



Office of Environmental Justice &
External Civil Rights



**COMMUNITY
CHANGE GRANTS**

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Target Investment Area C
U.S. Territories
March 18, 2024

Traducción al Español Disponible

- Si desea escuchar el webinar de hoy en español, por favor haga lo siguiente:
- En los controles de su webinar, haga clic en Interpretación
- Elige español
- (Opcional) Para escuchar solo el idioma interpretado, haga clic en **Silenciar** audio original
- Debe unirse al audio a través del audio/VoIP de su computadora. No puede escuchar la interpretación de idiomas si utiliza [las funciones de audio](#) de acceso telefónico o [llámeme](#) por teléfono
- Como participante que se une a un canal de idioma, puede transmitir nuevamente al canal de audio principal si activa el audio y habla

Using the Q&A Function

- Participant Q&A: Please use the Q&A function for your comments. We will attempt to answer as many questions as we can, but questions specific to an individual applicant or project will be addressed through individual technical assistance (TA).
- EPA is regularly updating the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document for the Community Change Grants NOFO, found on [EPA's CCG Website](#)
- **No soliciting will be allowed.**

Agenda

1. **Welcome – Lisa Garcia, Regional Administrator for EPA’s Region 2 Office**
2. **Overview of Community Change Grants Program and Target Investment Area C for U.S. Territories**
3. **Overview of Threshold Eligibility Criteria**
4. **Track I and Track II Overview**
5. **Overview of Application Submission, Evaluation, and Selection Process**
6. **Questions and Answers**

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

1



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
- Estimated \$50 million for projects benefitting disadvantaged communities in U.S. Territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands)
- 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 Community Change 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



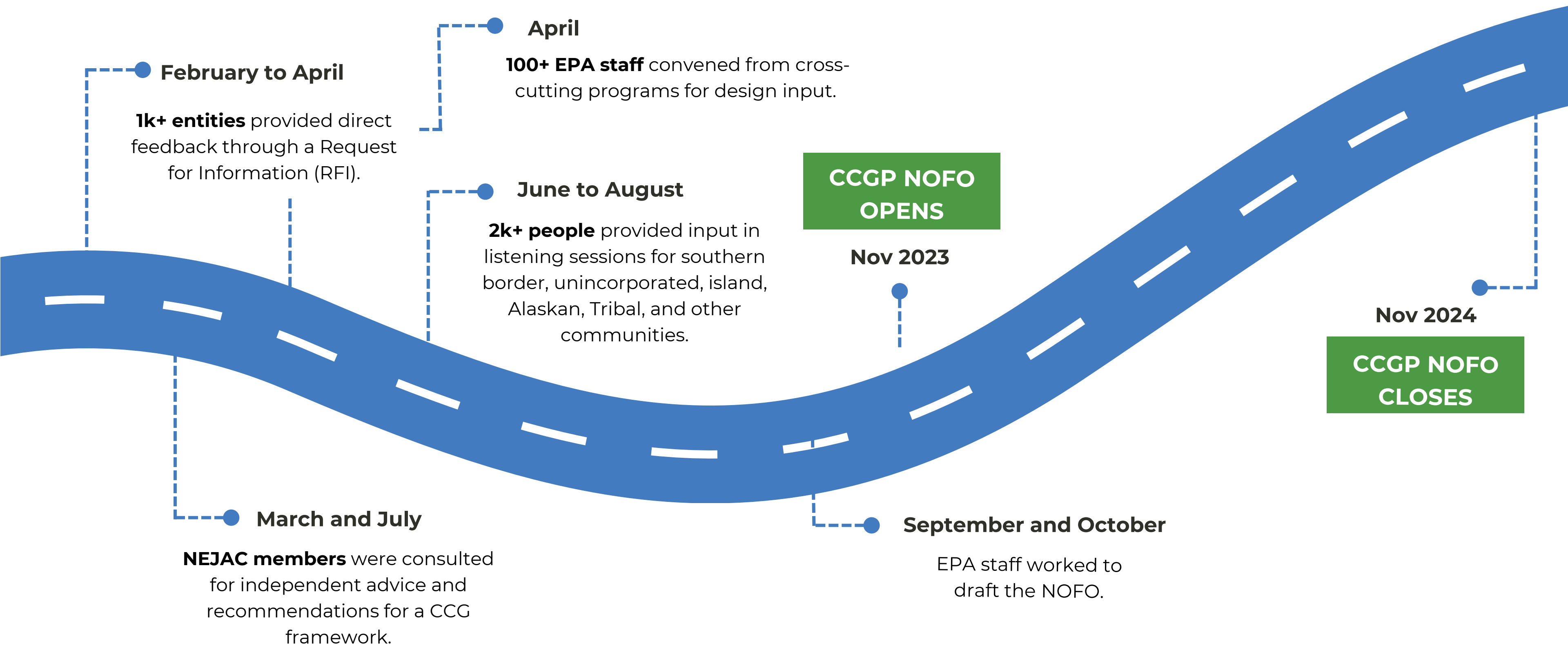
Deliver technical assistance and capacity-building support



