REGIONS 6 AND 8 TRIBAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2023
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Presentation and Update on the Tribal Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)

1. Overview of EPA's Technical Assistance and Funding Programs for Tribes
2. National Tribal TCTAC: **Brett Weber,** National Indian Health Board
3. Region 6 Tribal TCTAC: **Dr. Patricia Sullivan,** New Mexico State University
4. Open Discussion

Moderated by
Andy Bessler,
Stakeholder Coalition Coordinator,
U.S. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)
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NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Current National Technical Assistance Programs

Community Change Technical Assistance

Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers

More information on EPA's funding from the Inflation Reduction Act can be found here:

Community Change Grants

Thriving Communities Grantmakers Subawards

Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Cooperation Agreements Program

South-Central Environmental Justice Resource Center (SCEJRC)

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program

Presented to EPA Region 6 EJ Summit
November 2023

Background

- The Justice40 Initiative, launched under federal Executive Order 14008, mandates that 40% of the overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.
- Investment categories include climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure.

SCEJRC – EPA R6

TCTAC Program

- The TCTAC program was launched by the U.S. EPA, in partnership with the U.S. DOE, to ensure that communities equitably receive the technical assistance they need to benefit from funding directed under the Justice40 Initiative.
- There are currently 16 TCTACs: 3 National TCTACs, and 13 Regional TCTACs (RFPs were reissued for EPA Regions 1 and 8.
- **South Central Environmental Justice Resource Center** represents the five-state region of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas.

SCEJRC – EPA R6

NM EDGE

NM STATE UNIVERSITY

SANTA FE GREEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON | TMAC Work Smart. Grow Smart.

ARKANSAS CAPITAL EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS

INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF LOUISIANA, INC. 1975

TOGETHER LOUISIANA

LIFECITY

Beloved COMMUNITY

Gulf States Renewable Energy Industries Association

NM STATE UNIVERSITY — Grant Administration / Outreach and Community Engagement

LIFECITY — Communication / Branding

Partnership Network – Founding Members

NM Congressional Delegation

NM Economic Development Department

Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Inc.

Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce

NM Indian Resource Development Program

The City of Las Cruces

Mesilla Valley Public Housing

The City of New Orleans

NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Dept.

NM Environment Department

Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce

The Global Hemp Association of Oklahoma

Together Louisiana

Technical Assistance Focus Areas

Grant Assistance

Building Leadership

Increase Access

Ensur

Community Engage

and Partners

Building a Partnership Network

- Leveraging NGO network to share training opportunities and technical assistance resources opportunities
- Leverage technical expertise to broaden awareness of EEJ issues, policies, and concerns

Connecting communities with technical resources

- National Laboratories
- Academic Partners
- Private sector Partners
- NGOs and non-profit Partners

Connecting communities with Justice 40 partners

- Rural electric cooperatives
- Electric utility providers
- Water Utility providers
- Tribal entities
- Municipal governments
- Others

Building Leadership Capacity

In rural, disinvested communities

Corporate Leadership Development

Community Leadership Development

SCEJRC Equitable Leadership Model – EPA R6

BUSINESS OUTREACH

Increase business capacity to serve community-based suppliers and clean energy job creation/retention

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Increase community-based organization's capacity to receive funding, lead policy change, and support clean energy development.

Annual outputs after Year 1

Community Leadership Development

Partners

NM EDGE

NM STATE UNIVERSITY

TOGETHER LOUISIANA

NM STATE UNIVERSITY

NM STATE UNIVERSITY

SANTA FE GREEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LIFECITY

ARKANSAS CAPITAL

Outputs

Annual outputs after Year 1

Outcomes

1.Workshops

- Organizations are better equipped to write grants and advocate for policy change

2. EJ Ecosystem Partnership

- Organizations are able to help their community get access to grant opportunities, workforce opportunities, supply-chain opportunities, and more

3. Leadership Cohort

- Organizations write and receive federal grants
- Organizations change policy

Business Leadership Development

Partners

Beloved Community

LIFECITY

Beloved Community

Gulf States Renewable Energy Industries Association

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TMAC Work Smart. Grow Smart.

