

EPA Environmental
Justice (EJ) Webinar
Series for Tribes and
Indigenous Peoples

Technical Assistance for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to Advance Environmental Justice & Climate and Energy Justice

December 14, 2023

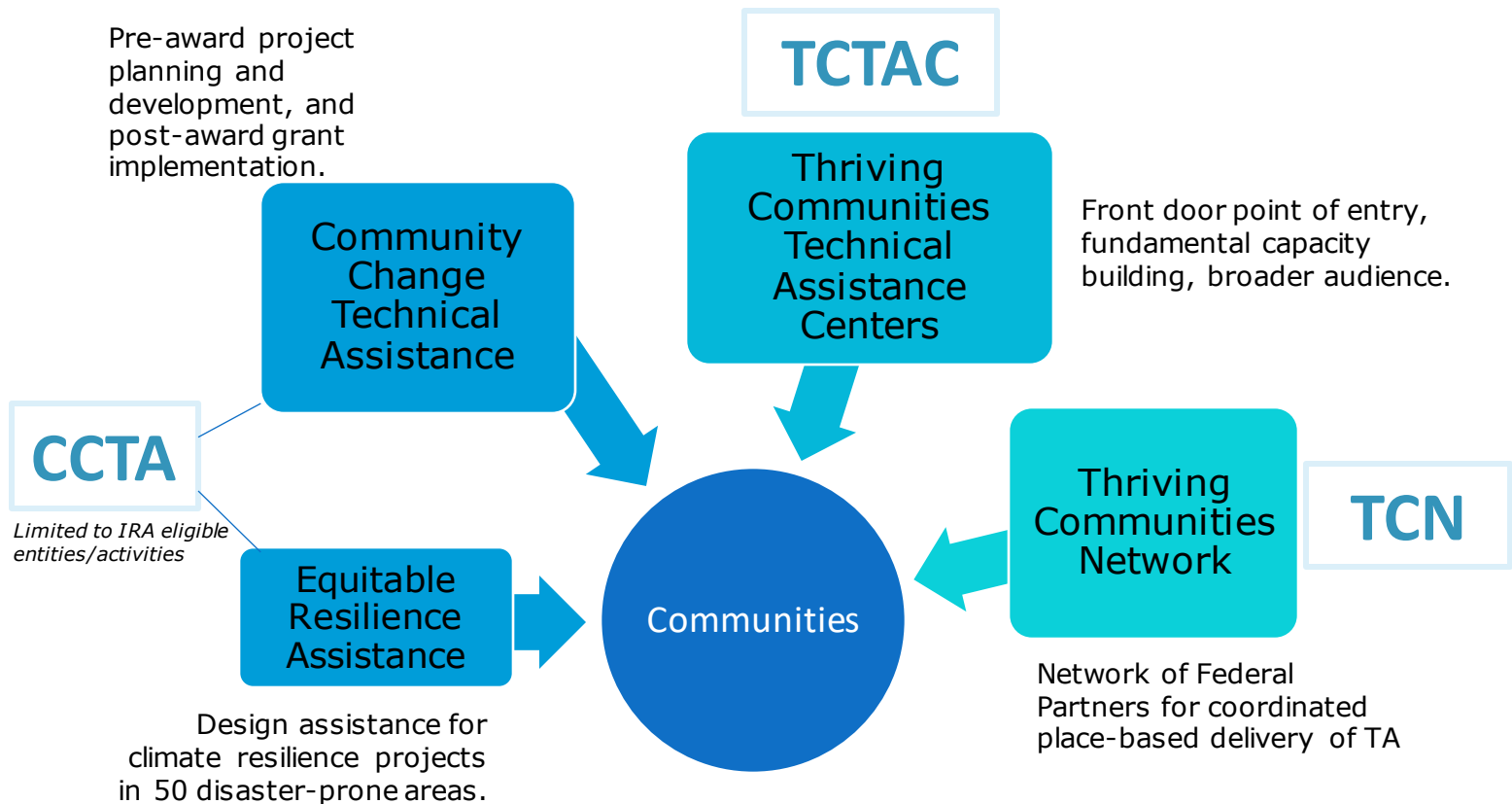
* Please note that this webinar will be recorded and posted on an EPA webpage for public access.