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 C: approx. \$50 million for projects benefitting disadvantaged communities in U.S. territories

Track II

Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Funding Available: approx. \$40 million

Number of Awards: approx. 20

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



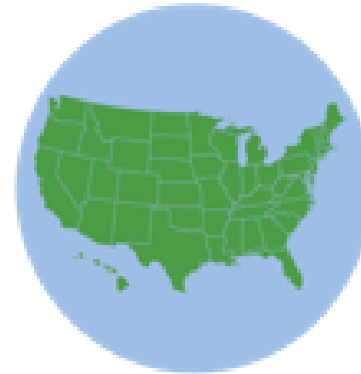
Target Investment Areas



\$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.

Target Investment Areas



\$50M

U.S. Territories

- Applications can address areas outside of TIAs. TIAs are just priority categories
- The application process is the same for all applications, including TIAs, though there may be some specific requirements for some TIAs
- If you are applying for a TIA, you must identify which TIA you are applying for (see Section IV.B of the NOFO)
- TIAs apply only to Track I awards

Types of TA

- Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)
 - Broad-based pre-award and post-award TA
 - Specialized support for the CCGP (TCTACs is for general requests)
 - 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



Community Change TA

- Individualized support- help with development of grant application (but can't write the application), project planning and development, outreach and engagement, and general capacity building.
- Weekly webinars on Tuesdays 3pm to 4pm ET until March 19th. Recordings for past webinars are available via www.communitychangeTA.org

Overview of Threshold Eligibility Criteria

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Eligibility

Applications must meet the eligibility criteria, as outlined in Section III.D 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; or permanent community relocation are ineligible

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

Please note:

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

TIA C – Eligibility Summary

Territorial governments are not eligible to apply as part of a Statutory Partnership under the CCGP because they are considered *States* under the Clean Air Act. States are not eligible entities.

However, other eligible entities located in the Territories may apply as part of a Statutory Partnership (and be the Lead Applicant) if:

- They qualify as a Community-based nonprofit organization (CBO) and meet the Section III.A.1 CBO requirements
- They qualify as a local government (e.g., public housing authorities) or Institutions of Higher Education in the Territories.



\$50M

U.S. Territories

Please note:

Freely Associated States are not eligible to apply and there cannot be any projects in them.

Collaborating Entities

Entities, including **Territorial governments**, can be involved in projects as collaborating entities and receive a subaward to help implement grant activities.

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).

