TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Community Change Grants Program

Funding Opportunity Overview

Table of Contents

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Change Grant funding opportunity based on information available through the grant program. Please refer to EPA's Community Change Grant Program website and Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for detailed information.

TVA's Connected Communities initiative provides this overview of the U.S. EPA's Community Change Grant opportunity in an effort to make communities in the TVA service area aware of this funding opportunity and help them consider whether it may be a good fit for further review.

The Connected Communities initiative helps communities embrace technology and data solutions to tackle local challenges and gear up to be a part of the energy system of the future. Through the initiative, TVA links communities to resources, project ideas and funding opportunities to improve access to digital services, achieve environmental benefits, scale economic opportunities and become more resilient.

Learn more about the Connected Communities initiative at:

tva.com/connectedcommunities

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

Support to Accelerate Progress and Overcome Challenges

The Connected Communities initiative is helping communities embrace technology and data solutions to overcome their challenges and prepare to be part of the energy system of the future. Our approach is stakeholder-driven and backed by research.

FOCUS AREAS

Broadband and Digital Literacy

Economic Empowerment

Energy and Environmental Justice

Enhanced Community Resiliency

RESOURCES

Community Information Hub

Tailored Support and Success Coaching through Partnerships

Pilot Project Funding

Network to Share Information and Success Models

Community Change Grant

Funding Opportunity Overview

This climate-focused grant program issued by the EPA funds environmental and climate justice activities benefiting disadvantaged communities (DACs).

For more information, visit the program homepage or download the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

GRANT PROGRAM GOALS

• Fund community-driven pollution reduction and climate resiliency solutions in communities facing disproportionate and adverse health, pollution and environmental impacts

• Invest in strong cross-sectoral collaborations with partners working with and for communities with environmental and climate justice concerns

• Unlock access to more significant resources to advance environmental and climate justice goals

• Empower communities through technical assistance and capacity-building support

• Strengthen community participation in government decision-making processes that impact them

FUNDING DETAILS

$2B

in total funding

ESTIMATED

$10M - $20M

per award with no cost share

Rolling applications will be reviewed through November 2024, but applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as is feasible. Rejected applicants can reapply prior to the November deadline.

Potential Grant Tracks

The Community Change Grant provides $2B for community projects addressing climate change across two tracks.

TRACK I

Community-Driven Investments for Change

Track I focuses on multi-faceted applications with climate action and pollution reduction strategies to meaningfully improve environmental, climate and resilience conditions affecting DACs.

$1.96B

in funding
available for approximately 150 awards ($10M - $20M each)

EXAMPLE PROJECTS

- Workforce development programs in climate action-related fields
- Zero-emissions vehicles and infrastructure
- Microgrids and resilience hubs

TRACK II

Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Track II facilitates the engagement of DACs in governmental processes to advance climate justice.

$40M

in funding
available for approximately 20 awards ($1M - $3M each)

EXAMPLE PROJECTS

- Development of Equity Action Plans to identify and address barriers
- Climate leadership program
- Community engagement training

ℹ️ All projects must benefit DACs. See DAC Requirement for more information.

Community-Based Nonprofit Organization (CBO) Requirement

Applicants are required to include partnership with a CBO.

Criteria for CBOs

CBOs must meet all three of the following criteria to be considered eligible:

- Non-profit
- Support specific communities through engagement and education
- Geographically based in project community

Qualifying Partner Entities

CBOs must partner with one other qualifying entity to apply.[1] One entity will act as "**Lead Applicant**," and the other will be the "**Statutory Partner.**" Eligible statutory partners include:

- Another CBO
- A federally recognized Tribe
- A local government entity
- An institution of higher education

Qualifying Collaborating Entities

Other entities may be involved as "**Collaborating Entities.**" Collaborating Entities are entities other than the Lead Applicant and Statutory Partner that perform specific grant project activities. For-profit firms and individual consultants or other commercial service providers cannot be Collaborating Entities. Collaborating Entities may include:
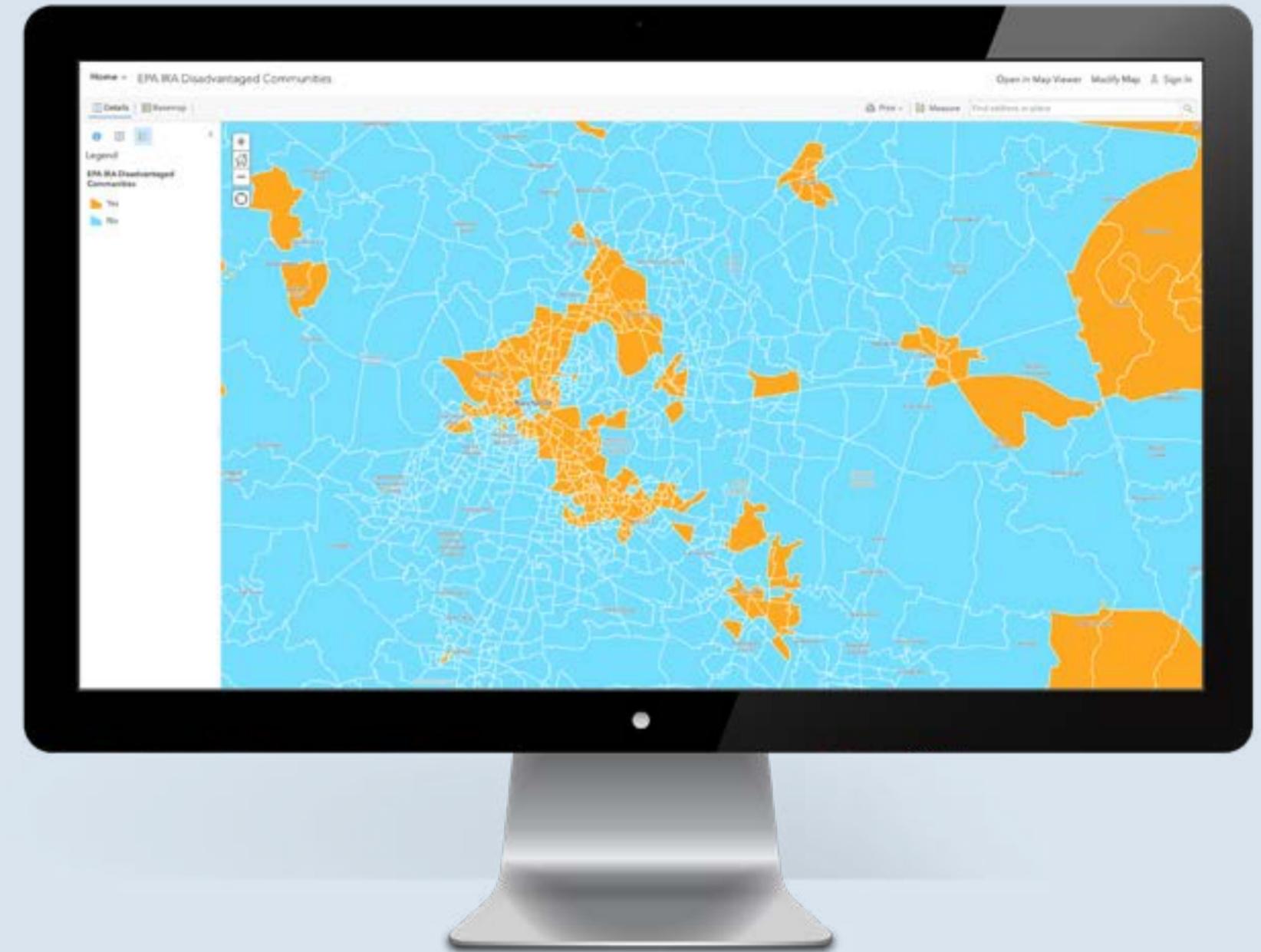
- CBOs
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Local governments
- Institutions of higher education
- States
- Territorial governments
- International organizations

1. Source: Overview of the Community Change Grant Program (epa.gov)

DAC Requirement

All projects must take place in or directly benefit DACs that meet at least one of the following criteria.

Communities that meet the following criteria are considered disadvantaged in the context of the grant:

✓ **Farmworker Community**

✓ **Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)***

✓ **Defined as Disadvantaged on** EPA Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Disadvantaged Communities Map

- More information is available in Appendix A of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

ⓘ Use the EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Map to determine if your community is defined as disadvantaged.

*See p. 67 of NOFO for more information on farmworker communities and DUC status

Application Details

Applications will be accepted, reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis. Funds may run out before the November deadline, so applicants are advised to submit applications as soon as is feasible.

DETAILS

- Lead Applicants may submit a maximum of two applications and receive up to two awards.

