



Office of Environmental Justice & External
Civil Rights



**COMMUNITY
CHANGE GRANTS**

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Program Overview - March 2024

Overview of Community Change Grants Program

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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).
- \$200 million for technical assistance related to the grants.
- Grants cannot exceed 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 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.



Track I

Community-Driven Investments for Change

Funding Available: approx. \$1.96 billion

Number of Awards: approx. 150

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

Track II

Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Funding Available: approx. \$40 million

Number of Awards: approx. 20

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

Technical Assistance

- [Community Change Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers \(TCTACs\)](#)





Types of TA

- 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
- 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

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.



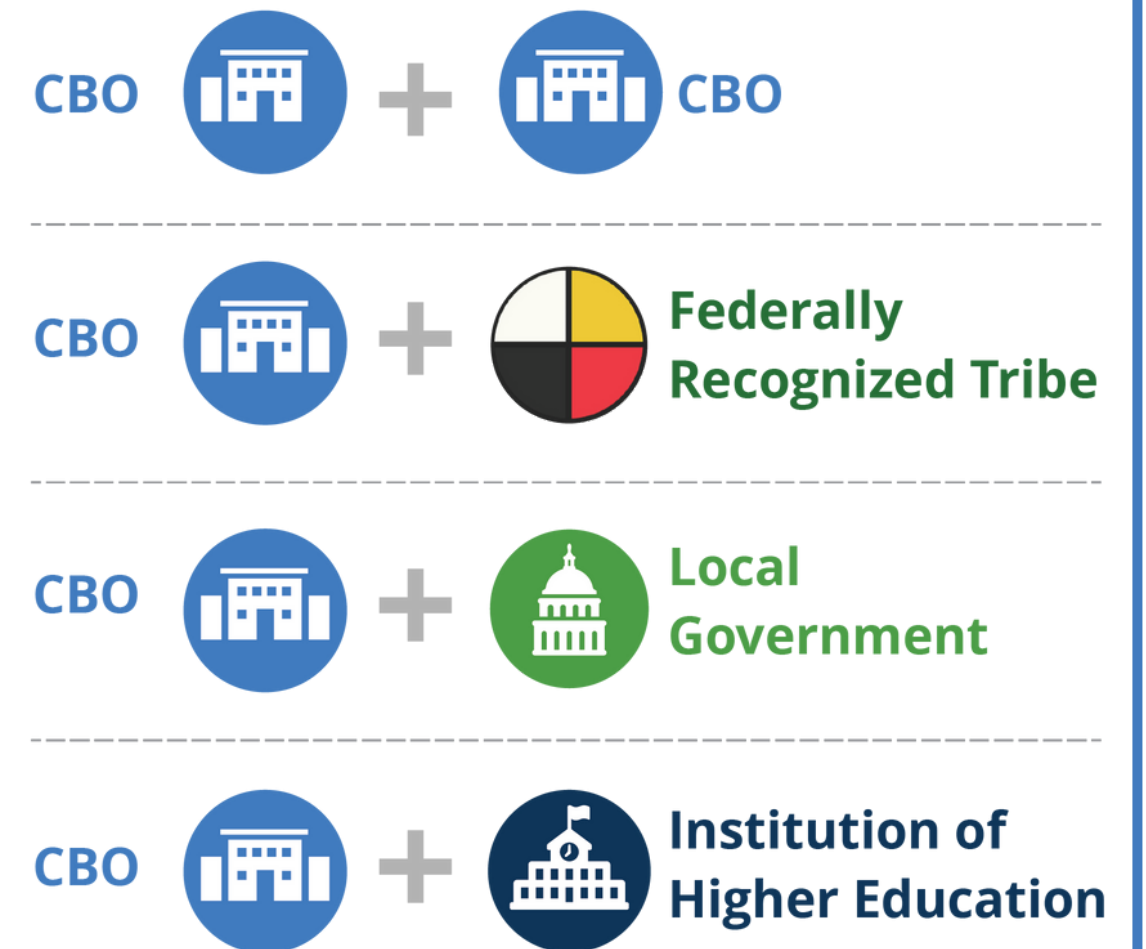
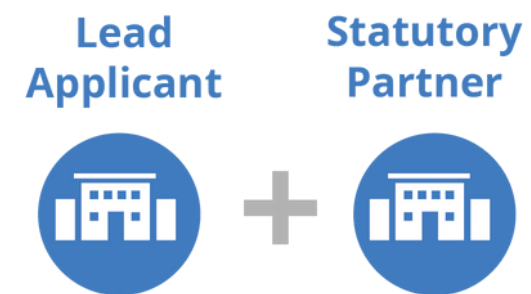
Applications to conduct scientific research; assessment, removal, or remediation of Superfund sites; and permanent community relocation are ineligible.

