

**EPA NATIONAL EJ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CALL**  
**September 14, 2021**

**SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today. The purpose of these engagement calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency hopes that these calls will help reaffirm EPA's continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes.

- Webpage with information about upcoming calls: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>
- For up-to-date information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: [join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov](mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov).
- Follow us on Twitter: @EPAEnvJustice
- Meeting materials and recordings for this call and all past calls will be here: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>
- Send follow-up questions or comments to: [Environmental-Justice@epa.gov](mailto:Environmental-Justice@epa.gov)

Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
yes	Michelle Jackson	<p>Social Impact Bonds Information here: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/case-study-social-impact-bonds-for-housing-revitalization-richmond-california-2021-08-23.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-08/case-study-social-impact-bonds-for-housing-revitalization-richmond-california-2021-08-23.pdf</a></p> <p>For more information on Technical Assistance providers: Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) provides technical assistance to communities and stakeholders to help address their brownfield sites, and to increase their understanding and involvement in brownfields cleanup, revitalization and reuse. Regional TAB Provider information is available here: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-training-and-research#TAB">https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-training-and-research#TAB</a></p>

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
Will applicants get additional points towards their RFP if they are in an EJ community?	Karen Sprayberry	Generally, yes. The evaluation criteria for brownfields grant application include several criteria that capture the applicant's intentions to serve EJ communities. UPDATE: Applicants are evaluated on their responses to the criteria laid out in the brownfield grant guidelines. Several criteria focus specifically on the extent to which the proposed project will address community need, threats to sensitive populations, incidence of disease and adverse health conditions, and promote environmental justice. Applications that address these criteria related to environmental justice topics with clear, strong responses will score more favorably.
Hi Alyse really appreciate you speaking with the group today. Could you share your slides?	Anonymous Attendee	A copy of the slides will be made available in the coming days.
can you post the URLs here in the Q&A	Megan Smith	live answered EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. Visit EPA's website for more information on program resources <a href="https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-training-and-research#TAB">https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-training-and-research#TAB</a>
Are the same organizations (states, non-profits, etc.) eligible to apply for the Training funds?	Maureen Goulet	live answered
Are brownfields restricted to land or can they also include bodies of waters such as urban river that run through heavily industrialized communities with runoff impacting bipoc communities?	Maritza Alvarez	live answered

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
Are tribal funds just for the Federally recognized tribes?	Anonymous Attendee	Funds are available for federally recognized tribes and eligible native corporations in Alaska. The full list of eligible entities include: • Indian tribe other than in Alaska. (The exclusion of Tribes from Alaska, with the exception of the Metlakatla Indian Community as noted below, from Brownfields Grant eligibility is statutory at CERCLA § 104(k)(1)). Intertribal Consortia, comprised of eligible Indian tribes, are eligible for funding in accordance with EPA’s policy for funding intertribal consortia published in the Federal Register on November 4, 2002, at 67 Fed. Reg. 67181. This policy also may be obtained from your Regional Brownfields Contact listed in Section VII.)• Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community. (Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Alaska Native Village Corporations are defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 and following).
Does EPA measure the Life cycle cost (with EJ considerations) of where the cleaned up waste ends up (cradle to grave)? Should we measure the impacts to ensure the waste removed from a contaminated site isn't taken to a TSDF/approved facility that may impact a disenfranchised community? Are there resources that can help?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
What tools and specific criteria are you using to identify disadvantaged communities? How close to a Brownfields site does a disadvantaged community need to be in order for the site to be covered by Justice40?	AMOLINA	live answered
You mentioned that ARP is looking to remove barriers to Brownfields reuse - can you elaborate?	Maureen Goulet	live answered

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
Is EPA tracking bill HR4427, Brownfields Redevelopment Tax Incentive Reauthorization Act of 2021? While it's not a direct funding source from EPA, it is an incentive program for private cleanup and development of brownfields. If EPA is tracking this bill, is there any information or update that you can provide?	David Brewster	live answered
How do you first identify or designate a brownfield site?	Jacques Werleigh (he him)	live answered
Are there criteria to define "disadvantaged", i.e. below median income or other such criteria?	Melinda.S.Bubier - NHDES	live answered
Yes we have Brownfields sites	Lydia Birk	Thank you for your response!
Does Brownfield grant dollars help with air pollution? Maybe to install filter when demo is taken place?	Michelle Jackson	EPA brownfields grant funding cannot be used to pay for demolition unless it is an essential or integral part of the cleanup activities.
Challenges/barriers - access to technology, language factors, support from decision-makers.	Vanessa S Gordon, Ph.D.	If your community needs assistance with these challenges you can request assistance from our Brownfields Technical Assistance Providers.
Use public libraries as a means to communicate...	Vanessa S Gordon, Ph.D.	live answered
Many low income communities do not have resources to apply for grants	Melinda.S. Bubier - NHDES	live answered

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
<p>If Justice 40 is not clearly defined yet. Can other community issues such as violence, crime and access to services Like child care be included as factors for sensitive populations</p>	<p>Anonymous Attendee</p>	<p>live answered Sign up for the EPA Brownfields Listserv: <a href="https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/SVbfoYx/BrownfieldsListservAgencies">https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/SVbfoYx/BrownfieldsListservAgencies</a> should consider appropriate data, indices, and screening tools to determine whether a specific community is disadvantaged based on a combination of variables that may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low income, high and/or persistent poverty</li> <li>• High unemployment and underemployment</li> <li>• Racial and ethnic residential segregation, particularly where the segregation stems from discrimination by government entities</li> <li>• Linguistic isolation</li> <li>• High housing cost burden and substandard housing</li> <li>• Distressed neighborhoods</li> <li>• High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access</li> <li>• Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts</li> <li>• Limited water and sanitation access and affordability</li> <li>• Disproportionate impacts from climate change</li> <li>• High energy cost burden and low energy access</li> <li>• Jobs lost through the energy transition</li> <li>• Access to healthcare</li> </ul>
<p>I would be curious as to what the EPA is currently doing in terms of raising awareness and increasing access to these grants and assistance? Even thinking of the context of this call, I don't believe that the registration said this would be focused on brownfields? So how are we making sure the right people are engaged.</p>	<p>Anonymous Attendee</p>	<p>live answered</p>

