

# EPA COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Invest in Our Future  
Presentation – 2024

# Environmental Protection Network (EPN)



Advances policies to address climate change and advance environmental justice



Provides pro bono capacity-building technical assistance



Works to diversify EPA's workforce by recruiting and mentoring



Network of 650+ EPA alumni volunteers



Responded to over 700 technical assistance requests

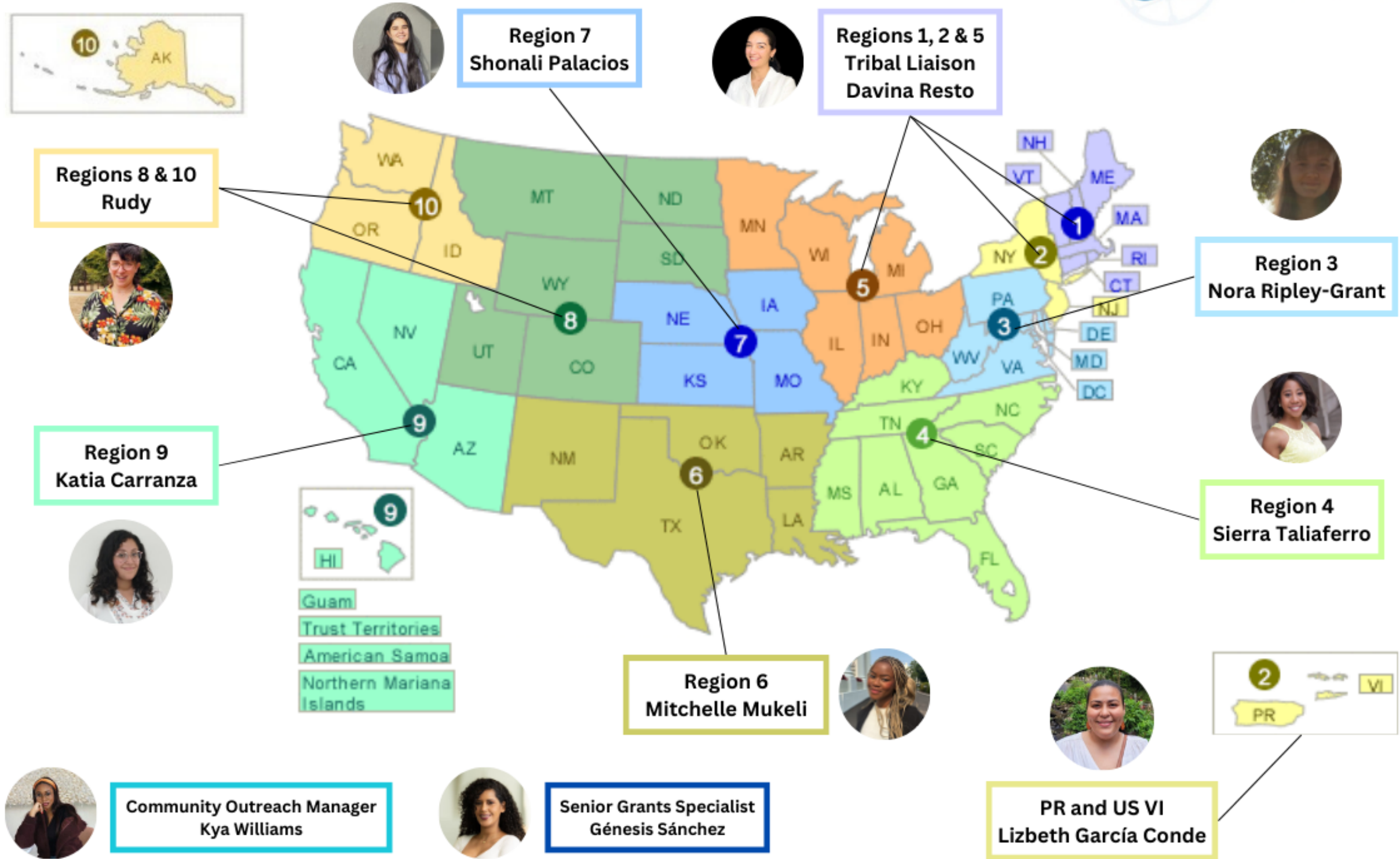


Assisted over 100 entities applying for upcoming funding opportunities



Helped communities access over \$7.5 million in federal funds

# EPN's Pro Bono Capacity-Building Technical Assistance Team

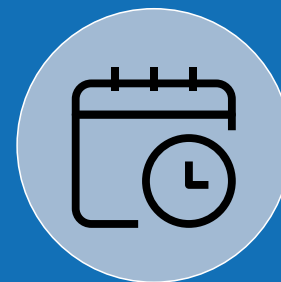


# COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

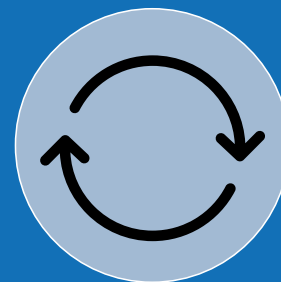
- Provides resources for community-driven projects
- Empowers communities and strengthens their capacity to drive positive change
- Invests in cross sectoral collaborations led by partners with deep expertise working with and serving disadvantaged communities
