

2021 American Rescue Plan & EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Award Project Summaries

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected 34 organizations to each receive up to \$200,000 through the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program (EJCPS). Approximately \$4.3 million of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds will support projects that address health outcome disparities from pollution and the COVID–19 pandemic and that identify and address disproportionate environmental or public health harms and risks in minority populations or low-income populations through activities authorized by section 103(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7403(b)) and section 1442(c)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1(c)). An approximate amount of \$2.5 million from EPA’s Fiscal Year 2021 annual appropriation for environmental justice (EJ) will fund additional community-based projects. The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding to support community-based organizations in their efforts to collaborate and partner with local stakeholder groups (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, and academia) as they develop and implement solutions that address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities. The term “underserved community” refers to a community with environmental justice concerns and/or vulnerable populations, including people of color, low income, rural, tribal, and indigenous populations. Awarded projects must demonstrate use of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model to support their collaborative efforts during the project period. The long-term goals of the EJCPS Program are to help build the capacity of communities with environmental justice concerns and to create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve local environments in the future.

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Region 1

Recipient: Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness

Title: Wabanaki Environmental Capacity-Building and Leadership Development

Location: Tribal Communities, ME

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness to expand Environmental Health Worker services to aid in limiting the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on five indigenous groups of Wabanaki Native Americans in Bangor, Maine. The Wabanaki Environmental Capacity-Building and Leadership Development project aims to, over two years, create programs to train youth leaders to expand upon existing initiatives for improvement of health infrastructure in the indigenous community as it pertains to security of clean water, promotion of good indoor and outdoor air quality, enhancing emergency preparedness, and improving climate resiliency. The Wabanaki Native Tribes have been threatened by an accelerated loss of language and culture over the course of decades resulting in limited access to clean water, true ownership of tribal land, air pollution, and the effects of climate change threatening traditional hunting and fishing practices. On top of existing threats to Wabanaki way of life, COVID-19 has exacerbated negative health impacts and educational disparities in this community. The Wabanaki population has a reduced life expectancy of approximately 55 years compared to an average of 79 for the rest of the Maine population. In addition, the median annual income of the Wabanaki population is \$15,540, compared to the average per capita income of \$32,637. With funding, Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness aims to expand environmental health worker capacity by 40%, as well as services offered to improve clean water access, healthcare infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and education on air quality. Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness will also partner with youth councils to educate youth leaders. Intended beneficiaries of this project include the Wabanaki Native Tribes and tribal youth.

Recipient: Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc.

Title: Pioneer Valley Air Quality Monitoring Project (PVAQM): Growing community capacity and education on air quality and climate resilience in the Pioneer Valley

Location: Springfield, MA

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Partners for a Healthier Community to build community leadership on air quality (AQ), climate resilience, environmental justice (EJ), urban forestry and community science to address health outcomes through the maintenance and expansion of an AQ monitoring network in the cities of Springfield, Holyoke and Chicopee, MA. Project activities will include maintaining and expanding the current Pioneer Valley Air Quality Monitoring (PVAQM) network of over 50 sensors collecting data on PM2.5 and ozone in the region focusing on EJ neighborhoods in Holyoke and Springfield to Chicopee and other nearby EJ areas; semi-annual monitoring of other organic contaminants and toxic substances; inclusion of resident voices through the convening of Resident Advisors who will take leadership on educating their community and advocating for actions and policies that address air pollution, reduced exposures, removal of pollution sources and promote climate resilience; and use the web/social media to provide residents real-time data via a website (available in Spanish) that will include a ‘dashboard’ with current AQ information from the sensors along with technical and educational resources related to AQ, respiratory disease, climate change and community resilience. Expected environmental outcomes of this project are improved air quality, a reduction in exposure to air pollutants, increased climate resilience, reduction in asthma, cardiovascular disease morbidity and an overall improvement in health in the community as air pollutants decrease, air quality improves, and climate resilience measures are instituted. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of

Springfield, Holyoke and Chicopee, MA who are predominantly Black, Latino, and low income. Partners will provide technical assistance in air quality monitoring and web services for community outreach.

Recipient: Hartford Parent University, Inc.

Title: Working Together for a Healthy Hartford

Location: Hartford, CT

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Hartford Parent University, Inc. (HPU) to conduct training of Hartford parents so that they, in collaboration with Hartford Public Schools, Trinity Healthcare, and the City of Hartford Department of Public Health can educate the youth of Hartford on the dangers of lead poisoning in the home, school, and in the water supply. HPU plans to initially focus on outreach, education, and training of parents and continue work with Trinity Health Care and their community healthcare workers to improve screening and testing for lead contaminants in water and to identify lead paint in homes and schools. The community of Hartford is the poorest in all of Connecticut due to low pay rates and high rates of unemployment, where 30.5% of its 123,088 residents live below the poverty line. Hartford maintains the second highest poverty rate in the US and is primarily composed of marginalized ethnic and racial groups (e.g., 43% Latinx and 38.7% Black). Of importance, there is little modern development in the city and most residences in Hartford were constructed before 1960, 18 years before lead-based paints were banned for use. This then indicates high usage of lead-based paints in existing buildings in Hartford, to which community members, especially children, are regularly exposed. Withing their two-year plan, HPU aims to educate 1,000 families in both Spanish and English on lead contamination dangers and conduct reviews of housing stock to create a map of 10-30 lead polluted and affected buildings in Hartford to directly protect the families of Hartford, CT from lead pollutant exposures. HPU will not award subawards, and will use funding to operate parent training sessions, pay for lead testing kits, fund staff travel, and pay for community-distributed materials educating about the dangers and methods of exposure of lead pollutants.