LIFECITY

ARKANSAS CAPITAL EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS

Outputs

Annual outputs after Year 1

Outcomes

1. Beloved Cohort

- Transformational cultural change
  - higher retention rates of BIPOC staff
  - equitable leadership within organizations
  - Equitable supply chain

2. EJ Corporate membership network

- Deeper commitment to take action on a more equitable workplace
- Inclusive organizations ready to support disinvested communities
- Communication channel to rural community leaders / database
  - workforce opportunities
  - training opportunities

3. Workshop Training

- Stronger environmental outcomes impacting disinvested communities
- Basic understanding of environmental justice and the need for DEI training

Contact Us

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National Indian Health Board

TRIBAL CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

National Indian Health Board: Nationwide Technical Assistance Center for Environmental Justice

Presented by:

Brett Weber, Environmental Health Programs Director, National Indian Health Board

About National Indian Health Board

- Founded by Tribes in 1972 to serve as the Tribal advocate for healthcare
- Based in Washington DC
- Board of Directors includes a Tribal leader from each IHS Service Area elected to be the Area's representative

National Indian Health Board

National Indian Health Board

- **Purpose:** To advocate on behalf of all federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to ensure the fulfillment of the trust responsibility to deliver health and public health services as assured through treaties and reaffirmed in legislation, executive orders, and Supreme Court cases.

- **Mission Statement:** One voice affirming and empowering American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples to protect and improve health and reduce health disparities.

National Indian
Health Board

About Environmental Protection Agency

- Cabinet Level Federal Agency
- Created in 1970 by Nixon
- Mission: protect human health & environment
- National HQ in Washington, DC
- Ten regional offices

How EPA Works with Tribes

Aspirations

- Maintains Government to Government Relationship
- Collaborates with Tribes & other Indigenous peoples
- Incorporates traditional ecological knowledge
- Provides advice and recommendations to Tribally run environmental protection departments

Mechanisms:

- National Tribal Caucus
  - Agency equivalent of Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee
- Consultation Policy
- Tribal Treatment As State Model
- Tribe applies; EPA approves
- EPA treats Tribe same as a state for regulatory purposes
- 107 Tribal programs treated as states
- 84 of these are water sanitation programs

EPA Project

- Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TC TAC)
- Designed to assist underserved communities who are
  - Disproportionally impacted by environmental health concerns
  - Underserved by current EPA and other EH programs from the federal government
- Perfectly describes Indian Country
- Network of Technical Assistance Centers will provide TA to applicants for environmental health projects from EPA and other federal partners
- Funded by Infrastructure Law & Inflation Reduction Act

EPA Project

Three National Technical Assistance Centers Awarded

- International City/County Management Association
- Institute for Sustainable Communities
- **National Indian Health Board**

13 Regional TACs Awarded

- West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.
- Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metro Campus
- National Wildlife Federation
- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
- Research Triangle Institute
- Blacks in Green
- University of Minnesota
- New Mexico State University
- Wichita State University
- University of Arizona
- San Diego State University
- Willamette Partnership
- University of Washington

Thriving Community Technical Assistance Center

- NIHB will be the national TAC for tribal applicants, potential applicants, and advisees
- Assist Tribal governments and Tribal organizations & consortia with Environmental Justice funding projects
- Work with Regional TACs to ensure Tribal inclusion and non-duplication

Goal: Remove Barriers for Tribes Working on Environmental Justice

- Portal on NIHB.org
- Clearinghouse on funding opportunities
- 1:1 Technical Assistance
- Trainings and briefings throughout Indian Country
- Launching later in 2023

Additional Projects

- Trainings on applying for & using federal funding opportunities related to environmental health
- In depth guide for EPA activities in Indian Country
- Policy analysis for EPA and other agencies impacting environmental health
- Capacity Scan of Indian Country's environmental health professionals
  - Create materials to expand skillsets and build capacity
- Funding for Tribes to plan transition to carbon neutral energy and electric vehicles
- Internship for undergrad/grad students
- Language translation

How Tribes Can Be Impactful

- Use Portal Once it Launches
- Connect NIHB with language translation experts
- Encourage Tribal environmental health experts to come work for us in DC!