- Application packages will be accepted on a rolling basis until November 21, 2024, through grants.gov.

- Applicants should submit as soon as they can assemble a strong application. EPA cannot guarantee that funding will be available through the end of the application period.

- Rejected applicants may have the opportunity to reapply following debrief with EPA representatives.

TIMELINE

Applications Open	Applications Close
November 21, 2023	November 21, 2024

Additional Requirements and Recommendations

Track I Application Required Components

Climate Action Strategies

Application must include at least one project aligned with Climate Action Strategies outlined in NOFO:

- Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions
- Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience
- Energy-Efficient, Healthy and Resilient Housing and Buildings
- Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience
- Community Resilience Hubs
- Brownfield Redevelopment for Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience
- Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy
- Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollutants

Pollution Reduction Strategies

Application must include at least one project aligned with Pollution Reduction Strategies outlined in NOFO:

- Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements
- Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements
- Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience
- Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan

Plan must demonstrate how the applicant will inform, respond to and engage community members.

Community Strength Plan

Plan must demonstrate how projects will enhance overall strength and economic prosperity of the community.

Readiness Approach

Applicants must demonstrate how they will be able to initiate grant performance upon award to successfully complete the grant within the three-year period of performance.

Compliance Plan

Plan must describe how applicants will ensure compliance with the grant's terms and conditions and manage legal and compliance risks.

Strong Application Characteristics

Provide Compelling Community Vision

Detail the community's challenges related to topics the grant is intended to address, including climate vulnerability and pollution risks, with a specific eye to DACs.

Link Project to Vision

Indicate how selected projects address challenges identified in the community vision, drawing clear linkages between outputs and outcomes.

Identify Climate and Pollution Benefits

Highlight the climate and pollution reduction benefits of selected projects to emphasize alignment with stated goals of grant opportunity.

Emphasize DAC Benefits

Clearly show how project benefits will flow to DACs (within the community or across the region) with explicit plans for DAC engagement.

Have a Clear and Thorough Deployment Plan

Provide a detailed plan for how the community will effectively utilize grant funds to ensure project success, including highlight prior work of this nature.

Detail Short- and Long-Term Benefits

Illustrate both near-term benefits and sustainable, long-term positive impacts that successfully deployed projects will have on the community.

Importance of Linking Outputs to Outcomes

Supplemental grant materials emphasize the need to illustrate how project outputs will result in the desired outcomes of the Community Change Grant while meeting the community's specific needs and achieving the community's overall vision.

Example Outputs	Example Outcomes
Activities related to an environmental or public health goal.	Quantifiable results from program or activity.
Cleantech / EV-focused Workforce Development Program	• Number of disadvantaged residents trained • Increased wages, benefits, job quality and job security for participants in training program
Streets Improved to Encourage Walkability	• GHG reductions from reduced vehicular travel • Number of individuals using zero-emission transportation
Energy Efficiency Upgrades	• Kilowatt hour (kWh) savings from reduced energy use • Cost savings flowing to disadvantaged residents

Key Considerations for Pursuit

Qualification Assessment

Is this grant program a good fit for your community?

Viable applicants should be able to answer "yes" to each question listed on the right. Explore EPA's Readiness Assessment Tool and Decision Tree Tool for a more in-depth assessment.

APPLICANT ASSESSMENT

✓ **DACs:** Do potential projects take place in or directly benefit DACs?

✓ **Applicant Eligibility – CBO:** Does your organization qualify as a CBO, or do you know of a potential CBO to partner with?[1]

✓ **Applicant Eligibility – Partner Applicant:** If your organization is a CBO, have you identified another CBO, local government, federally recognized Tribe or institution of higher education to partner with?

✓ **Project Eligibility:** Does your community have a need for and the ability to efficiently plan community-driven projects that qualify under Track I or II? It may be beneficial to consider existing project concepts that you could build on and integrate into the grant application.

✓ **Project Timeline:** Will your organization be able to obligate the grant funds by September 30, 2026? Projects must be designed to be completed within three years. No extensions will be granted.

✓ **Applicant Capacity:** Does your organization or partner applicant have the capacity needed to apply for this grant? Will external assistance be required?

1. Technical Assistance is available to help entities with facilitating partnerships.

Technical Assistance

Some entities may qualify for technical assistance (TA) to build capacity for application development and pursuit. Entities interested in TA should apply as soon as possible as funds are limited.

