



Justice40 Reflection

**Joan Kato, Colaborativo40 Director:
GreenLatinos**

November 7 & 8, 2023

Agenda

Topic	Description/Contents
Introductions/ Updates 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introductions● Ice Breaker
Grounding the Work 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What is Justice 40?● How is Justice40 implemented?● Available funding
Working Together Exercises 30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What is good about Justice40 and how can Justice40 be improved
What Can We Do 45 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Colaborativo40● Government Grants Overview● Discussion● Applying for Grants Together
Next Steps 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Community Change Grant Survey● Federal Grant Application Recommendations● Resources

Ice breaker question

How is climate change affecting your work?

GREENLATINOS



Joan Kato
Colaborativo40 Director

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- 20+ years of experience in community engagement, especially in communities of color
- Helped GreenLatinos get \$25M USDA Urban Forestry Grant
- Worked on Obama 2008 and Bernie 2016
- Led the largest voter registration campaign in 2020, registering 1.5M POC in 11 states
- Partner at Everyday Voters

Justice40

What is the Justice 40 Initiative?

President Biden made a historic commitment that 40% of Federal Government's investments benefit and flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

What kinds of investments fall within the Justice40 Initiative?

The categories of investment are: 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.

Climate change

Clean energy &
efficiency

Clean
transportation

Clean water

Affordable
housing

Workforce
development

Reduction of legacy
population

How is Justice40 Initiative Implemented?

- The Biden Administration is transforming hundreds of federal programs to ensure that disadvantaged communities receive the benefits of new and existing Federal investments in these categories.
- Through the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the American Rescue Plan, federal agencies are making historic levels of investment to advance environmental justice.
- 15 U.S. Agencies have released their covered programs, including:



Sample Amounts of Funding Available

27B

EPA

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will mobilize financing and private capital to address the climate crisis

50M

DOE

Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas provides financial investment, technical assistance, etc. to advance clean energy and energy solutions that benefit rural and remote communities

3M

Department of Interior

technical assistance for climate change planning, mitigation, adaptation, and resilience to the Puerto Rico Government and educational institutions

1.4B

HUD

Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (GRRP) reducing residents' and properties' exposure to hazards

