



Creating Strong Partnerships

Benefits of Grant Partners

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Community Change Grants (CCG) program underscores the importance of collaborative partnerships in driving meaningful environmental and climate justice initiatives. Your CCG application must include a Partnership Agreement between the Lead Applicant and the Statutory Partner. Additional Collaborative Entities can be included and are recommended in your CCG application.



Lead Applicant: The Lead Applicant will be responsible for the receipt of federal funds from EPA and the proper expenditure of these funds. They bear liability for unallowable costs. The Lead Applicant is responsible for the overall management, performance, oversight, compliance, legal issues, and reporting responsibilities under the grant, for making subawards to Collaborating Entities, and for managing risks associated with the project.



Statutory Partner: The Statutory Partner provides support in areas where the Lead Applicant may be weak. For example, they may have deeper and longer-term relationships with the disadvantaged community. The Statutory Partner's role and responsibilities for project activities, including its significant role in decision making, must be indicated in the Partnership Agreement. The Statutory Partner is also considered a Collaborating Entity.



Collaborating Entities: EPA encourages applicants to include multiple Collaborating Entities in their applications to demonstrate they have all the resources and skills to complete their proposed project within the 3-year grant period. Collaborating Entities include Statutory Partners and entities that cannot legally be Statutory Partners (e.g., states, territorial governments, and international organizations). For-profit firms and individual consultants or other commercial service providers cannot be Collaborating Entities.

Partnering brings together a group whose effectiveness is greater than the sum of its parts.



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How to Be a Good Partner

- Communicate openly, transparently, and regularly to all partners.
- Strive to understand and make the best use of the strengths of each partner.
- Share grant funds, decision-making, and credit.
- Make sure that partners feel welcomed and heard, which will help accomplish project goals.
- Provide support and mentorship (as appropriate) to smaller organizations.

Remember, it's all about bringing benefits to disadvantaged communities.

Partnership Example

A project aims to improve public housing for a disadvantaged community. The project will upgrade ventilation systems, add weatherproofing, and install solar panels. This will all reduce heating and cooling bills for tenants. The partnership team brings together diverse resources and experience to the project.

Lead Applicant, County Housing Department:

Brings grant writing, project management, and financial management system along with weatherproofing expertise.

Statutory Partner, CBO Representing Tenants:

Brings the voice of the community and fosters community and stakeholder engagement.

Collaborating Entities:

- County Health Department: Contributes its knowledge of indoor air issues and ventilation systems.
- Local Energy Justice CBO: Contributes solar power expertise, resources, and budgeting experience.
- Community College with Job Training Program: Contributes student labor and helps train community members to work in climate resiliency jobs.
- Local Chamber of Commerce: Provides meeting space and outreach to local businesses.

To learn more about who is eligible to be a Lead Applicant or Statutory Partner, see the [Community Change Grant Applicant Eligibility Fact Sheet](#). The [Statutory Partnership Worksheet](#) can also guide you through the steps of identifying potential partners, establishing a strong and balanced partnership, defining responsibilities among the partners, and developing a partnership agreement. Additional partnership information is provided in the [Collaborating Entities Worksheet](#).

For more information on the Statutory Partnership and Collaborating Entities, read Section III A and B and Appendix B of the NOFO.



For further questions regarding technical assistance, please contact EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov or call 1(800) 540-8123.



For questions regarding the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), please contact CCGP@epa.gov.



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