

Is the Track I CCG Program Right for You?



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 projects need to be clear on in order to write a Track I CCG application.

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

Funding Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change

Track I grants are the primary focus of the Community Change Grants program. Track I projects should be implemented through strong collaborations to achieve sustained impacts related to climate resilience, pollution reduction, community health, economic prosperity, and community strength. The objectives of this track are to (NOFO Section I.G):

- Increase community resilience through climate action activities
- Reduce local pollution to improve public health
- Center meaningful community engagement
- Build community strength
- Reach priority populations
- Maximize integration across projects

Guiding Questions

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

Track I Grants Should be Designed to Help Disadvantaged Community and Priority Populations:

The CCG is an environmental justice program designed to improve the lives of disadvantaged communities (for more information, see the NOFO Appendix A). The community must qualify as disadvantaged based on the definition provided by EPA in the NOFO.

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Applications should also speak to how they will benefit priority populations in the disadvantaged community (see [Priority Populations Worksheet](#) and NOFO Section I.G footnote 3, quoted below).

NOFO Section I.G footnote 3: “This may include populations of concern as identified in [The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment \(2016\)](#) that “experience disproportionate, multiple, and complex risks to their health and well-being in response to climate change,” such as children and pregnant women, older adults, and those with low incomes, limited-English-proficiency, disabilities or chronic medical conditions, or other risks that may put them at greater vulnerability.”

- The Disadvantaged Community that will benefit from this proposal is:

- The Priority Populations in our Community who will benefit are:

Partnership:

No organization can apply for the CCG without a Statutory Partner. Rather than a hurdle to eligibility, this requirement is designed to allow smaller, less experienced organizations to apply for a federal grant which they otherwise they may not be prepared for. Each partnership must include a Lead Applicant, who will be the organization that applies for and will be responsible for the grant, and a Statutory Partner. One or both must be a community-based organization, or CBO. To be competitive you will likely also need Collaborating Entities, which enhance your proposal and bolster your ability to successfully implement the proposed grant activities (NOFO Section III.B).

- Our organization has a partner in mind: Yes No
 - If yes:
 - Our Lead Applicant is _____
 - Our Statutory Partner is _____
 - If no: Consult the [Statutory Partnership Worksheet](#)
- Collaborating Entities: Do you know of organizations that support the partnership and can help you implement parts of your proposed projects? [Collaborative Entities Worksheet](#)
 - Collaborating Entities with their role:

Community Issues based on Community Input:

EPA wants meaningful community input on the issues to be addressed by the projects. For more information, consult NOFO Section I.G.

- How we will get community input:

- Issues we know are important to our community:

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Climate Action Strategy(s):

You must have at least one Climate Action Strategy that is consistent with the Community Vision Description (see [Community Description](#), [Community Challenges](#), and [Community Vision](#) worksheets). For more information, consult NOFO Section I.G and Appendix C.

- My Climate Action Strategy(s):
 - Strategy 1: Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions
 - Strategy 2: Mobility and Transportation Options for Preventing Air Pollution and Improving Public Health and Climate Resilience
 - Strategy 3: Energy-Efficient, Healthy, and Resilient Housing and Buildings
 - Strategy 4: Microgrid Installation for Community Energy Resilience
 - Strategy 5: Community Resilience Hubs
 - Strategy 6: Brownfield Redevelopment for Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience
 - Strategy 7: Waste Reduction and Management to Support a Circular Economy
 - Strategy 8: Workforce Development Programs for Occupations that Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollutants

Pollution Reduction Strategy(s):

You must have at least one Pollution Reduction Strategy that is consistent with the Community Vision Description (see [Community Description](#), [Community Challenges](#), and [Community Vision](#) worksheets). For more information, consult NOFO Section I.G, and Appendix D.

- My Pollution Reduction Strategy(s):
 - Strategy 1: Indoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements
 - Strategy 2: Outdoor Air Quality and Community Health Improvements
 - Strategy 3: Clean Water Infrastructure to Reduce Pollution Exposure and Increase Overall System Resilience
 - Strategy 4: Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Funding and Timeline:

How much do you expect your proposed projects to cost? Grants will be awarded for \$10-\$20 million.

How long will it take your organizations to implement the proposed projects? Projects must be completed within 3 years.



Tips to consider:

As you think through your projects, what are:

- The problems you are trying to solve?
- The solutions you are proposing? (which should connect to the problems)
- The ways your solutions will benefit local residents?
- The ways you are strengthening the community?
- The benefits the community will receive now and in the future?
- Going to be your Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies?

Have connections between the projects:

- EPA wants to see programs that fit together to create a larger whole.

Be sure you can complete the projects:

- Can you complete them with \$10 million to \$20 million?
- Can you complete them in 3 years?
- Are they something that fits within the allowable strategies?