- Unlocks access to additional and more significant resources to advance environmental justice and climate justice
- Strengthens community participation in government decision-making



**\$2 billion to be awarded**



**Application Deadline  
November 21, 2024  
(if funding remains)**



**Rolling basis  
application**



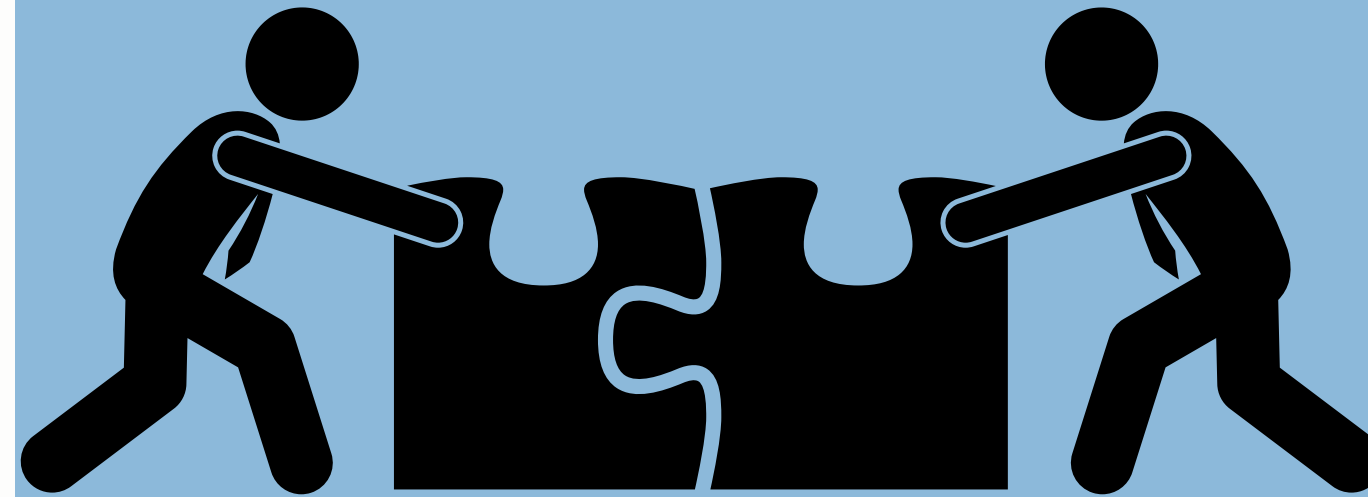
**Project Duration  
3 years**



**NOFO allows for a maximum  
of two applications by the  
Lead Applicant**

# WHO CAN APPLY?

A partnership between two community-based organizations (CBOs)



A partnership between a CBO and one of the following:

- A federally-recognized Tribe
- A local government (counties, boroughs, parishes, municipalities, cities, towns, etc)
- An institution of higher education

*Minority Serving Institutions are encouraged to participate:  
Historically Black Colleges  
Tribal Colleges and Universities  
Other institutions*

# WHAT IS A CBO?

For eligibility purposes, a CBO must demonstrate that:

- It is a non-profit organization (charitable/public interest).
- Supports and / or represents a community and/or certain populations.
- Geographic presence or relationship with the community served.

