



FBA Annual Conference 2022 EPA Updates

Region 4 Environmental Justice
& Childrens Health Section
October 25, 2022
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October 2022

**Office of Environmental
Justice and External Civil
Rights (OEJECR)**

**A New EPA National Program
Office**

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

A New EPA National Program Office

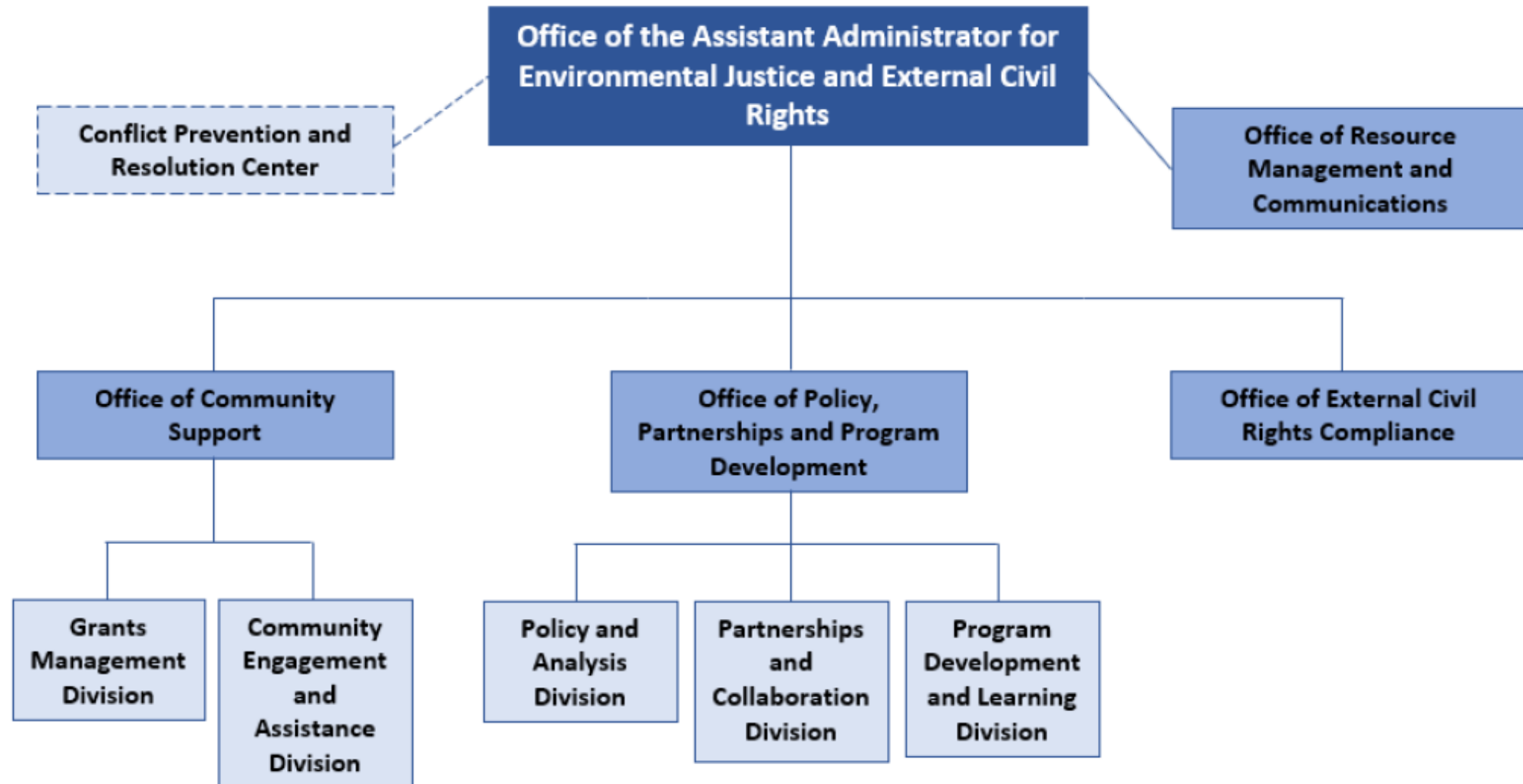
The Plan

- EPA is combining three existing offices into a single new National Program Office: the Office of Environmental Justice, the External Civil Rights Compliance Office, and the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center. The new office is the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights Compliance (OEJECR).
- A Senate-confirmed Assistant Administrator to lead this office.
- OEJECR will elevate environmental justice and civil rights at EPA and put it on the same playing field as the Office of Air, Office of Water, and other national programs.

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

- The new office will:
- Improve and enhance the agency's ability to infuse equity, civil rights, and environmental justice principles and priorities into all EPA practices, policies, and programs.
- Support the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.
- Engage communities with environmental justice concerns and increase support for community-led action through grants and technical assistance.
- Enforce federal civil rights laws that, together, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (including on the basis of limited-English proficiency); sex; disability; or age by applicants for and recipients of federal financial assistance from EPA.
- Provide services and expertise in alternative dispute resolution, environmental conflict resolution, consensus-building, and collaborative problem solving.

Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights Organizational Chart



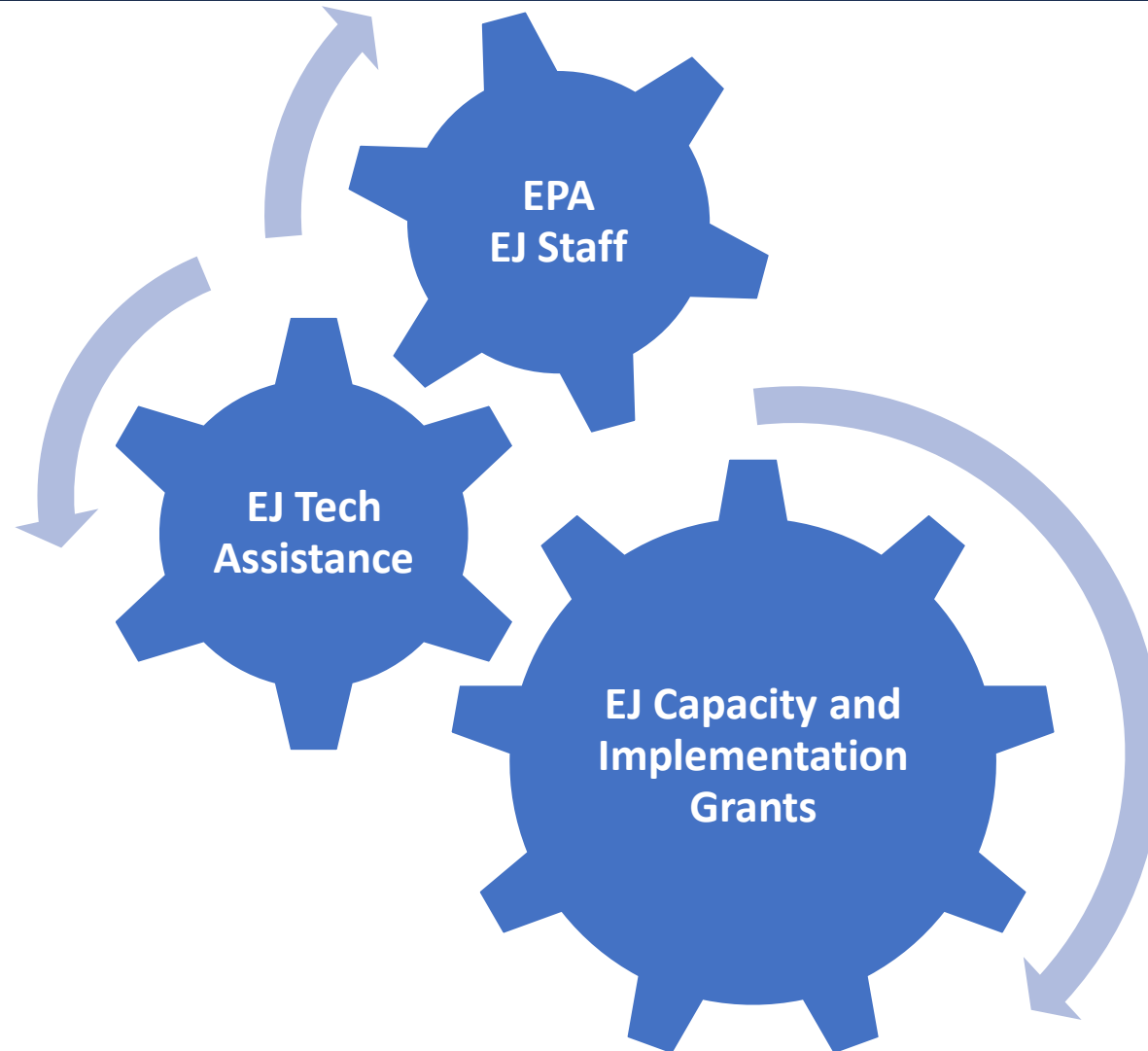


EJ Grants & Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Overview ('22-23)

Office of Environmental Justice
& External Civil Rights

October 13, 2022

EPA EJ Grants and Technical Assistance (TA) Strategy



FY 2022 - 2023 EJ Grants & TA Budget

- Approximately \$2.8 billion through Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) + funding from baseline EJ appropriations
- **Tentative breakdown:**
 - **\$100 million** for new Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program (EJ-TCTAC)
 - **\$100 million** for new EJ Communities Pass-through Funder Program (EJCPF) – to determine which external organization(s) will manage the EJ Small Grants program
 - **\$30 million** for EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS)
 - **\$60+ million** for Government grants (State, Local, Tribal, Territories, Freely associated States)
 - Separate tracks for Tribes, States, and Local governments
 - Set-aside for US Territories and Freely Associated States (FAS)
 - **\$2+ billion** for Environment and Climate Justice Block Grants

Excerpts from IRA Legislation

SEC. 60201. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE BLOCK GRANTS.

(1) \$2,800,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2026, ...(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.

(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.