2B

EPA

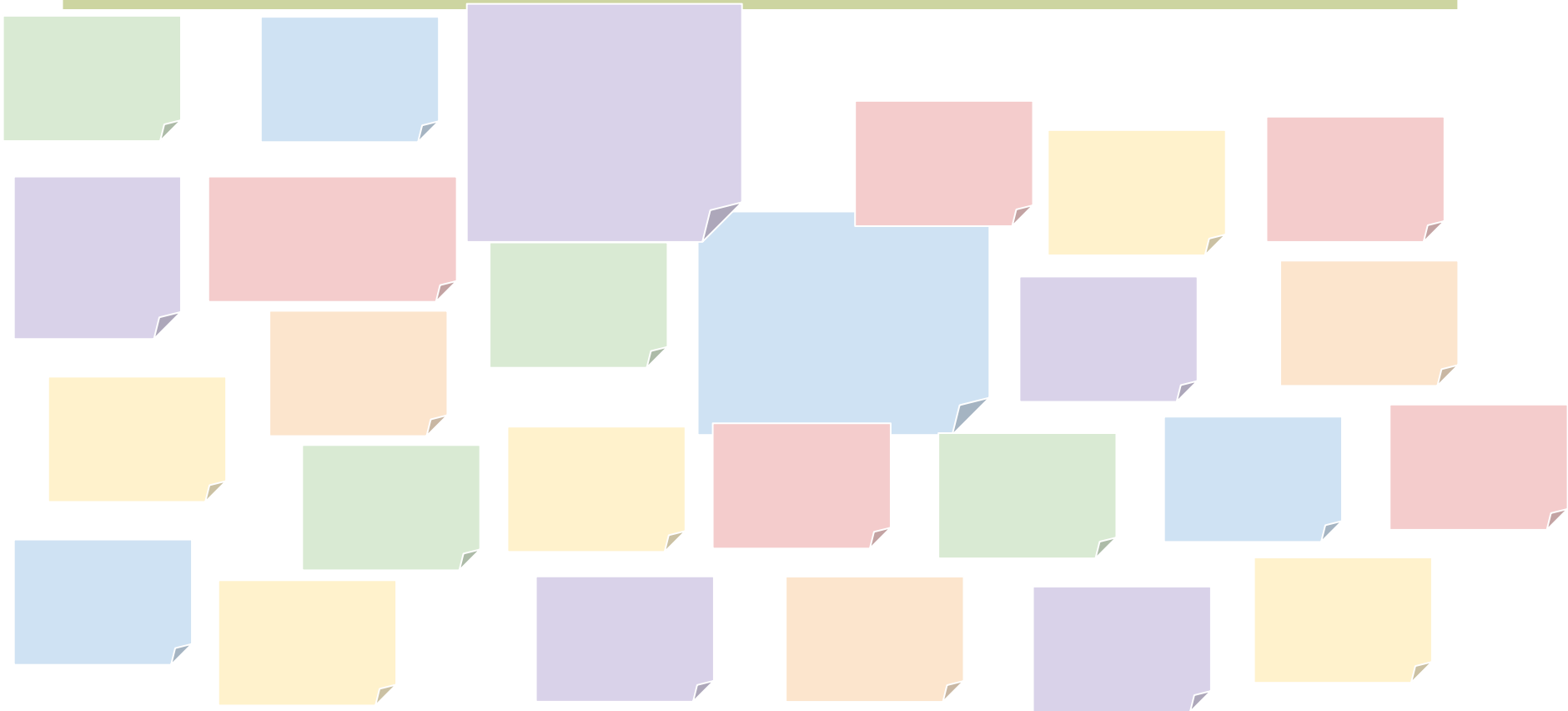
Community Change Grant towards community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input

10M

USDA

Community Wildfire Defense Program will help at-risk local communities and Tribes; plan for and reduce the risk of wildfire. \$10M/ Region.

Exercise: What's good about Justice40?



What do you like about Justice40?

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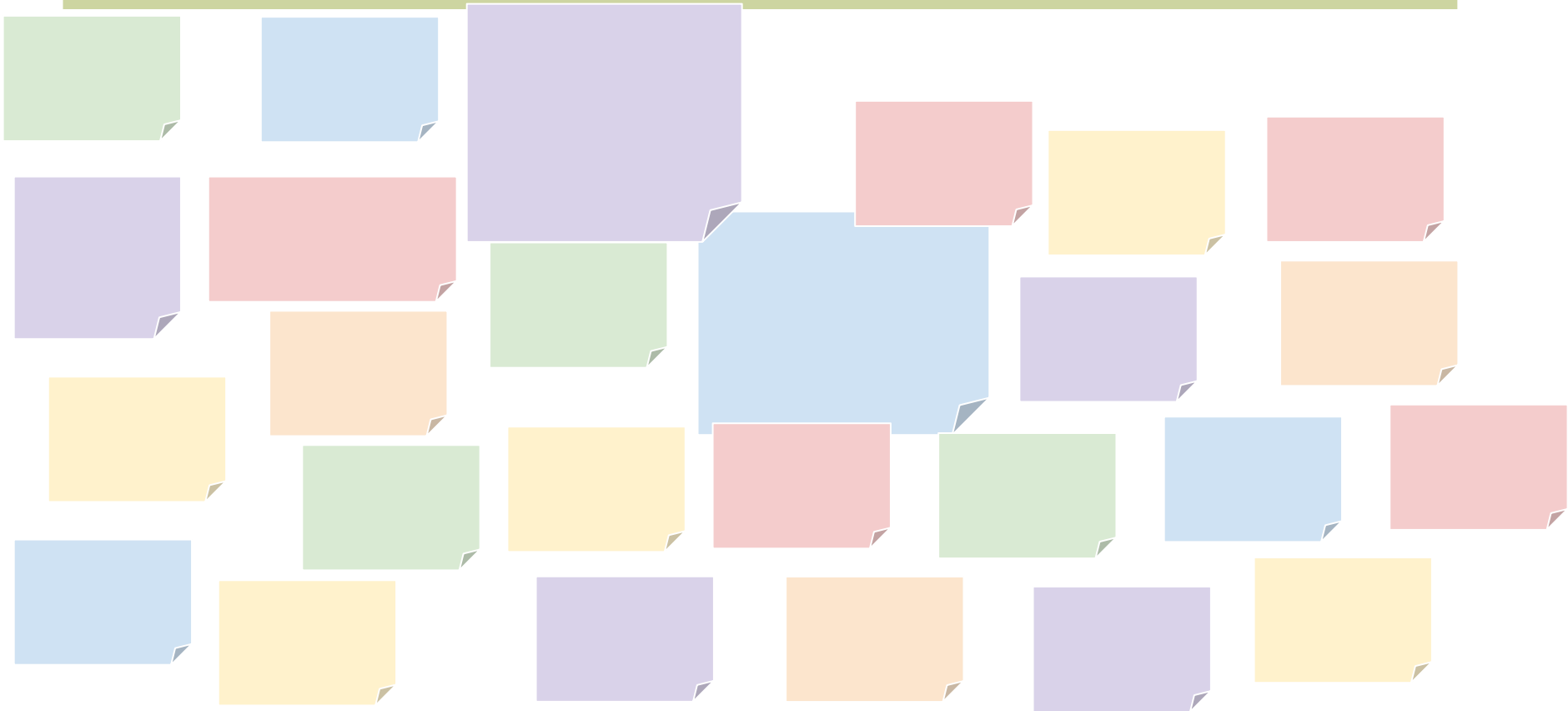
How do we think Justice40 can be improved?

