

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

***Paths to Partnership: Building Tribal  
Partnerships to Advance Environmental  
Justice***

***May 1, 2024***



# **Your Mindful Minute**

## **with EPA's Lena Kim**



# Today's Webinar Agenda

1. **OEJECR updates**
2. **First Speaker: Dr. Daniel Wildcat, Haskell Indian Nations University**
3. **Second Speaker: Daniel Wiggins, Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA)**
4. **Third Speaker: Dr. Jessa Rae Growing Thunder, Native Americans in Philanthropy**
5. **Open Discussion**



# Updates from EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

- **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?**
- **In April, EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund released \$27 billion**
  - **Solar for All Program awarded \$7 billion to 60 awardees, including 6 Tribes**
  - **National Clean Investment Fund awarded \$14 billion to 3 entities to establish national clean financing institutions**
  - **Clean Communities Investment Accelerator awarded \$6 billion to 6 entities to deploy distributed energy, net-zero buildings, and zero-emissions transportation projects where they are needed most.**



# ➤ **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. (Icon: Magnifying glass over SAM.gov logo)
- Prepare** grant applications and **manage** grant funding. (Icon: Document labeled APPLICATION)
- Build capacity** to effectively engage with decisionmakers. (Icon: Group of people)
- Develop** collaborative community-based partnerships. (Icon: Hands holding a globe)

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](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



## Community Change TA

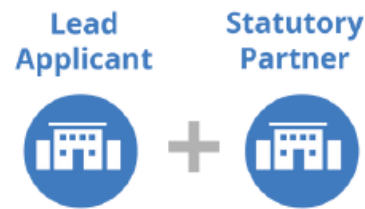
- Individualized support- help with development of grant application (but can't write the application), project planning and development, outreach and engagement, and general capacity building.
- Recordings for past webinars are available via [www.communitychangeTA.org](http://www.communitychangeTA.org)

# 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](#)).

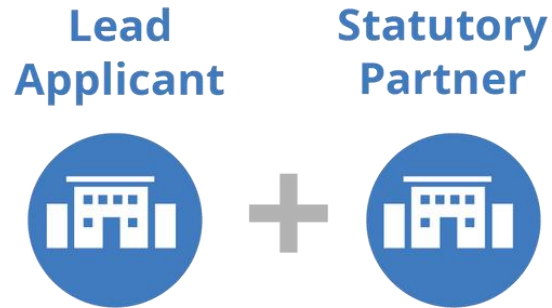
Additional information on eligibility and partnerships can be found in [Section III](#) of the NOFO.



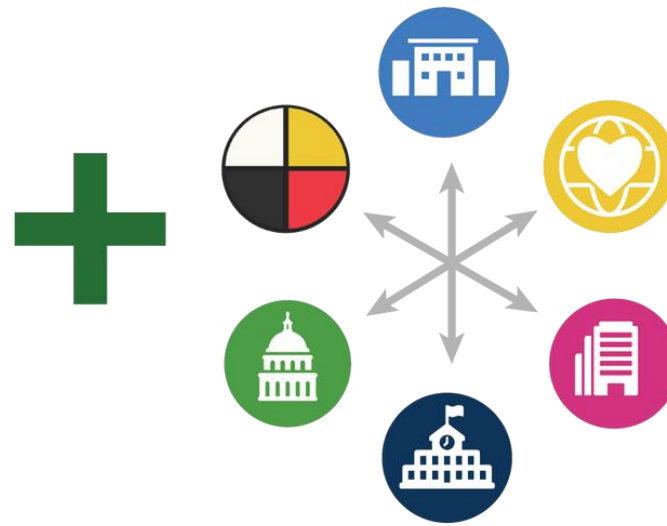
Note: While the CBO does not have to be the “Lead Applicant,” all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.

