



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Peter Gutowsky, AICP, Director
DATE: February 28, 2024
SUBJECT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency / Community Change Grants / Potential Opportunity for Funding

I. BACKGROUND

Greg Svelund, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Regional Solutions Center Liaison, alerted me to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant opportunity on February 7, 2024.¹

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) created the Environmental and Climate Justice Program —the largest investment in environmental and climate justice in U.S. history—when it was signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022. Under this program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received \$2.8 billion to award grants to help disadvantaged communities address a wide range of environmental and climate justice issues, and \$200 million for technical assistance related to these grants. Awards are expected to be \$10-20 million. Lead applicants may submit up to two applications and may receive up to two awards. No cost-sharing or match is required as a condition of eligibility. Projects must be designed to be successfully and effectively completed within a three-year period. EPA is accepting applications for Community Change Grants until November 21, 2024.

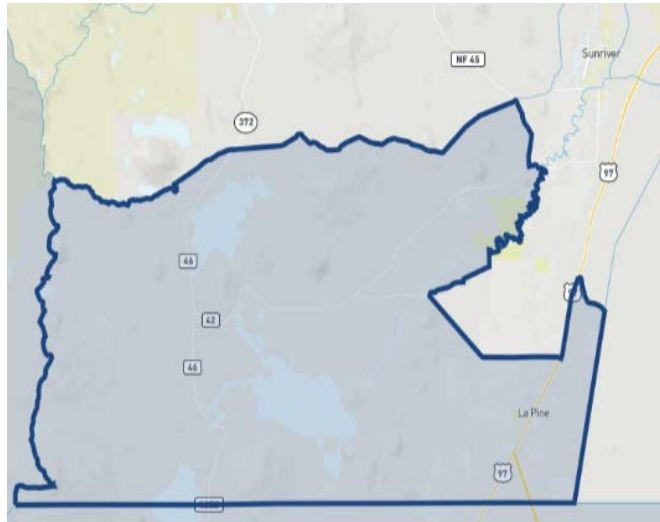
II. GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Out of the \$2 billion in funding, EPA has identified five Target Investment Areas to ensure that communities with unique circumstances, geography, and needs can equitably compete for funding. Fifty million dollars are exclusively targeted to disadvantaged unincorporated communities. A portion of Southern Deschutes County, Census Tract 41017000200, is recognized by EPA as a disadvantaged community due to lower income, life expectancy, and education levels, among other challenges. Figure 1 shows the census tract. It contains approximately:

- 166,459 federal acres
- 32,538 non-federal acres
- 3,446 rural tax lots; 2,145 with a residence
- 1,652 City of La Pine tax lots, 856 with a residence

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

Figure 1 – Census Tract 4107000200



Community Change Grants are required to empower communities and their partners to collaborate, design, develop, and implement multi-faceted projects that address:

- Climate resistance
- Pollution reduction
- Community engagement and collaborative governance
- Community strength
- Readiness
- Compliance

For Southern Deschutes County, Community Change Grants could possibly fund:

- Fuel reduction (defensible space) on private property.
- Home rehabilitation, weatherization, energy, and water assistance.
- Upgrading conventional septic systems to onsite wastewater alternative treatment technologies (ATTs).
- Sampling ATT (Level 3) designs which if substantiated for their performance, would allow the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to amend state rules to permit more ATTs.

Based on the factors noted above, Deschutes County, in partnership with NeighborImpact, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and others, is likely in an excellent position to compete for a grant award.²

III. NEXT STEPS

Additional coordination is required to further evaluate the application requirements and refine proposed projects with partnering organizations. Staff will update the Board of County Commissioners in approximately four weeks, ideally with a recommendation to support applying for a Community Change

² Grant eligibility requires formal partnership with a local government to partner with a community-based non-profit organization. Other organizations and entities may participate in the Community Change Grants as Collaborative Entities.

Grant. If so, it could take six to eight weeks or longer to complete the grant application, which is extensive. To the extent that additional resources from Long Range Planning are needed to assist with the grant application, staff will discuss the impacts as it pertains to existing work programs.

Attachment:

EPA Community Change Grant Summary



Office of Environmental Justice &
External Civil Rights



**COMMUNITY
CHANGE GRANTS**

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

DECEMBER 7, 2023

Alexandra Gallo, Special Implementation Advisor
Bruce Binder, Senior Grants Policy Advisor

Introduction

EPA received \$3 billion through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to fund environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities.

- \$2.8 billion for grants including \$2 billion for the Community Change Grants (CCG) Program
- \$200 million for technical assistance related to the grants
- Grants cannot exceed three years (no extensions)
- All grants must be awarded by September 30, 2026



Goals

Designed with meaningful community, Tribal, and other stakeholder input, the investments EPA makes through the Community Change Grants are intended to achieve the following goals:



Fund community-driven pollution and climate resiliency solutions



Invest in strong cross-sectoral collaborations with partners working with and for communities



Unlock access to more significant resources



Deliver technical assistance and capacity-building support



Strengthen communities' decision-making power



Track I

Community-Driven Investments for Change

Funding Available: approx. \$1.96 billion

Number of Awards: approx. 150

Per Award Amount: \$10M - \$20M each

Track II

Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Funding Available: approx. \$40 million

Number of Awards: approx. 20

Per Award Amount: \$1M - \$3M each

Technical Assistance

- [Community Change Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers \(TCTACs\)](#)

