

EPA ORGANIZATION

Internal deliberative pre-decisional - FOR USE BY 2024 PRESIDENT-ELECT TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS ONLY

ISSUE SUMMARY:

EPA Region 4 created a new Environmental Justice, Community Health, and Environmental Review Division (EJCHERD) on April 7, 2024. EJCHERD leads the region's environmental justice and external civil rights program, which largely aligns with Headquarters new Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. The division includes two Branches: The Environmental Justice Coordination and Community Engagement Branch and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Special Program Coordination Branch. EJCHERD provides essential leadership and guidance on regional cross-cutting programs, including environmental justice coordination and implementation, community engagement, NEPA, children's health, continuous improvement, emerging contaminants (including PFAS), cumulative impacts, agriculture, and environmental education. The division manages a significant portion of the Region's environmental justice grant funding. EJCHERD is currently made up of 32 interdisciplinary and administrative professionals (includes SEE employee), and about 28 vacancies, including IRA.

ONGOING/UPCOMING REVIEWS FOR FY2024:

EJCHERD is administering and/or supporting five grant programs that support Environmental Justice, including:

- Issuance of grants and continued provision of support for two Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Assistance Centers (TCTAC) that serve communities in the Southeast:
 - Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ), which was awarded \$13M to support both regions 4 and 6, and
 - Research Triangle Institute (RTI) which was awarded \$10M.
- Issuance of nine Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement (CPS) Grants from Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding for community-based nonprofit organizations each of which were awarded \$500,000.
- Issuance of seven Government to Government (G2G) grants from IRA and annual appropriations funding.
- Review of IRA Community Change Grants.
- EJCHERD is supporting OEJEER's administration of the R4 Thriving Communities Grantmaker, RTI.

EJCHERD is involved with significant projects that support NEPA, including:

- Review of the Army Corps of Engineers' Yazoo Backwater Pumps in the Lower Mississippi Delta (see Yazoo transition sheet) and Everglades Restoration in South Florida.
- Review of Tennessee Valley Authority energy projects such as the Integrated Resource Plan.

EJCHERD leads several special programs including Agency co-lead for cumulative impacts, regional lead for emerging contaminants, agriculture, and children's health.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Governments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public | | | |