(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 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 advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ-TCTAC)

- In 2023, EPA plans to create **EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers** by providing funding to 5 - 10 centers
 - Each center will provide TA and resources to communities and stakeholders on a nationwide and/or regional basis
- Deadline for applications: **November 1, 2022**
- Eligible entities to serve as centers: public/private universities, nonprofits, Intertribal Consortia
- **Who can receive services from centers:** All community stakeholders, including underserved communities interested in EPA grant programs such as community residents, nonprofits, grassroots organizations, local government entities, and state governmental entities

Technical Assistance Services to be provided by TA Centers

- **Examples of TA to underserved communities and stakeholders:**
 - “How to” assistance on writing competitive grant proposals
 - Financial resource management assistance
 - Community engagement
 - Tracking and analyzing results
 - Environmental justice analysis of communities (EJSCREEN analysis, on-the-ground problem site identification, and/or interviews of community residents detailing their EJ concerns)
 - Energy justice support and the transition to clean energy (e.g., workforce development)
 - Coordination and/or facilitation services for meetings between local stakeholders (community residents, local elected officials, port authority, industry, etc.)
 - Translation and interpreting services for meaningful engagement with Limited English-Speaking participants

Details for other
Environmental
Justice Grants
Programs

2022 - 2023



New Implementation Authority

- **Previously, EJ grant activities were limited to:**
 - Research
 - Demonstrations
 - Training, and/or
 - Education activities
- **Now, EJ grant activities have been expanded to include implementation activities:**
 - Small scale construction
 - Refurbishment and Mitigation
 - Hazardous Waste Disposal and general Clean ups
 - Installations

Redesign of EJ Small Grants

EJ Communities Pass-through Funder (EJCPF) Program



Key Details (EJ Small Grants Redesign)

- **Target Release Date: Early November 2022**
- **Funder(s) will be awarded cooperative agreements (5-year project period)**
 - Required substantial involvement and oversight by EJ staff
 - Eligibility: Nonprofits (including philanthropy), Colleges/universities, & Intertribal Consortia
 - Goal is for at least 70% of total funding be sub-awarded to communities
 - During first 6 months, EPA will work with funder to implement the program structure and evaluation/application process for communities
 - Funder will provide small grants for 1) assessment activities and 2) planning and partnership building activities
 - Assessments: 1 year for \$150K; Planning and Partnership: 2 years for \$300K
 - Eligible Entities to apply as a Small Grantee: Nonprofits, Tribes, US Territories, FAS

Things to Consider (EJ Small Grants)

- **Easier Application Process** - These small grants are specifically for community orgs who are capacity-constrained and will avoid Grants.gov and lengthy workplans.
- **Open Call** - There will likely be an open call for applications where communities can apply when they are ready rather than by a certain deadline.
- **Subaward Model Expedites Funding Process** – this restructuring will get funds to small, underserved groups as expeditiously as possible
- **Connection/History with Communities** - All applicants will be evaluated on their historical connections with underserved communities/populations and capacity to do broad outreach
- **Direct Involvement/Oversight/Scoring by EPA** - EPA will have a direct hand in how the funder(s) develop the evaluation/scoring and management processes for the EJ Small Grants. Additionally, Regional EJ staff will be on the subaward evaluation panels (i.e., scoring community applications)

EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS)

- **Total Budget: ~\$30 million**
 - ~60 awards of up to \$500,000 each nationwide
 - Project period is for 3 – 5 years
 - Eligibility: nonprofit organizations and nonprofit organizations within the US territories and FAS
- **Special Considerations**
 - Projects addressing Climate, Disaster Resiliency, and/or Emergency Preparedness
 - Projects focusing on performing health impact assessments (HIAs)
 - Projects focused in rural areas
- **Timeline** – EJCPS RFA is targeted for release in **mid-November 2022**

Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program

- **Total Budget: \$60 - \$70 million**
 - 60 - 70 awards – up to \$1 million each nationwide (3 to 5-year project period)
 - Track 1: Tribes (\$20 million)
 - Track 2: Local Governments (\$20 million)
 - Track 3: States (\$20 million)
 - Set-aside for US Territories and Freely Associated States
- **Special Considerations / Other Selection Factors**
 - Projects performed in rural areas
 - Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)
- **Timeline** – EJG2G RFA is targeted for release in mid November 2022

Summary of EJ Grants Plan (22-23)

- Here is a timeline and general details on the upcoming EJ grant opportunities:

1. **EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program (EJ-TCTAC) *NEW**

- RFA deadline date: November 1, 2022
- \$100 Million for 5 – 10 centers (colleges/universities, nonprofits, intertribal consortia)

2. **EJ Communities Pass-through Funder (EJCPF) Program *NEW**

- RFA release date: early November 2022
- \$100+ Million for 1 – 2 pass-thru funders (colleges/universities, nonprofits, intertribal consortia)

3. **EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Program (EJCPS)**

- RFA release date: mid-November 2022
- \$30 Million (~60 awards) of up to \$500K each (nonprofits)

4. **Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Program**

- RFA release date: mid-November 2022
- \$60 - \$70 Million (60+ awards) of up to \$1M each (states, local governments, tribes, territories, FAS)

EJ Program Updates for FY22-23



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