Presenters

- **Esther Sosa**, Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTAC) Coordinator, OEJECR, U.S. EPA
- **Brett Weber**, Director of Environmental Health, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)
- **Lorry Frigerio**, Community Change Grants Technical Assistance Coordinator, OEJECR, U.S. EPA
- **Abby Hall**, Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance Coordinator, Office of Policy, U.S. EPA
- **Martina Wilson**, Director of the Fort Peck Tribe's Office of Environmental Protection
- **Danny Gogal**, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, U.S. EPA (Facilitator)

OEJECR Technical Assistance Efforts



A photograph of a row of brick townhouses with multiple windows and parked cars in front. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

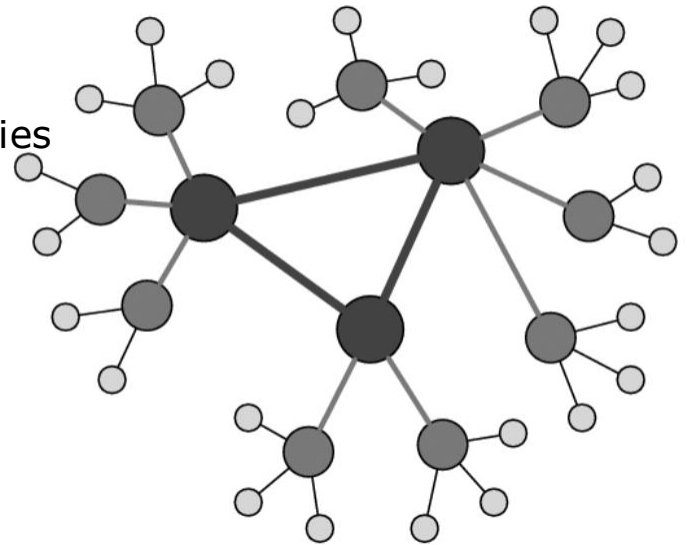
Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJTCTAC)

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
December 14, 2023

PURPOSE

- Goal is to establish a **network** of 16 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers with over 140 partners across the United States to support underserved communities.

- The hubs are the **point of entry** for communities
 - 1) don't know where to go
 - 2) how to get started



STRUCTURE

□ **13 Regional EJ TCTACs**

- Primary entry point for community groups that need **fundamental** support in the grants space
- Each will provide direct TA to communities in their assigned EPA regions/geographic area(s)

□ **3 National EJ TCTACs**

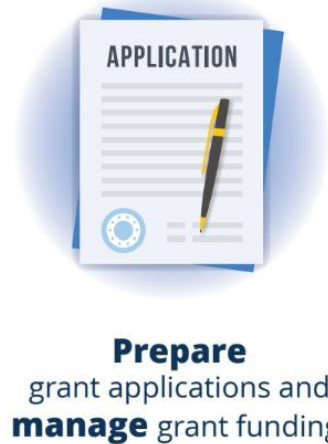
- Develop national websites, databases, and resource libraries to support the Regional EJ TCTACs
- Fill gaps in coverage, host TA summits, build tools to support the network, develop informational exchanges, attend national conferences and present on the EJ TCTAC network

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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.

