



Office of Environmental Justice &  
External Civil Rights



**COMMUNITY  
CHANGE GRANTS**

**Environmental and Climate Justice**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Target Investment Area A  
Alaska Tribal Lands  
February 29, 2024

# Agenda

- 1. Welcome – Regional Administrator Casey Sixkiller**
- 2. Overview of Community Change Grants Program and Target Investment Area A for Alaska Tribal Lands**
- 3. Overview of Threshold Eligibility Criteria**
- 4. Overview of Contaminated Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Lands Inventory and Common Operating Picture – Ken Andraschko**
- 5. Track I and Track II Overview**
- 6. Overview of Application Submission, Evaluation, and Selection Process**
- 7. Questions and Answers**

Overview of  
**Community  
Change Grants  
Program and  
Target Investment  
Area A**

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# Introduction

EPA received \$3 billion through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to fund environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities.

- \$2.8 billion for grants, including \$2 billion for the Community Change Grants Program (CCGP)
- CCGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) includes Target Investment Area (TIA-A) for projects benefitting Alaska Tribal Lands
- \$200 million for technical assistance related to the CCGP grants
- Grants must be completed within three years (no extensions)
- All grants must be awarded by September 30, 2026



# Goals

Designed with meaningful community, Tribal and other stakeholder input, the investments EPA makes through the CCGP grants are intended to achieve the following goals:



Fund community-driven pollution and climate resiliency solutions.



Invest in strong cross-sectoral collaborations with partners working with and for communities.



Unlock access to more significant resources.

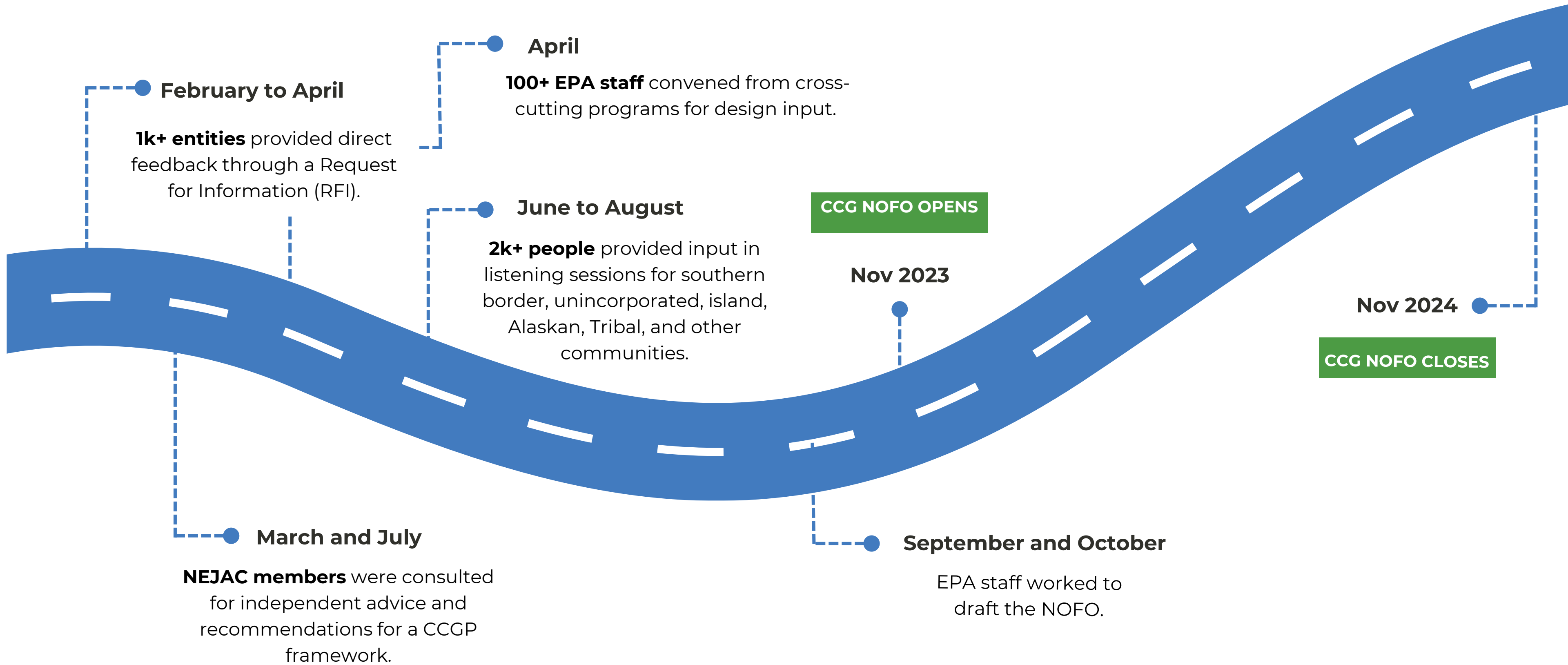


Deliver technical assistance and capacity-building support.



Strengthen communities' decision-making power.

# ENGAGEMENT



# Track I

## Community-Driven Investments for Change

Funding Available: approx. \$1.96 billion

Number of Awards: approx. 150

Per Award Amount: \$10M – cannot exceed \$20M

*TIA A-approx. \$150 million for projects benefitting Alaska Tribal Lands*

# Track II

## Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Funding Available: approx. \$40 million

Number of Awards: approx. 20

Per Award Amount: \$1M – cannot exceed \$3M



# TIA A – Alaska Tribal Lands Summary



**\$150M**  
**Tribes in  
Alaska**

- TIA A applies to Track I awards only (Section II.B of the [NOFO](#)).
- Applications under TIA A are evaluated against each other and not other applications.
- Appendix H includes TIA A specific information, additional eligibility requirements that apply to ANCSA clean-up projects, and Alaska specific project examples.

Note: TIA amounts are approximate and may be adjusted based on the quantity and quality of applications received.