Region 2

Recipient: Center for Habitat Reconstruction

Title: The Puerto Rico Anti-Blight Initiative: Fostering Civic Participation for Safer, Healthier, and Resilient Communities

Location: San Juan, PR

The purpose of this environmental justice cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Center for Habitat Reconstruction to provide three pilot low-income communities in Puerto Rico with education, training, meetings, and community planning geared towards the identification, prevention, and elimination of blighted properties and their environmental and health risks. Project activities include creation of a comprehensive plan; development of nuisance remediation strategies appropriate for the most common nuisance situations; and collaborative work with municipalities to address code enforcement gaps, foster municipal-community partnerships, strengthen local legal frameworks, leverage private and public resources for continued work, and provide a replicable model for other Puerto Rican communities. Expected outcomes are an increase number of community stakeholders committed to the fight against blight; a decrease in number of environmental and health risks in the community; increased number of new nuisance abatement and code enforcement ordinances enacted by local government; and an increased number of reuse and placemaking projects that converted nuisances for disaster resiliency within a three year period. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of the three target communities of Caguaitas, Aguas Buenas, Río Piedras, San Juan, and San Isidro, Canóvanas that are made up of a mix of low-income rural, urban, and informal neighborhoods.

Recipient: St. Croix Foundation

Title: Terra Ay Ay Environmental Action Group

Location: St. Croix, VI

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the St. Croix Foundation to develop a community driven program that will provide the community with data and information on health and environmental risk and risk mitigation best practices through engaging senior high school and college students as lead investigators and analysts to monitor air quality. Project activities include establishing an Air Quality-Asthma monitoring system; developing an air monitoring program that produces data that is scientifically valid and useful to the community; and establishing a Community Steering Committee of local community advocates and concerned residents. Expected outcomes of this project are the development of new air quality ordinances and policies enacted by local government; decrease in the number of asthma-related hospital visits among community residents; and an increase in community dialogue about environmental impacts and public health. Direct beneficiaries of this project are predominantly low income/high density neighborhoods of primarily brown and black persons who have historically been adversely impacted by the industrial operations adjoining their neighborhoods. Partners will provide coordination for project activities, provide technical assistance, and lead the air-monitoring education and training program.

Region 3

Recipient: Greater Baybrook Alliance, Inc.

Title: Building Neighborhood Stewardship in the Masonville Cove Watershed

Location: Baltimore, MD

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Greater Baybrook Alliance, Inc. to develop a systematic, community-based approach to educate, train, and empower community members to identify pollution, develop solutions, advocate for mitigation, and increase stewardship in the Masonville Cove Watershed. Through capacity building, the project will strengthen the neighborhood's ability to respond to pollution, trash, and dumping by incubating the new Friends of Farring Baybrook Park and Friends of Masonville Cove community groups. Project activities include recruiting and supporting resident leaders throughout the collaborative problem-solving process; providing residents with training including watershed environmental education, pollution identification, monitoring, and mitigation/advocacy tools; providing peer learning opportunities; implement maintenance/clean up with stewardship training and workforce development; and provide ongoing support to develop sustainable organizational practices. The expected outcomes are an increased local organizational capacity, increase in residents' knowledge of water quality issues and solutions, stewardship activities in two sister parks, healthier green spaces for positive community activity, and sustainable local stewardship. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of Brooklyn and Curtis Bay that has some of the highest levels of toxic concentrations that any Americans are exposed to and that includes 45% people of color, 42% low income, and 22% with less than a high school education. Partners will provide place-based environmental education, outreach, and share information with local networks.

Recipient: Energy Coordinating Agency of Philadelphia, Inc

Title: Urban Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technician Training

Location: Philadelphia, PA

The purpose of this environmental justice cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Energy Coordinating Agency of Philadelphia, Inc. to train 30 North Philadelphia residents to become licensed pesticide applicators and provide pest management to the homes of 40 under-served residents in the 19124, 19133, and 19140 zip codes. These services will qualify the homes for energy conservation and repair programs from which they had been excluded because of the pest issue. Project activities include designing the pesticide applicator program; recruiting trainees; evaluating and refining the program; and public outreach. The expected outcomes of this project are the creation of an IPM workforce, pest-free homes, sustainable ongoing training, replication of the program in other areas, and public recognition of IPM in the community. Direct beneficiaries of this program are residents in the 19124, 19133, and 19140 zip codes, which are predominantly African American and Latino.

Recipient: Namati, Inc.