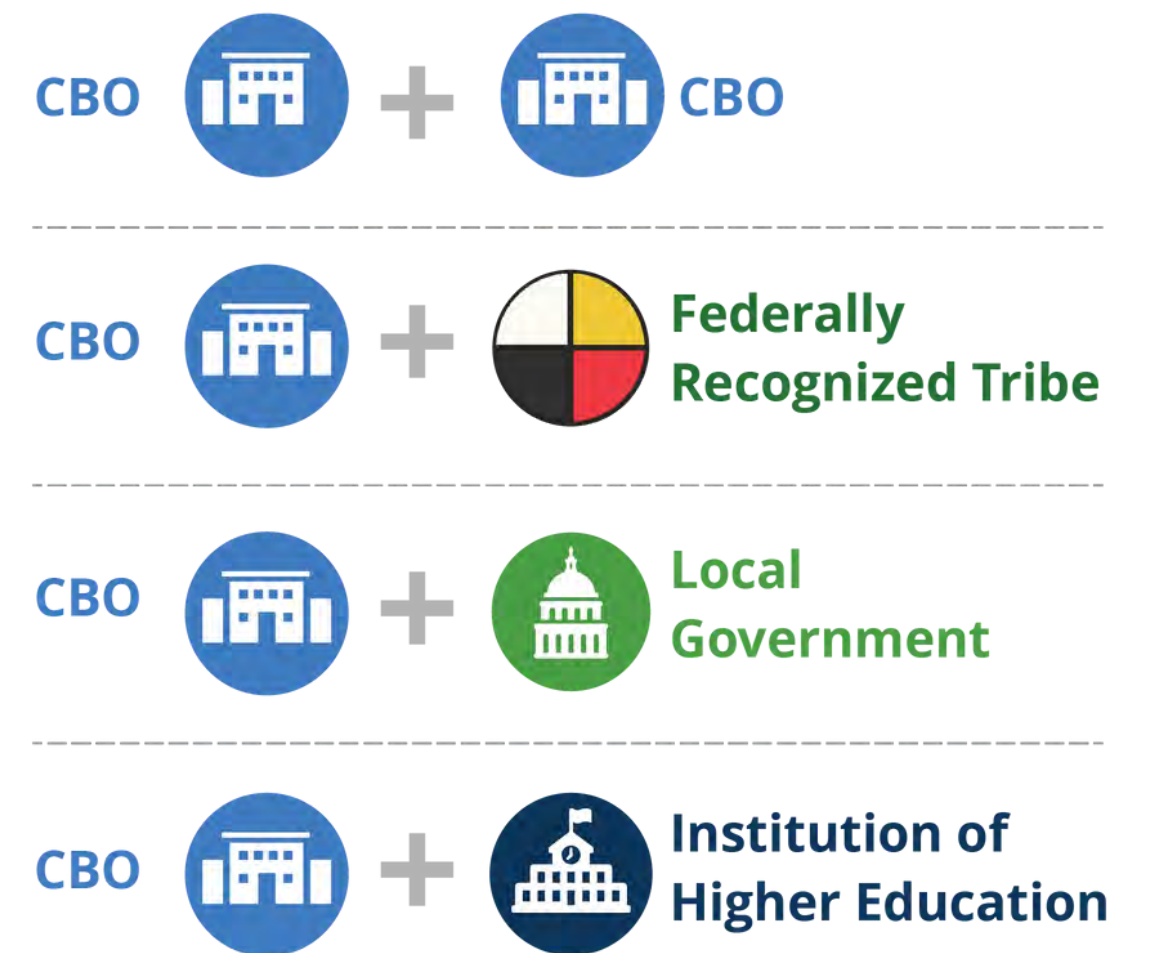
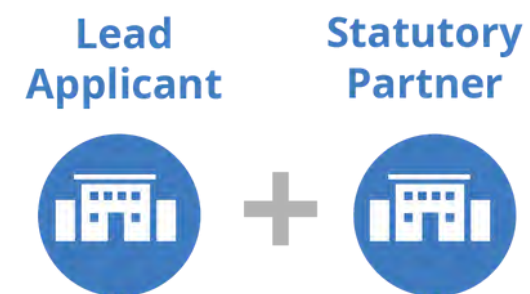


Statutory Partnership

Applicants must either be a partnership of two community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) or a partnership between a CBO and a federally recognized Tribe, local government or institution of higher education.

Partnerships must be documented and meet certain legal requirements (see [Appendix B](#)).

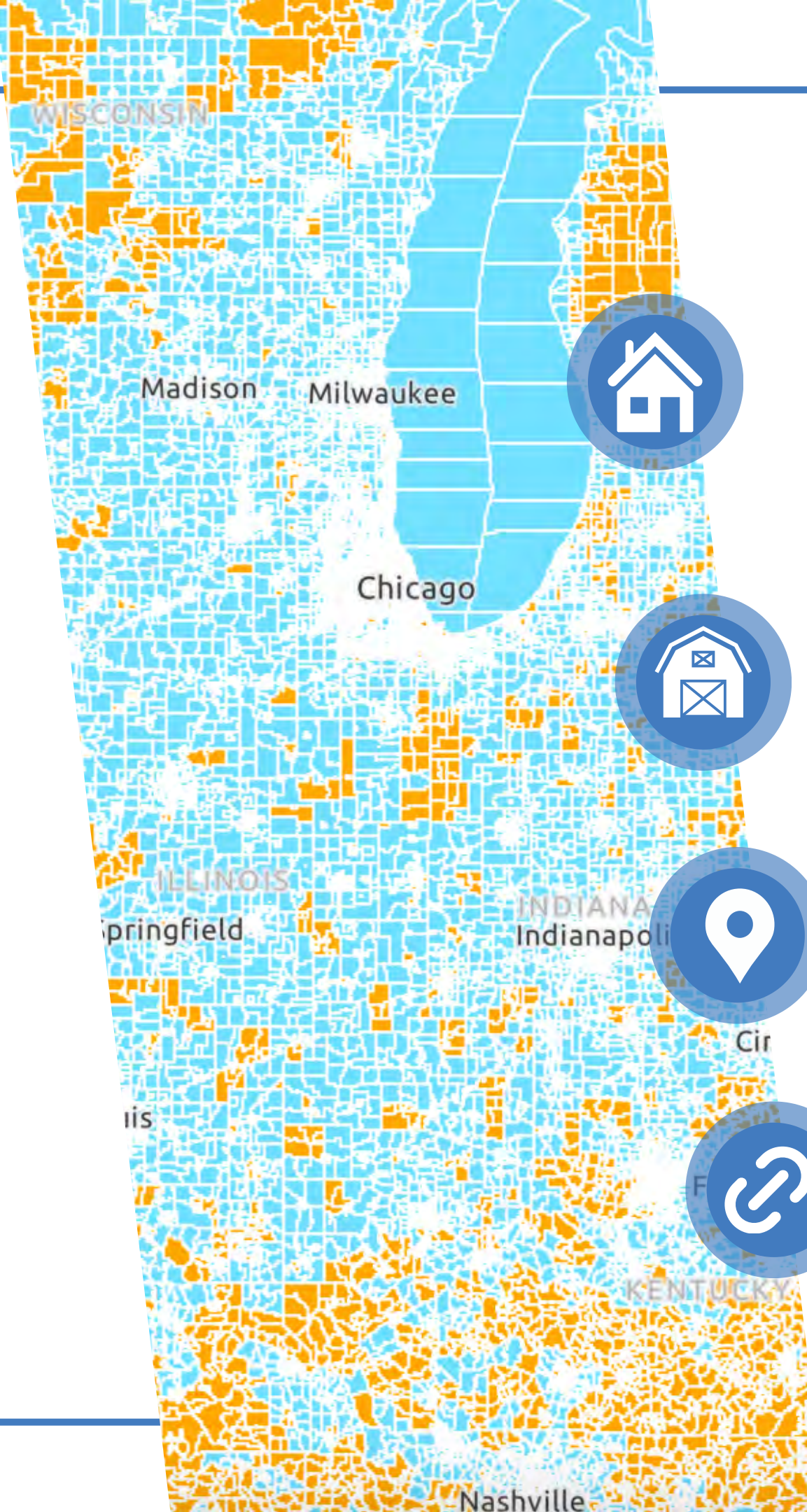
Additional information on eligibility and partnerships can be found in [Section III](#) of the NOFO.