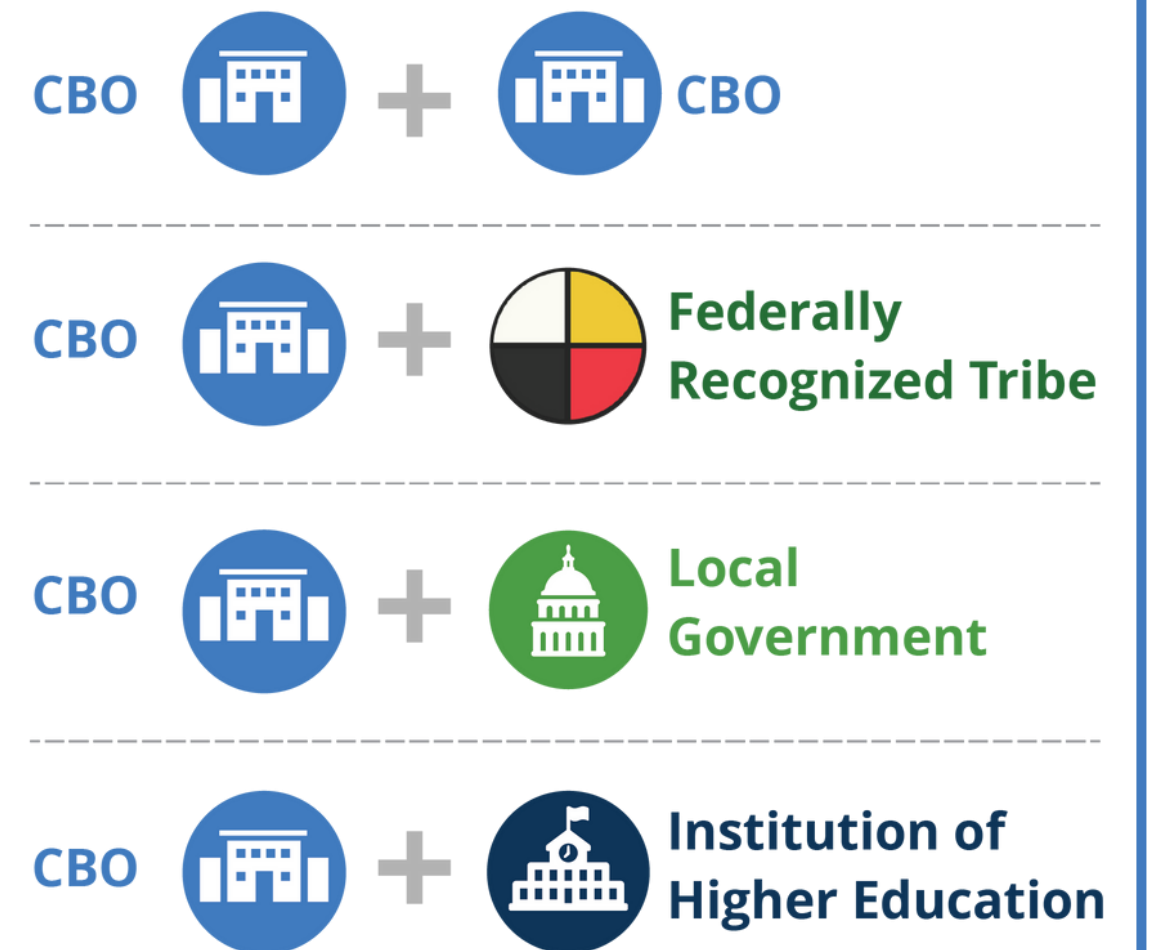
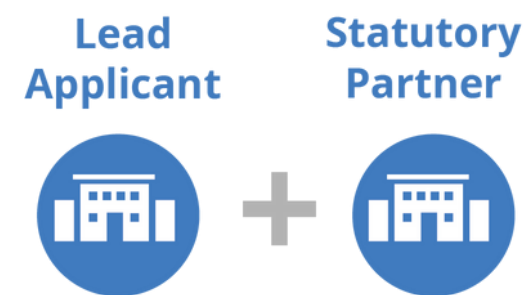


Statutory Partnership

Applicants must either be a partnership of two 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).

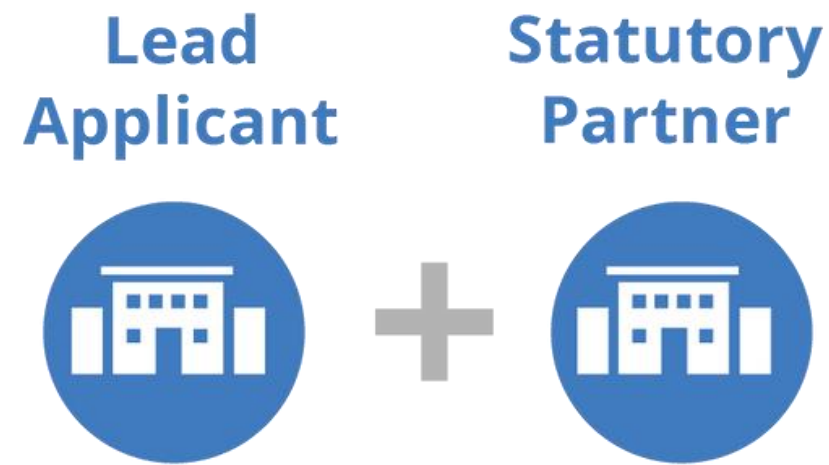
Additional information on eligibility and partnerships can be found in Section III of the [NOFO](#).