Title: Building Inclusive Power and Opportunity in Communities through Environmental Justice (BIPOC EJ)

Location: Washington, DC

The purpose of this environmental justice cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Namati, Inc. to bolster frontline community capacity in EPA Region 3 to effectively advance environmental justice (EJ) by using two innovative, community-centered approaches: community science and legal empowerment. The project will co-develop and implement an EJ Academy to increase capacity of

community leaders to more effectively address EJ issues in the Mid-Atlantic region and enable and support EJ Academy graduates to conduct “EJ Bootcamps,” which will dive deep to address specific EJ issues identified by residents in their home communities. Project activities include community outreach and engagement through the development of outreach materials regarding the Academy and Bootcamps and recruitment of community leaders; development of the EJ Academy with a focus on four main objectives (building community capacity to perform community-driven research; increasing literacy on local EJ, health, and legal issues; increasing knowledge of risk reduction and pollution prevention strategies; increasing capacity to engage with regulators and government officials); development and implementation of participant Capstone projects; and development of EJ Bootcamps by EJ Academy graduates. Expected outcomes are increase knowledge and awareness of environmental justice issues facing the region, strengthened skills and capacity of Academy and Bootcamp attendees, increased community engagement, improved environmental health for frontline communities, and reduction in air, water, and soil pollution. Direct beneficiaries of this project are disproportionately impacted communities throughout the Delaware/Maryland/Virginia region, including low wealth communities and communities of color across the region that face disproportionate impacts with regards to climate change.

Region 4

Recipient: Tennessee Environmental Council

Title: Extreme Home Cleanup Community Household Waste Events

Location: Statewide, TN

The purpose of this environmental justice cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Tennessee Environmental Council to organize a series of 10 “Extreme Home Cleanup” community household waste events in minority, low-to-moderate income or underserved communities in Tennessee in the next two years, and to create a sustainable model of expanding the number and frequency of such events statewide in the future. At each event, participants will receive a brief educational presentation and materials to show them where materials may be disposed of and recycled locally any time of year. This program serves minority and low-income communities across the state of Tennessee. Specific locations to be determined during the project planning phase. Project activities include recruitment and training of a project coordinator, selection of communities to host “Extreme Home Cleanup” events, outreach to community leaders, development of educational materials and event logistics, implementation of events, and program sustainability and evaluation. Expected outcomes of this project are increased knowledge about how to properly recycle, increase in community recycling, reduced number of distressed properties, communities reporting cleaner, healthier living conditions, and improved air and water quality indicators. Direct beneficiaries of this project are low-to-moderate income or underserved communities in Tennessee including communities notorious for landfill issues such as Camden, Decaturville, Murfreesboro, North Nashville\Bordeaux, and Dickson.

Recipient: Pioneer Bay Community Development Corporation

Title: Safe, Healthy, and Resilient Housing In Post-Hurricane Florida

Location: Gulf County, FL

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Pioneer Bay Community Development Corporation to conduct a needs-based assessment with the Pioneer Bay Centers for Disease Control to address housing infrastructure and other community-identified challenges in the Port St. Joe, Florida community. This area was severely affected by Hurricane Michael in October 2018 where over 1,000 homes were severely damaged resulting in poor indoor air quality from mold and poor drinking water quality after a release of environmental pollutants (e.g., arsenic and lead) from an abandoned paper mill. The residents of North Port St. Joe are primarily Black (89%) and are underserved and under-resourced, as well as severely impacted by the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hurricane Michael left a disproportionate number of Black residents homeless and facing a slower recovery compared to their White counterparts. 20% of the current population of Port St. Joe currently lives below the 2021 federal poverty line. This struggling, and significantly unemployed population continues to face a great environmental burden as they rebuild their community with few redevelopment investments. The Safe, Healthy, and Resilient Housing in Post-Hurricane Florida project will first conduct a needs-based assessment, a rapid health impact assessment, and a housing conditions assessment before establishing health education resources available for public distribution to identify public health threats and develop a community specific intervention plan. The project will also solicit community engagement online and through outreach activities to collect data and inform the public of environmental risks. Intended beneficiaries are the under-resourced populations of the Port St. Joe community who continue to face housing insecurity, mold, and polluted water after Hurricane Michael.

Recipient: Metro Community Ministries

Title: Healthy Communities

Location: Atlanta, GA

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Metro Community Ministries to conduct public education through youth presentations of clean water and pollution abatement strategies targeting community organizations, schools and community groups. Project activities include outreach and recruitment of youth and young adults from among residents in target communities that will participate in a 10-hour training on the Clean Water Act and five hours of Covid19 health and safety training; development of artistic presentations using social media, web presence, comic books, skits/theatrical endeavors; and youth presentations both in person and virtual. Expected outcomes of this project are an increase in youth involvement in clean water and environmental health, increase in youth leaders, increased community knowledge and engagement, increase in organizational involvement in environmental health, decrease in the impact of water contaminants in the community, and safe water shed content for household usage. Direct beneficiaries for this project are residents of the metro Atlanta region which include the communities of Mechanicsville, East Point, College Park, Hapeville, Union City, Morrow and Riverdale.

Recipient: SEED, Inc.

