

# Track II Applications: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

*Community Change Technical Assistance*

**WEBINAR SERIES**

**Demi Gary, *Abt Global***



February 27, 2024



# Spanish Interpretation Available

If you would like to listen to today's webinar in Spanish, please do the following:

- In your meeting/webinar controls, click **Interpretation**.
- Choose Spanish
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- As a participant joining a language channel, you can broadcast back into the main audio channel if you unmute your audio and speak.





# Using the Q&A Function

**Participant Q&A:** Please use the Q&A function for your comments. We will attempt to answer as many questions as we can, but questions specific to an individual applicant or project will be addressed through individual TA.

EPA will also regularly update the ***Frequently Asked Questions—Community Change Grants NOFO*** (found on the EPA's CCG Website <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>).

**No Soliciting will be allowed.**





# About This Webinar Series

## Community Change Grants Track II

### The CCG Program Offers:

- ✓ Unprecedented Opportunity: Reshape disadvantaged communities into vibrant, resilient, and prosperous areas.
- ✓ Historic Support: Significant funding dedicated to overcoming deep-rooted environmental issues and fostering sustainable solutions for immediate and long-term community benefits.
- ✓ Community Specific: grants are for defined disadvantaged communities.







# Today's Program

**Welcome and Speakers**

**Track II Application**

Track II Application Overview | Project Examples  
| Equitable & Meaningful Engagement

**Q & A Session**

**Closing Remarks**





# Featured Presenters



**Demi Gary**

*Environmental Senior Analyst*

Abt Global

Demi is an environmental scientist specialized in working with tribes and local communities on climate adaptation and mitigation efforts through a lens of gender, equity, and social inclusion.



**Michael Burns**

*Founder and Executive Director*

C2P2 Community and College Partners Program

Mr. Burns has served as a successful program and project management professional with many different agencies and is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. His focus is on helping communities in need by providing a variety of technical support through voluntary collaborations with colleges and nongovernmental organizations.





# Disclaimer

Disclaimer: This webinar is designed to describe and clarify aspects of the Community Change Grants Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). As an EPA technical assistance provider for this program, EnDyna, and its subcontractors, strive to present accurate information and technical assistance about the NOFO. However, none of the statements, advice, or opinions made by EnDyna or its subcontractors during this webinar constitute official EPA advice, interpretations, or positions.

In addition, EnDyna and its subcontractors will not provide any legal advice or interpretations during the webinar. Any legal issues will be sent to EPA for review. You are also free to contact your own outside counsel for legal advice. During this webinar, the presenters will not give individualized advice on specific applications, the merits of specific applications, or how an application may be evaluated and scored by EPA. If you need individualized technical assistance, please visit [communitychangeta.org](http://communitychangeta.org) for further information.



# Track II Application Overview

Overview on Track II Grants

Similarities and Differences with Track I Grants







# IRA provides funding for

1. Community-led air and pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation, and investments in low and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure and workforce development that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants;
2. Mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events;
3. Climate resiliency and adaptation;
4. Reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution; or
5. Facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in state and federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

NOFO Section 1.B





# The Big Picture

- Track II grants were created to enhance the ability of communities to partake in government decision-making processes, particularly around climate and environmental justice concerns that directly affect communities
- Track II grants intend to build capacity of communities and governments to work together to address environmental and climate injustices
- Track II grants can make an impact by collaborating with Federal, Tribal, State, and Local governments to give communities a meaningful voice in decisions that impact them

NOFO Section 1.H





# Track I vs Track II

Track II is not an alternative version to Track I nor a smaller version of Track I

The goal of Track II is to **develop community agency and engagement in governmental decision-making processes**