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

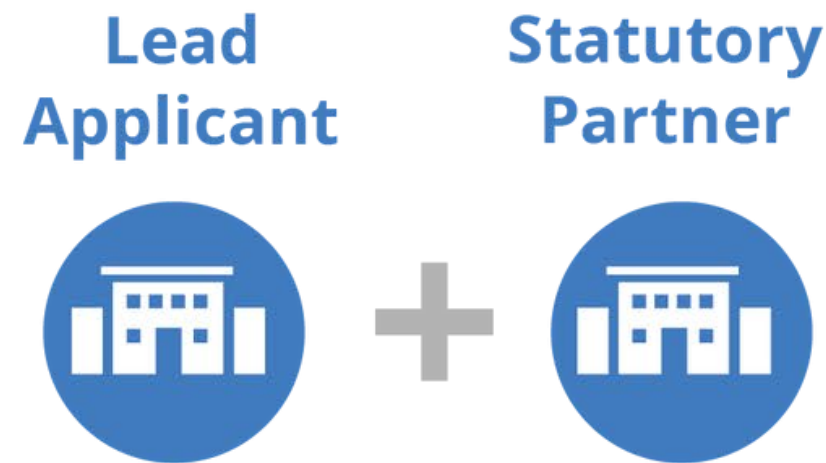
Other entities can be involved in projects as **collaborating entities**.

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).