Note: While the CBO does not have to be the “Lead Applicant,” all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.

Disadvantaged Communities

Applicants must demonstrate that the projects in their application will benefit a disadvantaged community. EPA is defining disadvantaged community as one that meets at least one of the following criteria:



A geographically-defined community identified as disadvantaged on the EPA IRA [Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)



A farmworker community

OR

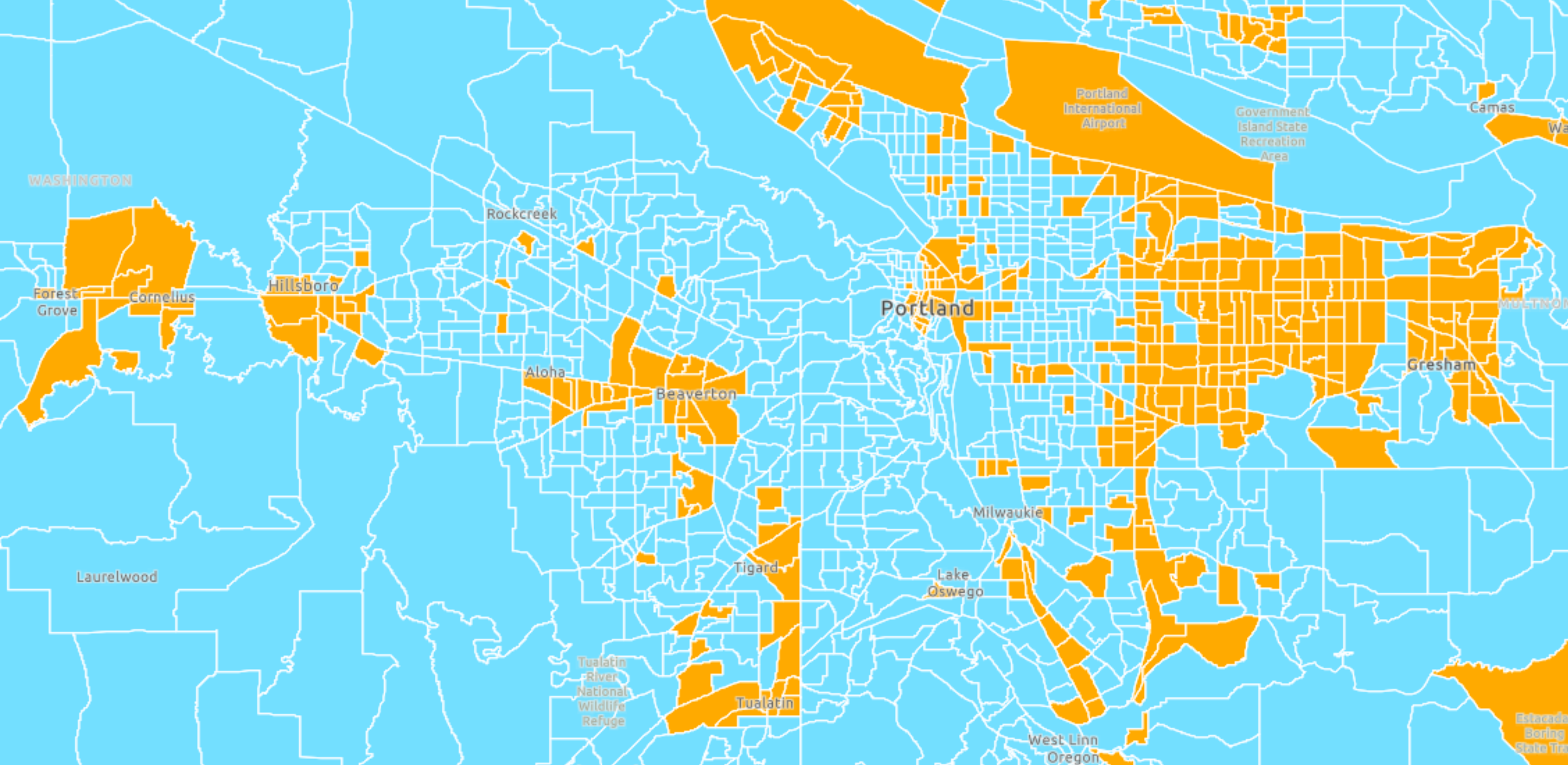


A Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)



More information can be found in [Appendix A](#) of the NOFO.

Disadvantaged Communities



Target Investment Areas



\$50M

**Disadvantaged
Unincorporated
Communities**



\$150M

**Tribes in
Alaska**



\$300M

**Tribal
Communities
(lower 48 states + HI)**



\$100M

**Southern
Border
Communities**



\$50M

U.S. Territories

These Track I investment area amounts are approximate and may be adjusted based on the quantity and quality of applications received.

These set asides account for 33% of total funding

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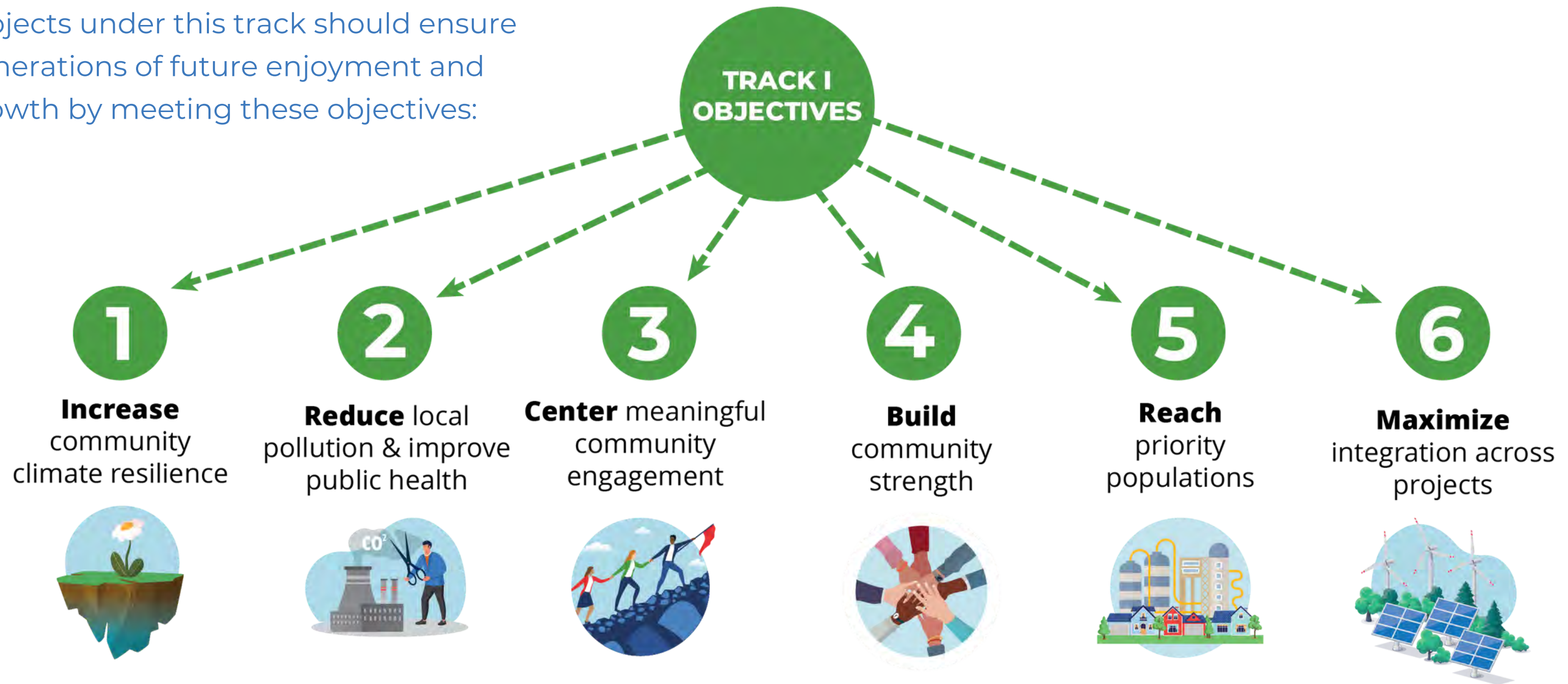
Track I Overview

Community-Driven Investments for Change

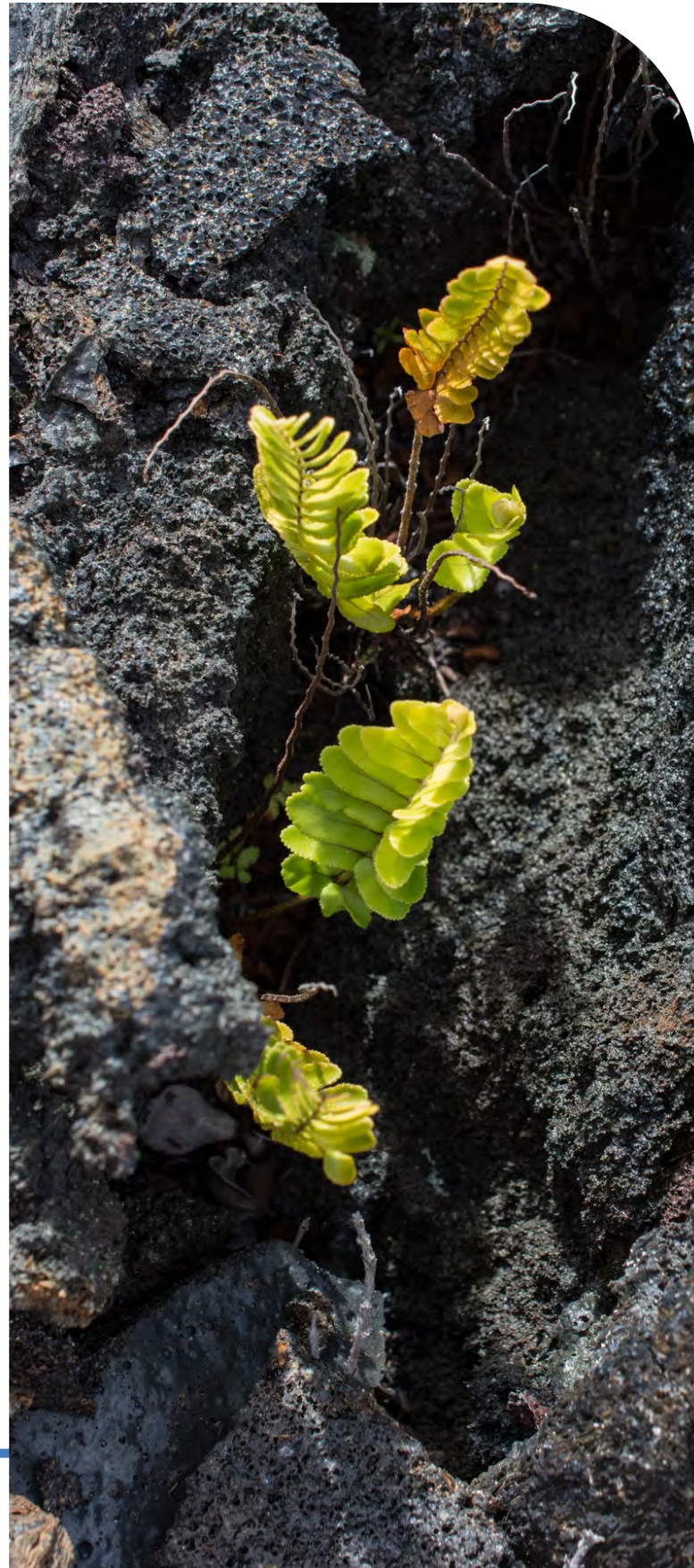


Community-Driven Investments for Change

Projects under this track should ensure generations of future enjoyment and growth by meeting these objectives:



Note: Projects must be place-based and include a Project Area Map. They are not intended to be regional or state-wide projects, as described in [Appendix A](#).



