Community Change Technical Assistance Webinar Series

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- Choose Spanish
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Community Change Technical Assistance Webinar Series

Presented by EnDyna

JANUARY 30, 2024

Davis Jones, Senior Project Manager
EnDyna

Agenda

Welcome to the Community Change Technical Assistance Webinar Series

EnDyna's Role
- Under contract to the EPA to deliver technical assistance under the Community Change Technical Assistance Program

Webinar Series Goals
- To give a clear understanding of how EnDyna is providing technical assistance
- To provide an overview of the NOFO, covering topics such as:
  - Eligibility and partnership dynamics
  - Strategies for project implementation and community needs
  - Policy frameworks, capacity enhancement, engagement and governance strategies
  - Compliance mandates, budgeting methods

EN DYNA

Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)
Webinar Series Schedule

EnDyna

🕐 **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

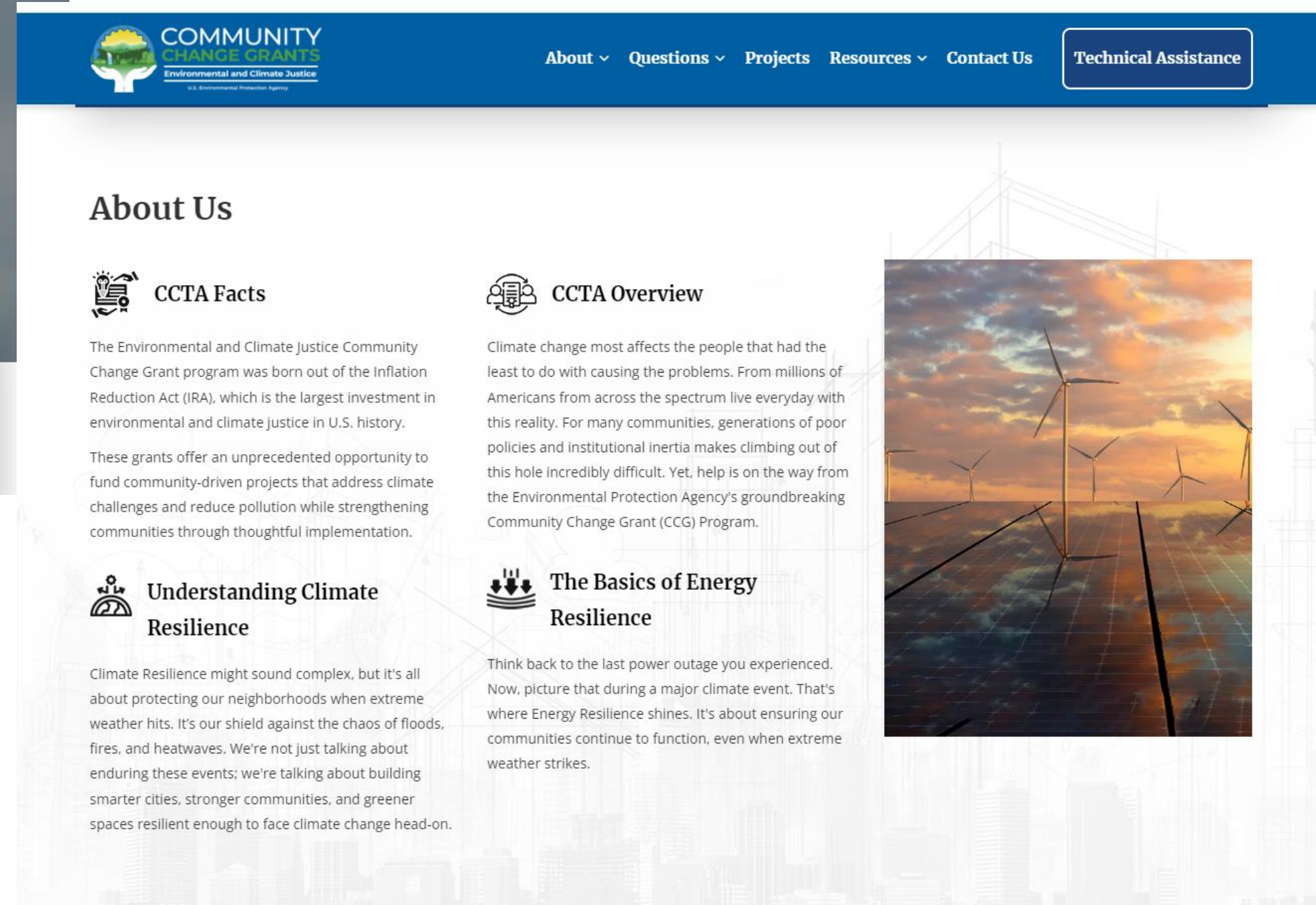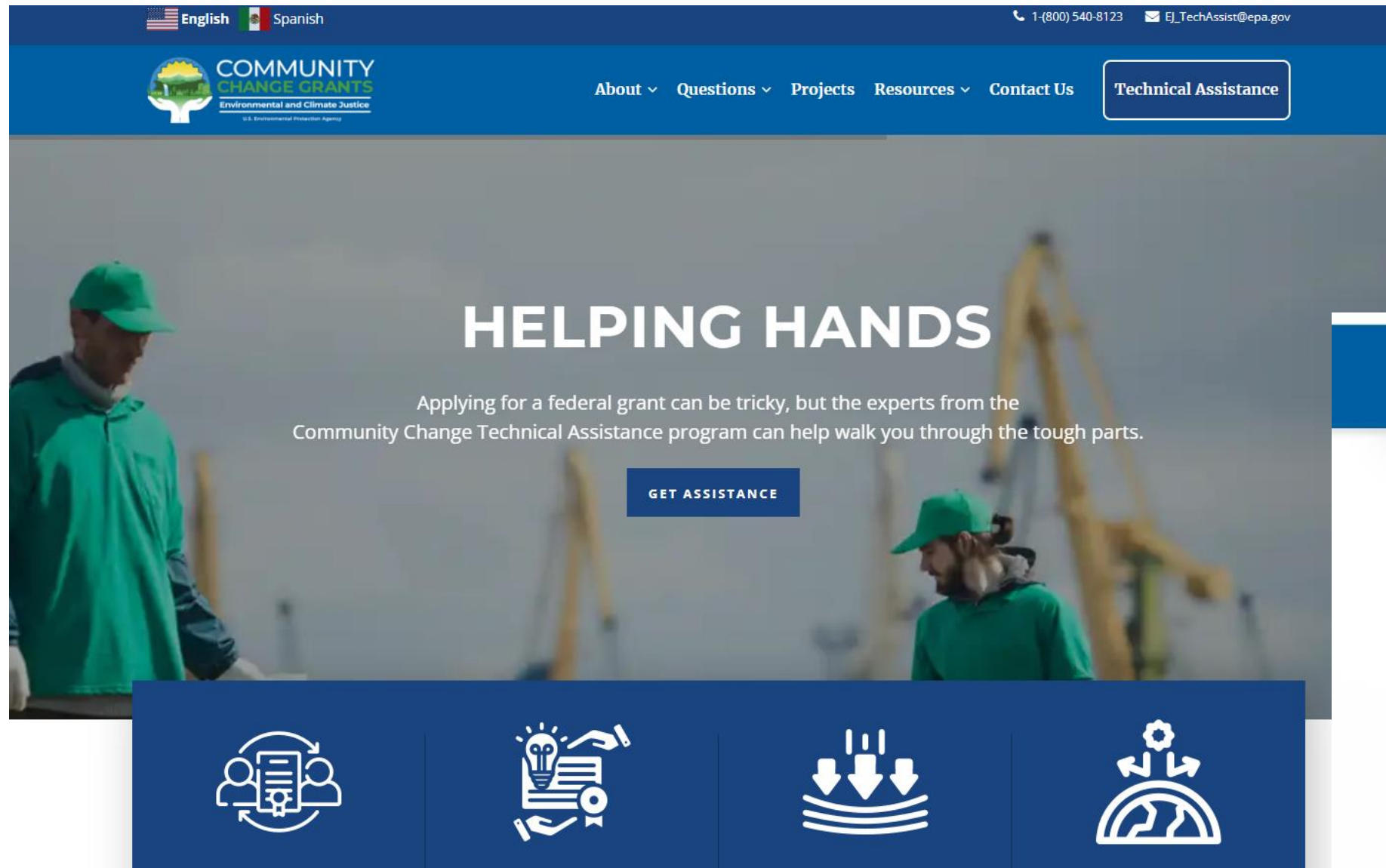**19 MAR**
Preparing a Grant Budget
Budgeting Techniques