## Note:

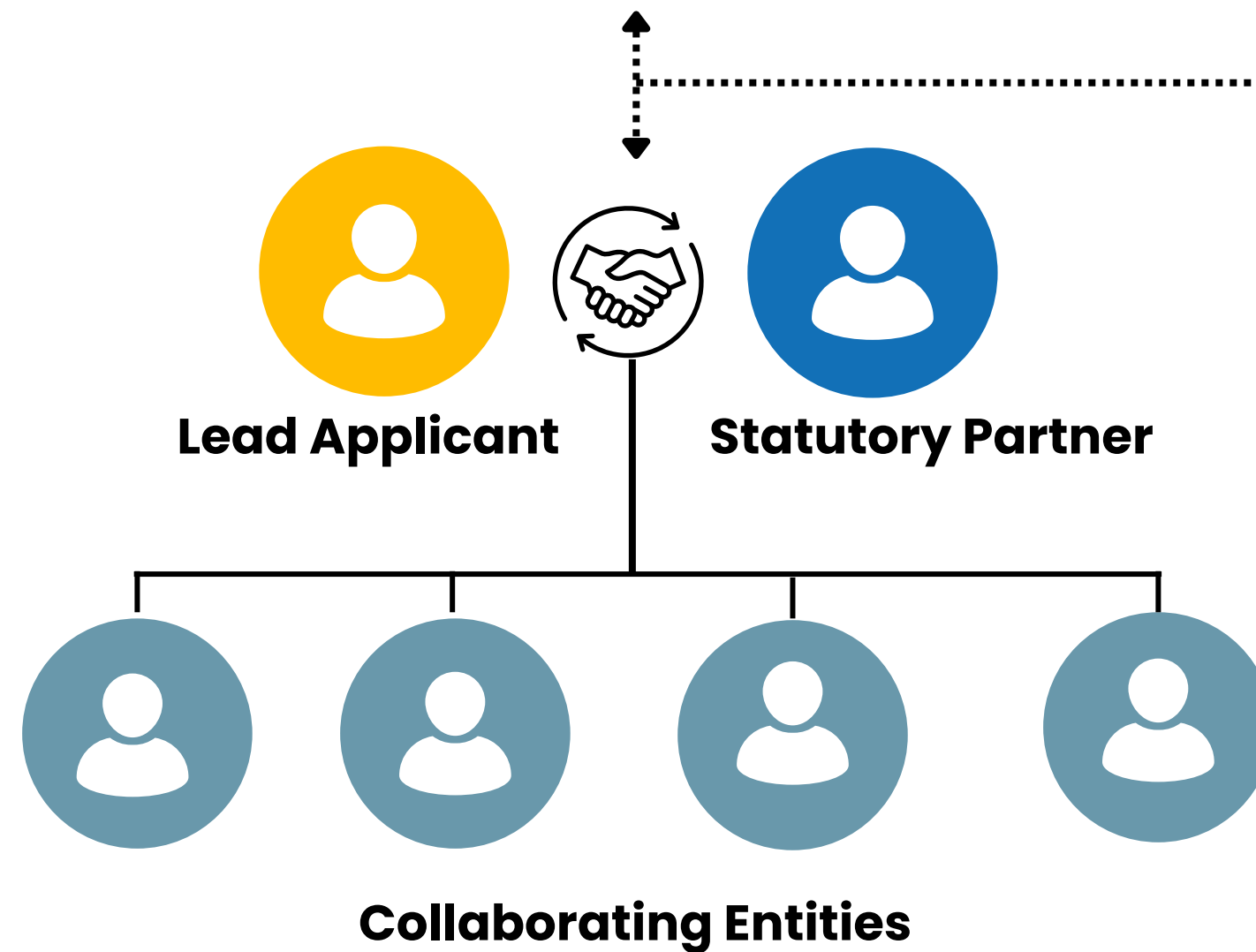
- **National or statewide non-profits may be eligible as a CBO.**
- **Alaska Native Nonprofits or Associations are considered CBOs.**
- **Intertribal Consortia may be able to qualify as CBOs.**





# STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP

## Statutory Partnership (must include a CBO)



A **partnership agreement** must be signed between the **Lead applicant** and the **Statutory Partner**.

