

An Introduction to EPA's Community Change Grant

Langston Alexander, Regional Recovery and Resilience Coordinator
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We are a member-driven organization serving as a leading resource to connect communities and enhance their strategic priority outcomes through regional policy, collaboration, and technical assistance at the local, regional, and state level.



Agenda

- **Overview of the grant components and requirements**
 - Langston Alexander, Central Pines Regional Council
- **Grant writing tips and resources**
 - Liza Crichton, Southern Economic Advancement Project
- **Q & A Session**



Grant Objectives

1. Provide resources for community-driven projects to address environmental and climate challenges
2. Invest in strong cross-sectoral collaborations
3. Unlock access to additional resources to advance environmental and climate justice goals
4. Empower communities and strengthen their capacity to drive meaningful positive change.
5. Strengthen community participation in government decision-making processes



Key Information

Application Deadline: November 21, 2024*

*Applications are accepted on rolling basis. Funding may runout before the deadline.

Grant Duration: 3 years max

Amount:

- **\$10-20 million for Track 1**
- **\$1-3 million for Track 2**

Initial Review: February 2024 with selections in March 2024

Benefits must flow to disadvantaged communities



Funding Tracks

Track 1: Community-Driven Investments for Change

- Primary emphasis of the grant program
- Focused on getting “shovels in dirt”
- 150 projects
- \$10-20 million per project

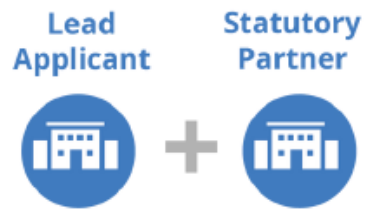
Track 2: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance

- Supports participation in government decision-making
- Focus is on planning processes
- 20 projects
- \$1-3 million per project



Eligible Applicants

Statutory Partnership



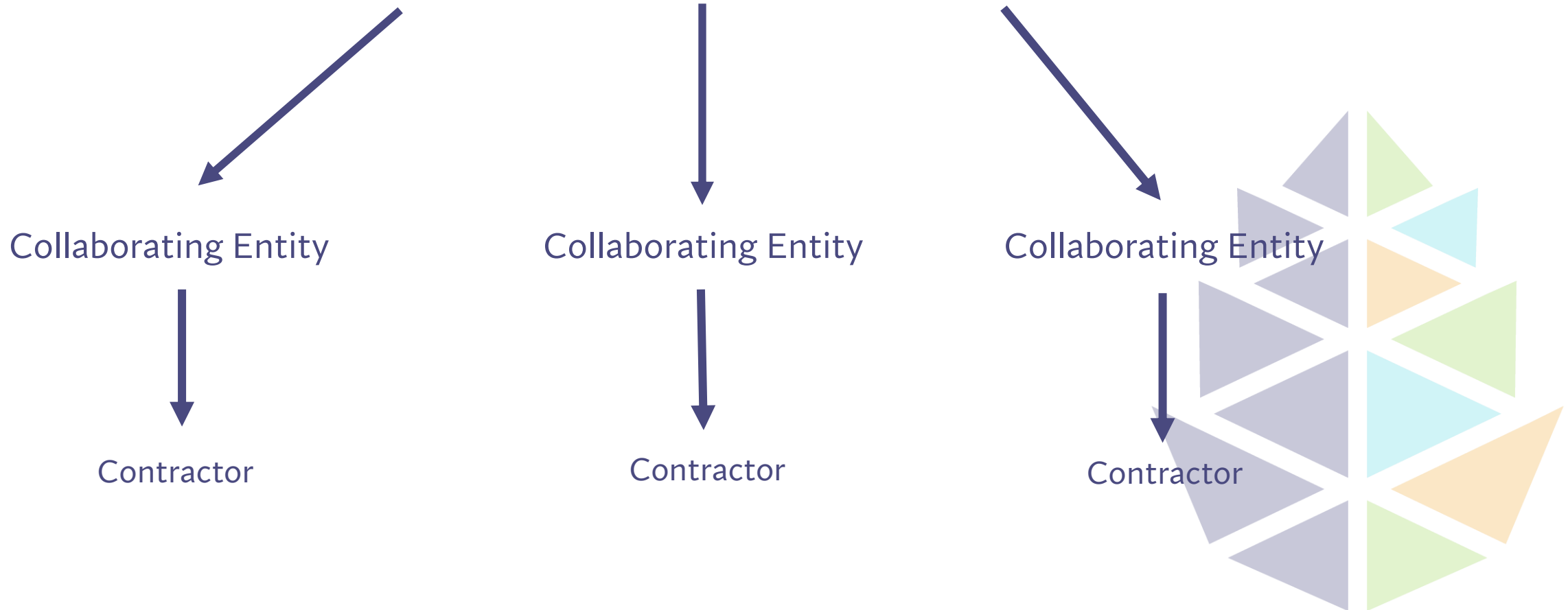
- CBO + CBO
- CBO + Federally Recognized Tribe
- CBO + Local Government
- CBO + Institution of Higher Education

