



Part 2 of 3: Community Challenges

Purpose: There are three sections within the Community Vision Description. This worksheet will help you complete the Challenges section, as required by the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Section IV.B.

To complete your Community Vision Description, see also:

- Part 1 of 3: [Community Description Worksheet](#) and
- Part 3 of 3: [Community Vision Worksheet](#)

Community Vision Description

The Community Vision Description is the applicant's chance to introduce their community and how their proposed grant activities will advance environmental justice in their community. It includes three sections: (1) community description, (2) community challenges, and (3) community vision. This worksheet will help you develop the Community Challenges section.



Goals of Community Challenges Section

- Describe the climate change and/or pollution-related challenges and unmet needs that residents of the Project Area face, particularly those faced by priority populations.
- Describe the impacts of these challenges and unmet needs on residents in the Project Area, including priority populations.
- Inform the Community Vision section to help identify the most appropriate Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies for advancing environmental justice in the community.



Part 2 of 3: Community Challenges

Guiding Questions

EPA’s evaluation of your project will consider how well you describe the challenges and needs of the Project Area’s disadvantaged communities and priority populations. You will also need to describe how these communities are impacted by these challenges.

Community Knowledge

1. What do community members consider to be the challenges that impact them? (*Issues that come up often in community meetings, interviews with key stakeholders, and other methods of community engagement.*) List them, along with their possible climate- or pollution-related cause.

Challenge	Possible climate- or pollution-related causes
Example 1: High incidence of heat-related illnesses	Increasingly intense heat waves and inadequate access to cooling
Example 2: Frequent trips to the emergency room for asthma and heart or lung diseases	Trucking route through neighborhood that concentrates diesel exhaust in the area



Part 2 of 3: Community Challenges

2. Which of the challenges identified are of the highest priority to your community? Why? *We encourage you to focus on the highest priority climate and environmental justice issues impacting your community. These grant awards are \$10-20 million for projects that must be executed within 3 years, so it is necessary to prioritize the highest-impact opportunities.*

Challenge 1:

Challenge 2:

Challenge 3:

3. How have the community, the government, or other groups tried to address these community challenges in the past? *(Timeline of key events and organizations. Tip: Consider whether these entities could be a good Statutory Partner or Collaborating Entity for your proposal.)*

Attempts to Address Challenge 1:

Attempts to Address Challenge 2:

Attempts to Address Challenge 3:



Part 2 of 3: Community Challenges

Groups Vulnerable to Challenges

1. Which disadvantaged groups and priority populations in your Project Area are most vulnerable to your top community challenges? To learn more about Priority Populations, please see the [Priority Population Worksheet](#).

(For example, children, pregnant people, older adults, low-income people, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, or people with chronic medical conditions)

Groups Vulnerable to Challenge 1:

Groups Vulnerable to Challenge 2:

Groups Vulnerable to Challenge 3:

2. What are the impacts of the challenges on disadvantaged communities and priority populations? Use the community members' input and language to describe disproportionate impacts on priority populations (consider in terms of health, finances, or other challenges). Also, provide data that supports the lived experience of members of your community. *(The online map-based tool from EPA called [EJScreen](#) is a good place to start, along with other tools in the Resources section of this worksheet.)*

Impacts of Challenge 1 on Vulnerable Groups:

Impacts of Challenge 2 on Vulnerable Groups:

Impacts of Challenge 3 on Vulnerable Groups:



Part 2 of 3: Community Challenges

Tips to Consider

- All parts of your project should be community driven. Use community input to identify and describe the needs and challenges facing the Project Area.
- Many types of data may be important to your project, but it is most important to learn from the community's lived experience.
- The Community Challenges subsection is part of the broader Community Vision Description that should guide the rest of your application. Think about how the needs and challenges of your identified community will inform and be addressed by the projects and strategies you select.
- While the Community Change Grants focuses on environmental issues, it is important to let residents speak about all the issues they face. After people have gotten everything off their chest, they can then focus on the environmental problems.

Resources

1. **EJScreen**

Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool is a web-based interactive map with layers that allow users to identify disadvantaged communities and their environmental burdens.

<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

2. **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool**

This screening tool identifies disadvantaged communities that are underserved and overburdened by pollution.

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>

3. **EnviroAtlas**

EnviroAtlas is an interactive web-based tool that decision-makers can use to inform policy and planning in the places where people live, learn, work, and play.

<https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas>

4. **Mapping Tools for Communities to Identify Assets and Hazards in Local Areas**

Index of Federal Mapping Tools Related to Environmental Justice and Sustainability

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/mapping-tools-communities-identify-assets-and-hazards-local-areas>

5. **Re-Powering Mapper**

EPA's RE-Powering Mapper, an interactive web application, allows users to identify contaminated lands, landfills and mine sites for renewable energy development.

<https://www.epa.gov/re-powering/re-powering-mapper>