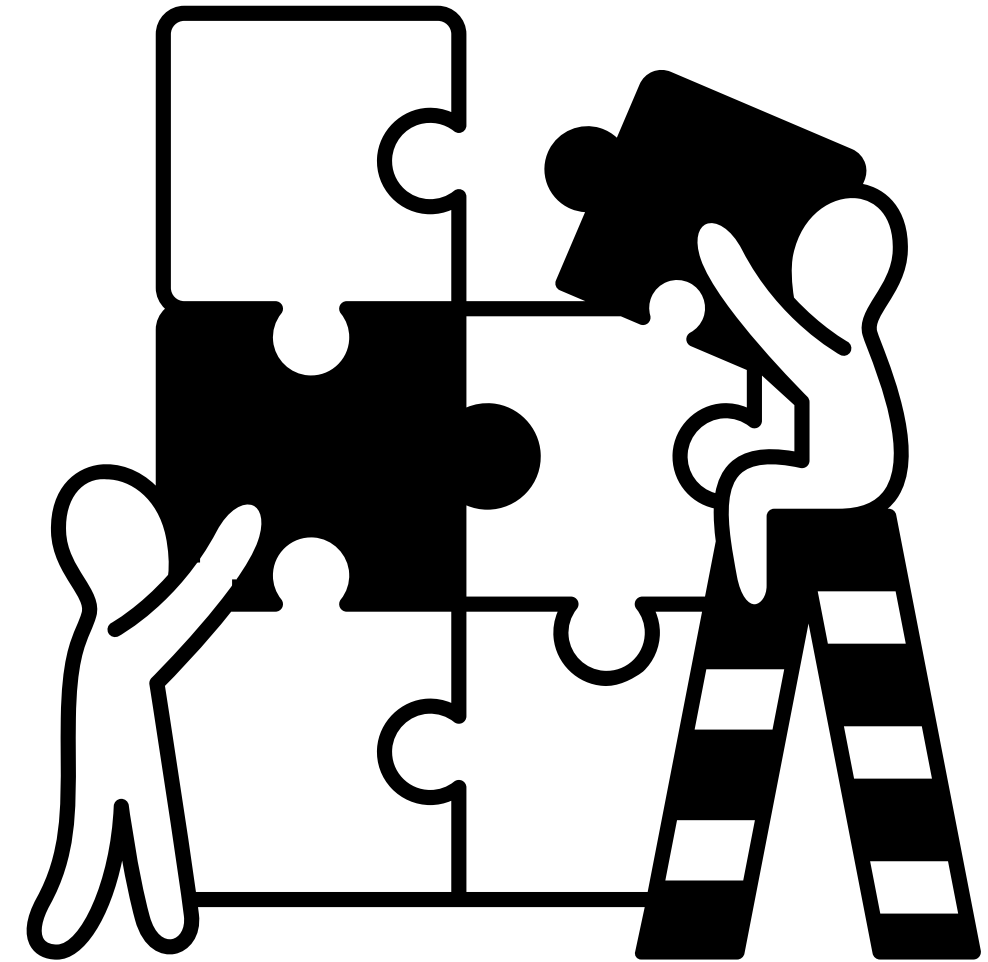
(it may include organizations eligible as a Statutory Partners and entities that cannot legally be Statutory Partners)



*For-profit organizations or individual consultants cannot be a collaborating entity*

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Lead Applicant:**
  - Responsible for the overall management, performance, oversight and reporting under the grant.
  - Takes financial responsibility for the award.
  - Responsible for compliance and legal issues.
- **Statutory Partner and Collaborating Entities:**
  - Become sub-awardees if the lead applicant is selected for a grant.
  - Carry out activities specified in the grant.
- **Collaborating Entities:**
  - May include state government, territorial governments, international organizations.

