



EJ Thriving  
Communities  
Technical Assistance  
Centers Program  
(EJ TCTAC)

Overview Webinar

EPA-I-OP-OEJ-22-02  
Office of Environmental Justice  
August 16, 2022

# Webinar Agenda

- A. Zoom Housekeeping
- B. Quick Introductions of EPA / DOE Staff and Interpreters
- C. Funding & Award Information (Section II)
- D. Eligibility (Section III)
- E. Funding Opportunity Description (Section I)
- F. Contents of a Full Application Package (Section IV)
- G. Evaluation Criteria (Section V)
- H. General Q & A

# Zoom Housekeeping

- A. Remember to keep your line muted if you're not asking a question
- B. Interpreter Channels for Spanish Speakers
- C. To ask Questions, please:
  - Raise your Hand using the Zoom Controls, then unmute when called on
  - Those with raised hands will be called on first before we go to the Chat
  - Option to type your question into the Chat
- D. Quick Introductions of EPA staff, DOE Staff, and Interpreters

# An EJ Vision Nearing Actualization

- I. Environmental Justice leaders have championed the “hub and spoke” structure for addressing Technical Assistance (TA) needs of underserved communities
- II. EPA and DOE are excited to partner on this RFA and take this next step
- III. Collaborative Partners**
  - a. We (EPA and DOE) are looking to you all (interested applicants) as much as you are looking to us
- IV. Guiding Principle**
  - a. Have we done everything we can to make accessing these services as easy as possible for those most in need?

# Purpose of EJ TCTAC Program

- I. EPA and DOE are seeking applications to establish Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC) throughout the nation
- II. EJ TCTACs will provide technical assistance (TA), training, and support to “program participants” (strong emphasis on underserved, rural, and remote communities)

## **III. Program Participant Perspective**

- a. Each EJ TCTAC is a “one-stop shop” for environmental and energy-related TA needs

## **IV. Applicants and Partners Perspective**

- a. EJ TCTACs use “hub & spoke” structure where delivery of TA is coordinated by multiple organizations

# Funding & Award Information (Section II)

## I. Total Funding

- a. Up to approximately \$50 million available for the EJ TCTACs nationwide

## II. Number of Awards

- a. 5 to 10 awards nationwide

## III. Total Funds per Award

- a. Approximately \$6 million per award
- b. Project Period of 3 years
- c. \$2 million per year funded incrementally
- d. Cooperative Agreements – substantial EPA/DOE involvement & oversight

# Eligibility (Section III)

## I. Who is eligible to apply to be an EJ TCTAC?

- a. Public and private universities and colleges
- b. Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations (includes institutions of higher education such as community colleges, and philanthropic organizations)
- c. Intertribal Consortia - a coalition between two or more Indian tribal governments authorized by the governing bodies of those tribes to apply for and receive assistance and participate in self-governance

## II. Who is ineligible to apply?

- a. States and local governments; individual tribes; US Territories; hospitals; for profits; international organizations; individuals

# Section I (Who is eligible to Receive TA)

## I. EJ TCTACs will provide TA, training, and support to “program participants” including:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Community-based and grassroots organizations
- Philanthropic and civic organizations
- Underserved communities and organizations
- Rural and Remote communities and organizations
- Faith-based organizations and churches
- Educational institutions (e.g., schools, colleges, and universities), including Minority Serving Institutions
- Individuals of underserved communities
- Disadvantaged Businesses
- Local, tribal, and state governmental units
- US Territories
- Utility providers
- Health care providers and clinics



# Questions on...

- Funding Totals and Award Information (**Section II**)
- Eligibility – Who can apply to be an EJ TCTAC (**Section III**)
- Who can receive TA and support from the EJ TCTACs

# Section I (Eligible Services)

Eligible Services provided to program participants by each EJ TCTAC should include:

## **I. Outreach Efforts**

- a. Outreach to widest possible audience esp. underserved, rural, remote communities and to those with the highest degree of burden and limited capacity

