

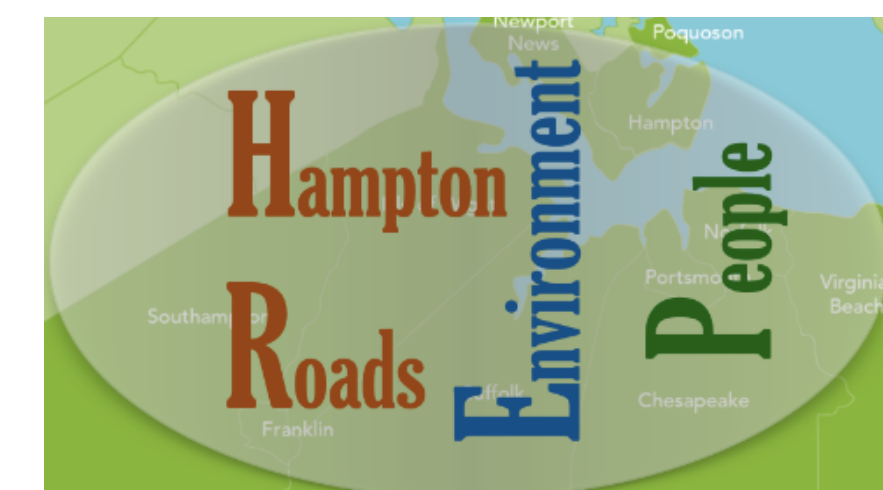
Hans-Peter Plag



Inflation Reduction Act Environmental and Climate Justice Program

The Environmental and Climate Justice Program (ECJ Program), created by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) under Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 138, provides funding for financial and technical assistance to carry out environmental and climate justice activities to benefit underserved and overburdened communities. EPA has created the [EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities map](#) layer to assist potential applicants seeking to identify whether a community is disadvantaged for the purposes of implementing programs under the IRA.

Hampton Roads Climate Change and Environmental Justice Challenges
Workshop 1



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Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program

NOW OPEN!

EPA's new [Environmental and Climate Justice](#) Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for approximately \$2 billion dollars in [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. They are designed to deliver on the transformative potential of the IRA for communities most adversely and disproportionately impacted by climate change, legacy pollution, and historical disinvestments.

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Congress has appropriated \$2.8 billion for financial assistance, and \$200 million for technical assistance, to implement this new program at the EPA. EPA must award grants and technical assistance under the ECJ Program by September 30, 2026.

On this page:

- NOW OPEN: [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program \(Community Change Grants\)](#)



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On this page:

- NOW OPEN: [Environment \(Community Change G](#)

Environmental Justice



“Environmental justice” means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

- are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and

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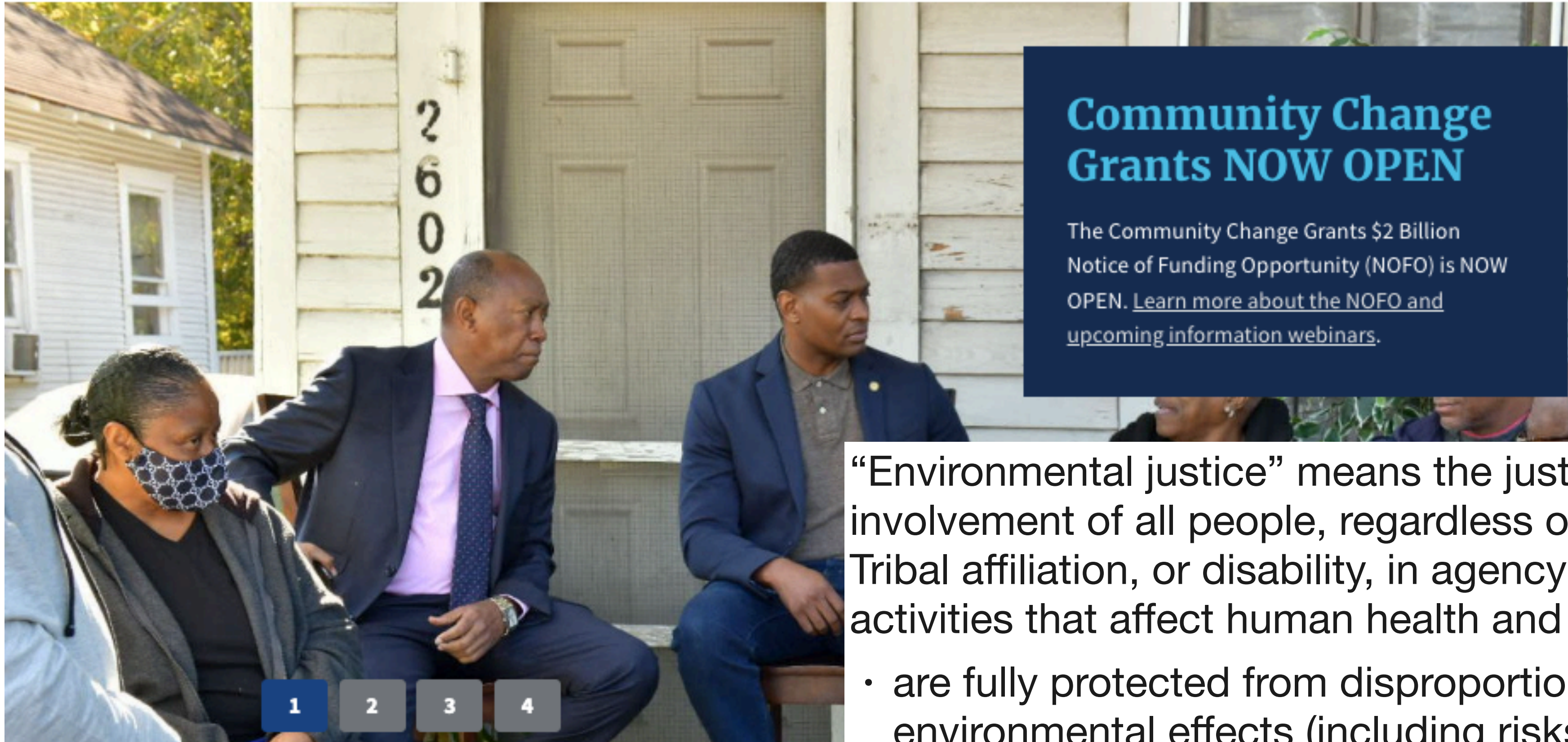
Check out EPA's environmental justice screening and mapping tool today!

