WANT TO USE YOUR EXPERTISE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

HELP COMMUNITIES APPLY FOR:

EPA'S COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS PROGRAM

Visit Our Website

environmentalprotectionnetwork.org

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
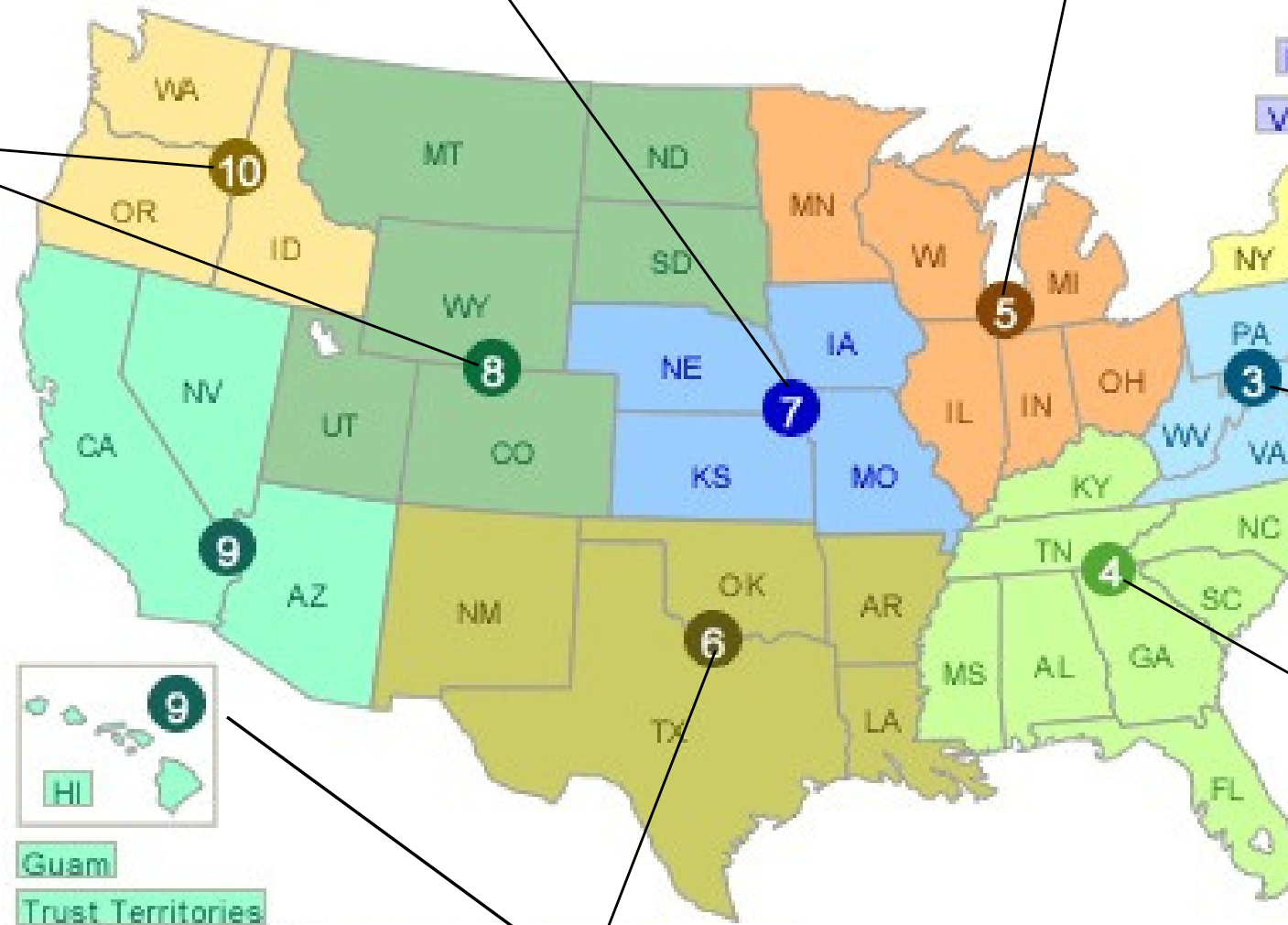
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Region 7
Shonali Palacios

Region 5
Olivia Smith

Regions 1, & 2
Tribal Liaison
Davina Resto

Regions 8 & 10
Rudy

Region 3
Nora Ripley-Grant
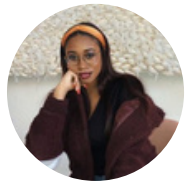
Region 4
Sierra Taliaferro