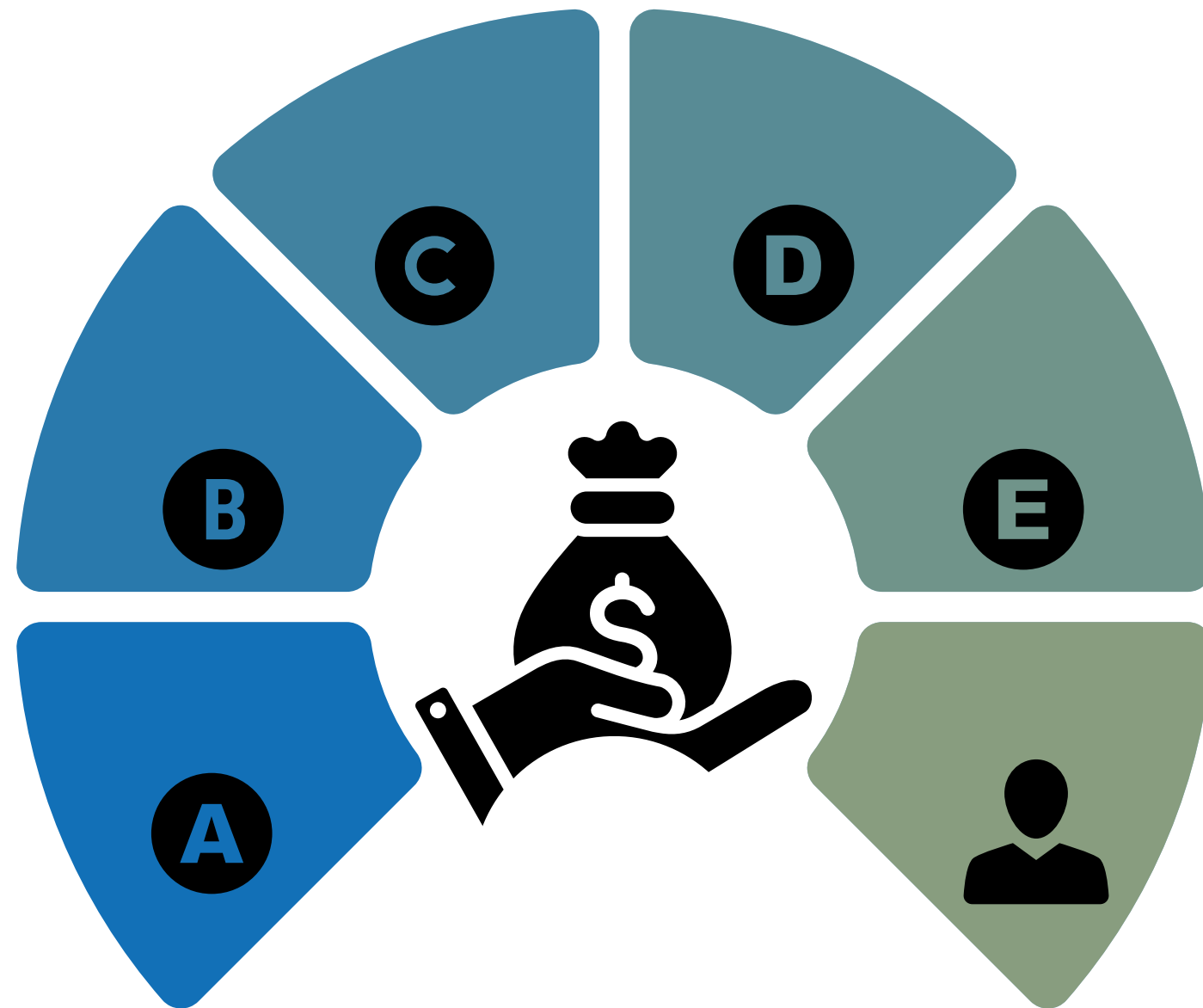




# TRACK I: COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INVESTMENTS FOR CHANGE

- Applications should:
  - Increase community resilience (must include at least one Climate Action Strategy).
  - Reduce pollution (must include at least one Pollution Reduction Strategy).
  - Create meaningful community engagement (from design to implementation).
  - Benefit residents of disadvantaged communities during and beyond the grant period.
  - Ensure project activities complement each other (maximize benefits).
- \$10-20 million limit per award
- EPA expects to make ~150 Track I awards, including those under the Target Investment Areas.
- Strong applications will be invited to do an oral presentation.

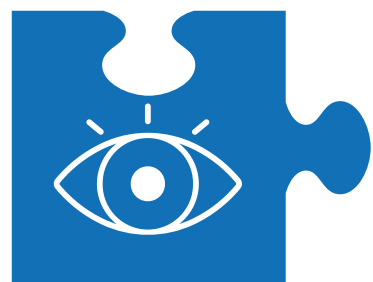
# TRACK I TARGET INVESTMENT AREAS (TIAs)



*Applications for these areas will be evaluated against each other!*

*An applicant does not need to identify as a Target Investment Area to be eligible.*

- **TIA A**  
150 million: projects benefiting **Indian Tribes in Alaska**.
- **TIA B**  
300 million: projects benefiting **Tribal communities** in the other states.
- **TIA C**  
\$50 million: projects benefiting disadvantaged communities in **US territories** of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
- **TIA D**  
\$50 million: projects benefiting **Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities**, small and rural areas that lack fixed, legally determined geographic boundaries, such as Colonias.
- **TIA E**  
\$100 million: non-Tribal disadvantaged communities 100 km north of **U.S.-Mexico border**.



### Community Vision Description

Provide an overview of the community:

- Project area map
- Challenges faced
- Vision for short- and long-term impacts.



### Selected Strategies

Identify and provide an overview of at least one **Climate Action Strategy** and one **Pollution Reduction Strategy**.

**Explain:**

- How will they be implemented?
- How are they responsive to the community challenges?



### Community Engagement & Collaborative Governance Plan

Demonstrate how the project will be driven and implemented by communities.



Include a **Collaborative Governance Structure** with the roles and responsibilities of all parties.



### Community Strength Plan

Explain how your project will enhance the **economic prosperity** of the communities served. You should anticipate and **address unintended displacement** consequences.