Contact Information

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Two (2) Technical Assistance (TA) Programs Created for the <u>Community Change Grants</u>

- Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)
- Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance (CCER TA)

- Technical Assistance (TA) to assist eligible applicants in applying for and using the EPA grant funding

- Eligible entities can receive TA in all stages of the Community Change Grants, including:
  - Application support
  - Capacity building
  - Project planning, etc.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)

- Support for applicants and awardees of the $2 billion new Community Change Grants Program
- Community Change Grants Program expected to be announced within the next few weeks
- Support to Include:
  - Grant Application Development Support – training and development support on grant applications
  - Project Planning and Development – assistance with preparing project maps/designs, permitting and site control, determining project feasibility and readiness, developing project budgets, schedules, and implementation plans as well as obtaining specific subject matter expertise.
  - Capacity Building – support in developing partnerships and governance structures.
  - Outreach and Engagement – support in conducting community outreach and developing community engagement plans.
  - Post-award TA through CCTA will offer support with grants management and reporting

- For more information - https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-grants-technical-assistance

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANTS

Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance

- Technical assistance for eligible entities under Community Change Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Eligible projects for this technical assistance must be located in a disaster-prone area and benefit a disadvantaged community.
- Assistance will consist of free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops.
- Technical assistance intended to be provided to up to 50 recipients nationwide.
- Being offered in conjunction with the Community Change Grants NOFO.
- Questions can be sent to EquitableResilience@epa.gov.

Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA)

Eligible Entities

(1) a partnership between two community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs)

OR

(2) a partnership between a CBO and one of the following:

- federally recognized Tribe
- local government
- institution of higher education

CCTA

Eligible Activities

- Climate resilience and adaptation (including but not limited to community greening, stormwater management, mobility, energy efficiency, waste reduction, brownfields redevelopment projects).
- Pollution reduction (including but not limited to indoor/outdoor air quality, toxic remediation, clean water infrastructure, waste, and pollution monitoring projects).
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) pollution remediation projects.
- Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, and other environmental economic projects.
- Facilitating the engagement of disadvantaged communities in State and Federal advisory groups, workshops, rulemakings, and other public processes.

CCTA

Pre-award TA support for eligible applicants with intent to apply for Community Change Grants, for example:

- support in developing and submitting grant applications (not written by contractor)
- project planning and development
- outreach and engagement
- facilitating partnership development

Note: Receiving TA does not guarantee grant award.

CCTA

Post-award TA support for implementation of Community Change Grants awarded, for example:

- grant award execution, administration, performance, reporting, and oversight
- project evaluation, including developing outputs/outcomes
- community engagement and outreach
- storytelling

CCTA

- More specialized TA than TCTACs with a focus on planning, project development, etc.
- TCTACs can direct eligible entities with intent to apply for the Community Change Grant to the Community Change TA provider.
- TA delivery on a first come, first served basis.
- Communities can access Community Change TA provider directly via on-line TA Request Form or Call Line.
- Will be launched in conjunction with Community Change Grant NOFO (by mid/late November 2023).
- For questions, please email: EJ_TechAssist@epa.gov
- **FAQ**

PURPOSE OF TCTAC'S

- Goal is to establish a **network** of 16 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers with over 140 partners across the United States to support underserved communities.

- The hubs are the **point of entry** for communities
  - 1) don't know where to go
  - 2) how to get started

EJ TCTAC STRUCTURE

- **13 Regional EJ TCTACs**
  - Primary entry point for community groups that need **fundamental** support in the grants space
  - Each will provide direct TA to communities in their assigned EPA regions/geographic area(s)

- **3 National EJ TCTACs**
  - Develop national websites, databases, and resource libraries to support the Regional EJ TCTACs
  - Fill gaps in coverage, host TA summits, build tools to support the network, develop informational exchanges, attend national conferences and present on the EJ TCTAC network

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TCTACs Will Help Communities That Are Underserved and Overburdened To:

Identify grant opportunities.

Prepare grant applications and **manage** grant funding.

Build capacity to effectively engage with decisionmakers.

Develop collaborative community-based partnerships.

TIMELINE

EJ TCTAC FY 2023- FY 2024

AWARDED TCTACS

1) West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (EPA Region 2)
2) Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metro Campus (EPA Region 2)
3) National Wildlife Federation (EPA Region 3)
4) Deep South Center for EJ (EPA Regions 4 and 6)
5) Research Triangle Institute (EPA Region 4)
6) Blacks in Green (EPA Region 5)
7) University of Minnesota (EPA Region 5)
8) New Mexico State University (EPA Region 6)
9) Wichita State University (EPA Region 7)
10) University of Arizona (EPA Region 9)
11) San Diego State University (EPA Region 9)
12) Willamette Partnership (EPA Region 10)
13) University of Washington (EPA Region 10)
14) International City/County Management Association (National TCTAC)
15) Institute for Sustainable Communities (National TCTAC)
16) National Indian Health Board (National TCTAC)