Region 6 & 9
Mitchelle Mukeli

Community Outreach Manager
Kya Williams

Senior Grants Specialist
Génesis Sánchez

PR and US VI
Lizbeth García Conde

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS PROGRAM?
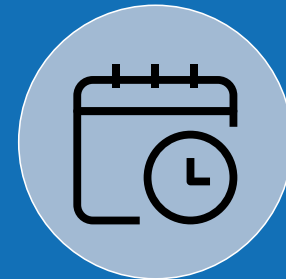
Environmental Protection Network
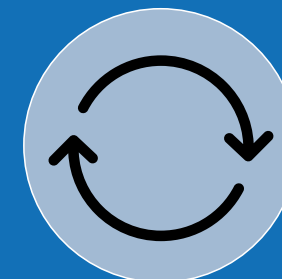
COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

- 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

FUNDING AVAILABLE

TRACK I

$1.96 Billion
~150 applications

TRACK II

$40 Million
~20 applications

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

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TRACK I: COMMUNITY–DRIVEN INVESTMENTS FOR CHANGE

- Track I applications are multifaceted. They should:
  - Increase community resilience (must include at least one Climate Action Strategy).
  - Reduce pollution (must include at least one Pollution Reduction Strategy).
  - Benefit residents of disadvantaged communities during and beyond the grant period.
  - Include multiple partners or collaborating entities (community-centered program)
  - Create meaningful community engagement (from design to implementation).

- $10-20 million limit per award
- Strong applications will be invited to do an oral presentation.

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Climate Action Strategies

Your project must include at least one of these strategies.

01 — **Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions**
Shade tree planting, stormwater projects, public parks and open spaces.

02 — **Mobility and Transportation**
Installing bike lanes, walking paths, supplying low- or zero-emission transportation solutions.

03 — **Energy-Efficient, Healthy, and Resilient Housing and Building**
Implementing energy efficiency measures such as insulation, "cool roofs," retrofitting, and higher-efficiency upgrades.

04 — **Microgrid Installations**
Construct microgrid infrastructure powered by low- and zero-emission renewable energy.

05 — **Community Resilience Hubs**
Public-serving spaces that provide shelter and essential services during and emergency or disaster.

06 — **Brownfield Redevelopment**
Revitalize brownfield sites that have already been cleaned up.

07 — **Waste Reduction and Management**
Supporting circular economy activities such as efforts ro reduce food waste or to promote the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials.

08 — **Workforce Development Programs**
Developing career pathways in fields related to the reduction of GHG emissions and other air pollutants.

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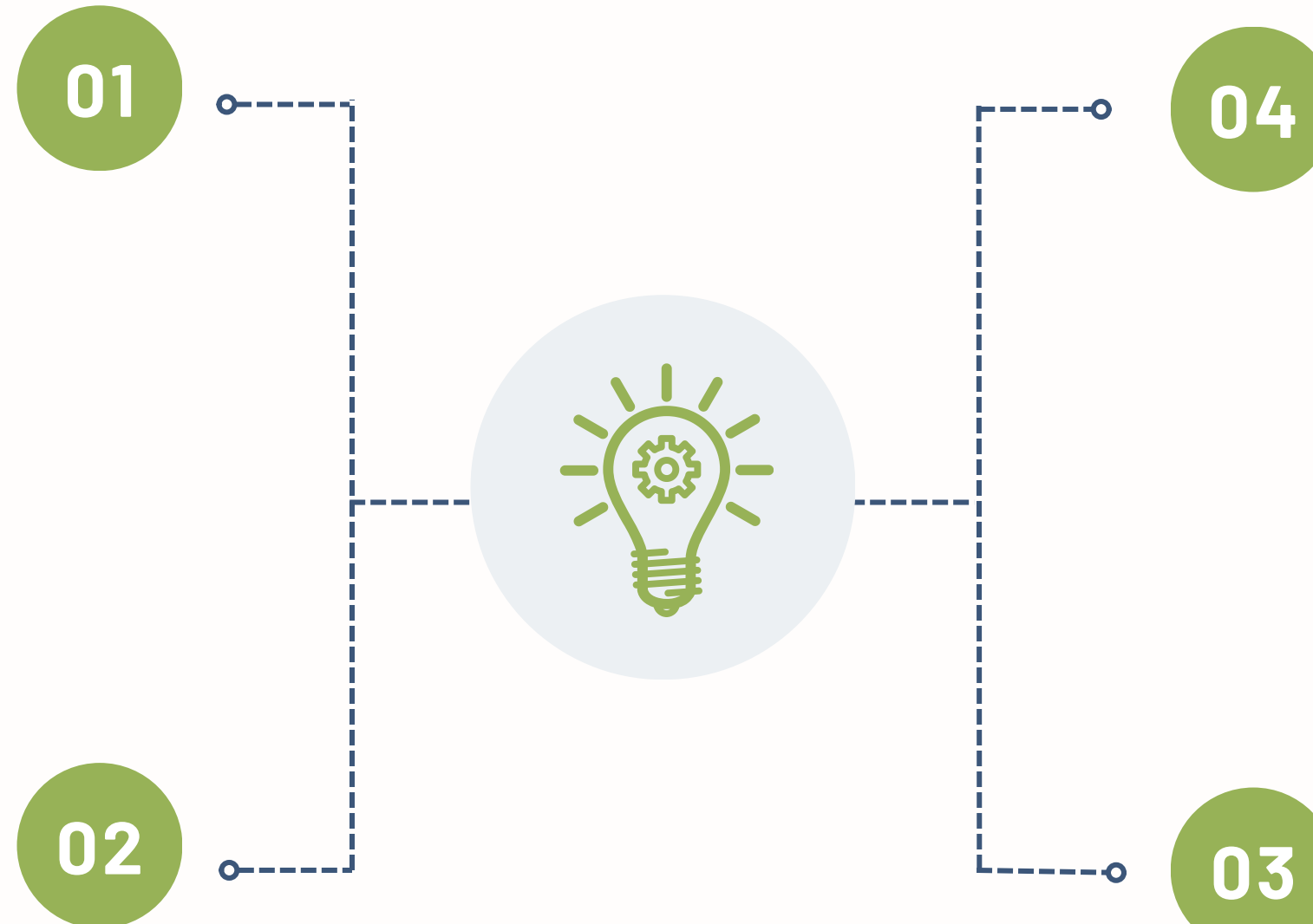
Pollution Reduction Strategies

Your project must include at least one of these strategies

01

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.

02

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.

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.

03

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.

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TRACK II: MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT FOR EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

- Projects should facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged

  communities in governmental processes to advance environmental

  and climate justice.
  - In State and Federal Advisory Groups
  - Workshops
  - Rulemakings
- $1-3 million limit per award
- EPA expects to make ~20 Track II awards.
- No oral presentation component

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TRACK II: MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT FOR EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

TRACK II PROJECT EXAMPLES

EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMS
- Leadership development programs
- Develop or implement Equity Action Plans with a government.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARDS
- Permitting decisions for factories
- Infrastructure upgrades to address pollution
- Zoning
- Actions around workforce development, water shutoffs, water affordability

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES
- Develop community benefit agreements.
- Creating a governance body for a brownfield post-cleanup redevelopment project
- Creating a source water protection plan

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET
- Design programs, evaluate proposals, and recommend decision for funding through participatory budget.

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GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- 2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- 3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- 4. EPA Preaward Compliance Review Report Form 4700-4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Should not exceed three pages

PROJECT WORKPLAN

ATTACHMENTS

- Don't count as part of the project narrative
- Different for Track I and Track II applications
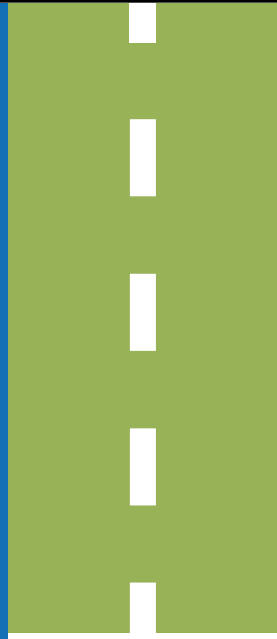
PROJECT NARRATIVE

Together these should not exceed:

- **Track I:** 20 pages (single-spaced)
- **Track II:** 15 pages (single-spaced)

