



Office of Environmental Justice &  
External Civil Rights



**COMMUNITY  
CHANGE GRANTS**

**Environmental and Climate Justice**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Target Investment Area E  
U.S. – Southern Border Communities  
March 25, 2024

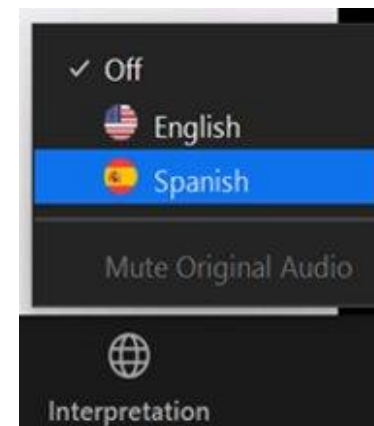
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2. Seleccione **“Language Interpretation”** / Seleccione **Spanish**

# 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 technical assistance (TA).
- EPA has a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document for the Community Change Grants NOFO on [EPA's CCGP Website](#)
- **No soliciting will be allowed.**

# Agenda

- 1. Welcome – Carlos Rincon, Director of EPA Region 6 U.S.-Mexico Border Program**
- 2. Overview of Community Change Grants Program (CCGP) and Target Investment Area E for U.S. Southern Border Communities**
- 3. Overview of Threshold Eligibility Criteria**
- 4. Track I and Track II Overview**
- 5. Overview of Application Submission, Evaluation, and Selection Process**
- 6. Questions and Answers**

Overview of  
**Community  
Change Grants  
Program and  
Target Investment  
Area E**

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# 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 CCG program
- Approximately \$100 million for TIA E
- \$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.

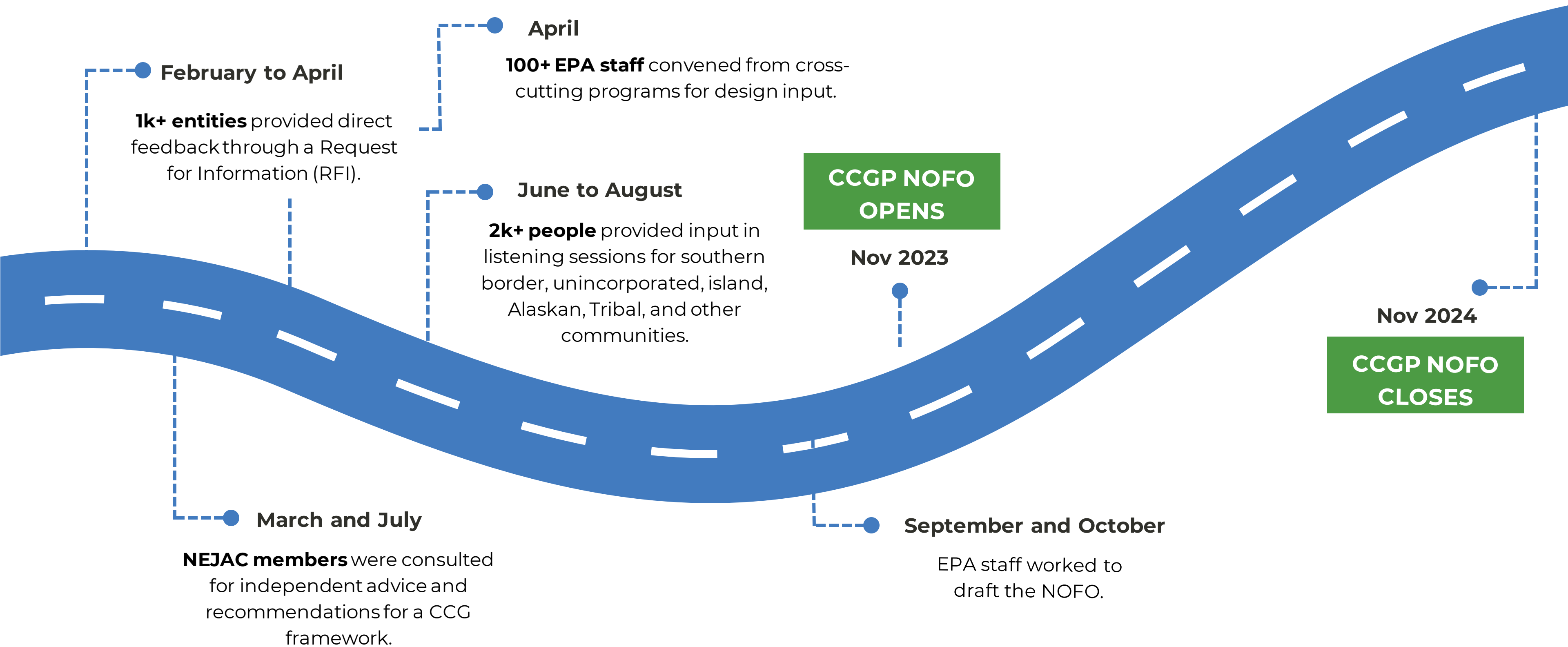


Strengthen communities' decision-making power.





