Defining Disadvantaged Communities

Determining Eligibility using Mapping Tools

Community Change Technical Assistance

WEBINAR SERIES

Sarah McGrath, PhD, *Abt Global*

FEBRUARY 13, 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
- (Optional) To hear the interpreted language only, click Mute Original Audio.
- You must join the meeting audio through your computer audio/VoIP. You cannot listen to language interpretation if you use the dial-in or call me phone audio features.
- 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 is regularly updating 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

Defining Disadvantaged Communities

Determining Eligibility using Mapping Tools

The CCG Program Offers:

- ✓ Unprecedented Opportunity to 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: as we will discuss today, grants are for defined disadvantaged communities.

Today's Program

Welcome and Speakers

Disadvantaged Communities

Definitions | Mapping Requirements
Mapping Tools | Demo on Creating a Project Area Map

Q & A Session

Closing Remarks

Featured Presenters

Sarah McGrath, PhD

Data Analyst

Abt Global

- Tools and Training Team Leader for ECJ CCTA
- Climate and Environmental Scientist
- PhD in Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences from Brown University
- Previously Visiting Assistant at Brown University: Course - Climate Justice

Matt Lee, MA

Environmental Protection Specialist

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

- Co-leads EPA's EJScreen
- Started in Region III mapping for EJ
- MA in Environmental Science from University of Pennsylvania
- Lecturer at UPenn: Course—The Principles of Mapping for Environmental Justice

Definition of Disadvantaged Communities

- Geographically defined by the EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Layer
- Farmworker Community
- Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community

Benefit Disadvantaged Communities

- The IRA requires this funding to benefit disadvantaged communities, as defined by Appendix A in the NOFO.
- The NOFO provides a definition of disadvantaged communities in Appendix A.
- Applicants must demonstrate that the projects in their application would benefit a disadvantaged community.
- Applicants can determine whether they are a disadvantaged community using the IRA Disadvantaged Community map layer in EJScreen.

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

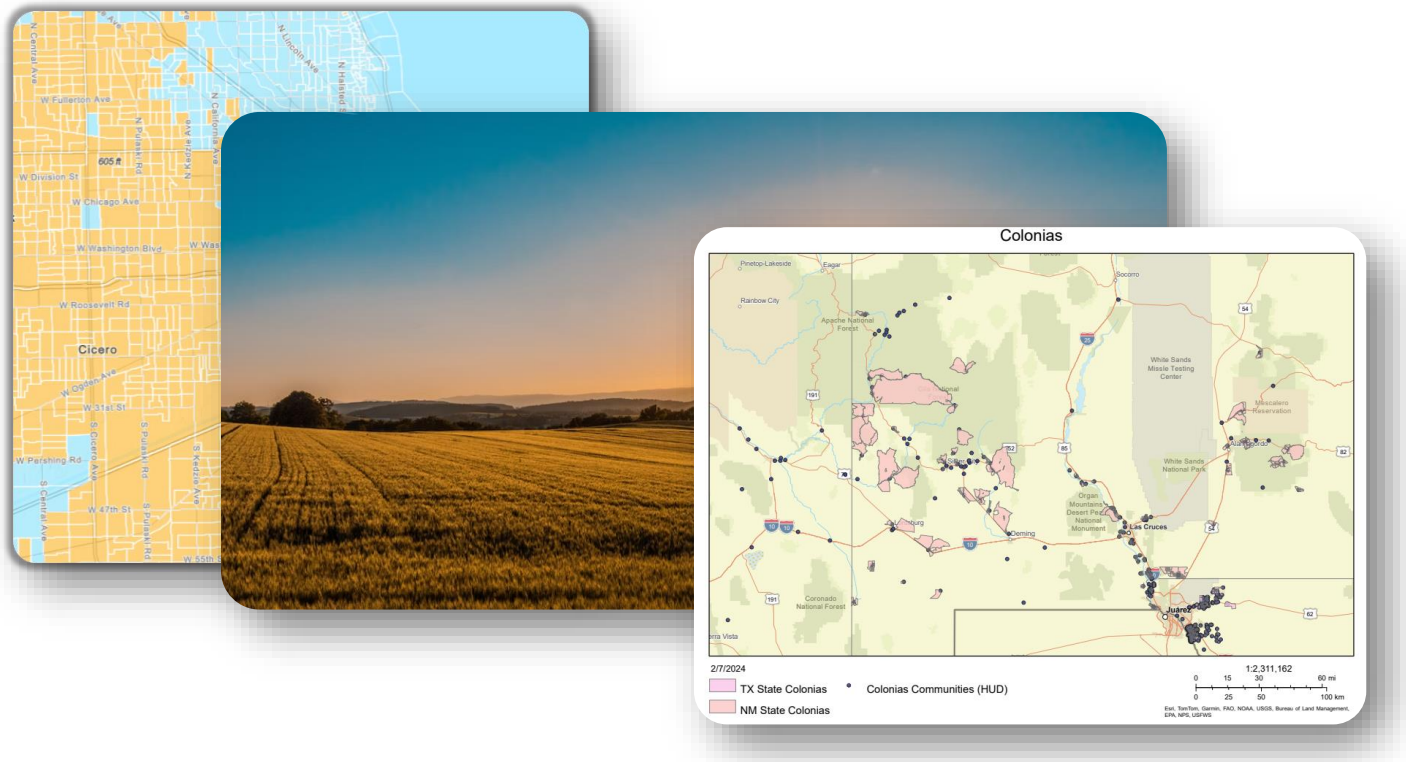
Definition

A disadvantaged community is defined as a community that meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. A geographically defined community designated as disadvantaged on the EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Layer
2. A farmworker community*
3. A Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)*

