Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTAC) ’22-23

-Summary Competition Report-

EJ TCTAC Competition Applications Received (2022)

- Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

# of Eligible Applications Received Per Proposed Geographic Area of Coverage)

- Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Selection Breakdown

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Total Number of TCTACs selected = 17

Region 1

-TCTAC Selectees-

1) **University of Connecticut**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Project Summary Page

Project Title New England EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center

Project Geographic Area Regional Geographic Area #1 (EPA Region I)

Applicant Information

University of Connecticut
ATTN: Tracy Bourassa, Executive Director
Sponsored Program Services
438 Whitney Road Ext., Unit 1133
Storrs, Connecticut 06269
Phone: (860) 486-3622
Email: preaward@uconn.edu

Description of Applicant Organization Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top public universities in the country, the University of Connecticut (UConn) provides academic experiences through its 10 schools and colleges offering seven undergraduate degrees in more than 115 majors. It is a Research 1 university, with the Office of Vice President of Research managing a portfolio of over $250 million in research expenditures annually. In the past five years, UConn has managed/is managing 52 EPA awards totaling $9.2 million.

Project Partners

1. New England Environmental Finance Center, University of Maine System DBA University Southern Maine (academic)
2. Elevate Policy Lab, Yale School of Public Health (academic)
3. Institute for New England Native American Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston (academic)
4. New England Rural Health Association (non-profit)
5. Hispanic Health Council (non-profit)
6. Environmental Protection Network (non-profit)
7. Environmental Justice Coordinators (state government)
   A. Connecticut Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection
   B. Massachusetts Dept of Environmental Protection
   C. Rhode Island Dept of Environmental Management
   D. New Hampshire Dept of Environmental Services
   E. Vermont Dept of Environmental Conservation
   F. Maine Dept of Environmental Protection & Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future

Project Abstract

The **New England EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC)** will build capacity in New England (EPA Region 1) underserved and rural/remote communities to address environmental and energy justice concerns, serving as a resource and technical assistance hub. The New England EJ TCTAC will provide technical assistance services, education, outreach and community engagement on environmental quality, energy justice, climate adaptation, and civic justice, and will feature a Tribal program.

Region 2

-TCTAC Selectees-

1) West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

2) Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metro Campus

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (dba WE ACT for Environmental Justice)

a. ***Project Title**: WE ACT Technical Assistance Collaborative*
b. ***Project Geographic Area- Regional Geographic Area #2***
c. ***Applicant Information** (Name, address, main contact information)*

Peggy Shepard, Executive Director
peggy@weact.org; 212-961-1000
West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (dba WE ACT for Environmental Justice) 1854 Amsterdam Ave, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10031

Primary Grants Contact:
Morgan Fritz, Director of Development
morgan@weact.org; 205-394-3525

d. Brief Description of Applicant Organization

WE ACT's mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. We are a 34 year old environmental justice organization that engages in activities including policy advocacy and regulatory engagement, community-based research, environmental justice education, energy justice research and advocacy, workforce development, leadership development, nonpartisan civic engagement, and community organizing.

e. List of Project Partners

New York University School of Law Institute for Policy Integrity (academic) Inter American University (academic)
Columbia University Climate School (academic)
Environmental Protection Network (nonprofit, technical assistance) Clean Energy Group (nonprofit, technical assistance)
New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (nonprofit, environmental justice) South Ward Environmental Alliance (nonprofit, environmental justice)

f. Project Abstract

WE ACT for Environmental Justice proposes to lead and host an Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center for EPA Region 2 – the W*E ACT Technical Assistance Collaborative* – serving underserved, rural and remote communities within the area of service that includes New Jersey, New York,

Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and eight Indian Nations. WE ACT is uniquely suited to serve as the EJ TCTAC lead because of our long history of engagement with decisionmakers and stakeholders to address local environmental justice issues, and because of our own experience in building organizational capacity, from an unfunded volunteer organization to a nationally leading EJ organization with 30 staff and two offices, in Harlem (NYC) and Washington, DC. We strongly believe that an EJ organization with direct experience would be the ideal lead for the EJ TCTAC, because of the importance to the success of the TCTAC program of *bridging the gap* between frontline communities (including underserved, rural, and remote communities available funding and capacity-building resources. Our proposed TCTAC brings together academic partners with climate, policy, regulatory, and decisionmaker engagement expertise; outreach partners from across the region, with an emphasis on reaching rural and remote communities; and energy justice technical and funding expertise. The TCTAC we propose is comprehensive, because we believe that EPA Region 2 has need for the comprehensive range of eligible; however, we look forward to partnering with the EPA and regional and national TCTACs as well as other capacity-building and technical assistance providers to avoid duplication of services

Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metropolitan Campus

A. Project Summary:

Project Title: EAGEL (E= Engage and A=Assist G= Grassroots organizations for E= Environmental/Energy Justice and L= Leadership capacity building) for Region #2 EJ TCTAC
Project Geographic Area- EPA Region #2, PR, New York, New Jersey, and US Virgin Island
Applicant Information: Name: Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metropolitan Campus;
Address: 100 Francisco Sein Street, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00926
Main contact information: Dr. Yogani Govender

Brief Description of Applicant Organization: The Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (IAUPR) system, a private non-profit institution, is composed of nine (9) campuses and two (2) Professional Schools. The IAUPR's Metropolitan Campus (MC), the lead organization, is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) and is designated as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)/ Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) under the Title V Program of Higher Education of the USDE. IAUPR ensures equal access and treatment to traditionally underrepresented groups based on race, color, natural origin, gender, or disability. The **mission** of the MC is to contribute to the socioeconomic development of Puerto Rico and other countries by fostering the creation of knowledge, the search for solutions to problems, and service to the community through education at all levels and alliances between the university, business, and government. As an institution interested in environmental protection issues, in 1993, the IAUPR established the Center of Environmental Education, Conservation, and Interpretation (CECIA) to integrate environmental issues into education. CECIA has become an anchor in our communities by developing social responsibility and critical skills in citizens to make the right environmental decisions. The flagship projects of CECIA are the EPA-Enhancing Partnership for Addressing Multimedia Environmental Risks in Poor Rural Communities of Puerto Rico and the Integrative Program to Develop Environmental Interpreters and Citizen Scientists. **List of Project Partners**: MC will be forming a coalition with WEACT, Community Engineering Corps, NJ Science and Technology University, Vitrina Solidaria, Energy Justice PR, Environmental Protection Network, Department of Economic Development and Commerce of PR, & SBDC for Region #2; to provide outreach and technical assistance services and support. Each partner was purposefully selected for their expertise and their already established links to environmental/energy justice (EEJ) networks and grass root organization in rural and remote areas in Region# 2.
Project Abstract: Using the highly successful model of IAUPR for the SBDC program in Puerto Rico, for engaging and training small businesses, EAGLE Region #2 EJTCTAC will create HUBS in Puerto Rico, New York, New Jersey, and USVI. EAGEL **goal** is to *"Build Community Capacity, Climate Resilience and Maximizing Benefits to Overburdened and Underserved Communities increasing EPA support for community-led action by providing investments and benefits directly to communities with environmental justice concerns and by integrating equity throughout Agency programs."* **Objective** is to provide training, technical assistance (TA), and support for core areas viz. Collaborative problem-solving, Grants & Fundraising Capacity, and Environmental/Energy Justice Advocacy. **Activities:** Through a series of meetings, workshops, webinars both face-to-face and virtual the EJ TCTAC Region #2 HUBS and partners will engage grassroot organizations in strengthening institutional capacity. The step-by-step unpacking of the identifying organizational, technical needs, creation of guides and manuals that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and a hands-on-approach for providing technical assistance and support to participants in Region # 2. **Outputs/Outcomes**: Impact 340 EEJ organizations with 10,920 hours in Training, TA & support.

Introduction:

The lead applicant under the EJ-TA-TAC Region #2 will be the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (IAUPR) - Metropolitan Campus (MC). The Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (IAUPR) System, a private non-profit minority Hispanic institution, is composed of nine (9) campuses and two (2) Professional Schools throughout the Island with an enrollment of 30,970, with bilingual education in all areas and disciplines. The MC has the largest minority underserved student enrollment in the IAUPR system. The MC was established in 1960, fully accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and designated as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)/ Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) under the Title V Program of Higher Education of the US Department of Education. MC chancellor is the head of the campus and reports directly to the President of the IAUPR system. The **mission** of the MC is to contribute to the socioeconomic development of Puerto Rico and other countries by fostering the creation of knowledge, the search for solutions to problems, and service to the community through education at all levels and alliances between the university, business, and government. The Metropolitan Campus is geared toward developing leaders and entrepreneurs committed to making significant contributions that comprise service, democratic values, and reaffirming IUAPR's character as an institution with faith-based focus (Strategic Plan, 2022).