# ENGAGEMENT



# Track I

## Community-Driven Investments for Change

Funding Available: approx. \$1.96 billion

Number of Awards: approx. 150

Per Award Amount: \$10M – cannot exceed \$20M

*TIA E-approx. at least \$100 million for projects benefitting Southern border disadvantaged communities*

# Track II

## Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

Funding Available: approx. \$40 million

Number of Awards: approx. 20

Per Award Amount: \$1M – cannot exceed \$3M



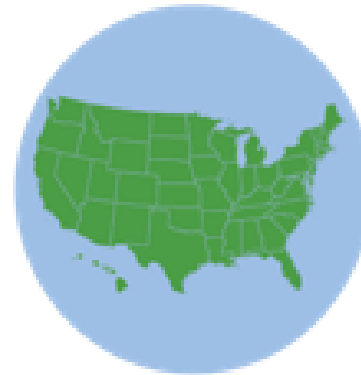
# Target Investment Areas



**\$50M**  
Disadvantaged  
Unincorporated  
Communities



**\$150M**  
Tribes in  
Alaska



**\$300M**  
Tribal  
Communities



**\$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.

# Target Investment Areas

- Applications under TIA E are evaluated against each other and not other applications
- Applications can address areas outside of TIAs. TIAs are just priority categories
- The application process is the same for all applications, though there may be specific requirements for some TIAs, including TIA E for work outside of the U.S.
- If you are applying for a TIA, you must identify which TIA you are applying for (see Section IV.B of the NOFO)
- TIAs apply only to Track I awards



**\$100M**  
**Southern  
Border  
Communities**

# TIA E – Southern Border Communities

## Summary



**\$100M**  
**Southern  
Border  
Communities**

- Estimated \$100 million is targeted to benefit non-Tribal disadvantaged communities within 100 kilometers north of the U.S.-Mexico border
- Tribal communities located in the Border areas can apply under TIA B for Tribal Communities in the continental U.S. outside of Alaska
- Special requirements in Section II on limited ability to do work up to 100 kilometers south of the border

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

# Special Requirements for Cross-Border Projects

It is strongly preferred that all projects be performed entirely in the United States. However, project work up to 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of the border may be allowed in limited circumstances when:

- The work will directly and predominantly benefit disadvantaged communities in the U.S.
- Work outside of the U.S. is necessary for the project(s) to be successful
- Work outside of the U.S. will not be a substantial part of the project.
- The applicant will ensure that any work done outside of the U.S. will be timely and properly completed and monitored to ensure it is effectively performed.

Applications involving cross-border work that are selected for the award must address any cross-border issues (e.g. site access and control) during the workplan negotiations following selection and before award.

# Types of TA

- [Community Change Technical Assistance \(CCTA\)](#)
  - Broad-based pre-award and post-award TA
  - Specialized support for the CCGP (TCTACs are for general requests)
  - Submit an on-line [TA Request Form](#)
  - Call to make a TA Request or ask questions: 1 (800) 540-8123
  - Email: [EJ\\_TechAssist@epa.gov](mailto:EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov)
- [Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance \(CCER TA\)](#)
  - Submit an on-line [TA Request Form](#)
  - More limited and tailored TA focusing on disaster-prone areas



## Community Change TA

- Individualized support, including help with development of grant application (but can't write the application), project planning and development, outreach and engagement, and general capacity building.
- Recordings for past TA webinars are available via [www.communitychangeTA.org](http://www.communitychangeTA.org)

# Overview of Threshold Eligibility Criteria

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# 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.



