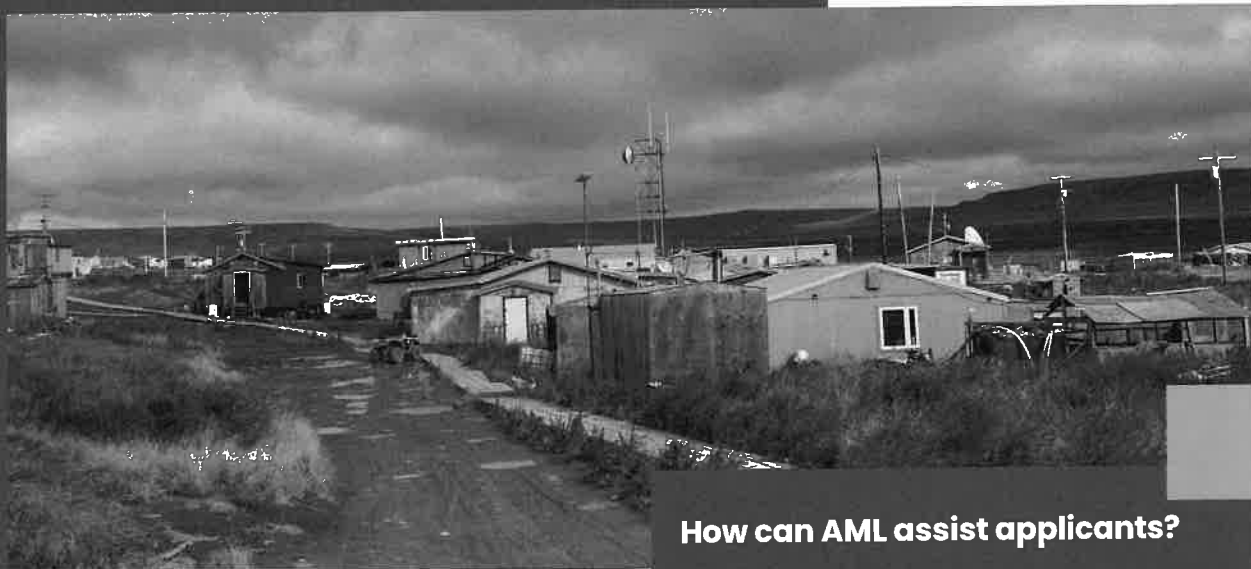


EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant



What is the Community Change Grant program?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Community Change Grants (CCG) program will award approximately \$2 billion in funding to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives.

How can AML assist applicants?

AML has received funding from Denali Commission to assist eligible Alaska organizations with preparing and submitting applications. AML staff can provide support through grant writing assistance, reviewing and providing feedback on applications, and consulting with interested applicants to develop project ideas.



Contact AML, learn more
akml.org/ccg



**COMMUNITY
CHANGE GRANTS**
Environmental and Climate Justice
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Project Types

Category	Track I - Community-Driven Investments for Change	Track II - Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance
Funding Available	\$1.96 billion	\$40 million
# of Awards	150	20
Amount Per Award	\$10-20 million each	\$1-3 million
Description	Track I applications must include at least one project aligned with a climate action strategy and at least one project aligned with a pollution reduction strategy.	Track II applications must facilitate engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes
Example Projects	Deploying low- or zero-emission transportation solutions. Energy efficiency upgrades in commercial or residential buildings Microgrid installation Brownfield remediation	Designing and implementing a training program to help members of disadvantaged communities effectively participate in advisory boards or commissions
Set-aside for Alaska?	Yes - \$150 million for projects on Tribal lands in AK	No

Climate Action Strategies

- 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

OR Alaska-Specific Climate Action Strategies

- Community Energy Resilience
- Improving Human Health & Climate Resilience
- Permafrost Degradation Management
- Climate Emergency Management & Response
- Nature-Based Resilience Strategies

Project Strategies

Must include 1 from each box

Pollution Reduction Strategies

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

See 'Appendix H. Alaska Tribal Lands Target Investment Area' on pages 93-96 of the NOFO for more information about Alaska-Specific Climate Action Strategies.

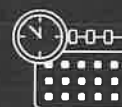
Timeline

Applications Now Open



Applications are now accepted, reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis.

Applications Close



Application packages will be accepted until November 21, 2024.



COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ENDYNA

Community Change Grant Applicant Eligibility

Applicants eligible to apply and receive grants under the Community Change Grants must enter into one of two types of Statutory Partnerships:

1. A partnership between two community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs).
2. A partnership between a CBO and one of the following: a federally recognized Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education.



Community-Based Non-Profit Organization (CBO)



To qualify as a CBO, an organization must demonstrate that they are a “nonprofit organization” in one of two ways:

1. A written determination by the Internal Revenue Service that they are exempt from taxation under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. A written determination by the state, territory, commonwealth, Tribe, or other United States governmental entity in which the organization is located.

An organization must also demonstrate that they are a nonprofit organization that supports and/or represents a community or certain populations within a community through engagement, education, and other related services. The CBO must have a geographic presence in, or relationship with, the specified community that the project is intended to benefit.

Other Eligible Organizations

Alternatively, a CBO can partner with one of the following three organization types:



Local Government

A unit of government within a state (county, borough, municipality, city, town, school district, etc.) as defined by the regulations in 2 CFR 200.1, are eligible to enter a Statutory Partnership with a CBO. A local public authority, such as a public housing agency, is also eligible.



Federally Recognized Tribe

EPA uses the definition of "Indian Tribe" in §3021 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) which provides that the term "...means any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village, which is Federally recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians." Note that this definition does not include Alaskan Native Corporations or State-recognized Tribes, but these groups may be able to qualify as CBOs.



Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

Institutes of higher learning, as defined by 2 CFR 200.1, are eligible to apply for a CCG as a statutory partner. This includes institutes of higher learning which are legally authorized by the state, accredited or pre-accredited, and award degrees. EPA encourages Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to participate in the grants, including by partnering with a CBO.

See Section III.A of the NOFO for more detailed information.

Statutory Partnerships

All applicants for the Community Change Grants must enter into a partnership with another organization, known as a Statutory Partnership.

- ✓ Must have 2, and only 2, members
- ✓ Both members must come from the eligible entities list
- ✓ A CBO must be one of the members in the partnership
- ✓ Either entity may be the Lead Applicant or Statutory Partner
- ✓ Must have a legally binding partnership agreement between both members (see Appendix B of the NOFO for detailed guidance)

The Lead Applicant is responsible for the overall management, performance, oversight, and reporting responsibilities under the grant, and for making subawards to Collaborating Entities. Additionally, the Lead Applicant will be responsible for the receipt of federal funds from EPA, and the proper expenditure of these funds, and will bear liability for unallowable costs.



For further questions regarding grant eligibility, please contact EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov or call 1(800) 540-8123.

For questions regarding the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), please contact CCGP@epa.gov.



<http://bit.ly/CCGTA>

Appendix H. Alaska Tribal Lands Target Investment Area

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As noted in Section II.B, this NOFO includes a Target Investment Area for projects benefitting Alaska Tribal lands that are defined as disadvantaged communities in Appendix A. Under this Target Investment Area, EPA is accepting applications that include projects focusing on the clean-up of contaminated lands conveyed through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