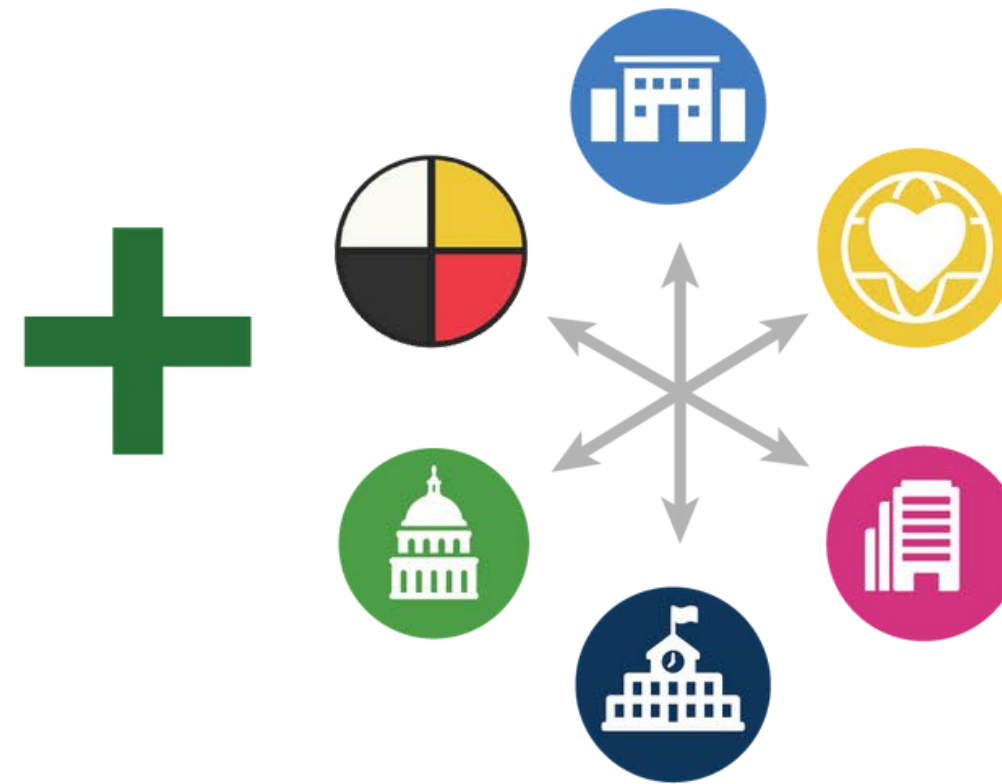


How It Works

FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP



IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS

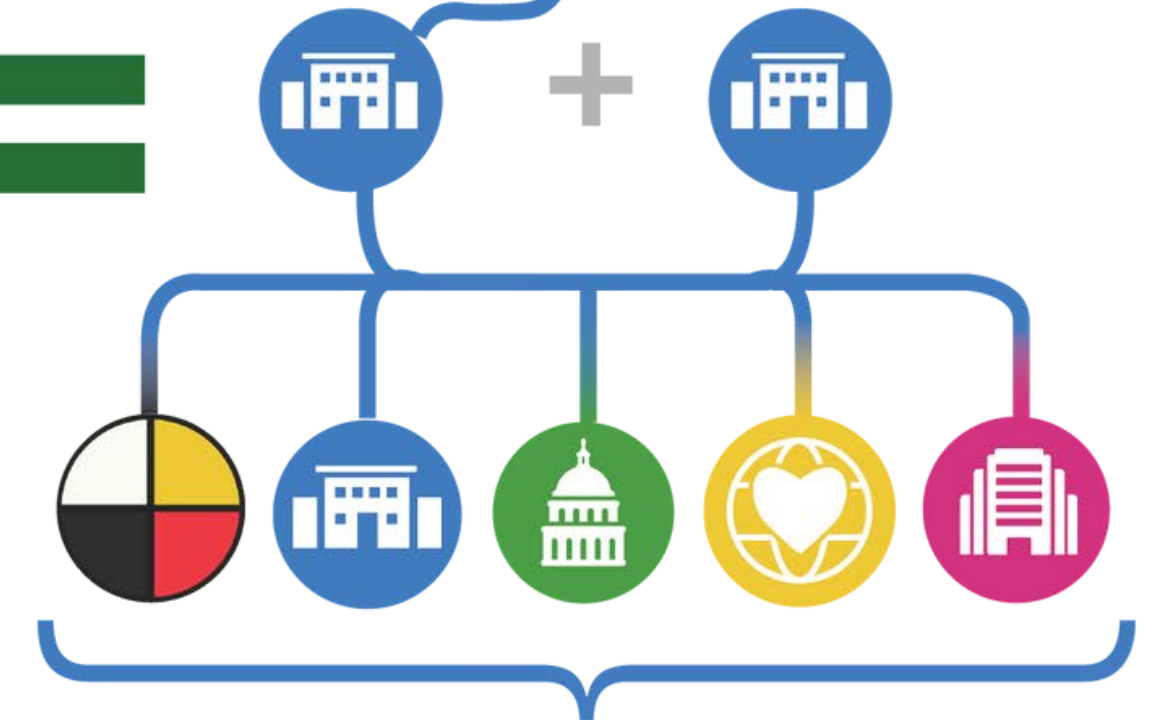


THE COLLABORATIVE



Lead Applicant

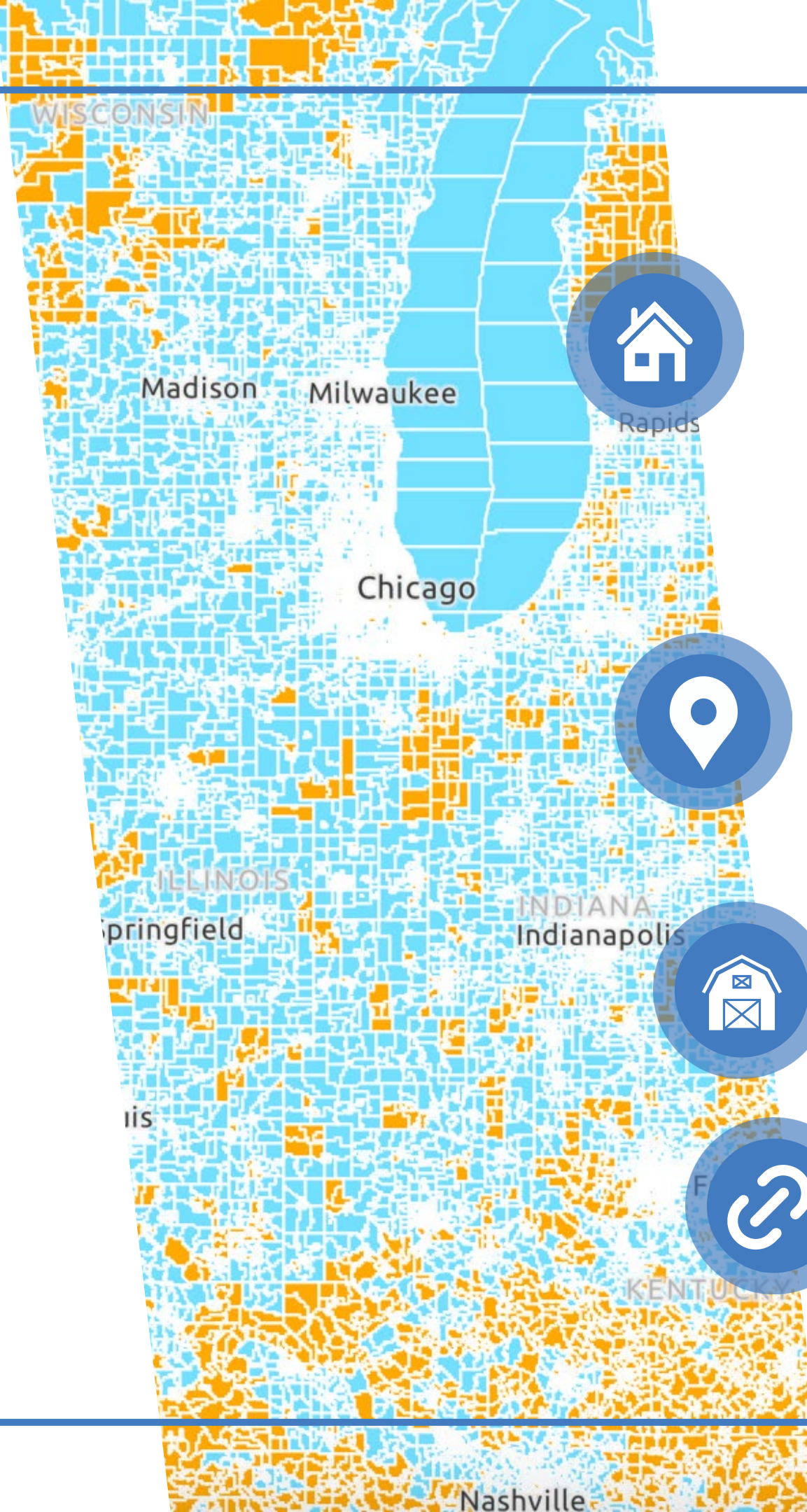
Statutory Partner



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](#).

Target Investment Areas



\$50M

**Disadvantaged
Unincorporated
Communities**



\$150M

**Tribes in
Alaska**



\$300M

**Tribal
Communities**



\$100M

**Southern
Border
Communities**



\$50M

U.S. Territories

Note: These Track I investment area amounts are approximate and may be adjusted based on the quantity and quality of applications received.