FEDERAL NETWORK



White House TA Convening on September 13th with philanthropy, capacity builders, and federal staff



Regional TCN Convening , Builders Initiative, the University of Michigan SEAS, Blacks in Greens (BIG), RE-AMP Network, Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association, Environmental Health Watch, and Black Environmental Leaders Association

TIMELINE

EJ TCTAC FY 2023- FY 2024



AWARDED TCTACS

- 1) West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (EPA Region 2)
- 2) Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metro Campus (EPA Region 2)
- 3) National Wildlife Federation (EPA Region 3)
- 4) Deep South Center for EJ (EPA Regions 4 and 6)
- 5) Research Triangle Institute (EPA Region 4)
- 6) Blacks in Green (EPA Region 5)
- 7) University of Minnesota (EPA Region 5)
- 8) New Mexico State University (EPA Region 6)
- 9) Wichita State University (EPA Region 7)
- 10) University of Arizona (EPA Region 9)
- 11) San Diego State University (EPA Region 9)
- 12) Willamette Partnership (EPA Region 10)
- 13) University of Washington (EPA Region 10)
- 14) International City/County Management Association (National TCTAC)
- 15) Institute for Sustainable Communities (National TCTAC)
- 16) National Indian Health Board (National TCTAC)

THANK YOU



National TCTAC: Institute for Sustainable Communities, ICMA, NIHB
Regional TCTACs: Blacks in Green, National Wildlife Federation, University of Arizona, University of Washington,



Deep South Center for Environmental Justice Selection Event



Center for Community Energy & Environmental Justice Opening Event

National Indian
Health Board



TRIBAL CLIMATE &
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
PROJECT 

National Indian Health Board: Nationwide Technical Assistance Center for Environmental Justice

Presented by:

Brett Weber, Environmental Health Programs Director, National Indian Health Board

About National Indian Health Board



- Founded by Tribes in 1972 to serve as the Tribal advocate for healthcare
- Based in Washington DC
- Board of Directors includes a Tribal leader from each IHS Service Area elected to be the Area's representative



National Indian Health Board

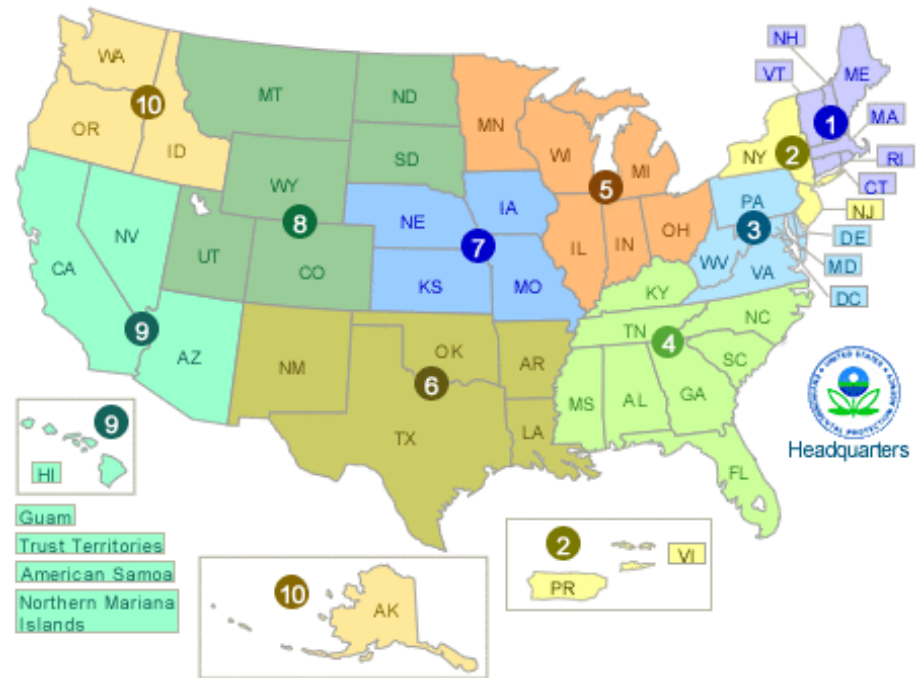
- **Purpose:** To advocate on behalf of all federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to ensure the fulfillment of the trust responsibility to deliver health and public health services as assured through treaties and reaffirmed in legislation, executive orders, and Supreme Court cases.
- **Mission Statement:** One voice affirming and empowering American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples to protect and improve health and reduce health disparities.