TBD MAR/APR
Project Evaluation
Output, Impact Assessment

Community Change TA Website

https://communitychangeta.org/

Community Change TA Website

https://communitychangeta.org/

Overview of
Technical Assistance

1

CC Technical Assistance

IRA provided EPA with $200M for technical assistance (TA) for eligible entities related to the Environmental and Climate Justice Program, including the Community Change Grants.

Only available to eligible entities that intend to apply for the grants.

EnDyna and our partners were awarded contract in November 2023 to provide TA nationally.

Purpose

- Technical assistance will be available for:
  - **pre-award** support including but not limited to designing a project, preparing an application, grants.gov support, or facilitating partnerships, and
  - **post-award** support to help grant recipients manage, oversee, perform, and report on the grants.

- TA does not include writing an application *for* an applicant.

- Receiving technical assistance does not guarantee that applicants will be selected for funding.

Matching TA Needs with Expert TA Providers

TA Request → Eligibility Review → Needs Assessment → Lead Technical Assistance Provider (LTP) → Specific Technical Support

EnDyna

Request for Technical Assistance

https://communitychangeta.org/technical-assistance

- Contact Information

- Type of Organization

- Intent to apply

- Applying with Partner

- Location of Community

- Project benefits for Disadvantaged Community

- Type of Project

- Type of TA needed
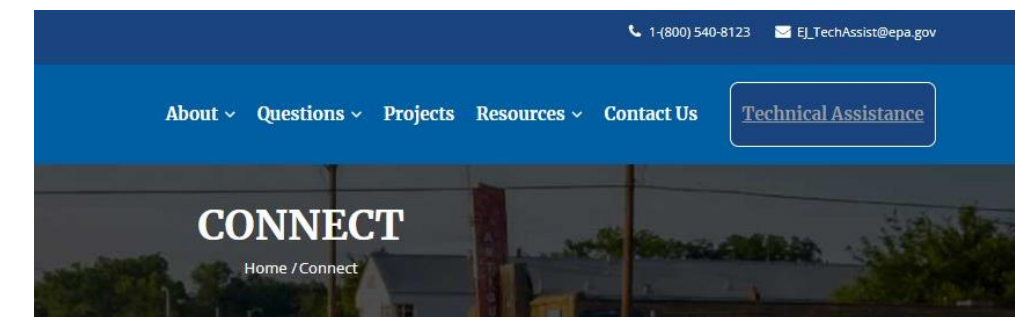
Questions about how to make a TA Request: 1(800)540-8123
Email: EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov

Eligibility Review

- Is the organization eligible for TA?

  - Community Based Organization

  - Local Government

  - Tribe

  - Institute of Higher Learning

- Is the community disadvantaged?

- Do they intend to apply with a partner?

- Are they requesting the type of TA that EnDyna can provide?

ENDYNA

Needs Assessment

- Direct contact with requester

- Brief conversation to discuss the project and needs

- Match-making between TA Request and Lead Technical Assistance Provider (LTP)

  - Geographic connection

  - Familiarity with similar projects

  - Expertise with requested TA

EnDyna

Lead Technical Assistance Provider (LTP)

- Individual level contact for applicant

- One-on-one support for community

- Experienced working with communities and grant programs

- Continuous, consistent relationship

- Conduit to Subject Matter Experts

ENDYNA

Specific Technical Support – **Project Development**

- Readiness Approach

- Compliance Plans

- Meaningful Engagement

- Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan

- Environmental Results

- Performance Measurement Plans

- Budget, Indirect Costs, etc.