Note: While the CBO does not have to be the "Lead Applicant," all statutory partnerships must include a CBO.



Statutory Partnership

(Lead Applicant + Statutory Partner)



Track 1 Requirements

1. Climate Action Strategy
2. Pollution Reduction Strategy
3. Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan
4. Community Strength Plan
5. Readiness Approach
6. Compliance Plan



Climate Action Strategies

1. **Green Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions**

- Planting shade trees, restoring wetlands

2. **Mobility and Transportation Options**

- Installing bike lanes, deploying low-emission transportation options

3. **Resilient Housing and Buildings**

- Energy efficiency upgrades, cool roofing

4. **Microgrid Installation**

- Construct and install microgrid infrastructure



5. **Community Resilience Hubs**

- Emergency communications systems, building retrofits

6. **Brownfields Redevelopment**

- Implement greening efforts, acquire land for redevelopment

7. **Waste Reduction to Support a Circular Economy**

- Implement a composting program, reduce emissions from food waste

8. **Workforce Development to Reduce Air Pollutants**

- Multi-sectoral partnerships, high-quality training models, recruitment strategy



Pollution Reduction Strategies

1. Indoor Air Quality

- Upgrade HVACs, remediate harmful substances

2. Outdoor Air Quality

- Electrifying vehicles, replacing toxic outdoor surfaces

3. Clean Water Infrastructure

- Replacing lead lines, preparing and applying for other federal grants

4. Safe Management of Hazardous Waste

- Develop hazardous waste disposal programs, reduce demand for single use plastics.



Track 1 Application

- Project Narrative: 20 pages (includes budget)
- Project Area Map
- Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan: 10 pages
- Community Strength Plan: 5 pages
- Readiness Approach: No limit
- Compliance Plan: 5 pages



Application Criteria

Section	Possible Points
Part 1. Community Driven Investments for Change	80 total
1.1 Community Overview	10
1.2 Selected Strategies	45
1.3 Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance Plan	15
1.4 Community Strength Plan	10
Part 2. Program Management, Capability, and Capacity	35 total
2.1 Performance Management Plan, Outputs / Outcomes	6
2.2 Project Linkages to the EPA Strategic Plan	4
2.3 CBO Experience and Commitment	5
2.4 Programmatic and Managerial Capability and Resources	15
2.5 Past Performance	5
Part 3. Readiness to Perform, Feasibility, and Sustainability	40 total
3.1 Readiness Approach	8
3.2 Feasibility	9
3.3 Sustainability	5
3.4 Program Budget Description	8
3.5 Compliance Plan	10
TOTAL	155



Takeaways

1. The focus must be on disadvantaged communities.
2. Think locally as possible. The EPA is prioritizing projects that cover smaller areas.
3. Don't hesitate to reach out for support. CPRC is available to provide resources and advice.