Title: Climate Plus: Going Beyond Weatherization to Healthy Air Quality in Low Income Homes

Location: Knoxville, TN

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to SEED, Inc to improve the energy efficiency and indoor air quality of the older housing stock in Knoxville and build new healthy, energy efficient housing that is affordable. Project activities include (1) convening a Climate Plus stakeholders task force led by SEED and low income residents, and guided by other stakeholders to address the issues of climate change, weatherization, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and health; (2) conduct a demonstration to assess and improve the indoor air quality in 40-50 homes that have already been weatherized for the purpose of learning best methods and what types of low cost improvements to the quality of indoor air can be made by young adults for the purpose of workforce development; and (3) education of low income community members on how climate change will affect indoor air quality and the link between respiratory illness, air quality, and climate change. Expected outcomes of this project are community vision and strategic goal setting to solve indoor environmental and housing injustices, meaningful improvement in indoor air quality, accrual of health and wellbeing benefits to low-income households, increase in access to information that educates the community, and the of addressing of racial, health and wealth disparities through improved housing conditions and climate preparedness measures. Direct beneficiaries are low-income minorities in Knoxville where the largest pockets of both poverty and people of color exist and the housing stock is older. Partners will provide technical assistance, community engagement, training, and educational materials.

Recipient: Live Healthy Little Havana Inc.

Title: Building Climate Resiliency for Little Havana's Affordable Housing Stock

Location: Little Havana, FL

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Live Healthy Little Havana Inc to minimize displacement of existing Little Havana residents by preserving and increasing the sustainability and resilience of affordable housing units to natural disasters and climate change. Project activities include development of neighborhood specific trainings; training of community liaisons on disaster preparedness, climate resiliency, and a connection between energy

efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions; community engagement; and monitoring of businesses and landlords who implement relevant climate resilient strategies. Expected outcomes of this project are an increase in climate resilient affordable housing practices, increase in climate ready businesses and properties, increase in local stakeholder commitment, and a minimization of displacement of Little Havana residents. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of the Little Havana neighborhood, which is primarily composed of multi-family units where approximately 80% of households are renter-occupied and approximately equal amounts are low-income families. Partners will provide in depth training to community liaisons, development of knowledge assessments, development of marketing materials, and lead climate resilient affordable housing conversations.

Region 5

Recipient: Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Title: Building Healthy and Resilient Cleveland Neighborhoods through Vacant Land Reuse

Location: Cleveland, OH

The purpose of this environmental justice cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Western Reserve Land Conservancy to build upon previous investments in vacant land planning to establish an environmental justice framework for vacant land reuse and management in the City of Cleveland, Ohio. There are over 30,000 vacant lots in the city, many of which experience illegal dumping and pose a legitimate health and safety threat to residents. Vacant land reuse that improves air and water quality, reduces illegal dumping of hazardous material, and increases access to greenspace will help create communities that are more resilient to climate change and airborne pandemics such as COVID-19. Project activities include engaging major stakeholders in vacant land management to synthesize existing plans and priorities; building a framework for vacant land reuse that establishes metrics for determining the highest and best use of a vacant lot and clear; development of data-driven policies for implementation; and development of a collaboratively-built, open source database and planning tool to guide vacant land reuse projects and management strategies for the advancement of environmental justice, public health, and quality of life. Expected outcomes of the project are adoption of vacant land management strategies, greater sense of resident ownership, improved aesthetics and safety on vacant land, reduction of illegal dumping, and an increase in air quality. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of underserved communities in Cleveland, OH. Partners will participate in the development of the environmental justice framework and metrics and provide staff for planning and coordination

Recipient: Bad River Band Tribe

Title: Green Job Skills Training and COVID19 prevention through provision of a pedestrian boardwalk and wellness promotion

Location: Bad River Community, WI

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Bad River Band Tribe to coordinate a green jobs training effort to youth in Northwestern Wisconsin to develop job skills in the reduction of air pollution. The green job skills will be used for trainees to subsequently implement green projects in the community to increase wellness. Project activities include developing the green jobs training, implementation of green job projects, and promoting the effects and use of the green projects in the local community. Expected outcomes of this project are development of community capacity and leadership; increase in green job opportunities; increase in number of residents aware of climate resiliency challenges and solutions; and an improvement of overall community health. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents in the Bad River community in Northwestern, WI, particularly youth aged 16-25. Partners will facilitate the green jobs training effort and provide the materials needed for the green build project.

Recipient: Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.

Title: Greening Urban Neighborhoods from the Ground Up: Overcoming Barriers to Tree Planting with Community-based Interventions

Location: Indianapolis, IN

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. to work with Indianapolis residents in a participatory fashion to (1) collect environmental data related to air quality and heat; (2) educate about the benefits of trees, such as capturing storm water; and (3) create associated neighborhood story maps that will lead to a more

productive dialogue and give residents more opportunity to be heard when it comes to green infrastructure projects in their neighborhoods. Project activities include planning Community Competency Trainings; hosting and facilitating the trainings; conducting post-training assessments; developing an advisory committee comprised of residents; hosting townhalls with residents to discuss Focus Area environmental justice issues; conducting engagement and outreach in the community; developing a participatory story map; and deploying air quality and heat sensors and data collection. Expected outcomes of this project are increased awareness of social and natural capital; greater acceptance of trees in the City; increased positive human-nature interactions; and increased input from neighbors about environmental issues impacting quality of life in their communities. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of underserved. Partners will provide educational materials, conduct pre-and post-assessments, develop story maps, deploy and collect data from Purple 7Air and temperature sensors, and map project data and outcomes.