ENDYNA

Specific Technical Support – Continued Project Development

EnDyna

- Climate Action Strategies
  - ➤ Green Infrastructure
  - ➤ Mobility and Transportation
  - ➤ Energy-Efficient, Healthy and Resilient Housing and Buildings
  - ➤ Microgrid Installations
  - ➤ Community Resilience Hubs
  - ➤ Brownfield Redevelopment
  - ➤ Waste Reduction and Management
  - ➤ Workforce Development

- Pollution Reduction Strategies
  - ➤ Indoor Air Quality
  - ➤ Outdoor Air Quality
  - ➤ Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Wastes
- Construction
- Design and Engineering
- Mapping (CJEST and EJ Screen)
- Outcomes and Outputs
- Community Engagement
- Community Strength Plan

Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

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

Program Overview

Bruce Binder, Senior Grants Policy Advisor

Overview of

Community Change Grants Program

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 (cannot exceed $20M)

Track II

Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Funding Available: approx. $40 million

Number of Awards: approx. 20

Per Award Amount: $1M - $3M each (cannot exceed $3M)

TOTAL $2 BILLION

TRACK I - $1.96B

$40M

TRACK II

Overview of
Threshold Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility

Applications must meet **all** eligibility criteria, as outlined in Section III of the NOFO, to be considered for funding.

✓ Comply with the content and submission requirements.

✓ Meet the eligibility and statutory partnership requirements in Section III.A.

✓ Meet threshold criteria in Section III.D, including that the projects will benefit disadvantaged communities.

✓ Projects must be completed within three years.

✗ Applications to conduct scientific research; assessment, removal, or remediation of Superfund sites; or community relocation are ineligible.
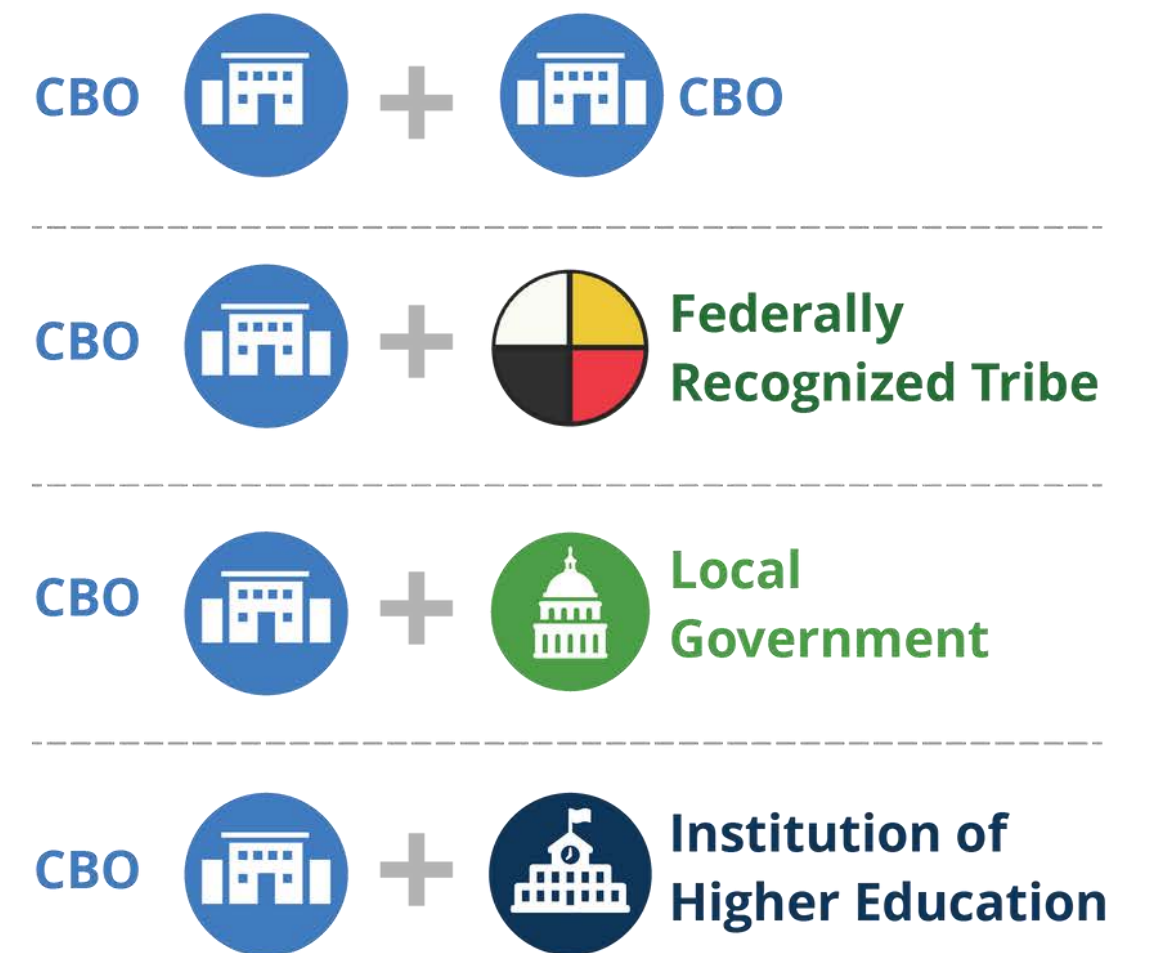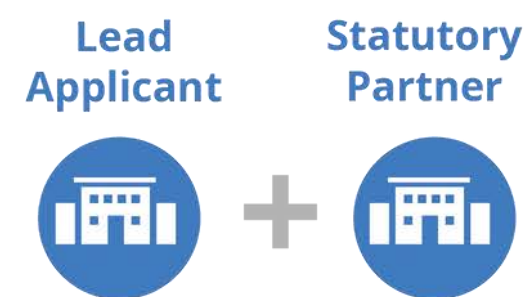
Statutory Partnership

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.

Lead Applicant + **Statutory Partner**

CBO + CBO

CBO + **Federally Recognized Tribe**

CBO + **Local Government**

CBO + **Institution of Higher Education**

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

Collaborating Entities

Other entities can be involved in projects as **collaborating entities**.