# How It Works

FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP



IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS

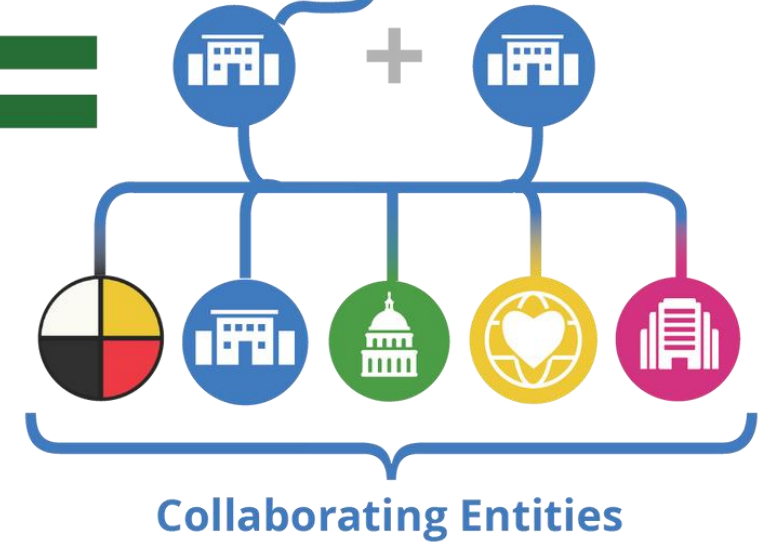


THE COLLABORATIVE



Lead Applicant

Statutory Partner



# 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.



# Let's hear from our first speaker!

## Daniel Wildcat, Ph.D.

**Daniel Wildcat, Ph.D.**, is a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and an accomplished scholar who writes on Indigenous knowledge, technology, environment, and education. He is also director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center, which he founded with colleagues from the Center for Hazardous Substance Research at Kansas State University.



# Let's hear from our second speaker!

## Daniel Wiggins Jr.

**Daniel Wiggins Jr.** is a Bad River Tribal Council Member and the Mashkiiziibii (Bad River) Natural Resource Department's- Air Quality Technician (AQT). He has worked for the Bad River Tribe for over 10 years as the AQT and has had oversight of the Tribe's Energy Activities since 2017. The Tribe recently became a member of the Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA), where Wiggins represents both the Tribe and MTERA as the Vice Chairperson of MTERA. Through the Tribe Wiggins has led policy development for large scale utilities, specifically for energy products and electrical transmission that runs through the reservation. In 2021 he also completed the task as Project Lead for the Ishkonige Nawadide Solar Microgrid Project, which installed over 500 kilowatts of solar and 1,000 kilowatt hours of batteries at three tribal facilities.



# Let's hear from our third speaker!



## Jessa Rae Growing Thunder, Ph.D.

**Jessa Rae Growing Thunder, Ph.D.**, is a Project Director at Native Americans in Philanthropy as well as an accomplished Beadwork/Quill worker and Northern Plains Art Historian. She is from the Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux Tribes of Northeastern Montana. She adds:

*Who I am is justified by the deep roots of my family; I am a product of my grandmothers. My Unci and Ina have instilled in me a strong cultural identity that has driven my approach to seeking and fostering spaces in which Native women are valued. With their guidance, I earned my doctorate in Native American Studies and wrote my dissertation on the intersections of Indigenous arts, Indigenous feminisms, and decolonial methodologies. My work privileges Fort Peck Dakota/Nakoda ways of doing history that engage creative, oral, and archival forms of historical knowledge transmission. I argue that a comprehensive and culturally grounded analyses of Dakota/Nakoda women's creative practices and artistic output provide critical and alternative forms of Indigenous historical authority with deep implications for contemporary artworlds. With a strong background in community-based work and network facilitation, I've worked diligently to refine my skills in project development, project management, strategic planning, writing, collaborative teamwork, public speaking, and diplomacy.*



# Time for Open Discussion

- To sign up for more OEJECR updates send a blank email to:
  - [join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov](mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov)
- For any questions/concerns, please contact Andy Bessler, OEJECR Tribal Stakeholder Coalition Coordination at:
  - [bessler.andy@epa.gov](mailto: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>

