

Environmental Justice Small Grants and Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Programs



2019 Brownfields Workshop

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Environmental Justice Definition

- ❑ EPA defines “environmental justice” as the **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws regulations and policies.
- ❑ Fair treatment means that no one group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or execution of Federal, state, local, and tribal environmental programs and policies.

Environmental Justice Definition (*con't*)

- Meaningful involvement means that : (1) potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; (2) the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; (3) the concern of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process, and (4) the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Environmental Justice Small Grants

- Since its inception in 1994, the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program has awarded more than \$24 million in funding to over 1400 community-based organizations, and local and tribal organizations working with communities facing environmental justice issues.

Environmental Justice Small Grants

- The Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) Program provides funding directly to community-based organizations for projects that help residents of underserved communities understand and address local environmental and public health issues.

Environmental Justice Small Grants

- In general, the EJSG program awards grants that support community-driven projects designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to better understand local environmental and public health issues and develop strategies for addressing those issues, building consensus in the community, and setting community priorities.

Type of Assistance - EJSG

- Environmental Justice Small Grants fund projects up to \$30,000, depending on the availability of funds in a given year. All projects are associated with at least one qualified environmental statute. They are:

Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a)

Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203

Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b)(3)

Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

EJSG

- Applying organizations should have a direct connection to the underserved community impacted by environmental harms and risks.

Eligible Activities

- To be eligible for funding, a project must consist of activities that fall within the terms of the statutory grant authorities mentioned previously. Eligible activities include:

Research

Public Education

Demonstration Projects

Training

Monitoring

Development

Investigations

Surveys and studies

Experiments

Who is eligible to apply

- ❑ Incorporated non-profit organizations
- ❑ Federally recognized tribal governments, or
- ❑ Tribal organizations
- ❑ Applicants must be located within the same state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which the proposed project is located

Who is not eligible to apply

- ❑ Colleges and universities
- ❑ Hospitals
- ❑ State and local governments and their entities;
- ❑ Quasi-governmental entities (e.g., water districts, utilities)
- ❑ National organizations and chapters of the aforementioned organizations
- ❑ non-profit organizations supporting lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995

EJSG Key Facts

- ❑ Funding of \$30,000 per award
- ❑ Project period – one year
- ❑ Offered every other year
- ❑ Apply at [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov)

Environmental justice Collaborative Problem-solving Cooperative Agreements Program- EJCPS

- ❑ In 2003, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) initiated the first solicitation for the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program.
- ❑ The purpose of the EJCPS Program is to provide financial assistance to community-based organizations to collaborate and partner with other stakeholders (*e.g.*, industry, government, academia, etc.) to develop and implement solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level.

Type of Assistance- EJCPS

- ❑ The estimated available funding for awards under EJCPS is \$1.2 million. EPA anticipates awarding one cooperative agreement per EPA region in amounts of up to \$120,000 per award for a two year project period.
- ❑ Because EPA requires substantial involvement and interaction between the applicant, EPA regions and OEJ, these awards will be made in the form of cooperative agreements.
- ❑ EPA awards cooperative agreements for those projects in which it expects to have substantial interaction with the recipient throughout the performance of the project.

Type of Assistance

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Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

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Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b)(3)

Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

EJCPS

- ❑ Eligible projects must demonstrate use of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model to support their collaborative efforts during the project period.
- ❑ Applying organizations should have a direct connection to the underserved community impacted by the environmental harms and risks detailed in the workplan.
- ❑ The long-term goals of the EJCPS Program are to help build the capacity of communities with environmental justice concerns and to create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve local environments in the future.

Partnerships

- ❑ Other local community-based non-profit organizations
- ❑ Local, regional, and national environmental non-profit organizations
- ❑ State, local, and tribal governments
- ❑ Federal government agencies
- ❑ Health care providers
- ❑ Faith-based organizations and local churches
- ❑ Philanthropic organizations
- ❑ Civic organizations
- ❑ Local economic and/or community development corporations/organizations
- ❑ Educational institutions
- ❑ State, local and tribal government agencies
- ❑ Local Businesses and Industry
- ❑ Elected officials (you may not use Federal grant funds or cost-sharing funds to conduct lobbying activities)
- ❑ Labor and professional organizations.

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- ❑ Colleges and universities
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EJCPS Key Facts

- ❑ Funding of up to \$120,000 per award
- ❑ Award is a Cooperative Agreement with EPA
- ❑ There must be partner organizations
- ❑ One award per Region
- ❑ Project period – Two years
- ❑ Offered every other year
- ❑ Apply at [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov)