EPA Region 1
Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program

HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION

ACE — alternatives for community & environment — Building Power for Environmental Justice

GRASS ROOTS FUND

Environmental Justice for New England

Funding Announcement Webinar

Thursday, December 12, 2024

environmentaljusticenewengland.org

Housekeeping

- The webinar recording and slides will also be made available on our webpage environmentaljusticenewengland.org

- If you have any questions, please type them into the Q&A box

Introductions: Today's Presenters

Cynthia
Espinosa Marrero
she/they

Senior Manager
Health Resources in Action

Jennifer
Lee
she/her

Vice President, Grantmaking
Health Resources in Action

Hannah
James
she/her

Senior Program Officer
Health Resources in Action

Webinar Objectives

1. Learn about the background of the EPA Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program and the Environmental Justice for New England project

2. Learn about the grants available

3. Learn about application components, how to apply and key deadlines

4. Address Questions

Webinar Agenda

Overview of Environmental Justice for New England (EJforNE)

10 minutes

Grants Available

15 minutes

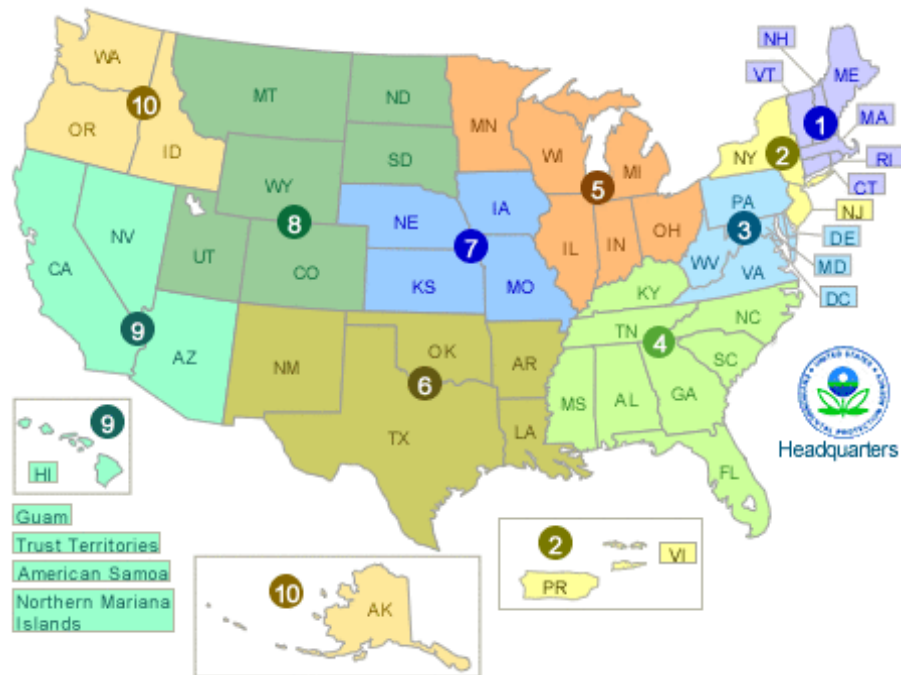Application Components, How to Apply, and Key Deadlines

30 minutes

Q&A

30 minutes

Objective 1

Overview of Environmental Justice for New England (EJforNE)

Background

EPA Environmental Justice (EJ) Thriving Communities Grantmaking (TCGM) Program has selected grantmakers across the U.S, as part of the Justice 40 Initiative, to provide $48M/each in grants within their respective regions over three years.

Image Credit: Environmental Protection Agency

Goal of TCGM Program: support community-based organizations, EJ organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other entities representing underserved, urban, rural, Indigenous, remote, and capacity constrained communities in implementing projects to **address local environmental and/or public health challenges**

Region 1 New England includes:

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and 10 Tribal Nations

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EJ for NE Partners

Core Project Team

ACE alternatives for community & environment — Building Power for Environmental Justice

HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION

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Shared Values

We aim to counter historical disinvestment in communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis including communities of color, immigrant communities, indigenous communities, and low-income communities. This opportunity seeks to seed and build deeper capacity for a sustainable environmental justice movement to address environmental hazards, climate resiliency, and energy justice, and build livable and healthy communities. This funding, which includes $40 million in grants over three years, comes as an effort by the Biden-Harris Administration to strip away traditional barriers communities have faced in applying for federal grants.

Anchor Organizations

Anchor Organizations

Provide community context, build deeper capacity, and support outreach within each New England state

Organizations and coalitions with deep connections to or understanding of existing on-the-ground environmental justice organizing, capacity, and needs in the state they work in. Their efforts ensure the grantmaking program remains rooted in equitable engagement that centers the voices of those most impacted by environmental injustices.