## **II. Grant Technical Assistance, Training, Support, and Engagement**

- a. Assistance and review of competitive grant proposals (w/some limitations), managing grant funds, identifying grant opportunities, navigating federal systems, engaging with grant-makers (public and private), and more

## **III. Community Collaboration, Facilitation, and Engagement Services**

## **IV. EJ TCTAC Results, Success Stories, and Feedback**

## **V. Energy Justice Activities**

- a. Identifying / analyzing community opportunities for clean energy transition and financing options, including public-private partnerships supporting clean energy demonstration, deployment, workforce development and outreach opportunities that advance energy justice objectives

# Section I (Geographic Coverage)

**Applicants must apply to serve at least one of regional geographic areas listed below:**

- 1) Regional Geographic Area #1 includes *EPA Region 1* (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
- 2) Regional Geographic Area #2 includes *EPA Region 2* (NJ, NY, PR, VI)
- 3) Regional Geographic Area #3 includes *EPA Region 3* (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)
- 4) Regional Geographic Area #4 includes *EPA Region 4* (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)
- 5) Regional Geographic Area #5 includes *EPA Region 5* (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
- 6) Regional Geographic Area #6 includes *EPA Region 6* (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)
- 7) Regional Geographic Area #7 includes *EPA Region 7* (IA, KS, NE, MO)
- 8) Regional Geographic Area #8 includes *EPA Region 8* (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)
- 9) Regional Geographic Area #9 includes *EPA Region 9* (AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU)
- 10) Regional Geographic Area #10 includes *EPA Region 10* (AK, ID, OR, WA)
- 11) Nationwide Geographic Area

# Resources to Operate an EJ TCTAC (Section I)

- I. Applicants (either on their own or through partners) should be able to provide the full spectrum of Eligible Services throughout a regional geographic area **(Hub & Spoke)**
- II. Applicants should describe the following capacities in their application(s):
  - Staff and expertise,
  - infrastructure,
  - technical competency,
  - Facilities and website presence
- III. Applicants should take steps to maximize accessibility for remote participants
- IV. Applicants should take steps so services can be provided soon after award

# Ineligible Activities (Section I)

- General business training, planning or marketing support for program participants
- EJ TCTACs acting as the program participant's representative
- Vocational training for program participant personnel unrelated to the program purpose
- Assistance in establishing a new organization, business, entity
- Legal advice, services, or representation
- Writing or submitting grant applications on behalf of program participants
- While EPA funds may be used to provide assistance on preparing and submitting grant applications for program participants for any environmental and/or energy-related funding opportunity...DOE funds may **not** be used for any assistance to program participants in connection with preparing, reviewing, negotiating, or submitting any application or workplan for DOE funding, or to provide support regarding the administrative policies and requirements, cost principles, or audit requirements for individual DOE awards.

# Statutory Authority (Section I)

- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) provided EPA funding for environmental justice implementation and training grants.
- EPA has authority to award cooperative agreements for TA for environmental and/or energy justice activities under:
  - Section 103 of the Clean Air Act,
  - Section 104 of the Clean Water Act, and
  - Section 8001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act
- DOE has authority to enter into cooperative agreements under:
  - Section 646 of the DOE Organization Act of 1977
  - Energy Reorganization Act of 1974
  - Energy Policy Act of 2005
  - Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022

# Questions on...

- Eligible Services (Section I)
  - **i.e., What EJ TCTACs are expected to do and provide**
- Geographic Coverage (Section I)
- Ineligible Activities (Section I)
- Statutory Authority (Section I)

# Contents of an Application Package (Section IV)

## **Mandatory Forms and Documents:**

- 1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- 2) Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- 3) EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- 4) EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
- 5) Project Narrative Attachment Form for the Workplan (20-page limit)

## **Use Other Attachments Form for the following additional mandatory documents:**

- Itemized Budget Sheet (optional template in the Appendices)
- Partnership Letters of Commitment
- Resumes of the Project Manager (PM) and other key personnel



# Contents of an Application Package (cont.)

## Optional Documents

Use the Other Attachments Form for the following optional document:

- **Information on Endowment Size and/or Yearly Organizational Budget**

Note: The “Other Attachments Form” is listed under the mandatory documents but should be used to attach both the mandatory documents listed above in 6 as well as any optional documents under 6

# Evaluation Criteria (Section V)

- **Each application passing Threshold Eligibility will be reviewed and scored by a panel of EPA and DOE staff**
- **100 points maximum**
- **5 overarching Evaluation Criterion**
  - Program Objectives
  - Project Activities / Milestone Schedule / Detailed Budget Narrative
  - Environmental and Energy Justice Results
  - Programmatic Capability
  - Past Performance

# Evaluation Criteria (Section V) cont.

- **1.0 Program Objectives (62 points)**
  - Program Design & Operation of the EJ TCTAC (28 points)
  - Outreach to Underserved, Rural, Remote, and Capacity Constrained Communities (8 points)
  - Partnerships / Collaboration / Letters of Commitment (14 points)
  - Community Collaboration, Facilitation, and History of Community Engagement (10 points)
  - Project Linkages / EPA Strategic Plan (2 points)

# Evaluation Criteria (Section V) cont.

- **2.0 Project Activities / Milestone Schedule / Budget (12 points)**
  - Schedule of Activities (4 points)
  - Budget and Cost Effectiveness of Budget/Project (8 points)
    - Attach itemized budget sheet and budget narrative using the Other Attachments form

NOTE – Budgets will be evaluated for reasonableness, allowability, and cost effectiveness

# Evaluation Criteria (Section V) cont.

- **3.0 Environmental and Energy Justice Results – Outputs, Outcomes & Performance Measurement Plan (8 points)**
  - Performance Measurement Plan (3 points)
  - Description of Outputs and Outcomes & their effectiveness towards achieving goals of the EJ TCTAC program

# Evaluation Criteria (Section V) cont.

- **4.0 Programmatic Capability (12 points)**
  - Organizational Experience (4 points)
  - Staff Experience and Qualifications (5 points)
    - It is not sufficient to only submit resumes and get full points here...
    - You should expound here in your narrative and use the resumes to support what you describe
  - Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds (3 points)

# Evaluation Criteria (Section V) cont.

- **5.0 Past Performance (6 points)**
  - List of Past federal and/or non-federal grants (3 points)
    - Grants within last 3 years only
    - List no more than 5 agreements
    - Ideally list grants similar in size and scope to the EJ TCTAC awards
    - DO NOT list contracts
  - Reporting History (3 points)
    - Description of your history meeting reporting requirements

# Evaluation Criteria (Section V) cont.

**Other Factors** - In addition to the final scores and ranks, the selection official may use the factors listed below to make final selection determinations amongst high-ranking applications:

- Geographic Diversity
- EPA and DOE Programmatic Priorities.
- Organizational Diversity
  - Applicant type and size (e.g., endowment size; size of organizational budget)
- Availability of funds

*NOTE – EPA & DOE may also coordinate with other federal agencies on selections to minimize duplicate funding and activities*



# Timeline

- August 5<sup>th</sup> – RFA opens
- **October 4<sup>th</sup> – RFA closes**
- October thru December – Threshold and Scoring Reviews
- December thru January '23 – Selectees will be contacted
- January thru February '23 – National announcement for all EJ TCTAC awards
- February thru March '23 – Post-award conference with all EJ TCTACs

# Contact Information & Resources

- Jacob Burney (EJ Grants Program Manager)
  - [Burney.jacob@epa.gov](mailto:Burney.jacob@epa.gov)
  - 202-564-2907
  
- EJ TCTAC website:
  - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers>

Feel free to raise virtual hand, unmute, and ask questions related to all components of the EJ TCTAC program and the RFA...

## General Question & Answer