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

Disadvantaged Communities



*Sometimes, a community may fit in more than one disadvantaged category

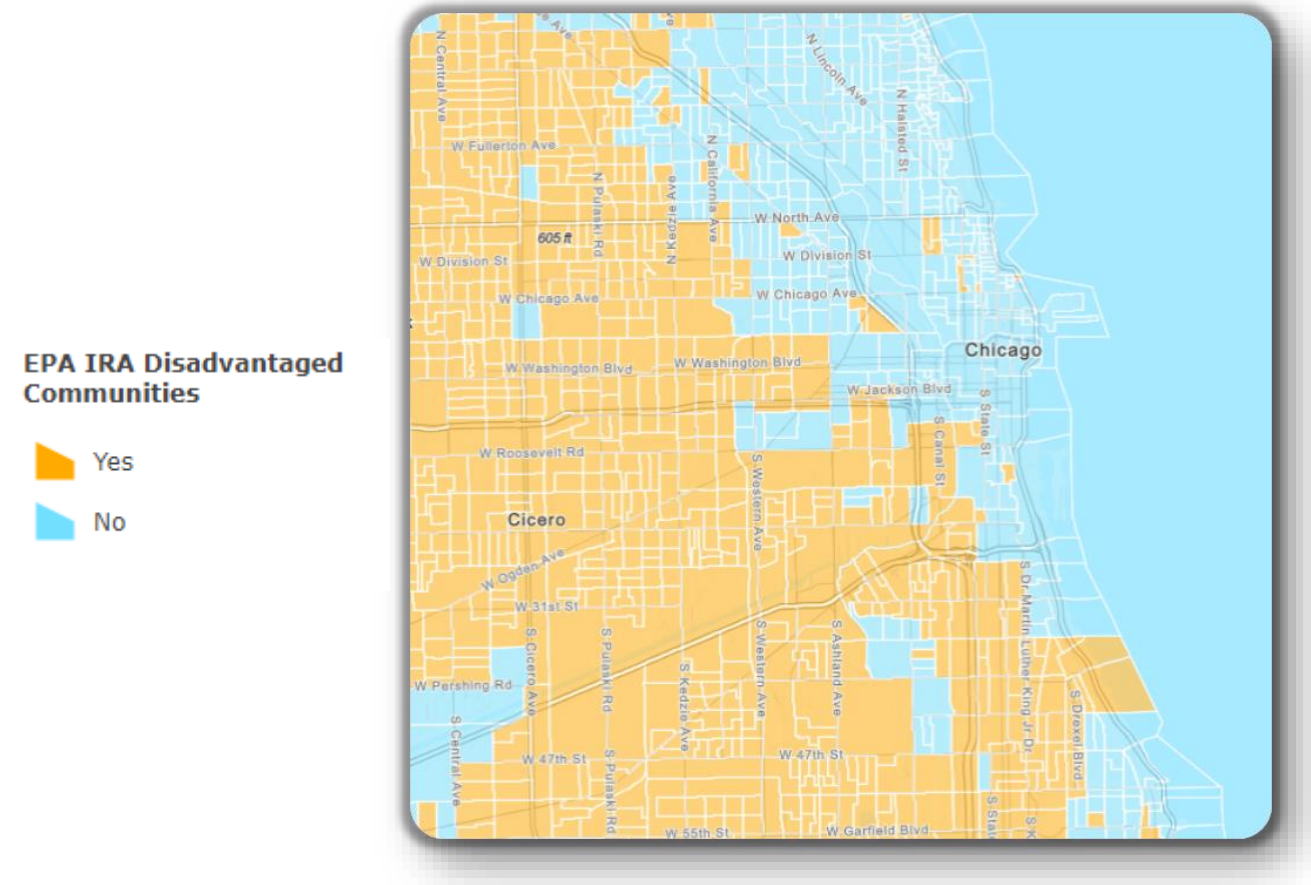
Definition

The definition includes all of the following:

- Any census tract that is identified as disadvantaged in CEJST
- Any census block group that is at or above the 90th percentile for any of EJScreen's Supplemental Indexes when compared to the nation or state
- Any geographic area within Tribal lands, as included in EJScreen*

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities



Definition

A Farmworker Community is made of individuals with:

- no fixed work address,
- who travel from their permanent residence to work in agriculture on a temporary or seasonal basis, and
- may relocate several times throughout the year.

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

Farmworker Community

Applicants can demonstrate that a farmworker community is comprised of such individuals by submitting verification documentation from an authorizing governmental entity or through comparable means.

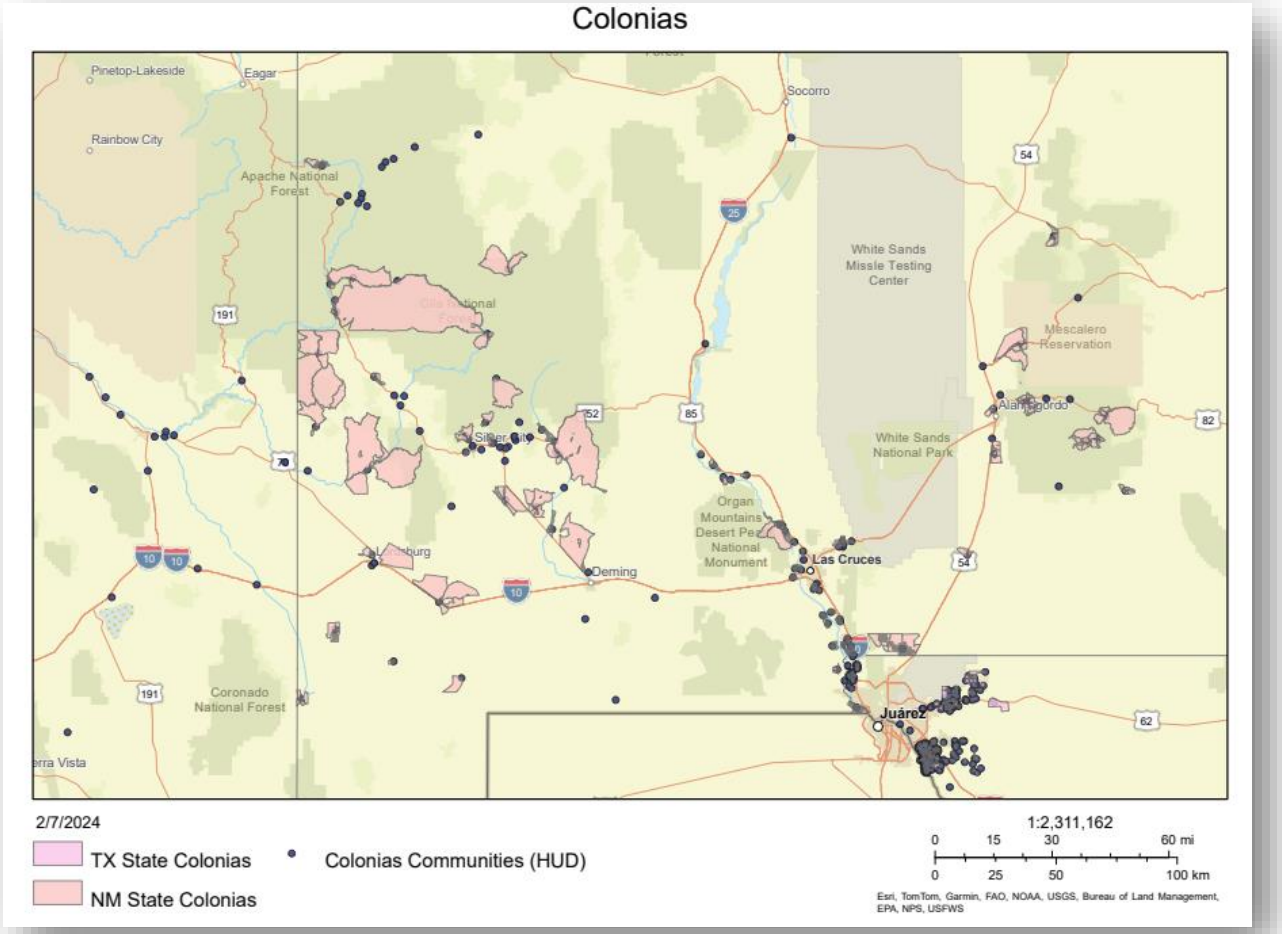
Definition

- Census Designated Places that lack fixed legally determined geographic boundaries
- Includes all areas defined as Colonias by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Colonias that are not defined by HUD but are identifiable on the “Colonias” layer in EJScreen are also considered DUCs.

