

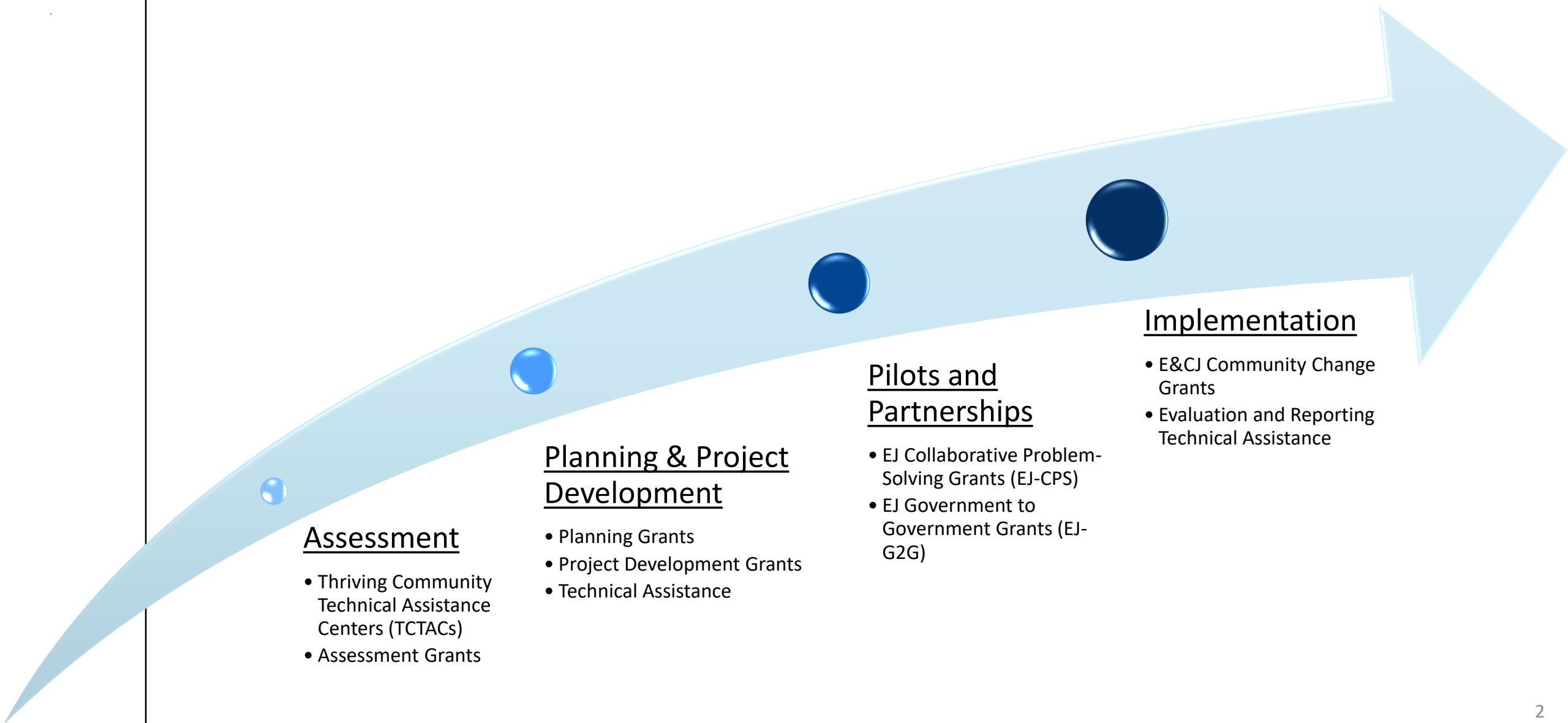


OVERVIEW:
Environmental and
Climate Justice
(ECJ) Communities
Grant Program

DECEMBER 2023



ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM



Assessment

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

Planning & Project Development

- Planning Grants
- Project Development Grants
- Technical Assistance

Pilots and Partnerships

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

Implementation

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

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Step One = **Fundamental Technical Assistance**. TCTACs are taking requests and providing fundamental technical assistance to communities and CBOs **now!!**

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STEP ONE – FUNDAMENTAL SUPPORT

Backbone of
the EJ Grants
Program

EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)

- **Background/Purpose:**
 - TCTACs provide fundamental technical assistance (TA) services, including grant writing training, grant mgmt training, and capacity-building support to underserved communities throughout the nation. Centers are funded by both EPA and Dept. of Energy (DOE).
- **Access:** Front door entry point for communities. No barrier to entry.
- **Grant Funding and number of Awards**
 - TCTACs are funded with EPA Environmental Justice appropriations, **no IRA funding.**
 - \$177 million total; \$10 - \$13 million per Award (5-year Project Period)
 - 16 TCTACs total – 13 Regional TCTACs + 3 National TCTACs
- **Operation Status**
 - TCTACs are taking requests and providing fundamental technical assistance to communities and CBOs now!!
 - EPA Region 1 and EPA Region 8 are completing competitions for 2 more TCTACs