National Indian
Health Board



About Environmental Protection Agency

- Cabinet Level Federal Agency
- Created in 1970 by Nixon
- Mission: protect human health & environment
- National HQ in Washington, DC
- Ten regional offices



How EPA Works with Tribes

Aspirations

- Maintains Government to Government Relationship
- Collaborates with Tribes & other Indigenous peoples
- Incorporates traditional ecological knowledge
- Provides advice and recommendations to Tribally run environmental protection departments

Mechanisms:

- National Tribal Caucus
 - Agency equivalent of Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee
- Consultation Policy
- Tribal Treatment As State Model
- Tribe applies; EPA approves
- EPA treats Tribe same as a state for regulatory purposes
- 107 Tribal programs treated as states
- 84 of these are water sanitation programs

EPA Project

- Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TC TAC)
- Designed to assist underserved communities who are
 - Disproportionally impacted by environmental health concerns
 - Underserved by current EPA and other EH programs from the federal government
- Perfectly describes Indian Country
- Network of Technical Assistance Centers will provide TA to applicants for environmental health projects from EPA and other federal partners
- Funded by Infrastructure Law & Inflation Reduction Act



EPA Project

Three National Technical Assistance Centers Awarded

- International City/County Management Association
- Institute for Sustainable Communities
- **National Indian Health Board**

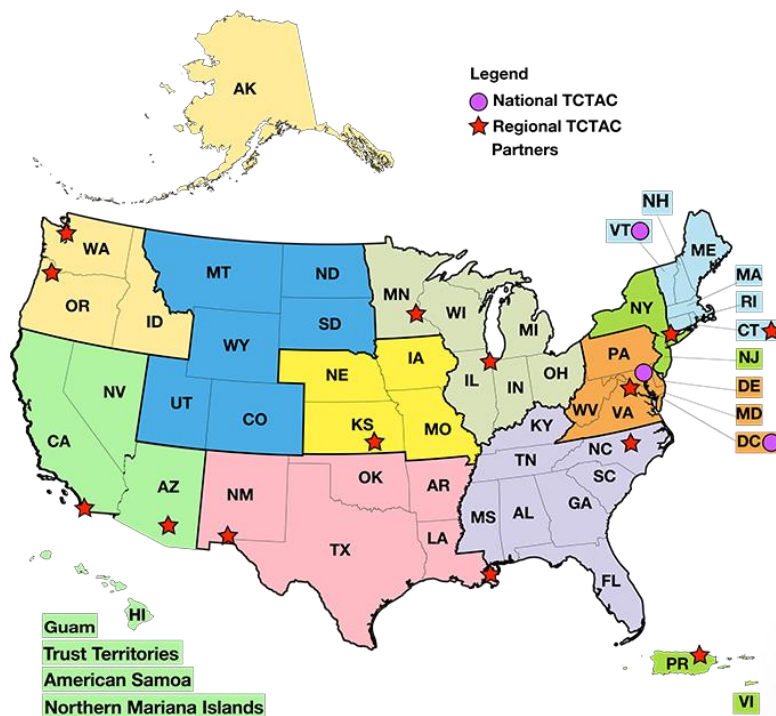
13 Regional TACs Awarded

- West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.
- Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metro Campus
- National Wildlife Federation
- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
- Research Triangle Institute
- Blacks in Green
- University of Minnesota
- New Mexico State University
- Wichita State University
- University of Arizona
- San Diego State University
- Willamette Partnership
- University of Washington



Thriving Community Technical Assistance Center

- NIHB will be the national TAC for tribal applicants, potential applicants, and advisees
- Assist Tribal governments and Tribal organizations & consortia with Environmental Justice funding projects
- Work with Regional TACs to ensure Tribal inclusion and non-duplication



Goal: Remove Barriers for Tribes Working on Environmental Justice

- Portal on NIHB.org
- Clearinghouse on funding opportunities
- 1:1 Technical Assistance
- Trainings and briefings throughout Indian Country
- Launching later in 2023