Collaborating Entities may include entities that legally could be Statutory Partners (CBOs, Federally-recognized Tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education) and entities that cannot legally be Statutory Partners (e.g., states and territorial governments).
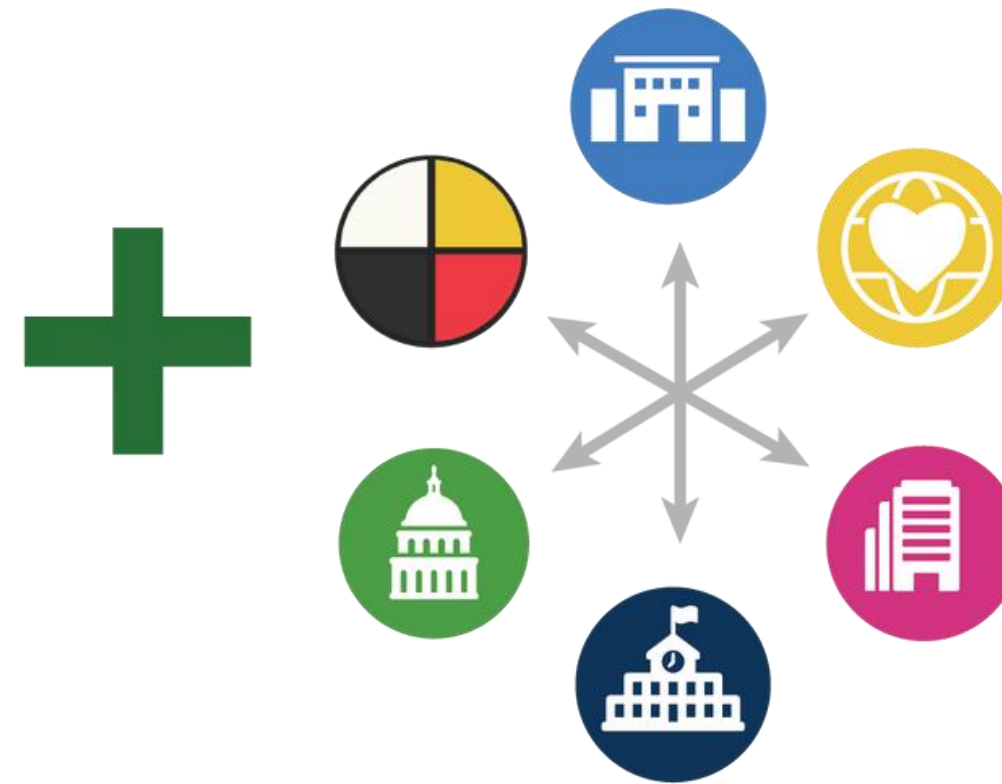
How It Works

FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP

Lead Applicant + Statutory Partner
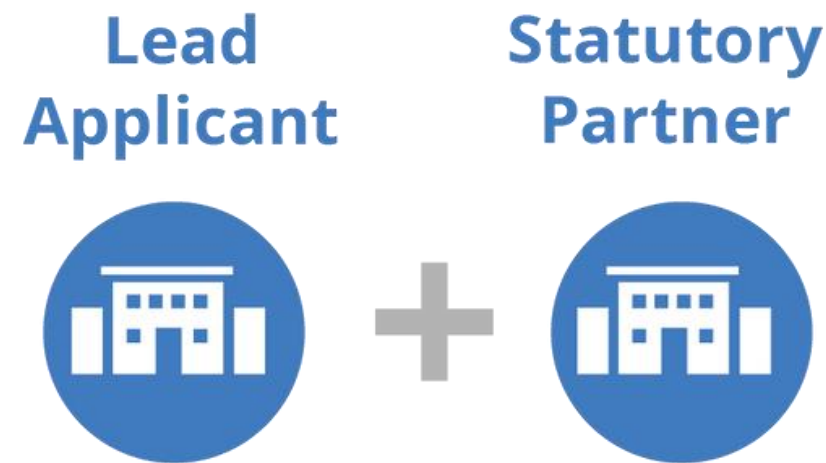
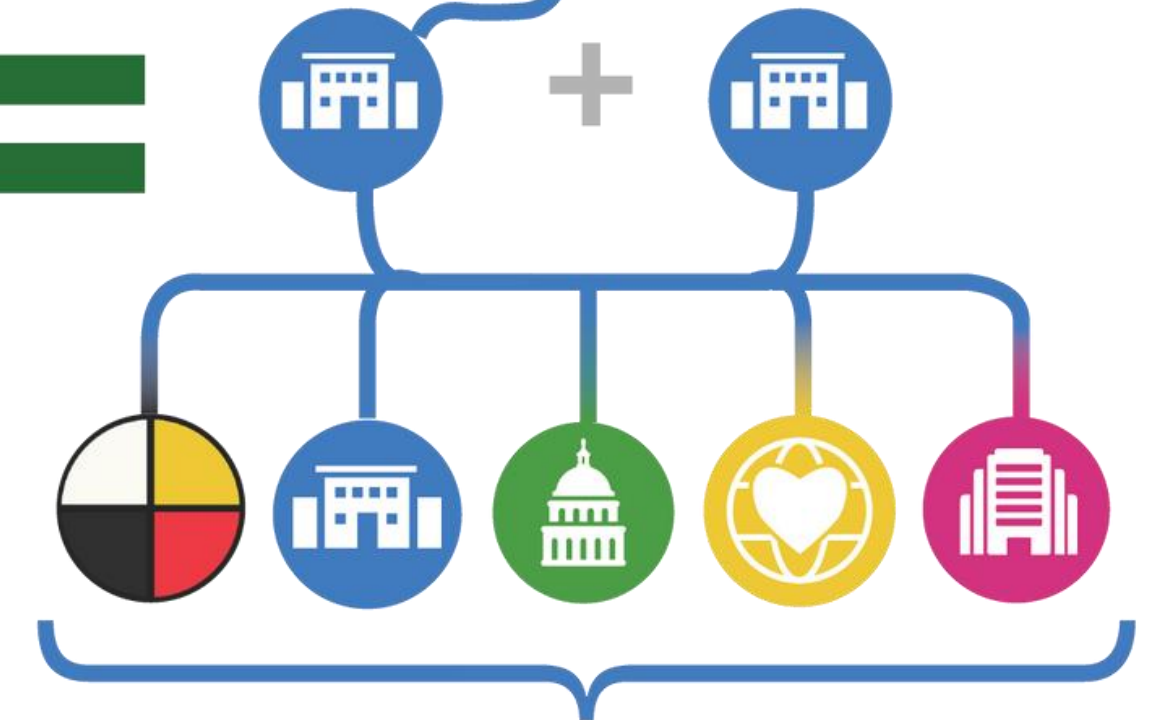**IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS**