- **Justice40 Grant Award Scoring:** Often the Justice40 grant scoring rubric is heavily weighted towards organizations with previous government grant experience, which many community based Latino organizations typically don't have. We are being discriminated against and not getting our fair share of these grant opportunities due how the grants are scored.
- **Justice40 Grant State and Municipality Preference:** The government grant preference towards states and municipalities is not the most effective means to disseminating grants and ensuring that Justice40 is benefiting the underserved and Latino communities that Justice40 is intending to serve. Community based organizations and other frontline organizations are better conduits of these funds. When money flows through state and local governments, these governments are usually not diverse and they don't know how to engage or communicate with the Latino community.
- **Environmental Justice Advisory Perspective:** We appreciate the emphasis placed on diversity and inclusion on these grants; however, it would also be beneficial to have an environmental justice perspective. Just because you are Brown or Black, doesn't mean you understand environmental justice.

What can be improved regarding Justice40... (Continued)

- **Be Transparent & Don't Change the Eligibility Criteria:** If these grants are intended for states and municipalities, say so. Community based organizations and nonprofits have limited resources. If we spend time and resources applying to grants that we have little chances of receiving, it is frustrating and wrong. We can be using our resources helping the community versus pursuing federal grants that are supposed to benefit our community.
- **Make More Grants for Community Based Organizations/ Nonprofits:** Nonprofits and frontline community based organizations are the best way to ensure the benefits of Justice40 reach our communities. We know our people. We know our needs. Yet the federal grants continue to ignore our connection to the community in favor of states and municipalities that are the reason why low income historically disadvantaged communities exit in the first place.
- **Create a Grant Oversight & Collect Data:** We need oversight in how much of the Justice40 funds are actually reaching our communities. The Administration says that 40% of all funds are supposed to "benefit" our community. Keep track of that data, and make it available to the public.

Exercise: How can Justice40 be improved?



How can Justice40 better serve you?

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What can we do?

1) Colaborativo40: “Our Fair Share”

What is Colaborativo40?

Colaborativo40 is a first of its kind collaborative made up of Latino/a/e community serving organizations, environmental justice organizations, businesses, universities, Latinas, unions, and elected officials.

What is the purpose of Colaborativo40?

