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) will achieve measurable and meaningful improvements in asthma outcomes through the reduction of home environmental asthma triggers in Springfield, Holyoke, and Chicopee, MA, where old housing stock and low-income households are prevalent. AIM will leverage funding via the newly implemented MassHealth (Massachusetts Medicaid) 1115 Demonstration Waiver, braided with existing climate resilience and weatherization funding, and these EJG2G grant funds. Specifically, EJG2G funds will be utilized for in-home environmental remediations to support an asthma home visiting + remediation model that addresses the multifactorial needs of vulnerable residents and communities. Services that traditional funding mechanisms often exclude, such as mold remediation, carpet/flooring replacement, integrated pest management, duct/vent cleaning, and more, will expand existing successful home visiting services, leverage siloed funding streams, and build community capacity. AIM will also support equitable community engagement, capacity building, and cross-bureau collaboration within MDPH to address environmental hazards and build community level adaptability and resiliency to address public health threats. AIM seeks to demonstrate that leveraging existing

funding mechanisms in coordination with thoughtful, focused funding can greatly amplify community impacts, with the goal of expanding across Massachusetts.

10)

**Recipient:** Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM)

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice in the Heart of Rhode Island - building community engagement in urban watersheds

**Project Location:** Providence, RI

**Project Description:** RIDEM, Rhode Island's primary state environmental agency, will partner with environmental and racial justice community-based organizations to build capacity for direct participation by impacted communities in the development and implementation of environmental policy decisions. Activities will take place in the communities that surround the rivers in the Upper Narragansett Bay Watershed. Year 1 activities will focus on engagement and community participation in workshops and toxic tours along four urban rivers to build shared understanding of environmental pollutants and their impact on the natural environment and people within the urban watershed focus areas. Engagement will also center on resilience and solutions related to green infrastructure, urban trees, wildlife protection, and combating pollution. Year 2 builds on this with community identification of public access points along these waterways and development of a story trail that connects community, history, and environmental awareness. Year 2 will also set the foundation for collaboration with community stakeholders in bringing forward expertise and insight critical to developing a model of informed policy decision-making by RIDEM. Year 3 will culminate in a sustainable model of community ownership by this cohort of EJ stakeholders to provide expertise on implementation of the State's Act on Climate, which requires the development and publication of a series of plans that outline how Rhode Island will meet the mandates for the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. This funding will support increased community collaboration with RIDEM to bridge the divide between community and government.

11)

**Recipient:** Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

**Project Title:** ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT (EJG2G) GRANT APPLICATION

**Project Location:** Hartford, CT

**Project Description:** The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) will be initiating a new program to work with community organizations in the North End of Hartford to engage with communities overburdened by issues associated with a combined sewer system. This program will include various activities for community engagement and outreach and capacity building. The goal of CT DEEP and its partners is to work with and find solutions for the residents in the North End of Hartford regarding flooding that occurs due to combined sewer overflows (CSOs), sanitary sewer overflow (SSOs), and climate change. This will lead to a better understanding of the community and what type of activities are most effective in establishing and maintaining relationships to improve

environmental justice within the State of Connecticut. Not only will this project ultimately foster a relationship with, and help these residents, but it will lead to further development of a toolset the CT DEEP will use in interacting with all the disadvantaged communities within the State, in particular other communities burdened by combined sewer systems.

12)

**Recipient:** Penobscot Indian Nation

**Project Title:** Wabanaki Consortium/Housing Circle Heat Pump Initiative

**Project Location:** Indian Island, ME

**Project Description:** The Penobscot Indian Nation, on behalf of the Wabanaki Consortium/Housing Circle will install a minimum of 150 heat pumps in Tribal housing units and private housing units occupied by Tribal citizens with the greatest need – elderly, veterans, and families with young children. In addition, grant funds will support continued collaboration amongst the Wabanaki Tribes' housing departments, as well as work with the University of Maine's Community Resilience Partnership focused on climate resilience. Training will be provided to 10 Tribal citizens to become certified renewable energy technicians. Lastly, community outreach and education related to climate resilience and improving sustainable practice will be provided to the entire Tribal population living on the reservation.

## Region 2

1)

**Recipient:** New York State Office of Resilient Homes and Communities (RHC)

**Project Title:** Ensuring a Just Transition in Southwest Brooklyn, NY: Planning, Engagement, Design, Workforce Development, and Solar + Storage Construction in Sunset Park, Red Hook, and Gowanus

**Project Location:** New York, NY

**Project Description:** This project has three distinct components. The first component will engage three environmental justice communities on Brooklyn's industrial waterfront – Sunset Park, Red Hook, and Gowanus – in a climate resiliency and adaptation planning, engagement, design, and implementation process that includes investment in zero-emission technologies and workforce development to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other air pollutants. Each community will convene a Resiliency Oversight Committee under the stewardship of RHC and a community-based nonprofit organization (CBO). Committee members will include partners from other environmental justice focused CBOs, residents, business owners, and government and nongovernmental organizations. RHC will procure the services of a professional planning/engineering design firm to support planning, engagement, and design work. Working closely with committee members, the selected firm will utilize existing reports and studies to identify and evaluate critical community challenges and conceptual solutions to address those challenges. Concepts will be fully vetted for feasibility, considering future funding sources, cost effectiveness, permitting, environmental, and other logistical concerns. This information will inform the development of future construction projects and public services. At a minimum, 3-5 concepts from each

committee will advance through the full design and permitting process. The second component is workforce development to prepare young adults from each community to participate in the just transition and implement future resilience projects in NYC. The workforce development program will be focused on green construction and solar photovoltaic (PV) installation methods. The third component is installation of solar storage and battery backup systems to allow for hands-on experience.

2)

**Recipient:** County of Hudson

**Project Title:** Hudson County, NJ Division of Planning Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Proposal

**Project Location:** Jersey City, NJ

**Project Description:** The Hudson County Division of Planning proposes to partner with the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA), Hackensack Riverkeeper, and the Hudson County/Jersey City Workforce Development Board (WDB) to address key environmental justice issues impacting our service area including water quality/pollution and climate resiliency and adaptation. The geographic area of focus for the proposed project includes all of Hudson County, New Jersey, which is home to just over 700,000 residents, according to U.S. Census data. Activities include a comprehensive anti-littering educational campaign, small scale community and river clean-ups, educational events and activities including eco-cruises and fishing clinics, construction of an educational rain garden, and green infrastructure workforce training. The measurable outcomes to be attained include increased knowledge and awareness of water pollution issues among residents of overburdened communities, reduced levels of aquatic trash in the Hackensack River, and an increased number of residents from overburdened communities holding nationally recognized credentials in green infrastructure practices. In the long-term, this project will lead to healthier riverine ecosystems, increased workforce capacity to support local green infrastructure projects, and increased community engagement in addressing environmental issues and injustice.

3)

**Recipient:** City of Newark

**Project Title:** Workforce Development for mitigating air quality, urban heat island, and stormwater issues in Newark

**Project Location:** Newark, NJ

**Project Description:** Newark, NJ is a densely populated city that is facing multidimensional environmental challenges in underserved communities of African Americans and Hispanics. The City of Newark was ranked second in the country for urban heat island (UHI) by Climate Central. Newark suffers from a dearth of green by comparison to equal-size cities. In this project, the City of Newark will provide a workforce development program to Newark residents by partnering with Community-based Nonprofit Organizations, including NewarkDIG and South Ward Environmental Alliance, and with academic institutions in Newark (the New Jersey Institute of Technology, NJIT) and in NJ (Rutgers University, and Princeton University). The project will address the five broad categories of this program, but “facilitating the engagement of marginalized communities” in Newark will be the core component of this project. The project will offer a paid workforce development program for Newark residents which will consist of



three modules: 1) Stormwater green infrastructure (GI) training, 2) Air quality training, and 3) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training. This project will result in a group of trained residents who are equipped with knowledge and skills on GI, air quality, and UHI, allowing the City of Newark to tap into the potential of its underemployed or unemployed residents, thus reducing unemployment rates and strengthening career stability. This initiative is expected to result in increased community awareness and knowledge regarding air pollution, UHI, and stormwater issues, with the potential to alleviate these problems through the implementation of GI.

4)

**Recipient:** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

**Project Title:** The New York City Air Conditioner Recovery Program

**Project Location:** Long Island City, NY

**Project Description:** To recover air conditioners (ACs) made redundant through installation of heat pumps for heating and cooling in building electrification initiatives. Recovered ACs will be either distributed for reuse by New Yorkers at risk of heat-related health impacts or recycled after reclaiming refrigerant. A secondary goal is to expand opportunities for jobs that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in environmental justice (EJ) communities.

5)

**Recipient:** City of Jersey City

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice for Jersey City Youth Through Neighborhood Greenways and Nature-Based Programming

**Project Location:** Jersey City, NJ

**Project Description:** The main objective of this project is to address the environmental and health disparities experienced by youth living in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods across Jersey City. The City plans to work with Team Wilderness, a local community-based nonprofit organization (CBO), which focuses on helping this population. Efforts will include workshops and field visits to outdoor areas within their immediate communities. Beyond engagement, the City aims to empower the youth by encouraging their direct involvement in key decision-making processes and providing educational and career opportunities. Greenways will be designed with community input to increase the city's tree canopy, plant native species along the public right of way, and encourage zero-emission methods of transportation by making neighborhood streets safer and more comfortable. This program will also fund the creation of seasonal internship programs with Jersey City's Division of Sustainability. These efforts aim to increase the resiliency, well-being, and health of the youth and general public in areas most vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change.

6)

**Recipient:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

**Project Title:** NJDEP - Determination and Vulnerability Assessment of Urban Heat Island Exposure in NJ Environmental Justice and Overburdened Communities

**Project Location:** Trenton, NJ

**Project Description:** As temperatures are expected increase with climate change projections, corresponding heat related illnesses pose a serious concern throughout the State and especially in environmental justice (EJ) communities that are already susceptible to disproportionate environmental and public health burdens. The NJDEP will partner with community groups in EJ areas selected from NJDEP's EJ mapping tool to identify overburdened communities (OBCs) that experience extreme heat and urban heat island effect. Once specific OBCs are identified, NJDEP and partners will work to measure temperature and air quality using a mobile monitoring system in multi-day campaigns. NJDEP and partners will congruently conduct heat vulnerability assessments for identified OBCs for urban heat island exposure, present findings to the community, and collaborate to develop recommendations for heat mitigation strategies.

7)

**Recipient:** The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

**Project Title:** Green Infrastructure at the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

**Project Location:**

**Project Description:** The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) will work with three experienced nonprofit partners and its own residents to increase the scale of green infrastructure practices across its affordable housing system. The project will mitigate the environmental and public health risks and harms associated with climate change for historically disadvantaged low-income residents. The project will demonstrate a model of climate resilience collaboration to be replicated and adapted by other affordable housing systems across the nation.

