

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights EJ Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples, *May 29, 2024*

***Financial Opportunities for Tribes from EPA's
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
& Lessons Learned from an EPA Intern***

***Hosted by Andy Bessler –
OEJECR Tribal Stakeholder
Coalition Coordinator***



Mindful Moment

With Lena Kim

Creator & Senior Advisor, Mindful EPA



Webinar Agenda

- 1. Financial Opportunities for Tribes from EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund:
Danielle Dean-Ryan**
- 2. Lessons Learned from an EPA Intern:
Aren Wang, Intern, OEJECR**
- 3. OEJECR Updates:
Amanda Cronin, Program Analyst, EPA OEJECR**
- 4. Open Discussion**



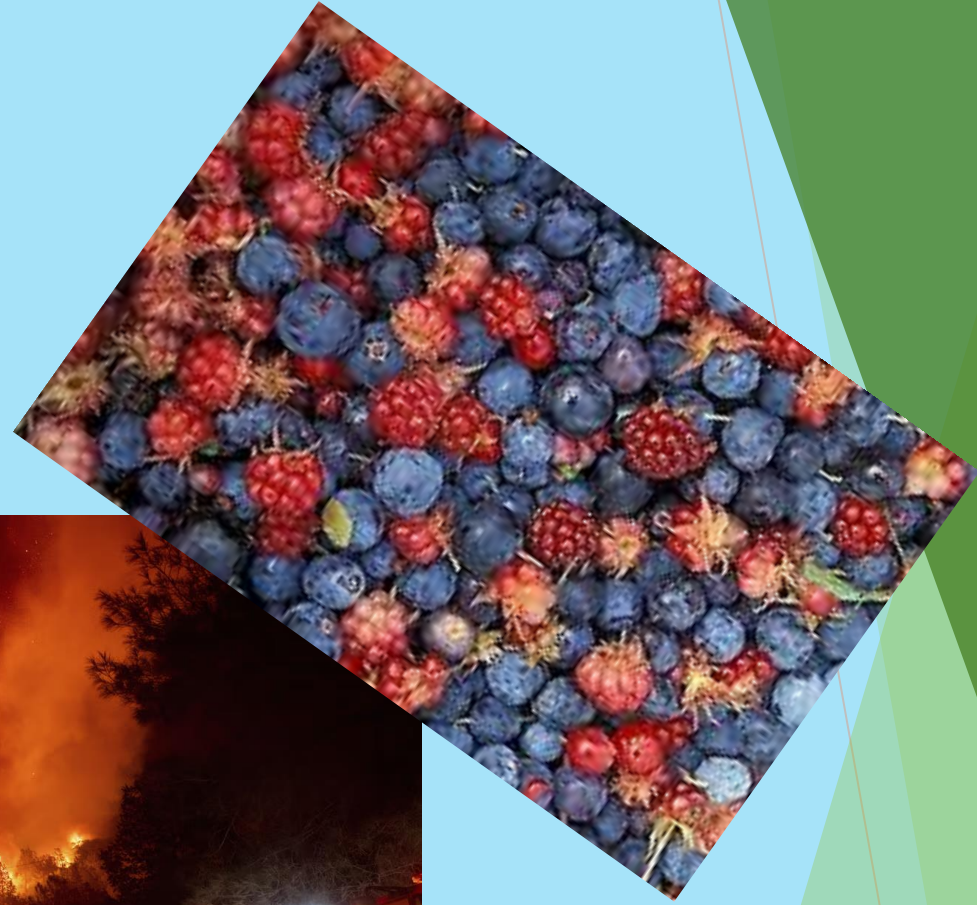
Combating the Climate Crisis at the EPA: An Insider's Perspective

Aren Wang, Intern
U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights



[Source: Vector Portal](#)

This presentation is not intended to reflect the views of the Environmental Protection Agency or any of its employees. It represents the positions and perspectives of Aren Wang only.



Tribal Climate Adaptation Plans

Aren Wang

Intern

U.S. EPA OEJECR

- ▶ Secrets to an effective plan:
 - ▶ Comprehensive - but not too long
 - ▶ Specific and long-term solutions
 - ▶ Community involvement/partnerships
- ▶ Holistic, interconnected solutions in nearly all plans

EPA's NEW Tribal Webinar Series: Tribes Helping Tribes

- ▶ Heard from 3 Indigenous representatives on climate change
- ▶ Presented list of Inflation Reduction Act-related resources:
 - ▶ Community Change Grants (CCGs)
 - ▶ Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)
- ▶ Link to webinar here: <https://youtu.be/iILk0pkjAdU>



The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska's climate adaptation planning efforts began with support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Climate Resilience Program (TCRP)

Two primary strategies and activities:



DEVELOP A SCOPING PROCESS TO IDENTIFY THE IOWA TRIBE'S CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING PRIORITIES, VULNERABILITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES.



WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO PILOT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES OF THE "CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING FRAMEWORK"

EPA's Outreach Efforts

- ▶ Researched various NGOs with diverse regions and purposes
- ▶ Sought to understand Indigenous perspective
 - ▶ Attended webinar on partnerships and best practices

What Comes Next?

- ▶ *“In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity”* --Sun Tzu
 - ▶ For Indigenous community members to raise their voices, restoring environmental justice
 - ▶ For society and Indigenous leaders to engage
 - ▶ To work toward a sustainable future



And Now...What I've Learned...



[Source: Flickr](#)

Thank You



[Source: GetArchive](#)

Updates:

**U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice
& External Civil Rights**

With Amanda Cronin

Program Analyst, EPA OEJECR



Virtual Public Meeting: June 5 – 6, 2024

White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC)

- **REGISTER:** [Zoom & Comment Registration](#)
- **Public Comment Period:** 6/5, 4 - 6:30 pm ET
- **Deadline to Register to Comment During Meeting:** May 30, 2024
- **Deadline to Submit Written Comments:** June 19, 2024



WHEJAC is Seeking Public Comments on:

- **Carbon Management:** Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage+
- Environmental justice issues affecting **Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Nations**
- Environmental justice goals and priorities that could advance the White House Interagency Council's mission and work as defined in **Executive Orders 14008 and 14096**
- Future Environmental Justice Science, Data, and Research Plan of the **National Science and Technology Council's Environmental Justice Subcommittee**



Indigenous Peoples & Tribal Nations Workgroup

- **Update on Recommendations:**
 - Thursday June 6
- **Workgroup Members:**
 - Kyle Whyte, University of Michigan
 - Carletta Tilousi, Havasupai Tribe
 - Jade Begay, Climate Justice/Indigenous Rights Advocate
 - Vi Waghiyi, Alaska Community Action on Toxics
 - Susana Almanza, PODER (People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources)



EJTCTAC.org



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Welcome to the EJ TCTAC Network

The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers, EJ TCTACs, are a collaborative initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)



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Grants and Funding

There is funding out there for you. This searchable database will help you find grants your organization might qualify for, and how to apply. For application assistance, contact your regional TCTAC.

This database includes curated domestic opportunities from Grants.gov and soon other opportunities. Here, you can search based on funding range and number of awards.



NATIONAL TRIBAL CAUCUS & EPA

TRIBAL & INDIGENOUS CLIMATE INTENSIVE

FOR TRIBAL AND EPA STAFF

LEARN STRATEGIES FOR TRIBES TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

JUNE 10, 1-2:50PM ET:

Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation Plans

JUNE 11, 1-2:50PM ET:

Overview of EPA Programs, Funding, and Technical Assistance

JUNE 11, 3-4:20PM ET:

Tribal Science Council, EPA Office of Research and Development

JUNE 12, 12-1:20PM ET:

Tribal Pesticides Program Council, EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

JUNE 12, 1:30-2:50PM ET:

White House EJ Advisory Council, EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

JUNE 12, 3-4:20PM ET:

Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management

JUNE 13, 12-1:20PM ET:

National Tribal Water Council, EPA Office of Water

JUNE 13, 1:30-2:50PM ET:

National Tribal Air Association, EPA Office of Air and Radiation

JUNE 13, 3-4:20PM ET:

National Tribal Toxics Council, EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Register Using the Links below

Tribal & Indigenous Climate Intensive:

The Week of June 10, 2024

OEJECR's Presentation on June 12, 1:30-2:50 pm ET:
Click here to join via Zoom:
<https://usepa.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcu6rrT8jHyDAKByQvyU0ce8PolrRrvk>

Click here to access all the other sessions:
<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/june-tribal-climate-intensive-training-series>



REGISTER & STAY TUNED:

epa.gov/community-equity-resiliency/regional-roadshows

Regional Roadshows

- ▶ **Region 7:** Kansas City, MO - yesterday!
- ▶ **Region 1:** Burlington, VT – June 11, 5:30 – 8PM
- ▶ **Future:**
 - ▶ **R3:** South Baltimore, MD
 - ▶ **R5:** Milwaukee, WI

