



Purpose: The Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (CCG) is a unique opportunity for funding community projects, but the program is not for everyone. This worksheet includes all the major topics that your Track II CCG application needs to make a clear statement about.

Note: This worksheet is not a replacement for carefully reading the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#).

## Funding Track II: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

The CCG Track II grants are not smaller versions of Track I grants. Track II grants have a different purpose. Your proposed Track II grant activities should intend to build the capacity of communities and governments to evaluate and redress environmental and climate injustices by giving disadvantaged communities a meaningful voice in government decision-making processes. Examples of activities you can propose under Track II include:

1. **Educational and Training Programs.** These projects prepare, train, and educate members of disadvantaged communities on how to engage in government processes related to environmental and climate justice activities. Your projects could include creating a leadership development program or designing and implementing a training program to help disadvantaged members of your community participate in bodies related to environmental and climate related policy making.
2. **Environmental Advisory Boards (EABs).** These are projects that facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in environmental decision-making by establishing advisory councils, taskforces, or similar groups to engage with government. The boards you propose should have regular meetings to create regular opportunities for disadvantaged communities to provide recommendations on actions government entities should take to address environmental and climate justice challenges.
3. **Collaborative Governance Activities.** These are projects that allow members of your communities and other stakeholders to work with governments to recommend actions and implement policies to help disadvantaged communities. Projects can focus on creating collaborative bodies with members from disadvantaged communities, governmental entities, and other stakeholders to work on environmental and climate justice issues.
4. **Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes.** These projects can enable disadvantaged communities and community-based organizations, such as you, your Statutory Partner, and/or your Collaborating Entities, to partner with governments to give input into, and influence, decisions about how to prioritize environmental and climate justice in public budgets.



## Guiding Questions

The following information and questions are designed to help you understand all the different aspects of a Track II grant. You do not have to have the finalized answers right now, but the questions can help you determine if your project is a good fit for Track II of the CCG. You are probably not ready to apply until you can answer all the questions below.

### Disadvantaged Community and Government Decision-Making Processes:

Track II grants are focused on building the capacity of disadvantaged communities and governments to evaluate and remedy environmental and climate injustices. Your proposed project should aim to **give disadvantaged communities a meaningful voice in government decision-making processes.**

- The disadvantaged community or communities this project might benefit are:
- The government decision-making processes that the project could help communities engage with are:

### Partnership:

No organization can apply for the CCG without a Statutory Partnership. To be competitive you will likely need Collaborating Entities (NOFO Section III.B) as well. For more information on partnerships see the [Statutory Partnership Worksheet](#) and [Selecting Collaborating Entities Worksheet](#). Respond to the following prompts to the best of your ability.

- Statutory Partnership: consists of a Lead Applicant and a Statutory Partner, at least one of which is a CBO.
  - Our Lead Applicant is \_\_\_\_\_
    - Their role:
  - Our Statutory Partner is \_\_\_\_\_
    - Their role:



- Collaborating Entities: Organizations that support the partnership and can help you implement parts of your project.
  - Collaborating Entities and their role:

## Community Input:

EPA wants meaningful input from the community during the design and implementation stages of the project (NOFO Section V.D). Respond to the following prompts to the best of your ability:

- How we will get community input as we design the project:
  
- How we will get community input as we carry out the project:

## Working with Communities and Governments:

Track II applications intend to build the capacity of communities and governments to work together on environmental and climate justice issues by breaking down barriers to community participation. Given the government decision-making processes you have identified for communities to participate in, respond to the following prompts, as applicable, to the best of your ability.

- We will work to improve the relationship between the community and governmental entities by creating:
  - Educational and Training Programs
  - Environmental Advisory Boards
  - Collaborative Governance Activities
  - Participation in Governmental Funding and Budgeting Processes
  - Other
- Describe the type of program you will create in more detail. How will it increase disadvantaged communities' access to government agencies with respect to environmental and climate justice?



## Funding and Timeline:

- How much do you expect your proposed projects to cost? Grants will be awarded for \$1-\$3 million.
- How long will it take your organizations to implement the proposed projects? Projects must be completed within 3 years.

## Tips to Consider:

- Since the grants are designed to help communities work with governments and government agencies, it can be helpful to have a government or agency as part of your partnership.
- A government agency can also be a useful partner because they have certain powers, e.g. they can make a new advisory committee permanent.
- If your proposal requires cooperation with a government agency and they are not part of your partnership, or are not a Collaborating Entity, be sure to explain how you can count on their cooperation.
- If you are proposing training for multiple communities, be sure to explain why you are qualified to do the training, how you will make it possible for people in the different communities to attend, and how they will learn enough to make a difference.
- Be sure to explain how your grant will result in genuine and meaningful collaboration that will result in improved environmental justice.