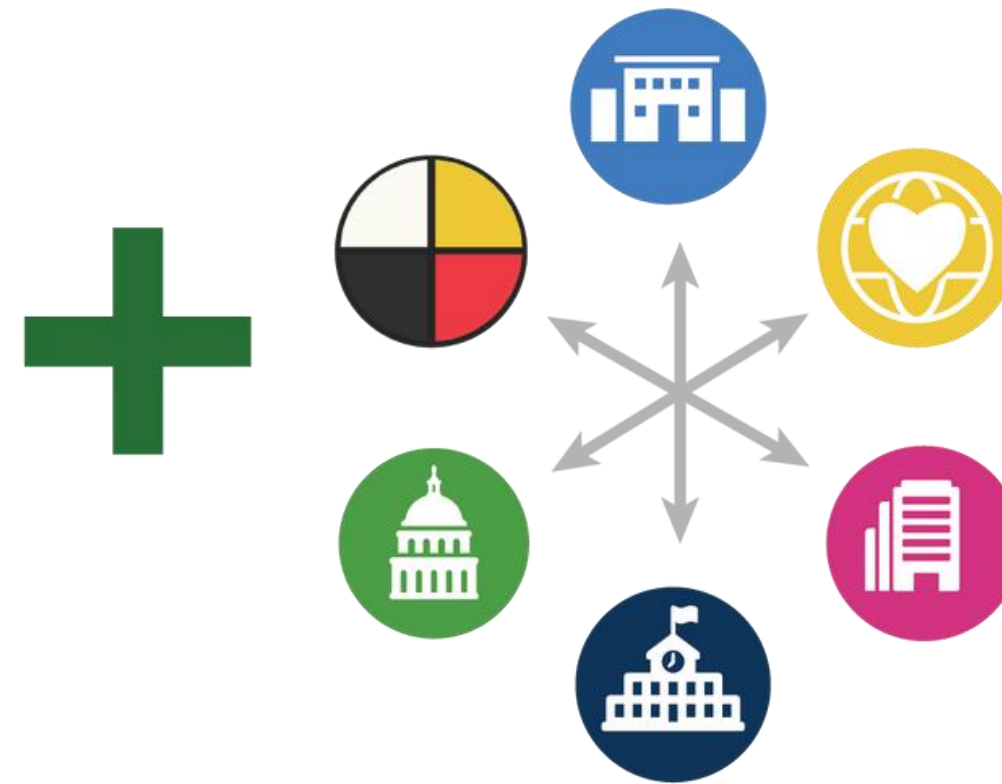
Note: While the CBO does not have to be the “Lead Applicant,” all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.