8)

**Recipient:** City of Jamestown

**Project Title:** Retooling Homes for Improved Air Quality

**Project Location:** Jamestown, NY

**Project Description:** The City of Jamestown will work collaboratively with community-based nonprofit organizations in underserved neighborhoods to understand, promote and implement an all-electric home retrofitting conversion project in designated Justice40 census tracts. The proposed project will reduce indoor toxins and pollutants, reduce the energy burden and reduce the energy loss in homes located in high-poverty neighborhoods. The demonstration project will conduct a full energy audit and air quality analysis of each home prior to improvements, conversion, and/or upgrades. The audit will detail energy efficiency deficiencies and create a scope of work specific to each home (windows, doors, insulation, air sealing, and other shell upgrades). The scope of work will include structural, and foundational improvements as well as the recommended equipment that will be replaced and/or upgraded for conversion to a fully electric home. The analysis will provide all necessary actions, renovations, and upgrades needed to bring the home to a condition that meets all NYS code enforcement standards including health and safety issues. A second audit of the home will be completed after improvements, conversion, and/or upgrades are conducted. Additionally, the project will collect

historical energy costs and use data for the home pre- and post-participation to calculate air quality improvements, energy loss, emissions reductions, and energy costs. The Beneficial Electrification will measure the carbon offset; economic savings; performance of renovation strategies; cost-benefit analyses, workforce and community readiness. This project will provide the City of Jamestown and others with a data-driven demonstration project that can be replicated across communities in the Northeast.

9)

**Recipient: City of Rochester**

**Project Title: Home Electrification and Revitalization Opportunity (HERO) Program**

**Project Location: Rochester, NY**

**Project Description:** The City of Rochester Home Electrification & Revitalization Opportunity (HERO) program addresses persistent environmental and public health challenges by funding the creation of sustainable, all-electric homes which incorporate air-source heat pumps, high levels of insulation and air sealing, heat pump water heaters, electric appliances, rooftop solar where feasible, and electric vehicle (EV) charging into houses rehabilitated through the City's existing whole-house rehabilitation programs. Building upon long-standing relationships between the City and local community-based organizations, HERO will consist of sub-award partnerships with the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership (GRHP), Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity (Habitat), and the Rochester Land Bank Corporation (Land Bank) and in-kind community engagement partnerships with the Climate Solutions Accelerator (CSA) and the Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF). Through HERO, beneficial electrification and clean energy improvements will be completed in homes for disadvantaged city residents disproportionately burdened by the impacts of climate change and least able to adapt to these impacts. Historically, more than 90% of the buyers and residents of these rehabilitation programs are low-income minority households; HERO participants will all be low-income disadvantaged residents. This pilot program will create a replicable model to achieve meaningful and measurable environmental and public health results, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduced rates of childhood asthma, improved economic security specifically for low-income disadvantaged households, and increased awareness of the benefits of and available incentives for home electrification.

10)

**Recipient: Municipality of Vega Baja**

**Project Title:** Assisting communities in identifying, preventing and eliminating blighted properties and associated health and environmental risks through education, training, civic engagement and community planning.

**Project Location: Vega Baja, PR**

**Project Description:** The Municipality of Vega Baja in coordination with the non-profit Center for Habitat Reconstruction and other stakeholders aims to identify, prevent, eliminate blighted properties and their associated health and environmental risks. Objectives include assisting communities identify and map their assets, challenges, and opportunities, with a particular focus on vacant and abandoned spaces, carry out participatory planning activities that result in the creation of a Reuse Plan; and assist

communities in executing pilot mitigation projects from within their Plan. These will be achieved through a range of activities, including education, training, civic engagement, community planning, and small-scale acquisition and mitigation. The collaborating partners will develop comprehensive nuisance remediation strategies through these activities in order to tackle the most common nuisance situations. This strategy is based on the principle that community-based solutions are most effective in addressing complex issues such as blighted properties. The outputs include: completing training for residents, creating community maps, drafting and publishing a Reuse Plan, and holding meetings between policymakers and advocates. The outcomes include an increase in the total number of health and environmental risks identified and mapped in the communities; an increase in the number of residents aware of nuisances and their risks; mitigate Reuse Plan findings; an increase in the number of community stakeholders committed to fighting blight; and a decrease in the number of environmental and health risks.

### **Region 3**

1)

**Recipient:** Frederick County Maryland

**Project Title:** Building Frederick County Together

**Project Location:** Frederick County, MD

**Project Description:** Building Frederick County Together gives a voice to environmental justice (EJ) populations in Frederick County, Maryland who are most vulnerable to extreme heat from climate change. The Project contains a strategy to 1) strengthen existing partnerships and programs with Community-Based Nonprofit Organizations (CBOs) that work hand-in-hand with EJ populations, including sub awardees Mobilize Frederick, Habitat for Humanity, and Asian American Center of Frederick. The Project will provide these organizations with program resources to build resilience, educate on air quality and climate, and engage community members 2) learn from EJ populations how climate change impacts their community while increasing civic involvement; where needed, provide payments for participation to cover for childcare, transportation, time and missed work 3) establish a gap-filling HVAC replacement program to reduce energy burden and greenhouse gas emissions and 4) navigate community members through programs and resources to make homes more resilient and reduce energy burden.

2)

**Recipient:** County of Allegheny

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice Government to Government Grant. Funding will be used to address Climate Change Resilience Planning for Allegheny County Municipalities.

**Project Location:** Allegheny County, PA

**Project Description:** This project seeks to improve climate preparedness for the 38 environmentally burdened communities in Allegheny County, PA. Using EPA's Cumulative Resilience Screening Index (CRSI) for Natural Hazards, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) are prioritizing flood mitigation, a modifiable climate change threat. The ACHD Environmental Justice (EJ) Index prioritizes

communities of color with environmental burdens, including flooding. Funds will be used to incentivize EJ communities to create climate resilience strategies with the ACHD, Emergency Services, Department of Sustainability, and the University of Pittsburgh Sustainability Program within the School of Engineering. Identified through our partner Councils of Government (COGs), EJ municipalities will create climate resilience strategies with access to ACHD's climate resilience dashboard and our government and academic partners. Nearly half of the funds will be used for resilience improvement projects to design and build or maintain small scale green infrastructure projects and/or conduct water-based cleanup to mitigate flooding, with involvement of community members and community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs). Climate resilience will be improved through planning and implementation small-scale flood mitigation in EJ communities.

3)

**Recipient:** County of Albemarle

**Project Title:** Climate Resilience Cohort

**Project Location:** Charlottesville, VA

**Project Description:** The Climate Resilience Cohort is an initiative to partner with ten community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) that serve disadvantaged communities in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville to help center equity and inclusion in crafting and implementing a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. With subgrants and the support of County and City staff, each participant CBO will: (1) conduct two community engagement events with their constituents to inform the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan; (2) participate in six Cohort staff roundtable meetings to provide feedback on the Plan; and (3) implement two community-centered projects identified in the Plan, along with two progress meetings with the Cohort staff roundtable. Project outputs will include the input recorded during the engagement events and roundtable meetings, the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, and the implementation projects. Short-term outcomes include new partnerships with ten CBOs, integration of climate change understanding into the CBOs' work, and increased involvement of disadvantaged communities in climate solutions. Long-term outcomes include improved urban tree canopy in underserved communities, improved green infrastructure in flood-prone areas, and empowerment of disadvantaged communities to build climate resilience. The project will focus on rural and urban poverty.

4)

**Recipient:** State of Maryland, Department of the Environment

**Project Title:** Environmental justice collaboration to improve air quality and community resiliency for both human health and environmental well-being in South Baltimore and Maryland's Eastern Shore.

**Project Location:** Baltimore and Eastern Shore, MD

**Project Description:** Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in partnership with Mid-Atlantic Climate Action Hub (MATCH) and two key members: South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT) and the Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health (SESH), and the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust) will work together to advance a multidimensional environmental justice initiative focused on empowering local community-based organizations in South Baltimore and Maryland's Eastern Shore to further greening

projects that improve air quality and community resiliency for both human health and environmental well-being. Specifically, MATCH, SBCLT, and SESH, with the support of MDE and the Trust, will conduct outreach to communities, representing populations who receive inadequate or inequitable services and/or who experience quality-of-life disparities, interested in community greening and improvement projects and provide technical assistance to those communities to facilitate robust applications to the Trust's Urban Trees Grant Programs and other community engagement-focused grant programs. This project will build upon already existing strategies and efforts, specifically the Community-Based Organization Capacity Building Initiative (CBO-CBI), and engagement in the Urban Trees Grant Programs will leverage already existing programs and resource commitments at the state-level (both described below). Community-based organizations will also participate in training to build their capacity related to the identification and pursuit of funding and installation of green infrastructure and implementation of community health projects.

5)

**Recipient:** West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)

**Project Title:** Community Engagement Pilot Project in Environmental Justice Communities Overburdened with PFAS Contamination in Drinking Water

**Project Location:** State of West Virginia

**Project Description:** After a 2022 study documented concerning levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in public drinking water supplies across WV, WVDEP is leading the charge to address PFAS contamination by engaging communities through information sharing, collaborative problem-solving, and environmental justice efforts to protect public health. Through this project, WVDEP will work with community groups, local businesses, water utilities, county health departments, and other stakeholders to design and implement a community engagement process for areas with PFAS contamination. Focusing on WV's Eastern and Northern Panhandles—the two areas of the State most severely impacted by PFAS contamination—this project will develop and pilot a community engagement process to inform PFAS Action Plans that will identify and address sources of PFAS in raw water sources of public drinking water systems. Grant funding will enable extensive and meaningful community collaboration from start to finish, ensuring that the voices of impacted community members are centered in decision-making processes. Deep community engagement will result in better-informed identification of PFAS sources and reduction solutions, which will directly improve public health, in addition to development of policy preventing further PFAS contamination in these communities and throughout the State. It will also powerfully advance environmental justice in WV communities, resulting in a model engagement process that can be replicated across the State when completing additional PFAS Action Plans and assisting underserved areas overburdened with environmental contamination during other emerging contaminant investigations and regular WVDEP activities.

6)

**Recipient:** PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

**Project Title:** Pennsylvania Engaging New Voices on Environmental Justice

**Project Location:** State of Pennsylvania

**Project Description:** This project aims to increase strategic community education, outreach and engagement and capacity building trust through intentional action. DEP aims to create an expandable, manageable, and sustainable program that will proactively engage communities to better understand their concerns before there is an event of concern and provide communities with the necessary tools to help address environmental issues in advance of a crisis. With this grant, DEP will increase outreach around Pennsylvania and build long-lasting relationships educating, engaging, and empowering the communities that need it the most. DEP aims to identify Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to fund the use their existing networks to convene stakeholders and residents with DEP staff and other partners. CBOs will participate in an educational series and implement hands-on, community-driven activities. The program also creates a cohort model, where CBOs will work cooperatively and learn from each other. Litter and illegal dumping are quality of life concerns heard around Pennsylvania's communities, urban and rural, large and small. Having the specific issue of litter and illegal dumping as the point of entry of the educational program, will assist in bringing partners around the table to discuss this and other issues of community concern. This focus will also allow for a tangible project outcome in the form of hands-on, community-driven activities, such as clean-ups, site monitoring and enforcement, or other actions that may be specific to sites of concern. The work on litter and illegal dumping are informed by Pennsylvania's PA Litter Action Plan, which serves as a national model on these issues.

7)

**Recipient:** Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

**Project Title:** DPW YH2O+ Expansion II

**Project Location:** Baltimore, MD

**Project Description:** The mission of the Department of Public Works (DPW) is to support the health, environment, and economy of our city and the region by providing customers with safe drinking water and keeping neighborhoods and waterways clean. Our vision is to be a strong proponent and protector of our environment and the health and vitality of our communities.

