

Applications: Grantmaker B

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program - Region X

Request for Applications (RFA) for Competitive Awards

Administered by X

Released: X

DEADLINE: Rolling Until November 30, 2024, for two-year grants

Until April 30, 2025, for one-year grants

OMB Control Number = (2035-NEW), Expiration Date = (mm/dd/yyyy)

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1. Background

The EPA Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (Thriving Communities) supports EPA's goals and objectives associated with two Executive Orders (Executive Order 14008 and Executive Order 13985), issued by the Biden Administration, that demonstrate the EPA's and Administration's commitment to achieving environmental justice and embedding environmental justice into Agency programs.

X is the Grantmaking partner of the EPA for the Thriving Communities program in EPA Region X.

XX
XX

Thriving Communities' objective is to provide grant funding to community-based organizations and other eligible entities advancing environmental justice initiatives in their respective communities.

2. Executive Summary

Through this RFA process, X will award a portfolio of approximately 171 grants, totaling \$40,000,000. Grants will be available for three (3) distinct tiers of community readiness and action. Additionally, ten awards will be made to severely capacity-constrained communities. The criteria and process for the severely capacity-constrained communities will be determined by the Region X Advisory Board and will be managed outside of this RFA process.

Tier	Award Focus	Expected Number of Awards	Amount	Award Period	Application Submission Deadline
I	Assessment Projects	60	Up to \$150,000	1 Year	Rolling and no later than April 30, 2025
II	Planning Projects	51	Up to \$250,000	1-2 Years	Rolling; 2-year grants: no later than November 30, 2024; 1-year grants: no later than April 30, 2025
III	Implementation Projects	50	Up to \$350,000	2 Years	Rolling and no later than November 30, 2024
N/A	Noncompetitive Capacity-Building for severely capacity constrained communities	10	\$75,000	1 Year	

Applications for Tier 1, 2, and 3 grants will be accepted on a rolling basis, beginning in August 2024, and ending in November 2024, for 2-year proposals, and ending in April 2025, for 1-year proposals. X will review applications on a rolling basis and issue awards through five rounds of planned starting dates:

- Round 1: December 2024
- Round 2: February 2025
- Round 3: April 2025
- Round 4: June 2025
- Round 5: August 2025

X will keep potential applicants informed about the remaining number of awards available after each round. Each eligible applicant is restricted to receiving up to two awards. If all funds are awarded prior to the last round, applicants will be directed to the national Thriving Communities Grantmakers. In addition, X will provide recommendations for other funding opportunities to share with potential applicants as allowed and in accordance with EPA guidelines.

3. Program Overview

The Region X Thriving Communities Grantmaker, X, has been awarded funding by the EPA to run a competition to provide funding to historically, underserved communities that have been disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards and health consequences and have faced environmental and energy justice challenges. These communities are often exposed to unhealthy land uses, poor air and water quality, dilapidated housing that leads to lead exposure, and other environmental threats that drive health disparities. The combination of environmental risks and social inequities creates a cumulative, disproportionate impact that hinders optimal environmental health and justice particularly for these communities.

Grants may address a wide range of environmental issues and consist of a variety of project types including (but not limited to) the following:

- Air quality & asthma
- Fence line air quality monitoring
- Monitoring of effluent discharges from industrial facilities
- Water quality & sampling
- Small cleanup projects
- Improving food access to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Stormwater issues and green infrastructure
- Lead and asbestos contamination
- Pesticides and other toxic substances
- Healthy homes that are energy/water use efficient and not subject to indoor air pollution
- Illegal dumping activities, such as education, outreach, and small-scale clean-ups
- Emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency
- Environmental job training for occupations that reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
- Environmental justice training for youth

To ensure that this program can best support the needs of communities working on environmental justice initiatives, EPA has structured the awards into three distinct tiers as well as an allocation of noncompetitive grants for severely capacity constrained communities. The RFA process has been designed to minimize the administrative burden for resource-constrained organizations to apply for federal funding.