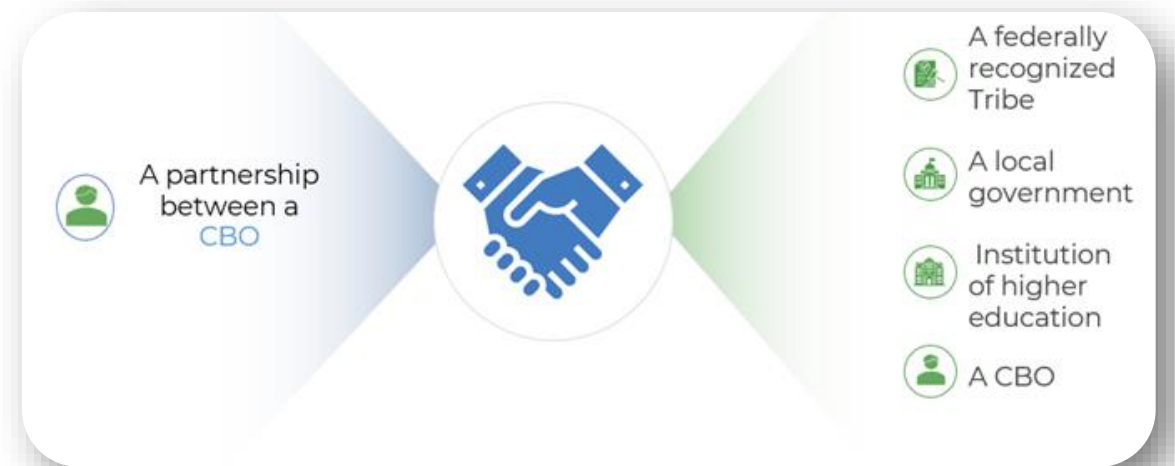
NOFO Section 1.H





# Track I and Track II both:

- Require formation of partnerships with a Community-Based Organization (CBO) and/or governments (Local, Tribal, State, or Federal)
- Need to benefit Disadvantaged Communities



NOFO Section 1, Appendix A & B,  
See recorded webinars #2 and #3







# Track I vs Track II Grants Requirements

Track I	Track II	Requirements
✓	✓	Project Narrative Attachment Form
✓	✓	Attachment A: Program Budget Template
✓	✓	Attachment B: Partnership Agreement
✓	✓	Attachment C: Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable
✓		Attachment D: Project Area Map
✓		Attachment E: Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance
✓		Attachment F: Community Strength Plan
✓		Attachment G: Readiness Approach Information
✓		Attachment H: Compliance Plan

NOFO Section IV



# Track II: Project Scale

NOFO Section 1.H,  
Appendix A

**All projects must benefit eligible disadvantaged communities**

(NOFO Appendix A, Webinar #3)

Track II is **flexible in geographic area** and can range from local to national scale

- For example, a national level program might be challenging but is eligible
- Regional, state, and comprehensive local projects are also eligible

Unlike Track I:

- Track II projects do not need to focus on a concentrated area
- Track II projects have no Project Area Map Requirement



# Track II Grants:

## Track II awards

- Award sizes are \$1-3 million
- EPA will award ~ 20 recipients



# Track II

## Objectives:

### Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

- Focus on **breaking down systemic barriers** to community participation in government processes impacting environmental and climate justice
- **Provide disadvantaged communities with information** about issues that impact them
- Create mechanisms for the government to gather input to ensure **community needs inform decision-making** & are integrated into government processes and policies
- Enable communities to play a **meaningful role** in making and implementing decisions
- **Partner** community organizations with governments, philanthropic organizations, private sector, and/or third-party evaluators





# Track II Projects CANNOT

NOFO Section 1.H

## LOBBYING is not allowed

- As per 2 CFR 200.450(c), federal funds may not be used for certain lobbying or electioneering activities
- For example,
  - Petitioning for the passage of a state law is **not** allowed
  - Training people on the legislative process **is** allowed



# Track II Projects CAN:

Engage in public processes including local, Tribal, and other governmental processes, related to environmental and climate justice. These may be, but are not limited to:

- Educational & Training Programs
- Environmental Advisory Boards
- Collaborative Governance Activities
- Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes



# Examples

Strategies to consider to create  
Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance



# Educational and Training Programs



- Prepare, train, and educate members of disadvantaged communities
- Engage in government processes related to environmental and climate justice activities







# Educational and Training Programs

## Ideas on how these programs can be developed or implemented:

- Create a leadership development program
- Provide community training to identify environmental and climate justice challenges, devise strategies to address them, and recommend actions to governmental authorities
- Compensate community members for their input including gift cards/transit subsidies/childcare coverage for community participants in a program
- Equity Action Plans: plans that identify and address barriers to equity and opportunity and discrimination that disadvantaged communities may face





# Educational and Training Programs

## For Example:

### EPA EJ Academy

<https://www.epa.gov/oh/ej-academy>

Trainings to cultivate skills to identify environmental challenges and accomplish environmental improvement goals in their communities

#### Outcomes:

- Builds community capacity
- Increases community environmental justice knowledge and engagement
- Breaks down language and jargon barriers to increase community input

### EJ Academy



EJ Academy graduates

NOFO Section 1.H



# Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)



Establishment of advisory councils, taskforces, or similar bodies to engage with government





# Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)

## Definitions:

- ❑ *Advisory Board*: a group of community members that convene to share lived experiences and policy recommendations



NOFO Section 1.H





# Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)

## Ideas on how these programs can be developed or implemented:

- Boards host regular, defined meetings
- Include members from disadvantaged communities, may include additional representatives from other stakeholder groups
- Create opportunities to provide recommendations on actions government entities should take to address environmental and climate justice challenges
- Compensate community members, staffing, and personnel at a state or local government to help support a program







# Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)

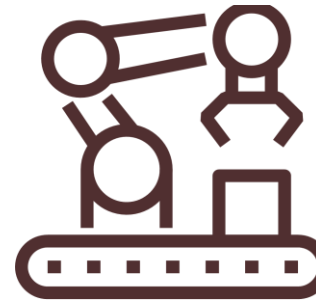
For example, these boards can provide input, advice, and recommendations on matters such as:



Municipal and  
Public Utilities



Community infrastructure  
upgrades to address pollution  
and climate concerns.



Permitting decisions  
for factories or  
industrial sites.



Zoning and siting  
guidance for fence-line  
/ frontline communities





# Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs)

## For Example:

### EPA Environmental Equity Workgroup

- Created in 1990
- Analyzed the evidence that racial minority and low-income communities bear a higher environmental risk burden than the general population,
- Considered and made recommendations on what EPA might do about identified disparities

For more information visit:

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/environmental-justice-movement>



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

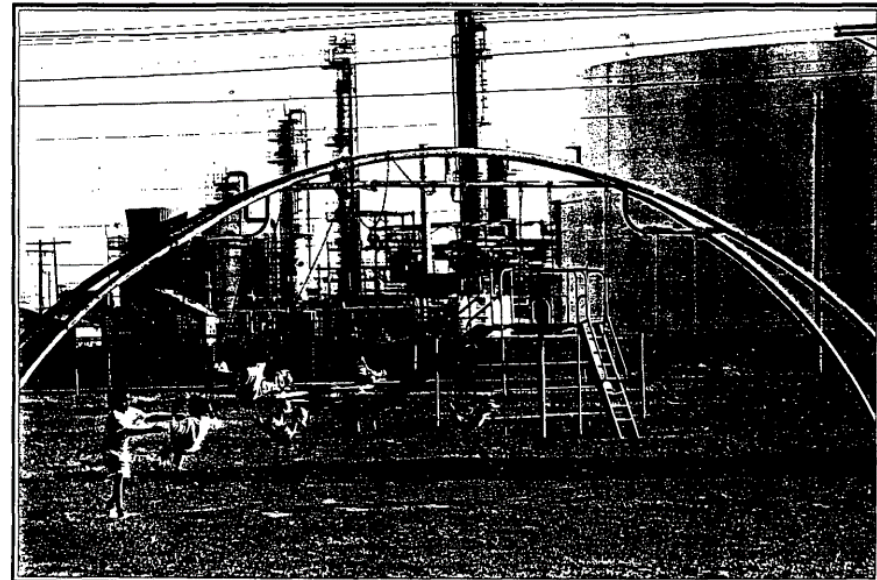
Policy, Planning,  
And Evaluation  
(PM-221)

