



**PEOPLE FOR
COMMUNITY
RECOVERY**

March 20, 2024

Commissioner Angela Tovar

City of Chicago Department of Environment

Via Electronic Mail

Dear Commissioner Tovar:

I am writing to provide People for Community Recovery's Letter of Commitment. I support the proposed application for funding for the City of Chicago and Cook County under the 2024 EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Strategy Program to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG). My organization is excited to be part of a coalition that seeks to bring \$199,999,999 of federal funding over 5 years in direct funding for personnel and implementation of measures including Building Energy Efficiency; Industrial Decarbonization; and Waste, Water and Materials Management. EPA has set a goal of 40% of these dollars invested and impacting economically disadvantaged communities and residents.

People for Community Recovery (PCR) is a legacy environmental justice organization founded in 1979 by the late Hazel Johnson, known as the mother of the Environmental Justice movement. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for residents affected by environmental pollution. PCR organizes with frontline environmental justice communities on Chicago's far southside, serving residents who predominantly identify as African American and low-income. Our community leaders have identified Justice 40 implementation, equitable energy efficiency and decarbonization, safe water for all, and workforce development as key priorities. PCR is committed to continue working with the City of Chicago and Cook County to advance climate solutions in Chicago that are co-developed with the frontline leaders.

Communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities experience the burden of high energy costs, have been overburdened by contaminants, waste, and toxic sites and have historically been excluded from economic opportunities. The proposed Chicago – Cook County EPA CPRG project is an opportunity for the region to address these inequities, reduce pollution and GHG emissions in our communities and provide workforce training for economically disadvantaged youth and adults.



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Our organization will work on outreach, workforce recruitment and to hold the CPRG project accountable to Justice40 goals. We will also commit to regular meetings with other partners and the City of Chicago and Cook County.

If you need any additional information or if you have any questions, please reach out to me at cheryl@pcrchi.org and PCR deputy director, Courtney Hanson at courtney@pcrchi.org.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director
People for Community Recovery