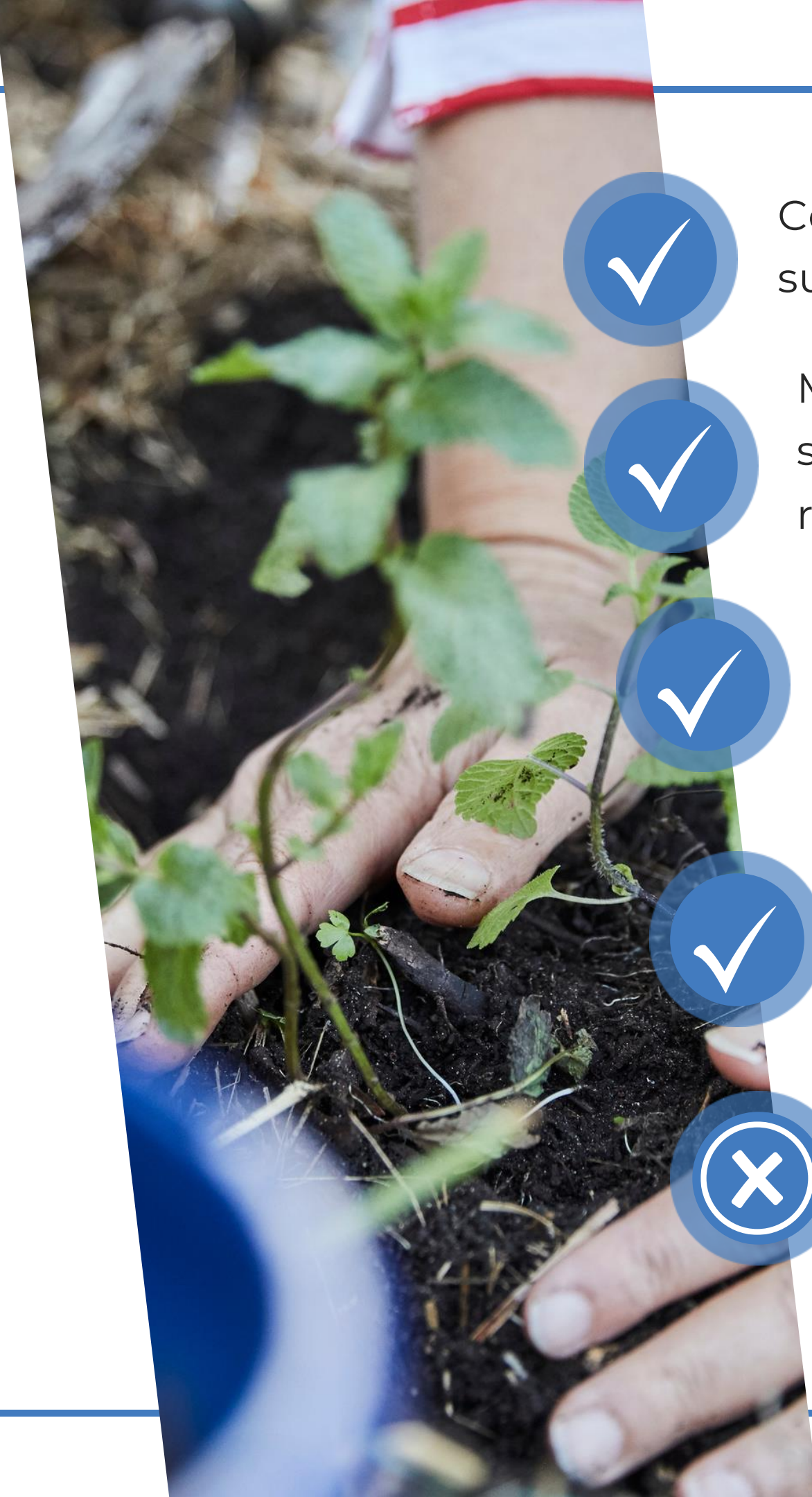
Meet threshold criteria in Section III.D, including that the projects will benefit disadvantaged communities.



Projects must be completed within three years.



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



# Community Relocation

Projects for permanent community or Tribal relocation activities are **not eligible** for funding under the CCGP as noted in Section I.F of the NOFO

A relocation activity is considered those that are intended to plan or assist the moving of an individual or community from their residence or place of business

Temporary relocation costs may be allowable in accordance with Federal Highway Administration's guidance on temporary relocation in Appendix A to 49 CFR Part 24

If you have questions about whether your project is a relocation activity, please email [CCGP@epa.gov](mailto:CCGP@epa.gov)

## Please note:

EPA is working on a separate effort to support communities looking to implement community-driven relocation plans.

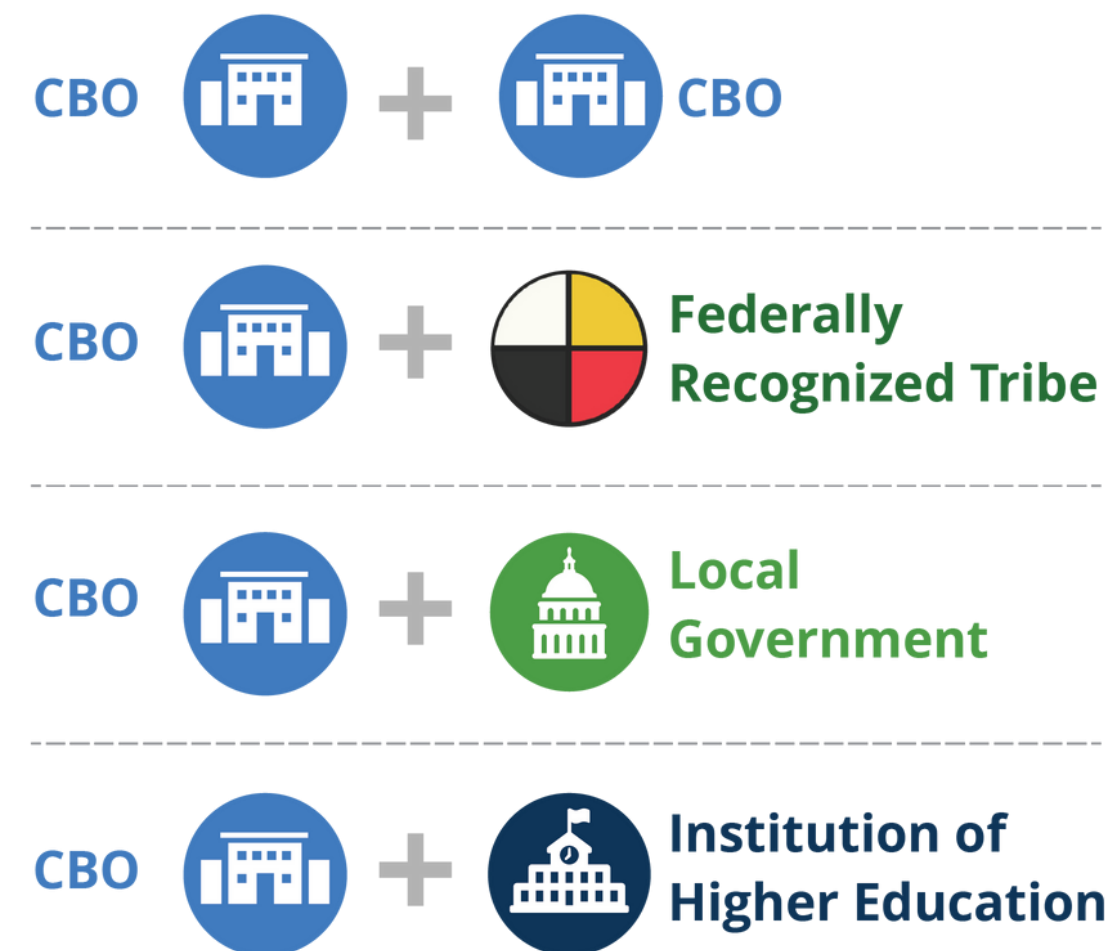
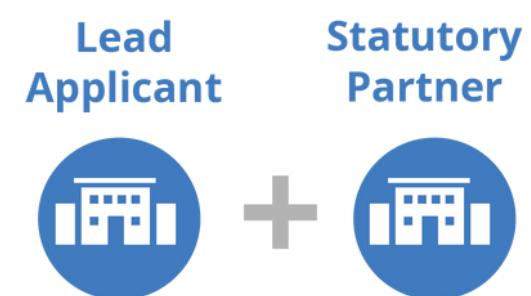
# Statutory Partnership