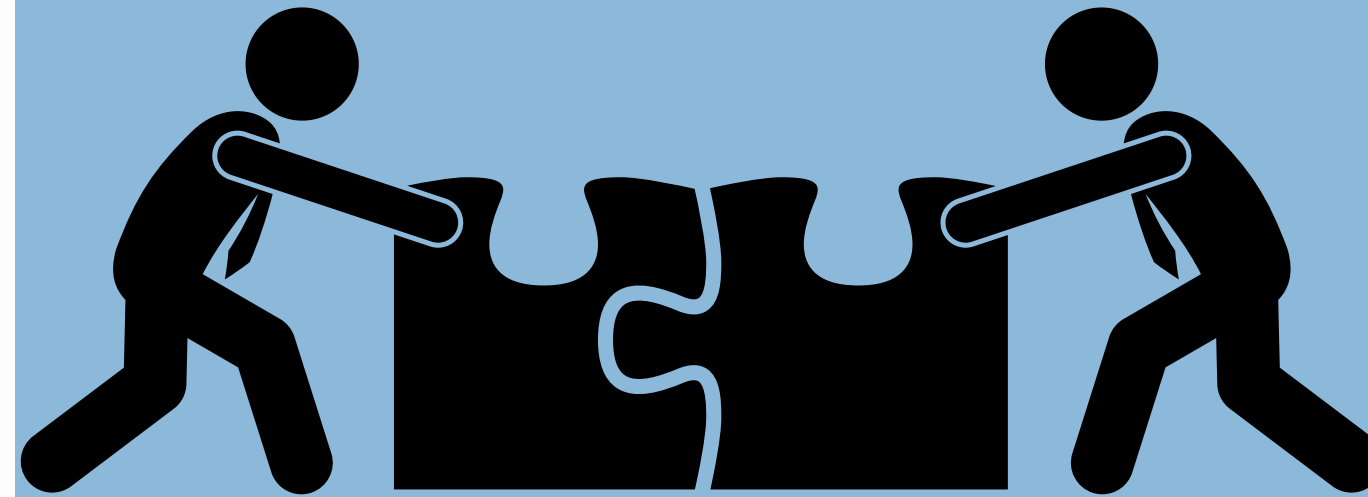⚠️ *Excess pages will not be reviewed*

TRACK I VS TRACK II REQUIREMENTS

TRACK I	TRACK II	Requirements
		Project Narrative Attachment Form
		Attachment A: Program Budget Template
		Attachment B: Partnership Agrrement
		Attachment C: Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable
		Attachment D: Project Area Map
		Attachment E: Community Engagement and Collaborative Governance
		Attachment F: Community Strength Plan
		Attachment G: Readiness Approach
		Attachment H: Compliance Plan

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WHO CAN APPLY?