Recipient: Hourcar

Title: Building Community Transportation Resilience in the Aftermath of COVID-19

Location: St. Paul, MN

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Hourcar to launch Evie carshare, a new all-electric carsharing program featuring 150 shared electric vehicles supported by 70 curbside charging stations, with a focus on service to low-income and BIPOC communities. This project seeks to build the capacity of low-income and BIPOC communities to respond to post-COVID-19-pandemic transportation changes, recognizing that access to work, education, family and community through clean and accessible transportation is a central determinant of individual and community success. Project activities include development and deployment of the Evie carshare program to fill existing and emerging gaps in the transportation network; building the capacity of partners to advocate for clean and accessible transportation in their communities; and collaborating with partners to engage intersecting environmental justice issues, such as transit-oriented development, livable communities, bicycle/pedestrian safety, and food justice. Expected outcomes of this project are an increase in Evie carshare awareness and responsiveness; an increase in BIPOC participation in Evie carshare; significant and demonstrable annual reductions in emissions of GHG, particulates, and NOx; and significantly increased access to destinations and transit use in the region. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of the Greater Powderhorn area of Minneapolis and the Payne-Phalen neighborhood of Saint Paul. Partners will build community awareness, participate in discussions of EJ issues, and share solutions.

Recipient: Little Village EJ Organization

Title: Growing the Field

Location: Chicago, IL

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Little Village EJ Organization (LVEJO) to implement the “Growing the Field” Project, a collaborative learning process between two grassroots environmental justice organizations - LVEJO in Chicago, IL, and CleanAirNow in Kansas City, Kansas – by addressing the disproportionate ecological and public health harms of poor air quality in low-income, people of color neighborhoods in Kansas City and Chicago. Project activities include air monitoring, collaborative leadership learning, partnerships, and community capacity building among the low-income Latino families and children that populate both neighborhoods. Expected outcomes are expanded learning and outreach to residents, empowering youth leaders, strong collaboration and partnerships; and more elected officials aware of environmental justice issues. Direct beneficiaries are the communities of Little Village in Chicago and Armourdale in Kansas. Partners will share resources and best practices, share technical skills, help interpret data, conduct mobile air monitoring, and train youth and community promoters.

Region 6

Recipient: Tree New Mexico

Project Title: Tree Planting Partnership Increases Tree Canopy and Decreases Heat Island Index in the International District of Albuquerque, NM

Location: La Mesa, NM

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Tree New Mexico to address the high Urban Heat Island Index in the International District, a large, underserved area of the southeast quadrant of Albuquerque, NM, by planting trees. Project activities include develop a citizen science Heat Island Index Mapping and Monitoring Program; preparing for “street tree” planting and “special site” planting; planting trees; conducting pruning workshops and providing tree care education. Expected outcomes of this project are an increase in residents watering their trees; an increase in survivability of trees planted and monitored with this program; increase in citizen tree stewards committed to caring for newly planted trees and older trees; and a decrease in the Heat island Effect in ID as it relates to air quality and climate change. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of the International District neighborhood of Albuquerque, which is predominantly low-income people of color. Partners will check all utility lines and dig holes for the trees that will be planted in the community.

Recipient: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

Project Title: Collaborating On REstoration (CORE): Youth and Community-Driven Environmental Stewardship in New Orleans East (LA)

Location: New Orleans, LA

The purpose of this environmental justice cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation to train students and teachers in New Orleans East to design, implement, and monitor small-scale restoration projects which will manage stormwater and improve water quality in their underserved communities. Project activities include training and restoration; education and outreach; monitoring; and green infrastructure (GI) mini projects. Restoration and monitoring kits, plants, and greenhouses will be provided and reside on school property. Expected outcomes of this project are an increased knowledge of the benefits of restoration/GI; increased participation in stewardship projects; increased access to restored areas/related data; and increased biodiversity, water retention, and water quality at restored sites. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of New Orleans East, particularly 10th graders as mentors, students from lower grades in GI mini-projects, teachers as trainers, and community members in forums. Partners will provide training, resources, community outreach materials, and facilitation of community forums.

Recipient: Black United Fund of Texas

Title: The Houston Agri-Power program will address improving environmental quality and health disparities in Texas' largest underserved population in Kashmere Gardens & Greater Fifth Ward Houston.

Location: Houston, TX

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Black United Fund of Texas to develop projects that demonstrate the power and potential of using agriculture to address environmental and public health issues (e.g. poor health related to food insecurity and economic factors; poor air quality; climate change and extreme weather; wide-spread flooding; human exposure to industrial contaminants; and other compounding environmental justice issues). Project activities include a shipping container farm, residential gardens, green technology, tree and native habitat planting, workforce development, and public education. Expected outcomes of this project are long-term improvements in public health trends; alleviation of local flooding; reduction in CO₂ emissions from landfills; and the creation of a culture of healthy eating. Direct beneficiaries are residents of Harris County, Houston, particularly the 5th Ward and Kashmere Gardens. Partners will provide training, technical assistance, subject matter expertise, and coordination support.