The purpose of Colaborativo40 is to help the Latino/a/e community serving organizations, environmental justice organizations, businesses, universities, Latinas, unions, and elected officials by helping them with the Justice 40 Initiative by:

- Acting as connecting points to facilitate funding.
- Supporting greater access to government funding opportunities.
- Providing education, awareness and access to resources about the upcoming grants.
- Lowering and eliminating the significant barriers that impede Latino/a/e communities from gaining access to their fair share of Federal funding for climate and clean energy investments.

Colaborativo40/ Collaborative40

Who are our Colaborativo40 members?

- GreenLatinos
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- Hispanic Federation
- LatinoJustice
- MANA A Latina Organization
- UnidosUS
- United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



UNIDOSUS

STRONGER COMMUNITIES. STRONGER AMERICA.



LCLAA
LABOR COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT



hispanic**federation**

Colaborativo40.com



Contacto

Trabajando para conectar a la comunidad latina con oportunidades de financiamiento federal.

About Colaborativo40

Colaborativo40 is a pioneering initiative that works to connect its partners to resources, technical assistance, partnerships, and opportunities, so they are prepared to take advantage of the Justice40 Initiative. We ensure that the increasingly marginalized Latino/a/e community is not skipped over and to provide the resources to make President Biden's historic Justice40 commitment successful for all "disadvantaged communities," not just those that have been the most well-funded.

2) Seek out government grants

What is a grant?

A grant is a **way the government funds your ideas and projects** to provide public services and stimulate the economy. Grants support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research, and many other programs.

- Grants may be awarded by state or local agencies, private foundations, or corporations. Here, however, we will focus on grants from the federal government.
- There are several ways to participate in a grant- primary and secondary recipients
- While grants are not paid back, they are not free money. Funds should be spent responsibly and according to US government standards.



Learn

Go to the Grants Learning Center for an overview of grants.



Check

Make sure you are eligible before applying.



Search

Find federal grants that align with your work.



Register

Sign up with Grants.gov to apply using Workspace.



Apply

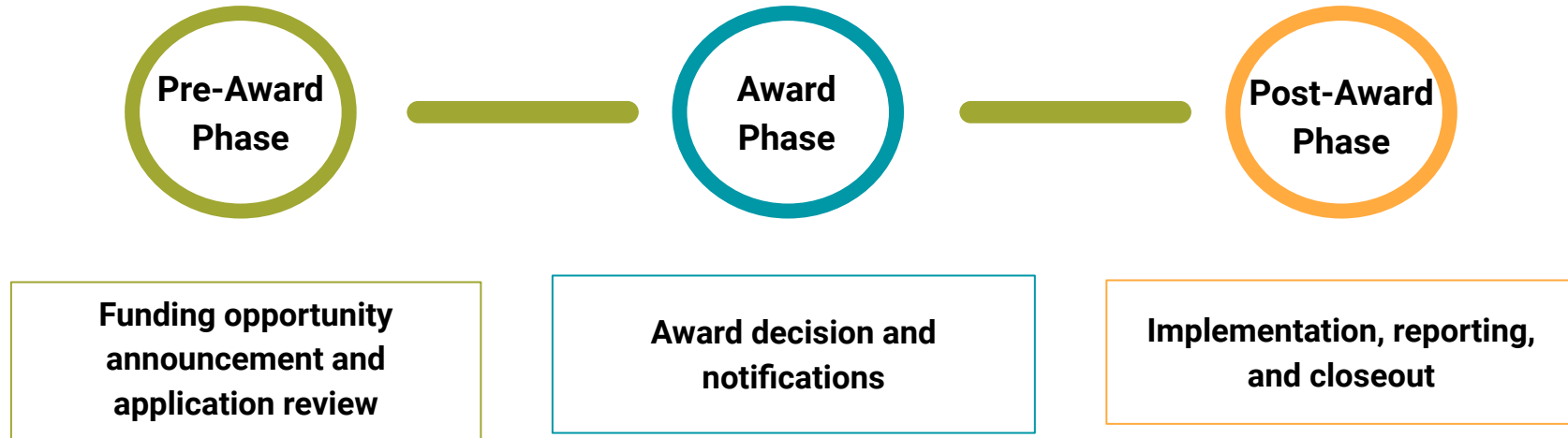
Complete and submit your application using Workspace.