Track 1 Requirements

- 1 Climate Action Strategy
- 2 Pollution Reduction Strategy
- 3 Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan
- 4 Community Strength Plan
- 5 Readiness Approach
- 6 Compliance Plan

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Climate Action

Applications must address at least one climate action strategy that serves to increase a community's resilience or adaptive capacity:

-  Green Infrastructure & Nature-Based Solutions
-  Mobility & Transportation Options
-  Energy-Efficient, Healthy and Resilient Housing & Buildings
-  Microgrid Installation
-  Community Resilience Hubs
-  Brownfield Redevelopment
-  Waste Reduction & Management
-  Workforce Development

See [Appendix C](#) for project examples

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Pollution Reduction

Applications must include at least one pollution reduction strategy that focuses on pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation of quantifiable and health harming pollutants:

-  Indoor Air Quality & Community Health
-  Outdoor Air Quality & Community Health
-  Clean Water Infrastructure
-  Hazardous Waste Management

See [Appendix D](#) for project examples



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Overview of
**Application
Submission, Evaluation
and Selection Process**



Required Forms

Mandatory Documents and Forms for Track I and II Applications

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- EPA Pre-award Compliance Review Report Form 4700-4
- Project Narrative Attachment Form
- Attachment A: Program Budget Template
- Attachment B: Partnership Agreement
- Attachment C: Any other documents or information not listed above, such as an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement



Required Forms

Mandatory Attachments for Track I Applications ONLY

- Attachment D: Project Area Map
- Attachment E: Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan
- Attachment F: Community Strength Plan
- Attachment G: Readiness Approach Information
- Attachment H: Compliance Plan

Additional Selection Factors

Selection Official may also consider:

- Geographic diversity
- How the application supports and advances EPA and OEJECR's goals and priorities
- Organizational diversity (i.e., applicant type and size)
- Participation in a federal capacity-building program
- Whether the projects support, advance, or complement funding related to Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZs) as designated by FEMA
- Capacity and capabilities of Lead Applicants to manage two awards, if applicable
- Ability to leverage additional resources
- Duplicate funding considerations
- Availability of funds



Key Dates

Date	Event
November 2023	Applications Open
March 2024	Initial Award Selections
May / June 2024	Anticipated Start of Period of Performance for Initial Selections
November 2024	Applications Close

Contact us at CCGP@epa.gov with any questions. Please also check the [website](#) for additional webinar information and frequently asked questions.



NOFO Application Development



Find partners and build coalition



Identify meaningful transformative projects to address environmental and climate justice concerns that can be completed within 3 years (Track I)



Identify governmental policies and programs that can be improved with community voices (Track II)



Register on **SAM.gov** and **Grants.gov** now (this process can take up to a month)



You can follow up with questions at **CCGP@epa.gov**



Stay up to date on webinars by signing up for EPA EJ listserv by sending a blank email to **join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov**



Appendix C. Climate Action Strategies and Associated Project Activities

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Eligible project activities associated with each Climate Action Strategy identified in Section I.G. of the NOFO could include but are not limited to the following examples. Applicants may propose different activities as long as they are consistent with the applicable Climate Action Strategy as described in Section I.G of the NOFO and are eligible for funding under section 138(b)(2) of the Clean Air Act.

Strategy 1: Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions

Examples:

- **Building climate resilience and carbon sequestration through tree planting**
 - Mitigate urban heat islands through reflective surfaces and shade trees or other vegetation, including preparing planting sites and establishing and caring for trees and other vegetation.
 - Plant trees in public spaces.
 - Plant trees in sites that are strategically selected to shade buildings (i.e., planted within 60 feet of a building).
- **Multi-benefit stormwater projects**
 - Construct permeable surfaces, collection basins, rain gardens, bioswales and other green infrastructure.
 - Restore and / or protect wetlands.
 - Improve urban forest site(s) to create new or more functional planting locations for trees and other vegetation, such as bioswales, which contribute to:
 - Greening to protect and conserve community lands and water;
 - Watershed protection that supports sensitive wildlife habitat and enhances water access.; and / or
 - Replacement of concrete or pavement and restoring spaces to more natural conditions to restore water to the community, reduce flooding, and improve public greenspace.
- **Public parks and open spaces**
 - Create new parks or enhance / expand existing parks to provide climate resilience benefits like heat island reduction and flood mitigation or other demonstrable environmental benefits.
 - Green existing schoolyards to protect vulnerable populations by adding nature-based solutions.

Strategy 2: Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience

Examples:

- Construct new, expanded, or enhanced bikeways, walkways, or non-motorized urban trails that reduce vehicle miles traveled and related air pollution by providing safe routes for zero-emission travel between residences, workplaces, commercial and community centers, and schools.
- Implement “[Complete Streets](#)” projects to improve walkability, bike-ability, and transit use, including improved access for people with disabilities. projects to improve walkability, bike-ability, and transit use, including improved access for people with disabilities that reduce vehicle miles traveled and related air pollution.

- Implement climate resilience measures on bikeways or trailways such as raising the elevation or installing permeable pavers to reduce flooding or increasing shade coverage to mitigate extreme heat.
- Conduct the measurement, analysis, design, planning and engineering work necessary to submit a competitive application for state and / or federal funding that will fund large-scale improvements (larger than this competition is able to fund) to significantly reduce a community’s Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and / or improve climate resilience.
- Purchase, lease, or contract for the use of zero-emission vehicles for community car sharing, vanpooling, ride-sharing, and related mobility options.
- Purchase, construct, and / or install infrastructure, equipment, or facilities to create and / or support low or zero-emission transportation options.

