



# Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

## Inflation Reduction Act Financial & Technical Assistance Programs



### AAPCA Conference APRIL 4, 2023



# OVERVIEW

**EPA received \$3 billion in the IRA and \$120 million in the FY-23 budget to support environmental justice activities in OEJECR.**

- IRA: \$2.8 billion to provide grants for activities benefiting disadvantaged communities. \$200 million for technical assistance.

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Statutory Language -2022

## SEC. 60201. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE BLOCK GRANTS.

The Clean Air Act is amended by inserting after section 137, as added by subtitle A of this title, the following: “SEC. 138. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE BLOCK GRANTS.”

(a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Administrator for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

“(1) \$2,800,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2026, to award grants for the activities described in subsection (b); and “(2) \$200,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2026, to provide technical assistance to eligible entities related to grants awarded under this section.

# Authorization to Award Grants

“(b) GRANTS.— “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall use amounts made available under subsection:

(a)(1) to award grants **for periods of up to 3 years** to eligible entities to carry out activities described in paragraph

(2) that benefit disadvantaged communities, as defined by the Administrator.

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Administrator shall reserve 7 percent of the amounts made available under subsection (a) for administrative costs to carry out this section.”.

# Eligibility to Receive Grants

“(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a partnership between—

“(i) An Indian Tribe, a local government, or an institution of higher education; and

“(ii) a community-based nonprofit organization;

“(B) a community-based nonprofit organization; or

“(C) a partnership of community-based nonprofit organizations.

# Eligible Activities for Funding

“(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity may use a grant awarded under this subsection for—

“(A) community-led air and other pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation, and investments in low- and zero emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure and workforce development that help reduce greenhouse gas (as defined in section 211(o)(1)(G) (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section)) emissions and other air pollutants;

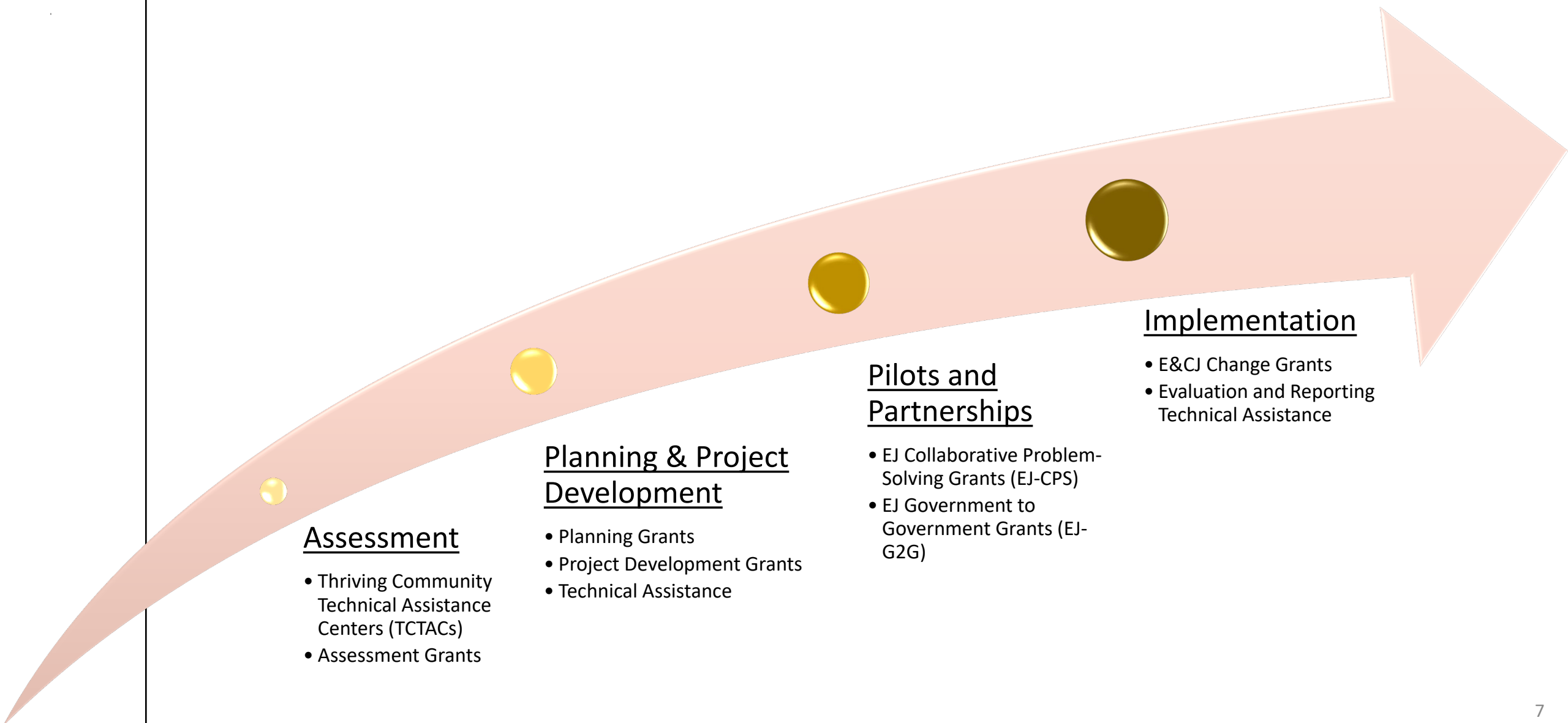
“(B) mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events;