Direct questions to CCGP@epa.gov regarding verification.

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)



Mapping Requirements

- Applications
- Project Area Map

Applications

All applications must demonstrate that the projects in their application would benefit a disadvantaged community.

Track 1

- Must submit a Project Area Map
- See full instructions in Appendix A in the NOFO

Track 2

- Not required to submit a Project Area Map.
- Must describe and identify the disadvantaged communities that will benefit from the projects.

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

Project Area Summary

For Track 1 Applications:

- The ECJ CCG program is intended to create place-based, transformative, concentrated investments.
- Concentrated and compact Project Areas may maximize benefits
- Activities spread across a large Project Area may be more dispersed and less impactful to the designated disadvantaged communities.

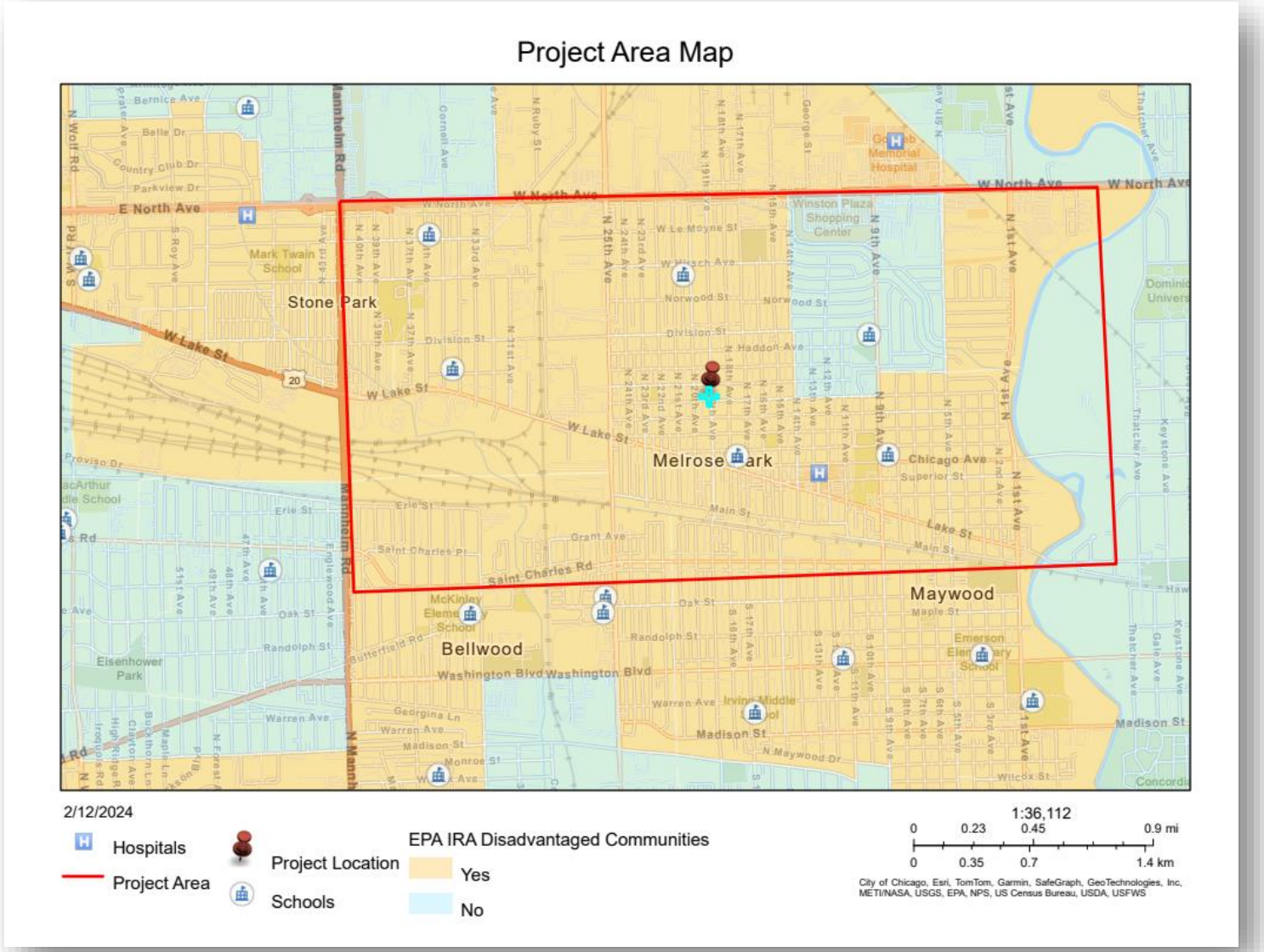
Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

Project Area Map

Full Instructions in Appendix A in NOFO.

- Must encompass a defined disadvantaged community.
- Must identify the specific census block groups designated as disadvantaged communities
- One Project Area Map with an outlined Project Area boundary, within the Project Area Map the disadvantaged communities do not need to be connected