General Technical Assistance (CCTA)

Pre-Award

- Grant application support
- Project planning and development
- Outreach and engagement
- General capacity building

Post-Award

- Grants management
- Reporting

Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance (CCER TA)

Assistance for climate resilience and environmental justice projects in disaster-prone areas.

- Site / project design
- Community engagement
- Project development assistance
- Partnership development workshops

Request Technical Assistance

You can apply for technical assistance online. Call 1-(800) 540-8123 or email EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov to ask questions about technical assistance.

Application Scoring Criteria

SCORING CRITERIA

Track I Written Application

Part 1: Community Driven Investments for Change ①

SECTION	POINTS
1.1: Community Overview	10
1.2: Selected Strategies (quality of overview of selected climate action and pollution reduction strategies)	45
1.3: Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan	15
1.4: Community Strength Plan	10
Total	**80**

Part 2: Program Management, Capability and Capacity ②

SECTION	POINTS
2.1: Performance Management Plan, Outputs / Outcomes	6
2.2: Project Linkages to the EPA Strategic Plan (extent to which proposed activities support and advance plan)	4
2.3: CBO Experience and Commitment	5
2.4: Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources	15
2.5: Past Performance	5
Total	**35**

Part 3: Readiness to Perform ③

SECTION	POINTS
3.1: Readiness Approach	8
3.2: Feasibility	9
3.3: Sustainability	5
3.4: Program Budget Description	8
3.5: Compliance Plan	10
Total	**40**

Grand Total	**155**

SCORING CRITERIA

Track I Oral Presentation

SECTION	POINTS
Community Overview	9
Strategy Rationale	9
Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance	9
Management Capacity	9
Performance Challenges and Mitigation Plans to Address Challenges	9
Total	**45**

SCORING CRITERIA

Track II Evaluation

SECTION	POINTS
Program Objectives	35
Project Collaboration and Participation	20
Project Linkages	4
Budget	8
Environmental Results	6
CBO Experience and Commitment	5
Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources	15
Past Performance	6
Total	**100**

Source: Notice of Funding Opportunity p. 55

Support Resources and FAQ

EPA Community Change Grant Resources

TOPIC	RESOURCE
Essential Community Change Grant Materials	• Notice of Funding Opportunity with complete requirements and instructions for applying • Community Change Grants Program homepage includes an overview of the opportunity, instructions for applying, links to more resources and announcements of upcoming webinars
Key Resources for Understanding the Opportunity	• EPA's Community Change Grant Webinar and webinar slides • Frequently Asked Questions on the Community Change Grants NOFO
Technical Assistance	• Request Technical Assistance for Community Change grants • Past Webinars on Community Change Grants Technical Assistance
Tools for Assessing if the Grant is Right for You	• Community Change Grant Readiness Assessment Tool (click "File" then "Make a copy") • Community Change Grant Decision Tree Tool (click "File" then "Make a copy")
Relevant News Releases	• EPA Press Release: "Biden-Harris Administration Announces $2 Billion to Fund Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants as Part of Investing in America Agenda" • SmartCities News Article: "EPA Announces $2B for Local Environmental Justice Projects"
Questions and Contact Information	• For questions regarding technical assistance, email: EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov • For questions regarding the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), email: CCGP@epa.gov • To contact TVA's Connected Communities team, email: ConnectedCommunities@tva.gov

Key Questions and Answers

Q: Is [insert project type] eligible for funding?

A: Please reference the NOFO to determine project eligibility. Applicants may also email CCGP@epa.gov for guidance or reach out to the Connected Communities team at ConnectedCommunities@tva.gov with questions on how to navigate information related to the funding opportunity.

Q: My project for Track I has a climate action strategy but not a pollution reduction strategy. Is that okay?

A: No, Track I applications must include both a climate action strategy and pollution reduction strategy. Multiple project activities may be included in one application if a there is a cohesive narrative and vision linking them. Entities can request technical assistance to obtain support in developing partnerships and planning projects.

Q: Can I apply for a grant under the CCGP if I am already receiving another grant from EPA?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there a limit on the number of applications we can submit?

A: Yes. As stated in Sections II.C and III.D.15 of the NOFO, Lead Applicants can only submit up to two applications under the NOFO. Lead Applicant may be a Statutory Partner or Collaborating Entity on other applications. There is no limit on how many applications an entity can be a Collaborating Entity on as long as the NOFO requirements are met.