Track

Enter your Grants.gov tracking number(s) for submission status.

Grant Lifecycle



Grant Applicant Roles

Applicant

Application



- Grant Writer/s: Grant Narrative and overall application
- Primary: Grant Submitter
- Secondaries/ Partners: Technical Experts, Communications, Community Partners, etc.
- Project Management
- Application Reviewers
- Budget
- Letters of Commitment/ Support from Partners: Technical Experts, Communications, Community Partners, Local Electeds, etc.

Implementation



- Implementation with Partners: Technical Advisors, Communications Experts, Community Partners, etc.
- Evaluating & Reporting
- Grant & Budget Compliance
- Community Engagement/ Outreach
- Administration, Permits, etc.
- Promotion/ Communication on Grant Implementation
- Project Management

3) Be Primaries and Secondaries

1. Create a dual track approach– one for primaries and one for secondaries.
2. Foster match-making and pairing opportunities.
3. Seek out donors to assist with grant support: writing, advising and preparation.
4. Promote grant opportunities.

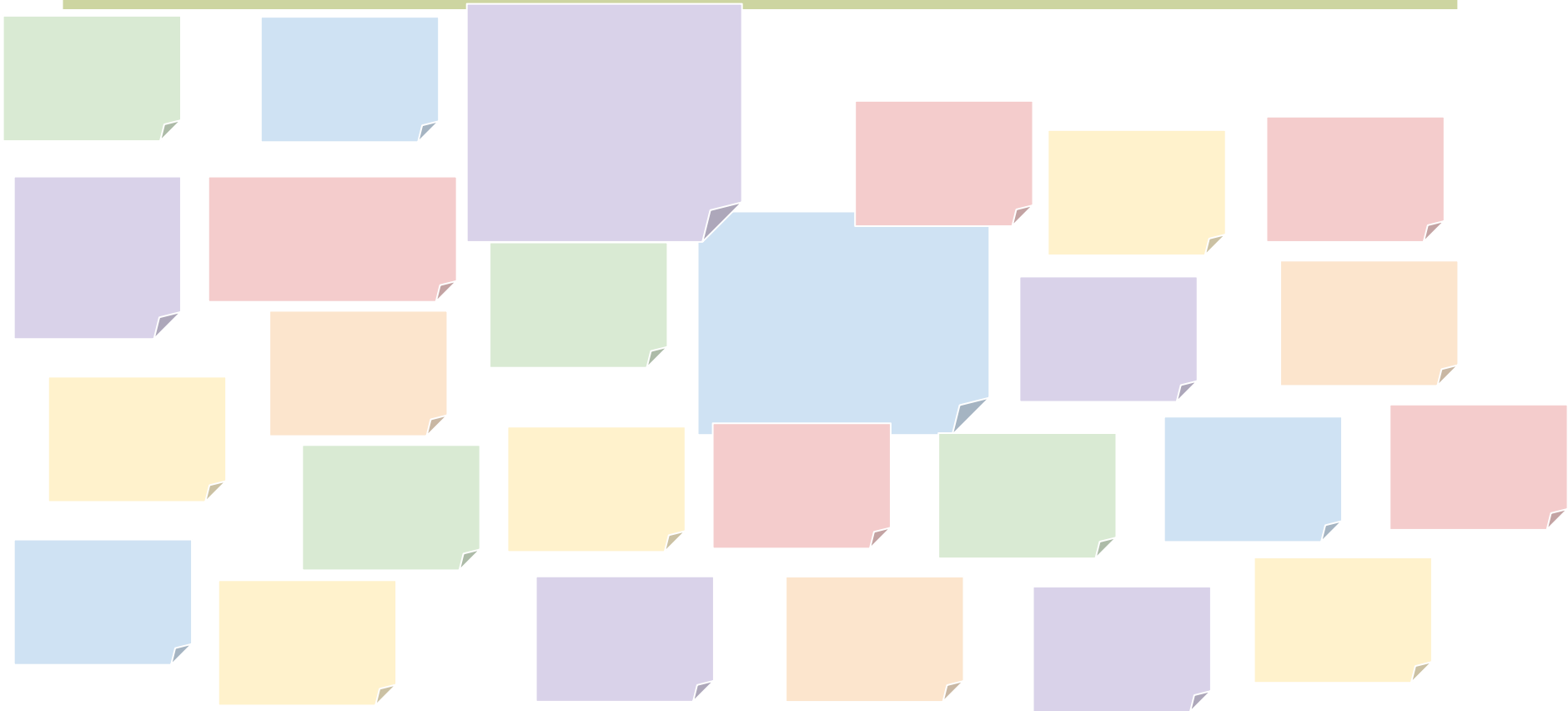
Primaries	Secondaries
Help the 5-10% of Latino organizations that can be primaries	Help the Latino organizations who want to be secondaries
Learn how to hunt together	Train our communities how to be smart and effective secondaries
Partner with secondaries	Seek out primary partnerships
Mentor secondaries to be primaries	Learn from primaries