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.

Foreign organizations are not eligible to apply or be part of a Statutory Partnership.

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](#).



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**.

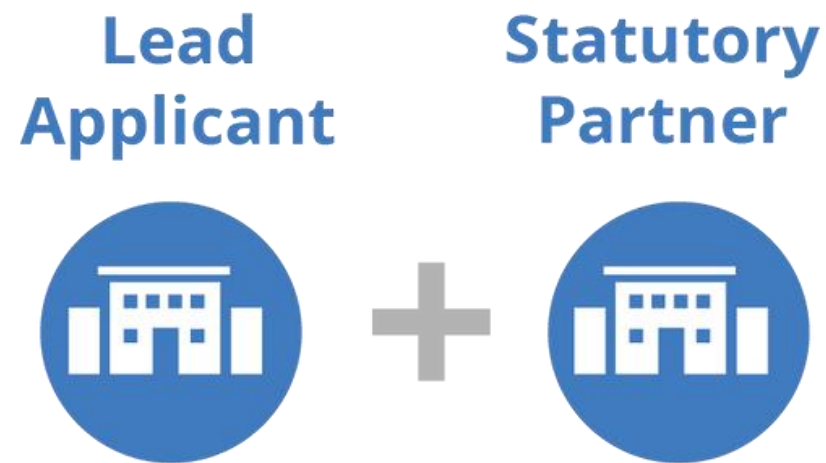
Collaborating Entities may include entities that legally could be Statutory Partners (CBOs, Federally-recognized Tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education) and entities that cannot legally be Statutory Partners (e.g., states and territorial governments).

Foreign organizations could be collaborating entities in some circumstances.

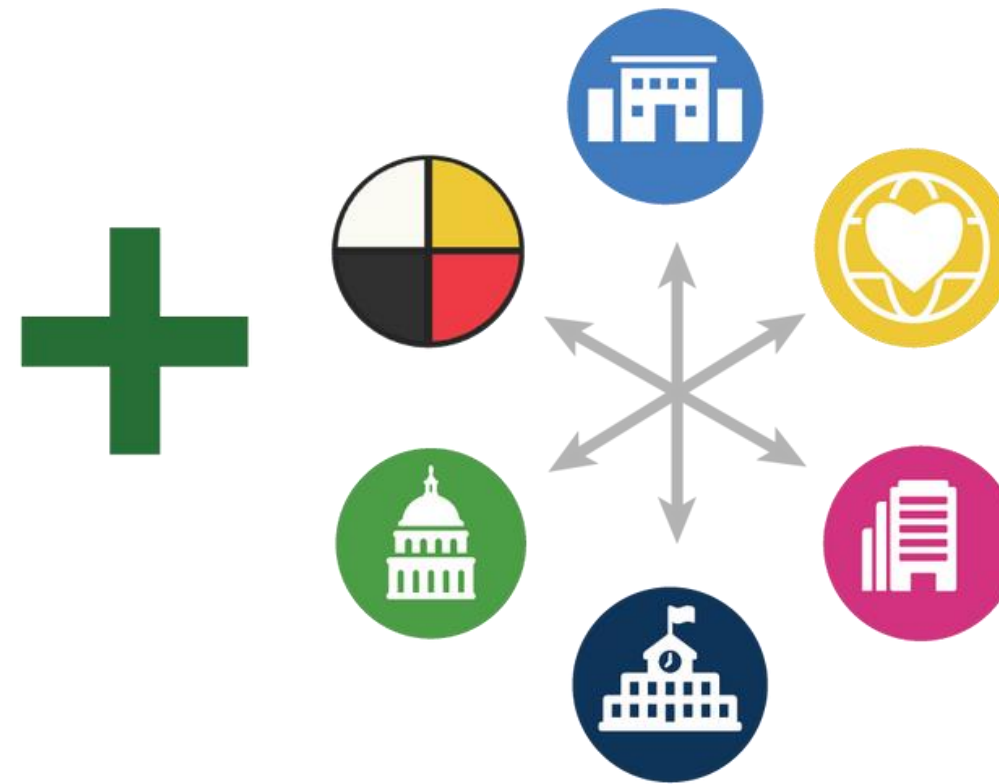


# How It Works

FORM A STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP



IDENTIFY COLLABORATING ENTITIES TO LEAD PROJECTS

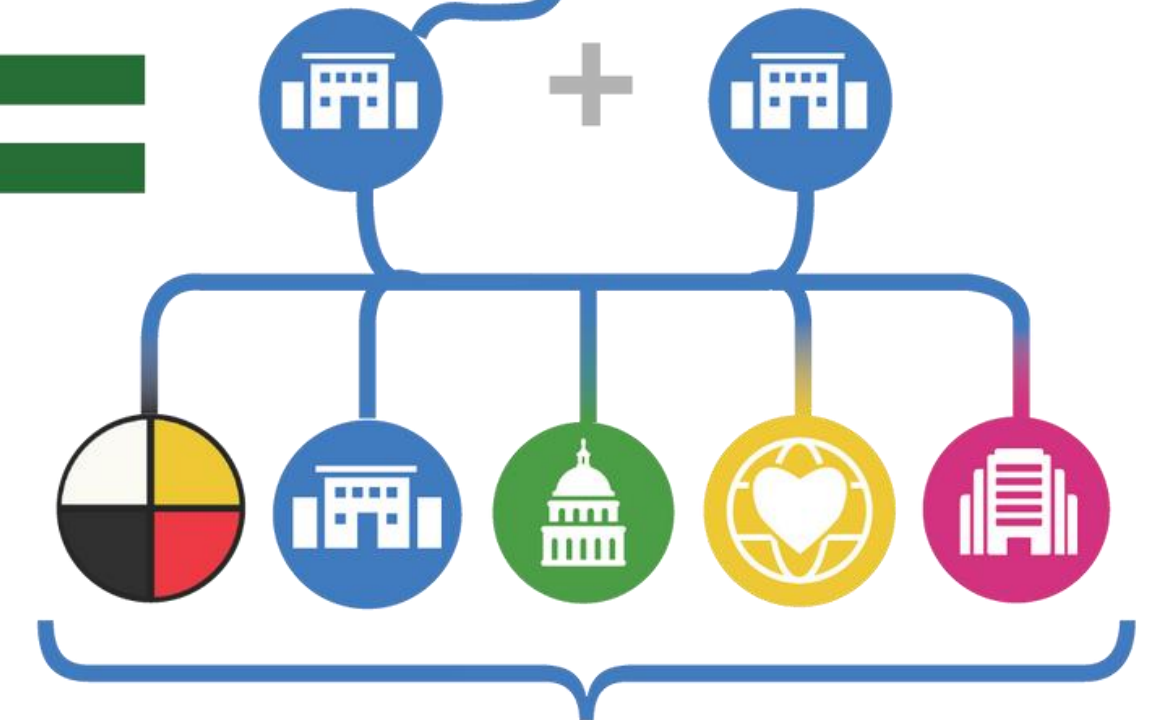


THE COLLABORATIVE



Lead Applicant