Project Tiers:

Tier I: Assessment

The Tier I EJ (Environmental Justice) Thriving Communities Awards are available for community-based organizations and/or “entry-level” applicants to assist them during the initial steps of their work to address specific issues impacting them locally by conducting assessments of environmental and public health concerns. Tier I EJ Thriving Communities Awards are for up to \$150,000 each for a one-year project period. Tier I projects can address multiple environmental issues (e.g., air quality, water contamination, toxic substances, etc.). The following is a list of the types of activities which may be considered by the Grantmakers for Tier I EJ Thriving Communities Awards. **The following activities examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and the list is not all inclusive:**

- research (that is incidental to the project design)
- sampling
- testing
- monitoring
- investigations
- surveys and studies
- public education

Tier II: Planning

The Tier II EJ Thriving Communities Awards are available for community-based organizations and other eligible recipients who have assessed environmental justice issues in their community and are ready to formulate a community-wide plan to address those issues. Developing key cooperative partnerships with community stakeholders is an essential part of developing a community-wide plan and later implementing that plan. Therefore, partnership development is a key aspect of the Tier II Awards. Tier II EJ Thriving Communities Awards are for up to \$250,000 each for a 1 to 2-year project period. Tier II project activities can address multiple environmental issues (e.g., air quality, water contamination, toxic substances) and should also include plan formulation and partnership development activities to address those environmental issues. The following is a list of the types of activities which may be considered by the Grantmakers for a Tier II EJ Thriving Communities Award. **The following activities are provided for illustrative purposes only and the list is not all inclusive.**

- Planning
- Partnership-building
- Public outreach and education
- Coordination with community stakeholders to address environmental issues
- Training activities for community organizations and community members
- Projects and activities to spur community involvement (e.g., cleanups of vacant lots)

- Smaller land purchases and acquisitions that require less than half of the total amount of Award funding

Tier III: Project Development

The Tier III EJ Thriving Communities Awards are available for community-based nonprofit organizations and other eligible recipients who already have assessed their local environmental and/or public health issues, have already formulated a community-wide plan addressing those issues, and/or are now ready to develop the technical aspects of the project (i.e., implement the project on the ground). Developing key cooperative partnerships with community stakeholders is an essential part of developing a community-wide plan and later implementing that plan. Therefore, partnership development is a key aspect of the Tier III Awards as well. Tier III EJ Thriving Communities Awards are for up to \$350,000 each for a 2-year project period. Tier III projects can address multiple environmental issues (e.g., air quality, water contamination, toxic substances). The following is a list of the types of activities which may be considered by the Grantmakers for a Tier III EJ Thriving Communities Award. **It is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not all inclusive.**

- Project Development
- Blueprints for construction or cleanup projects, schematics, and technical development (grant funds cannot be used directly for construction)
- Work to get permits in place directly related to an environmental project
- Smaller land purchases and acquisitions that require less than half of the total amount of Award funding
- Implementation of project plans
- Public outreach and education

Noncompetitive Awards

This RFA is for Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 grants. The Thriving Communities Program will also make approximately 10 non-competitive grants to severely capacity-constrained organizations. The Thriving Communities Program operates with participatory governance, a formalized way to ensure meaningful participation and community engagement in decision-making processes. This is aligned with a core principle of Environmental Justice, which is that all communities can participate in decisions that impact their environment. X Thriving Communities grantmaking activities are overseen by an Advisory Board comprised of various environmental justice organizations. X and the Region X Advisory Board are responsible to set criteria and process to identify organizations that are “severely capacity-constrained” and thus would be eligible for receiving a \$75,000 noncompetitive award. Organizations who receive non-competitive grants will, as a recipient of EPA funds, have reporting requirements. The Advisory Board will review and approve all noncompetitive awards. Organizations that are interested in the noncompetitive award process should contact X’s Thriving Communities team at *redacted contact information*.

4. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria. Applicants and projects must be in EPA Region X, which includes XXX.

Applicants must have a Unique Entity ID in the Federal System of Award Management (SAM) to be eligible www.sam.gov. For organizations that do not yet have a Unique Entity ID, anticipate that the registration process can take several weeks. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document for more information on obtaining a Unique Entity ID.

Any proposed activity must be in and benefit an area considered disadvantaged, as defined by the [Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map](#). If you need assistance using the tool, please reach out to X's Thriving Communities team at *redacted contact information*.