Massachusetts	Maine	Connecticut	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Vermont
Transportation for Massachusetts *A project of CLF Ventures*	Land Peace Foundation	Connecticut Roundtable on Climate & Jobs	Rights & Democracy Institute	Racial & Environmental Justice Committee	Land Access and Opportunity Board *A project of Vermont Housing and Conservation Board*

Objective 2
Learn about the grants available

Examples of Climate & Environmental Justice Issues projects can address, but not limited to:

- Environmental health

- Air, soil, and water quality

- Healthy homes

- Access to healthy food

- Stormwater and green infrastructure

- Clean-up projects

- Emergency Preparedness

- Environmental job training

Two Grant Categories

SEED FUND	TIERS 1-3

Different:
- Organizational Eligibility
- Project Eligibility
- Funding Periods
- Funding Amounts
- Length of Application
- Application Links
- Request for Proposals (1x for Seed Fund, 1x for Tiers 1-3 Grants)

Share:
- Application Format Options (Written, Slide Deck, Video)
- Core Application Components

Grants Categories Available: Seed Funds

EPA defined tiers for subawards

SEED FUNDS			
Category	**Funding Period**	**Funding Amount**	**Examples**
Seed Funds	6 months - 1 year	Up to $75,000	• Partnership building, community meetings • Development of a report or trainings

Grants Categories Available: Seed Funds
EPA defined tiers for subawards

SEED FUNDS

Eligible Applicants Include:

Seed Funds are for organizations:
1. *With four or less paid full-time staff AND*
2. *Located in **and/or** working in a community identified by the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST) as disadvantaged.*

- Nonprofit organizations, community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations
- Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia
- Native American Organizations

Note: If the proposed project takes place outside of a community identified by the CEJST as disadvantaged, a justification can be submitted for consideration.

Grants Categories Available: Tiers 1-3

EPA defined tiers for subawards

TIERS 1-3			
Tiers	**Funding Period**	**Funding Amount**	**Examples**
Tier I: Assessment Projects	Up to 1 year	Up to $150,000	• Research • Sampling, monitoring, testing • Surveys
Tier 2: Planning Projects	1 - 2 years	Up to $250,000	• Partnership building • Developing communications plan or curricula • Projects or activities to spur community involvement (e.g., cleanups of vacant lots)
Tier 3: Implementation Projects	Up to 2 years	Up to $350,000	• Strengthening cumulative impact, public health, or environmental justice protections • Conducting healthy home assessments; increasing energy or water efficiency in homes or buildings • Creating internships or implementing workforce development programs

Note: An organization may apply for two sequenced phases at the same time;
however funding will be received for the subsequent phase until the previous one is successfully completed.

Grants Categories Available: Tiers 1-3
EPA defined

TIERS 1-3

Eligible Applicants Include:

Tiers 1-3 Grants are for organizations:
1. *Located in **and/or** working in a community identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) as disadvantaged.*

- Nonprofit organizations, community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations
- Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia
- Native American Organizations
- Local governments
- Institutions of higher education
- Philanthropic and civic organizations with nonprofit status

Note: If the proposed project takes place outside of a community identified by the CEJST as disadvantaged, a justification can be submitted for consideration.

Key Application Dates

Round 1 Applications

February 14, 2025 5PM EST

Deadline for Round 1 Applications (all grant categories)
*Late applications will **NOT** be reviewed or considered.*

February-April 2025

Grant Readers & Grantmaking Committee
Review of Applications

April/May 2025

Notice of Awards/Contracts

Round 2 Applications

May 16, 2025 5PM EST

Deadline for Round 2 Applications (all grant categories)
*Late applications will **NOT** be reviewed or considered.*

May-July 2025

Grant Readers & Grantmaking Committee
Review of Applications

July/August 2025

Notice of Awards/Contracts

Future funding rounds anticipated in August 2025, November 2025, January 2026, and April 2026
and/or until all funding is allocated, whichever is earlier.

Objective 3

Learn about the application components, how to apply, and key deadlines

Application Components

- **Organization Information**

- **Program Information**

- **Application**
  Select One Format: Written Narrative, Presentation Slides, Video

- **Attachments**
  1. **Budget** (Template Provided)
  2. **Workplan** (Template Provided)

The Requests for Proposal (Tiers 1-3 and Seed Fund) have been released and can be downloaded
environmentaljusticenewengland.org

Both RFPs will be made available in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese.

Application Format

Applicants can choose <u>one</u> of the below application formats:

	SEED FUND	TIERS 1-3
Option 1: Written Narrative	1-2 Pages	8-10 Pages
Option 2: Presentation Slides	5-6 Slides	25 Slides
Option 3: Video	5 minutes	15 minutes

The Requests for Proposal (Tiers 1-3 and Seed Fund) have been released and can be downloaded at the <u>EJforNE Website</u>.