# TIA A – Alaska Tribal Lands Summary



**\$150M**  
**Tribes in  
Alaska**

- EPA anticipates making a minimum of 5 awards for high-ranking applications under the TIA that include projects to assess and/or clean up lands conveyed under ANCSA that were contaminated at the time of their conveyance from the federal government to an Alaska Native Corporation (ANC).
- Priority to fund projects to assess and/or clean up lands conveyed under ANCSA that were contaminated at the time of their conveyance from the federal government to an ANC—this may be considered during selection process (Section V.E.9 and Appendix H)

# Technical Assistance



- [Community Change Technical Assistance \(CCTA\)](#)
  - Broad-based pre-award and post-award TA
  - Submit an on-line [TA Request Form](#)
  - Call to make a TA Request or ask questions:  
1 (800) 540-8123
  - Email: [EJ\\_TechAssist@epa.gov](mailto:EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov)
- [Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance \(CCER TA\)](#)
  - Submit an on-line [TA Request Form](#)
  - More limited and tailored TA focusing on disaster-prone areas
- [Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers \(TCTACs\)](#)

# Overview of Threshold Eligibility Criteria

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# Eligibility

Applications must meet **all** eligibility criteria, as outlined in Section III of the [NOFO](#) to be considered for funding.



Comply with the content and submission requirements.



Meet the eligibility and statutory partnership requirements in [Section III.A](#).



Meet threshold criteria in [Section III.D](#), including that the projects will benefit disadvantaged communities.



Projects must be completed within three years.



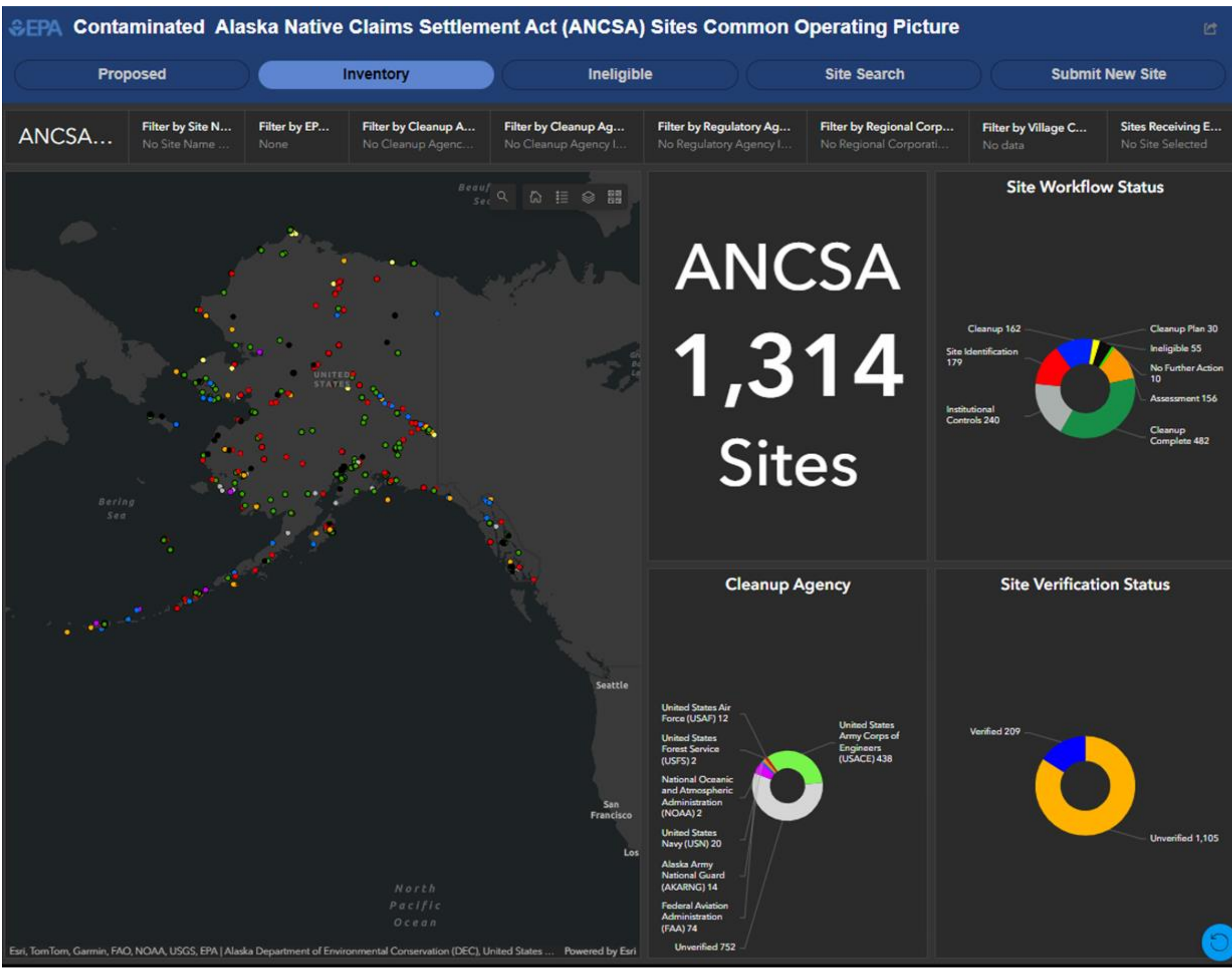
Meet specific requirements for ANCSA projects as described in [Appendix H](#).