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

- **Grants Update Website now live:**
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/oejecr-grants-news-and-updates>
- **EJ Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples**
 - **On or near the last Wednesday of every month 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm ET**
 - **Provide OEJECR Updates, Best EJ Practices, and Tribal Presenters**
 - **What topics would like to see on future webinars?**
- **Clarification of Community Change Grant Eligibility for Tribes**
 - **Federally Recognized Tribes can apply as the Lead Applicant with a Community-Based Organization as the statutory partner.**



➤ **HISTORIC EJ Grants Through the Inflation Reduction Act**

- **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC's) Program**
- **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers Program (EJ TCGM)**
- **Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (EJ CCG)**



EPA's Historic Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

- Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC) Program available over the next 5 years from 3 national and 14 regional TCTAC's.
- EPA's EJ TCTAC Program is part of the Federal Thriving Communities Network Initiative that is working towards a holistic government-wide framework for providing technical assistance.

EPA
Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, EPA's TCTAC program is a network of technical assistance centers designed to remove barriers and improve accessibility to environmental and energy justice grant opportunities for communities that are underserved and overburdened.

18 TCTACs
140+ Partners

TCTACs will help communities that are underserved and overburdened to:

- Identify** grant opportunities.
- Prepare** grant applications and **manage** grant funding.
- Build capacity** to effectively engage with decisionmakers.
- Develop** collaborative community-based partnerships.

For more information, please visit
The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program | US EPA

EPA's Historic Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

- EPA's Thriving Communities Subgrants through the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers (i.e., Grantmakers)
- 11 organizations will be providing \$600 million as pass-through entities nationwide with expected availability this summer until 2027.
- Statutory partnership criteria exists with eligible entities including:
 - NGO/CBO and other grassroots nonprofit organizations
 - Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia (i.e., a partnership between two or more Tribes that work together to achieve a common objective.)
 - Native American Organizations (includes Native Hawaiian Organizations, cooperatives, nonprofit corporations, partnerships, and associations that have the authority to enter into legally binding agreements)
 - Puerto Rico, Hawaiian Native Organizations and US Territories
 - Freely Associated States (FAS) – including local governmental entities and local nonprofit organizations in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

➤ **EPA's Thriving Communities Subgrants through the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers (i.e., Grantmakers)**

- **Tier 1-3 Competitive subgrants available for Assessment, Planning, and Project Development phased activities ranging from \$150,000 to \$350,000.**
- **Non-competitive awards up to \$75,000 provided to severely capacity-constrained CBO.**

Proposed Geographic Area	Legal Business Name	Submitter's State	Grant Office
Region 1	Health Resources in Action	MA	Region 1
Region 2	Fordham University	NY	Region 2
Region 3	Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Inc.	MD	Region 3
Region 4	* * Research Triangle Institute	NC	Headquarters
Region 5	The Minneapolis Foundation	MN	Region 5
Region 6	*Texas Southern University	TX	Region 6
Region 7	Reference Central National GM		NA
Region 8	JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.	CO	Region 8
Region 9	Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.	CA	Region 9
Region 10	Philanthropy Northwest	WA	Region 10
National GM East [Regions 1-3]	*Institute for Sustainable Communities	VT	Headquarters
National GM West [Region 8-10]	Climate Justice Alliance	CA	Headquarters
National GM Central [Region 4-7]	* * Research Triangle Institute	NC	Headquarters



Office of Environmental Justice &
External Civil Rights



**COMMUNITY
CHANGE GRANTS**

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Program Overview

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

- The Community Change Grants NOFO is NOW OPEN! **Deadline to apply is November 21, 2024.**
- \$2.8 billion for grants including \$2 billion for the Community Change Grants Program (CCGP).
- \$200 million for technical assistance related to the grants.
- \$300 million (estimated) for Target Investment Area (TIA) B for projects benefitting Tribes outside Alaska-Section II.B of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Grants cannot exceed three years (no extensions).
- All grants must be awarded by September 30, 2026.



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 B-approx. \$300 million for projects benefitting Tribes in the continental US

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.