Eligible entities include:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations
- Philanthropic and civic organizations with nonprofit status
- 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 Indian groups, cooperatives, nonprofit corporations, partnerships, and associations that have the authority to enter into legally binding agreements)
- Local governments (as defined by 2 CFR 200.1 – includes cities, towns, municipalities, and counties, public housing authorities and councils of government)
- Institutions of higher education (e.g., private, and public universities and colleges, including community colleges)

5. Ineligible Entities:

- Individuals
- For profit businesses
- State governments
- Projects that include human subject testing

6. Important Dates

- RFA will open August 2024 and run through April 2025.
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until:
 - November 30, 2024, for two-year grant awards

- April 30, 2025, for one-year grant awards
- Other specific dates will be provided on the X's Thriving Communities website.

7. Application Materials

Applicants should register and submit their application through X's Thriving Communities application portal located on X's Thriving Communities website at *redacted contact information*. If applicants do not have internet access, need translation support, or have other accessibility needs, they should reach out to the Thriving Communities team at X to request a paper application: *redacted contact information*.

Applicants must submit the following required materials:

- Proposal Narrative: The proposal narrative shall be a **maximum** length of seven (7) pages, numbered and double-spaced with 12-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins. Cover sheet and any supplementary materials do not count toward the page limit. Narrative language beyond the seven (7) page limit will not be reviewed.
- Budget (an optional template is provided but applicants can use their own budget format. The format will not impact the scoring and the budget does not count towards narrative length).
- Work plan (an optional template is provided but applicants can use their own work plan format. The work plan does not count towards narrative length).
- Most recent organization financial statement is required for Tier II and Tier III applicants. Tier I applicants who do not have a financial statement may explain how the project will be financially managed (does not count towards narrative length).
- Most recent A-133 audit, if applicable.

Applicants may also submit the following optional materials:

- 2–3-minute video on the project (uploaded to YouTube).
- Additional project-related documents (up to 3), such as case studies, news articles or a memorandum of understanding among partner organizations.
- Up to 3 Letters of commitment from partnering organizations' leadership (optional but recommended): Letters might demonstrate commitment of key partner organizations to provide convening, human or economic resources, training, or other types of support to the project.

8. Office Hours for Application Support

X will hold office hours for organizations interested in applying to this RFA. Office hours will be posted on X's Thriving Communities website and any clarifications provided by X during the office hours will be reflected in updates to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. The FAQ document will also be posted on the X Thriving Communities website: *redacted contact information*.

9. Submission Process

Please submit your application materials to X's Thriving Communities application portal located at *redacted contact information*.

Applicants may also submit a 2–3–minute video or additional project related documents and/or letters of commitment. Any videos must be uploaded to YouTube with the link provided in the online application. No additional points will be awarded for a video or the additional materials, but it may help illustrate the written application.

Applicants may also choose to mail their materials to Attn: Thriving Communities Grant Program Applications, *redacted contact information*.

Please direct all questions regarding the RFA or application and selection process to the Thriving Communities team to *redacted contact information*.

10. Review Process

X will prioritize both expeditious review and dedicated feedback to all applicants. Within 15 days of receiving an application, X will determine if the applicant meets the basic threshold criteria (i.e., applicant is an eligible entity and has provided the required application components). If an applicant does not meet the threshold criteria, they will be notified and told why they are not moving forward in the review process. Applicants who receive this notification may rectify the identified threshold criteria issues and resubmit their application within the open RFA window. Those proposals that do meet the threshold criteria will be fully evaluated within 1.5 months of receipt. Following selection, X will work with the applicant on a financial risk analysis and finalizing the budget and award. The duration of the grant making process from submission to award agreement for applicant organizations will be approximately three months.

X will hold debriefing meetings with applicants not awarded funds to support their potential future success in applying. X will provide feedback on ways the applicant may strengthen their application for future funding opportunities. If the RFA is still open, and funds are available for the applicant's tier of interest, applicants are allowed one re-submission.

The review process will be guided by continuous quality improvement and transparency governed by an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will ensure that X receives and responds to a breadth of perspectives and voices when it comes to recruitment, review, award selection, and awardee oversight.