# Contaminated ANCSA Sites Inventory

## Common Operating Picture



### Key Features:

- ✓ GIS-based Interactive Dashboard
- ✓ Provides cleanup status and information
- ✓ Ability to submit new site
- ✓ Continuous updates

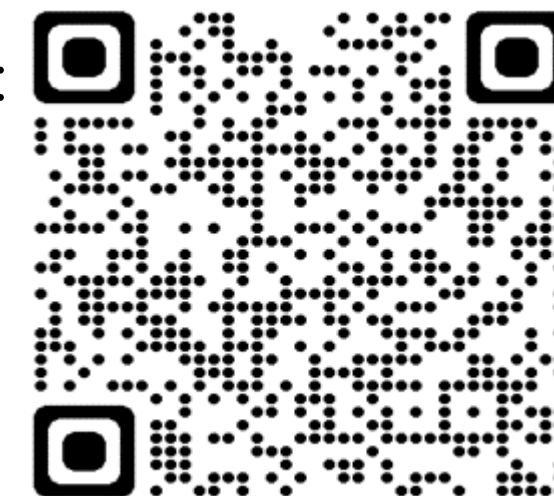
### Links to the Inventory:

[EPA R10 Contaminated ANCSA Lands webpage](#)

Directly to the Site Inventory:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/51479962643a49368433f43204d493e3>

With QAR code:





# Contaminated ANCSA Sites Inventory

## *Submit New Site Feature*

EPA Contaminated Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Sites Common Operating Picture

Proposed Inventory Ineligible Site Search **Submit New Site**

ANCSA ... Filter by Site N... No Site Name S... Filter by Cleanup Ag... No Cleanup Agency ... Filter by Cleanup Age... No Cleanup Agency ID... Filter by Regulatory Age... No Regulatory Agency I... Filter by Regional Corpo... No Regional Corporatio... Filter by Village Corpo... No Village Corporation... Sites Receiving E... No Site Selected

For users constrained by low-speed internet, please use the following links to search for contaminated ANCSA sites or submit information on sites for evaluation to be added to the EPA Contaminated ANCSA Lands Inventory:

Contaminated ANCSA Site Search

**Submit a New Site**

Submit a site

Location

Select the site location\*


Pan and zoom to get more precise.

Find address or place

Earthstar Geographics | Kenai Peninsula Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough GIS, Mun... Powered by Esri

Lat: 61.426639 Lon: -149.464524

[Direct hyperlink to the submit new site feature on the common operating picture dashboard](#)

or with QAR code: 

# Community Relocation

Projects for permanent community or Tribal relocation activities are **not eligible** for funding under the CCGP as noted in Section I.F of the NOFO.

A relocation activity is considered those that are intended to plan or assist the moving of an individual or community from their residence or place of business.

Temporary relocation costs may be allowable in accordance with Federal Highway Administration's guidance on temporary relocation in Appendix A to 49 CFR Part 24.

If you have questions about whether your project is a relocation activity, please email [CCGP@epa.gov](mailto:CCGP@epa.gov)

## **Please note:**

EPA is working on a separate effort to support communities looking to implement community-driven relocation plans.

# Eligible Entities

The following entities are eligible to enter a Statutory Partnership under this NOFO:

- **Community-based nonprofit organization (CBO)**

- Demonstrates connection to community through services provided to residents and stakeholders.
- Are considered a non-profit organization by IRS or through other means-Section III.A.1 of NOFO
- Alaska Native Nonprofit Organizations and Alaska Native Nonprofit Associations are considered CBOs.
- For-profit ANCs are not eligible under the CBO definition.

- **Federally recognized Tribe**

- “Any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village, which is federally recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.”
- Does not include ANCs or State-recognized tribes

- **Local government**

- **Institution of higher education (IHE)**

*\*More details found in Section III.A of the NOFO*

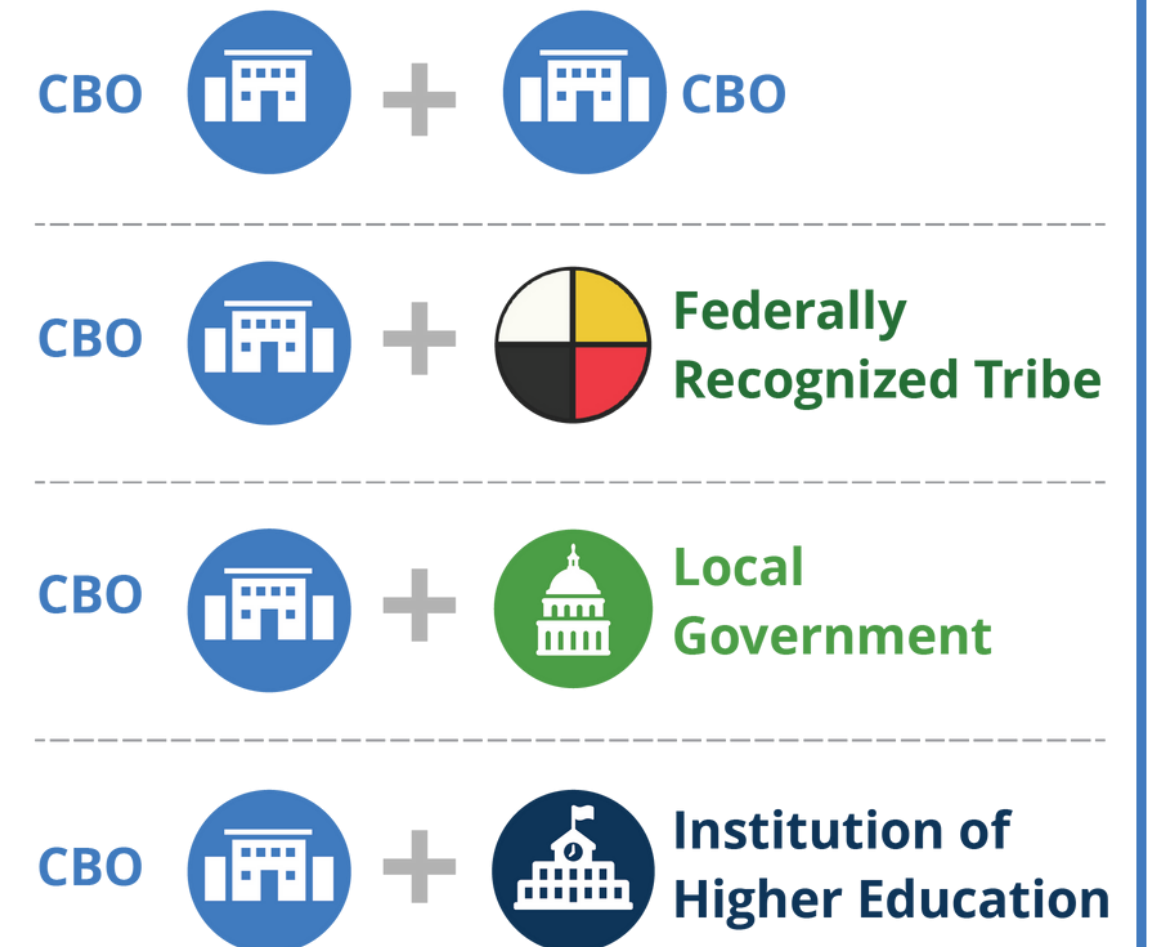
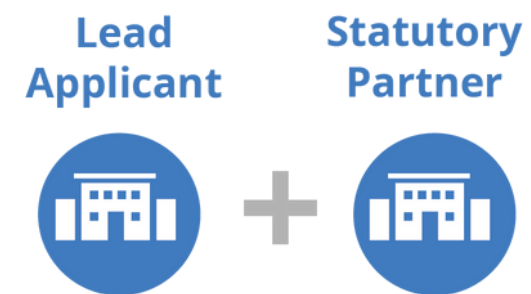