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

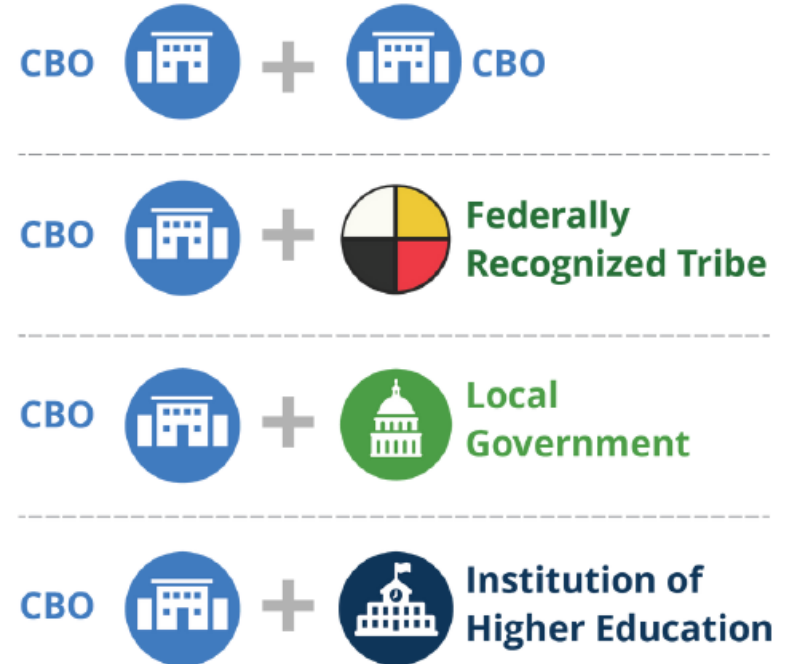
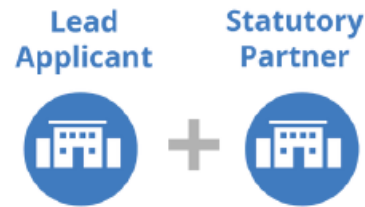
- Individualized support- help with development of grant application (but can't write the application), project planning and development, outreach and engagement, and general capacity building.
- Recordings for past webinars are available via www.communitychangeTA.org

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](#)).

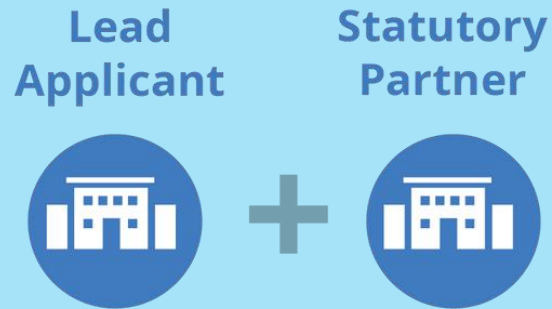
Additional information on eligibility and partnerships can be found in [Section III](#) of the NOFO.



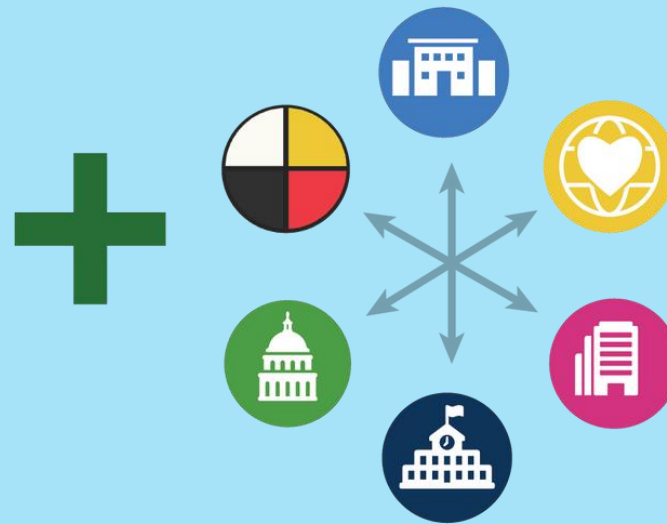
Note: While the CBO does not have to be the “Lead Applicant,” all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.

How It Works

FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP



IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS



THE COLLABORATIVE



Lead Applicant

Statutory Partner



Collaborating Entities

Additional Information

- Intertribal Consortia may qualify as CBOs and partner with a Federally recognized Tribe to apply
- Individual Federally recognized Tribes cannot qualify as CBOs – they are units of government.
- The 20% indirect cost cap in Appendix G of the NOFO does not apply to Tribes and Intertribal Consortia that meet certain requirements as explained in Appendix G
- **NOFO Modifications:** The [NOFO](#) has been modified to clarify 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.

Open Discussion

- To sign up for more OEJECR updates send a blank email to:
 - join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- For any questions/concerns, please contact Andy Bessler, OEJECR Tribal Stakeholder Coalition Coordination at:
 - bessler.andy@epa.gov
- To register for future webinar and to learn more visit:
 - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>

