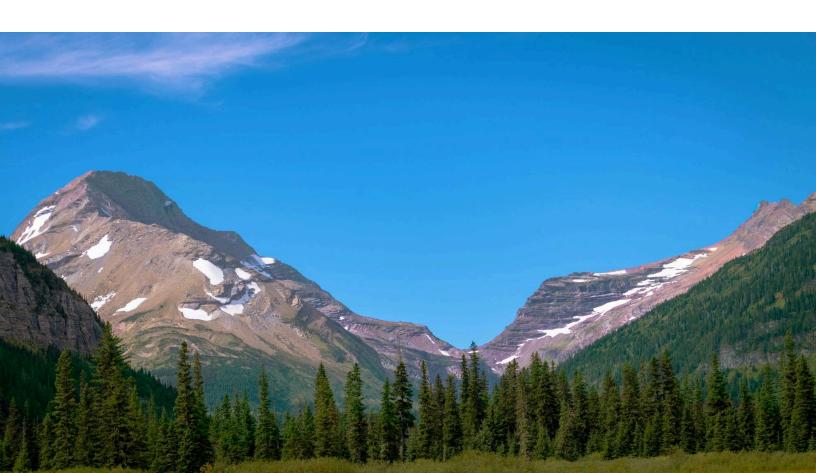# Mountains and Plains Environmental Justice Grants Hub

All About the Competitive Subgrants

Information on eligibility, subgrant tiers, and examples of eligible projects.

Last updated: October 2024

Eligibility

Entities and projects selected for these awards must align with the goals of the TCGM program, including:

- Benefiting communities of focus, as defined by the [Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)*
- Seeking to address a specific environmental justice issue in that community of interest
- Engaging community members and prioritizing community representation and inclusion

Eligible Entities

- Must be located in, or providing services in, EPA Region 8 (CO, MT, SD, ND, UT, WY, and 28 federally recognized Tribes)
- Nonprofit organizations, including community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations and philanthropic and civic organizations with 501(c)3 or 501(c)6 nonprofit status
- Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia
- Native American organizations (includes Indian groups, cooperatives, nonprofit corporations, partnerships, and associations that have the authority to enter into legally binding agreements)
- Local governments (includes cities, towns, municipalities, and counties, public housing authorities and councils of government)
- Institutions of higher education (e.g., private and public universities and colleges, including community colleges)

Ineligible Entities

- State governments
- For profit institutions
- Individuals
- Any other entity, collaborative, or consortium that does not meet the requirements above.

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Competitive Subgrants

Eligible organizations with projects benefiting communities in Region 8 can apply for subgrants through three concurrent funding tiers offered by the MAP EJ Grants Hub.

Tier 1 Subgrants: Assessment | up to $150,000 | 1 Year

Applicants in Tier 1 should have an identified environmental justice issue and a community of focus. **But, they are not expected to propose an intervention or solution to the issue at this time.**
Examples include:
- Research (that is incidental to the project design)
- Sampling
- Testing
- Monitoring
- Investigations
- Surveys and studies
- Public education

Tier 2 Subgrants: Planning | up to $250,000 | 1–2 Years

Applicants in Tier 2 should have an identified environmental justice issue and a community of focus, and they should be working with that community **to lay the groundwork for an intervention and/or to involve and mobilize the community.**
Examples include:
- Planning
- Partnership-building
- Public outreach and education
- Coordination with community stakeholders to address environmental issues
- Training activities for community organizations and community members
- Projects and activities to spur community involvement (e.g., cleanups of vacant lots)
- Smaller land purchases and acquisitions that require less than half of the total

amount of subgrant funding

Tier 3 Subgrants: Development | up to $350,000 | 2 Years

Applicants in Tier 3 should have an identified environmental justice issue and a community of focus, and **have clearly defined implementation steps for an intervention that will impact the environmental justice issue.**

Examples include:

- Project development
- Implementation of project plans
- Blueprints for construction or cleanup projects, schematics, and technical development
- Work to get permits in place directly related to an environmental project
- Smaller land purchases and acquisitions that require less than half of the total amount of subgrant funding
- Public outreach and education

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Examples of Eligible Projects

Here are some examples of the types of projects that may be eligible for funding.
(Note: this list is not exhaustive, and it is only intended to provide examples of
projects that are eligible. It is not intended to provide guidance on projects that are
likely to be funded.)

Project	Topic	Applicant Type	Tier	Would this project qualify?
Community air quality monitoring initiative. This project aims to install air quality monitor sensors in low-income communities to track local pollution levels. Data collected will be used to inform residents about pollution hotspots and will be shared with local officials.	Environmental monitoring	Local nonprofit community organization	1	Yes, it aligns with EPA's goals of improving air quality and providing data to underserved communities.
Urban Green Space Revitalization Program. This project focuses on revitalizing neglected urban parks in disadvantaged neighborhoods. It includes planting trees, creating community gardens, and improving recreational facilities. The goal is to increase green space accessibility and promote environmental health.	Urban Green Space	Local government	2	Maybe. While it promotes EJ, it needs to demonstrate how it will directly involve the community in the planning and implementation phases.
City wants to start a farmers market in an Inflation Reduction Act identified disadvantaged community.	Food security and access	Local Government	3	Yes, this project would be eligible as a Tier 3 development project.
A local government in a	Environmental	Local	2 or 3	Maybe.

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Project	Topic	Applicant Type	Tier	Would this project qualify?
non-disadvantaged community is proposing a brownfield cleanup in a lot that is adjacent to a local elementary school.	clean up (brownfield)	government		If the local elementary school draws children from Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Community AND the brownfield cleanup will directly benefit children's health (e.g., reducing arsenic in the air from dust that is blown from the neighboring brownfield). This project would **not** qualify if the brownfield currently does not have a direct impact on the children's health (e.g., the brownfield is contaminating the groundwater, but the local elementary is on municipal water that is clean and not impacted by the brownfield contamination)
Implement a youth environmental justice (EJ) leadership training that provides educational experiences to advocate for EJ, promote community engagement, community EJ leadership team, and assist with the ongoing sustainability of the community led community EJ program.	Engaging community members in decision-making processes, Environmental stewardship	Local nonprofit community organization	2	Yes, assuming target youth are part of a disadvantaged community or that the program is located in a disadvantage community

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Project	Topic	Applicant Type	Tier	Would this project qualify?
Provide information and resources to agricultural workers across the state to avoid or mitigate the negative health impacts of poor air quality and extreme climate during two critical portions of the agricultural season.	Farm worker health	Local nonprofit community organization	1	Yes, the applicant would need to demonstrate/explain
Create a community-driven engagement plan to increase Latino/a/x involvement in the city/county Climate Action Plan, and increase knowledge and understanding of climate change impacts and strategies to reduce these impacts within the city/county Latino/a/x community	Community engagement with Latino/a/x for a climate action plan	Local government	2	Yes, the applicant would need to demonstrate on the EPA IRA map that there are areas considered disadvantaged communities.

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