Guidelines:

- Transportation projects that involve public transit or improvements to public property should include a governmental agency as a Collaborating Entity that will help perform and oversee the project.

Strategy 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, Resilient Housing and Buildings

Examples:

- Install energy efficiency measures such as insulation, double or triple glazed windows, “cool roofs” that reflect sunlight, and energy management systems in public buildings.
- Install ventilation systems to help improve indoor air quality during pollution-related events such as wildfires.
- Install or retrofit homes or multi-family housing with higher-efficiency electric heating, cooling, and cooking systems (e.g., heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, electric and induction stoves, electric clothes dryers).
- Reduce heat island effects by installing cool roofs on homes, multi-family housing, or public buildings.
- Implement other similar projects qualified under [HUD’s Green and Resilient Retrofit Program \(GRRP\)](#). Note that applicants who have received or will receive HUD funding under this program must have internal controls in place to ensure that the same costs are not charged to more than one Federal grant.²²

Guidelines:

- In their Project Narrative, applicants should describe how low-income residents will directly benefit from the project through lower costs and how residents will be trained on how to operate and maintain new technology and equipment, where applicable.
- For projects that will fund home or multi-family housing improvements, applicants should include details of their target tenants or homeowners, such as with those incomes at or below the greater of:
 - For Metropolitan Areas: (1) 80% Area Median Income (AMI) and (2) 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

²² Refer to 2 CFR 200.403(f).

- For Non-Metropolitan Areas: (1) 80% AMI; (2) 80% Statewide Nonmetropolitan Area AMI; and (3) 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Applicants may also target community housing (e.g., land bank, housing conservancy, cooperative, or other community-based nonprofit) or public housing for this strategy.
- Applicants should refer to the description of the Community Strength Plan in the NOFO, particularly the need to minimize the risks associated with displacing current residents due to EPA-funded investments for this strategy.

Strategy 4: Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience

Examples:

- Construct microgrid infrastructure.
- Install microgrids with onsite renewable energy generation and storage.
- Install ancillary energy infrastructure necessary to support microgrids.
- Install other energy infrastructure for microgrid operations.

Guidelines:

- The application should include details that demonstrate the extent to which the microgrid will serve the target community, such as: that the microgrid will be used to ensure that reliable power is provided for any community-serving buildings or critical facilities during extreme weather emergencies or any weather-related outages; that the community lacks an external grid, and the microgrid will be used to meet local energy consumption needs during normal or “blue sky” conditions; or where an external grid is available, that the microgrid will be capable of interconnecting with that grid to meet peak energy consumption demands and increase grid reliability.

Strategy 5: Community Resilience Hubs

Examples:

- Assess the most acute climate risks facing a community (e.g., extreme heat, flooding, wildfire), identify where the community has gaps in its resilience strategy, then design a plan to mitigate specific risks by creating or upgrading community facilities to serve as resilience hubs that remain operable during an emergency.
- Purchase and install backup power equipment such as generators or onsite solar and storage at one or more resilience hubs.
- Implement structural and non-structural retrofits to enhance the resilience of the hub (e.g., raise the building elevation to reduce flood risk, improve cooling systems and / or insulation to reduce extreme heat risk).
- Implement wildfire mitigation measures such as retrofitting the hub to reduce flammability, creating a defensible space between the hub and its surrounding environment, and installing air filtration equipment to reduce the risks of smoke inhalation.
- Purchase and install communications devices that can operate even with loss of local power and telecommunications systems.

Guidelines:

- The resilience hubs should be operable during an emergency. Applicants are encouraged to develop plans that will help ensure the facility is operable, including an emergency communications plan,

plan for backup power during emergencies, and agreements and processes for activating the facility in the event of an emergency.

- The community resilience hub should be a community-convening space that provides climate resilience and related resources and services to community residents.
- Applicants should demonstrate how they will work with relevant emergency response organizations to maximize the efficacy and use of the resilience hub.

Strategy 6: Brownfields Redevelopment

Examples:

- Build and / or upgrade existing structures and sites to improve community use while reducing GHG emissions and / or improving climate resilience.
- Implement greening efforts (tree-planting, park construction or renovations, community garden developments, etc.) that mitigate GHG emissions and / or improve climate resilience.
- Install low or zero emission energy infrastructure such as solar and storage.
- Conduct deconstruction and green demolition activities to support adaptive reuse or new construction. Applicants can refer to EPA’s Climate Smart Brownfields Manual for information about green demolition activities.
- Acquire land to enable a brownfield redevelopment that has emissions mitigation and / or climate resilience benefits.

Guidelines:

- Redevelopment sites eligible for funding must be consistent with the federal definition of a Brownfield site in 42 U.S.C. 9601(39) as follows: a brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.
- Projects for adaptive reuse should explore and can leverage national and state historic preservation tax credits to maximize funding streams.²³
- Applicants must demonstrate that no cleanup activities will be performed at the site, and / or that cleanup activities are not necessary at the site. This can be demonstrated by one of the following:
 - A completed Phase I Environmental Site Assessment with no recognized environmental conditions (RECs) at actionable levels;
 - A completed Phase II Environmental Site Assessment with sampling result levels below actionable levels;
 - Lead or asbestos building survey or equivalent environmental or building investigation to determine no likely sources of contamination or hazardous materials will be encountered on site that pose risks to the adjacent community or occupational health and safety risks to workers; or
 - No Further Action letter from the state or Tribal Brownfields response program.

Strategy 7: Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy²⁴

²³ See guidelines for [Tax Incentives for Preserving Historic Properties](#).

²⁴ A circular economy is generally described as a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling materials and products as long as possible and based on three main principles: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, and regenerate nature.

Examples:

- Implement a community-scale composting program to reduce emissions from food waste that includes an educational campaign to inform Project Area residents about climate benefits of reducing food waste.
- Implement a community-scale recycling program.
- Reduce emissions from food waste by implementing programs that distribute unused food to project area residents.

Guidelines:

- Where relevant, applicants should demonstrate that all inedible food scraps derived from projects are composted, and that other materials are diverted from landfills and support a circular economy.
- Where relevant, project activities should demonstrate how they are using EPA best practices related to the circular economy or other sources of guidance.²⁵ Resources include the [Planning for Natural Disaster Debris](#) guidance and [Sustainable and Resilient Communities Through Solid Waste Investments and Best Practices After Disasters](#).
- Applicants should consider EPA's ranking of [wasted food management pathways](#) and [EPA Waste Management hierarchy](#) for sustainable materials management.