11. Grant Compliance and Oversight

X is committed to supporting Awardees throughout the duration of their projects. This includes working with Awardees through regular touchpoints to ensure compliance with federal requirements. The compliance and oversight processes are intended to strengthen the internal capacity of Awardees to increase readiness for future funding opportunities. Compliance activities will include:

- Regular check-in meetings between Awardee and X Program Officer
- Quarterly reporting
- Initial risk assessment to establish ongoing compliance activities
- Desk review and/or site visits to review organizational internal controls and other grant program performance

12. Application Narrative and Scoring Rubric

Applications for Tier I (Assessment), Tier II (Planning), and Tier III (Project Development) must include an application narrative that addresses the following prompts. Applications will be scored based on the available points shown below. **Narrative language beyond the 7-page limit will not be reviewed.**

Application Section	Maximum Possible Points	Suggested Page Length
<p><u>Registration:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization name• Organization address• Unique Entity Identifier (Register at SAM.gov)• The proposed Tier of the project (Tier I, II, or III)• Request Amount• Project name• Brief project description (2-3 sentences)• Point of contact name, title, email address, phone number	n/a	n/a
<p><u>Community Need:</u></p> <p>Describe the target population to be served and geographic area/footprint of the project.</p> <p>Describe the community need(s) that the proposed project will address. Also indicate, using the Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/inflation-reduction-act-disadvantaged-communities-map that the area of focus for the project is in an area considered disadvantaged. If you need assistance using the tool, please reach out to X's Thriving Communities staff at <i>redacted contact information</i>.</p> <p>As applicable, include relevant evidence, qualitative and quantitative data, and other information that demonstrates the significance of the community need(s). Tier I project applications that may not have access to existing data may use this section to describe the importance of the issue area being addressed.</p>	20 points	1 to 2 pages

<u>Project Description:</u> Describe the proposed project. Describe the following aspects of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed Tier of the project (Tier I, II, or III)• Community engagement and involvement• Proposed activities and interventions• Partner organizations and their roles (if applicable)• Completed Work Plan (optional template is provided, it does not count towards narrative length)	30 points	2 pages + Work Plan
<u>Organization Capacity and Needs:</u> Describe the capacity of the applicant organization. Provide information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization background including the Board, if applicable• Experience relevant to proposed project• Relationship to and/or representation of the community of focus• Staff descriptions and roles on proposed project• Capacity to receive and manage grant funds• Past experience applying for, receiving, and/or managing EPA grants (this is NOT a requirement)• Technical assistance needs and how those needs can be addressed through this project (e.g., assistance in understanding policy advocacy strategies)	30 points	2 pages
<u>Evaluation Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe three to five desired outcomes that will result from this project.• For each outcome, list up to five measurable outputs and/or indicators that will be tracked by the project.• Describe how outcomes and outputs will be evaluated.	10 points	1 page
<u>Budget:</u> Provide a completed budget (optional template provided) that shows anticipated project costs and provides the purpose for each budget line item. The budget file is not counted in the overall length of the application.	10 points	n/a
Total	100 points	7 pages (maximum)

Application for Competitive Awards

OMB Control Number (2035-NEW), Expiration Date = (mm/dd/yyyy)

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Registration Page

If you have questions about the Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program, the Request for Application, and/or this application process, please reach out to the Thriving Communities team at [REDACTED] for support:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
This registration and application process should take approximately 4 to 8 hours to complete. The below language is required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and signals OMB approval for this information collection process.

Organization Information

Please complete the fields below to ensure eligibility and begin the registration process for the [REDACTED] Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grant Program - Region [REDACTED]

GuideStar Profile Lookup

 [Search](#)

Organization Name

Acronym or DBA (Doing Business As)

Address 1

Address 2

City

Country

 [▼](#)

State/Province

 [▼](#)

Postal Code (Zip)

Census Tract - Latitude/Longitude if no zip code, census tract is available

Organization E-mail

Organization Phone

Tax ID

A **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** is required for application submission. Visit www.sam.gov to complete the UEI registration process. Please note: Obtaining a Unique Entity ID number may take several business days. Please allow sufficient time to complete the registration process. Sam.gov registration is not required for EJ TCGM application submission.

Unique Entity Identifier Number

Is your organization type one of the following?

Please list which geography you are located in:

Contact Information

First Name

Last Name

Title

E-mail

Work Phone

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please contact us at at

Application

This registration and application process should take approximately 4 to 8 hours to complete. The below language is required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and signals OMB approval for this information collection process.

