



Part 1 of 3: Community Description

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

To complete your Community Vision Description, see also:

- Part 2 of 3: [Community Challenges 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 Description section.



Goals of Community Description Section

- Describe the community that will benefit from your project.
- Describe how the boundary of the Project Area was determined (*Information on Disadvantaged Communities, the Project Area, and the requirements of the Project Area Map can be found in NOFO Appendix A*).
- Describe the Project Area's resources, assets, and features.
- Demonstrate how your proposed projects focus on benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities in the Project Area.



Part 1 of 3: Community Description

Guiding Questions

EPA's evaluation of your project will rate how well your proposed strategies and activities are designed to maximize benefits for the Project Area's disadvantaged communities and priority populations (See the [Priority Population Worksheet](#)). First, you will need to describe these communities and the Project Area itself.

Community Knowledge

1. How do people who live in your community tend to describe the community?
(What do members of the community have in common culturally or historically? How have residents created a sense of community in the Project Area?)

2. What environmental and climate issues impact community members? What data, evidence, and/or community input do you have to inform your understanding of these issues?

3. What are some specific types of locations in the community where residents tend to want to see change? How do you know?
(For example, parks and recreational areas, housing, schools, roadways, etc. What did you hear from community members that makes you confident in your choice of Project Area?)



Part 1 of 3: Community Description

Boundaries of the Project Area and Defining Your Disadvantaged Communities

1. How did you decide on the boundaries of the Project Area?

2. Describe your Project Area. As defined in the NOFO, Appendix A, what type of disadvantaged communities are within your Project Area?
 - A. Geographically defined community designated as disadvantaged on the EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Map
 - B. Farmworker community (see NOFO Appendix A for more details)
 - C. Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (see NOFO Appendix A for more details)

EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities

You will need to identify which census block groups within your Project Area are designated as disadvantaged communities. *This should be done as part of your Project Area map.*

Be sure to also describe what municipality, county, and state or territory your Project Area is located in.

Farmworker Community or Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)

Refer to NOFO Appendix A for verification guidelines. *You will need to submit a Project Area Map that specifies where the communities and projects designed to benefit them are located.*



Part 1 of 3: Community Description

3. How would you describe the disadvantaged communities and priority populations within your Project Area who will benefit from your project activities (see [Priority Populations worksheet](#))? How would they describe themselves?

Characteristics, Assets, and Resources of the Project Area

1. What are the characteristics of the Project Area?
(These may include the neighborhood's physical, social, economic, and demographic features. Be specific.)

2. What community resources and assets do community members identify?

3. How do these resources and assets relate to your proposed projects?
(Think about which assets and resources will be relevant to include on your Project Area Map. Relevant assets and resources may include:
 - *Environmental assets such as ecosystem services or different species of plants and animals.*
 - *Institutional assets such as schools, non-profit organizations, and congregations.*
 - *Social assets such as community spirit and informal organizations.*
 - *Recreational assets such as parks and community centers.*
 - *Existing grants or ongoing projects in the area.)*



Part 1 of 3: Community Description

Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities

1. Describe how each of your proposed projects will benefit residents of disadvantaged communities in your Project Area.

Project 1:

- Project Description:

- Benefits to disadvantaged residents of your Project Area:

Project 2:

- Project Description:

- Benefits to disadvantaged residents of your Project Area:

Project 3:

- Project Description:

- Benefits to disadvantaged residents of your Project Area:

Tips to Consider

- All parts of your project should be community driven. Use community input to define and describe the community within the Project Area.
- Consider making your Project Area concentrated and compact to give maximum benefits to the residents of the disadvantaged community (NOFO Appendix A).
- The Community Description section and the broader Community Vision Description section should guide the rest of your application. Think about how the description, environmental and climate issues, assets, and resources of your identified community will inform the projects and strategies you choose.



Part 1 of 3: Community Description

Resources

1. **EJScreen**

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

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

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

This screening tool identifies disadvantaged communities that are underserved & 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>