A partnership between two community-based organizations (CBOs)
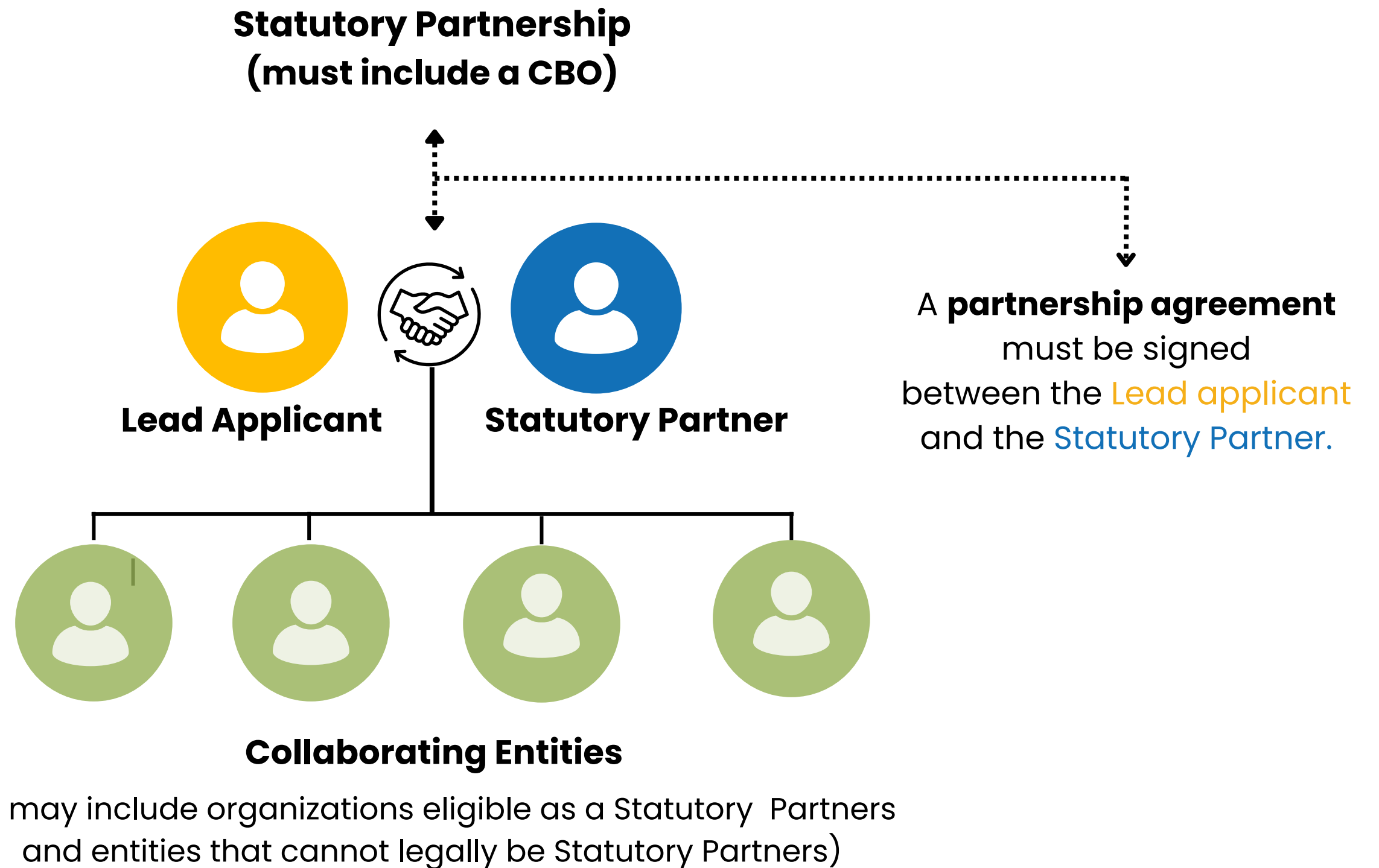
A partnership between a CBO and one of the following:

- 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

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STATUTORY PARTNERSHIP

**Statutory Partnership
(must include a CBO)**

Lead Applicant

Statutory Partner

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

Collaborating Entities

(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*

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WHAT COMMUNITIES WILL BENEFIT?

All applications must benefit disadvantaged communities.

Any census block group that is at or above the 90th percentile when compared to the nation or state.
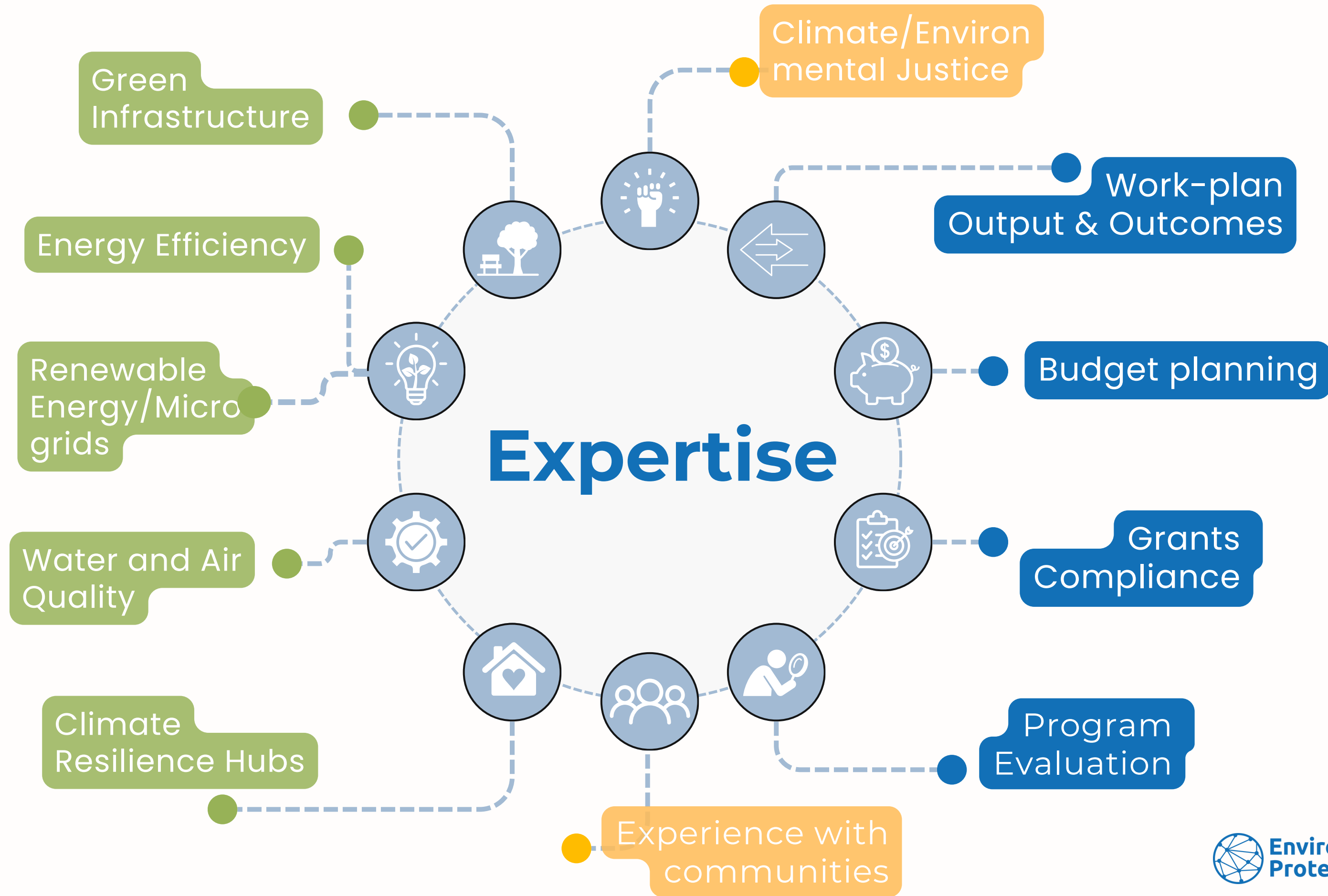
Any geographic area within Tribal Lands