OMB Control Number = 2090-0035, Expiration Date = 12/31/2024

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Organization Information

Organization Name	<input type="text" value="Final Test"/> Add New
Department/Location (if applicable)	<input type="text" value="Final Test - headquarters"/> Add New
Primary Contact	<input type="text"/> Add New
Primary Signatory	<input type="text"/> Add New
Unique Entity ID Number	<input type="text"/>
Please indicate your organization type:	<input type="text"/> Add New
Please list which geography you are located in:	<input type="text"/>
Does this grant include a Fiscal Sponsor?	<input type="text"/> Add New

Grant Information

Please refer to the Request for Application (RFA) for information on the differences in grant tiers and corresponding budgets for each tier.

Grant Tier [Add New](#)

Project Title

Project Summary

Characters left for field: 1000

Any proposed activity must be in and benefit an area considered disadvantaged, as defined by the [Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map](#).

(Note: this link will take you outside the Fluxx system be sure to save your work before clicking)

Will your project focus on a/several disadvantaged

Please list all targeted census tracts of focus. If census tract is not available, please provide latitude and longitude:

Please describe the disadvantaged communities of focus:

Characters left for field: 300

Please describe the type(s) of communities of focus:

Dates & Financials

Start Date Requested

Duration Requested 0

Amount Requested

Application Materials

Applicants must submit the following required materials:

- **Proposal Narrative:** The proposal narrative shall be a maximum length of seven (7) pages, numbered and double-spaced with 12-point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins. Any supplementary materials do not count toward the page limit. Narrative language beyond the seven (7) page limit will not be reviewed.
- **Budget:** An optional template is provided [click here](#) but applicants can use their own budget format. The format will not impact the scoring and the budget does not count towards narrative page length.
- **Work Plan:** An optional template is provided [click here](#) but applicants can use their own work plan format. The work plan does not count towards narrative page length.
- **Financial Statement:** Most recent organization financial statement is required for Tier II and Tier III applicants. Tier I applicants who do not have a financial statement may explain how the project will be financially managed (does not count towards narrative length).

Applicants may also submit the following optional materials:

- Additional project-related documents (up to 3), such as case studies, news articles or a memorandum of understanding among partner organizations.
- Up to 3 Letters of commitment from partnering organizations' leadership (optional but recommended): Letters might demonstrate commitment of key partner organizations to provide convening, human or economic resources, training, or other types of support to the project.
- 2-3-minute video on the project (uploaded to YouTube).

Please click the (+) signs below to upload required documentation.

Budget



Financial Statement



Proposal Narrative



Work Plan



Optional Materials

Please click the (+) signs below to upload any optional documentation.

Additional project related documents



Letters of commitment from partnering organizations' leadership



2-3 Minute Video Submission Link

▼ Uploaded Documents

Grant Documents



Budget Template for Competitive Awards

OMB Control Number = (2035.NEW), Expiration Date = (mm/dd/yyyy)

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The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to be 4 to 8 hours per response. Within the 4 to 8 hours, the budget is expected to take up to 1 hour.

EPA Grantmaker B
Thriving Communities
Budget
Applicant Name:
Project Name:
Project Period:
PERSONNEL

Name	Title	Hours	Hourly Rate	Total
			\$	-
			\$	-
			\$	-
			\$	-
			\$	-
			\$	-
			\$	-
			\$	-
			\$	-
			\$	-
Total			\$	-

Explanation

FRINGE BENEFITS

Name		Fringe Rate		Total
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
0	0			\$ -
Total				\$ -

Explanation

TRAVEL

Explanation

EQUIPMENT

Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
Total		\$	-

Explanation

SUPPLIES

Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
Total		\$	-

Explanation

CONTRACTUAL

Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
Total		\$	-

Explanation

OTHER

Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
		\$	-
Total		\$	-

Explanation

TOTAL DIRECT				\$	-	
INDIRECT		Indirect Rate		Total		Explanation
Total Indirect		10.00%		\$	-	
GRAND TOTAL				\$	-	

Instructions

1. Enter name of applicant organization in cell C2.
2. Enter budget details in cells with gray background. Some cells with white background automatically populate with formulas.
3. Indirect rate (cell D105) should be your organization's federally approved indirect cost rate. If you do not have one, you may use the de minimis rate of 10%.
4. If additional rows are needed, please insert new rows. Ensure that formulas remain accurate.
5. Please be as detailed as possible in your cost breakdowns and explanations.