Region 7

Recipient: Bike Walk KC

Title: Getting Around KC: An evaluation of KC's Zero-Fare Bus Transit

Location: Kansas City, MO

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to BikeWalkKC to conduct an evaluation of the impacts of a Zero-fare Bus Transit (ZBT) policy based on bus use, physical activity, and social determinants of health for residents of Kansas City's 11 most impoverished neighborhoods. These neighborhoods were previously identified by the Kansas City Health Department as high priority zip codes due to decreased life expectancy of individuals living in these areas by 15 years, and due to higher incidences of asthma, obesity heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. The 125,491 residents of these neighborhoods are mostly Black (47%), Hispanic (17%), and White non-Hispanic (38%) and up to 59% of residents of these neighborhoods live below the federal poverty line. Up to 50% of residents also reported lacking access and ability for leisure-time physical activity. To address health disparities and limit COVID-19 risks among these residents, the Getting Around Kansas City project will firstly collect data regarding Kansas City bus use, evaluate the impact of a ZBT policy on rates of physical activity using activity-tracking belts worn by project participants, identify further barriers to transportation access, and then determine the value of a ZBT policy for low-income residents based on how it increases physical activity, lowers COVID-19 risks, and improves healthcare access. This project will also collect survey data from focus groups in these neighborhoods and lead discussions with residents on activity, neighborhood walkability, and public transit access. By increasing access to a no-cost bus system, the Getting Around Kansas City project can increase access to walkable neighborhoods and to healthcare facilities, as well as increase physical activity rates in the residents to lower overall health risks. The intended beneficiaries of this project include the low-income and underserved residents of 11 high priority zip codes in Kansas City.

Recipient: Mid-America Regional Council CSC

Title: Resilient People, Resilient Places—Creating a community-based model for climate resilience in metro Kansas City

Location: Kansas City, MO

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Mid-America Regional Council CSC to coordinate community-based climate resilience efforts across the Kansas City metropolitan area through strategic investment in community organizations and public education around the recently adopted regional Climate Action Plan (CAP). Project activities include providing community leaders with funding and technical assistance to advance neighborhood level climate resilience, with an emphasis on green infrastructure; community partners supporting the development of a climate resilience and vulnerability assessment, and deploying the framework to understand the risks, gaps, and opportunities to advance resilience goals within their service areas; and community leaders engaging in shared learning opportunities to create efficiencies in neighborhood scale climate resilience projects and identify best practices for community-based resilience in the Kansas City region. Expected outcomes of this project are increased climate awareness across the KC metro; building of capacity, tools, and models for community-based resilience efforts; and supporting projects that increase climate resilience amongst the most vulnerable, all while connecting community-based efforts to regional policy, planning, and local climate leadership. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of Kansas City, particularly Ivanhoe, Westside, and Dunbar neighborhoods in Kansas City, Missouri and Northeast neighborhoods of Kansas City, Kansas. Partners will support capacity building with staff time for project development and implementation, training, outreach to other neighborhood groups, and technical assistance delivery.

Region 8

Recipient: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Project Title: Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning on the Flathead Indian Reservation

Location: Flathead, MT

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) to enhance the capacity of CSKT's Division of Environmental Protection and other local emergency response entities to respond efficiently and effectively in the face of environmental emergencies. This will help protect water quality and air quality, which supports vulnerable populations on the Flathead Indian Reservation as well as a suite of sensitive plant and animal species. Project activities include partnership development; protocol development; emergency response training; staff development and capacity building; and equipment upgrades. Expected outcomes of the project are a bolstered ability to utilize collective resources in the future and address other pressing environmental justice issues project partners face together; a safer, better coordinated and more effective response to future environmental emergencies; and continued protections for the water quality and air quality that sustains all life on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Direct beneficiaries are residents of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Recipient: Utah Clean Energy

Title: Advancing Climate Resiliency & Equity through Electrification

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Utah Clean Energy to build resiliency and addresses indoor/outdoor air pollution challenges that have historically burdened Salt Lake City's Westside communities. The project activities include engaging Salt Lake City's Westside communities in a collaborative process to: 1) build a shared understanding of beneficial electrification; 2) develop a community vision of what aspects of electrification are most important; 3) identify the unique opportunities and barriers that the communities will face; 4) bring stakeholders (such as the electric utility, Salt Lake City, and service providers) into listening sessions so they develop an understanding of community needs and goals; and 5) co-develop strategies between the communities, government, utility, and service providers to ensure that community needs and priorities are successfully integrated into planning. Expected outcomes of this project are increased climate resiliency in Westside communities; long-term reductions in indoor/outdoor air quality pollutants (PM2.5, CO, NO2); improved health of community members and improved comfort of homes for those who participate; and increased community capacity to access resources and participate in future utility and local government electrification programs. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of Westside communities in Salt Lake City, UT, who are predominantly people of color, low income, and linguistically isolated facing increased levels of exposure to air pollution. Partners will provide technical insight and serve as community convenors hosting events, workshops, and listening sessions.