“(C) climate resiliency and adaptation;

“(D) reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution; or

“(E) facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal public processes, including facilitating such engagement in advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings and other public processes.

# ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM



## Assessment

- Thriving Community Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)
- Assessment Grants

## Planning & Project Development

- Planning Grants
- Project Development Grants
- Technical Assistance

## Pilots and Partnerships

- EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants (EJ-CPS)
- EJ Government to Government Grants (EJ-G2G)

## Implementation

- E&CJ Change Grants
- Evaluation and Reporting Technical Assistance

# OEJECR GRANT PROGRAMS

Over \$800 million is being deployed quickly to build the project pipeline by funding technical assistance, as sessments, planning, and pilots.

~\$2 billion is allocated for a new “E&CJ Change Grants” program to launch this summer.

Name	Funding	Description	Timing
<b>Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)</b>	\$170 million	17 awards to establish technical assistance centers across the nation to support communities with environmental justice concerns access federal funding.	Selections to be announced soon
<b>EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants (EJ-CPS)</b>	\$30 million	Up to 83 awards to assist recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses, government, medical providers) to develop solutions to environmental or public health issues at the community level.	Application closes: April 14 Announce selections in: October 2023
<b>EJ Government to Government Grants (EJ-G2G)</b>	\$70 million	Up to 70 awards at the state, local, territorial and tribal governments to support and/or create model government activities (existing program).	Application closes: April 14 Announce selections in: December 2023
<b>EJ Grantmakers (EJ-TCGM)</b>	\$550 million	11 Grantmakers who will each make hundreds of subawards	Application closes: May 31 Announce selections in: October 2023
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	\$200 million	To provide TA to eligible entities	Ongoing
<b>E&amp;CJ Change Grants</b>	~\$2 billion	<b>Under Development.</b>	Open application this summer



# EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)

## **EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)**

- TCTACs will have regional and national presence.
- Will help advance EJ through technical assistance, training, and capacity-building to a wide range of entities including underserved communities, federally recognized tribes, state recognized tribes, tribal/indigenous grassroots organizations, etc.
- The TCTACs will be operated by colleges/universities; large nonprofits; or intertribal consortia.
- Selections announced in April 2023. Expected operation by summer 2023

# Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements (EJ-CPS)

- \$30 million total funding
  - **Funding:** Up to \$500,000 per grant, with smaller grants of up to \$150,000 – Applications: due **April 14, 2023**
- **Eligibility:** a community-based nonprofit organization (CBO); or
  - a partnership of community-based nonprofit organizations \*
    - \* A partnership must be documented with a signed Letter of Commitment from the community-based nonprofit organization detailing the parameters of the partnership, as well as the role and responsibilities of the partnering community-based organizations.
- To develop solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issue(s) in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks.
- Webinar: [Recording-February 2, 2023 EJCS Webinars](#), **Passcode:** 46598050, [Slides from webinar \(pdf\)](#)

# Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Grants (EJ-G2G)

- [Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Cooperative Agreements](#) (EJG2G) - \$70 million total funding
- Cooperative agreement grants to government agencies partnering with CBOs. Expansion of EPA's traditional EJ government grant program with larger awards to gov. agencies partnering with communities to develop plans, projects, and pilot implementation activities
- **Funding:** Up to \$1 million per grant, (3-year project period)
- **Applications: due April 14, 2023**
- Webinar: [Recording-February 7, 2023 Webinar](#), Passcode: 50270566, [Slides from Webinar \(pdf\)](#)

# Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Grants (EJ-G2G) - Eligibility

- **Eligible entities include:**

- A state in partnership\* with a community-based nonprofit organization
- A Tribe in partnership\* with a community-based nonprofit organization
- A local government in partnership\* with a community-based nonprofit organization
- US Territories, Puerto Rico, Freely Assoc. States , State Recognized Tribal Governments, and Tribal Governments in Remote Areas.