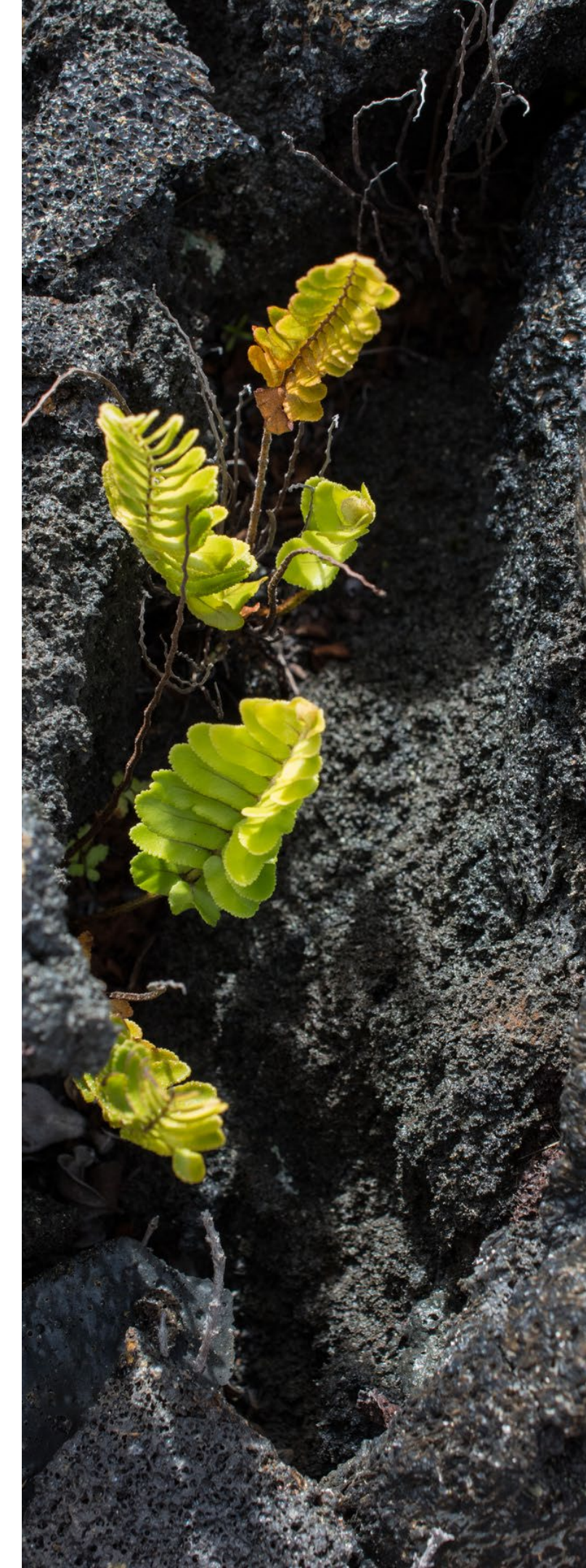
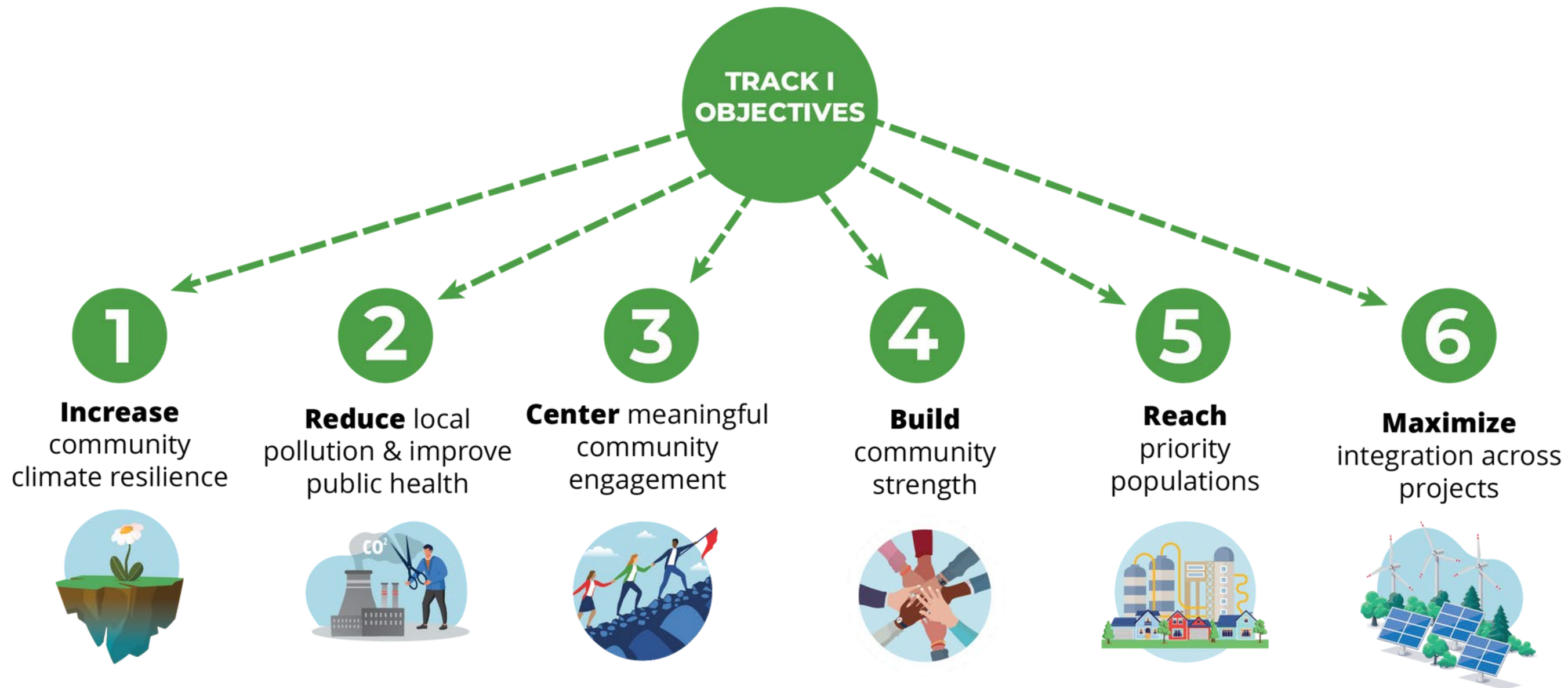
Track I and Track II Overview