Recipient: Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah

Title: A Particular Problem: Combatting East-West Disparities in Air Pollution Exposure through Civic Engagement (CAPECE)

Location: Salt Lake County, UT

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah to scale an existing air quality mapping project to include an environmental justice component by developing a first-of-its-kind air pollution mapping system using monitors placed on electric buses. This component will add monitors on an electric bus in an underserved community identified as UTA Route 509. The electric bus will be affixed with an air quality monitor system. This same system will also be installed on the UTA Route 2bus, which will serve as the control route and comparison data set. Project activities include a planning phase; data collection planning to ensure that the project's data collection, analysis, and visualization capabilities are in place for the successful implementation; data collection phase; and an outreach campaign phase directly to residents of the target population. Expected outcomes of this project are an increase in public awareness about the project; results demonstrating that vulnerable communities are more impacted by air pollution than others; increase of civic engagement of target population; and a decrease in the number of air quality related hospital visits within target community. Direct beneficiaries of this project are residents of Westside communities in Salt Lake City, UT, particularly UTA Route 509, which serves the Glendale neighborhood of Salt Lake City, zip code 84104, and the northern portion of West Valley City, zip code 84120, who are predominantly people of color, low income, and linguistically isolated facing increased levels of exposure to air pollution. Partners will provide expertise in technical aspects, research and collecting and analyzing the data for public presentation, visualization, and education.

Region 9

Recipient: Sustainable Solano Inc.

Project Title: Vallejo Food Rescue Project

Location: Vallejo, CA

The purpose of this Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Sustainable Solano Inc. to connect invested community members, organizations, and stakeholders in Vallejo, California to coordinate a robust, hyper-local food rescue operation. Input from diverse community members will help customize a mobile app called “FreeBites” so food donors (grocery/restaurant/gleaners) are connected with recipients (agencies/individuals) in their communities. Project activities include customizing the “FreeBites” app; developing the Vallejo Food Rescue Toolkit (an implementation roadmap for other jurisdictions); providing outreach/education to food donors; and providing outreach/education to community-based organizations/individuals that receive/distribute food. Expected outcomes include increased communication and collaboration among partners/stakeholders; increased food security, resiliency, and better health in EJ communities impacted by COVID-19; reduction of landfilled food waste that contributes to climate change; and resources and readiness to expand the program to other jurisdictions in Solano County. Direct beneficiaries are residents of the zip codes: 94589, 94590, 94591, and 94592 in Vallejo, California. Partners will provide technical expertise in expanding food movement logistics to include prepared food and coordinating the gleaning portion of the project.

Recipient: Kaunalewa

Title: Environmental Renewal Kekaha

Location: Kaunalewa, HI

The purpose of this Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Kaunalewa to improve the health and well-being of the Kekaha Town community through environmental/public health education and collecting data useful in minimizing exposure to legacy pesticides and/or asbestos. As a small, isolated island community, Kekaha residents have limited access to healthy foods, especially fresh produce, leading to an increased incidence of obesity and diabetes. Project activities include educating the community around gardening to expand access to fresh produce; supporting local small-scale agricultural programs that incorporate youth development; conducting research and sampling to educate the community regarding legacy pesticide and asbestos health impacts, and gathering data informing the degree of exposure occurring within the target community. Expected outcomes include a reduction in rates of disease associated with pesticide and asbestos exposure; a reduction in rates of diabetes through healthy eating education; full-scale implementation of a youth-supported farming program; and a 20% increase in availability and a 20% reduction in cost for fresh produce. Direct beneficiaries are residents of Kekaha, Hawaii, and surrounding agricultural lands. Partners will provide expertise in workshop planning and implementation.

Recipient: Vista Community Clinic

Title: Planning for the road ahead: Innovating in emergency preparedness planning for farmworker communities

Location: North San Diego County, CA

The purpose of this ARP funded cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Vista Community Clinic (VCC) to update and modernize an existing farmworker-specific emergency response plan and to design and deliver a curriculum to train farmworkers on emergency preparedness, as well as wildfire

and COVID-19 risk mitigation. Farmworkers in San Diego County, California are often exploited for cheap labor, and many face significant insecurity due to their lack of legal immigration status. The targeted underserved population of farmworkers is predominantly Latinx (82.1%), uninsured (35.9%), and living 200% below the federal poverty line (96.6%). This population also faces significant housing insecurity, limited access to clean water, insufficient nutritional access, exposure to pesticides, and increased elemental exposure including heat, sun, cold, rain, as well as persistence of health conditions such as respiratory issues, diabetes, and hypertension. The Planning for the Road Ahead program aims to first conduct a needs-based assessment for the farmworker population in order to design health education tools used to train Promotoras (CHWs) for the dissemination of a farmworker-specific emergency response plan that also addresses wildfire risks, healthcare access, farmworker-specific health disparities, and COVID-19. Trainings will be conducted locally as well as nationally using online workshops. The effectiveness of training and education materials will be evaluated based on documentation of completion of curricula, how many communities use the workshop to develop their own EPP, and survey data collected from workshop participants on their satisfaction after training. The intended beneficiaries of the Planning for the Road Ahead project are Southern California farmworkers, farmworkers around the U.S., and Promotoras that oversee the health and safety of the workers.

Recipient: Yurok Tribe

Title: Climate Resiliency in Yurok and Karuk Ancestral Territories – Creating a Data Collection Plan for Prescribed and Cultural Burns

Location: Klamath, CA

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Yurok Tribe to create a scalable and adaptable data collection plan to evaluate the environmental impacts of conducting prescribed and cultural burns. The data collection plan is a critical part of climate resiliency planning by providing scientific evidence of the impacts of prescribed and cultural burns as a method to reduce fuel for catastrophic wildfires and support and strengthen cultural resources and traditional food systems, such as tanoak groves. Project activities include conducting quarterly project meetings; creating working groups where experts in specific fields can gather to discuss the data collection plans and protocols for their emphasis; and developing a data collection plan with partner feedback. Expected outcomes include the collection of a large dataset to compare the effectiveness of prescribed and cultural burns as a catastrophic wildfire prevention in various ecosystems and microclimate; increased partnership and collaboration on prescribed and cultural burns in the region; and increased climate resiliency in Yurok and Karuk ancestral territories. Direct beneficiaries are members of the Yurok, Karuk, and Hoopa Tribes. Partners will provide expertise as necessary and appropriate and review and provide input on relevant protocols.