The screenshot displays the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) website. At the top, a teal banner reads "COVID-19 TRIBAL RESOURCE CENTER" with a "Learn More »" button. Below this is the main header with the NIHB logo and a search bar. A red navigation bar contains links for Home, Tribal Resources, Legislative, Public Health, Behavioral Health, Communications, For Youth, About NIHB, and Donate. The main content area features a large hiring announcement: "WE'RE HIRING! APPLY TO JOIN OUR TEAM IN WASHINGTON, DC" with a link to https://bit.ly/NIHB_CAREERS. To the right, there are three red boxes: "Make a Difference Donate" with the Amazon Smile logo, "Stay Up to Date Join Our Mailing List" with an email icon and link https://bit.ly/NIHB_EMAIL, and "Order Your Act of Love Kit" with icons for NCAI, OIG, and GEORGE. A "Recent Highlights" sidebar on the right lists: 2022 National Tribal Health Conference, Maternal Mortality Prevention, Tribal Health Equity, Advance Appropriations, Hope + Healing Podcast, Medicaid Unwinding, Environmental Health: Regional Summits, Regulations Tracker, and Medicaid Waiver Tracker.

Additional Projects

- Trainings on applying for & using federal funding opportunities related to environmental health
- In depth guide for EPA activities in Indian Country
- Policy analysis for EPA and other agencies impacting environmental health
- Capacity Scan of Indian Country's environmental health professionals
 - Create materials to expand skillsets and build capacity
- Funding for Tribes to plan transition to carbon neutral energy and electric vehicles
- Internship for undergrad/grad students
- Language translation

How Tribes Can Be Impactful

- Use Portal Once it Launches
- Connect NIHB with language translation experts
- Encourage Tribal environmental health experts to come work for us in DC!



Contact Information

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Two (2) Technical Assistance (TA) Programs Created for the Community Change Grants

- Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)
 - Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance (CCER TA)
-
- Technical Assistance (TA) to assist eligible applicants in applying for and using the EPA grant funding

 - Eligible entities can receive TA in all stages of the Community Change Grants, including:
 - Application support
 - Capacity building
 - Project planning, etc.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)

- Support for applicants and awardees of the \$2 billion new Community Change Grants Program
- Community Change Grants Program expected to be announced within the next few weeks
- Support to Include:
 - Grant Application Development Support – training and development support on grant applications
 - Project Planning and Development – assistance with preparing project maps/designs, permitting and site control, determining project feasibility and readiness, developing project budgets, schedules, and implementation plans as well as obtaining specific subject matter expertise.
 - Capacity Building – support in developing partnerships and governance structures.
 - Outreach and Engagement – support in conducting community outreach and developing community engagement plans.
 - Post-award TA through CCTA will offer support with grants management and reporting
- For more information - <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-grants-technical-assistance>

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance

- Technical assistance for eligible entities under Community Change Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Eligible projects for this technical assistance must be located in a disaster-prone area and benefit a disadvantaged community.
- Assistance will consist of free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops.
- Technical assistance intended to be provided to up to 50 recipients nationwide.
- Being offered in conjunction with the [Community Change Grants NOFO](#).
- Questions can be sent to EquitableResilience@epa.gov.

Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)

Eligible Entities

(1) a partnership between two community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs)

OR

(2) a partnership between a CBO and one of the following:

- federally recognized Tribe
- local government
- institution of higher education

CCTA

Eligible Activities

- Climate resilience and adaptation (including but not limited to community greening, stormwater management, mobility, energy efficiency, waste reduction, brownfields redevelopment projects).
- Pollution reduction (including but not limited to indoor/outdoor air quality, toxic remediation, clean water infrastructure, waste, and pollution monitoring projects).
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) pollution remediation projects.
- Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, and other environmental economic projects.
- Facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

CCTA

Pre-award TA support for eligible applicants with intent to apply for Community Change Grants, for example:

- support in developing and submitting grant applications (not written by contractor)
- project planning and development
- outreach and engagement
- facilitating partnership development

Note: Receiving TA does not guarantee grant award.