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

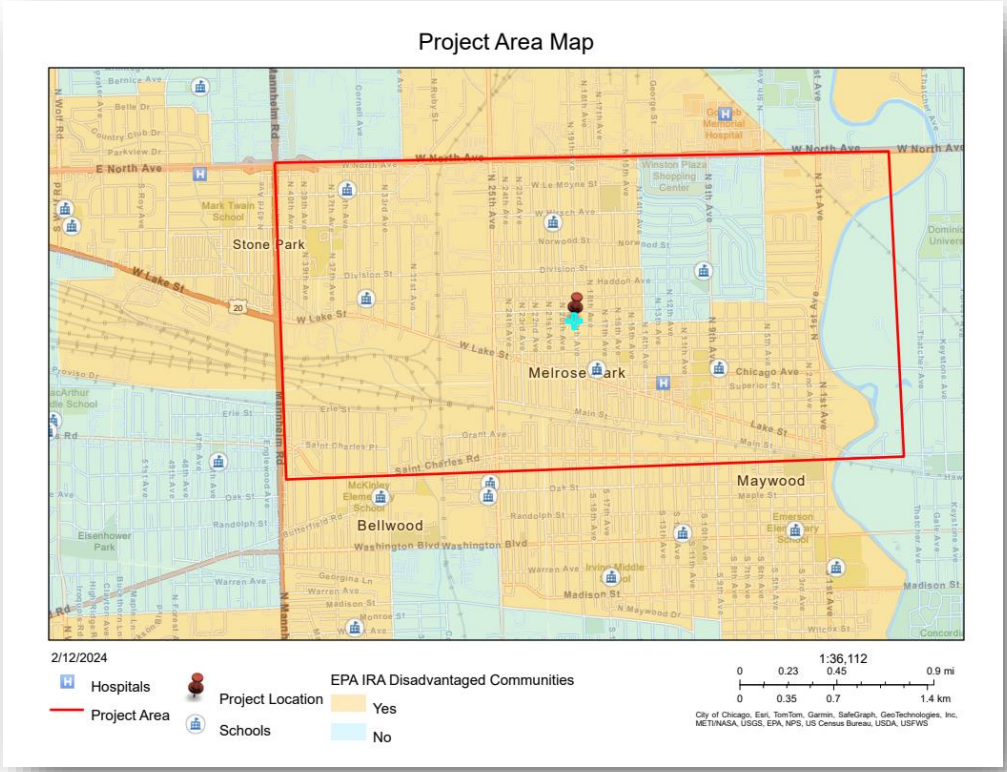


Project Area Map

Should include:

- The Project Area with an outlined boundary.
- Main streets, landmarks, or both.
- Community assets (e.g., parks or play areas, schools, community center).
- Jurisdictional boundaries, including incorporated and unincorporated areas.
- Any other attributes that may provide important context about the Project Area
- Reflect where each project submitted under the application is located within the Project Area

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO



Project Area Map

All projects and activities should be located within the Project Area, except where:

- Necessary to address localized pollution at the source, or
- Otherwise, necessary for the disadvantaged community to benefit from the project.

Example: if the project addresses water quality issues upstream to benefit a downstream community.

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

Photo: Youth help the Bronx River Alliance collect trash collected downstream of pollution source

Project Area Map

May include multiple census block groups that are designated as a disadvantaged community by EPA, but the disadvantaged census block groups need not be fully contiguous with each other.

- *Example:* A protected bike path that starts in a disadvantaged community tract, goes through a neighboring non-disadvantaged community tract, and then goes through another disadvantaged community tract is eligible.

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO, FAQ

Photo: protected bike path

Project Area Map

Farmworking communities and DUC applicants are required to submit a Project Area Map specifying where the communities and projects designed to benefit them are located.

Applications addressing these communities are not required to submit a map showing census block groups designated as disadvantaged.