Both RFPs will be made available in English, Spanish, Portuguese , Haitian Creole, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese.

Application Format (cont.)

Applicants can choose <u>one</u> of the below application formats:

Format 1: Written Narrative	Format 2: Presentation Slides	Format 3: Video
• Consider word counts as a guide not a requirement • You can include and weave in photos or graphics as you see fit	• Use a font that is easily readable • Use art/photos to help convey your message • Create clear labels for charts and graphs • Use high contrast between background and text colors	• Use imagery and interviews to help convey your message • If you include any graphics, ensure labels are clear and backgrounds are subtle and consistent • Applicants are not expected to develop highly produced videos.
<u>Recommended File Type for Submission:</u> PDF	**<u>Recommended File Type for Submission</u>**: PDF *<u>Note: Slides are being submitted to be read, and not being presented by the applicant.</u>*	**<u>Recommended Submission Type:</u>** Upload video to a video website such as YouTube, Vimeo, etc. <u>and</u> include the URL in your application *<u>Note: Please ensure the video link can be accessed by external viewers.</u>*

SEED FUND (2 Questions Total)

1. **Organization Overview:** Provide a brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission and key activities. *[1 page]*

2. **Proposed Scope of Work:** Detail the environmental, climate or public health issue(s) you intend to address and your scope of work. *[1 page]*

Application Questions: Tiers 1-3

1. **Organization Overview:** Provide a brief description of the applicant organization, including its mission and key activities. *[100 words]*

2. **Project Name:** What is the name of your proposed project? *[100 words]*

3. **Need:** What environmental justice, climate, and/or public health need(s) will your project address? What environmental and health challenges does the community face? *[200 words]*

4. **Population(s):** Describe the communities and populations who will benefit from this project. How are they affected by environmental justice and climate challenges? *[300 words]*

5. **Key Activities & Timeline:** Please use the workplan template.

6. **Partners:** List up to five project partners, if applicable, and their roles in this project (e.g., how will they contribute to the success of your project?) *[300 words]*

   o *Note: selected applicants may be required to establish statutory partnership agreements (signed agreements) or MOUs with proposed partners prior to award. Skip if you are applying as an individual organization.*

Application Questions: Tiers 1-3 (cont.)

7. **Organizational History:** Briefly describe the history and current status of your work on climate, environmental justice, and/or public health or community issues. And if you list partners, what is their history working on any of these issues? *[300 words]*

8. **Community Engagement:** How will your proposed project be informed by additional residents and representatives of the community(ies) directly affected by environmental, climate, and public health issues and challenges? Where on the community engagement spectrum do you strive to engage community members? How does your work align with the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing? *[300 words]*

9. **Success/Impact:** What do you intend to be the impact of this work at the end of this funding period? How will you measure success? *[500 words]*

10. **Tracking & Measuring Progress:** How will you know you're making progress? *[300 words]*

TIERS 1-3 (13 Questions Total)

11. **Challenges & Feasibility:** What are the main challenges that you anticipate for completing this work in the allocated timeframe? How can we offer assistance? *[200 words]*

12. **Leadership**: Please describe your leadership structure and how this leadership reflects and includes members of the impacted community. *[500 words]*

13. **Specifically for Tier 1 applicants**: Will you be collecting new data? If yes, we will be in touch to provide further information and support regarding requirements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
    - ☐ Yes
    - ☐ No
    - ☐ I am unsure

Workplan (Required)
Template available at environmentaljusticefornewengland.org

Activities	Milestones (Outputs, Metrics, or Deliverables)	Duration of Activity
Example Activity 1: Hold a series of community meetings to gauge environmental job training needs for youth	• **Example Milestone**: Four community meetings held with at least 20 participants at each, with the outcome being a gauge of environmental job training needs for youth identified. • **Example Outputs**: Outreach plan (flyers, social media post, newsletter), partner meetings to co-develop community meeting schedule • **Example Metrics**: Registration and attendance lists and/or number of partnerships/speakers (ongoing or new) to host/co-develop community meetings. • **Example Deliverables**: List of training needs/topics or number of partnerships/speakers (ongoing or new) for trainings for youth.	May 2025 – October 2025 (Quarter 1 and 2)
Example Activity 2		
Example Activity 3		

Please add additional rows as needed.

Grant dollars can be allocated for:

- Staff/Personnel
- Fringe Benefits (includes taxes and benefits)
- Direct Operational Costs (e.g. communications, meeting expenses, supplies, equipment)
- Travel
- Resources for Reporting and Outreach
- Resources for Partners/Consultants
- Indirect Costs
    - *Note: The maximum Indirect Cost Rate is 12.5% <u>OR</u> your organization's federally negotiated rate*

Grant dollars cannot be allocated for:
- Lobbying

Application Review Criteria

The following criteria will be used to determine which applications are recommended for funding:

- Community **need**
- **Impact** of the proposed approach on communities inequitably affected by environmental and climate injustices
- **Feasibility** of approach as supported by organizational and other capacities
- **Engagement** of community directly affected by environmental, climate, and public health issues and inequities, including your leadership
- Opportunity for **sustainability** and impact of your project
- **Involvement** of applicant in environmental and climate justice work and/or other community projects
- **Availability of other resources** to support this work

Application Considerations

- Funded projects for both the Seed Fund and Tiers 1-3 must focus on at least one disadvantaged community in the New England States as indicated on the ***Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool*** or make a case for why they propose a project outside this area.

- All applicant entities, including fiscally sponsored organizations/groups, must have a UEI (Unique Entity Identifier). Please visit SAM.gov to request an UEI.

  This process checks to see if you are a licensed entity in your state (it does not require you to be a 501(c)3).

Where to Find Application Links

Environmental Justice for New England
Investing in community-driven change

ABOUT   **GRANT**   CONTACT   🇬🇧 EN ⌄

Step 2

Step 3
Tiers and Funding Opportunities

Step 4

SEED FUNDS   +

TIER 1 – ASSESSMENT PROJECTS   +

TIER 2 – PLANNING PROJECTS   +

TIER 3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS   +

Step 1:
Visit
environmentaljusticenewengland.org

Step 2:
Click on the "Grant" Subpage

Step 3:
Scroll to "Tiers and Funding Opportunities"

Step 4:
Click the "+" to view more information and access the application links for each respective grant type.

Tiers and Funding Opportunities

SEED FUNDS —

Seed Funds are available for up to $75,000 for efforts to support community-based organizations with limited capacities, which are defined as those having an equivalent of four or less paid full-time staff members at the time of application, amongst other criteria. A full eligibility definition can be found in the request for proposal (RFP).

APPLY HERE **CONTINUE YOUR APPLICATION**

View Seed Fund Request for Proposals (English PDF version)

View Workplan Template (English Word version)

Request for Proposals and Workplan Templates will soon be available in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese

View Budget Template (English Excel version)

Each grant type's dropdown menu includes:

- "Apply Here" and "Continue Your Application" buttons to access the grant application portal

- Request for Proposal (PDF)

- Workplan Template (Word)

- Budget Template (Excel)

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Application Portal: How to Create a New Account

After clicking "Apply Here," this is the screen that will appear. Click "Create an Account."

Complete all fields to create an account.

Note: If you receive a notification that says, "Invalid e-mail or password", this might mean the email is associated with an existing account. Click "Return to Login" and click "Forget Password" to receive a new password from the system.

Application Portal Navigation

The first page will prompt you to complete an Eligibility Questionnaire

Complete the Application Questions and utilize the tabs at the top of the page to toggle between sections

Application Portal Navigation (cont.)

You can always save and finish your application later

Review and submit your application

Online Application Tips

Draft Your Application Responses	Save Your Progress	Click Submit
Consider drafting responses to the application questions in Word. • The application questions are available for view in each of the Request for Proposals. • The Workplan and Budget Templates are available for download.	Click "Save and Finish Later" to return to your application at a later point.	To submit an application, please click "Submit".

Resources to Get Started

Technical Assistance Partners
New England Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) • *Consult on and review grant applications* • *Consult on project budget* • *Connecting with other organizations to support coalition building* • *Support with navigating federal systems such as SAM.gov* **Environmental Protection Network** • *Step by Step Guide to Applying to EJ Thriving Communities Grantmakers Program* • *EJ TCGM Checklist, adapted from the Climate Justice Alliance* • *SAMs.gov Office Hours biweekly on Wednesdays* • *1-1 Assistance*

For regular updates, please sign up for the Newsletter at environmentaljusticenewengland.org

Resources to Get Started

HRiA Office Hours
Register for December Office Hours Date/Time: Wed. 12/18 10-11AM Registration Link: https://tinyurl.com/ejne-decofficehour   *Additional office hours will be held in January and February 2025- dates and times will be announced. Topics will include:* • *Organization eligibility* • *Contracting/budgeting* • *Human Subject Research* • *Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP)* *For support connecting to your states' anchor organizations, or project core partners, please reach out to* ejgrantsnewengland@hria.org

For regular updates, please sign up for the Newsletter at *environmentaljusticefornewengland.org*

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Round 2 Applications

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Questions?

Contact Us

🌐 environmentaljusticenewengland.org
✉ ejgrantsnewengland@hria.org

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