EPA230-R-92-008A  
June 1992

## Environmental Equity

EC-2002-009  
EODIC-2002-002

### Reducing Risk For All Communities





# Collaborative Governance Activities



Facilitate the process of providing recommendations and implementing decisions that will benefit disadvantaged communities





# Collaborative Governance Activities

## Definitions:

- ❑ *Collaborative Governance*: bodies that co-produce solutions with disadvantaged communities to identify and address environmental issues





# Collaborative Governance Activities

How these programs can be developed or implemented:

- Create collaborative bodies, including development communities
- Represent the interests of disadvantaged communities, governmental entities, and other stakeholders to work on environmental and climate justice issues





# Collaborative Governance Activities

## For Example:

### Brownfield Development Community

- Development Communities gather community members and stakeholders
- Creates a robust engagement
- Provide compensation to community members
- Allows community members to be involved and guide the development of the site

“Build a Development Community” toolkit:  
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/actionmodeltoolkit/build-a-development-community/>



NOFO Section 1.H





# Collaborative Governance Activities

## Definitions:

- ❑ *Community Benefit Plan*: Agreement to help ensure that environmental projects funded by federal, state, and / or private entities meaningfully engage and account for community needs

## For Example:

### Oakland Waterfront Ballpark District at Howard Terminal

- Developed a Community Benefits Process via multi-stakeholder steering committee and grassroots efforts
- Uses racial disparities data from the Oakland Race and Equity Baseline Indicators Report (2019) to establish race and equity baselines from which community benefits recommendations will be developed
- For more information visit: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/community-benefits-agreement-cba-for-the-oakland-as-waterfront-ballpark-district-at-howard-terminal>

NOFO Section 1.H



# Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes



Participatory budgeting to inform public spending on environmental priorities

NOFO Section 1.H

NOFO Section 1.H







# Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes

## Definitions:

- ❑ *Participatory Budgeting*: an approach to making decisions about governmental spending that is focused on meaningfully and deeply engaging the community in governmental funding processes



NOFO Section 1.H







# Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes

## How these programs can be developed or implemented:

- Enable CBOs to partner with a public entity to design and implement processes
- Uplift members of disadvantaged communities' voices to have input into, and influence, decisions about how to allocate public budgets for environmental and climate justice priorities
- Communities can *identify problems, evaluate proposals, and recommend decisions* for public funding of projects that implicate environmental and climate justice issues





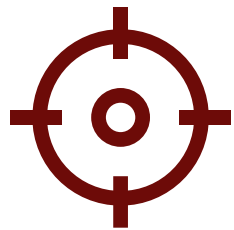
# Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes

**For Example:**

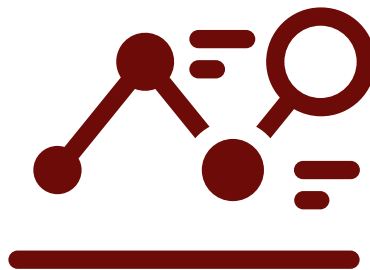
## Transform Fresno: The Transformative Climate Communities Program

[https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/tcc/docs/20190201-TCC\\_Awardee\\_Fresno.pdf](https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/tcc/docs/20190201-TCC_Awardee_Fresno.pdf)

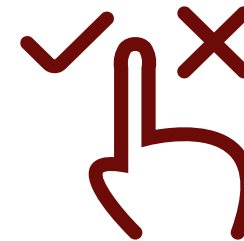
- Provides a community oversight of a part of a budget, for example urban development
- Increases community and civic engagement
- Community involved in deciding how funding is allocated



Identify



Evaluate



Recommend  
Decisions



# In Summary

NOFO contains information on 4 example activities:

- **Educational & Training Programs**
- **Environmental Advisory Boards**
- **Collaborative Governance Activities**
- **Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes**

These can be viewed as strategies

Applicants may expand or adapt these examples or submit projects that are not listed below if they demonstrate how they will facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes



# Equitable & Meaningful Engagement

Michael Burns





# Things to Keep in Mind

- With the funding available, you can build a robust program. Focus on building the program and worry about the budget second
- Your community members do not always understand the root causes of the issues and ways to address the root causes (environmental degradation, health concerns, etc.). Your initial focus should be on identifying the issues and educating the community on why they are happening
- Make sure you are using knowledgeable people via the Lead Technical Assistance Providers (LTPs) to educate people on why things are happening; you want true and factual information passed along
- Once you know what is happening and why, use knowledgeable people via the LTPs to help you develop ways to address the problems. It does no good to know what is happening if you can't find a way to do something about it





# Things to Keep in Mind

- Develop a core group of people who are willing to work with experts to develop communication strategies, policy recommendations, and potential projects to address issues
- Conduct regular meetings with your community to keep them informed and engaged. Hold a raffle or a give away to make it fun!
- Develop partnerships with organizations who can provide help and long-term support so work can continue after the funding is gone
- Consider youth involvement. They may care a lot more than you think. And try to make the meetings fun, as well as educational



# Q & A

Major application pieces & scoring and evaluation criteria for Track II







# Selection of FAQs

## **Can Track II applications focus on benefitting multiple disadvantaged communities?**

Yes, applicants can propose Track II projects that benefit multiple disadvantaged communities if they meet the Track II NOFO requirements in Appendix A.

## **Is a statutory partnership needed for a Track II application?**

Yes, the applicant eligibility requirements in Sections III.A and III.B of the NOFO are the same for Track I and II applications

## **Can a Track II application focus on facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in different cities and/or states in governmental processes?**

Yes, there is no Project Area Map required for Track II applications, and Track II applications do not have to be as place-based as Track I applications. Please refer to the NOFO Track II requirements.

See FAQs at: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-02/community-change-grants-nofo-faq-2.1.2024.pdf>





# Questions Submitted During Registration

- Can we present projects as a means of advocacy for Track II? Can we get assistance on grants.gov?
- How important is organization budget in relation to grant size? Is \$1-3M the award range for Track II? Will some Track II awards exceed \$3 million?
- The NOFO is fairly general on scope it desires to fund. How do we know what will score most highly and how to communicate that?
- Can national non-profits receive funds for contractual work if they are part of the collaboration?
- What can you do if there are any issues registering for sam.gov?



# Closing Remarks

Key Messages  
Next Steps



# Key Messages

- Track II Grants are not smaller Track I Grants
- Track II Grants promote Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance
- Track II Grants facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in Local, State, and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes
- Project Examples can be viewed as strategies; however, are not exhaustive





# Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA) Webinar Series Schedule

All sessions at 3pm ET, Tuesdays

**30 JAN**

**Kickoff & Program  
Overview**

TA Process, CCG Overview

**6 FEB**

**Eligibility & Partnerships**  
Applicant Criteria,  
Partnership Dynamics

**13 FEB**

**Defining Disadvantaged  
Communities**  
Community Mapping, EJ  
Indicators

**20 FEB**

**CCG NOFO Track I Overview**  
Project Strategies,  
Community Needs

**27 FEB**

**CCG NOFO Track II Overview**  
Policy, Capacity Building

**5 MAR**

**Community Engagement &  
Governance**  
Engagement Models,  
Governance Strategies

**12 MAR**

**Federal Grants Requirements  
& Compliance**  
Compliance Requirements

**19 MAR**

**Preparing a Grant Budget**  
Budgeting Techniques

**ENDYNA**



# Thank You!





# Educational and Training Programs

## Definitions:

- ❑ *Equity Action Plans*: plans that identify and address barriers to equity and opportunity and discrimination that disadvantaged communities may face

