

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights**

**Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Program  
Request for Information (RFI) Webinar**

March 10, 2023

**Summary of Questions and Answers**

Thank you for your interest in the Request for Information (RFI) for EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Program! The key audience for this webinar was community-based organizations, environmental justice organizations, and environmental justice community advocates and leaders. The purpose of the webinar was to highlight the RFI and show people how to comment on the RFI through the docket.

For more information on the ECJ Program, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program>.

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer
1	Will an entity who received funding under one of the current RFAs be eligible to receive funding for this future RFA? In certain areas there is limited # of community organizations that serve that area.	Maria	in a general sense ,yes. the eligibility is not identical but many entities that can apply for the current ones will be able to compete for this future one.
2	So no-cost-time-extensions will not be available?	"Lee Ilan, New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation	the awards can only be three years. so if you are asking whether there can be a no cost to take a grant beyond 3 years the answer is no. the language in the law doesnt allow that.
3	Tribes are not elligible to apply alone?	Jessica Roff (she/her)	No. They must partner with a CBO per the law.

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4	Just to make sure I understand, the TCTAC or the other project development grant entities when funded can be a resource for those who wish to apply for this future Env & Climate Justice opportunity?	Maria	The TCTAC grantees will be able to be a resource. I'll try to talk about it in a second
5	Can quasi-governmental agencies like local transit authorities or public utilities be a partner with the community org?	Jessica Lotz   Innovate Memphis	Local government means any unit of government within a state, including a: (1) County; (2) Borough; (3) Municipality; (4) City; (5) Town; (6) Township; (7) Parish; (8) Local public authority, including any public housing agency under the United States Housing Act of 1937; (9) Special district; (10) School district; (11) Intrastate district; (12) Council of governments, whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law; and (13) Any other agency or instrumentality of a multi-, regional, or intra-State or local government.
6	A small town community is largely on septic systems that are failing, and impacted by increased flooding. Are they able to seek a grant for assistance to connect to an adjacent town with a sewage treatment plant?	ChrisKane	Chris, I can't definitely answer that question. It may be an eligible activity but it has to fit within the 5 eligible activities Alex mentioned above.
7	Can you speak more about the last slide's bullet point about facilitating/enhancing EJ engagement and eligibility to fulfill that role?	Jessica Roff (she/her)	<i>live answered</i>

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7	Can you speak more about the last slide's bullet point about facilitating/enhancing EJ engagement and eligibility to fulfill that role?	Jessica Roff (she/her)	In the IRA, it states "facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshop, rulemakings, and other public processes." As Bruce mentioned, we are working to better define other public processes.
8	Will the community based organizations that is a requirement, is EPA looking that the community based organization mission be environmentally focused. I believe in certain areas (rural/ limited English population) there are more community organizations that really focus more on health or some other non-environmental mission. so I can see certain communities miss out because there isn't a community organization to partner with	Maria	There is a working definition of CBO in the RFAs currently on the street. We are also seeking input on the term to inform future efforts.
9	Many time organizations that apply for grant that partner with community organizations receive the majority of the funding and expects community group to do volunteer work and receive very little funding which goes to organization that applied. How to address fair and or equal funding to community organizations	Alice Wright	<i>live answered</i>
10	Remind us where we can look at these slides afterward please	"Lee Ilan, New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediat "	The webinar recording and slides will be available at our Environmental & Climate Justice (ECJ) Program webpage: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program">https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program</a>

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11	There will need to be a lot of safeguards here to prevent gatekeeping. there needs to be clear accountabiity to the disadvantaged community.	Jessica Roff (she/her)	We expect that applications will have to address how all projects benefit disadvantaged communities and the extent they do that and grantees will need to report on that.
12	'+++ to that comment about fair and equitable dispersal of funding	Jessica Roff (she/her)	Yes! And, please do provide your ideas, insights, and recommendations through the Request for Information (RFI) here: <a href="https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2023-0023/document">https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2023-0023/document</a>
13	Community based organizations may not have staffing for applying	Alice Wright	They can partner with other CBOs or with tribes, local governments or academic institutions if necessary.
14	When convenient, can you clarify what you meant about the appropriations slide? Did you mean that all money awarded must be spent by 2026?	Mindy Hill (she/her)-CEJ	<i>live answered</i>
15	Thank you for the clarification.	Mindy Hill (she/her)-CEJ	
16	I can't respond in thread to your answer to my comment Bruce, but what you said about addressing benefits and reporting are not sufficient to ensure accountability. NBig greens do workt they say will benefit front line communities regularly without first establishing and open and transparent and accountable relationship. Without those requirements this can be setting up a framework for colonial, extractive practices.	Jessica Roff (she/her)	Jessica any suggestions you have to address this concern would be welcome. I think you raise valid concerns that we want to be able to address.

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17	can these slides be shared or posted....thank you!	mitchell berger	The webinar recording will be available at our Environmental & Climate Justice (ECJ) Program webpage: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program">https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-environmental-and-climate-justice-program</a>
18	that should be available at all stages. also video applications	Jessica Roff (she/her)	<i>live answered</i>
19	People can take video on phones and applications of any kind shouldn't be evaluated by "prettiness"	Jessica Roff (she/her)	Thanks for the input. We also wanted the oral presentations to provide an opportunity for questions and a videotaped presentation couldnt do that. but please feel free to provide your input on this.
20	Is replying to the RFI an eligibility requirement for a grant?	Julie Lister	No.
21	Are any of the other program opportunities such that if an applicant just wants a review of their application, including their work plan before submitting that there is support to do this?	Maria	Not really. EPA staff cannot do that. the TCTACs may have that ability once operational.
22	I think important to keep in mind that certain projects may trigger having a quality assurance project plan and many of these organizations really don't have the capacity/ expertise to do a plan, I think with NOFA goes out in the training to really go over this point	Maria	