Statutory Partner

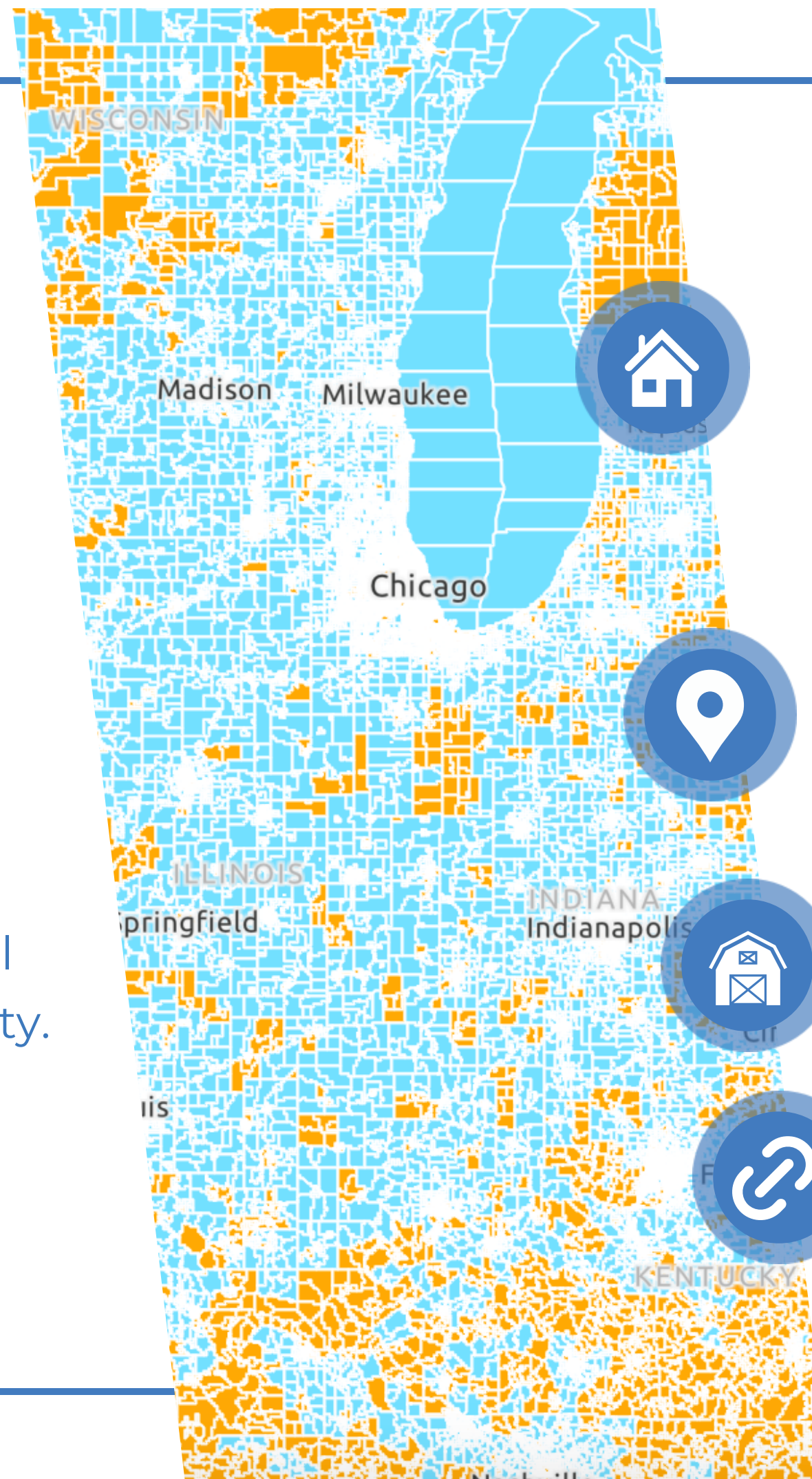


Collaborating Entities

# Disadvantaged Communities

*\*Disadvantaged communities are limited to those in the U.S. and its territories*

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](#).