# Statutory Partnership

Applicants must either be a partnership of two community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) or a partnership between a CBO and a federally recognized Tribe, local government or institution of higher education.

Partnerships must be documented and meet certain legal requirements (see Appendix B).

Additional information on eligibility and partnerships can be found in Section III of the [NOFO](#).



Note: While the CBO does not have to be the “Lead Applicant,” all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.

# Collaborating Entities

Other entities can be involved in projects as **collaborating entities**.

Collaborating Entities may include entities that legally could be Statutory Partners (CBOs, Federally-recognized Tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education) and entities that cannot legally be Statutory Partners (e.g., states and territorial governments, ANCs).



# Alaska Specific Entities

**What qualifies as a CBO?** See Section III.A.1 of the NOFO

- Alaska Native Nonprofit Organizations
- Alaska Native Nonprofit Associations

**What potentially qualifies as a CBO?**

- Intertribal Consortia, if they meet Section III.A.1 of the NOFO and 40 CFR 35.504(a) and (c) requirements

**What does not qualify as a CBO?**

- For-profit ANCs
  - ANCs are not CBOs under the CCGP. As indicated in Section III.A.1 of the NOFO, this is because ANCs are for-profit organizations. Further, as explained in Section III.A.3 of the NOFO, ANCs are not eligible to enter Statutory Partnerships with CBOs as “Indian Tribes” based on the definition of “Indian Tribes” in section 302(r) of the Clean Air Act, which does not include ANCs. See also Appendix H.

# ANC Additional Information

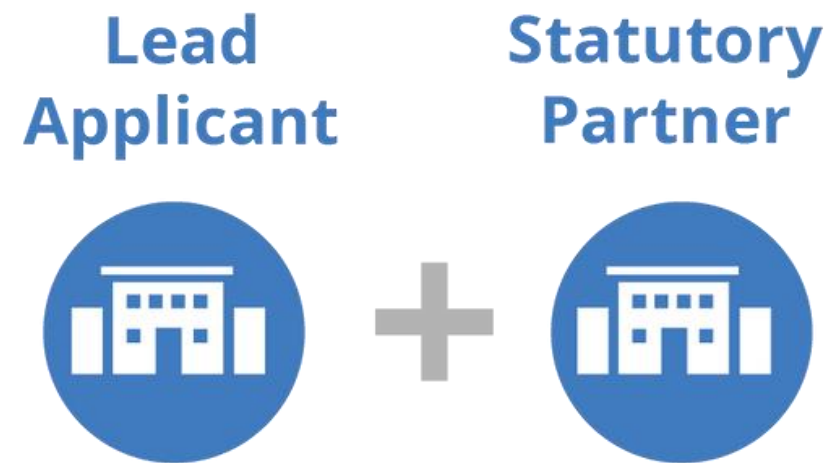
**ANCs may be Collaborating Entities. They can either:**

- **Receive competitive or non-competitive subawards**
  - While ANCs do not meet the definition of Indian Tribes under section 302(r) of the Clean Air Act, ANCs are considered Indian Tribes for the purposes of 2 CFR Part 200 and the EPA Subaward Policy, making them eligible to receive subawards.
  - ANCs must agree not to profit from the receipt of the subaward. See [EPA Subaward Frequent Questions](#) (Number A.54) for more information.
- **Compete for procurement contracts**
  - Consistent with 2 CFR Part 200, including restrictions on personal conflicts of interest, as interpreted in the [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#).

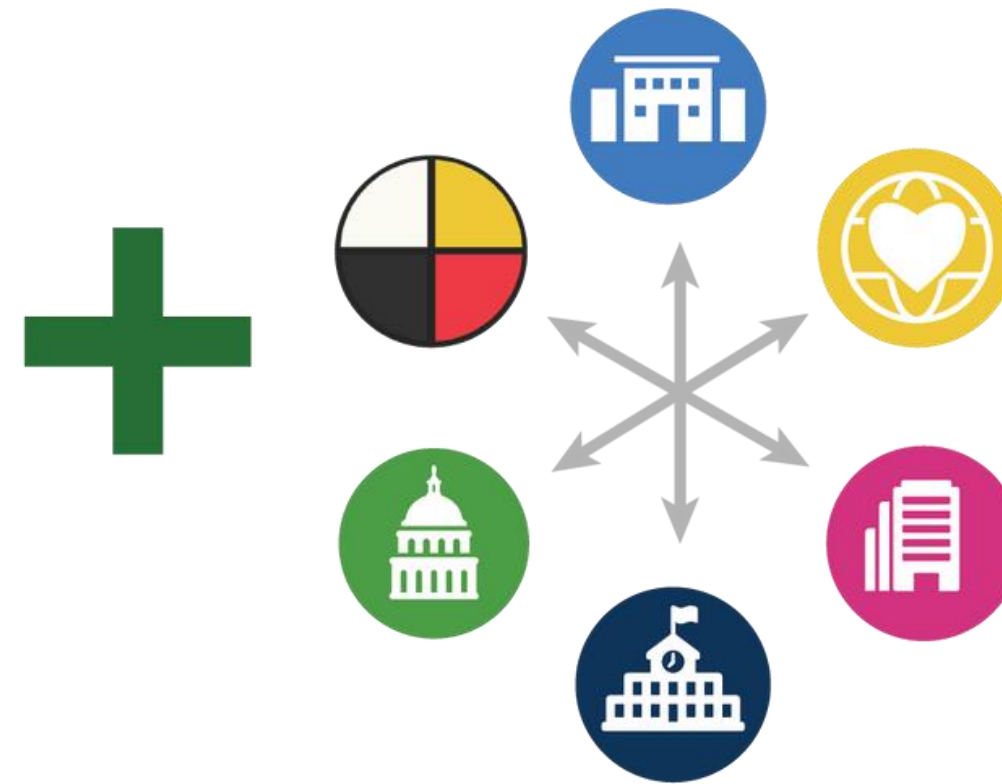
Taken from the FAQs posted February 1, 2024 on the [CCG website](#)

