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## ***EPA Community Change Grant Proposal***

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### **Town of Eatonville Resilience Hub**

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*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Community Change Grant's program is providing \$2 Billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act funds for environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities. This Justice 40 grant is for the creation of a Resilience Hub as a key strategy to improve our community's ability to weather disasters such as extreme heat, severe and tropical storms and hurricanes in a more equitable manner.*

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Following a disaster, many residents of the Town of Eatonville are at particular risk for many of the negative impacts due to factors like lack of a standby generator, air conditioning and wi-fi access. Furthermore, these impacts may be exacerbated by residing in older homes, lack of access to transportation or other resources to evacuate, and lack of disposable income to purchase additional supplies or shelter in hotels.

The Town of Eatonville is seeking a \$20 Million dollar grant from the EPA to transform the existing Denton Johnson Community Center into a resilience hub.

This funding will allow enhancements to the existing community center to include electrical upgrades, a power micro-grid including solar power and generators, improvements to the HVAC system, and building expansion including a larger kitchen for food distribution and health resources. The Resilience Hub will function in normal, emergency, and recovery phases of a hurricane or pandemic. Residents can use the facility to operate medical equipment and charge phones, access wi-fi, apply for benefits or contact loved ones. Furthermore, this facility will act as a distribution center for sandbags, water, food or other supplies and health services for residents.

This center is already used year-round as neighborhood center for community building activities, fostering greater community cohesion, building trust with local government and connecting neighbors.