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED), the Chesapeake Water Environment Association (CWEA) and other partners will support the continuation and expansion of DPW's successful YH2O program, which was previously awarded an environmental justice grant from the EPA through its State Environmental Justice Collaborative Agreement (SEJCA) initiative in 2020. YH2O is designed to provide green jobs training to the City's youth and youth from the region where appropriate, related primarily to the provision of safe drinking water. The program will be expanded to address and reduce other common environmental issues seen throughout Baltimore's vulnerable communities by strengthening the City's youth workforce through on-the-job training. Project activities include training of program participants to lead educational workshops that will create a greater awareness of local environmental issues and actions to reduce the severity of those issues. These activities will build on citywide efforts to promote recycling, proper waste disposal, and neighborhood cleanliness. Outcomes will include enrollment and training of approximately 30 youth, advancement of City environmental monitoring systems, and improved resident practices likely to lead to less waste and cleaner water. Intended beneficiaries include the City's unemployed/underemployed youth population from low income and minority communities, as well as all underserved communities of Baltimore City.

8)

**Recipient:** Arlington County

**Project Title:** ENERGY-HEALTH-EQUITY PROJECT

**Project Location:** Arlington County, VA

**Project Description:** The County proposes the Energy-Health-Equity Project (referred to herein as the EHE Project, or the Project), to be managed by members of the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management (OSEM) and anchored in the creation of two technical resources - a decision-support tool and a comprehensive financing/incentives portfolio. These resources will be test driven, refined, and scaled for increased impact within the County and region, supported by an engagement plan, training, and capacity building between community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs), contractors, and community partnerships.

The EHE Decision Support Tool will allow users to model the potential benefits of single and bundled-measure energy improvements to affordable housing and commercial structures common to underserved and disadvantaged communities (DACs) in the Northern Virginia and greater regional territories. The Project will culminate with a final deliverable report that will be leveraged to build a pipeline of projects and support scalability and replicability.

The EHE Project's core objectives are to improve air quality and health and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Arlington DACs via building energy upgrades. Using an approach that builds decision support and financing opportunities to facilitate upgrades, the Project will also provide technical support and training to key audiences for using the tools and pursuing building upgrades, define human health indicators and metrics and align healthier indoor environments with energy-performance upgrades, and upscale use of the Project tools and resources, for adoption and replication across other jurisdictions.

9)

**Recipient:** City of McKeesport

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice issues in the City of McKeesport: Greenhouse Neighborhood & Urban Farming Initiative; Urban Forest Expansion Project; Small-Scale Cleanup Program; Water Street Bioswale Park

**Project Location:** City of McKeesport, PA

**Project Description:** This grant will be used to design and implement new programs/actions and expand/enhance current programs. All activities described herein will address negative environmental and health issues associated with air pollution, stormwater management, urban heat island effect, and lack of greenspace in priority locations identified by the City, its CBOs, and the community. Four initiatives have been identified to receive funding under this grant: the creation of a Bioswale Park in the McKees Point Development along Water Street, which will address stormwater management issues and non-point source pollution, provide greenspace to an underserved community, and reduce air pollution and heat island effects; expansion of the Urban Forest Expansion Program, which in addition to addressing air pollution and heat island effects, will include the formation of a Green Team to provide



community service opportunities, paid positions for local teens, and job training; a feasibility study to determine the efficacy of creating a new neighborhood on an abandoned residential brownfield including affordable, energy efficient housing, greenspace, and an integrated urban farm that will provide fresh produce, job training and paid positions to underserved residents; and the continuation of the City's successful small scale cleanup program, which removes hazardous debris and trash from hundreds of abandoned lots throughout the City. The activities proposed for funding under this grant are based on successful programs with existing infrastructure and leadership; therefore, the deployment and utilization funds for current and new programs/actions will be maximally impactful and efficient.

10)

**Recipient:** City of Philadelphia

**Project Title:** Enhancing, Strengthening and Scaling Action on Environmental Justice in Philadelphia

**Project Location:** Philadelphia, PA

**Project Description:** This project advances OOS' approach to addressing environmental injustice that is centered on developing a strong foundation to institutionalize EJ within municipal policies and practices and strengthening and scaling place-based strategies that holistically address disproportionate exposure in EJ communities in partnership with community-based organizations. The project will be implemented through three workstreams: 1) Foundational Structures: Integrate EJ into citywide policies and practices, 2) Place-based Initiative 1: Strengthen and sustain OOS's place-based initiative established to address flooding in Eastwick, and 3) Place-based Initiative 2: Scaling the place-based model by implementing a new place-based initiative to address heat.

Foundational objectives include building the capacity of the resident-led Philadelphia Environmental Justice Advisory Commission (PEJAC), equipping departments with the necessary tools and resources to guide decision making that advances EJ, and developing a framework for institutionalizing EJ within government. OOS will co-create and develop a public EJ map and screening tool in partnership with PEJAC and sustain an interagency working group focused on EJ issues leading to a model cumulative impacts ordinance.

In Eastwick, OOS aims to strengthen partnerships through capacity building, co-develop a flood resilience strategy by shifting decision making power to Eastwick residents, and sustain this transformation by ensuring long-term funding for partner organization, Eastwick United.

The heat focused place-based initiative will seek to build new community partnerships, advance a holistic shared understanding of both neighborhood and property-scale issues that contribute to heat vulnerability (such as energy burden) and co-develop actions to build a heat resilient future.

## **Region 4**

1)

**Recipient:** City of Memphis

**Project Title:** Turning Liabilities into Assets: Transforming Blight One Neighborhood at a Time

**Project Location:** Memphis, TN

**Project Description:** The City of Memphis proposes a partnership led by its Department of Solid Waste Management and community-based organization, The Works, Inc. to pilot a model program to address chronic dumping in its most distressed communities through sustainable and regenerative solutions and services that positively impact the environmental, social, and economic health of these areas. The project will target four neighborhoods – Klondike, Binghamton, Whitehaven, and Frayser – in an anti-dumping awareness campaign to empower residents with the facts about the environmental hazards of dumping and how to combat them. A pilot convenience center will be created to handle difficult materials not taken by the City’s current waste and recycling program or accepted by landfills without tipping fees – a gap in the system which leads to unrelenting illegal dumping. Tires, mattresses, Styrofoam, organics and other dumped waste will be accepted and diverted to small local businesses and nonprofits engaged in sustainable and innovative recycling. The project will test strategies for community action, job training, logistics and environmental interventions that will create economic opportunities and uplift the quality of life for these burdened neighborhoods with the goal to scale up for all distressed communities in Memphis.

2)

**Recipient:** County of Palm Beach

**Project Title:** The Resilient Glades Tree Campaign

**Project Location:** West Palm Beach, FL

**Project Description:** Through the Resilient Glades Tree Campaign (Project), the Project Team will plant trees across public parks to increase equitable access to shaded outdoor recreational areas. The Project will give away trees to Glades residents to increase resident tree canopy coverage, including fruit-bearing trees to increase fresh food access. The Project will identify locations for and create two urban orchards to increase community food resilience. The Project will also include outreach, education, tree maintenance, and workforce development for youth to learn how to plant and care for the trees.

3)

**Recipient:** Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government

**Project Title:** Ambient Air Toxics and Health Action for the Rubbertown Area

**Project Location:** Louisville, KY

**Project Description:** The Ambient Air Toxics and Health Action for the Rubbertown Area project seeks to collect ambient air toxics data and identify potential health conditions/diseases that west Louisville residents may be experiencing or for which they are at higher risk based on past and current chemical exposures from ambient air pollution in certain zip codes.

4)

**Recipient:** City of Savannah

**Project Title:** 100% Savannah: Energy Efficiency and Workforce Training Program

**Project Location:** Savannah, GA

**Project Description:** This program is designed to serve households that cannot participate in the free, ratepayer funded program that is available through Georgia Power due to their income or the condition of their home, as well as to provide HVAC services that are not typically included in that program. This proposal is informed by four months of community energy efficiency outreach that has included community workshops. This project will also include workforce training activities to build local capacity for this work and to create new opportunities for residents to participate in the clean energy economy.

5)

**Recipient:** North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

**Project Title:** Partnership to Address Private Well Contamination in Sampson County, North Carolina

**Project Location:** Sampson County, NC

**Project Description:** The main objective of the Partnership to Address Private Well Contamination in Sampson County, North Carolina is to provide water treatment for private wells in Sampson County while helping residents understand what pollutants may be in their water and the importance of clean water for health. Treatment and education will be prioritized for households in southern and eastern parts of the county with the highest U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) environmental justice (EJ) Index. Residents with water samples exceeding NCDHHS' drinking water guidelines will be provided with treatment options for wells; and education, technical assistance, and consultations for maintaining safe drinking water wells.

6)

**Recipient:** SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

**Project Title:** South Carolina Environmental Justice Grant 2023-2026

**Project Location:** North Charleston, Greenville, Columbia, SC

**Project Description:** DHEC and its partners will work together to communicate and then apply the principles of Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) training in the form of a Field Practicum (FP). The FP takes the theory taught in a classroom setting and puts it into practice. Each FP will follow the process established in CMDRR training and includes the completion of a set of assessments in South Carolina communities with Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns.

7)

**Recipient:** Mobile County Board of Health

**Project Title:** Mobile County Health Department Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Expansion

**Project Location:** Prichard/Africatown, DIP/Theodore, Bayou La Batre, AL

**Project Description:** Mobile County Health Department (MCHD) will expand Lead Poisoning Prevention (LPP) program activities with the goal of reducing the number of children exposed to lead in Mobile County. The project will focus on the following objectives: increase soil testing in Mobile County,

increase community engagement and advocacy around LPP, increase awareness of the hazards of lead exposure and knowledge of how to respond, increase capacity for low-income communities to complete remediation projects, and establish a referral network and roadmap to support families exposed to lead.

## **Region 5**

1)

**Recipient:** Cuyahoga County Board of Health

**Project Title:** Addressing Impacts of Climate Change in Cuyahoga County Using HIA's

**Project Location:** East Cleveland, Euclid, Maple Heights, OH

**Project Description:** This project seeks to convene a community advisory board to collaboratively complete an HIA project focused on healthy homes, and subsequently co-create community-led interventions aimed at improving indoor and outdoor air quality. The proposed project will: (1) identify and address gaps in resident awareness and knowledge of EJ issues, policies, and practices; (2) elevate community voices and knowledge to enhance community-informed decision-making to improve environmental and community health outcomes; (3) provide trainings for conducting and using HIAs; (4) conduct an HIA - Healthful Homes Initiative - by municipality; (5) use HIA findings to improve existing and implement new interventions; and (6) mobilize residents and recruit volunteers for community revitalization projects and community-led interventions. Anticipated outcomes include: (1) improved indoor/outdoor air quality; (2) reduced stormwater vulnerability and climate impacts; and (3) reduced environmental health disparities.

2)

**Recipient:** City of Milwaukee

**Project Title:** Healthy Homes & ECO Neighborhoods Project Seeks to Expand Awareness of and access to local and statewide housing improvement programs and federal funding sources through collaborative outreach.

**Project Location:** Milwaukee, WI

**Project Description:** This project seeks to: (1) expand awareness of and access to local and statewide housing improvement programs and federal funding sources through collaborative outreach and marketing efforts and by funding pre-weatherization home repairs for residents; and (2) distribute resource guides with information about common home health issues and small-scale efforts residents can take to address them like how to properly clean lead paint chips, as well as large-scale efforts like making energy efficiency improvements that address climate change. This will be complemented by a housing program guide, providing descriptions of all the housing improvement programs and funding sources available, and emphasizing low-to-no cost services. The program guides will be distributed directly to residents by neighborhood-based, paid and volunteer outreach support staff through community events, neighborhood canvassing, etc. This information will also be shared broadly through broadcast and social media marketing.