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
<p>Just an FYI in case you want to share: there is a “Justice40 open source data + tech community” — we joined, anyone is welcome. More from them: “Meetings on zoom on the third Monday of every month to share community updates, collaborate on tech or data issues, and discuss data or tech topics relevant to the Justice40 movement. All are welcome! Please forward to any folks you think might be interested in joining our open source community.</p> <p>Before the open meeting - the agenda will be shared beforehand in the Google Group: <a href="https://groups.google.com/g/justice40-open-source">https://groups.google.com/g/justice40-open-source</a> Please comment on the thread there once it’s posted if you have topics you’d like to discuss or updates you’d like to share! The deck with notes are posted there after meetings.” - ON MONDAY Sept 20 there will be an open session for collaboration “Crafting Environmental Justice Stories with Data (Workshop)” — Crafting Environmental Justice Stories with Data (Workshop) all welcome to join that interactive workshop to co-create/co-solve/shar</p>	Megan Smith	live answered

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
<p>more re above “Crafting Environmental Justice Stories with Data (Workshop)Join us on Sept 20, 3-5pm ET, to share stories and case studies of environmental justice issues and collaborate in small, cross-disciplinary groups to connect, explore, and build on those stories with data. In the process, we will explore critical questions such as what data is missing, when is data not good enough, and what might we accomplish with access to good data?By bringing together folks with diverse lived experiences and a range of skillsets, we hope to learn how we and other technologists can better serve communities experiencing environmental justice issues. By the end of this workshop we hope that all participants will come away with new connections and new shared experiences finding and using data to reflect the stories and lived experiences of our communities, and be better equipped to use data for impact and advocacy.</p>	<p>Megan Smith</p>	<p>.</p>

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
<p>more: Come to this workshop if *any* of the following apply to you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- You belong to or represent an underrepresented community or a community that experiences environmental justice issues. If you don't know if your community is impacted, you should come!</li> <li>- You have never seen a dataset in your life, or you work with data 9+ hours a day — we're looking for folks across the data and tech familiarity spectrum!</li> <li>- You've only heard the term "environmental justice" in passing, or you've been fighting for environmental justice causes for 20 years.</li> <li>- You are a member of the Justice40 Open Source Community or you use or build (or want to!) data and tech for good.</li> </ul>	Megan Smith	.
<p>Considering non-federally recognized indigenous communities do not qualify for brownsfields funding, would they be able to be recognized as disadvantaged communities when they can not have access to local traditional sites for ceremony due to water contamination?</p>	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
<p>Any chance there could be funds available to gather that local level data?</p>	Maureen Goulet	live answered



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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
<p>contact for workshop **About US**</p> <p>This workshop is organized by the US Digital Service (USDS) team working on Justice40. We host the Justice40 Open Source Community and build the Justice40 Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. For more on USDS, please see <a href="https://www.usds.gov">usds.gov</a>. For more on Justice40, please see <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/</a></p> <p>Please email <a href="mailto:shelby.c.switzer@omb.eop.gov">shelby.c.switzer@omb.eop.gov</a> with any questions. You can cancel your registration at any time.</p>	<p>Megan Smith</p>	<p>.</p>
<p>Comment on responding to the grant prompts: The City of Worcester won a \$200K EWDJT grant as a first-time applicant. This was the intro I wrote; feel free to share it if you deem it relevant and potentially helpful. (Links to my LinkedIn page; I am the Resource Development Coordinator for the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board). <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6843288575954481152/">https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6843288575954481152/</a></p>	<p>Bruce Mendelsohn (H/H/H)</p>	

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
To strategies for awareness building: Yes, engage organizations and leaders in the targeted communities with materials relevant to them; i.e., flyers translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, etc.	Bruce Mendelsohn (H/H/H)	
Thank you for holding this call. Two weeks ago I was on this call and asked to be connected with the Region 7 EJ coordinator to discuss projects like this one. I reached out to the email that was provided to me two weeks ago and have not heard back. Is there a better contact for Region 7 so I can discuss programs like this with my regional person	Anonymous Attendee	live answered  Please feel free to contact Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov
Thanks for restating that point. You may also want to mention the EPA Brownfields newsletters, too!	Bruce Mendelsohn (H/H/H)	
please put links into chat	NNICHOLS	live answered  <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf">https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council-final-recommendations">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council-final-recommendations</a>
The EJSCREEN session Oct. 20 ... is it for the current EJSCREEN or the updated version?	David Brewster	live answered
Site to register for tomorrow's webinar: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples">https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples</a>	Vanessa S Gordon, Ph.D.	.

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Question	Commenter	Answer(s)
I think it is important to note that USEPA Brownfields grants are never awarded to corporations. I will also note that there are many success stories of Brownfields that have been redeveloped into a range of community amenities. For example, the former Chevy plant in Flint has been redeveloped into a major public park, based upon community input and community priorities	Jim Van der Kloot	Thank you for the clarification.
Matt did you give a ballpark timeframe for the new EJScreen?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
Thanks, I realize it's a heavy lift. My region is not sure whether we should be providing training on the current EJSCREEN	Anonymous Attendee	live answered