Applications submitted by eligible applicants including Alaska Native Villages (ANVs), Alaska Native Nonprofit Organizations, and Alaska Native Nonprofit Associations for the Alaskan Target Investment Area must include, like all other Track I applications, at least one Climate Action Strategy and at least one Pollution Reduction Strategy and meet the other Track I application requirements in Section I.G of the NOFO, to be eligible for funding. Applicants are not limited to a single project activity under a strategy and may select several project activities associated with a strategy. Note that the for-profit Alaska Native Corporations are not eligible to be Lead Applicants or Statutory Partners for this NOFO. The Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies addressed in applications for the Alaskan Target Investment Area can address either the Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies (and project activities referenced in Appendices C and D) in Section I.G, or any specific Alaskan ones described below under paragraphs 1 and 3. EPA strongly encourages applications that include Pollution Reduction strategy projects to clean up contaminated lands conveyed through ANCSA as addressed in Section 1 below. Consistent with this priority, EPA anticipates making a minimum of 5 awards for high-ranking applications that include projects to assess and/or clean up contaminated lands conveyed under ANCSA in furtherance of the federal government's interest in addressing this historic injustice as noted in Sections II.B and V.E.

1. ANCSA-Specific Pollution Reduction Strategy and Associated Project Activities

This section describes project activities specific to the assessment and cleanup of sites covered by the Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program. The specific requirements that apply to ANCSA cleanup projects are below.

ANCSA was enacted in 1971 to settle aboriginal claims to public lands through the conveyance of 46 million acres of land to Alaska Native regional and village corporations and the transfer of one billion dollars from the state and federal governments as compensation for lands which could not be returned to Alaska Native ownership. Many of the lands promised and conveyed to corporations pursuant to the settlement in ANCSA were contaminated. The contaminants on some of these lands—which include arsenic, asbestos, lead, mercury, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and petroleum products—pose health and other concerns to Indigenous Alaskans and communities and are present in quantities above state and federal clean-up levels, negatively impacting subsistence resources and hampering cultural, social, and economic activities.

In 2023, EPA initiated a new Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program (ANCSA Program) to assist with addressing contamination on lands conveyed pursuant to ANCSA and provide funding to (1) characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement activities related to these lands and (2) to carry out cleanup activities at ANCSA sites contaminated at the time of conveyance. The statutory authority for the ANCSA Program (Public Law 117-328) states that recipients of grants awarded under the ANCSA Program may use the funding to “. . . supplement other funds provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through individual media or multi-media grants or cooperative agreements.”

Eligible ANCSA project activities:

- Conducting Planning and Developing Site Plans:
 - Planning and site plan development for individual contaminated sites.
 - Where multiple sites are connected through location, infrastructure, or economic, social, and environmental conditions, planning and site plan development can take an area-wide approach for multiple sites. Applicants must demonstrate how work conducted at several sites will benefit the primary site selected for investment. Project Area requirements are outlined in I.D of the NOFO but may be waived for purposes of coordinated cleanup.
- Conducting Site Assessments and Related Activities:
 - Conducting site assessment and sampling activities
 - Developing a Health and Safety Plan, Quality Assurance Project Plan and / or Sampling Plan prior to conducting any environmental sampling and analysis (a requirement for any projects conducting sampling).
 - Submitting samples for analysis to an EPA accredited laboratory. Analytical costs from evaluating site samples.
 - Developing a report of the sample results and conclusions based on analysis (i.e., Conceptual Site Model, Assessment report, Site Inspection or Sampling Summary Report).
 - Supporting planning for future cleanup activities such as analysis of cleanup alternatives.
- Conducting Initial Cleanup Activities:
 - Developing a site cleanup approach and documenting the approach in a Site Cleanup Plan to include agreed upon cleanup endpoints, aligned with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) cleanup process.
 - If necessary, procuring contract services to conduct cleanup activities such as contaminated material removal, sampling, or health and safety monitoring.
 - Conducting environmental confirmation sampling post-cleanup activities to determine if further action is required. If necessary, planning for next phase of site cleanup.
 - Developing a report documenting removal and / or cleanup activities.
- Conducting Community Engagement Activities:
 - As noted in Section I of the NOFO, all applicants are required to develop a Community Engagement Plan. Effective community engagement is vital to working effectively with Alaska Native communities. Therefore, for ANCSA-related cleanup projects, Community Engagement Plans should include community engagement activities and / or development of culturally sensitive protocols for project implementation of cleanup activities.
 - Costs of conducting community engagement activities, including training for workforce development, youth engagement, elder engagement in documentation of Traditional Knowledge, and other costs associated with meaningfully engaging the community in the project can be included in the proposal budget.
- Compiling Information to Use to Comply with NEPA
 - The projects funded under this NOFO do not require Environmental Information Documents (EID) because EPA awards under this NOFO are not subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), under Section 7(c) of the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 793(c)(1)). However, applicants may seek funding to prepare EIDs as needed to comply with NEPA in connection with other federal grant-funded projects in Alaska. EPA awards under the ANCSA program, for example, are subject to NEPA, as are programs funded by other federal agencies.