3)

**Recipient:** Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

**Project Title:** MWRD Greening of a Brownfield to Improve the Living Env't. of a Vulnerable Community in Chicago

**Project Location:** Chicago, IL

**Project Description:** The Little Village is an immigrant neighborhood in Chicago with environmental justice (EJ) challenges, including extensive industrial pollution, flooding, high PM2.5 air pollution burden, and high surface temperatures. These factors and high poverty lead to negative health and economic impacts. A vacant brownfield in the village, impacted by polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) during former use by petrochemical companies, is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). The main objectives of this project are to convert a 5-acre brownfield into an urban greenspace using science-based and community-selected soil amendments and reseeding vegetation of native prairie/trees for environmental restoration and public health improvement in the community, evaluated as soil and water PAHs and air PM2.5 exposure and health risk burden reduced, and ecosystem services (soil health, plant cover and diversity) improved. The benefits of a new greenspace include climate mitigation, improved air quality, and improved wellbeing for residents. They will conduct community forums and send out a survey to obtain input of community partners for effectively converting the brownfield into a greenspace. They will use a blend of dredged sediments and exceptional quality biosolids with compost as substrate of topsoil in brownfield revitalization. Knowledge on brownfield restoration gained will be disseminated to communities through outreach activities. The outcome of the project will have a major impact on the lives of the underserved community members by promoting greenspace in an area of heavy industrialization. It can serve as a model for future brownfield restorations in underserved/vulnerable communities lacking critical resources.

4)

**Recipient:** Minnesota Department of Commerce

**Project Title:** Justice40 Minnesotans Navigating Climate Action

**Project Location:** State of Minnesota

**Project Description:** Justice40 Minnesotans Navigating Climate Action (J40MNCA) builds broad, robust, and results-oriented partnerships between State departments and community-based organizations (CBOs) serving environmental justice communities in Minnesota. Through this project, the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the newly expanded Community Energy Collaborative (CEC) will partner to co-develop a Justice40 Leadership Academy and establish a demonstration Community-based Navigator Program. Partners will develop and test multiple ways to apply data, strengthen relationships, and build energy and environmental justice leadership capacity at the local and state level. Activities will result in key tools and processes that increase the integration of community input and justice considerations across the state government, provide a model for co-created program development, and increase equitable access to climate-based federal funding available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

5)

**Recipient:** The Prairie Island Indian Community

**Project Title:** Tribal Home Energy Project to Upgrade Tribal Homes with Energy-efficient, Carbon-reducing Technologies

**Project Location:** Welch, MN

**Project Description:** The project addresses our community's immediate needs for energy efficiency, cost savings, and a safer, healthier living environment. The main objective is to upgrade homes with technologies that help tribal members eliminate fossil fuels, save money, reduce indoor pollutants, and improve health, and safety. Activities include: 1) stakeholder input; 2) outreach to create project awareness and encourage participation in the project; 3) public education about home energy; 4) home energy audits to identify efficient and cost-saving options; 5) small-scale construction and installation of system upgrades and energy-efficient, electrification, and renewable energy equipment; 7) quality inspections; and 8) assessment of project performance and progress.

6)

**Recipient:** City of Ann Arbor, MI

**Project Title:** A Model Regional Resilience Network with Resilient Infrastructure

**Project Location:** Ann Arbor, MI

**Project Description:** Resilience, the act of bouncing forward regardless of what acute or chronic disruption occurs, is an often aspired to goal but one that has remained out of reach for most communities. And with increasing climate related impacts and growing socio-economic disparity, the need for resilience has never been greater. This proposal will demonstrably improve the resilience of the most vulnerable residents in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County by co-developing a living regional resilience network that allows for the continual investment in the adaptive capacity and enhancement of local social cohesion for the region's frontline and most vulnerable populations. Working groups of the network will create facilitated communication channels to assist network partners in resource pooling, collective emergency response, and other acts of mutual aid. This proposal also calls for investments in four local brick and mortar resilience hubs and the creation of a resilience grant program that fosters a connective tissue between the various hubs. This interconnected resilience infrastructure will ensure the most vulnerable residents don't just survive but thrive every day.

7)

**Recipient:** City of Flint

**Project Title:** Community Engagement Process for Flint Climate Change and Resiliency Plan

**Project Location:** Flint, MI

**Project Description:** The project is to collaborate with community and academic partners to facilitate the creation of a Climate Change and Resiliency plan for the City of Flint that accurately reflects the

desires and needs of its residents. The plan will be integrated into existing plans, like the Master Plan, to guide future allocation of resources, to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and to equitably build resiliency into the planning, development and public health efforts of city government. In order to accomplish this, trusted messengers will engage residents through an intentional process that centers racial equity, intersectionality, and geographic areas disproportionately impacted by industrial pollution. This will be done through a series of charrettes in all nine city wards, to include stakeholders from neighborhood associations, coalitions, faith communities, youth, City of Flint staff, and elected city and county officials. Additional outreach will be provided to residents who are incarcerated, in inpatient substance abuse treatment facilities and those with physical and other barriers to attending group gatherings. At the end of the project, Flint residents will benefit from a place-centered, culturally competent environmental literacy curriculum that can lead to individual and collective action toward improved local policy. A Flint Environmental Justice Action Network will be established and sustained to ensure the Flint Climate Change and Resiliency Plan is implemented and updated. The information gathered and resulting plan will be creatively disseminated in print and social media formats, in all languages spoken in the city.

8)

**Recipient:** Fort Wayne City Utilities (CU)

**Project Title:** Fort Wayne Utilities: Lead Service Line Replacement Program in Disadvantaged Communities

**Project Location:** Fort Wayne, IN

**Project Description:** An estimated 14,000 residences in Fort Wayne, IN have lead water service lines which pose a health risk to vulnerable populations including children and developing fetuses. Risks are greater for those living in poverty or in homes built before 1986 when the Safe Drinking Water Act Lead Ban was enacted. For this reason, CU formalized its Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) in 2018 to include subsidies and low-interest loans for low-income households to replace lead service lines. The proposed project, described herein, will eliminate, or further reduce the cost to low-income households for replacing residential lead water pipes. Priority census tracts within disadvantaged communities were identified for outreach to participate in the Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G)-LSLRP. The priority tracts are in older neighborhoods with a median household income averaging \$28,615. CU estimates residences in these priority areas have lead water service lines and anticipates these residences will be eligible to benefit from the LSLRP during the EJG2G funding period.

## Region 6

1)

**Recipient:** LA Department of Environmental Quality

**Project Title:** FY2024 Air Monitoring Project - Air Monitoring Van

**Project Location:** Baton Rouge, LA

**Project Description:** This project is to establish and operate an air monitoring van that will provide the citizens of Louisiana with air quality data for compounds such as Formaldehyde, Sulfur dioxide, Hydrogen sulfide, Ammonia, Ethylene oxide, Hydrocarbons, Oxygenates and Nitrogen compounds. The van will be used after disasters such as hurricanes and will also be used thorough out the state, to measure air quality and to support for the LDEQ Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) missions. Benefits of this project will be realized by all Louisiana residents. The monitoring van will be used throughout the State of Louisiana; rural, urban, at-risk areas, fence line communities, and many areas throughout the state to collect baseline data. The van will be used to help identify air quality problems, increase mitigation action(s) from parties responsible for certain air pollution and reduce ambient air concentrations of certain air pollutant(s).

2)

**Recipient:** City of Dallas

**Project Title:** Breathe Easy 3 Pilot For the Forest District

**Project Location:** Dallas, TX

**Project Description:** The City of Dallas' Breathe Easy Dallas 3, for the Forest District, seeks to build on previous non-regulatory air quality pilot efforts. By adding vegetative buffers along area roadways, the project will measure the impact of implementing vegetation to improve air quality and reduce local heat island impact in the St. Philips Community in Southeast Dallas. The project builds on recent planning work by the Urban Land Institute and others to revitalize this part of Dallas near the St. Philips Community, also known as the Forest District. The project involves deploying non-regulatory air quality monitoring equipment in locations selected in correlation of higher rates of asthma, COVID-19, other cardio-pulmonary diseases, and environmental justice demographic data. From review of City demographic datasets, the EPA EJSCREEN tool, Heat Island mapping and Tree-Equity Mapping by the Texas Trees Foundation, the City anticipates this project will be in the 75215 zip-code, located between Pennsylvania, Malcolm X Boulevard, Botham Jean, and Pine Street. Project outcomes include assessing non-regulatory monitors consistent with the June 22, 2020 EPA Memorandum on air sensors, assessing efficacy in using neighborhood-scale air quality data to direct public health initiatives, use and efficacy of using vegetative barriers to mitigate air quality metrics, guiding development of the Community Health Needs Assessment and related public policy, supporting improved public health outcomes for the residents, and build a greater awareness and understanding of the nexus between emissions, air quality, vegetative buffers and health.

3)

**Recipient:** City of Houston Health Department

**Project Title:** Vulnerable to Vibrant: Strategies to Achieve Climate Resiliency in an Environmental Justice Community

**Project Location:** Houston, TX



**Project Description:** The EJ challenged Greater Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens community of Houston has historically suffered a disproportionate burden of environmental degradation, economic disadvantage, high rates of poverty, and lack of opportunity leading to increased crime and adverse health outcomes. The main objective of this G2G project is to use a multi-pronged approach in this community to address climate resiliency, environmental vulnerability, and economic disadvantages that the community experiences in partnership and advised by 3 embedded CBOs. The project will provide the following key activities/outcomes: a) a local solar hub at a CBO center for community use especially during emergencies such as power outages; b) a state-of-the-art flood alert system providing advance warning before inundation providing time to move to safety; c) an air permit application warning system to inform the community when/where an industry is proposing air pollution emission activities in their area (without zoning) and how to protest; d) targeted native SUPER tree planting for heat, pollution, and flooding mitigation (and fruit trees); e) a hyper-local neighborhood resilience plan (i.e., locations for detention ponds, changes in pavement, solar trees); and f) funding for graduates of our work force program to work as interns and gain experience for permanent job placement in their own neighborhood. Additionally, as part of this project, the City will also establish a city-wide Houston Environmental Justice Advisory Council (HEJAC) to identify Houston EJ problems and solutions with the community's voices.

4)

**Recipient:** Santo Domingo Pueblo

**Project Title:** Santo Domingo Pueblo FY24 General Assistance Program

**Project Location:** Santo Domingo Pueblo, NM

**Project Description:** The objective of the proposed project is to permanently decrease the number of individuals contributing to open dumps as well as eliminating open dumps within the underserved and overburdened Tribal Community of Santo Domingo Pueblo, located in north central New Mexico. To achieve the overall objectives, the Santo Domingo Pueblo proposes to cleanup non-hazardous waste open dump sites, conduct free trash weeks, tire amnesty events, open dump focused community workshops, and disseminate education and outreach material to community members. Through successful coordination and collaboration with Tribal Leadership, Tribal Departments, the Community-based Organization Eight Northern Pueblos – Office of Environmental Technical Assistance, volunteers, and community members, the Santo Domingo Pueblo plans to educate our community of the dangers of open dumping and inform individuals on the available resources that can be utilized for the proper disposal of waste and to effectively eliminate the practice of open dumping.

