

## What is a “Community of Focus”?

Environmental Justice grants will only be awarded to projects that benefit a community of focus, referred to by EPA as a disadvantaged community, defined below.

“Population or geographic location in the United States that experiences disproportionate environmental and climatic harms and risks. This disproportionality can be a result of greater vulnerability to environmental hazards, lack of opportunity for public participation or other factors. Increased vulnerability may be attributable to an accumulation of negative or lack of positive environmental, health, economic or social conditions within these populations or places. The term describes situations where multiple factors, including both environmental and socioeconomic stressors, may act cumulatively to affect health and the environment and contribute to persistent environmental health disparities.”<sup>1</sup>

Because of this requirement, applicants must demonstrate that their project benefits a community of focus. To do so, a screenshot of the project’s geographic focus area in [EJ Screen](#), an EPA mapping tool, must be submitted in the application.

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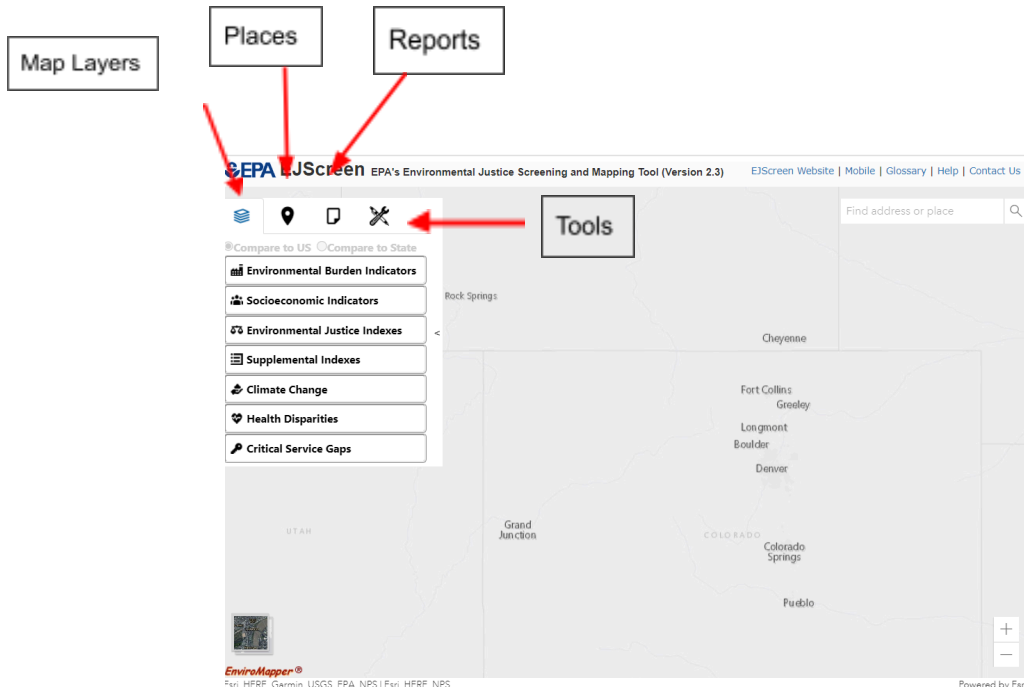
<sup>1</sup> [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Resilience and Adaptation Funding Toolbox](#)

# How to Use EJScreen

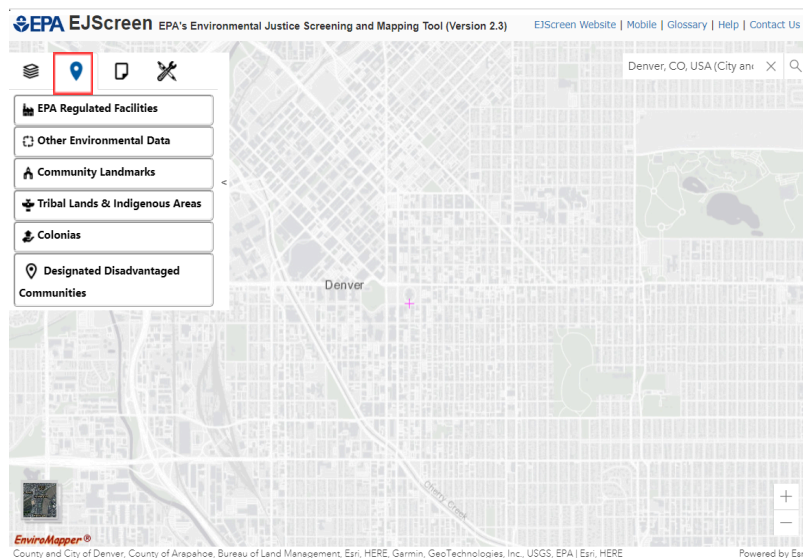
Click [here](#) for video instructions.

You can access the tool here: [EJScreen](#).

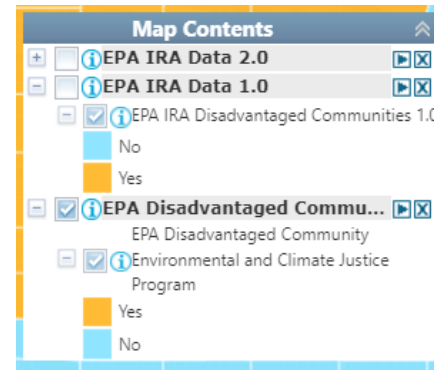
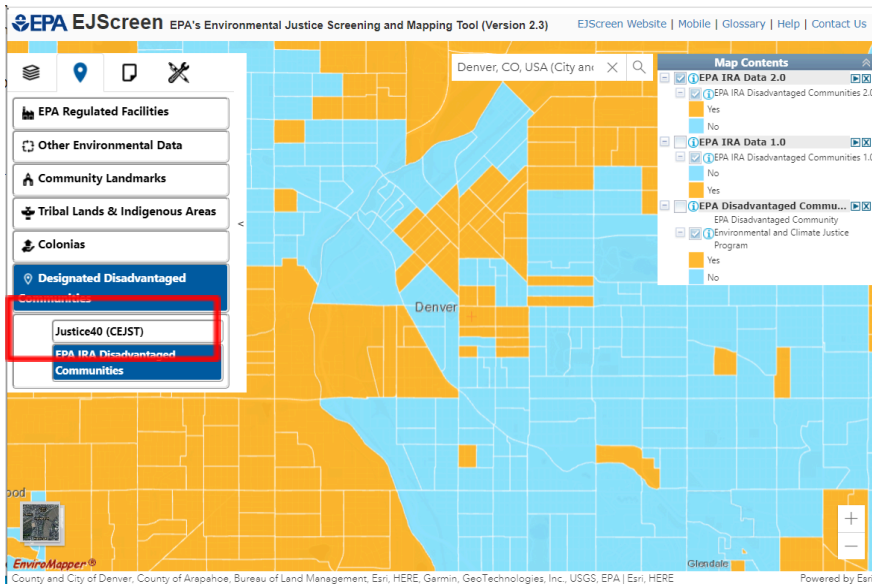
1. This will be the first screen.



2. Click on the "places" tab.



- Under Designated Disadvantaged Communities, click “EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities.” The orange represents census tracts that are considered a disadvantaged community. Make sure EPA IRA Data 2.0 is selected.



- This data is divided by census tract. For application submission, applicants must draw the project area. Do this by clicking “reports” -> “draw an area.”