Strategy 8: Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce GHG Emissions and Air Pollutants

This strategy allows applicants to propose workforce development programs that will help reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants to benefit disadvantaged communities.

This strategy allows applicants to propose workforce development programs for employment in fields that will help reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants to benefit disadvantaged communities. A wide range of occupations support the reduction of GHG emissions and air pollutants. Because EPA cannot provide an exhaustive list of such occupations, applicants should describe how their workforce development program will support the reduction of GHG emissions or other air pollutants.

Examples of career pathways that may be part of a workforce development program include but are not limited to: electricians, steamfitters, pipefitters, laborers, and other skilled trades occupations that support building electrification, renewable energy projects, and other similar activities; occupations related to the manufacturing of low- and zero-emission technologies; careers in low- and zero-emissions transportation such as vehicle mechanics supporting electric vehicle technologies; community health and outreach workers that assist households in reducing their emissions and addressing sources of pollution; and other careers related to emissions reduction, such as methane mitigation or agricultural carbon mitigation. Applicants should describe how their workforce development program will support the reduction of GHG emissions or other air pollutants.

Guidelines:

As noted in Section I.G of the NOFO, strong workforce development programs should include the following three features at a minimum:

²⁵ Refer to EPA's guidance on the [Circular Economy | US EPA](#)

1. Multi-sectoral partnerships that bring together workforce expertise and enable pathways into high-quality careers.

The foundation of a strong workforce development initiative is a set of partners that represent diverse expertise, community and worker voice, and employer needs. For these programs, applicants may collaborate with organizations with workforce development expertise, such as labor unions, tradeswomen organizations, local workforce development boards (locate yours using this U.S. Department of Labor [search tool](#)), career and technical schools, community colleges, workforce development nonprofits, and other similar organizations.

Examples of the types of expertise and experience that are important for a successful workforce development program include, but are not limited to:

- Technical skills and experience to lead classroom and on-the-job training, including equipping students and individuals with the skills needed to succeed and be safe on the job, including knowledge of new and emerging greenhouse gas and other air emissions-reduction technologies;
- Knowledge of the local, State, and regional labor market and relevant relationships to have a deep understanding of employer hiring, staffing, and skilling needs, emerging trends especially related to the clean energy transition, and considerations for local job quality and worker voice;
- Strong awareness of the barriers individuals in the community face to training and employment, including an understanding of unique barriers specific populations face, and clear strategies for how to address those barriers; and
- Established relationships of trust within the community, including knowledge of relevant history and community dynamics, in addition to meaningful, long-lasting relationships in the community that will support trainee recruitment and participation.

2. High-quality training models that are worker-centered, demand-driven, and lead to good jobs.

Workforce development projects should be focused on training individuals for high-quality, long-term career pathways in family-sustaining jobs, rather than short-term or temporary, low-wage jobs. Applications should demonstrate that the workforce development project fulfills an industry demand in the Project Area and surrounding region, is informed and supported by employers, and has a clear pathway to long-term employment with family-sustaining wages. This will be key to delivering programs that enable true economic mobility for individuals in disadvantaged communities and bolster the capacity of communities to respond to environmental justice concerns in a sustained fashion.

Examples of high-quality, evidence-backed training models are: Apprenticeship readiness programs (or “pre-apprenticeships”) with a connection to one or more Registered Apprenticeship Programs; Registered Apprenticeship Programs (registered via the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship or State Apprenticeship Agency); Joint Labor-Management Training Programs; paid internships; partnerships with community colleges or vocational schools that award an industry-recognized credential; and similar models that combine on-the-job learning, classroom learning, and mentorship. DOL has a resource on “high-road training programs” that applicants are invited to review [here](#).

Workforce development programs can serve adult or youth populations. Applicants may consider high-quality youth-serving training models, including: pre-apprenticeship programs that prepare young people to enter Registered Apprenticeship Programs; career and technical education programs (as described by the [U.S. Department of Education](#)); and other similar models. Please note that applicants may propose programs to be included in the [American Climate Corps](#) (ACC), which is a federal government initiative focused on training young people for high-demand skills for jobs in the clean energy economy. To qualify as an ACC

program, the program must provide youth with at least 300 hours of paid skills-based training and / or service. Applicants submitting a workforce development project to be considered for the ACC should note that in their application.

3. Strategies for recruiting and retaining individuals from disadvantaged communities, especially for populations that face disproportionate barriers to employment.

It is a statutory requirement (section 138(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act) for this program to benefit disadvantaged communities. These benefits may include providing opportunities to individuals with barriers to training and / or employment, so they can find long-term employment and economic opportunity in fields associated with air pollutants and GHG reduction. Projects should be designed with comprehensive research and evidence-based strategies for addressing barriers to recruitment, training, employment, and retention. Examples include supportive services to meet the needs of the disadvantaged community, such as childcare and transportation assistance; life skills and basic skills training, such as financial literacy and job readiness, to prepare for a career related to GHG and air pollutant reduction; career services, such as developing individualized employment plans; peer-to-peer mentorship programs to connect experienced workers with new workers to help them learn the job and find a sense of belonging in the workplace; reasonable accommodations consistent with federal equal employment opportunity laws; coaching to support work-based learning; and case workers to support workers with barriers to employment.

Applicants proposing a workforce development project are encouraged to describe the following elements and any additional details identified by the applicant:

- Design of the program, including if the applicant is proposing a high-quality, evidence-backed training model as described above, and a description of the credential(s) the participants will earn.
- Duration of the program and program components, such as time spent in classroom and on-the-job training. Applicants are encouraged to also describe ongoing support participants will receive once they exit the training program and connect to full-time employment to support retention.
- How applicants will engage employers and how the program will connect to high-quality jobs. Applicants can review the federal Good Jobs Principles [here](#).
- Estimated number of participants that will be trained in the program.
- Plan for how the program will recruit participants and how the program will build visibility and trust among residents of the Project Area.
- Curriculum the program will use and how it is informed by industry standards and employer demand.
- Wages or stipends for the duration of the program. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide reasonable compensation for time spent in training to increase participation and retention.
- Strategies the program will use to meet the needs of populations that experience barriers to training and employment.
- Applicant's approach to administering supportive services to mitigate barriers to training and employment.
- Indicators the program will use to evaluate success as well as the methodology the program will use to track the progress of participants during and after the program. Applicants may review the Six Primary Indicators of Performance used by the public workforce system, as described by the Department of Labor [here](#).