+

THE COLLABORATIVE

EPA

Lead Applicant + Statutory Partner

=

Collaborating Entities

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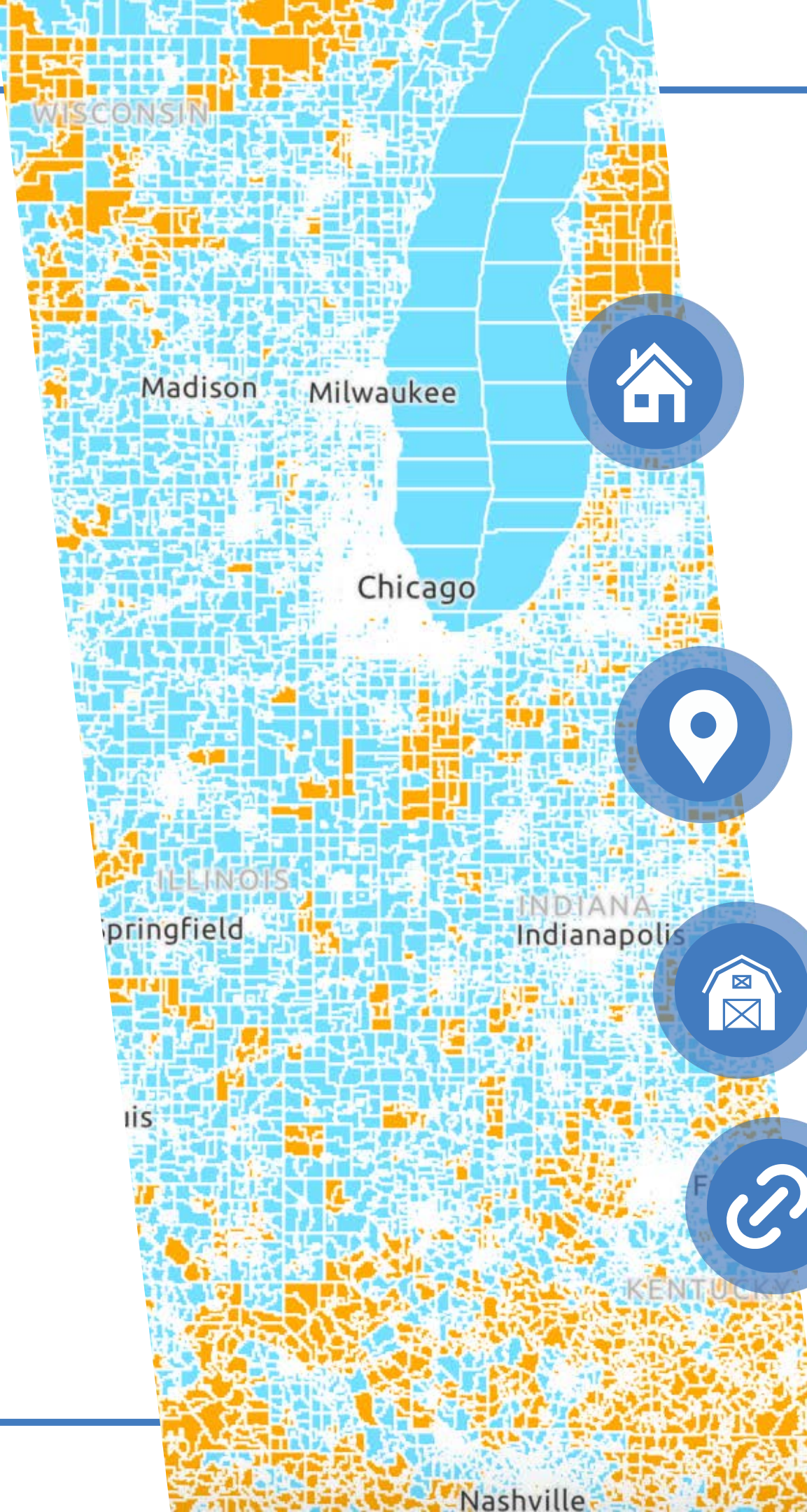
A geographically-defined community identified as disadvantaged on the EPA IRA [Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)

A Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)