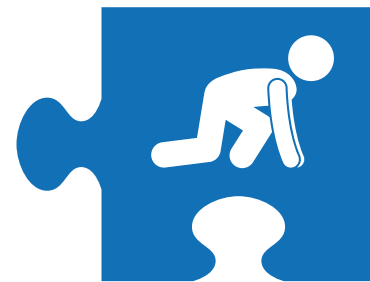
# COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS PROJECT WORKPLAN

## TRACK I (CONTINUATION)



### Project Management, Capability and Capacity

Describe expected **outcomes** of the project. Explain how you will **track and measure success**. Highlight your experience, capabilities and resources to manage the award effectively.



### Readiness Approach

Demonstrate that you will be ready to **start your project within 120 days** of the award. Demonstrate that your project is **feasible** and the impacts are **sustainable** beyond the grant period.



### Compliance Plan

Describe how the grant will comply with **financial management**, internal controls, and other requirements, as well as **manage legal and compliance risks**.

# Climate Action Strategies

*Your project must include at least one of these strategies.*

## Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions

Shade tree planting, stormwater projects, public parks and open spaces.

## Mobility and Transportation

Installing bike lanes, walking paths, supplying low- or zero-emission transportation solutions.

## Energy-Efficient, Healthy, and Resilient Housing and Building

Implementing energy efficiency measures such as insulation, “cool roofs,” retrofitting, and higher-efficiency upgrades.

## Microgrid Installations

Construct microgrid infrastructure powered by low- and zero-emission renewable energy.

01

02

03

04

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08

## Community Resilience Hubs

Public-serving spaces that provide shelter and essential services during and emergency or disaster.

## Brownfield Redevelopment

Revitalize brownfield sites that have already been cleaned up.

## Waste Reduction and Management

Supporting circular economy activities such as efforts to reduce food waste or to promote the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials.

## Workforce Development Programs

Developing career pathways in fields related to the reduction of GHG emissions and other air pollutants.

# Pollution Reduction Strategies

*Your project must include at least one of these strategies*

## Indoor Air Quality

Education on air toxins / toxics, monitoring, outreach, and public education. Remediation or mitigation of harmful substances in buildings, replacement of wood heaters, creation of decontamination stations.

## Outdoor Air Quality

Purchase, upgrade, and / or maintenance of equipment that limits outdoor air pollutants. Developing vegetative barriers, implementing sustainable construction practices, creating clean air zones.

01



04

## Clean Water Infrastructure

Infrastructure projects, such as lead pipe replacements, renewable energy, efficiency upgrades, septic to sewer conversions. Planning or assessments that could lead to other sources of federal funding.

## Safe Management and Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste

Pollution prevention, recycling, disposal or management of solid and hazardous waste, such as discarded electronics, tires, single-use plastics, etc.