CCTA

Post-award TA support for implementation of Community Change Grants awarded, for example:

- grant award execution, administration, performance, reporting, and oversight
- project evaluation, including developing outputs/outcomes
- community engagement and outreach
- storytelling

CCTA

- More specialized TA than TCTACs with a focus on planning, project development, etc.
- TCTACs can direct eligible entities with intent to apply for the Community Change Grant to the Community Change TA provider.
- TA delivery on a first come, first served basis.
- Communities can access Community Change TA provider directly via on-line TA Request Form or Call Line.
- Will be launched in conjunction with Community Change Grant NOFO (by mid/late November 2023).
- For questions, please email: EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov
- [FAQ](#)

Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance



Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance

- \$10 million program
- Intended for disaster-prone and disadvantaged communities
- Design assistance, community engagement, and partnership development that result in climate resilience projects eligible for Community Change Grant funding.
- Up to 50 projects completed by fall 2024



WOLF POINT RESILIENCE HUB

Number & Location of Communities

- **Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands**
 - Regions 1, 2, and 3, including 11 states, 2 U.S. territories, and 25 tribes.
 - 11 projects
- **Southeast and Gulf Coast**
 - Regions 4 and 6, including 13 states, 72 tribes, and many colonias and border communities.
 - 11 projects
- **Midwest and Mountain**
 - Regions 5, 7, and 8, including 16 states and 72 tribes.
 - 11 projects
- **Western, Alaska, Pacific Islands**
 - Regions 9 and 10, including 7 states, 4 territories, and 319 tribes, with a particular focus on Alaskan Native Villages.
 - 17 projects

Timeline

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

- Community Change Grant NOFO released
- Equitable Resilience program opens and EPA will begin accepting TA requests

NOVEMBER 2023 - FALL 2024

- Technical assistance provided to up to 50 recipients.
- Most TA will be delivered in the first half of the year.
- Projects need to start no later than July 2024

FALL 2024

- Community Change Grant NOFO Closes & TA completed

Project Types

Community-Serving Buildings

Public Parks and/or Open Space

Transportation and/or Mobility

Other project types outlined in the NOFO are eligible

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Request for Technical Assistance

Requests will be submitted using a simple online form, on a rolling basis, until 50 recipients are identified

1. Intent and eligibility to apply for Community Change Grant Program
2. Agreement to host EPA contractors for site visits.
3. 1-3 Project location(s) and Disaster-prone status, using:
 - FEMA Community Disaster Resilience Zone (CDRZ), *or*
 - Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA), *or*
 - Narrative about additional disaster risk and climate hazards
4. Site description, ownership status, environmental and land use information
5. Potential resilience benefits for disadvantaged community
6. Engagement plans

6-Step TA

1. An **initial call** to identify community assets, challenges, interests, and community engagement strategies that will support the on-site portions of this TA.
2. A **1-day site visit** to conduct a site assessment and confirm 1-3 sites for design work.
3. 6 weeks of **design and community engagement work** to develop initial design concepts and supportive partnerships for the design workshop.
4. A **1-day on-site design workshop** to confirm and select final designs for 1-3 sites.
5. A **final set of design options, preliminary budget, and project summary** that the applicant can use in developing and writing their own grant proposal for a Community Change Grant.
6. Additional support as needed to **troubleshoot grant submission**.

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Website & Contact

Community Change Grants Program: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

Community Change Equitable Resilience: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-grants-technical-assistance>

Email: EquitableResilience@epa.gov or Hall.Abby@epa.gov

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Questions and Answers & Evaluation

- Please type your questions in the chat room.
- Please take a couple minutes to complete the evaluation for this webinar to help us improve this webinar series:
<https://forms.gle/PVyxVc9w354cob7U6>
- To receive updates on EJ tools and resources from across the federal government, sign up for EPA's Environmental Justice Listserv by sending a blank email to: **join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov**



Contact Information

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