How It Works

FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP



IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS

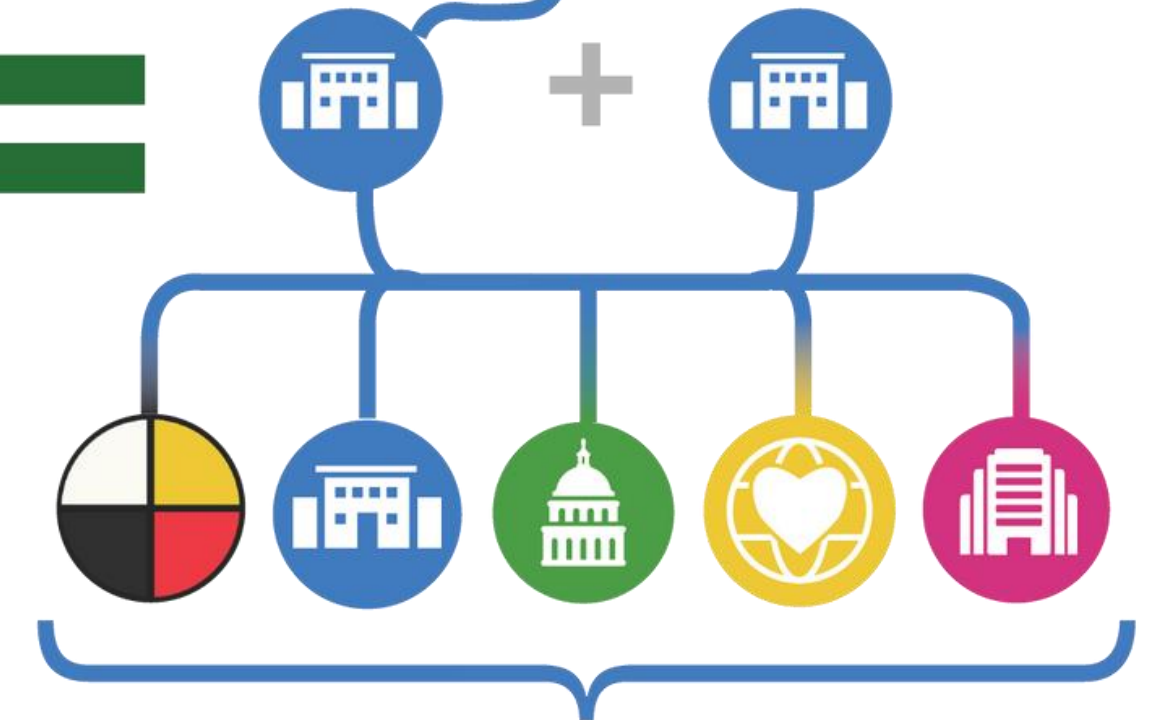


THE COLLABORATIVE



Lead Applicant

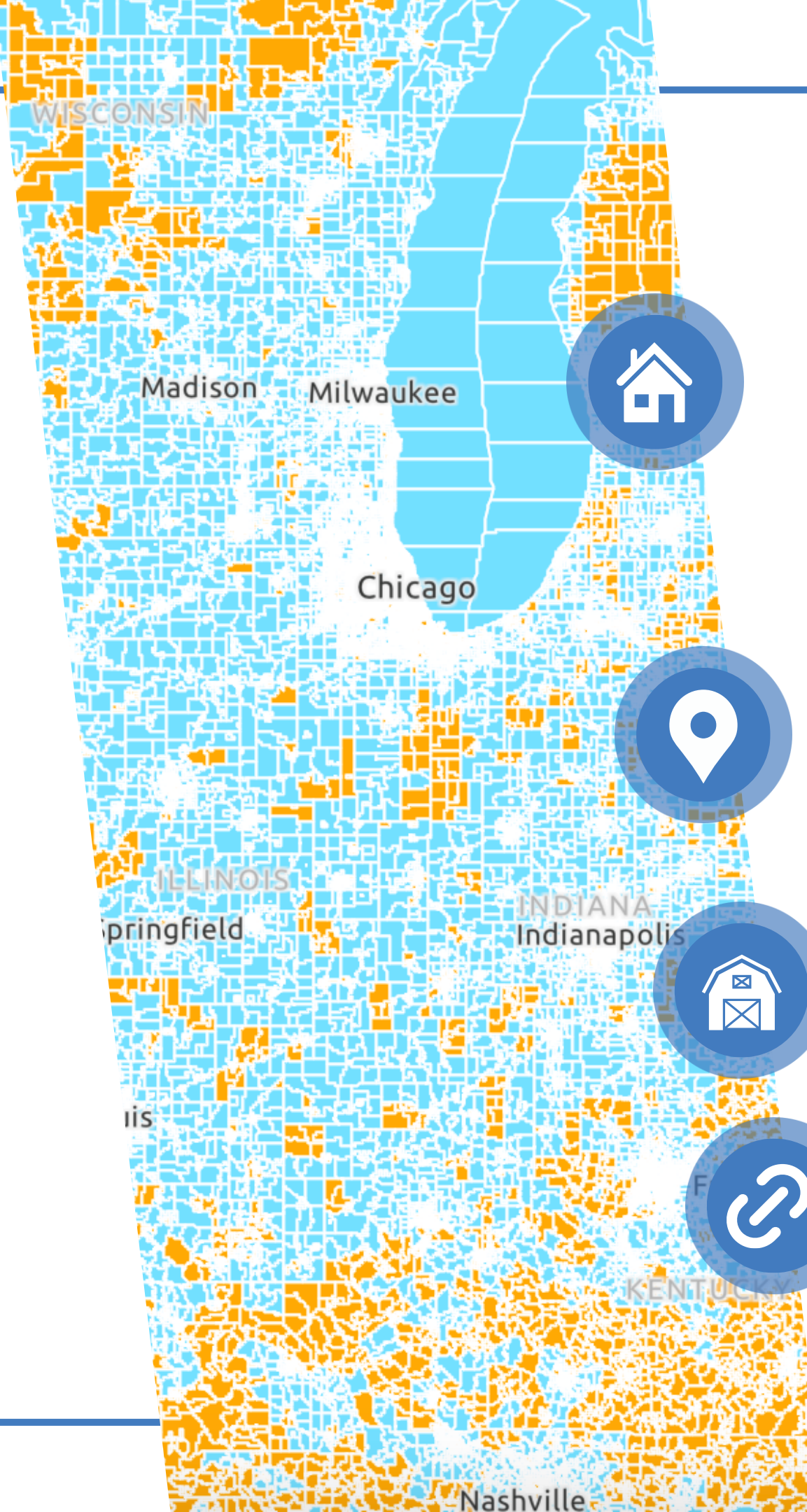
Statutory Partner