OR

A farmworker community

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

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

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

Track I and Track II
Overview

Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change

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

TRACK I OBJECTIVES

1 **Increase** community climate resilience

2 **Reduce** local pollution & improve public health

3 **Center** meaningful community engagement

4 **Build** community strength

5 **Reach** priority populations

6 **Maximize** integration across projects
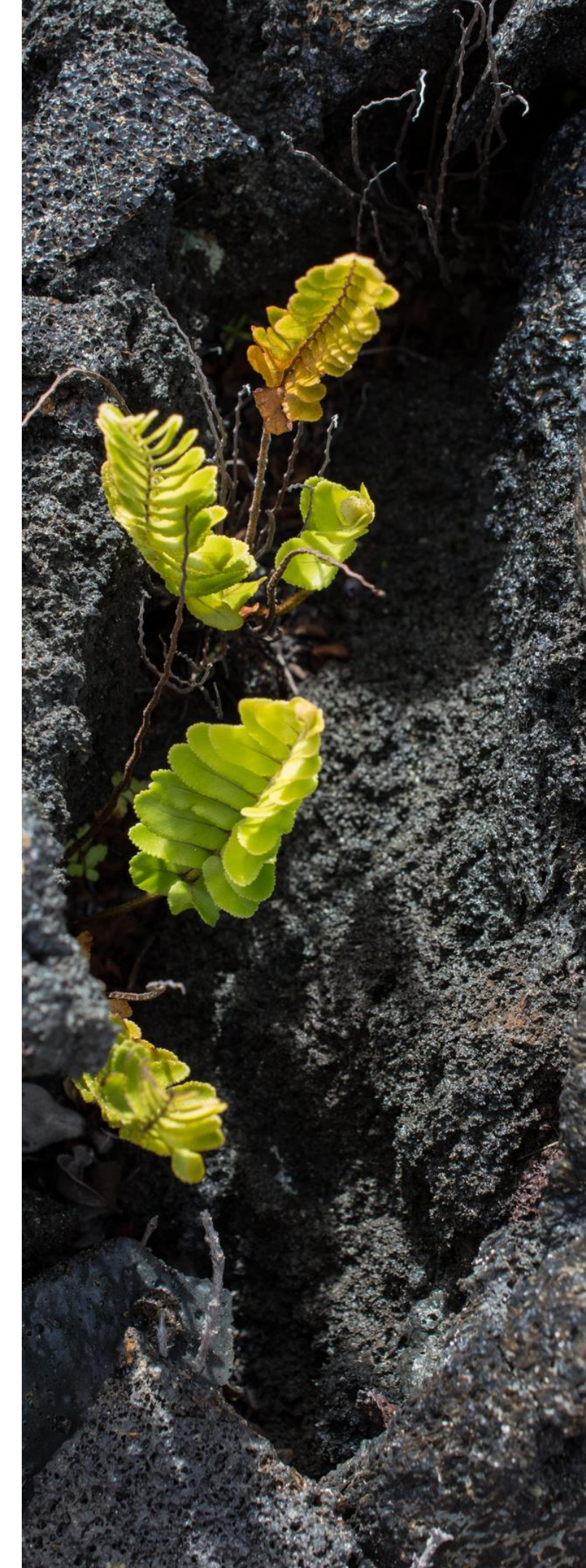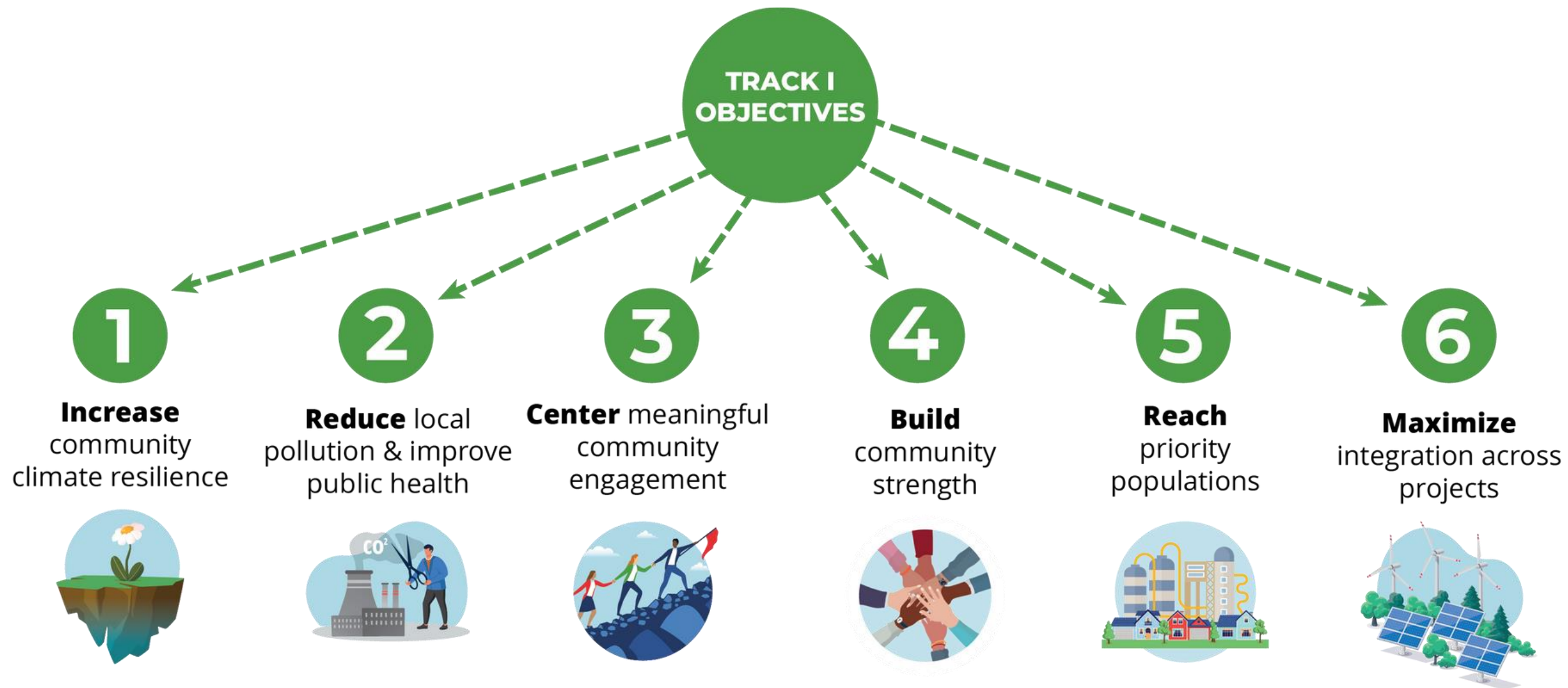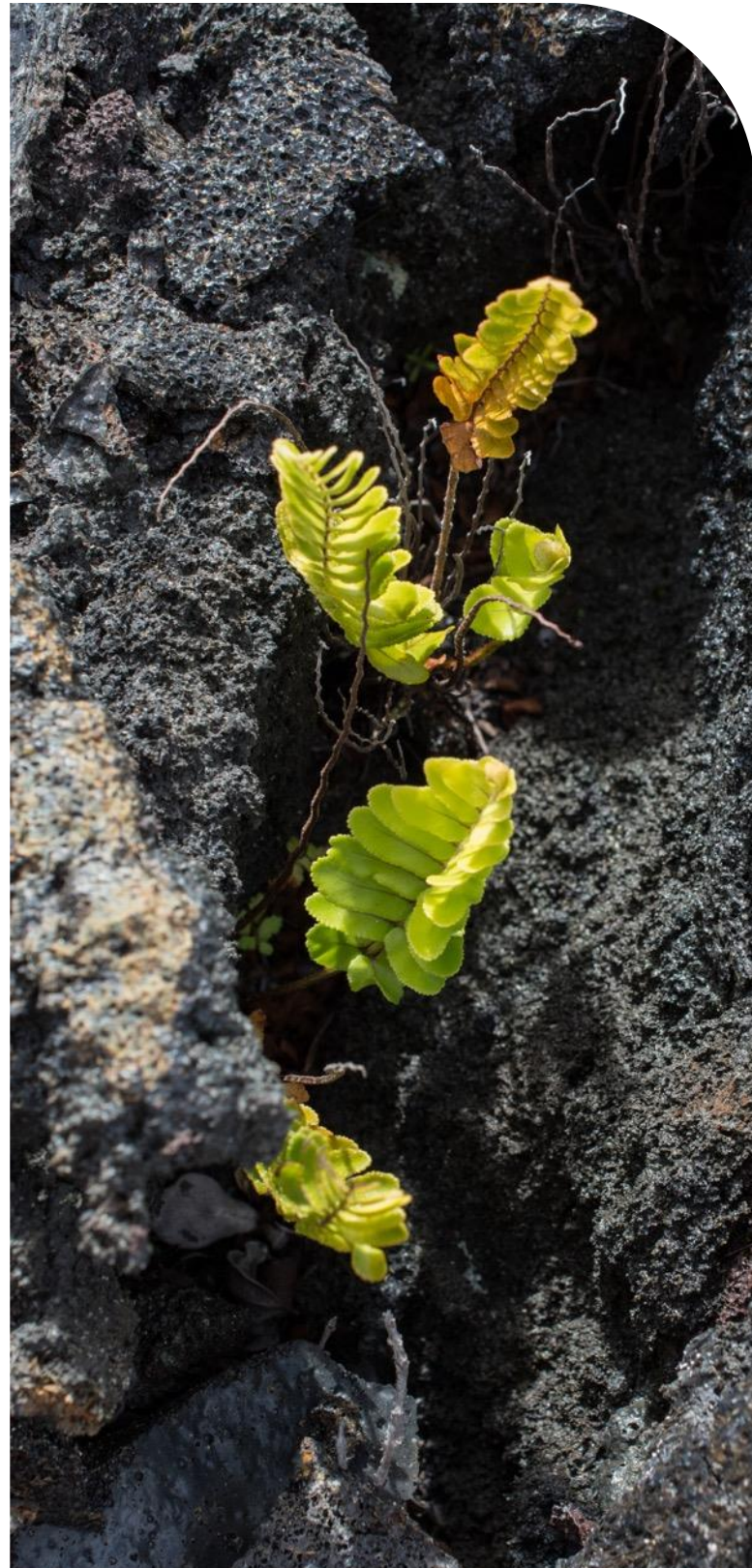
Track 1 Requirements