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

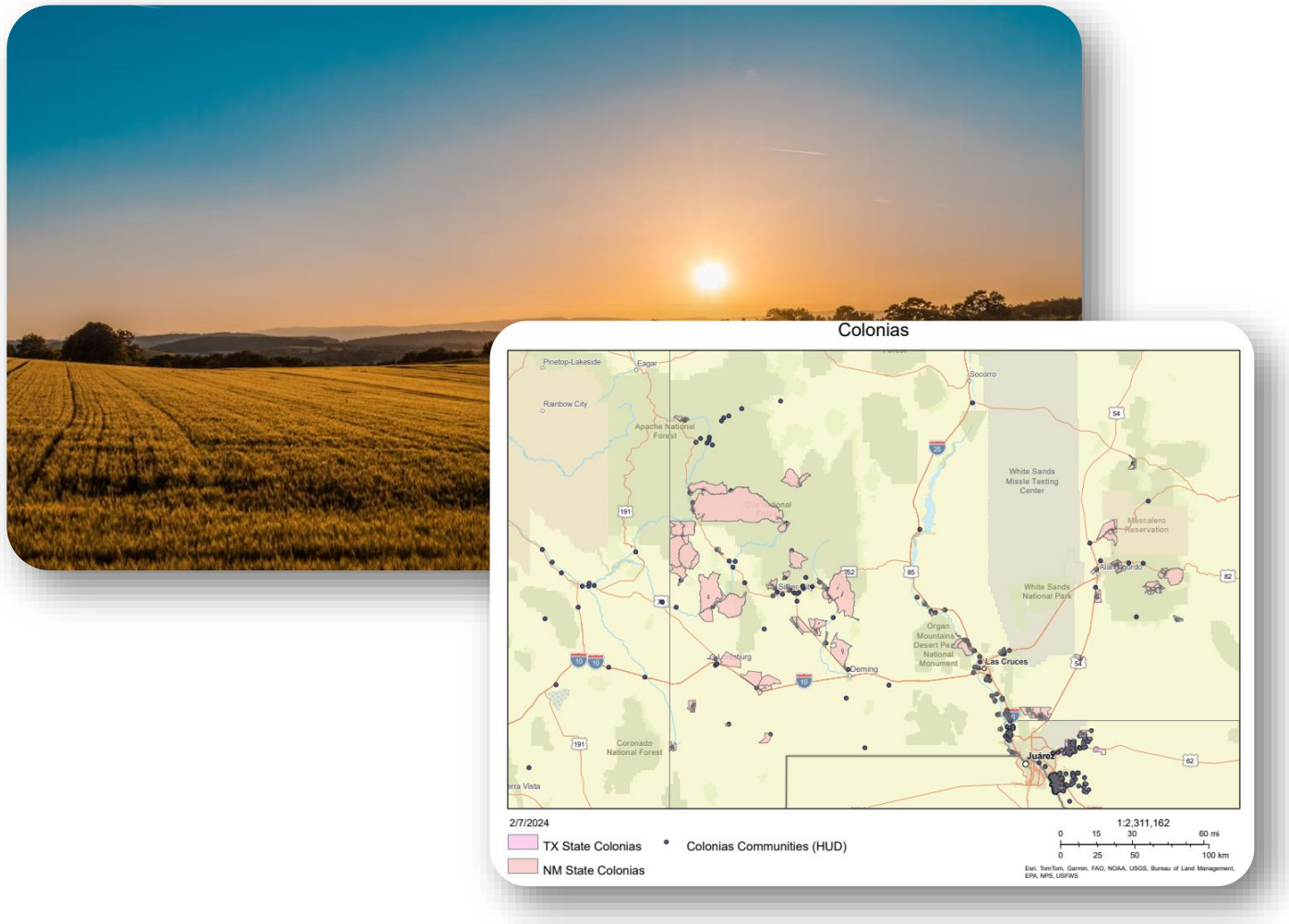


Photo: protected bike path

Mapping Tools

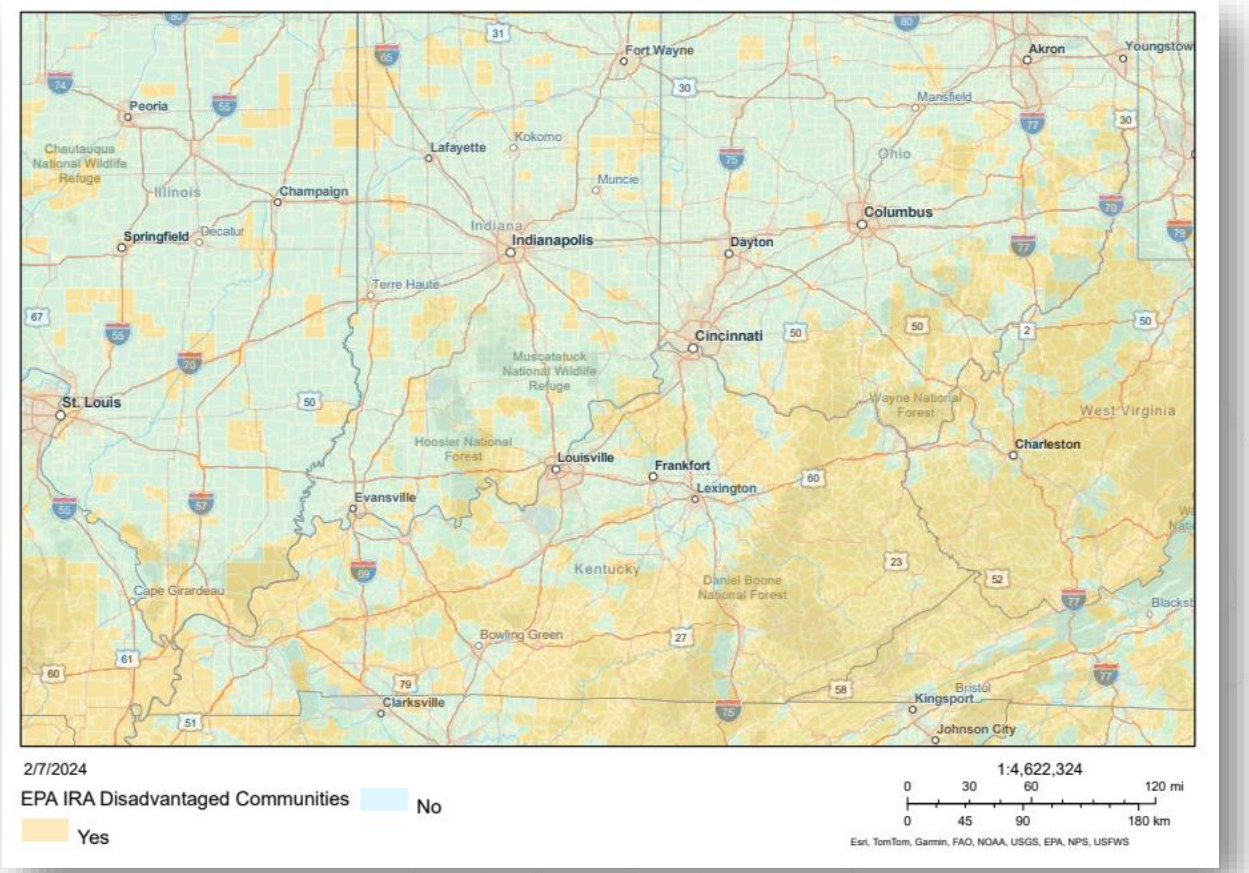
- EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Layer
- CEJST
- EJScreen

IRA Disadvantaged Community Layer

How to access the layer:

1. EJScreen
2. Data products and tech doc available on [IRA Disadvantaged Community Map webpage]
    1. Links to raw data: [https://gaftp.epa.gov/EPA_IRA_Public/]
    2. Links to [feature service] in ArcGIS

Links are available in Appendix A in the NOFO, which contains a guide for making the map.



EJ Mapping Tools

Additionally, EJ indicators are available in CEJST and EJScreen mapping tools. These datasets can be used to inform project proposals.

CEJST:

- Designation tool

EJScreen:

- Screening tool
- Contains IRA Disadvantaged Community Layer and can be used to create Project Area Map

Demo on Creating a Project Area Map

- Maps can be generated in EPA's EJScreen tool using the IRA disadvantaged community layer.
- Additionally, applicants also have the option to submit a map in another geospatial format such as a shapefile (.shp), geodatabase (.gbd), or map service.

How to Create a Project Map Area

Maps can be generated in EPA's EJScreen tool using the IRA disadvantaged community layer.

Additionally, applicants also have the option to submit a map in another geospatial format such as a shapefile (.shp), geodatabase (.gbd), or map service.

Reference: Appendix A in the NOFO

EPA EJScreen EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.2)

EJScreen Website | Mobile | Glossary | Help

Please note: Territory data (except Puerto Rico) is not available as comparable to the US. It is only comparable to the territory itself by using the 'Compare to State' functionality. Likewise, some of the indicators may not be available for territories.