Contact Langston Alexander at laalexander@centralpinesnc.gov with any questions.





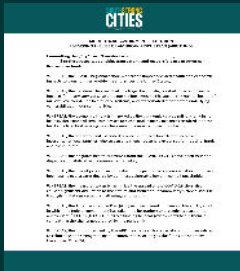
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LIZA CRICHTON, FEDERAL RESOURCES COORDINATOR

JANUARY 2024

2021-2022

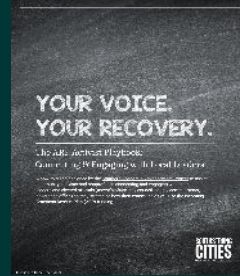
THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN TOOLKIT



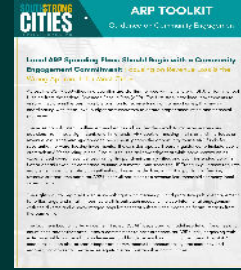
Model Resolution



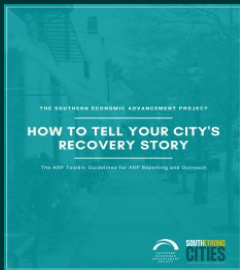
Good Examples



Activist Guide



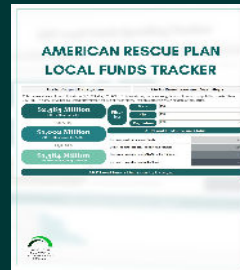
Community Engagement Guide



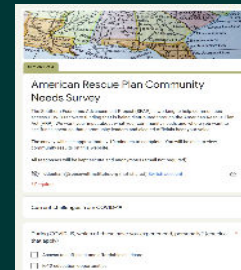
Telling Your City's Recovery Story



U.S. Treasury Reporting Template



Local Funds Tracker



Community Needs Survey

2022-2023

THE FEDERAL FUNDING OUTLET



2024

WORKING LOCALLY TO MEET THE MOMENT



WHO WE SUPPORT

LOCAL
GOVTS

CBOS

COALITIONS

PARTNERS

PRO BONO SERVICES AVAILABLE

TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE/
GRANT WRITING

NETWORK &
CAPACITY
BUILDING

RESEARCH/
SURVEY

PROJECT
SCOPING &
COORDINATION

OUTREACH &
ENGAGEMENT

EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT



**KEY CONSIDERATIONS ON PROJECTS, PARTNERS
AND APPLICATION FORMATION**

KEY CONSIDERATIONS - TRACK 1

PLACE-BASED

INTEGRATION OF PARTNERS AND STRATEGIES

SYSTEMS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

“SHOVEL READY”

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

KEY CONSIDERATIONS - TRACK 2

METHODOLOGY

COLLABORATING ENTITIES

MEANINGFUL INPUT AND FEEDBACK

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

**WHY WOULD
LOCALITIES MAKE
GOOD
COMMUNITY
CHANGE GRANT
PARTNERS?**

**Institutional knowledge &
technical assistance**

Capacity support

Resources

Key partnerships

EPA Community Change Grant - Resources

- EPA Resource Website - <https://communitychangeta.org/>
- EPA Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program (EJ TCTACs)
 - EPA Region 4 (Southeast) EJ TCTACs - [REACT4EJ.ORG](https://react4ej.org)
 - Recommended to reach out to your state specific provider
- Environmental Protection Network Partner and Assistance [Survey](#)

EPA Community Change Grant - SEAP Resources

FEDERAL GRANT
READINESS
CHECKLIST

DECISION
TREE

SEAP Website

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#)
 - Summer 2024
- [Department of Energy Renew America's Nonprofits](#)
 - Sign up to join their interest list to be a subgrantee

Want to learn more?
Have additional questions?
Talk through a project idea?
Connect us to a partner?

Contact: Liza@TheSeap.org



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