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](#).

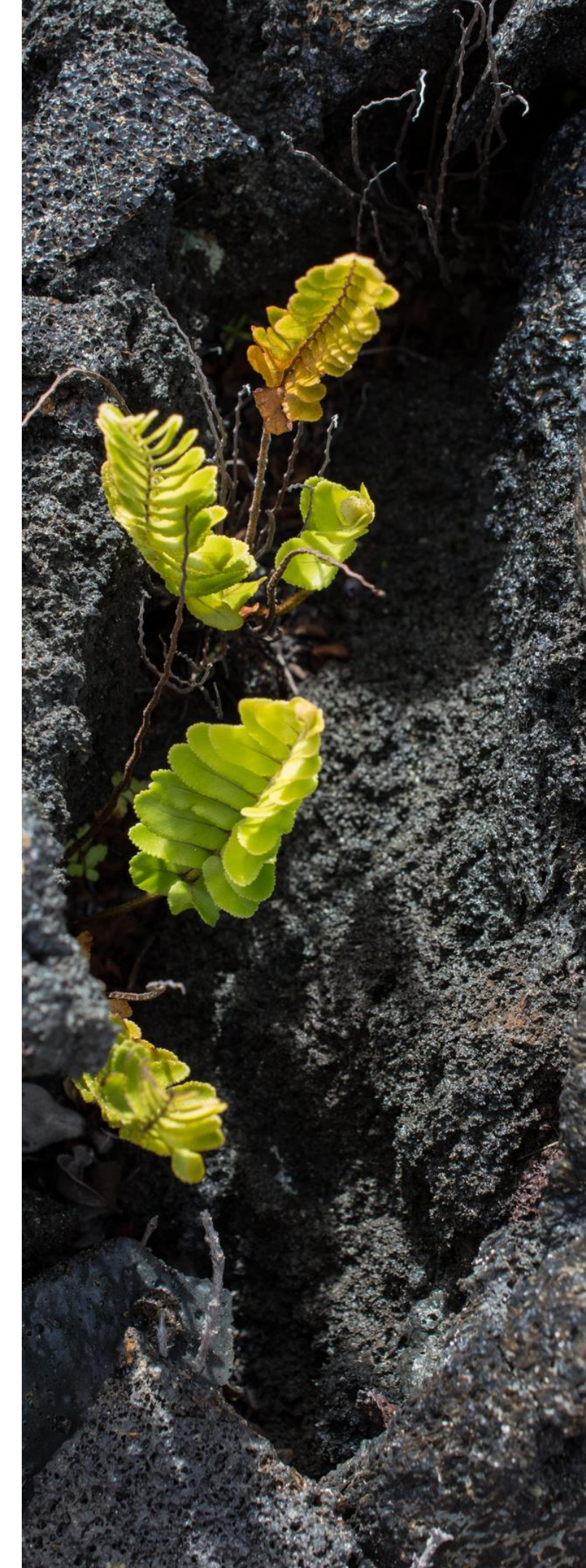
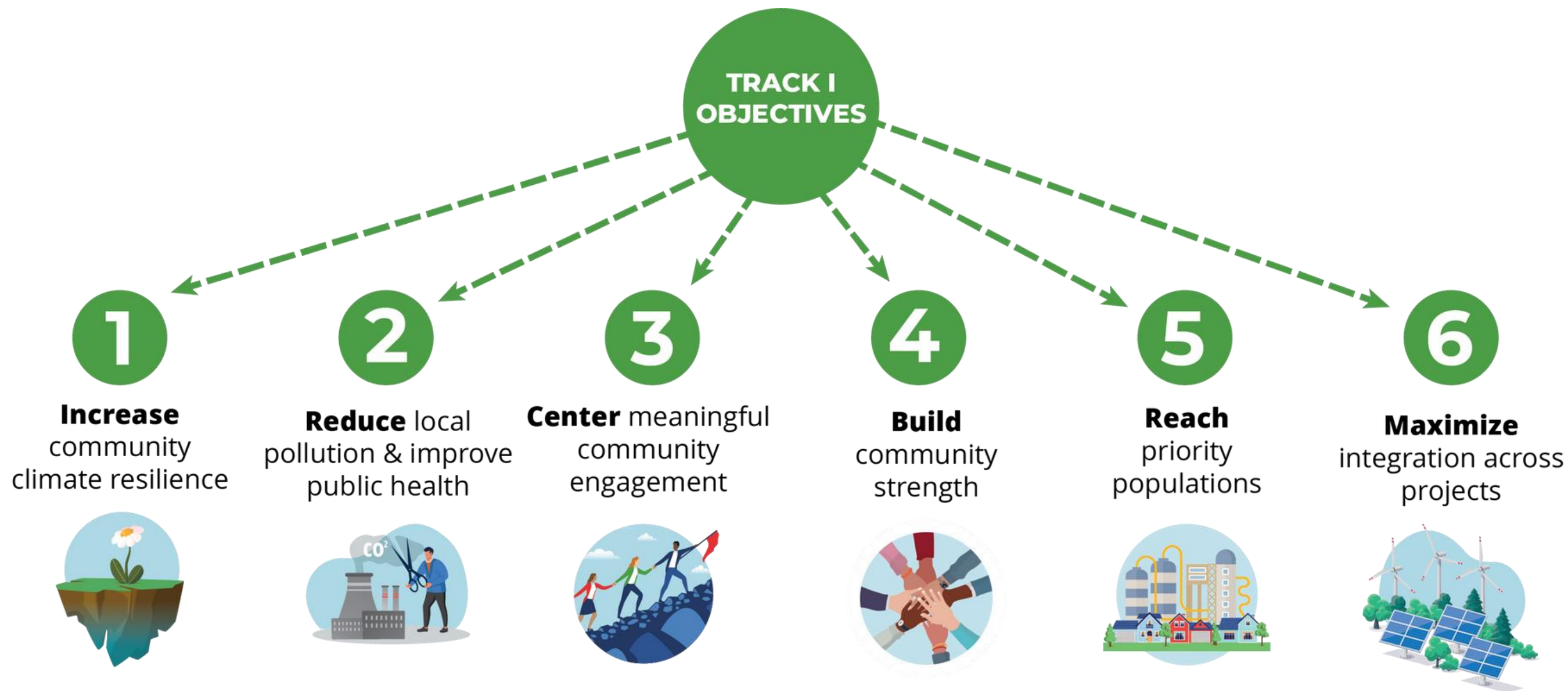
Track I and Track II Overview