Basics: Primary vs Secondary Grant Recipients

Primaries	Secondaries
They have a UEI and CAGE Number	Usually don't have a UEI and CAGE Number
Primaries are the ones who "hit send" on the application. They are usually the "convener" of the application. They decide who their partners will be and the program for which they are seeking funding.	They assist with the grant application and implementation. They can be technical partners and usually provide a letter of commitment in the grant application process.
They are the main recipient of the grant and interact with the US government granting agency	Their funding flows through the primary grant recipient
Should be in existence for 5+ years	Years in existence can vary
Usually bigger organizations and have staff capacity to implement the grant	Usually smaller organizations with less staff capacity and resources

**Share: Tell us about your
experience with
government grants**

Exercise: Federal Grants: Good, Bad & Ugly



What is your experience?

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Creating Environmental Justice through Applying for Grants Together

Community Change Grant (On the Horizon)

The US EPA Community Change Grants will open in the next few weeks, offering about \$2 billion in funding

We are looking to gauge our membership, affiliates, etc about the possibility of working together toward the Community Change Grant to do the following:

- Climate resiliency and adaptation.
- Mitigating climate and health risks from urban heat islands, extreme heat, wood heater emissions, and wildfire events.
- Community-led air and other (including water and waste) pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation.
- Investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies and related infrastructure.
- Workforce development that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.
- Reducing indoor toxics and indoor air pollution.

Community Change Grant (On the Horizon)

Goals of the grant program

- Deliver resources as soon as possible on the ground to communities and their partners.
- Meet communities at their needs and where they are in their journey.
- Prove that investments in communities are the best investments to solve the toughest problems in places with the biggest challenges.
- Achieve lasting, meaningful change on the ground.
- Be the bottom-up to all the other top-downs!

Community Change Grants are incorporating innovative competition features

- Reduce traditional evaluation process focus from just on how well applications are written by adding an oral presentation evaluation component to enhance ability of capacity constrained organizations to receive awards
- 12-month rolling application process with various program offerings at different amounts that applicants can access when ready.

Community Change Grant (On the Horizon)

How to prepare for this funding opportunity

- Find your partners
- Build your coalitions
- Identify meaningful transformative projects implementing strategies to help address environmental and climate justice concerns within 3 years
- Identify governmental policies and programs that can be improved with community voices
- Activate SAM.gov and Grants.gov registration now

Applying together:

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

We are working on gathering approximately 10-20 community based partners to apply together