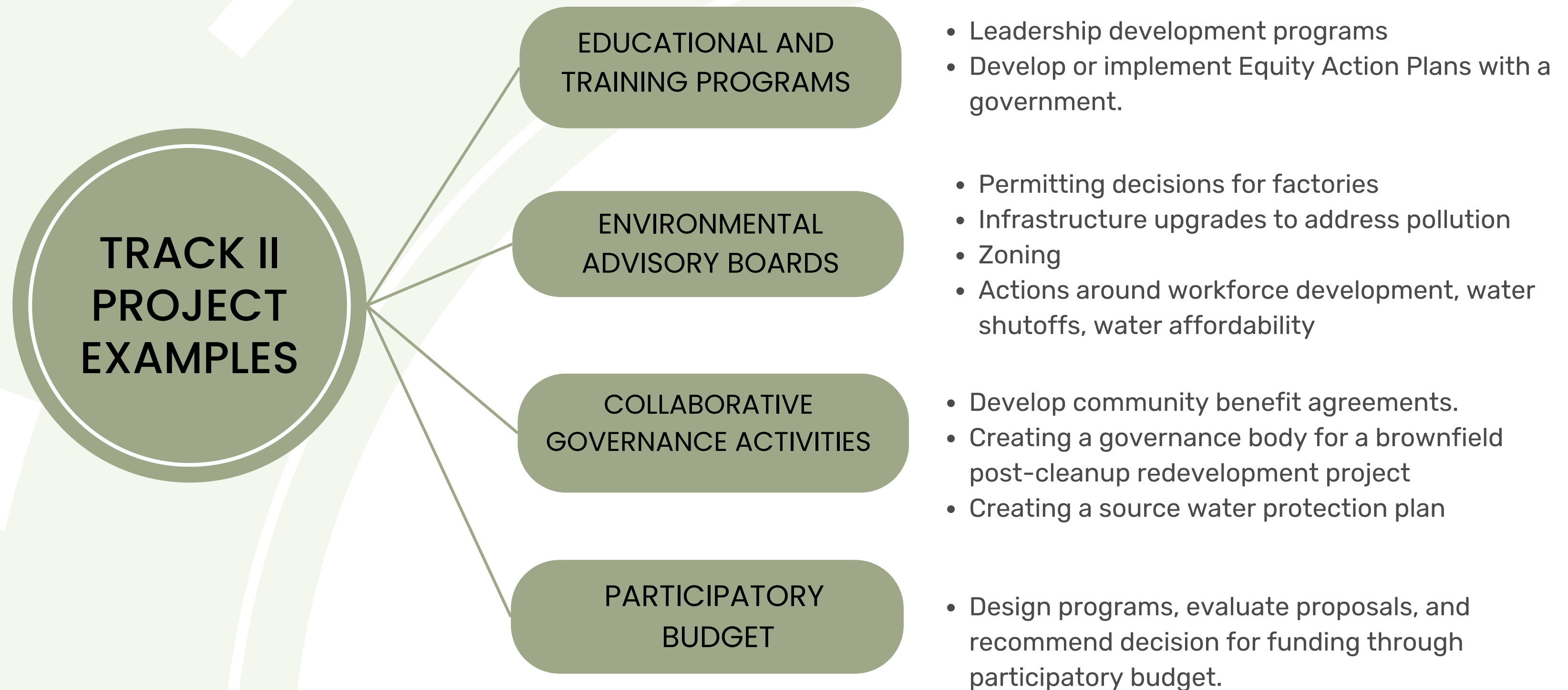
03



# TRACK II: MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT FOR EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

- Facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes to advance environmental and climate justice.
  - Break down systemic barriers to community participation in government processes impacting environmental and climate justice.
  - Capacity building and help close equity gaps.
- \$1-3 million limit per award
- EPA expects to make ~20 Track II awards.

# TRACK II: MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT FOR EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE



## 1. ELIGIBILITY

Make sure your organization and project meet the eligibility criteria.

## 2. SAM.GOV REGISTRATION

DON'T WAIT! register in SAM.GOV and GRANTS.GOV as soon as possible!

## 3. BENEFIT A DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY

[EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities](#)

[CEJST](#)  
[EJScreen](#)

## 6. PARTIAL FUNDING

When planning your budget, EPA recommends that applicants separate costs by project category.