# How It Works

FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP



IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS

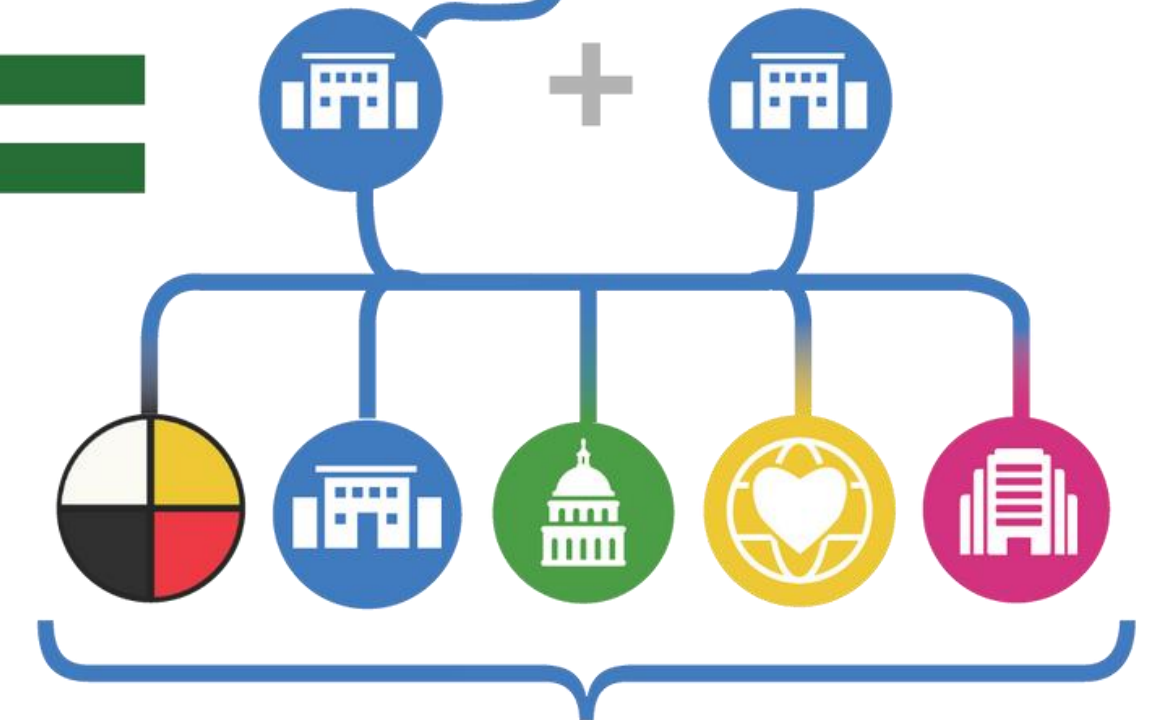


THE COLLABORATIVE



Lead Applicant

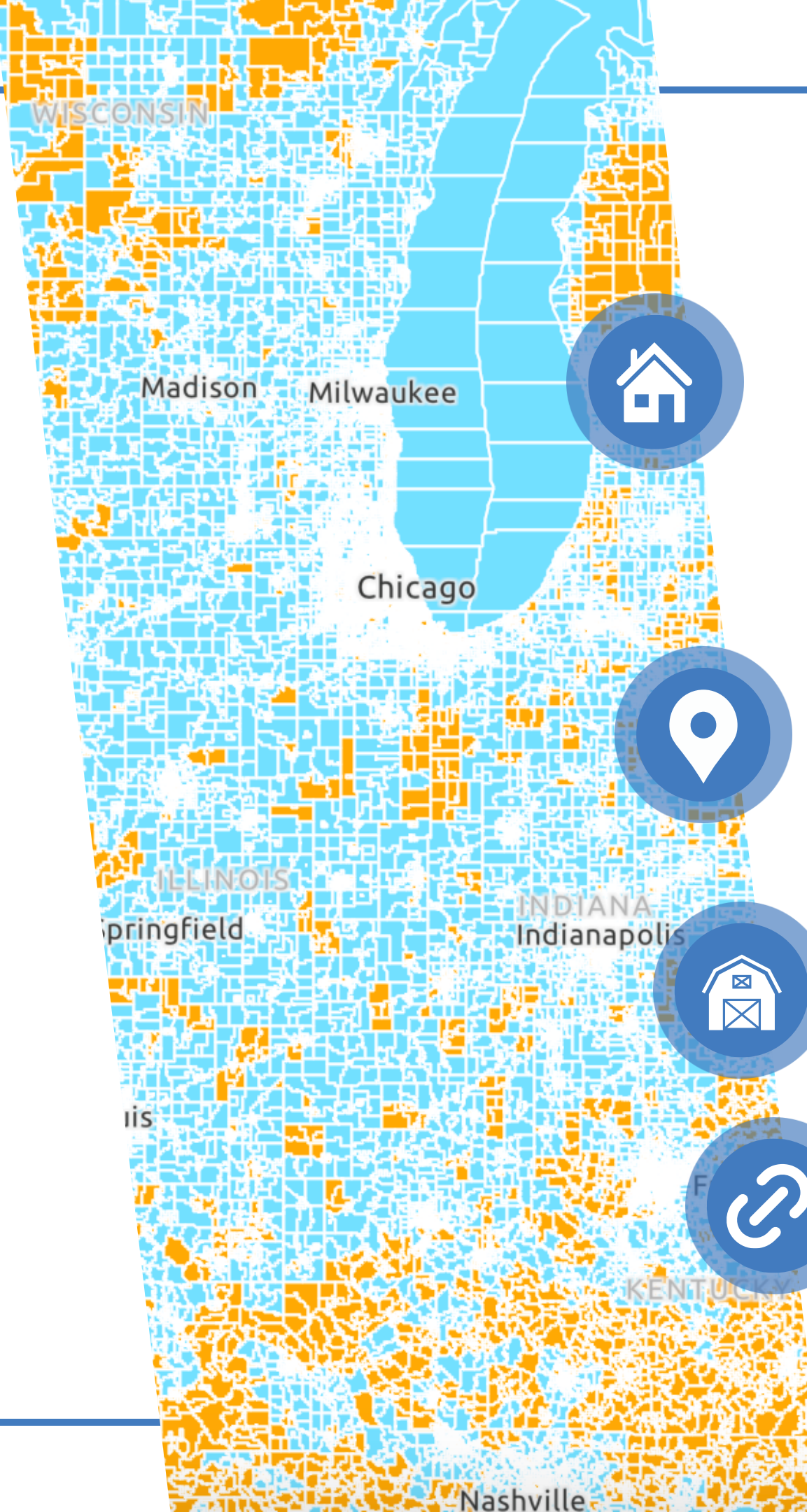
Statutory Partner



Collaborating Entities

# Disadvantaged Communities

Applicants must demonstrate that the projects in their application will benefit a disadvantaged community. EPA is defining disadvantaged community as one that meets at least one of the following criteria:



A geographically-defined community identified as disadvantaged on the EPA IRA [Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)



A Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)

OR



A farmworker community



More information can be found in Appendix A of the [NOFO](#).

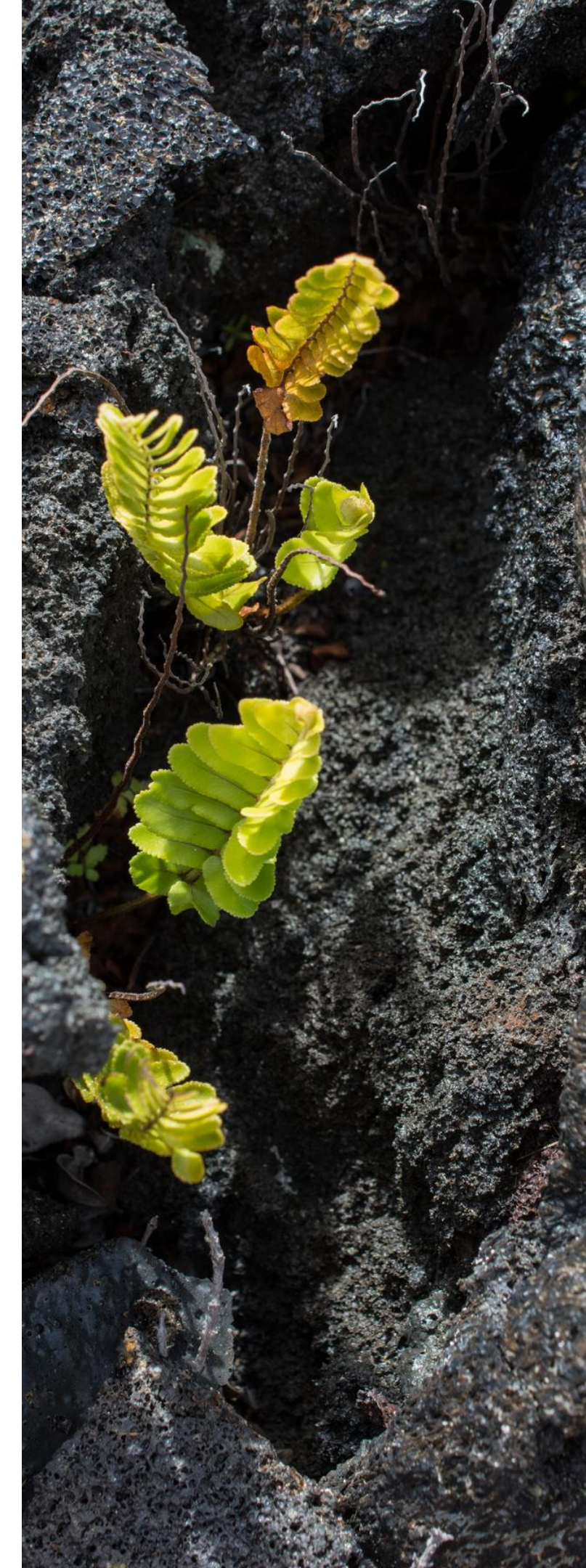
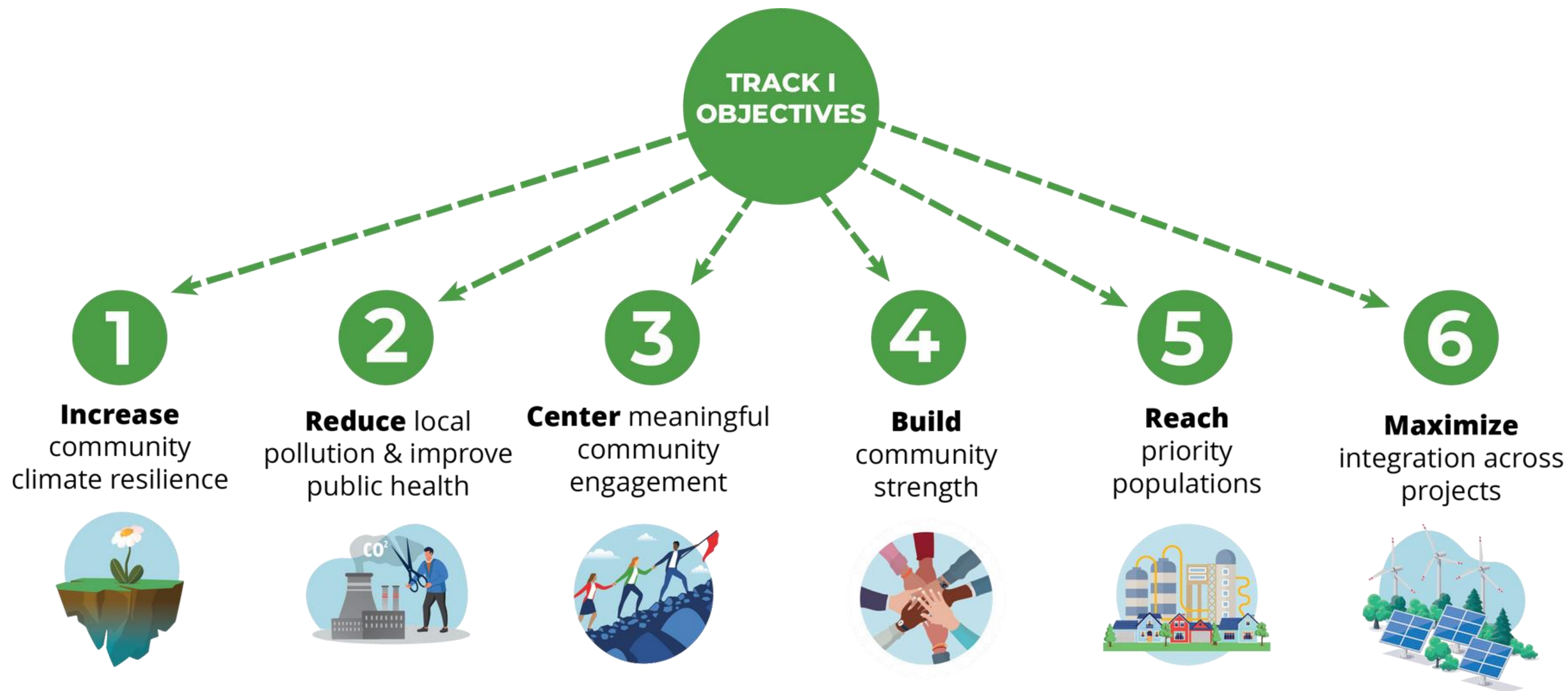
# Track I and Track II Overview