Enter a location:

e.g.: city, state, zip

Search

Environmental Justice



Community Change Grants NOW OPEN

The Community Change Grants \$2 Billion Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is NOW OPEN. [Learn more about the NOFO and upcoming information webinars.](#)

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- have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices
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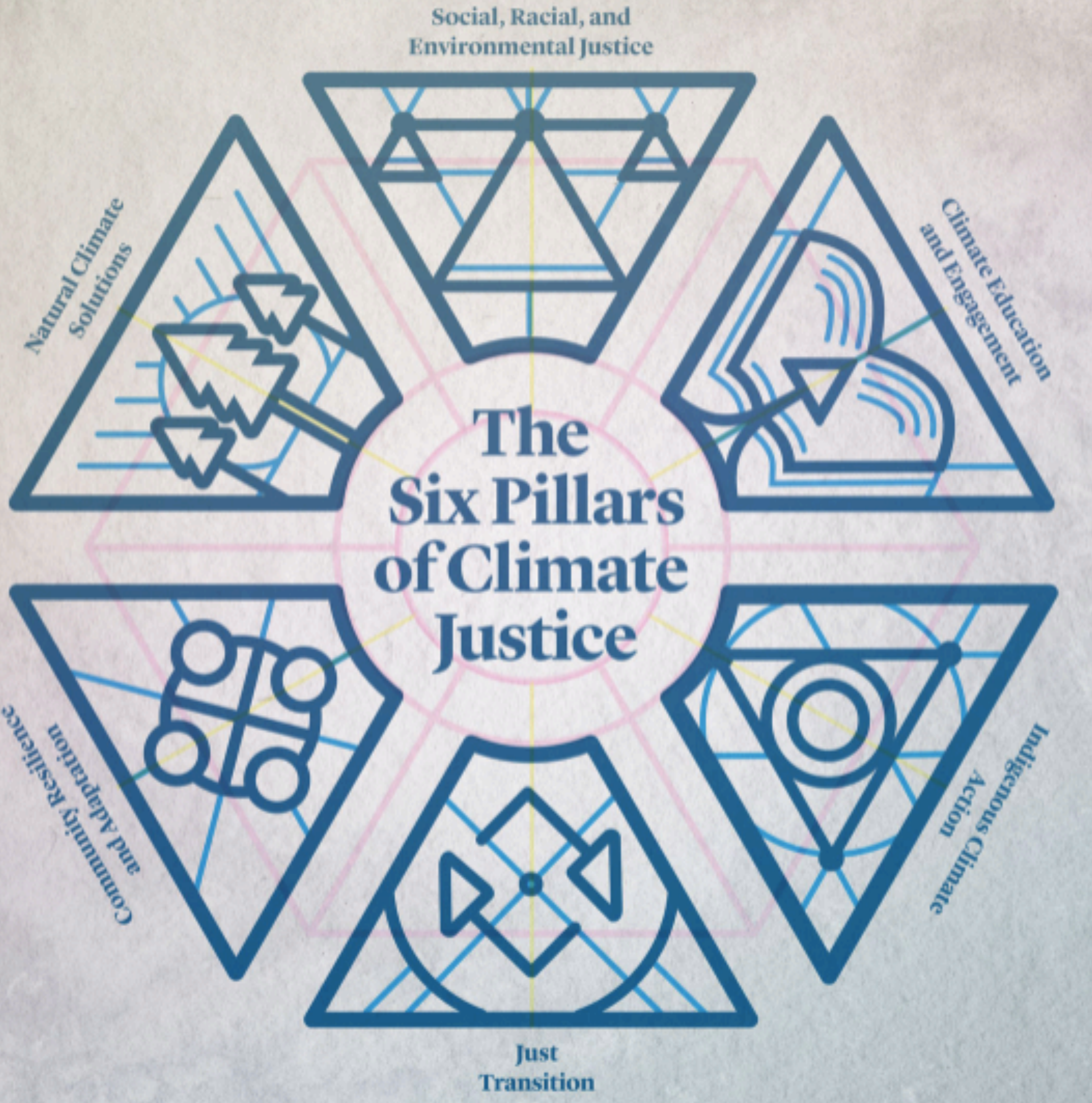
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The [Center for Climate Justice](https://centerclimatejustice.universityofcalifornia.edu) of the University of California defines climate justice as:

“Climate Justice recognizes the disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income communities and communities of color around the world, the people and places least responsible for the problem. It seeks solutions that address the root causes of climate change and in doing so, simultaneously address a broad range of social, racial, and environmental injustices.”

The Center identifies six pillars of climate justice (see the attached image). We might want to consider these pillars in their relevance for addressing climate change impacts in Hampton Roads.



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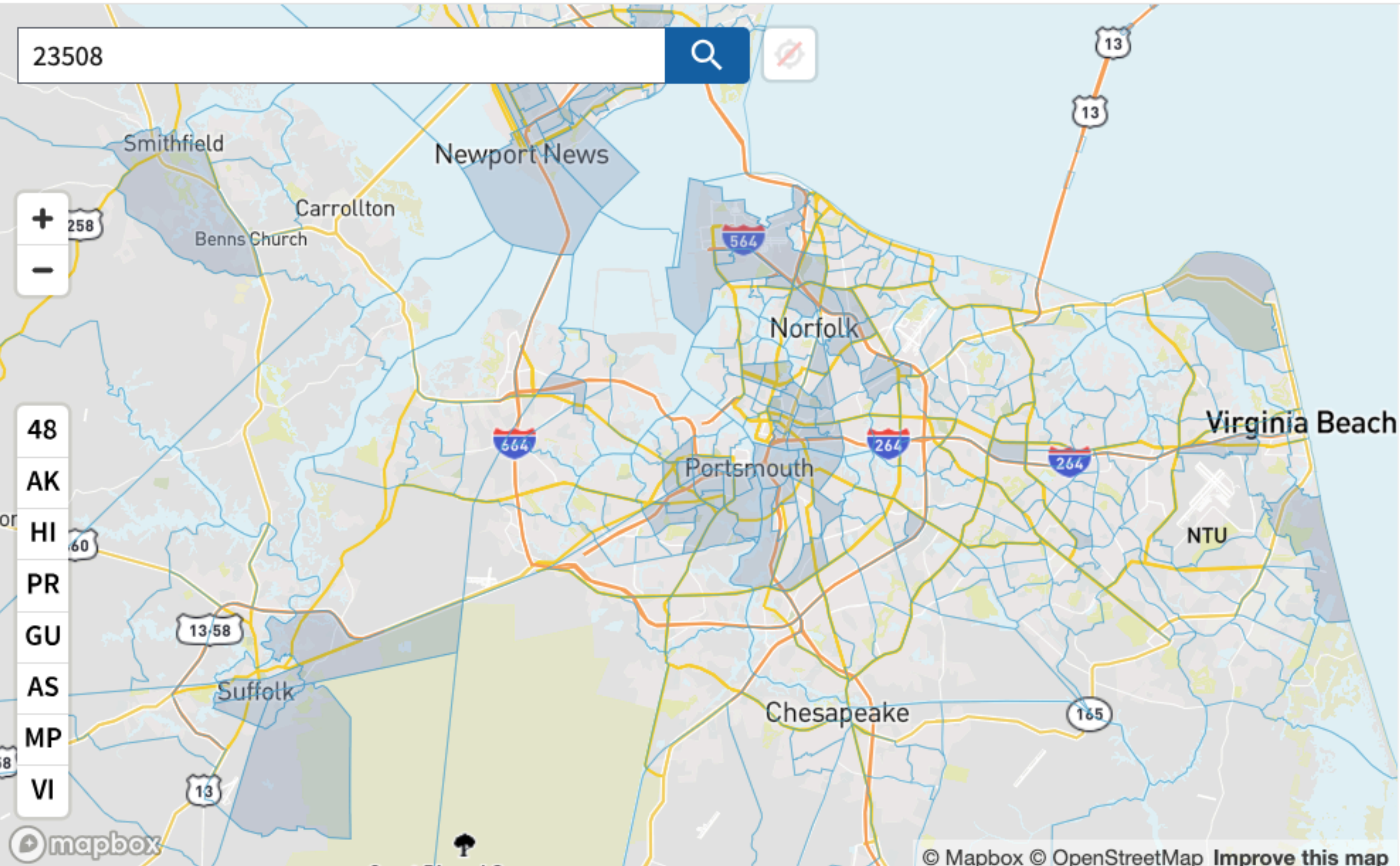
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FEDERAL AGENCY AND OFFICE: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE: Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-R-OEJECR-OCS-23-04