Recipient: Green Chips

Title: Buen Aire Para Todos

Location: Las Vegas, NV

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Green Chips to create a novel air quality monitoring system of stationary and mobile outdoor sensors and indoor sensors associated with an air filter intervention program; build a new citizen science program with the Latinx community; and provide continued engagement and education around health impacts of air quality and the interaction with extreme heat events for East Las Vegas. With an older housing stock, low access to personal vehicles, most residents working in service jobs, and proximity to the intersection of two major

highways, residents of East Las Vegas are disproportionately impacted by poor air quality caused by pollution. Project activities include air monitoring and screening of indoor and outdoor air in targeted locations of East Las Vegas; and developing community awareness, education, and outreach campaign to educate residents about clean air and extreme heat issues in the community. Expected outcomes include the development of new community-driven solutions to address the impact of air quality and extreme heat on residents and businesses in East Las Vegas; and increasing the number of community groups working to improve air quality and the impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable populations in the region. Direct beneficiaries are residents of East Las Vegas, Nevada. Partners will provide expertise in technical aspects; community outreach, QA plan, data collection plans and management, data analysis and visualization, and coordinating citizen science efforts.

Region 10

Recipient: Front and Centered

Title: Advancing environmental justice in highly impacted communities through accessible environmental reporting and improved government transparency in response & action

Location: Statewide, WA

The purpose of this Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) cooperative agreement is to provide funding to Front and Centered to create an accessible, community-based, and community-driven environmental monitoring, reporting, and enforcement system in three of the most environmentally compromised regions in Washington state: the Duwamish River Valley, Skagit County, and Yakima County. These communities often face several systemic problems that prevent reporting and response to environmental health and safety concerns that include fractionalized reporting processes across multiple agencies and systems; inaccessibility of reporting tools, especially for immigrant and refugee community members; and gaps in data collection. Project activities include conducting community outreach, education, and engagement in target communities; convening community partners, cross-jurisdictional agency representatives, and other stakeholders; developing and implementing an environmental monitoring tool, modeled after the successful Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods (IVAN) system; and creating and implementing a Community/Government Work Group to respond to reports of violations. Expected outcomes include improved tools and processes for environmental monitoring and reporting, increased knowledge and access to environmental monitoring and reporting mechanisms in high-impact communities, and increased accountability and transparency in high-impact communities. Direct beneficiaries are residents of the King, Yakima, and Skagit counties of Washington State. Partners will provide technical expertise in coordinating listening sessions, creating educational materials in English/Spanish, developing a culturally appropriate outreach strategy, and creating synergistic opportunities with existing project activities.

Recipient: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Title: PM2.5 Monitoring for Upper Columbia River Communities

Location: Northern Region, WA

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to install a network of 52 consumer-grade PurpleAir particulate matter (PM)2.5 monitors to provide real-time data during the smoke season, with the application of correction equations to provide data regarding the frequency, intensity, and location of high-PM2.5 events due to dust storms or industrial emissions. Within the Upper Columbia River/Lake Roosevelt valley in Washington between the US-Canada border and the confluence with the Spokane River, few air monitoring stations are in locations that can provide data to help residents assess their acute and chronic risks. Project activities for this project include disseminating relevant data interpretations and providing education to allow regional residents to make informed choices about their activities during times of high air pollution. Expected outcomes include strengthening partnerships between Tribal members and other local residents to address shared high-priority environmental concerns and enhancing Tribal governments' ability to prioritize policies about air quality improvement. Direct

beneficiaries are residents of North-central eastern Washington. Partners will provide technical assistance in the administration of the project.

Recipient: Tulalip Tribes of Washington

Title: E-Learning Video Series for Enhanced Healthy Homes Education

Location: Tulalip, WA

The purpose of this American Rescue Plan (ARP) funded Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) cooperative agreement is to provide funding to the Tulalip Tribes of Washington to engage and empower tribal communities through an innovative, E-Learning approach to risk communication that helps tribal families identify, reduce, and prevent indoor air hazards. Indigenous communities, like most all communities of color in the United States, are subject to chronic, cumulative, and disproportionate environmental exposures from multiple environmental media. Project activities funded by this grant include design, production, piloting, and evaluation of a set of 12 videos, each 2–4 minutes in length, that graphically depict indoor air hazards. Expected outcomes of the project include feedback and insights from tribal communities that help ensure the outreach tool (videos) are culturally tailored, and an enhanced method of healthy homes outreach that accelerates learning, enabling residents to recognize and avoid indoor air hazards. Direct beneficiaries are the Tulalip Tribes, the Loudon Tribal Council, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Partners will provide logistical support in the planning and hosting of focus groups at pilot sites.