A farmworker community comprised of individuals with no fixed work address.

A Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC)

Use the EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Map to identify if your project area appears as disadvantaged

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How can you leverage your expertise to support communities?

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Expertise

- Green Infrastructure
- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy/Micro grids
- Water and Air Quality
- Climate Resilience Hubs
- Climate/Environmental Justice
- Work-plan Output & Outcomes
- Budget planning
- Grants Compliance
- Program Evaluation
- Experience with communities

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE VIA EMAIL

Use your subject matter expertise to answer technical questions raised by community groups.

JOIN A CALL

Join virtual calls to meet with and support communities with brainstorming, project scoping and project eligibility.

DRAFT REVIEW

Leverage your academic and professional experience to review, edit, and comment on grant proposals drafts.

SIGN UP HERE

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Contact us at:
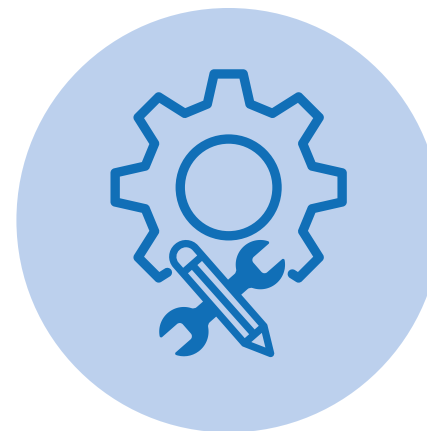genesis.sanchez@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FLEXIBILITY

As a volunteer, you decide how much time you want to volunteer and the type of technical assistance requests you want to assist with.
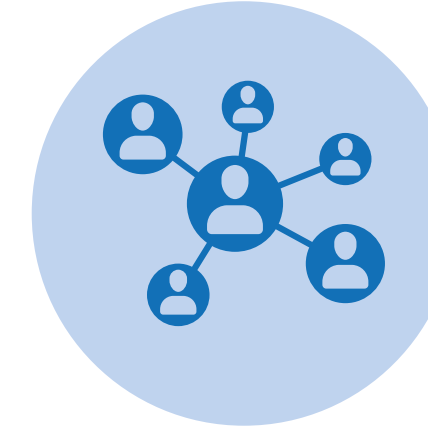
TRAINING

Participate in EPN's workshops to learn more about how to evaluate Community Change Grants applications.

CONNECTION

EPN will act as the bridge between communities and volunteers. You may also leverage your connections to support projects.

NETWORK

Become part of a network of 650 + volunteers who spent decades working at EPA and other federal agencies.

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SIGN UP TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

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