Additional Eligibility Requirements for ANCSA-related projects and activities:

Applicants proposing ANCSA-related cleanup projects must provide the following documentation of eligibility in their application. Failure to do so may render the application ineligible for funding. Specifically, applicants must provide the following site-specific information for where the cleanup activities will be performed, demonstrating that the site:

- was conveyed pursuant to ANCSA;
- was contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum at the time of conveyance; and
- is listed on the interim EPA inventory of Contaminated ANCSA Lands (for more information on EPA's interim inventory and program related to cleaning up contaminated lands conveyed pursuant to ANCSA, visit EPA Region 10's [website](#)).
- If the applicant is not the owner of the contaminated site(s) to be addressed, EPA will require proof that the landowner will provide access to the site and supports taking action to address contamination.

2. General Alaskan Pollution Reduction Strategies

In addition to the ANCSA land contamination projects identified above, applicants for the Alaskan Tribal Lands Target Investment Area may include Pollution Reduction Strategies as identified in Section I.G of the NOFO.

3. Alaska-Specific Climate Action Strategies

Below are examples of additional Alaska-specific Climate Action Strategies and project activities that may be included in applications for the Alaskan Tribal Lands Target Investment Area, which are in addition to the Climate Action Strategies described in Section I.G of the NOFO.

- Community energy resilience, which may include activities such as:
 - Multi-energy systems including renewable (solar, wind, etc.) and traditional (bulk fuel) sources to increase resilience during extreme events and support a clean energy transition.
 - Power system projects, including renewable energy projects, and the construction, repair, and maintenance of fuel storage facilities in rural areas.
- Improving human health and climate resilience, which may include activities such as:
 - Construction of greenhouses that enable sustainable food growth that can promote healthy foods, food accessibility, and food availability.
 - Food storage facilities to enable sustainable access to traditional foods to support places where permafrost degradation is destroying traditional ice cellars. New food storage facilities may be constructed to support the access and availability of traditional foods. Selection of this project component must include a permafrost mitigation strategy.
 - Projects to support new and improved access points to traditional food resources, such as construction of new fishing docks or river / lake boat ramps to allow for improved fishing opportunities in places that have a high reliance on traditional foods, where climate change has degraded access and availability of food sources.
- Permafrost degradation management strategies that may include strategies such as:
 - Source water protection (impacts from landfills, thawing of permafrost, and potential impacts to traditional drinking water sources as well as established drinking water systems).

- Portable micro-water treatment systems applicable to those impacted by emergencies which impact drinking water systems, with the ability to treat water until system repairs are complete or new systems built.
- Manage and monitor contamination impacting land, food, and water backhaul / removal of waste materials not suitable for disposition in permitted landfills in Alaska.
- Climate emergency management and response strategies that may include activities such as:
 - Purchase of emergency response cargo containers with materials ready to deploy, including four-wheeler, snowmachine, communications, temporary office location, boat, oil spill response materials, smoke management equipment, etc.
 - Development of emergency alert and warning systems for wildfires, flooding and other emergencies stemming from climate change.
- Nature-based resilience strategies that may include activities such as:
 - Restoration of natural systems to help protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards.
 - Storm damage prevention and reduction, coastal erosion, and ice and glacial damage stemming from climate change.