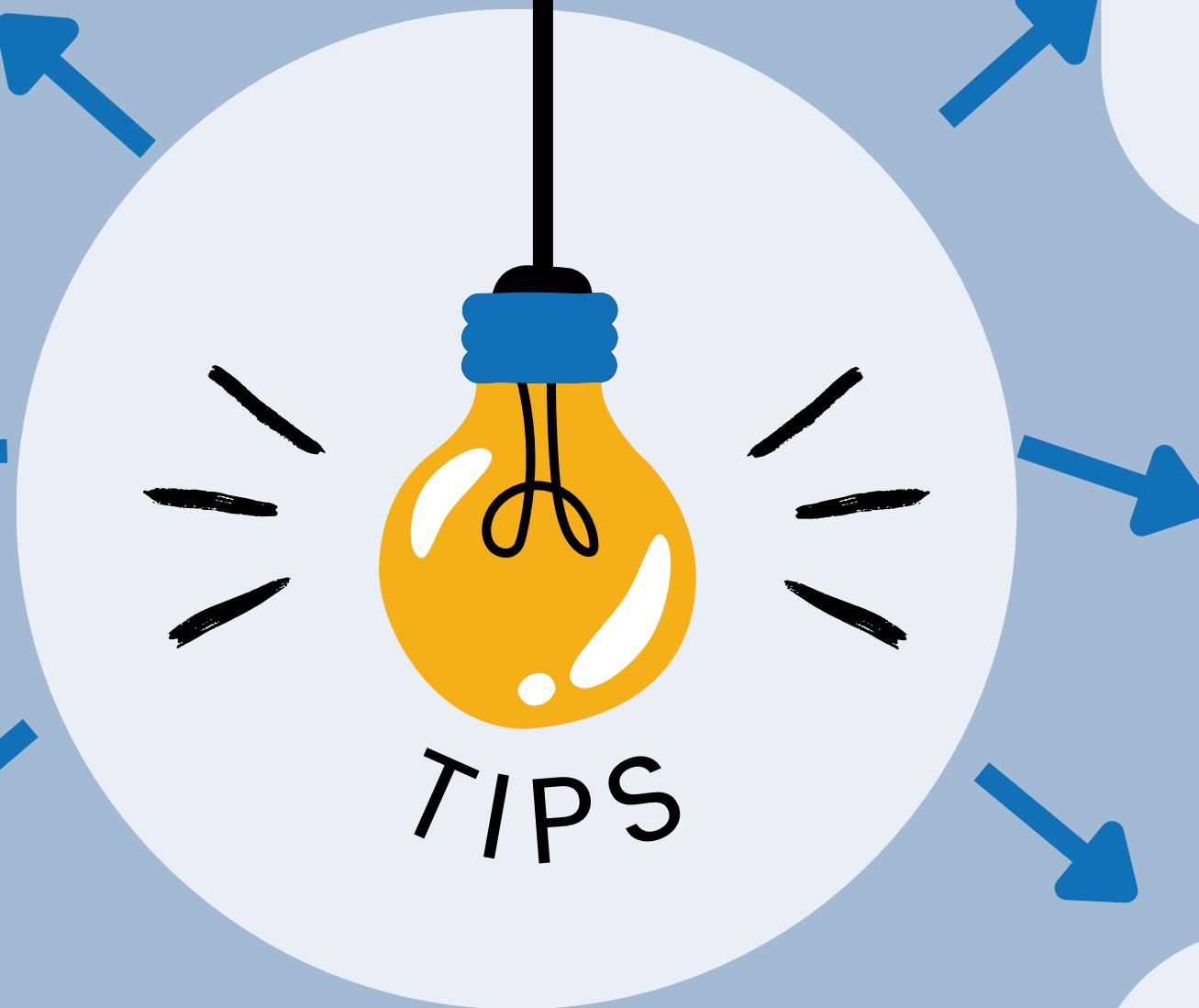
## 5. APPLY EARLY

If you apply early, you may:

- Be eligible for early review and award.
- Get the chance to re-submit after debriefing with EPA.

## 4. IDENTIFY PARTNERS

Strong partnerships between the Lead Applicant and the collaborating entities may result in a higher score.



**How can EPN  
be a resource  
to you and  
your  
community?**



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NETWORK

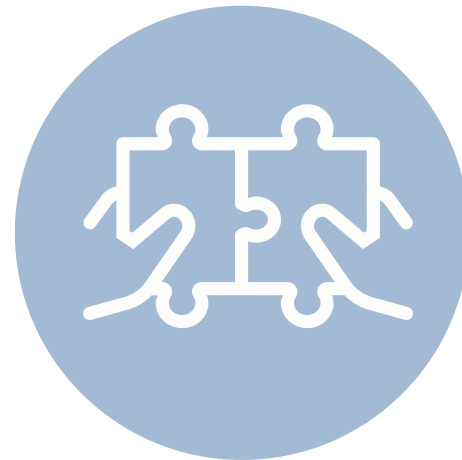
## PRO BONO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### 1:1 SUPPORT



- Brainstorming
- Project scoping
- Draft review
- TA by former EPA staff

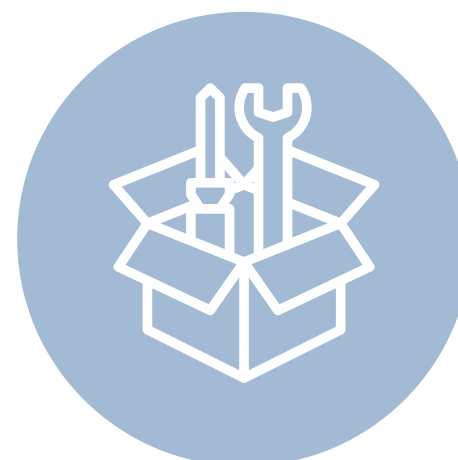
### PARTNER MATCHING



Search for potential partners by completing [this survey](#).

The survey results are **PUBLIC!**

### APPLICATION RESOURCES



- [6-step application process for Track I](#)
- [6-step application process for Track II](#)
- [Checklist for Track I](#)
- [Track I Sample Narrative](#)
- [Track II Sample Narrative](#)

### SAM.GOV REGISTRATION

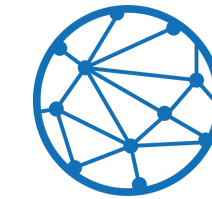


[SAM.gov](#) registration office hours every two weeks on Wednesday from 2-3 PM ET.

### FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATES



[Sign up](#) to receive EPN's federal funding updates via email every 2-4 weeks.



**Environmental  
Protection Network**

# Q&A

**COMMUNITY  
GRANTS**

**CHA**