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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 and Section IV.B 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
- **Pollution Reduction**
 - Indoor Air Quality & Community Health
 - Outdoor Air Quality & Community Health
 - Clean Water Infrastructure
 - Hazardous Waste Management

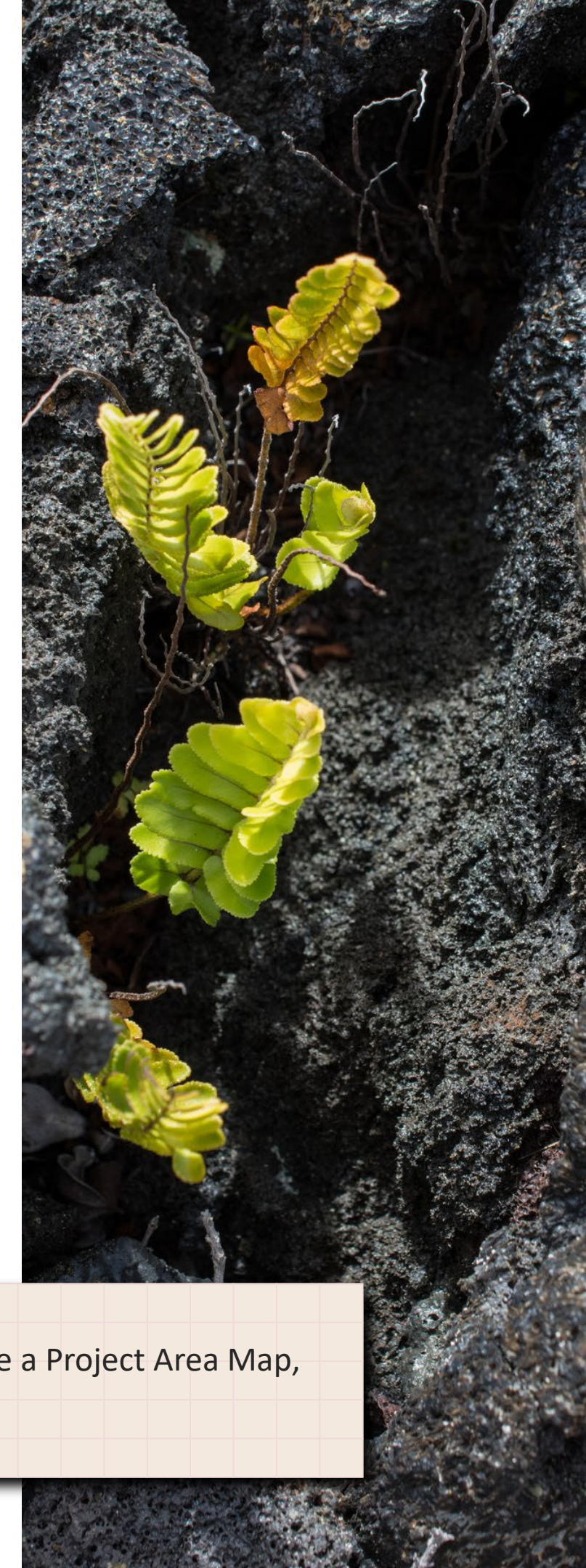
Plans

- 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.



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.

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 evaluation, move to final selection consideration.

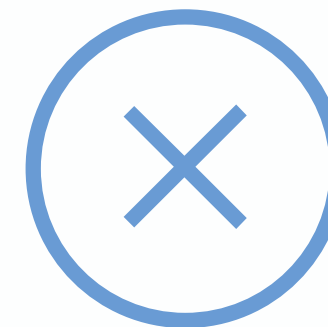
Final Consideration

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).
- Alaska Tribal and U.S. Southern Border target investment areas have unique requirements (Section II.B and Appendix H).
- Though it was not covered today, review the [NOFO](#) to understand the post-award and other requirements (Section VI).

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).
- Letters of support are not required, and additional attachments will not be evaluated.



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](#) has been modified to clarify certain issues. Make sure to read the most updated version on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).
- Frequently Asked Questions: FAQs were posted to the [CCGP website](#) and will be updated as needed to address [NOFO](#) questions.
- Future Webinars: Check the [CCGP website](#) often 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**