Q: If our application is not selected, can we submit it again before the NOFO closing date?

A: Yes, applicants may re-submit their application as described in Section II.C of the NOFO.

Q: Can we submit applications for both Track I and Track II under the NOFO?

A: Yes. The two applications may be either two Track I applications, two Track II applications or one of each. When submitting applications for both Track I and Track II, applications must be submitted as separate application packages.

Q: Are there any application templates?

A: Application requirements are described in Section IV of the NOFO. The only template provided is the optional budget template in Appendix G of the NOFO. Technical assistance may be available to help with application preparation.

Q: Can you clarify who needs to register with SAM.gov? Do entities who may serve as contractors under the grant need to register?

A: The Lead Applicant needs to register with SAM.gov to receive a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Any subrecipients (including the Statutory Partner) or Collaborating Entities that will receive subaward funding must also have a valid UEI. Contractors do not need to register with SAM.gov but keep in mind that the selection of contractors is governed by competitive procurement requirements as described in Appendix G of the NOFO.

ⓘ See EPA's Frequently Asked Questions and Answers Document for more questions and answers.

Connected Communities Resources and Support

Join our Network and Access Resources

Visit the Connected Communities website to access all of our resources and tools and sign up to be part of the Connected Communities Network.

tva.com/connectedcommunities

Explore the Community Information Hub

Visit the Community Information Hub to learn more about the current conditions of your community and identify funding opportunities.

communityinfohub.tva.gov

Contact Georgia Caruthers at connectedcommunities@tva.gov to learn more

Appendix

Climate Action Strategies

STRATEGY	DETAILS
1. Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions	Use nature-based solutions (NBS), also referred to as green infrastructure, to address such climate risks.
2. Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience	Provide access to low- and zero-emission technologies to improve overall health and well-being, reduce emissions and increase access to important community destinations (e.g., schools, workplaces, healthcare centers, community spaces).
3. Energy-Efficient, Healthy and Resilient Housing and Buildings	Invest in low and zero-emission technologies and energy efficiency upgrades that can help decarbonize residential and commercial buildings, decrease energy burden and increase resilience for communities
4. Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience	Install microgrids powered by low- and zero-emission renewable energy to improve electric reliability, enhance overall energy efficiency, reduce emissions of GHG and other air pollutants and build a community's capacity to prepare for and withstand power disruptions.
5. Community Resilience Hubs	Create and / or upgrade community resilience hubs, which are public-serving spaces that provide shelter and essential services during emergencies.
6. Brownfield Redevelopment for Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience	Redevelop brownfield sites that have already been cleaned up or where a site assessment indicates that cleanup is not necessary for reuse.
7. Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy	Support circular economy activities and promote sustainable use of natural resources to keep materials and products in circulation for as long as possible / reduce GHG emissions of a product's lifecycle.
8. Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollutants	Propose workforce development programs to enable individuals to pursue career pathways in fields related to the reduction of GHG emissions and other air pollutants.

Pollution Reduction Strategies

STRATEGY	DETAILS
1. Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements	Provide education on air toxins / toxics and how to monitor them and / or conduct assessment and remediation to reduce harmful air pollution.
2. Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements	Activities include but are not limited to funding purchase, upgrade, and / or maintenance of equipment and technology to allow for the inspection, testing, monitoring and sampling of air pollution; purchasing equipment that limits community exposure to outdoor air pollutants, reducing exposure to near-road pollution, pollution from airports and ports and mobile source pollution.
3. Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience	Address challenges community faces in accessing clean, reliable drinking water and wastewater treatment.
4. Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste	Support pollution prevention, recycling and disposal activities related to the management of solid and hazardous waste, such as discarded electronics, tires, single-use plastics and other disposable items.