5)

**Recipient:** The Chickasaw Nation (CN)

**Project Title:** The Chickasaw Nation's Environmental Justice Government to Government Grant Application

**Project Location:** Ada, OK

**Project Description:** The CN plans to enact a long-term Citizen Science Watershed-Based Stream Monitoring Program within the CN treaty territory with the goal of establishing water quality baselines and an early warning system for quality impacts. This project will provide communities within the CN treaty territory with a clearer understanding of environmental and public health issues related to water sustainability, as well as increased engagement opportunities related to these issues. Furthermore, the proposed project will aid the CN in developing broad-spectrum partnerships to address water quality concerns with the ASA, thereby allowing for the development of tribal, state and federal communication geared toward water quality impairments. The Ada Jobs Foundation, a community-based nonprofit organization (CBO), will partner with the CN for this project and assist with establishing a web-based environmental justice water quality mapping tool and data collection system to ensure transparency and encourage public engagement.

6)

**Recipient:** Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

**Project Title:** Piloting Insurance Solutions to Increase Equitable Disaster Response in Coastal Louisiana

**Project Location:** Baton Rouge, LA

**Project Description:** Coastal Louisiana is home to rural and under-resourced communities that are experiencing rapidly accelerating impacts of climate change against a backdrop of heavy industry, hurricanes and other disasters, swings in economic fortune, and historic inequities. One of the most critical times after an acute flood event are in the days and weeks immediately after, when low and moderate-income families are struggling to navigate displacement, temporary unemployment, and lack of information. Traditional insurance, while more reliable than federal disaster relief which is often painted as a safety net post-disaster, can still be confusing, opaque, prohibitively expensive, and takes months to a year before resources are available. With this project they propose to pilot flood parametric insurance in St. Mary Parish with a focus on the areas in and around Franklin, LA. This will provide flexible, more rapid flood coverage for residents in a rural, underserved region. The pilot will also include convening stakeholders that are working at the local, state, regional, and national levels to explore how this model can be sustained and expanded across coastal Louisiana.

7)

**Recipient:** New Mexico Environment Department

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice Government to Government Project San Juan County, NM

**Project Location:** Santa Fe, NM

**Project Description:** The project facilitates coordination and collaboration among federal, state, county, regional and tribal governments and community-based organizations to carry out a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The HIA model will engage community members and inform policy, regulation, programs and/or enforcement actions of NMED to help mitigate the health impacts on underserved and vulnerable populations in San Juan County due to harmful emissions associated with recycling facilities. The HIA process will be replicated in Southeast New Mexico, which also has an oil and gas industry presence, and used as a model to promote community engagement to address other environmental health issues of concern.

## Region 7

1)

**Recipient:** Iowa Department of Human Rights

**Project Title:** Iowa's Environmental Justice Health Equity Program (EJHE) Program

**Project Location:** Des Moines, IA

**Project Description:** This project will establish a statewide EJ Health Equity (EJHE) Program to build the capacity of vulnerable Iowans to have meaningful involvement in addressing environmental and/or public health results. The program will address issues of inequity in a manner designed to organize, empower, and support vulnerable populations, including youth. It will address the risks of climate change and household environmental justice (EJ) issues including lead paint, asbestos, mold, lead service lines and energy burden.

2)

**Recipient:** Kansas Department of Health and Environment

**Project Title:** Placemaking to address food equity and environmental sustainability in Southeast Kansas

**Project Location:** Topeka, KS

**Project Description:** The project aims to implement meaningful environmental and public health strategies in Labette, Montgomery, and Cherokee counties in Kansas. This will be accomplished through working closely with the Healthy Bourbon County Action Team (community-based organization), and Local Health Equity Action Teams (LHEATs & community coalitions) in each of the three counties. Activities will include education/health promotion activities and community-driven strategies to promote food equity and environmental justice through LHEAT engagement and community placemaking interventions, such as edible landscapes on main streets and raised bed garden kits for families.

3)

**Recipient:** City of Kansas City, MO

**Project Title:** Lead in Soils Mitigation Project

**Project Location:** Kansas City, MO

**Project Description:** This project will screen for, identify, and mitigate lead on vacant properties selected for redevelopment and reuse by our community-based non-profit organization (CBO) partner, INC. The Ivanhoe neighborhood numerous vacant lots owned by the Land Bank of Kansas City, Missouri (Land Bank) and the Kansas City Missouri Homesteading Authority (KCMHA). A four-step triage system will be used to focus remediation efforts on the most contaminated lots and efficiently guide properties verified to be clean into productive reuse and redevelopment.

4)

**Recipient:** Linn County Sustainability

**Project Title:** Linn County Rental Improvement Program

**Project Location:** Cedar Rapids, IA

**Project Description:** The main objective of Linn County's proposed EJG2G -funded program is to provide residential energy efficiency (EE) assistance for low to moderate income residences in the county to combat poverty, mitigate climate impacts, and work to address impacts of environmentally unjust practices. The County will partner with Neighborhood Finance Corporation (NFC), a non-profit community-based organization, to establish and manage a below market rate forgivable loan fund to be made available to landlords who rent to low income tenants (less than 60-80% area median income (AMI)) for residential decarbonization EE investments.

## Region 8

1)

**Recipient:** Utah Department of Environmental Quality (Utah DEQ)

**Project Title:** Empowering Disadvantaged Communities in Urban and Rural Utah through Community-Engaged Air Pollution Monitoring and Mitigation

**Project Location:** State of Utah

**Project Description:** This project is addressing air pollution inequities in underserved urban, rural and tribal communities in Utah through radon testing, remediation and mitigation, and enhanced PM2.5, PM10 and ozone monitoring using low-cost sensors.

This work follows a community-engaged approach and leverages community partnerships and an existing low-cost air quality sensing network infrastructure.

Utah DEQ will engage communities through a community advisory group, community meetings and presentations, educational modules, training, and air quality visualizations and alerts. This work will help strengthen relationships between impacted communities and regulatory agencies, leading to increased trust, effective collaboration, shared decision-making, and development of mitigation strategies.

2)

**Recipient:** Montana Department of Environmental Quality

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program (EJG2G)

**Project Location:** Butte, Harlowton, Red Lodge, MT

**Project Description:** The Montana Environmental Services for Housing project will focus on building capacity within rural communities to address environmental issues related to the redevelopment and reuse of property for housing.

This project is aimed at building partnerships to deploy resources more effectively to the areas where they are needed, leveraging existing relationships between local organizations and the communities they serve. The project will provide training and technical assistance focused on increasing local awareness of environmental resources and processes so that rural communities can identify, prioritize, and clean up sites that could be used to provide safe, affordable housing across Montana.

Phase one of the project will involve training local partner organizations on environmental justice, brownfields assessment, energy efficiency, and drinking water infrastructure. Phase two involves supporting CBOs as they train and empower community leaders in communities with environmental justice concerns in their regions. The project will create a training curriculum and toolbox of environmental resources that can be replicated in other communities across the state.

The project will facilitate the assessment and cleanup of properties leveraging Montana's statewide assessment grant, DEQ's supplemental 128(a) funds, and the seven current BF RLF grants managed by local grantees. It will also support equitable dissemination of Montana's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and \$18.9M Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant.

3)

**Recipient:** Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Project

**Project Location:** Flathead Indian Reservation, towns of Elmo, Polson, and nearby rural areas, MT

**Project Description:** The main objective of this project is to reduce the incidence of cercarial dermatitis (swimmer's itch) in vulnerable populations around Flathead Lake on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Western Montana.

The primary activities are: Develop partnerships Install rinse stations and outdoor message boards at five public-use beaches public education and outreach about the parasite and how best to avoid its impacts Install community-designed artworks at the rinse stations.

Primary outputs are: Five public rinse stations installed, one with a drinking water supply including five educational message boards installed at public and Tribal beaches with public artwork on display at rinse stations and educational materials developed to reach 400 people through various media.

The five locations for rinse stations and message boards are two Tribally-operated beaches, Kupawicqnuq Park (Tribal-members only) in Elmo and Blue Bay Park (public access) on Flathead Lake East Shore Two city-operated beach parks with public access in Polson, Boettcher and Riverside One cooperatively managed park on Tribal lands with public access, Salish Point in Polson.

Primary outcomes of the project are increased public knowledge of the cause of swimmer's itch, increased knowledge of prevention measures, and behavior change to reduce the incidence of swimmer's itch, especially in children (detailed outputs/outcomes in section 3.a).

4)

**Recipient:** Town of Bluff

**Project Title:** Catalyzing Community: Revitalizing the Cooperative Cultural Center for Health, Justice, and Inclusion

**Project Location:** Bluff, UT

**Project Description:** This project is for the Town of Bluff to deliver measurable environmental and public health benefits within a rural Utah community. It will enable the Town of Bluff (ToB) and Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB), an Indigenous-led non-profit organization, to operationalize a model partnership and rejuvenate the jointly owned Cooperative Cultural Center building (CCC) located at 630 E Black Locust Avenue in Bluff.

The CCC building was constructed in phases beginning in the 1950s and used as an elementary school until 2018. The property was purchased by the ToB and UDB on October 8, 2021, to create an inclusive space in which to promote public health, safety, welfare, economic development, conduct town business, and to host non-profit activities including Native American arts and cultural programs.

Due to the age of the building, it requires renovations including the installation of a fire suppression sprinkler system, removal or encapsulation of asbestos floor tiles, insulation, replacement of ceilings, paint, bathroom remodeling for ADA compliance, and updated municipal security and communication systems. Main systems such as the HVAC and electrical will also be inspected, repaired, and replaced.

While many of the listed renovations will create the physical space in which the organizations will operate, the overarching goal of the building is to create an inclusive space for the community and to expand capacity for UDB and other partners to carry-out their missions. The ToB, UDB, and partnering organizations provide essential services to a community disproportionately impacted by environmental, economic, and **political injustice.**

5)

**Recipient:** City and County of Denver

**Project Title:** Denver's Healthy Affordable Home Electrification Program

**Project Location:** Denver and Commerce City, CO

**Project Description:** This project will establish Denver's Healthy Affordable Home Electrification Program will provide home electrification and weatherization retrofits for 12 households with critical needs in Denver's Globeville, Elyria Swansea, and Northeast Park Hill neighborhoods and in the City of Commerce City.

Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) will help the City and County of Denver meet the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from income-qualified homes, improving indoor air quality, and reducing exposure to pollutants for those living with chronic respiratory and health conditions. These retrofits will be paired with targeted community engagement focused on air quality and health and will engage key stakeholders at the local, state and utility level.

6)

**Recipient:** North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

**Project Title:** North Dakota Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program

**Project Location:** Statewide, ND

**Project Description:** This project from The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) will partner with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (NDDHHS), the North Dakota Cancer Coalition (NDCC) and the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota (CAPND) to fill gaps in radon awareness, testing and mitigation in a campaign to reduce radon's impacts in low-income homes in three pilot regions (1, 5 and 8) in North Dakota (Figure 1).

Regions 1 and 8 encompass the western half of the state which are served by the Dickinson/Williston Regions CAPND. Region 5 is in southeast North Dakota and served by the Southeastern Region CAPND. This project will create a sustainable plan of cooperation in North Dakota's radon program.

The goal of the project is threefold:

- 1) Create new partnerships between state and Community Based Organizations (CBO) that can reduce radon's impacts by distributing an additional 600 radon test kits over the project period.
- 2) Improve existing and create new radon information in Plain Language for ease of translation for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals.
- 3) Create healthy homes for 50 low-income families by providing radon testing and mitigation services.

The project goals align with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Strategic Plan Goal 4: Ensure clean and healthy air for communities, specifically improvements in indoor air quality.

7)

**Recipient:** County of Missoula

**Project Title:** A one-stop shop to accelerate healthy, resilient, low-carbon housing for low-income, rural, and Indigenous residents of Missoula County

**Project Location:** Missoula County, MT

**Project Description:** This project will create a vital one-stop shop resource that provides comprehensive and hands-on assistance to Missoula County residents, including its rural, low-income, and Indigenous communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Missoula County is experiencing hotter, smokier summers due to climate change, and the 2020 Climate Ready Missoula plan identified investment in efficient, all-electric housing with heat absorbent landscaping as key strategies to mitigate adverse health impacts. Preliminary research has shown that these investments are difficult to navigate, and community members have long called for assistance.

Recent federal investment has made a plethora of resources available that can be leveraged to support such projects.

Rural and low-income residents are likely to miss out without project management support, including navigating tax credits and rebates, connecting with qualified contractors, and accessing low-interest financing.

This initiative will also provide up to \$20,000 per household to fund no-cost retrofits for approximately twenty-one low-income flagship projects. Investing in a one-stop shop resource is a necessary and impactful undertaking for Missoula County that will have ripple effects across the state of Montana. With the disproportionate impact of climate change on low-income, Indigenous, and rural residents, this initiative will provide critical support for building retrofits and climate resilient landscaping that will increase community resiliency.

By providing comprehensive and in-person assistance to navigate resources and funding options, the one-stop shop will empower residents to take action to protect their health and homes.

8)

**Recipient:** Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice Government to Government Grant

**Project Location:** Statewide (rural), CO

**Project Description:** This project is a regionalization stakeholder process and pilot study to spur small drinking water and wastewater systems in rural, underserved areas of Colorado to regionally collaborate.

Many parts of rural Colorado are disproportionately impacted (DI) communities that face environmental justice challenges, especially with respect to drinking water quality. Small water and wastewater systems in underserved rural communities often lack resources to effectively comply with health-based drinking water standards and wastewater discharge standards due to technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) barriers.

Regionalization of functions across multiple small water systems can help overcome these TMF barriers by allowing the systems to share resources. Phase 1 of this project launches a regionalization effort by first conducting an inclusive stakeholder process to identify regions that can benefit most from regionalization by seeking input from rural water systems across Colorado. Phase 2 of this project is a pilot effort studying and initiating regionalization opportunities in areas identified as being most ripe to benefit from regionalization.

## Region 9

1)

**Recipient:** City of Sacramento



**Project Title:** Sacramento Neighborhood Resilience Pilot Project

**Project Location:** Sacramento, CA

**Project Description:** This Pilot Project is a collaborative initiative focused on urban cooling and resiliency strategies to counter the urban heat island effect and extreme weather events in vulnerable, low-income areas.

This Project leverages existing community partnerships and neighborhood electrification efforts to target holistic investments in Meadowview, Stockton Blvd, and Del Paso.

Project activities include:

**Residential resiliency:** Habitat will work with 40+ low-income homes to install one indoor air filter and provide one portable indoor air filter per home, as well as implement turf conversion, smart irrigation systems and river-friendly landscaping (RFL). STF will plant 2 trees at each of the 40 participating homes. SMUD will support outreach and project referrals. Sacramento County will support engagement with the unincorporated Stockton Blvd area.

**School greening:** SCUSD will implement outdoor water conservation efforts through turf conversion, smart irrigation systems and RFL at two schools in the district. STF will plant 30+ trees per school, engage 50+ homes near the participating schools to plant new residential trees along major walking routes in areas without a City-owned planting strip, and provide tree education to students and families. DOU will help SCUSD secure up to \$100,000 total in rebates.

**Neighborhood capacity building:** The City's Community Engagement Team (in OIED) will facilitate engagement and clean-up events in each community. CERT (in Fire Department) will lead intro training on disaster preparation in each community. The Air District will provide capacity-building and education with the South Sacramento/Florin AB 617 Steering Committee. Residential resiliency, School greening, and Neighborhood capacity building.

2)

**Recipient:** San Francisco Department of Environment

**Project Title:** Community Driven Climate Action

**Project Location:** San Francisco Bay Area, CA

**Project Description:** This project will engage San Francisco's communities with Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns to recommend and implement community-led climate action and use this engagement to inform ongoing implementation of the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP). Program goals are to increase communities' capacity to understand and act on climate change, improve government response and services, and ultimately improve health outcomes and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in communities.

Core objectives include:

- Create space and a process for communities to identify climate action solutions and priorities appropriate to their communities.
- Provide grants and incentives to CBOs and small businesses that serve EJ communities to implement climate justice projects and support their climate action priorities.
- Conduct a rapid Health Impact Assessment and apply the city's Racial and Social Equity Tool to climate policies and projects to ensure they provide equitable benefits, avoid unintended consequences, and advance citywide racial, social, and health equity goals.
- Engage and educate stakeholders on health and equity impacts of climate change and provide tools and technical assistance to mitigate climate change.
- Use community-driven solutions to inform and guide implementation of the City's EJ Framework and updates to the General Plan. Supporting activities include workshops, listening sessions, and community engagement tools.

3)

**Recipient:** City and County of Honolulu

**Project Title:** O'ahu Climate Champions Program

**Project Location:** Honolulu, HI

**Project Description:** During community engagement workshops for the development of the City and County of Honolulu's Climate Adaptation Strategy, community-based organizations (CBOs) and residents expressed a need for support from the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) to understand their role in climate adaptation.

In response, our proposed Climate Champions program pairs CBOs with Climate Champions to implement adaptation projects. To support the CBOs and Climate Champions, CCSR will provide guidance on projects, aid in recruitment, and host professional development workshops in partnership with the University of Hawai'i.

The Climate Champions' projects will enable disadvantaged communities served by CBOs to thrive under changing conditions, while enhancing the skills of local community members to lead and implement adaptation solutions. Projects will also advance actions from the Climate Adaptation Strategy, raise awareness of climate impacts as a direct result of increased knowledge within the community, and strengthen trust between the City and CBOs to set the stage for future collaboration.

4)

**Recipient:** San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice Partnership for Clean Air

**Project Location:** San Diego, CA

**Project Description:** San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) will improve air quality in Environmental Justice communities in San Diego County by partnering with state regulators, local

government, and Community Based Organizations to pilot a new approach to the State of California's Community Air Protection Program (CAPP).

CAPP is a first-of-its-kind effort to reduce pollution exposure that requires community air monitoring, community emission reduction plans, and incentive funding to deploy clean technologies in the most impacted areas.

Despite the success of CAPP in communities where it has been implemented to date, it is not feasible to implement such a resource intensive process in all communities with environmental justice concerns where air quality education and engagement is needed.

In response, SDAPCD proposes a more accessible and sustainable approach to CAPP, an Environmental Justice Partnership for Clean Air, to engage the following underserved communities: San Ysidro, Barrio Logan, Southeastern San Diego, City Heights, Linda Vista, National City, El Cajon, Vista, Spring Valley, and Escondido.

This approach will include:

- co-developing a popular education program and familiarizing community members with SDAPCD and empowering them to engage fellow residents to improve air quality.
- Improving indoor air quality through education and installation of indoor air filtration systems and monitors.
- Facilitating a participatory planning process to identify air quality issues the community is experiencing and support the community in developing solutions.
- Supporting community-led sensor-based monitoring projects to provide community members with real-time data for advocacy activities.
- Convening a quarterly Environmental Justice Air Quality Working Group with CBOs throughout the region to provide opportunities to directly influence SDAPCD policies, rulemaking, budget, and projects.

5)

**Recipient:** California Governor's Office of Planning and Research

**Project Title:** Community Based Climate Resilience: The California Extreme Heat Adaptation Planning Guide

**Project Location:** Riverside and San Bernadino Counties

**Project Description:** As climate change continues to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme heat across the western United States, there is an urgent need for adaptation resources and planning guidance in California. To fill this gap and develop scalable resources with a holistic perspective on extreme heat planning, local jurisdictions must engage in coordinated adaptation planning that integrates community perspectives and local planning expertise.

This project will use a community-centered approach to extreme heat adaptation planning informed by local experts and community leaders within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Residents in this

region, including those in rural and geographically isolated areas of the counties, experience blistering summer temperatures and are among the most vulnerable to extreme heat.

Through a three-phased collaborative process, the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and its partners will develop extreme heat adaptation resources.

Phase 1 will define extreme heat risks and vulnerabilities that resonate with community partners and identify gaps and opportunities for adaptation strategies that build towards holistic planning and policy guidance for extreme heat.

Phase 2 will produce an extreme heat adaptation planning guide, identify priorities for communication of these risks and actions, and develop case study examples.

In phase 3, the team will lead outreach and engagement to evaluate the utility of these planning guides for decision making in communities and local governments.

During the process, the team will document lessons learned and identify opportunities to expand the use and reach of extreme heat planning resources in geographies and jurisdictions facing similar challenges.

6)

**Recipient:** County of Stanislaus

**Project Title:** Stanislaus County Climate, Health, and Environmental Justice Project

**Project Location:** Modesto, CA

**Project Description:** This project aims to demonstrate the link between local climate burdens and health impacts in Stanislaus County and create sustainable support for residents to mitigate and, as necessary, and respond to those impacts within underserved communities.

The project will establish new data collection infrastructure that will monitor specific local climate and pollution related events. The project will engage communities and partners to create sustainable citizen-engaged mitigation participation opportunities and updates to emergency plans utilizing newly available climate data.

Specific goals include:

- (1) Identify, acquire, organize, manage, and promote community climate-related data.
- (2) Conduct localized climate data analysis to inform local decision-making and share data, information, and related resources to allow for partner- and community-driven programming.
- (3) Provide education, training, and capacity building to community stakeholders on civic engagement, data collection and analysis, and climate and emergency topics and policies, including linkages with Community Emergency Response Teams.
- (4) Develop resources, align plans, and prioritize strategies to enhance local capabilities in addressing climate-related health impacts and mitigating disasters.

7)

**Recipient:** California Department of Public Health

**Project Title:** Improving Indoor Environments Through Civic Engagement - Establishing a Next Generation High School Environmental Ambassadors and Mentoring Program for Oakland, California

**Project Location:** Statewide, CA

**Project Description:** California Department of Public Health proposes to create a robust indoor air sensor network across Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) sites, coupled with indoor air quality and climate change curricula for OUSD high school STEM classes and civic engagement activities that uplift underserved students and their families. This project aligns with Oakland's Environmental Justice Element, drafted for year 2045, by addressing barriers to environmental workforce development, making knowledge and resources addressing local environmental issues accessible to the Oakland community, and enhancing local air monitoring to increase data sources across two California Air Resources Board AB 617 priority communities.

The proposed activities aim to achieve the following: 1) Projected increase in protection against and awareness of environmental hazards across OUSD sites and affiliated families, including local emissions, wildfire smoke, and extreme heat. 2) Continued guidance and technical assistance made available to schools regarding leveraging state and federal funds to make cost-effective improvements to ventilation and air filtration systems. 3) Effective workforce development, hands-on training, and mentorship program from state university public health students, all of which target underserved OUSD students. All activities will be guided by a community steering committee formed for this purpose, promoting environmental justice through collaboration and shared decision-making power amongst our project partners, community members, and educators.

8)

**Recipient:** Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians

**Project Title:** Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians Tribal Beneficial Uses Development and Implementation Project

**Project Location:** Southwestern Amador County, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians

**Project Description:** Buena Vista Rancheria (BVR) in partnership with the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) seek to develop the "BVR Tribal Beneficial Uses Development and Implementation Project" to address environmental issues related to water and Tribal cultural uses of water and water dependent resources, including aquatic plants and animals.

The project area includes BVR's ancestral area of interest, including but not limited to the Mokelumne River Watershed, Lower San Joaquin River watershed, and southern portion of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Our project will address issues related to water quality and Tribal uses of water, specifically to identify water quality safety standards for TBUs.

BVR will conduct research and hold meetings within BVR communities to identify significant waterways and aquatic dependent resources, while retaining Tribal data sovereignty and confidentiality. BVR will work with regional partners such as the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

(CVRWQCB) on planning for and implementing the project. BVR will query available water quality data sets, identify pollution concerns, and develop and leverage sampling strategies to determine if water or aquatic dependent resources are safe for Tribal use. Data gathered during this project will be used to develop TBU designations requests and inform development of water quality objectives to protect TBUs on significant Tribal waterways under state jurisdiction. Our project will create a conceptual model work plan template for other tribes as they advance TBUs designations. BVR will host regular coordination meetings to update, advise, and encourage information sharing among Tribal Beneficial Uses Strategic Planning Caucus participants, as well as host training to increase technical capacity for TBU designation work.

9)

**Recipient:** City of Flagstaff

**Project Title:** Flagstaff Regional Resilience Project: Community-led Hub and Spoke Model

**Project Location:** Flagstaff, AZ

**Project Description:** The Flagstaff Regional Resilience Project will develop a transferable model for community-led Resilience Hubs and corresponding spoke activities. The Project will create three Resilience Hubs: two physical spaces in underserved neighborhoods and one mobile hub serving unsheltered residents. One hub will be led by the Southside Community Association in central Flagstaff; another by the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association in east Flagstaff; a mobile hub led by the Community Assistance Teams of Flagstaff will serve unsheltered residents.

Resilience Hubs will serve marginalized populations with resources that meet community-identified needs, increase intergenerational connections, collaborations, and access to information, health care, resilience training, food, and entrepreneurship activities for disadvantaged residents. They also aim to increase emergency preparedness through safe heating, cooling, and clean air centers in emergencies. They will be supported by a network of 13 partners who provide services and act as spokes across the region. They will demonstrate and increase awareness of zero-emissions technologies and climate-resilient systems and expand air quality data and improve health outcomes for those affected by wildfire smoke and dust.

10)

**Recipient:** County of Los Angeles

**Project Title:** Climate Ready Communities

**Project Location:** Los Angeles, CA

**Project Description:** Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) proposes the Climate Ready Communities (CRC) Project to conduct outreach within Los Angeles County and develop a plan to build resilience and adaptive capacity for people, communities, and infrastructure that are vulnerable to climate risk.

Public Works will work with the Council for Watershed Health (CWH), community-based organizations (CBOs), and a tribal partner to leverage their local expertise and experience to provide meaningful public engagement and seek input and feedback from climate- vulnerable communities in Los Angeles County.

The CBOs and the tribal partner (collectively called CRC Collaborative) are trusted in their communities of focus and have a long-standing history of engagement and climate resiliency work. The outreach and engagement activities will focus on building intentional partnerships between Public Works, local CBOs, and a tribe in their communities of focus.

These partnerships will also lead to a wider lasting impact of helping residents understand their risks, build personal and community preparedness plans, and access resources related to climate risk. The CRC will identify specific infrastructure solutions and adaptation strategies to accelerate adaptive capacity, including preparing residents for community-specific risks to minimize climate vulnerability and quickly recover from climate disasters such as extreme heat, wildfire, extreme precipitation and inland flooding, coastal flooding, and drought.

11)

**Recipient:** San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**Project Title:** SJVUAPCD FY23 EPA EJG2G Valleywide Community Partnership and Clean Air Rooms Program

**Project Location:** San Joaquin Valley, CA

**Project Description:** The District is requesting \$1,000,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to build outreach and community engagement capacity in grassroots organizations throughout the San Joaquin Valley (Valley), and work with these organizations to provide free residential air purifier devices to 3,700 residents living in disadvantaged communities throughout the Valley.

12)

**Recipient:** Gila County, Arizona

**Project Title:** Copper Corridor Blight Reduction Program

**Project Location:** Gila County, Eastern Pinal County, AZ

**Project Description:** The Copper Corridor's environmental injustices stem from historic mining activities and an archaic mining tax structure that benefits more populated communities in Arizona instead of those directly affected by mining. The Copper Corridor includes communities in south central Arizona, specifically southern Gila County and eastern Pinal County.

Historic mining and smelting operations have deposited lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals in residential and industrial yards throughout the Copper Corridor, contaminated surface waters, and created non-attainment areas due to sulfur dioxide and lead in the air. The boom and bust of historic mining have left properties with convoluted titles that sit idle and deteriorate to the point buildings are blighted and become a hinderance to the community. The blight is not only unsightly but creates additional health burdens on already burdened communities.

Gila County and its partners will use grant funds to tackle blight through a Mining Tax Distribution Study, using funds for non-hazardous cleanups, asbestos and lead surveys and abatements, demolition, public outreach and engagement and helping communities use their 'Clean and Lien' programs to create a

revolving fund to address blight and create a model program that can be replicated in other rural Arizona communities.

## **Region 10**

1)

**Recipient:** Tacoma School District No 10 DBA Tacoma Public Schools

**Project Title:** Environmental Justice at Larchmont Elementary

**Project Location:** Tacoma, WA

**Project Description:** The Larchmont Community Schoolyard is a joint effort to transform an outdated schoolyard primarily covered in asphalt into a vibrant green space that improves community health, climate resiliency, and student education outcomes.

The goals of this project will be to construct new Community Schoolyard improvements at Larchmont Elementary School, provide environmental education opportunities for students, and increase community cohesion and environmental advocacy in the neighborhood.

The project will address the environmental and public health issues resulting from lack of access to physical activity amenities; increased exposure to air pollution; vulnerability to flooding and excessive heat; and lower educational outcomes.

2)

**Recipient:** Tulalip Tribes of Washington

**Project Title:** Climate Vulnerability Rapid-Assessment Tool and Training

**Project Location:** Tribes in the Western US and Alaska, Region 10

**Project Description:** Tribal communities are disproportionately vulnerable during climate events, with higher odds of hospitalization and premature death. In Tribal and communities with environmental justice concerns, substandard housing is linked with infiltration of smoke, diesel, air toxics, and heat. Exposure is compounded by occupants spending more time indoors during wildfire smoke and heat events.

This project serves those communities that have a high proportion of sub-standard housing yet no tools for assessing which homes have high smoke infiltration and dangerous heat. THHN will develop a Climate-Vulnerability Rapid-Assessment (CVRA) Tool. The CVRA will use existing data sets to estimate which homes have the highest likelihood of smoke infiltration and high heat.

Like a Health Impact Assessment (HIA), or EJScreen, the CVRA is a decision-making support tool, only for indoor exposures. THHN has assembled a team of Tribes, tribal consortia, statisticians, air quality and building scientists to develop, pilot and build a training program for the CVRA tool. The Tulalip Tribes and the Yakama Nation will pilot the CVRA tool, which is both a data tool and a framework for shared decision-making. Infiltration of smoke and heat will be measured in 10 high-risk homes to assess the accuracy and validity of the CVRA modelling. Post-pilot, Tribal consortia in housing and public health will host workshops to introduce the CVRA tool. THHN will provide permanent training through their Circuit-



Rider program, and the Building Performance Center will regularly provide a 3-day, Certificate-Based training program on utilizing the CVRA and developing mitigation strategies based on the CVRA results.

3)

**Recipient:** Chelan County

**Project Title:** Building climate change resiliency and protecting health through smoke disaster preparedness (smoke-readiness)

**Project Location:** Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties, WA

**Project Description:** North Central Washington is anticipated to experience increases in climate change related wildfire and smoke, with predictions that the fire season will lengthen by at least 14 days and smoke episodes will become 2-3x more severe by 2050. With annual fire and smoke already drastically impacting the region's physical, mental, community, and economic health, efforts to institutionalize disaster preparedness and build "smoke-readiness" at government, community, and individual levels are imperative to strengthen climate resiliency.

This project will help define regional and county-level disaster preparedness that ensures protection of the most vulnerable populations in Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties. This will be accomplished through close partnership between local government, the Colville tribes, and successful community-based organizations (CBOs) with established programs and trusted relationships with tribal members and Spanish-speaking communities who have been historically isolated from information about fire and smoke preparedness.

The program will also utilize and expand local collaboration networks to help reach those with additional vulnerabilities to PM2.5. Two large, collaborative climate action planning processes have taken place in the project area in the last few years, convened and managed by the Chelan County Department of Natural Resources and the Methow Valley Citizens Council/Resilient Methow, respectively. Those climate plans, as well as several pilot projects and research studies in the area have identified community needs, questions, and effective intervention strategies to address wildfire and smoke.

This project builds on that work to ensure that health districts and emergency management integrate effective and culturally appropriate practices for ensuring the safety and health of these vulnerable populations. Specifically, this project implements previously identified priorities from regional climate action planning to establish a new Climate Change, Health, and Equity Program at the Chelan-Douglas health district; enhance and harmonize disaster preparedness and response procedures for smoke events across jurisdictions with direct stakeholder involvement; and expand CBO-led wildfire and smoke outreach, including a low-cost sensor network and box fan filter distribution program.

The partnerships established in this project provide extensive opportunity for learning across health districts; in the third year of the grant period, frameworks and lessons learned will be shared at the state and regional level. It is anticipated that project findings will grow health, equity, and climate resilience in the development of smoke-ready communities across the rural West.

4)

**Recipient:** Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA)

**Project Title:** Building Community Resiliency to the Hazards of Smoke and Wildfires

**Project Location:** Greater Oakridge-Westfir Areas, Lane County, OR

**Project Description:** This project aims to transform the Oakridge-Westfir area into a healthy, thriving community capable of addressing historical and future environmental and public health challenges related to wildfire and smoke.

This proposal builds on two previous EPA Targeted Airshed Grant investments in the City of Oakridge's air quality and human health, which instigated the formation of the brand and banner Oakridge Air.

This application benefits from an existing relationship with South Willamette Solutions, a community-based nonprofit, and established working groups to expand services offered through Oakridge Air to develop and implement specific approaches that achieve environmental justice through the methods of home hardening and smoke proofing interventions on approximately 30 area homes.

This application also funds efforts to implement a community-developed 2020 Smoke Community Response Plan; a wood waste program coordinator to extend the life of a community firewood program that delivers seasoned firewood to the community with over 80% of sales to low-income, senior, or disabled residents; a wood products feasibility study to identify economically viable uses of local forest stock which reduces forest fuel load while also creating economic opportunities for Oakridge-Westfir; a health and morbidity research assessment of wildfire smoke on rural Eastern Lane County exasperated by the limitation of prescribed fire in the Willamette National Forest; publish a lessons learned/best practices toolkit with presentations to areas comparable to Oakridge to encourage the implementation of similar programs. Mitigating the effects of smoke and wildfires while promoting community resiliency will achieve meaningful environmental and public health results for residents.

5)

**Recipient:** Multnomah County Health Department

**Project Title:** Rockwood Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience

**Project Location:** Gresham, OR

**Project Description:** This project will work to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions through replacing heating and cooling systems, improving indoor air quality, and increasing shade.

Recognizing that people living in multifamily housing are some of the most impacted, project activities include resources for this population. The Health Department will work with community-based organizations to increase education and resources for community members to respond to climate change. Outcomes include development of Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice (CR&EJ) training adapted and translated for multiple racial and ethnic communities.

At least 44 Community Health Workers will complete the training and provide resources for climate resilience and environmental justice to at least 4,650 community members. They will share information from community members with the County to impact policy and program decision making. The project will replace polluting wood stoves and other inefficient heat sources with low and zero-emission heat pumps in 22 single family homes and install heat pumps, air conditioning, air filters and induction cooktops in 115 multi-family homes.

Additional outcomes include planting 100+ trees; providing green job workforce training for 24 youth and young adults annually, and adding at least 15 youth-built sensors to monitor air quality.

The project will take place in the Rockwood neighborhood in Gresham, Oregon.

6)

**Recipient:** Spokane Conservation District

**Project Title:** Advancing tree equity and environmental justice in Spokane County through urban forestry career development and educational programs.

**Project Location:** Airway Heights and Spokane Valley, WA

**Project Description:** This project will address the environmental justice problem that low-income neighborhoods in Spokane County, Washington, have very few shade trees.

The number of trees in a neighborhood has important environmental, health, social, and quality-of-life implications. For example, tree planting is a low-cost strategy that reduces heat-related illnesses and mortalities, mitigates flood risk, increases carbon storage, and improves water and air quality while contributing to neighborhood beautification.

Through this project, Spokane Conservation District (SCD) will lead activities that engage high school and community college students to increase the number of trees in areas identified as having low canopy cover and a high proportion of low-income residents. Specifically, SCD will 1) partner with Pacific Education Institute to increase high school students' participation in environmental and natural resource conservation careers, with a focus on increasing the representation of people from historically disadvantaged populations and 2) establish an apprenticeship program for students who graduate from participating high schools and enroll in the Spokane Community College Arboriculture/Urban Forestry or Natural Resource Management program.

The SCD apprenticeship program will collaborate with The Lands Council, City of Spokane Valley, City of Airway Heights Parks and Recreation, and Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners to provide tree planning, planting, maintenance, and technical assistance for low-income residents, public buildings and parks, and street rights-of-way in Airway Heights and Spokane Valley. The outcomes include improved climate resilience, an expanded pool of natural resource professionals with greater representation of historically disadvantaged populations and increased societal awareness and commitment to environmental protection.

7)

**Recipient:** Public Health - Seattle & King County

**Project Title:** Healthy and Resilient Communities Project

**Project Location:** South Seattle and South King County, WA

**Project Description:** King County is the most diverse county in Washington State, but significant health inequities persist based on race/ethnicity, income, and geography. This project proposal aims to create a more equitable and climate resilient community. The proposal outlines a multifaceted 3-year project to advance environmental justice and address systemic racism related to indoor environmental health and

climate change for frontline communities in South Seattle and South King County. Our proposal consists of three equity-centered initiatives: the Climate Resiliency Action Group, Healthy Homes Project, and Healthy and Safe Early Learning Environments Project. The Climate Resilience Action Group will build partnerships, raise awareness, promote education, and integrate equity into planning and implementation to promote social equity in climate resilience.

The Healthy Homes Project is an expansion of an EPA funded pilot project to improve indoor environmental determinants of health. The County will use the knowledge and experience gathered from the pilot project to fill in gaps, expand our reach, and increase impact. The Healthy and Safe Early Learning Environments Project will develop training for childcare providers and caregivers to promote healthy and climate resilient communities. With these three initiatives, the overall success will be measured by the extent to which it builds partnerships, trains advocates, builds expertise within communities, increases community awareness and knowledge of indoor environmental determinants of health, and strengthens community climate resilience. These successes will be met by ensuring that equity is integrated into policies and practices for climate change preparedness and resilience.

8)

**Recipient:** Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

**Project Title:** Community-Led Wildfire Preparedness Initiative

**Project Location:** Key Peninsula, East, and Southeast Pierce County, WA

**Project Description:** The objective of the Community-Led Wildfire Preparedness Initiative is to build community capacity to protect against wildfires, wildfire smoke, and the health impacts associated with them.

Taking place over three years, the Community-Led Wildfire Preparedness Initiative will invite community residents to work together across cultural and political divides toward sustained community resilience. To accomplish this, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (the Department) will hire a part-time staff member who will work with Pierce Conservation District (PCD) staff and community partners to deliver outreach and education and develop relationships and form coalitions in three underserved, rural communities. Next, health department and conservation district staff will work with the Center for New Democratic Processes, (CNDP) to lead community members through a process of deliberative civic engagement to include one wildfire dialogue in each area, culminating with a county-wide wildfire summit. Finally, health department and conservation district staff will assist these communities in developing and implementing community-led plans to improve health outcomes when wildfires strike. Capitalizing on the momentum built through previous initiatives such as the 2021 Rural Climate Dialogues, the health department's Community of Focus Equity Strategy, and planned outreach to begin this Spring through the Wildfire Ready Neighbors Program will enable us to support community-driven processes that serve the diverse needs of area residents.

9)

**Recipient:** Palouse Conservation District

**Project Title:** Engaging Schools and Communities in Environmental Justice: Working Together to Improve Water Quality in Rural Whitman County

**Project Location:** Whitman County: rural communities of Albion, Garfield, Palouse, Colfax, Colton, Pullman, St. John, Endicott, Lacrosse, WA

**Project Description:** This project will engage high school students in small rural communities in eastern Washington in a comprehensive inquiry-based water quality education and community science program. Students in six high schools that serve nine communities in the Palouse River watershed will monitor and collect water quality data in local streams. High school students will develop and implement a community education initiative in addition to participating in a Water Summit. Professionals from the agricultural, conservation, and local government sectors will participate as mentors in the educational program. Each school year will culminate in a Water Summit and a restoration project that addresses water quality concerns in the watershed. Funding for this project will establish a foundation for an ongoing monitoring, water education, and community science program for small rural communities in Whitman County.

10)

**Recipient:** Washington State Department of Health

**Project Title:** Assistant Education and Outreach for Water Quality and Air Quality issues.

**Project Location:** Lower Yakima Valley, WA

**Project Description:** Residents living in the Lower Yakima Valley (LYV) are exposed to co-existing environmental stressors and nitrate contamination in groundwater and a pattern of deteriorating air quality- which increase the risk of poor health outcomes. The concern over groundwater contamination has been recognized since 2009, when the LYV was designated as an EPA Environmental Justice Community of Concern. In 2010, EPA issued a finding in support of Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act to address this groundwater contamination. This LYV water is an underground source for drinking for approximately 24,000 residents using private domestic wells, and contamination may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health (Ecology 2010). More recently, in March 2023, the Yakima Valley was designated as highly impacted by air pollution based on existing air quality, demographic, and health data. Recent studies in the area indicate elevated rates of asthma in youth.

This project aims to reach upwards of 15,000 LYV residents to address these concerns. A multisector health coalition representing community partners will be formed, and community health worker teams will be trained to provide outreach, education (with culturally appropriate material), and direct support services. Water test kits, HEPA air purifiers and in-home water treatment systems will be provided to high-risk households. All work will provide Lower Yakima Valley residents with an opportunity to express concerns and participate in decision-making and learn strategies to mitigate health impacts due to groundwater and air quality issues.

## Total Amounts Proposed to Award Per EJG2G Applicant

EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
Region 01	Vermont Agency of Human Services	\$1,000,000
	Rhode Island Department of Health	\$1,000,000
	City of New Haven	\$1,000,000
	City of Boston	\$1,000,000
	Northwest Regional Planning Commission	\$876,765
	City of Bridgeport	\$1,000,000
	City of Waterbury (Connecticut)	\$1,000,000
	Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)	\$886,014
	Massachusetts Department of Public Health	\$1,000,000
	RI Department of Environmental Management	\$944,618
	Energy & Environmental Protection, Connecticut Department of	\$1,000,000
	Penobscot Indian Nation	\$1,000,000
Region 02	New York State Office of Resilient Homes and Communities	\$1,000,000
	County of Hudson	\$1,000,000
	CITY OF NEWARK	\$1,000,000
	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	\$335,883
	City of Jersey City	\$1,000,000
	The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers	\$1,000,000
	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	\$1,000,000
	City of Jamestown	\$982,633
	City of Rochester, NY	\$1,000,000
	Municipality of Vega Baja	\$978,353

EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
Region 03	Frederick County Maryland	\$997,466
	Allegheny, County of	\$328,827
	County of Albemarle	\$460,459
	State of Maryland, Department of the Environment	\$1,000,000
	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection	\$1,000,000
	PA Department of Environmental Protection	\$1,000,000
	Mayor and City Council of Baltimore	\$324,000
	Arlington County	\$980,350
	City of McKeesport	\$1,000,000
	City of Philadelphia	\$1,000,000
Region 04	City of Memphis	\$988,215
	County of Palm Beach	\$1,000,000
	Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government	\$1,000,000
	City of Savannah	\$1,000,000
	North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services	\$1,000,000
	SC Department of Health and Environmental Control	\$1,000,000
	Mobile County Board of Health	\$1,000,000
Region 05	Cuyahoga County Board of Health	\$1,000,000
	City of Milwaukee	\$1,000,000
	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago	\$749,705
	Minnesota Department of Commerce	\$1,000,000
	The Prairie Island Indian Community	\$1,000,000
	City of Ann Arbor, MI	\$1,000,000

EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
	Fort Wayne City Utilities	\$1,000,000
	City of Flint	\$1,000,000
Region 06	LA Department of Environmental Quality	\$1,000,000
	City of Dallas	\$652,662
	City of Houston Health Department	\$1,000,000
	Louisiana Department of Health	\$999,999
	Santo Domingo Pueblo	\$539,453
	The Chickasaw Nation	\$381,709
	New Mexico Environment Department	\$1,000,000
Region 07	Iowa Department of Human Rights	\$1,000,328
	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	\$1,000,000
	City of Kansas City, MO	\$1,000,000
	Linn County Sustainability	\$1,000,000
Region 08	Utah Department of Environmental Quality	\$1,000,000
	Montana Department of Environmental Quality	\$999,935
	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	\$904,330
	Town of Bluff	\$1,000,000
	CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER	\$1,000,000
	North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality	\$1,000,000
	County of Missoula	\$999,632
	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	\$1,000,000
Region 09	SF Department of Environment	\$1,000,000
	City of Sacramento	\$981,042
	City and County of Honolulu	\$1,000,000



EPA Region	Applicant Name	Total Amount Proposed to Award
	San Diego County Air Pollution Control District	\$1,000,000
	County of Stanislaus	\$1,000,000
	Office of Planning and Research	\$999,994
	California Department of Public Health	\$1,000,000
	Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	\$582,055
	City of Flagstaff	\$1,000,000
	County of Los Angeles	\$1,000,000
	San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District	\$1,000,000
	Gila County, Arizona	\$1,000,000
Region 10	Tacoma School District No 10 DBA Tacoma Public Schools	\$1,000,000
	Tulalip Tribes of Washington	\$978,838
	Chelan County	\$999,839
	Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA)	\$997,622
	Multnomah County Health Department	\$999,587
	Spokane Conservation District	\$833,270
	Public Health - Seattle & King County	\$1,000,000
	Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	\$1,000,000
	Palouse Conservation District	\$471,634
	Washington State Department of Health	\$1,000,000