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

Climate Action

1

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

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

2

See Appendix D for project examples

Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan

3

- **Community Engagement:** Applicants should address the following elements:
  - Past community outreach and engagement conducted
  - Methods for implementation
  - Measures to minimize and mitigate barriers
  - Government involvement
- **Collaborative Governance Structure:** The applicant should provide details regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Applicant, Collaborating Entities, and community residents and/or community-selected representatives for implementing, managing, and overseeing the application's project activities, including how they should meet regularly to discuss project implementation.

Community Strength Plan

4

- Advancing environmental and climate justice requires bolstering the **strength** and **economic prosperity** of a community for the benefit of local residents, while also ensuring those residents can remain within the community and benefit from the investments over the long term.

- This plan should describe how the projects are intended to:
  - **maximize the economic benefits of the projects** for existing residents in the Project Area, and
  - **avoid unintended consequences for existing residents** in the Project Area including the displacement of residents in the Project Area.

Readiness Approach

To ensure projects can begin shortly upon award and be completed within 3 years, applicants must demonstrate:

- **Government Approvals:** Obtained government approval if needed.
- **Federal Requirements for Construction:** Complies with any statutory and EO requirements that apply to construction projects.
- **Alignment with Existing Plans:** Project is consistent with governmental land use restrictions.
- **Site Control:** Owns, controls or has legal access to the site of a project.
- **Operations and Maintenance:** Operations and maintenance of the investment will be assured during and after the grant award.

5

Compliance Plan

Applicants must submit a Compliance Plan that describes how they will:

1. **Ensure compliance with the grant's terms and conditions**, including**:**

   • Financial management: 2 CFR § 200.302(b)
   • Internal controls: 2 CFR § 200.303
   • Requirements for pass-through entities: 2 CFR § 200.332

2. **Manage broader legal and compliance risks**

6

Track II: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Objectives

- To build the capacity of communities to evaluate and redress environmental and climate injustices
- To give disadvantaged communities a meaningful voice in government decision-making processes

Track II: Project Examples

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

Overview of
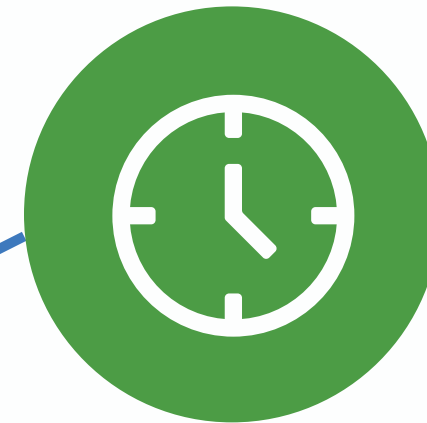
Application Submission, Evaluation and Selection Process

ROLLING APPLICATION

November 21, 2023

Applications Open

Applications will be accepted, reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis.

November 21, 2024

Applications Close

Application packages will be accepted until November 21, 2024, at 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) through grants.gov.
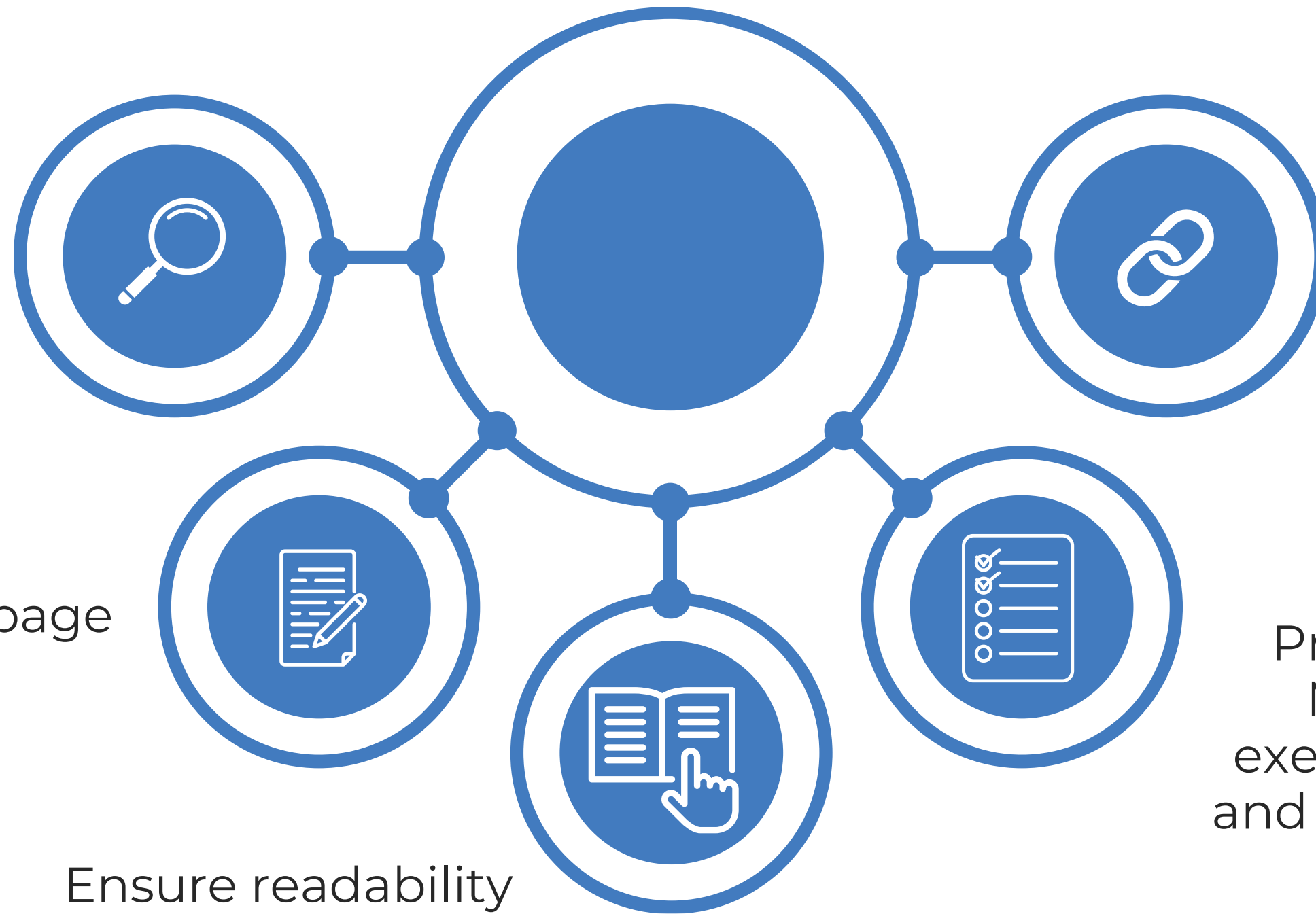
Application Submission

Follow the instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of the NOFO

Register with **SAM.gov** and **grants.gov** ASAP

Make note of page limits

Project narrative MUST include executive summary and project workplan

Ensure readability

Evaluation Criteria

Track I

Community Driven Investments for Change (80 pts)

Program Management, Capability, and Capacity (35 pts)

Readiness to Proceed, Feasibility, and Sustainability (40 pts)

Oral Presentations (45 pts)

Evaluation Criteria

Track II

- Program Objectives (35 pts)
- Project Collaboration and Participation (20 pts)
- Project Linkages (4 pts)
- Budget (8 pts)
- Environmental Results (6 pts)
- CBO Experience and Commitment (5 pts)
- Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources (16 pts)
- Past Performance (6 pts)

SELECTION PROCESS

Track I

Eligibility

Applications reviewed for threshold eligibility.

Written Evaluation

Written applications that receive a score of 110 or higher (out of 155) will be invited to give an oral presentation.

Oral Presentations

Worth a maximum of 45 points.

Applications with a combined score of 170 or more, based on written and oral, move to final selection consideration.

Final Consideration

Applications receiving a combined score of between 110 and 169 will be ranked and reviewed approx. monthly for final selection consideration.

Track II

Applications reviewed for threshold eligibility.

Written applications that receive a score of 85 or higher (out of 100) will move to final selection consideration.
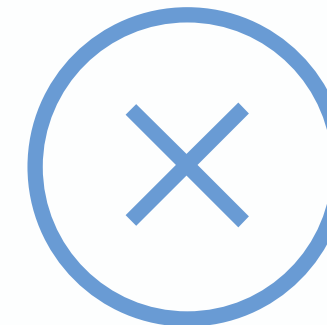
Applications receiving a score below 85 will be ranked and reviewed approx. monthly for final selection consideration.

Debriefings and Disputes

Applicants who are deemed ineligible or who are not selected for funding may request a debriefing.

For more information on the debriefing and dispute process, see Section VI of the NOFO.

Resubmission

Applicants who are deemed eligible but are not selected for funding may, after timely requesting and receiving a debriefing on the application, resubmit.

For more information see Section II.C of the NOFO.

Important Note

Reminder: Today's overview did not cover all aspects of the NOFO. Please review the entire NOFO before submitting an application. Also please note that the NOFO has been modified once and may be modified in the future so make sure you are reading the latest version.

There will also be FAQs posted on the CCG website that you should read before submitting an application.

There is support available to assist you in submitting a complete application.

Additional Resources

About the NOFO:

- [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (note: modified in December 2023)
- [Coming Soon] Frequently Asked Questions – will be posted on [EPA website](#)
- [Full December 7, 2023 webinar slides –](#) Extended version of these materials

Additional NOFO Requirements (many are referred to in Section VI of the NOFO and address post-award issues):

- [Fraud, Waste & Abuse](#)
- [Davis Bacon Act](#)
- [Build America Buy America](#)
- [EPA's General Terms and Conditions](#)
- [EPA's Solicitation Clauses](#)
- [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreement](#)
- [Methods of Procurement (2 CFR 200.320)](#)
- [Participant Support Costs (2 CFR 1500.1)](#)
- [Reporting Requirements (Section IV)](#)
- [Appendix G: Indirect Costs](#)

Thank You

EnDyna
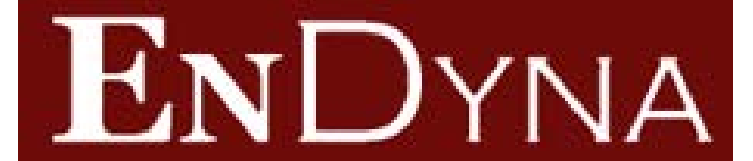
- Thank you for your time today

- Please visit https://communitychangeta.org/webinars to view a recording of today's webinar, as well as register for upcoming webinars.

- Today's recording will be posted within 24 hours of today's presentation.

- Please send any questions to EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov.

COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS
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