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 1: Community Driven Investments for Change ①

1.1: Community Overview

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Community Description: Description of Project Area, including resources, assets and local characteristics, as well as how project activities are designed and focused to maximize the benefits for residents of disadvantaged communities in the Project Area.	4
Community Challenges: Description of challenges / needs of residents of disadvantaged communities in the Project Area, including: climate impacts, climate change risks / exposures, localized pollution, weather-related threats and vulnerabilities to environmental pollution.	3
Community Vision: Articulation of an overall and clear vision for impacts and benefits the grant would have on residents of disadvantaged communities in the project area.	3
Total	**10**

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 1: Community Driven Investments for Change (CONTINUED)

1

1.2: Selected Strategies (quality of overview of selected climate action and pollution reduction strategies)

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Strategy Overview:	
• Overview of strategies and associated projects and how they will be implemented during grant term.	5
• Description of how projects are integrated / designed to complement one another to benefit residents of disadvantaged communities in the project area and how scale / scope of Project Area was developed to accomplish this goal.	7
• Detail how amount / proportion of the requested funding was determined for each strategy / aligned project in the application.	3
Climate Action Strategies:	
• Description of how associated project(s) will address identified climate impacts and / or climate change risks / exposures within Project Area and how project(s) will decrease GHG emissions within Project Area or increase overall resilience to climate impacts.	8
• Description of how selected Climate Action Strategies and associated projects help meet the needs and challenges of the Project Area as articulated in the Community Vision Description.	7
Pollution Reduction Strategies:	
• Description of how associated project(s) will address identified localized pollution challenges facing the Project Area, particularly those facing disadvantaged communities and will make substantial and measurable (i.e., quantifiable) progress toward preventing, reducing and / or mitigating existing and future sources of pollution to benefit the Project Area.	8
• Description of how selected Pollution Reduction Strategies help meet needs and challenges of the Project Area as articulated in Community Vision Description.	7
Total	**45**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 1: Community Driven Investments for Change (CONTINUED) ①

1.3: Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Past Community Outreach and Engagement Conducted: How applicant's past engagement with the Project Area community impacted the Strategy and associated project selection and implementation approach included in the application, including outreach and engagement methods used for the Project Area and specific neighborhoods or groups within the Project Area.	4
Community Engagement Plan Implementation: Specific community engagement methods used by the applicant, as well as how they will mitigate barriers and involve relevant governmental stakeholders necessary to support overall project implementation.	6
Collaborative Governance Structure: Details regarding roles / responsibilities of the Lead Applicant, Collaborating Entities and community residents and / or community-selected representatives for implementing, managing and overseeing the project activities, including how regularly they will meet to discuss project implementation.	5
Total	**15**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 1: Community Driven Investments for Change (CONTINUED)   1

1.4: Community Strength Plan

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Maximizing Economic Benefits of Projects: How the projects included in the application are intended to provide economic benefits for individuals in the Project Area, including priority populations.*	5
Displacement Avoidance: Measures for mitigating potential near-term and long-term risks associated with the proposed projects to residents, small businesses, nonprofits and other community members, including the vulnerability the community faces to rising costs attributable to their proposed project and the potential project impacts to households, small businesses and other existing groups.	5
Total	**10**

*According to the NOFO, Priority populations, "may include populations of concern as identified in The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment (2016) that 'experience disproportionate, multiple, and complex risks to their health and well-being in response to climate change,' such as children and pregnant women, older adults, and those with low incomes, limited-English-proficiency, disabilities or chronic medical conditions, or other risks that may put them at greater vulnerability."

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 2: Program Management, Capability and Capacity ②

2.1: Performance Management Plan and Outputs / Outcomes

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Whether the application describes an effective plan, with associated timeframes, for tracking and measuring progress in achieving the expected project outcomes and outputs including those identified in Appendix F of the NOFO, as appropriate and any additional ones identified in the application.	2
The quality and specificity of the proposed outputs and outcomes and how they will lead to improvements to the environmental conditions and public health of the disadvantaged communities in the short and long term.	2
Whether, and how, the applicant has incorporated program evaluation activities (e.g., utilizing proper evaluation tools and personnel / organizations with experience in evaluating program and project progress / success) from project initiation through project completion to meaningfully document and measure their progress towards achieving project goals and how they will use the results of the evaluations to meet the project goals within the required timeframes.	2
Total	**6**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 2: Program Management, Capability and Capacity (CONTINUED)   ②

2.2: Project Linkages to the EPA Strategic Plan

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which the proposed project activities support and advance EPA Strategic Plan Goal 2 (Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights), Objective 2.1, (Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State and Local Levels). In addition, applications, depending on the projects included in them, will also be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they also support and advance the following EPA Strategic Plan Goals, as applicable: Goal 1 - Tackle the Climate Crisis Goal 4 - Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities Goal 5 - Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities Goal 6 - Safeguard and Revitalize Communities; and Goal 7 - Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment	4
Total 4	**4**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 2: Program Management, Capability and Capacity (CONTINUED)