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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 Sections I.G and Section IV.B of the [NOFO](#):

Strategies

- **Climate Action-at least one**
 - 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-at least one**
 - Indoor Air Quality & Community Health
 - Outdoor Air Quality & Community Health
 - Clean Water Infrastructure
 - Hazardous Waste Management

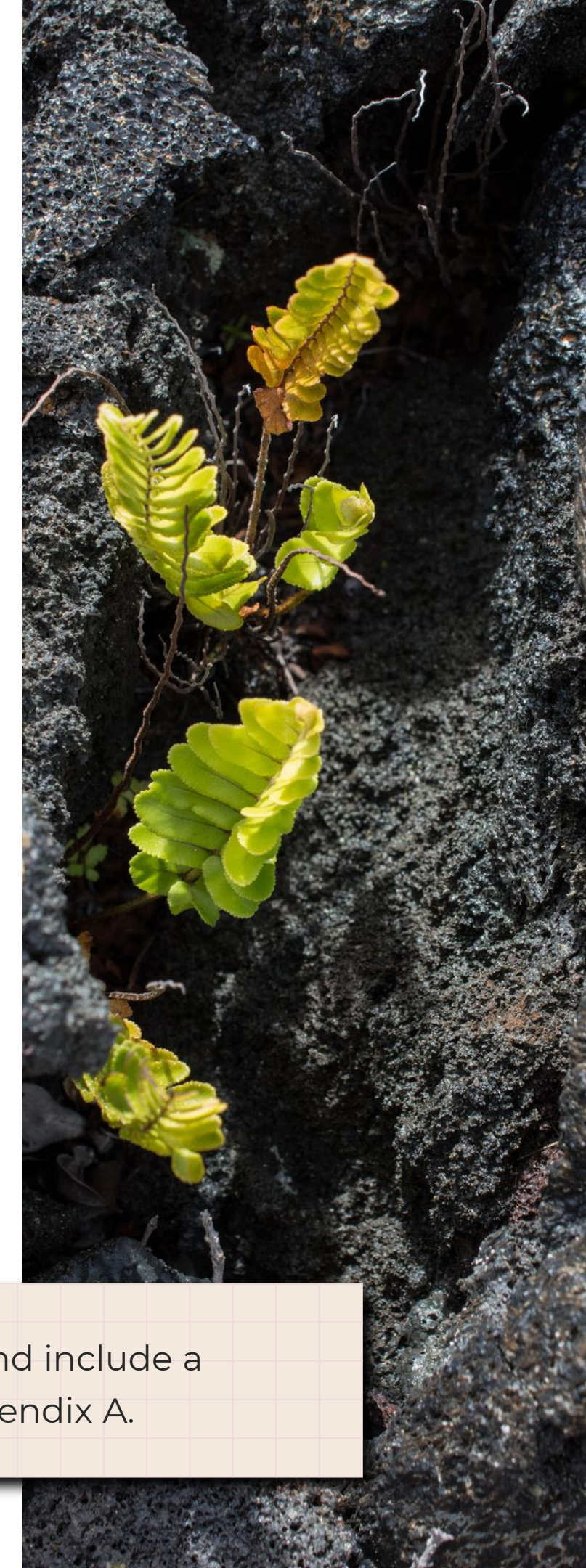
Plans

- 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**

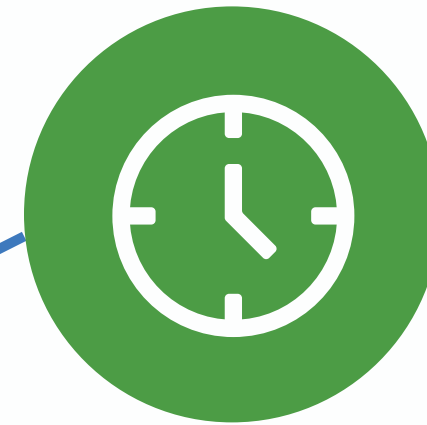
ROLLING APPLICATION



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 the written and oral evaluation, move to final selection consideration.

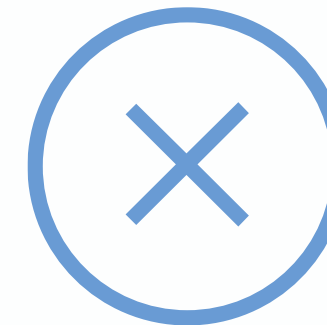
Final Consideration

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.

Awards - Frequently Asked Questions

How are grant funds awarded and distributed?

Grant funds will be paid via a draw-down system unless the recipient qualifies for an initial lump sum payment. Lead Applicants will become the grantee, operating as a pass-through entity and taking responsibility for making subawards to the Statutory Partner and Collaborating Entities.

When does the three-year period of performance for the grants begin?

As noted earlier, the grants must be completed within three years. The period of performance begins on the award date. If there are pre-award costs, EPA will adjust the period of performance and budget period accordingly.

What is the indirect cost cap?

The 20% cap on indirect costs is not the same as the indirect cost rate. Both Lead Applicants and the subrecipients (Statutory Partner and Collaborating Entities) charge their negotiated federal indirect cost rate or the 10% *de minimus* rate, but total indirect costs may not exceed 20% of their respective awards—up to 20% of the grant award from EPA to the Lead Applicant and up to 20% of the subaward for Subawardees. See Appendix G of the NOFO and the FAQs for more information.



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 resubmit after timely requesting and receiving a debriefing on the application.

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).
- 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 issues. Make sure to read the most updated version.
- **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