Overview

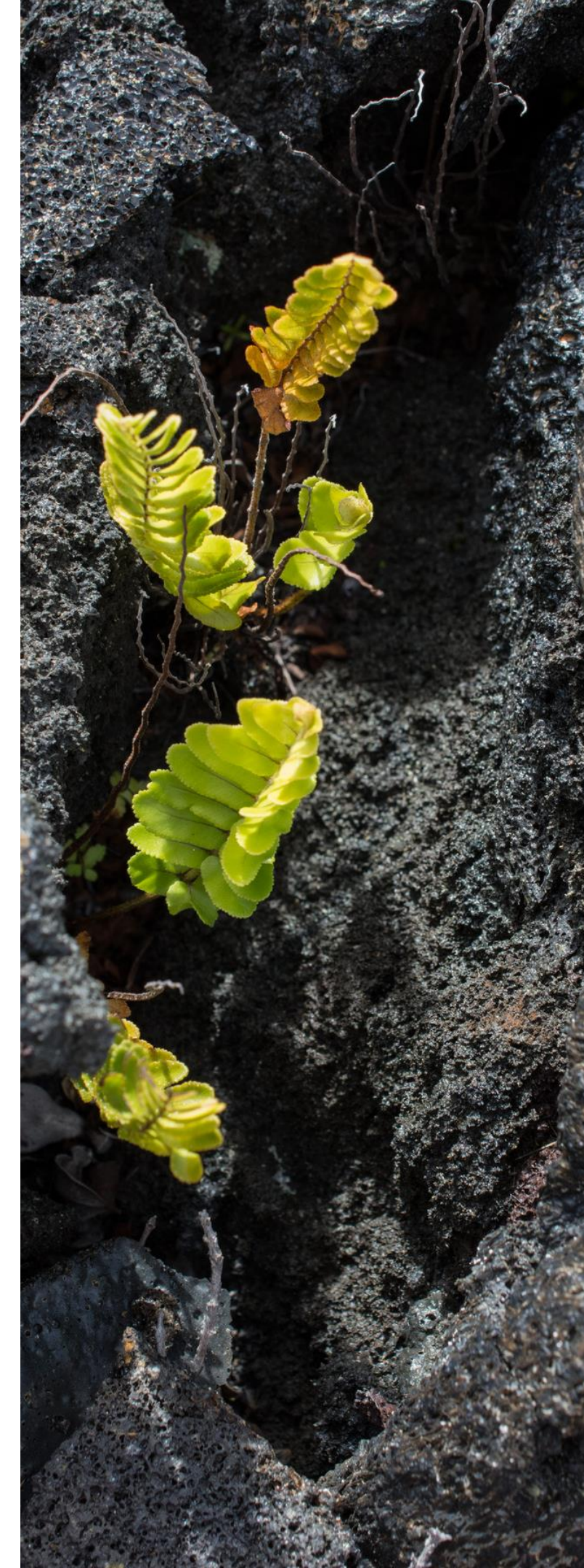
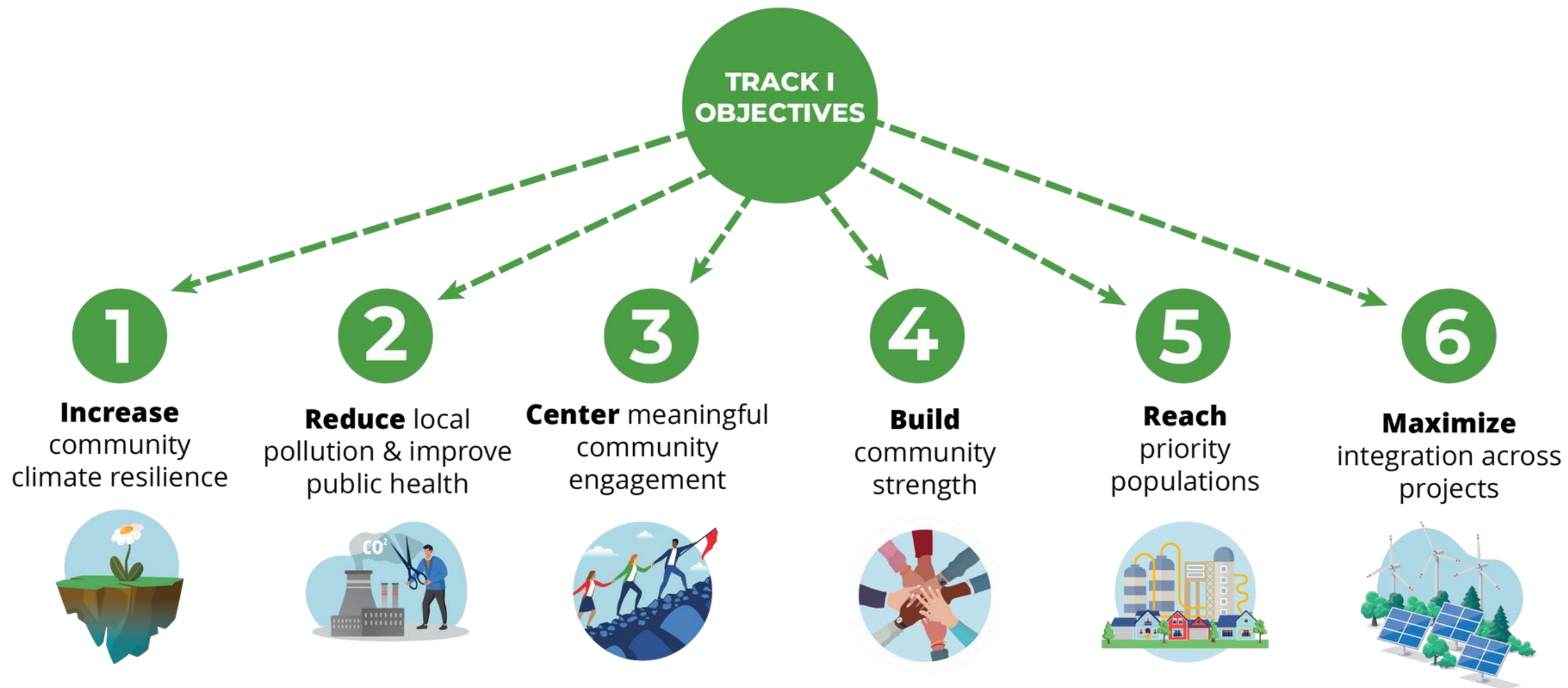
# Track I and Track II

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# 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: Community-Driven Investments for Change

Track I applications must also address these requirements, as further described in Section I.G and Section IV.B of the [NOFO](#):

## Strategies

- **Climate Action –at least one**
  - 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
- **Pollution Reduction-at least one**
  - Indoor Air Quality & Community Health
  - Outdoor Air Quality & Community Health
  - Clean Water Infrastructure
  - Hazardous Waste Management