2

2.3: CBO Experience and Commitment

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
CBO(s) that are either the Lead Applicant and / or Statutory Partner for the proposed grant will be evaluated based on their history and experience as a CBO and the depth of their commitment, connections and relationships with the disadvantaged communities the application is intended to benefit.	5
Total	**5**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 2: Program Management, Capability and Capacity (CONTINUED)   ②

2.4: Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Their organizational experience and capacity related to performing the proposed project(s) or similar activities (e.g., experience in managing projects and activities like those in the application).	4
Their resources, capacity, capabilities, staff (e.g., project manager and other key personnel), expertise and skills to perform and manage the award activities effectively during the three-year award period. For Lead Applicants submitting two applications, this includes how they demonstrate they have the above attributes to perform, manage and oversee two awards effectively within the three-year award period.	4
The milestone schedule for the proposed projects (up to three years) includes breaking out the project activities into phases and timeframes for completion of tasks and the approach, procedures and controls for ensuring that the award funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner while ensuring that costs are eligible, reasonable and allowable.	3
Their financial stability, controls in place and capacity to manage taxpayer dollars ethically and efficiently, as well as the policies and controls for project oversight and program risk. This includes the extent and quality to which the application includes controls to identify waste, fraud and abuse, and reduce the potential for waste, fraud and abuse by including plans and policies for program oversight, including confidential reporting (e.g., whistleblower protections).	4
Total	**15**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 2: Program Management, Capability and Capacity (CONTINUED)

②

2.5: Past Performance

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.B of the NOFO.	3
History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.B of the NOFO including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not.	2
Total	**5**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 3: Readiness to Perform

3

3.1: Readiness Approach

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Applications will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability and readiness to proceed with grant performance for the projects in the application, based on the Readiness Approach Requirements described in Section I.G of the NOFO, upon receiving an award, or generally no later than 120 days after award, to ensure that the projects can be completed within the statutory three-year grant period. As appropriate, this may include evaluating the description of the completed project planning and design phases related to the project(s) as well as demonstrating that the applicant has obtained and / or complied with the necessary approvals, permits, permissions and any other applicable requirements, to commence project performance upon award, and if not generally within 120 days of award.	8
Total	**8**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 3: Readiness to Perform (CONTINUED)

③

3.2: Feasibility

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Applications will be evaluated based on whether it is demonstrated that all the projects in the application can be successfully and effectively performed within the three-year grant performance period and the degree of risk they cannot be. This also includes evaluating how the strategies and associated projects can individually and collectively be completed within three years.	9
Total	**9**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 3: Readiness to Perform (CONTINUED)

③

3.3: Sustainability

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Applications will be evaluated based on whether it is demonstrated that the benefits and outcomes from the projects in the application can be sustained after the three-year grant period of performance based on factors including but not limited to whether (i) the Applicant will leverage funding and / or resources from other sources to ensure the sustainability of the projects beyond the three-year grant term and (ii) the description of an operations and maintenance approach including the plans and commitments to ensure there is continued funding available for operation and maintenance activities of infrastructure activities for the projects after the grant term is over (e.g., are there demonstrated commitments for continuing operation and maintenance funding / resources from the appropriate parties after the three-year grant term is over) including coordination with appropriate responsible parties.	5
Total	**5**

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 3: Readiness to Perform (CONTINUED)   ③

3.4: Program Budget Description

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
The **reasonableness of the budget and allowability of the costs** for each component / activity of the projects in the application. This includes evaluating whether funding is well balanced and equitably distributed to project partners, including sub-awardees, commensurate with their role in the project and whether funding is categorized into the proper budget categories providing clarity, accuracy and granularity on the applicant's planned use of the grant funds during the project period.	4
The **cost effectiveness of the budget / project** in terms of maximizing the share of funds used for the delivery of benefits to disadvantaged communities (both the direct costs of funds passed through for financial assistance as well as associated indirect costs to the greatest extent practicable).	4
Total	**8**

TRACK I WRITTEN APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA

Part 3: Readiness to Perform (CONTINUED)

③

3.5: Compliance Plan

DETAILS / COMPONENTS	POINTS
Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which the Compliance Plan addresses the elements for the Compliance Plan described in Section I.G of the NOFO.	10
Total	**10**

Source: NOFO – Track I Application Review Process, Evaluation Criteria, and Oral Presentations, p. 49-55