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 66.616

ACTION: Modification No. 2 to the NOFO

DATE: February 12, 2024

SUMMARY: This modification revises and clarifies the NOFO issued on November 21, 2023, and modified on December 21, 2023, in certain areas including the ones listed below. This version of the NOFO supersedes previous versions of the NOFO. If there are any questions, please email CCGP@epa.gov.

1. The Important Dates section on the first page of the NOFO was revised to indicate that anticipated initial selections are expected in April 2024 and the anticipated start of the period of performance for initial selections is June 2024.
2. Section I.E of the NOFO was modified to provide additional information on technical assistance including a link to information about technical assistance from EPA's contractor.
3. Climate Action Strategy 6, Brownfields Redevelopment, in Section I.G of the NOFO was clarified to indicate that applications must demonstrate that cleanup is complete or not necessary at the time an application is submitted. Similar language was also clarified in Section III.D.8 of the NOFO and in

D. NOFO Competition Features EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$2 billion in funding through this NOFO, depending on funding availability, quality of applications received, EPA priorities, and other applicable considerations. EPA will consider applications under two separate tracks.

- Track I applications – Community-Driven Investments for Change will focus on multi-faceted applications with Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies to meaningfully improve the environmental, climate, and resilience conditions affecting disadvantaged communities. Awards under Track I are expected to be \$10-20 million each and cannot exceed \$20 million. EPA expects to award approximately \$1.96 billion for approximately 150 Track I awards, including those under the Target Investment Areas described in Section II.B.
- Track II applications – Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance will facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice. Awards under Track II are expected to be \$1-3 million each and cannot exceed \$3 million. EPA will award approximately \$40 million for approximately 20 Track II awards.

The number of Track I and Track II awards are estimates, and EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease the total number of awards and dollar amounts for each track, contingent on the quality of applications received, the amount of funds awarded to selected applicants, budget availability, agency priorities, programmatic considerations, or a combination of these.

In addition, EPA is introducing several features to enhance community involvement and ease the application process. Unless otherwise noted, the following applies to both Track I and Track II applications:

- **Rolling Applications.** EPA will allow applications to be submitted on a rolling basis over a 12- month period, through November 21, 2024, and will permit applicants to resubmit an unsuccessful application after a debriefing with the agency. Further details about the rolling application and resubmission process are in Sections II and V.
- **Fast-Tracked Approach.** EPA will review and expeditiously select high-quality applications to deliver results and benefits to disadvantaged communities. Further information is in Section V.
- **Indirect Costs Limitation.** As further described in Appendix G, there is a 20% cap on indirect costs for certain recipients and subrecipients.
- **Track I Two-Phase Evaluation Process.** Applicants for Track I whose applications score well following the written application review will be invited to participate in an oral presentation, as further described in Section V, at which they will have an opportunity to share information about the community-oriented nature of their projects and how they will successfully implement the grant. The Track II application process does not involve an oral presentation.

Is My Organization Eligible?

The entities eligible to apply under this NOFO are:

- A partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs).
- A partnership between a CBO and one of the following:
 - a Federally-Recognized Tribe
 - a local government
 - an institution of higher education.

Other organizations and entities may be able to participate and be involved in the Community Change Grants projects as collaborating subrecipients and/or procurement contractors selected in compliance with competition requirements.