CURRENT TCTACS IN OPERATION

- 1) West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (EPA Region 2)
- 2) Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metro Campus (EPA Region 2)
- 3) National Wildlife Federation (EPA Region 3)
- 4) Deep South Center for EJ (EPA Regions 4 and 6)
- 5) Research Triangle Institute (EPA Region 4)
- 6) Blacks in Green (EPA Region 5)
- 7) University of Minnesota (EPA Region 5)
- 8) New Mexico State University (EPA Region 6)
- 9) Wichita State University (EPA Region 7)
- 10) University of Arizona (EPA Region 9)
- 11) San Diego State University (EPA Region 9)
- 12) Willamette Partnership (EPA Region 10)
- 13) University of Washington (EPA Region 10)
- 14) International City/County Management Association (National TCTAC)
- 15) Institute for Sustainable Communities (National TCTAC)
- 16) National Indian Health Board (National TCTAC)

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Step Two = Accessible Financial Assistance. EJ Thriving Communities **Grantmakers** (i.e., pass-through funders) will issue thousands of subgrants over the next three years.



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STEP TWO - ACCESSIBLE FUNDING

EJ Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program

- Description: EPA will fund 11 pass-through entities (i.e., Grantmakers) nationwide to provide thousands of (sub)grants to community-based nonprofits and other eligible subrecipients for assessment, planning, and project development activities.
- Timing:
 - Selection announcements for the Grantmakers is targeted for December 2023.
 - Awards are targeted for Spring 2024
 - When should communities be able to apply for subgrants?
 - Target: Early Summer 2024
- Grant Funding:
 - Grantmakers will be funded at \$50 million each. 80% of total funds must go to communities for subgrants.
 - Subgrants range in size from \$75,000 - \$350,000 per subgrant.

Applications
currently
under review

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Step Three = Legacy EJ Grant Programs. 186 EJ Grant Recipients were selected on 10/24/23 to receive \$128 million collectively (\$104 million of IRA funds)!

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STEP 3 - LEGACY EJ GRANT PROGRAMS

186 selectees
announced
on
10/24/2023

EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants (EJCPS)

- Description: Cooperative agreement grants to CBOs. Expansion of EPA's legacy EJ community grant program with larger awards to pilot implementation activities through community-centered collaborative partnerships
- Grant Funding: \$43.8 million of IRA funds. **Up to \$500K per project.**
- Number of Projects Selected: 98
- Target Timing of Awards: Awards made December '23 – February '24

EJ Government to Government Grants (EJG2G)

- Description: Grants to government agencies partnered with CBOs. Expansion of EPA's legacy EJ government grants program with larger awards to gov. agencies partnering with communities to develop plans, projects, and pilot implementation activities
- Grant Funding: \$84.2 million total of IRA **and** baseline funds. **Up to \$1 million per project.**
- Number of Projects Selected: 88
- Target Timing of Awards: Awards made December '23 – February '24

EJCPS/EJG2G PROJECTS FUNDED WITH IRA

- Consistent with section 138(b)(2) of the Clean Air Act, selected projects must address one of the following five broad categories:
 - community-led air and other pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation, and investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure and workforce development that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants;
 - **Example projects: Solar panel installations, community air monitoring networks, and green jobs and infrastructure**
 - mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events;
 - **Example projects: wood burning stove replacements, wildfire-focused resilience hubs, and cooling system replacements**
 - climate resiliency and adaptation;
 - **Example projects: stormwater infrastructure installations, equitable transportation and mobility, and land reuse**
 - reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution; or
 - **Example projects: home electrification, indoor air quality monitoring, and lead, asbestos, and radon testing, remediation, and mitigations**
 - facilitating engagement of marginalized communities in Local, State and Federal public processes, such as advisory groups, workshops, and rulemakings
 - **Example projects: Health Impact Assessment (HIA), community-lead EJ integration plans, and “Complete Streets” transportation plan**

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Step Four = Transformational Implementation Projects.

Community Change Grants opportunity released on 11/21/23 for \$2 Billion in IRA funding! Rolling application deadline. Each award is for up to **\$20 million** for a three-year project.