Project / Award Categories

Project / Award Categories

The NOFO will have two tracks

- Multi-Projects: Multifaceted holistic vision of projects addressing a variety of environmental and climate justice challenges along with education, engagement, workforce, capacity-building efforts
 - Applications must address some combination of categories (climate/pollution/workforce development) to make it multifaceted and of greatest benefit to communities
 - \$10-20 M award range
- Engagement-specific "Government Equity" projects: Projects that focus specifically on advancing meaningful engagement between communities and government processes / institutions
 - Facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in governmental processes (e.g., permitting advisory boards and ECJ academies)
 - \$1-3 M award range

Community Change Grants Survey






<https://forms.gle/HbVxi6EdjXKeiL6w8>

**Overall Grant
Recommendations, Other
Opportunities & Resources**

Federal Grant Applications Recommendations

- Start early.
- Enlist a robust team.
- Ensure your UEI and CAGE Number early, which you can do for free at [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)
- Most federal grant notices and applications have templates for the forms, narratives, budgets, etc. that you will need to submit.
- Grant templates are usually available on Grants.gov or on the agency website.
- The government agency has a free webinar detailing the grant in which you are applying. Watch the webinar to learn more about it.
- Read the instructions carefully. Your application can be disqualified for something as simple as not using the correct font.
- Consider hiring a grant writer, if you can.
- Set roles for people on your team for the grant, and ensure everyone knows deadlines and responsibilities.
- Consider setting an internal deadline for 1-2 weeks before the application deadline for an internal review.
- Designate a person on your team to be in charge of submitting the grant application.

Other Opportunities: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

	 National Clean Investment Fund	 Clean Communities Investment Accelerator	 Solar for All
Competition description	Fund national nonprofit financing entities to create national clean financing institutions capable of partnering with the private sector to provide accessible, affordable financing for tens of thousands of clean technology projects nationwide	Fund hub nonprofits to provide funding and technical assistance to specific networks of community lenders, financing clean technology projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities while simultaneously building the capacity of community lenders that serve those communities	Fund states, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities & nonprofits to develop long-lasting programs that enable low-income & disadvantaged communities to deploy and benefit from distributed residential solar
Grantees	2-3 national nonprofit financing entities	2-7 hub nonprofits	Up to 60 government and nonprofit financing grantees
Funding amount	\$14 billion	\$6 billion	\$7 billion
Deadline to apply	October 12, 2023	October 12, 2023	September 26, 2023

Resources

Technical Assistance

- [**Community Change Grant Matchmaking**](#): Survey to gauge our membership about the possibility of working together toward the Community Change Grant.
- [**Coalition Partner Projects \(Spanish Link\)**](#): Form to help to facilitate early sign up for technical assistance and to help people find partners.
- [**Environmental Protection Network Technical Assistance Program**](#): Technical assistance on navigating the EPA, regulatory processes, the implications of federal policies, and government grants.
- [**Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program TCTACS**](#): help underserved and overburdened communities across the country. Each of the technical assistance centers will receive at least \$10 million to remove barriers and improve accessibility for communities with environmental justice concerns.

Resources

Opportunities

- **Urban and Community Forestry Grants**: Aims to increase tree cover nationwide and enhance equitable access to trees and green spaces in disadvantaged communities.
- **Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program**: Funding will help support community-driven initiatives to reduce pollution, boost climate resilience, and enhance community capacity for communities most impacted by climate change, historical pollution, and disinvestment.
- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)**: —a \$27 billion investment to mobilize financing and private capital to address the climate crisis, ensure our country's economic competitiveness, and promote energy independence while delivering lower energy costs and economic revitalization to communities that have historically been left behind.

Resources

General Climate Grants

- [IRA Guidebook](#): an overview of investment programs for clean energy, climate mitigation, agriculture, and conservation in the Inflation Reduction Act, their eligibility requirements, and funded activities.
- [GOV Grants Website](#)

Clean Energy/Energy Efficiency

- [US Department of Housing and Urban Development](#): NOFO for the Green and Resilient Retrofit Program which aims to support utility efficiency and energy generation projects the help reduce residents' vulnerability to climate disasters.
- [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\) Program](#) : Grant to improve energy efficiency, clean energy, and infrastructure.

→ [**FULL LIST OF RESOURCES HERE**](#) ←

Appendix