\* A partnership must be documented with a signed Letter of Commitment from the community-based nonprofit organization detailing the parameters of the partnership, as well as the role and responsibilities of the partnering community-based organizations.

# Government-to-Government Cooperative Agreements (EJ-G2G) - Continued

**The EJG2G Program anticipates awarding approximately \$70,000,000 of funding through 70 cooperative agreements nationwide, organized in four tracks of funding as follows:**

- \$20,000,000 annual appropriations for States partnering with CBOs proposing projects for up to \$1 million each. Approximately 20 awards for up to 1 million each are anticipated under this track.
- \$20,000,000 of Inflation Reduction Act appropriations for federally recognized tribal governments partnering with CBOs proposing projects for up to \$1 million each. Approximately 20 awards for up to 1 million each are anticipated under this track.
- \$20,000,000 of Inflation Reduction Act appropriations for local governments partnering with CBOs proposing projects for up to \$1 million each. Approximately 20 awards for up to 1 million each are anticipated under this track.
- \$10,000,000 annual appropriations for U.S. Territories, Freely Associated States, Puerto Rico, state recognized tribal governments, and tribes in remote areas proposing projects for up to \$1 million each. Approximately 10 awards for up to 1 million each are anticipated under this track.
- Cooperative agreements will be funded for a three-year performance period.

# Environmental Justice Thriving Communities GrantMakers (EJ- TCGM)

- [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking \(EJ TCGM\)](#) - \$550 million total funding
  - Funding: Approximately \$50 million per award (\$16.5 per year, for 3 years) - Applications: due **May 31, 2023**
  - Eligibility: Federally Recognized Tribal government, or institution of higher education (e.g. Tribal Colleges and Universities) in partnership with a Community-Based Non-Profit (CBO), or a partnership of CBOs.
  - New, innovative program to fund up to 11 entities to serve as Grantmakers, using efficient, simplified processes for organizations historically challenged to receive funding for community-based projects to reduce pollution through subawards.
  - Webinar Assistance Call - **March 16, 2023**, [View Zoom recording \(Passcode: 38640870\)](#), [EJ TCGM Overview Webinar Slides \(pdf\)](#)

# ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE CHANGE GRANTS



The Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants program was created under Section 138 of the Clean Air Act and provides flexibility to the agency for program design within the following parameters:

- **Funding:** \$2.8 billion is available to award grants until September 30, 2026. An additional \$200 million is available to provide technical assistance for these grants.
- **Eligibility:** Community-Based Non-Profit (CBO), or a partnership of CBOs.
  - Eligible partnerships with a Tribal government, a local government, or an institution of higher education.
- **Period of Performance:** Grants shall be awarded for up to three years. No extensions.
- [Request for Information](#) currently available for public input on new and innovative strategies and approaches for several areas.
- Webinar Call March 10, 2023: [Recording of ECJ FRI Webinar](#)
  - [ECJ RFI Presentation Slides \(pdf\)](#)
  - [ECJ RFI Question and Answer Summary \(pdf\)](#)

OEJEER launched a docket for public comment (RFI) on February 9. The comment period closes on April 10.

Through the RFI the agency seeks comment on a wide range of program design issues including eligible projects, eligible recipients, reporting and oversight, and overall competition structure.

A wide range of EJ stakeholders are working on responses.

# THANK YOU!

---

## Helpful Links and Connections:

1. Environmental Justice Grants, Funding and Technical Assistance:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

2. EJ G2G Point of Contact: Omari Barrell ([Barrell.Omari@epa.gov](mailto:Barrell.Omari@epa.gov)).

3. EJ CPS Point of Contact: Jacob Burney ([Burney.Jacob@epa.gov](mailto:Burney.Jacob@epa.gov)).

4. Questions on RFI: [ECJRFI@epa.gov](mailto:ECJRFI@epa.gov)

5. To view and respond to ECJ RFI: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OEJECR-2023-0023>

6. EPA OEJECR IRA Lead: Larissa Mark ([mark.larissa@epa.gov](mailto:mark.larissa@epa.gov))