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STEP 4 – LARGE IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Community Change Grants

- **Background/Purpose:**
 - Change grants will provide levels of funding to communities to change the reality on the ground (i.e., infrastructure, revitalization work, and significant implementation activities) related to EJ issues
- **Grant Funding:**
 - Up to \$2 Billion of IRA funds
 - Two Tracks for applications
 - Track I: Infrastructure and implementation projects (between \$10-20 million)
 - Track II: Community engagement projects to help disadvantaged communities become more involved in governmental processes (between \$1-3 million)
- **Timing:**
 - Grant competition window open for one year. Rolling application process. Proposals scored on a monthly basis.
- **Innovative Application Process:**
 - Written applications, oral presentations, and rolling application period

Competition
launched on
11/21/2023

STEP 4 – LARGE IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Community Change Grants

- Types of Change Grant Projects we can fund (not all inclusive):
 - 1) Climate resiliency and adaptation
 - 2) Mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events
 - 3) Community-led air and other (including water and waste) pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation
 - 4) Investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure
 - 5) Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants
 - 6) Reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution
 - 7) Community Greening
 - 8) Enhanced Mobility (active transportation, transit, carshare)
 - 9) Sustainable Housing (energy and water resilience)
 - 10) Community Energy Resilience
 - 11) Community Health (Food access, parks, open space)
 - 12) Waste Reduction and Circular economy
 - 13) Clean Drinking water
 - 14) Improved Wastewater Systems
 - 15) Address Hazardous Waste and Pesticides

Competition
launched on
11/21/2023

Eligible entities for the Community Change Grants NOFO:

- A partnership between two community-based organizations (CBOs)
- A partnership between a CBO and one of the following:
 - a Federally-Recognized Tribe
 - a local government
 - an institution of higher education



Other organizations and entities may be able to participate and be involved in the Community Change Grants projects as collaborating subrecipients and/or procurement contractors selected in compliance with competition requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Specialized Technical Assistance. An EPA Contractor is available to support Community Change Grant applicants and EJ grantees!



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Pilots and Partnerships

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- EJ Government to Government Grants (EJ-G2G)

Implementation

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

SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical
Assistance
available
now!!

Community Change Technical Assistance

- More specialized contractor-led technical assistance to support eligible entities to apply for Community Change Grants
- More specialized TA than EJ TCTACs – focus on planning, project development, multipart financing, etc.
- EJ TCTACs will direct communities with sufficient capacity and interest in applying for the Community Change Grant to the Community Change TA provider
- Communities can locate Community Change TA provider directly as well
- Launched in conjunction with Community Change Grants NOFO
- Will also provide implementation support for Community Change grantees (e.g., project implementation, reporting, tracking, communications, storytelling)

Request technical assistance today!

Fill out a form found at: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-grants-technical-assistance>

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

<p>Over \$800 million is being deployed quickly to build the project pipeline by funding technical assistance, as sessments, planning, and pilots.</p> <p>\$2 billion are allocated for the new Community Change Grants opportunity!!</p>	Name	Funding	Description	Timing
	Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)	\$177 million	16 awards to establish technical assistance centers across the nation to support communities with environmental justice concerns access federal funding.	All TCTACs awarded and in operation. Currently providing fundamental TA and services.
	EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants (EJ-CPS)	\$43.8 million	98 awards to assist recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses, government, medical providers) to develop solutions to environmental or public health issues at the community level.	98 selectees announced on 10/24/23
	EJ Government to Government Grants (EJ-G2G)	\$84.2 million	Up to 70 awards at the state, local, territorial and tribal governments to support and/or create model government activities (existing program).	88 selectees announced on 10/24/23
	EJ Grantmakers (EJ-TCGM)	\$550 million+	11 Grantmakers who will each make thousands of subgrants collectively to communities over the next three years	Applications closed May 31 Announce selections in December 2023
	Technical Assistance (TA) For IRA Funded Grants	\$200 million	To provide TA to eligible entities and grantees for the IRA funded grants. TA request form currently available on EPA website.	Available now!!!
	Community Change Grants	\$2 billion	Transformational, catalytic community-level projects	Application period is open now and closes in Nov '24

RESOURCES & WEBLINKS

(a) EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTAC) Webpages:

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers>

(b) EJ Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (EJ TCGM) Webpage:

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-grantmaking-program>

(c) ECJ Community Change Grants Program Webpage:

- <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

(d) EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Program:

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-5>

(e) EJ Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program:

- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-government-government-program>

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

Subtitle B—Hazardous Materials

SEC. 60201. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE BLOCK GRANTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“(C) climate resiliency and adaptation;

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

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

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

“(A) a partnership between—

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

“(ii) a community-based nonprofit organization;

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

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

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