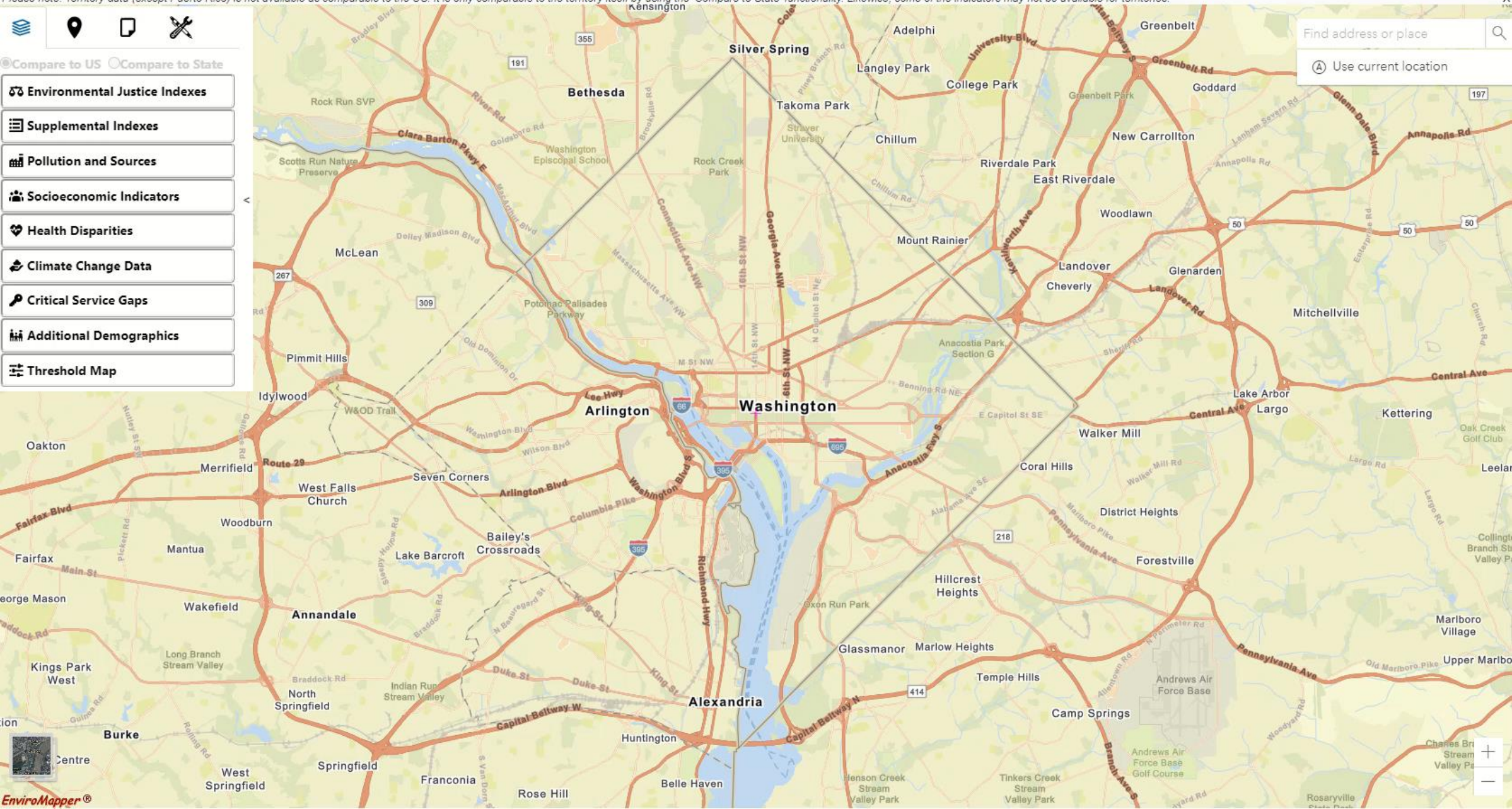
X

Compare to US Compare to State

- Environmental Justice Indexes
- Supplemental Indexes
- Pollution and Sources
- Socioeconomic Indicators
- Health Disparities
- Climate Change Data
- Critical Service Gaps
- Additional Demographics
- Threshold Map

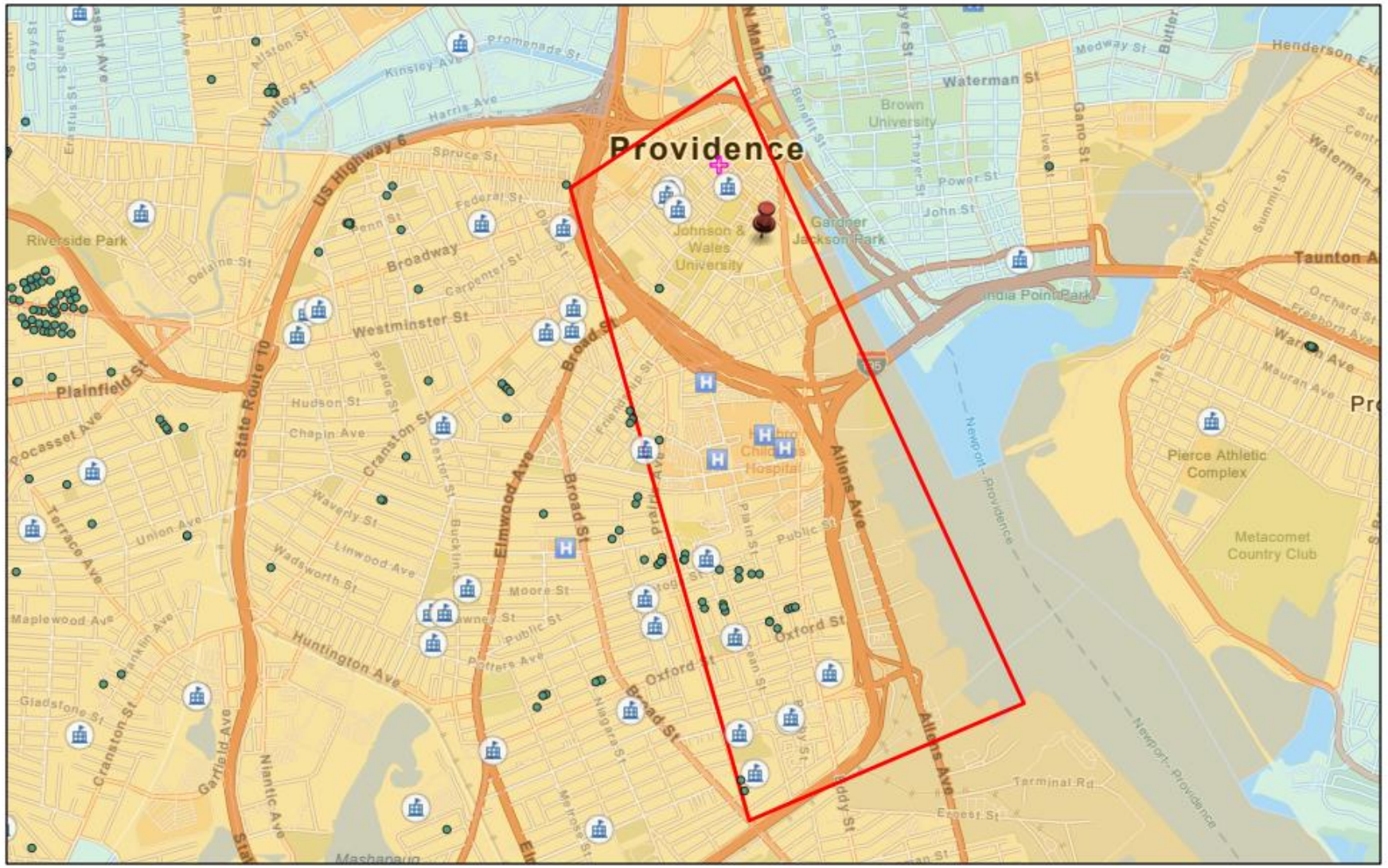
Find address or place

Use current location



EnviroMapper®

Project Area Map



2/12/2024

Hospitals
Public Housing
Schools

Project Location
Project Area
Search Result (point)

EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities
Yes
No

1:36,112

0 0.23 0.45 0.9 mi
0 0.35 0.7 1.4 km

University of Rhode Island, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau,

Q & A

- Use Q & A chat feature
- Selection of FAQs

Selection of FAQs

Do applicants have to be located in a disadvantaged community to apply for a grant?

- No
- However, all applications must benefit disadvantaged communities

All FAQs are available online at:

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

Selection of FAQs

Can a Track I application include projects with activities that are carried out on a regional, county, or statewide basis?

- While a regional, county, or statewide project may technically be eligible, depending on the specific content of an application, it may be unlikely that such an application would score well and be successful considering the NOFO evaluation criteria, objectives, and requirements. See more info in FAQ

All FAQs are available online at:

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

Selection of FAQs

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,
- Track II applications do not have to be as place-based as Track I applications.

All FAQs are available online at:

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

Open Q&A

- *Questions from the Q&A zoom feature and from registration*
- *Scope of Impact on Disadvantaged Communities: Is one disadvantaged community enough or do we need to impact our community and others?*
- *Tribal Nations and Project Area Map: How can tribes be identified on the disadvantaged communities map?*

Closing Remarks

- Key Messages
- Next Steps

Key Messages

- Projects must be benefiting a defined disadvantaged community
- Disadvantaged communities are defined 3 ways:
  - Geographically defined by the EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Layer
  - Farmworker community
  - Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community
- Project Area Maps are a threshold requirement for Track 1
- EJScreen Tool can be used to develop Project Map areas using the IRA disadvantaged community layer.

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

TBD MAR/APR
Project Evaluation
Output, Impact Assessment

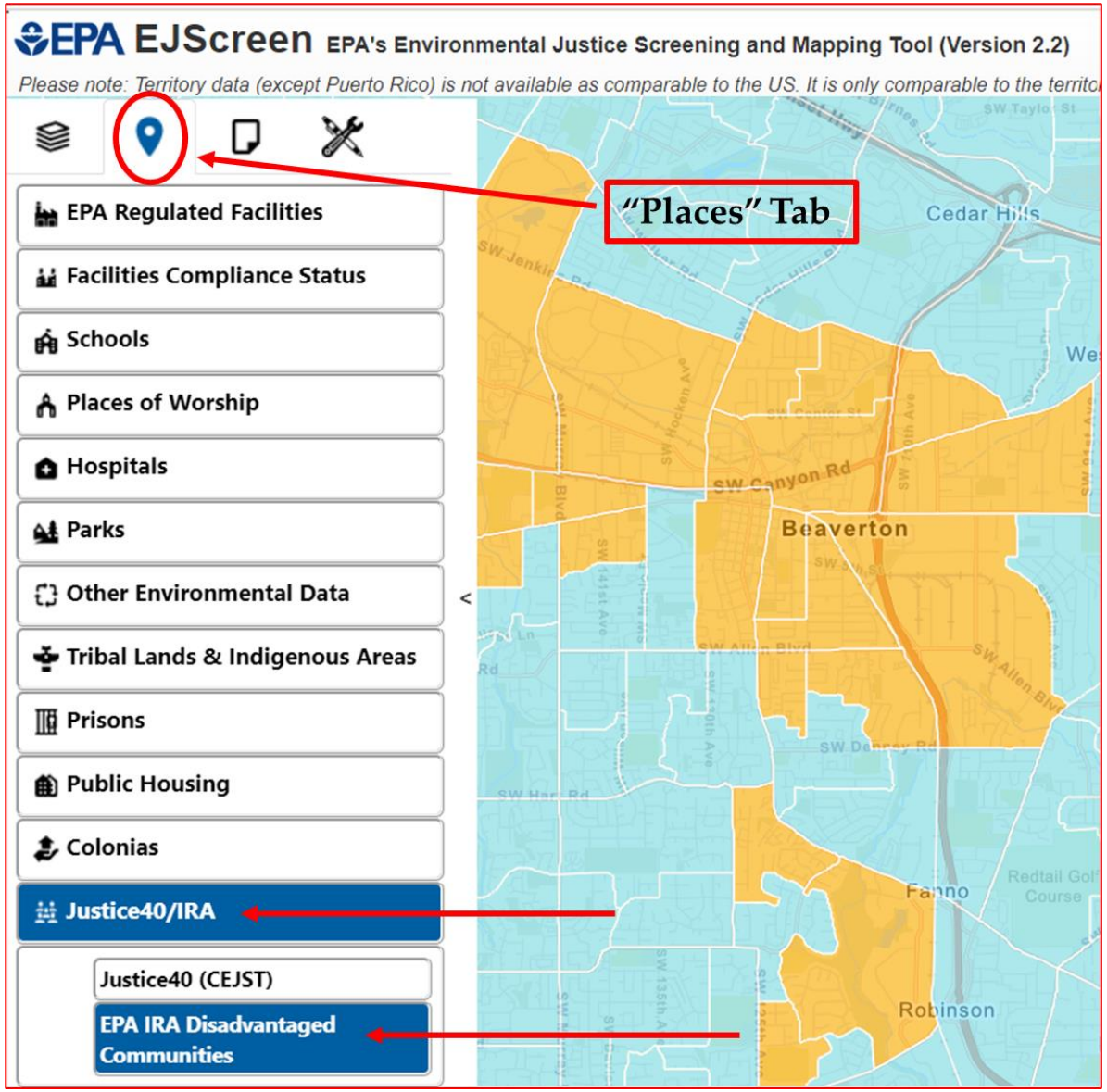
EnDyna

Thank You!

EJScreen Demo

How to locate EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Layer:

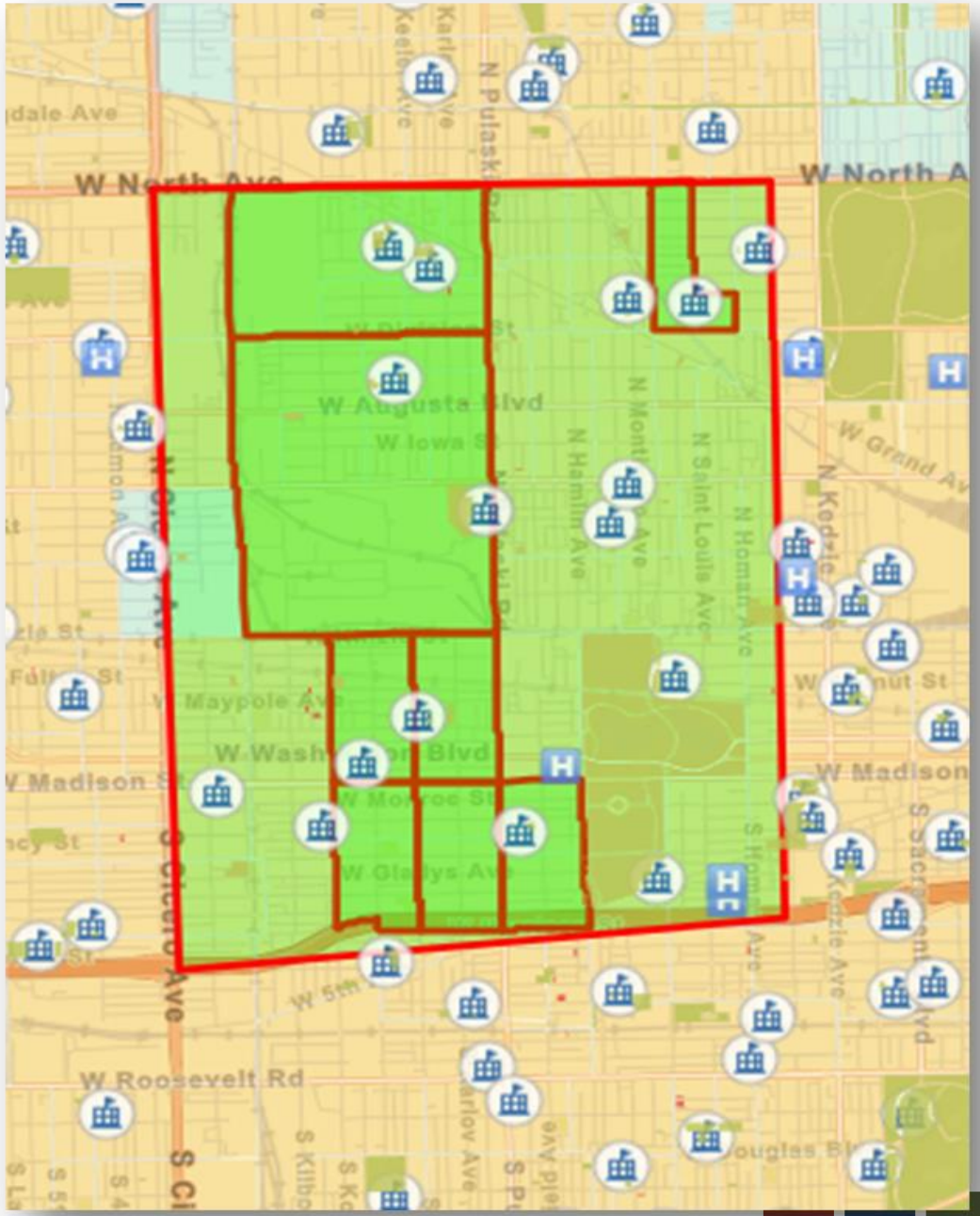
- Under places tab
  - Justice40/IRA
    - EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities



EJScreen Demo

How to select block groups and outline Project Area:

- Under reports tab
  - Select Tract
    - Click on project area
  - Draw an Area
    - Click on map and create outline around Project Area



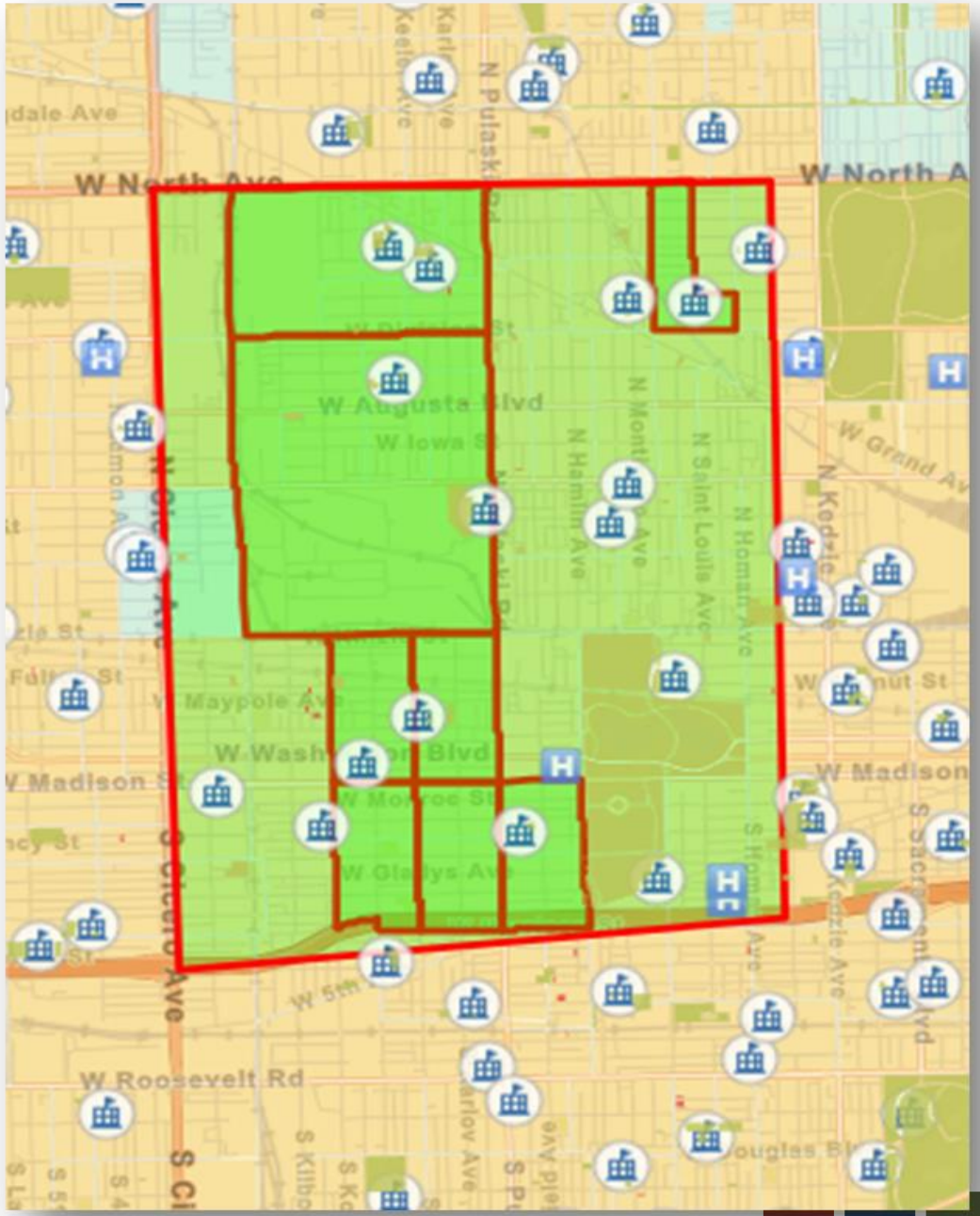
EJScreen Demo

How to select attributes:

- Under places tab
  - Schools
  - Parks

Add additional attributes

- Under reports tab
  - Drop a pin
- Under tools tab
  - Add shapefile
  - Boundaries



Selection of FAQs

The NOFO is requesting documentation from an authorizing governmental entity for farmworker community validation—what types of documentation are you expecting for farmworker community validation and which public agencies would hold such authority?

> Appendix A of the NOFO states in pertinent part that: “Applicants can demonstrate that a farmworker community is comprised of such individuals by submitting verification documentation from an authorizing governmental entity or through comparable means.” How this is done may vary by state or local law.

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