Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant Program





The Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grant (ECJBG) program will inject \$3 billion into disadvantaged communities to fund community-led plans that will reduce the impacts of climate change through infrastructure investments and community capacity building. The ECJBG program is a flexible source of funds to allow communities to implement projects that are most needed within their communities. Funds are available to community based nonprofit organizations (CBOs), or a partnership of CBOs, or a partnership between a CBO and a Tribal government, or a local government or a higher education institution.



The ECJBG program is split into two sources of funding, with \$200 million available for technical assistance to directly support recipients with implementation, and nearly \$2.8 billion available for program grants. Program grants can be spent in 5 broad categories including

- Community-led pollution monitoring, prevention and remediation activities. This can include investments in zero emission technologies and infrastructure, as well as workforce development activities that will reduce air pollution
- Mitigation of climate health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions and wildfire events
- Projects related to climate resilience and adaptation
- Activities that reduce indoor toxics and indoor air pollution
- Activities that improve engagement and access of disadvantaged communities in state and federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings and public processes

The Environmental Protection Agency has already begun putting these dollars to work through three funding opportunities. The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program allows eligible entities to apply to become a "grantmaker" to reduce barriers to federal grant applications for disadvantaged communities through technical assistance and subgrants. The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement Program provides grants to eligible entities to implement activities in the five program categories listed above in collaboration with local stakeholders. The Environmental Justice Government to Government Program provides funds for states, Tribal and local governments, and territories to partner with CBOs to implement projects in the five program categories, with a goal of integrating environmental justice considerations into government decision making.

The first round of grant applications has closed, but ongoing opportunities are expected to be available through 2026.

Need More Information? Check out these resources: <u>Environmental Protection Agency EJ Grants website</u> and <u>Evergreen and RMI ECJBG Memo</u>.