Appendix D. Pollution Reduction Strategies and Associated Project Activities

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Eligible project activities associated with each Pollution Reduction Strategy could include but are not limited to the following examples. Applicants may propose different activities as long as the activities are consistent with the applicable Pollution Reduction Strategy described in Section I.G of the NOFO and are eligible for funding under section 138(b)(2) of the Clean Air Act.

Strategy 1: Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements

Examples:

- Remediate or mitigate harmful substances in buildings, including lead, mercury, pesticides, radon, mold, PCBs (caulk, flooring, etc.), lead-based paint, asbestos, and other toxic substances.²⁶
- Install, upgrade, or replace HVAC and / or filtration systems that improve indoor quality in schools, community-serving buildings, and single-and-multifamily homes. These upgrades may be done in conjunction with climate strategies that reduce building GHG emissions.
- Equip community centers and community buildings in agricultural worker communities with decontamination stations (e.g., publicly available shower and laundry stations) to eliminate take-home pesticide exposures.
- Purchase equipment that can enable “do-it-yourself” upgrades using research-based methods, to distribute within communities impacted by smoke.
- Replace wood heaters that do not meet EPA’s New Source Performance Standards with more efficient, cleaner heaters certified by EPA, and independently verified to meet (or to have emissions below) the most stringent Step 2 emission reduction standards described in Standards of Performance for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters, and Forced-Air Furnaces heaters.

Strategy 2: Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements

Examples:

- Reduce exposure from mobile and stationary sources by:
 - developing or expanding vegetative barriers.
 - creating alternate truck route programs to decrease impacts to sensitive communities.
 - providing grants, rebates, or subsidies for households, small businesses, public partners, and community organizations to replace portable diesel equipment such as leaf blowers and lawn mowers with zero-emission alternatives.
 - retrofitting spray booths in local small businesses to reduce VOC contamination from auto body painters.
 - providing grants, rebates, or subsidies for backup battery systems to replace diesel backup generators in homes, public facilities, or small businesses.
- Create clean air zones or low-emission zones such as:

²⁶ The prohibition on using Community Change Grant funding to remediate Brownfields sites does not apply to this activity.

- Encouraging “last-mile” delivery through electric delivery vehicles (e.g., trucks, vans, cargo bikes).
- Electrifying local government-owned fleets providing services to communities (e.g., sanitation trucks, public buses).
- Implementing urban designs that promote air flow and reduce the concentration of pollution along street corridors (e.g., remove or reduce costly parking mandates, reduce idling of diesel vehicles).
- Implement sustainable construction practices such as minimizing dust and emissions during building projects (e.g., electrify equipment, cover construction sites, utilize water sprays, properly manage waste).
- Replace toxic play surfaces that emit harmful pollutants (e.g., tire crumb and certain turfs at schools, community playgrounds, and fields) with non-toxic, permeable options to provide safe places for children to play.
- Develop other policies that promote reductions in air pollution from transportation such as land use and zoning policies that enable households to live in affordable, dense, and vibrant communities within urban and rural areas.

Guidelines:

- Communities seeking funding for zero-emission school buses should encourage their local school district apply to EPA’s \$5 billion [Clean School Bus program](#).

Strategy 3: Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience

Examples:

- Perform targeted infrastructure upgrades such as:
 - Replacing private-side lead lines in a home, childcare facility, school, or other community-serving building during full lead service line replacement²⁷
 - Septic to sewer conversions that connect homes to nearby community water systems.
 - Installing working water fountains at schools and parks where there are no fountains or they are inoperable, malfunctioning, or contaminated.
 - Installing water conservation and efficiency technologies that will allow utilities to better monitor and reduce energy consumption onsite.
 - Installing water reuse technologies that allow for system decreases in both energy and water use efficiencies through water capture, loss prevention, and closed loop approaches.
- Prepare and apply for state and / or federal water infrastructure funding to address larger community needs (e.g., a leak detection and pipe replacement plan, a PFAS action plan, or upgrades to water and wastewater treatment facilities that reduce pollution) by:
 - Assessing the problem through water sampling and monitoring.
 - Developing a plan, which could include the necessary design and engineering work.
 - Preparing an application for federal funding to one of several sources such as to EPA’s State Revolving Loan funds.
- Provide emergency interventions such as:

²⁷ [EPA’s Drinking Water Regulations for Lead. Lead Service Lines. Strategies to Achieve Full Lead Service Line Replacement.](#)

- providing recurring point-of-use filters while communities await lead service line replacement.
- providing alternate water supplies for communities and buildings that have contaminated water (PFAS, lead, PCBs, arsenic, nitrates, etc.) in communities with contaminated water systems.
- adopting facility procedures or system upgrades that allow for service flexibilities, mobility, and continuity in the event of an emergency due to climate-related disaster events.

Guidelines:

- The projects should also include a public outreach / education campaign on safe drinking water and / or wastewater, working with the public water system where possible.^{28 29}
- Activities should be coordinated with the EPA funded [Environmental Finance Centers](#) to minimize duplication of effort.

Strategy 4: Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Examples:

- Purchase equipment for hazardous waste sampling to determine classification.
- Collect, process, recycle, or otherwise dispose of household hazardous waste and electronics programs and infrastructure.
- Conduct compliance oversight for the collection, processing, recycling, storage and disposition of household hazardous waste and electronics.
- Develop or expand hazardous waste collection, recycling, and safe recycling programs and infrastructure.
- Develop or expand safe disposal technologies for hazardous waste.
- Reduce demand for single-use plastic products (by installing public water bottle refill stations and water fountains or implementing community and city-scale water reuse and refill systems), and phasing out single-use products that may be unnecessary.

²⁸ [EPA on Reducing Lead in Drinking Water](#). [EPA Communication Plan 3Ts](#). [Basic Information about Your Drinking Water](#).

²⁹ [Drinking Water Analytical Methods](#).