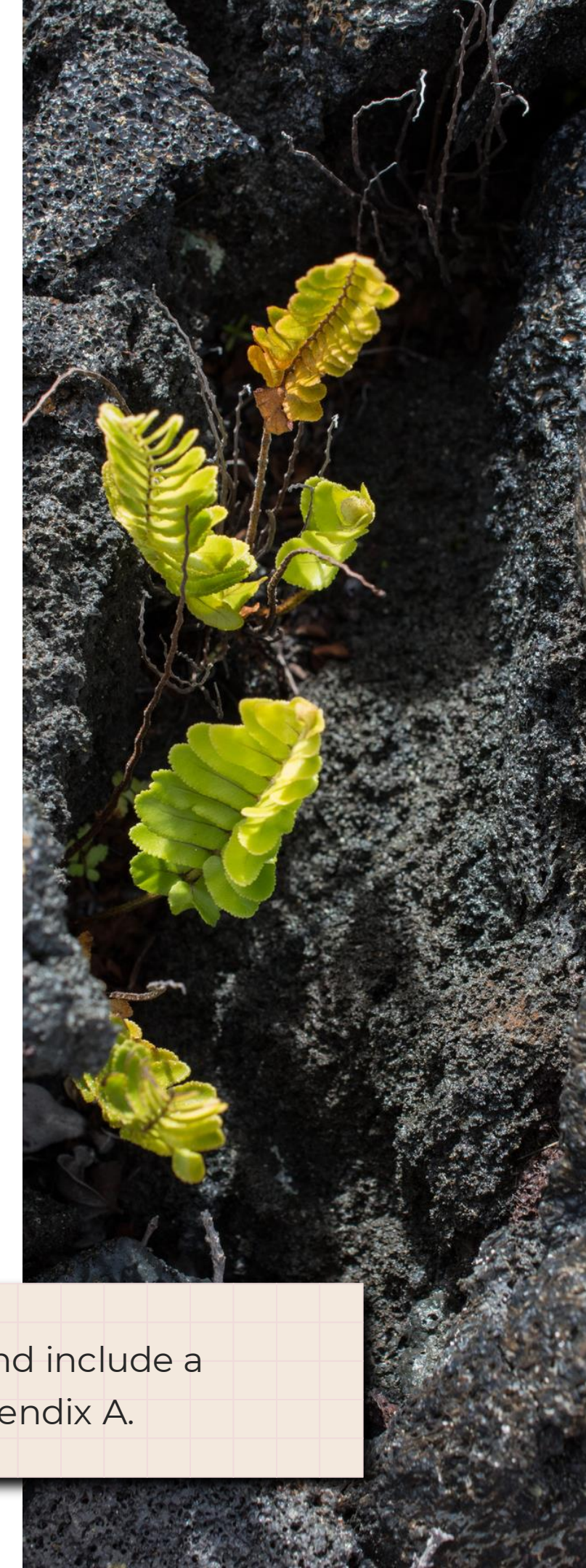
## Plans

- Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan
- Community Strength Plan

## Additional Requirements

- Readiness Approach
- Compliance Plan

Note: Projects must be place-based and include a Project Area Map, as described in Appendix A.



# 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

## Project Examples

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





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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](https://grants.gov).

# 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.

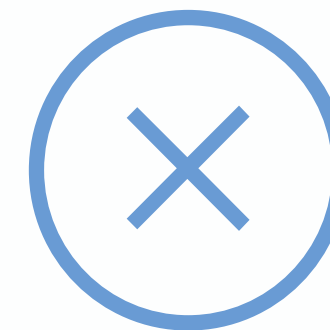
### Final Consideration

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.

# Awards - Frequently Asked Questions

## **When does the three-year period of performance for the grants begin?**

As noted earlier, the grants must be completed within three years. The period of performance begins on the award date. If there are pre-award costs, EPA will adjust the period of performance and budget period accordingly.

## **What is the indirect cost cap?**

The 20% cap on indirect costs is not the same as the indirect cost rate. Both Lead Applicants and the subrecipients (Statutory Partner and Collaborating Entities) charge their negotiated federal indirect cost rate or the 10% *de minimus* rate, but total indirect costs may not exceed 20% of their respective awards—up to 20% of the grant award from EPA to the Lead Applicant and up to 20% of the subaward for Subawardees. See Appendix G of the NOFO and the FAQs for more information.



# 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](#).

# Key Points

## Check for Eligibility

- We know the [NOFO](#) is long but read it carefully!
- Make sure you meet the partnership eligibility requirements (Section III.A) and applicable threshold eligibility requirements (Section III.D).

## Understand the Requirements for Different Tracks

- There are different requirements and evaluation criteria for Track I and II applications (Sections IV.B and V).
- TIA E has unique requirements (Section II.B).
- Though it was not covered today, review the [NOFO](#) to understand the post-award and other requirements (Section VI).

## Triple Check Your Application

- Make sure you do not exceed the page limits for the Project Narrative portion of the application package and other attachments (Section IV.B).
- Include all applicable attachments and forms to the application package (Section IV.B).
- Letters of support are not required, and additional attachments will not be evaluated.





# Important Links

In addition to the application requirements in the [NOFO](#), it's important to understand what will be expected of grantees if they are awarded a grant. Below are a few important links to programmatic and administrative information - be sure to read the [NOFO](#) in full to understand them:

- [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 \(Section VI\)](#)
- [Appendix G: Indirect Costs](#)



# Future Developments

- **NOFO Modifications:** The [NOFO](#) has been modified to clarify issues. Make sure to read the most updated version on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** FAQs were posted to the [CCGP website](#) and will be updated as needed to address [NOFO](#) questions.
- **Future Webinars:** Check the [CCGP website](#) often for dates for future webinars and recordings.



# Final Thoughts



Find partners and build coalition



Identify meaningful transformative projects to address environmental and climate justice concerns that can be completed within 3 years (Track I)



Identify governmental policies and programs that can be improved with community voices (Track II)



Register on SAM.gov and Grants.gov now (this process can take up to a month)



You can follow up with questions at CCGP@epa.gov



Stay up to date on webinars by signing up for EPA EJ listserv by sending a blank email to join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov