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# Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change

Projects under this track should ensure generations of future enjoyment and growth by meeting the below objectives:





# Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change

Track I applications must also address these requirements, as further described in Section I.G, Section IV.B, and Appendix H of the [NOFO](#):

## Strategies

### • **Climate Action**

- Green Infrastructure & Nature-Based Solutions
- Mobility & Transportation Options
- Energy-Efficient, Healthy and Resilient Housing & Buildings
- Microgrid Installation
- Community Resilience Hubs
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Waste Reduction & Management
- Workforce Development
- Alaska Specific Climate Action Strategies

### • **Pollution Reduction**

- Indoor Air Quality & Community Health
- Outdoor Air Quality & Community Health
- Clean Water Infrastructure
- Hazardous Waste Management
- Alaska Specific Pollution Reduction-ANCSA

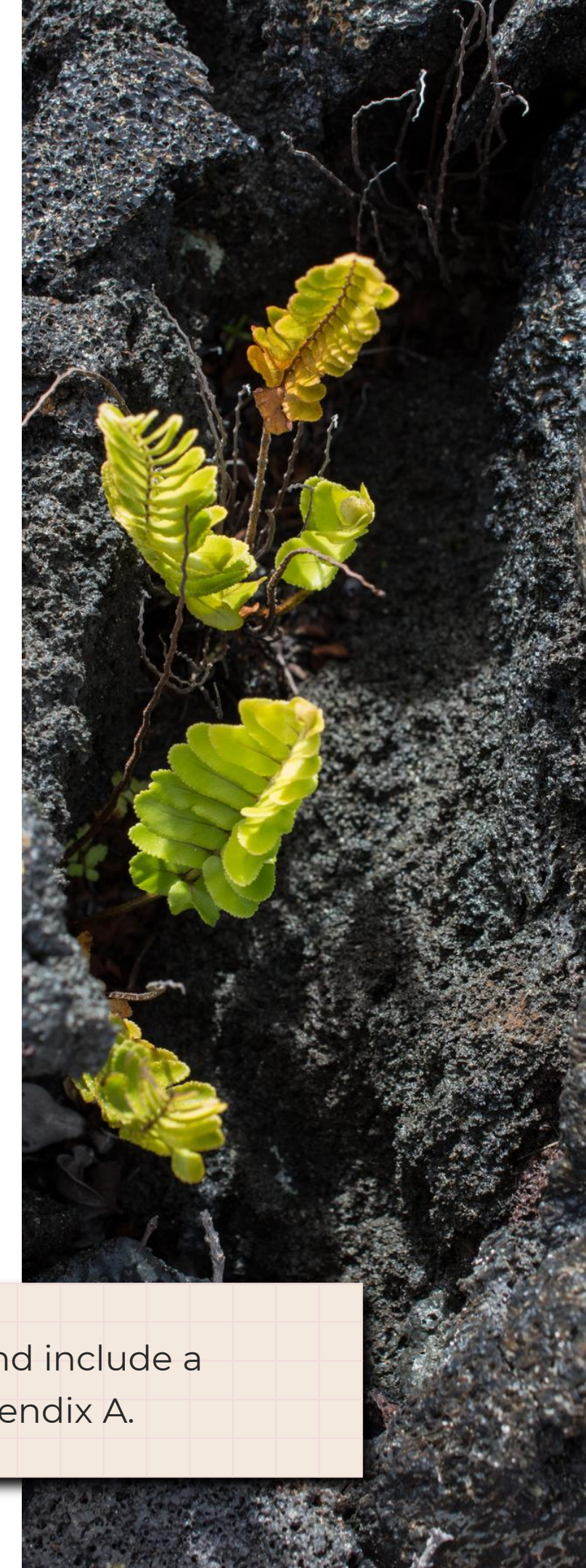
## Plans

- Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan
  - Community Strength Plan

## Additional Requirements

- Readiness Approach
- Compliance Plan

Note: Projects must be place-based and include a Project Area Map, as described in Appendix A.



# TIA A Track I Additional Information

Taken from the FAQs posted February 1, 2024 on the [CCGP website](#)

- Applications can address areas outside of the TIAs. The TIAs are just priority categories.
- The application process is the same for all applications (including TIAs)
- There are specific requirements for TIA A that need to be addressed for certain projects as identified in the NOFO (Section III.D.12 and App. H).
- If you are applying for a TIA, you must identify what TIA you are applying for in your application (see Section IV.B)
- Applications for projects that will be carried out to benefit disadvantaged communities in Alaska but are not applying under TIA A can still include projects identified in the “Alaska-specific Climate Action Strategies” found in Appendix H.



# TIA A Track I ANCSA Additional Information

- Applications for projects on lands conveyed through ANCSA do not have to focus on the clean-up of contaminated ANCSA lands. Still, EPA strongly encourages Pollution Reduction strategy projects to clean up contaminated lands conveyed through ANCSA.
- Applications submitted to benefit disadvantaged communities in Alaska, whether under TIA A or not, are not required to be on ANCSA land.
- Eligible CBOs can be the Lead Applicant applying under the TIA even if they are not an Alaska Native Village, Alaska Native Non-Profit, or Alaska Native Association.

*Taken from the FAQs posted February 1, 2024 on the [CCGP website](#)*

# Track II: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

## Objectives

- To build the capacity of communities to evaluate and redress environmental and climate injustices.
- To give disadvantaged communities a meaningful voice in government decision-making processes

## Project Examples

- Educational and Training Programs
- Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)
- Collaborative Governance Activities
- Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes





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Overview of  
**Application  
Submission, Evaluation  
and Selection Process**

# ROLLING APPLICATION



November 21,  
2023

Applications  
Open

Applications will be accepted, reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis.



November 21,  
2024

Applications  
Close

Application packages will be accepted until November 21, 2024, at 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) through [grants.gov](https://grants.gov).

# SELECTION PROCESS

## Track I

### Eligibility

Applications reviewed for threshold eligibility.

### Written Evaluation

Written applications that receive a score of 110 or higher (out of 155) will be invited to give an oral presentation.

### Oral Presentations

Worth a maximum of 45 points.

Applications with a combined score of 170 or more, based on written and oral, move to final selection consideration.

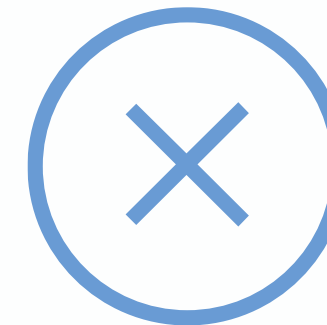
### Final Consideration

Applications receiving a combined score of between 110 and 169 will be ranked and reviewed approx. monthly for final selection consideration.

## Track II

Applications reviewed for threshold eligibility.

Written applications that receive a score of 85 or higher (out of 100) will move to final selection consideration.



Applications receiving a score below 85 will be ranked and reviewed approx. monthly for final selection consideration.



# Debriefings and Disputes

Applicants who are deemed ineligible or who are not selected for funding may request a debriefing.

For more information on the debriefing and dispute process, see Section VI of the [NOFO](#).

# Resubmission

Applicants who are deemed eligible but are not selected for funding may, after timely requesting and receiving a debriefing on the application, resubmit.

For more information see Section II.C of the [NOFO](#).



# Key Points

## Check for Eligibility

- We know the [NOFO](#) is long but read it carefully!
- Make sure you meet the partnership eligibility requirements (Section III.A) and applicable threshold eligibility requirements (Section III.D).

## Understand the Requirements for Different Tracks

- There are different requirements and evaluation criteria for Track I and II applications (Sections IV.B and V).
- TIA A has additional requirements for ANCSA projects (Section III.D.12 and Appendix H).
- Though it was not covered today in detail, review the [NOFO](#) to understand the post-award and other requirements (Section VI).
- Letters of support are not required, and applicants should not submit attachments other than those required in Section IV.B

## Triple Check Your Application

- Make sure you do not exceed the page limits for the Project Narrative portion of the application package and other attachments (Section IV.B).
- Include all applicable attachments and forms to the application package (Section IV.B)



# Important Links

In addition to the application requirements in the [NOFO](#), it's important to understand what will be expected of grantees if they are awarded a grant. Below are a few important links to programmatic and administrative information - be sure to read the [NOFO](#) in full to understand them:

- [Fraud, Waste & Abuse](#)
- [Davis Bacon Act](#)
- [Build America Buy America](#)
- [EPA's General Terms and Conditions](#)
- [EPA's Solicitation Clauses](#)
- [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreement](#)
- [Methods of Procurement \(2 CFR 200.320\)](#)
- [Participant Support Costs \(2 CFR 1500.1\)](#)
- [Reporting Requirements \(Section VI\)](#)
- [Appendix G: Indirect Costs](#)



# Future Developments

- **NOFO Modifications:** The [NOFO](#) was modified on December 21, 2023 and February 12, 2024 to clarify some issues
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** FAQs are posted to the [CCGP website](#) to address [NOFO](#) questions. First set of FAQs posted on February 1, 2024 and includes information on TIA A. Expect more FAQs in March, 2024.
- **Future Webinars:** Check the [CCGP website](#) for dates for future webinars and recordings.



# Final Thoughts



Find partners and build coalition



Identify meaningful transformative projects to address environmental and climate justice concerns that can be completed within 3 years ← (Track I)



Identify governmental policies and programs that can be improved with community voices (Track II)



Register on **SAM.gov** and **Grants.gov** *now* (this process can take up to a month)



You can follow up with questions at **CCGP@epa.gov**



Stay up to date on webinars by signing up for EPA EJ listserv by sending a blank email to **join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov**