Workplan Template for Competitive Awards

OMB Control Number = (2035.NEW), Expiration Date = (mm/dd/yyyy)

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The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to be 4 to 8 hours per response. Within the 4 to 8 hours, the workplan is expected to take up to 1 hour.

EPA Grantmaker B Thriving Communities Work Plan

Applicant Name:																										
Project Name:																										
Project Period:																										
Activity	Task	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9	Month 10	Month 11	Month 12	Month 13	Month 14	Month 15	Month 16	Month 17	Month 18	Month 19	Month 20	Month 21	Month 22	Month 23	Month 24	

Instructions

1. Enter name of applicant organization in cell C2.
2. Enter project activities in column B beginning in cell B5.
3. Enter project tasks (tasks support corresponding activities) in column C beginning in cell C5.
4. For each task, enter "x" for the months in which the task will be performed.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice
Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program - Region X**

Environmental Justice Capacity Grants Nomination Form

OMB Control Number =(2035.NEW), Expiration Date = (mm,dd,yyyy)

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1. Background

The Region X Thriving Communities Grantmaker, X, has been awarded funding by the EPA to provide funding to historically, underserved communities that have been disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards and health consequences and have faced environmental and energy justice challenges. These communities are often exposed to unhealthy land uses, poor air and water quality, dilapidated housing that leads to lead exposure, and other environmental threats that drive health disparities. The combination of environmental risks and social inequities creates a cumulative, disproportionate impact that hinders optimal environmental health and justice particularly for these communities.

As part of the program the Region x Grantmaker will make approximately 10 "Environmental Justice (EJ) Capacity Grants". These, one-year, \$75,000 grants will be non-competitive grants to severely capacity-constrained organizations. Unlike the competitive Thriving communities grant program, these grantees will be selected by the Region X Advisory Board following nomination progress. Selected organizations will need to identify concrete goals. Potential activities could include, but are not limited to assessment activities, community engagement, and planning towards environmental justice projects.

This is the nomination form to be used by a nominator (e.g., Advisory Board member, Region x Grantmaker or TCTAC staff, Community Member)

2. Eligibility Criteria (to be finalized with Advisory Board members)

EJ Capacity grantee organizations must be recognized as Environmental Justice leaders in their community.

EJ Capacity grantee organizations must have total assets under \$500,000 (tbc) in the past year.

EJ Capacity grantee organizations must be in EPA Region X, which includes XXX.

EJ Capacity grantee organizations must be in and do work that benefits an area considered disadvantaged, as defined by the Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map. If you need assistance using the tool, please reach out to X's Thriving Communities team at *redacted contact information*.

Organizations will need to have a Unique Entity ID in the Federal System of Award Management (SAM) www.sam.gov by the time the award is processed. For organizations that do not yet have a Unique Entity ID, anticipate that the registration process can take several weeks. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document for more information on obtaining a Unique Entity ID.

Eligible entities include:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations
- Philanthropic and civic organizations with nonprofit status
- 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 Indian groups, cooperatives, nonprofit corporations, partnerships, and associations that have the authority to enter into legally binding agreements)

Additionally, EJ Capacity grantee organizations must be recognized as “severely capacity constrained”. This may include organizations that:

- Are new and are poised for growth
- Are managing transitions in leadership or strategic direction
- Are in areas that have been designated as federal-or state-disaster areas within the past year or are dealing with other acute community crisis
- Other? (Vetting with our Advisory board members)

Individuals, for-profit businesses, institutions of higher education, and state and local government agencies are not eligible for the Environmental Justice Capacity Grants.

3. Nomination Submission

Nominator Information

Name:

Title (if applicable):

Organization (if applicable):

Phone number:

Email address:

Relationship to nominated organization:

Nominee Information

Organization name:

Organization address:

Organization website (if available):

Organization point of contact: name, title, email address, phone number (if available):

Rationale for nomination, including the nominee organization's role as an EJ leader in their community and how the EJ Capacity Grant would be catalytic for the organization's work at this time.

The nomination submission is not to exceed two pages.

Advisory Board members will review all nominations and select finalists for virtual interviews. Following the virtual interviews, the Advisory Board will identify the up to 10 organizations to submit for funding.