The establishment of the first, EPA EJ TC TAC Region #2, in Puerto Rico is aligned to the mission and vision of the IAUPR, DOE Goal#2 and EJ TC TAC Objectives. The IAUPR proposes the creation of the EJ TCTAC center to **E**ngage and **A**ssist **G**rassroot organizations in **E**nvironmental/**E**nergy justice (EEJ) through capacity building and **L**eadership **(EAGEL)**. The **goal** of the EAGEL one-stop center, is to better position underserved and rural/remote communities in advancing an addressing environmental and energy justice issues, through increasing participation, access to and awareness of grant opportunities, knowledge of the grant application and management process, understanding of financing sources and grant requirements. Increasing capacity leads to progress toward achieving the objectives of Executive Orders 13985 and 14008.

EAGEL will work with Center of Environmental Education, Conservation, and Interpretation (CECIA *in Spanish*) program at IAUPR. For the past 25 years, CECIA established working relationships through environmental services with Underserved, Rural, Remote, and Capacity Constrained Communities. In 2021, CECIA became a member of the EPA Region # 2 Caribbean Science Consortium 1*)* to identify and work to address education, outreach, and training needs, 2) to improve and facilitate communication and interaction among participating organizations; and 3) to facilitate the identification of potential opportunities for collaboration; among others. Since its creation, CECIA has developed seven environmental programs, that help to meet the demand for operators and administrators of potable water systems. CECIA has also delivered numerous short education courses to advance the knowledge and experience of public and private employees in the environmental sciences, including providing safe, reliable potable water. CECIA works through an intense outreach program with community-based initiatives and inter-agency committees coupled with courses, seminars and workshops providing formal and informal education, post-secondary certificate programs, undergraduate and graduate programs of study and

Region 3

-TCTAC Selectees-

- National Wildlife Federation

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

National Wildlife Federation

Project Title: Mid-Atlantic Thriving Communities Hub (MATCH)

Project Geographic Area: EPA Region 3—DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

Applicant Information: National Wildlife Federation, 11101 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA, 20190. Main Contact: Amanda Mason masona@nwf.org, 703-438-6292

Brief Description of Applicant Organization: Founded in 1936, the National Wildlife Federation is the nation's largest non-profit conservation education and advocacy organization. With over 350 employees, seven regional centers, including in Virginia and Maryland as well as a National Advocacy Center in Washington, D.C., and 53 state and territorial affiliates, our mission is *uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world.*

List of Project Partners: Academic: University of Maryland's (UMD) Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) and Environmental Finance Center (EFC), Morgan State University, West Virginia State University; Local NGO: Centro De Apoyo Familiar, South Baltimore Community Land Trust, Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative, Overbrook Education Center, Sussex Health & Environmental Network/Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health.

Project Abstract: Core partners NWF, UMD CEEJH and UMD EFC, will design, operate and lead a Mid-Atlantic Thriving Communities Hub (MATCH) to be an EJTCAC for EPA Region III, serving the states of DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV and DC. We will work closely with multiple community-based core partners selected due to their experience and expertise in environmental and energy justice work (e.g. CHARMED, Climate Justice Hub and EPN). Core partners will act as 'community-based 'hubs,' allowing for accessible service delivery to potential program participants, geographically and culturally, due to their on-the-ground community presence. MATCH will provide services consistent with Section I of the RFA to underserved, overburdened, resource-constrained, and rural Region III communities. MATCH will for (1) Outreach and Engagement: hold 50 interviews and 10+ trainings w/core partners, hold 100 interviews with communities; for (2) Capacity-building for environmental and energy justice assessment: annually engage 30-50 communities through workshops and 10 communities w/ 1:1 technical support; for (3) Capacity-building and direct assistance in grant writing techniques and financing: build a funding resource website, engage 30-50 communities annually, develop 5 best practice guides, create 10 case stories; for (4) Capacity-building and direct assistance in engaging gov, business, and industry in decision-making to address environmental and energy injustices: reach 50 communities w/ virtual training modules, develop 5 how-to guides, create 10 case stories, consult 20 clean energy companies +10 labor organizations, reach 100 communities w/ 2 trainings per year/per state, hold 10+ annual policy engagements. For each of Objectives 1-4, MATCH will: hold 7+ hub meetings, train 50+ HBCU students/faculty. Obj 2-4 each, MATCH will: hold 5+ train-the-trainer workshops. Outputs will result in: 100% of participating communities/hubs will: gain skills to understand environmental and energy justice issues and engage stakeholders; experience an increase in resources/skills to assess, design, implement, maintain, pay for, and sustain environmental and energy justice related projects; and 75% of participating communities will: have applied for funding for environmental and energy justice projects; be equipped with financing strategies that leverage programs to support such projects; be more effective at all levels of the grant process; and have built new relationships and increased communication with energy justice & clean energy decision-makers.

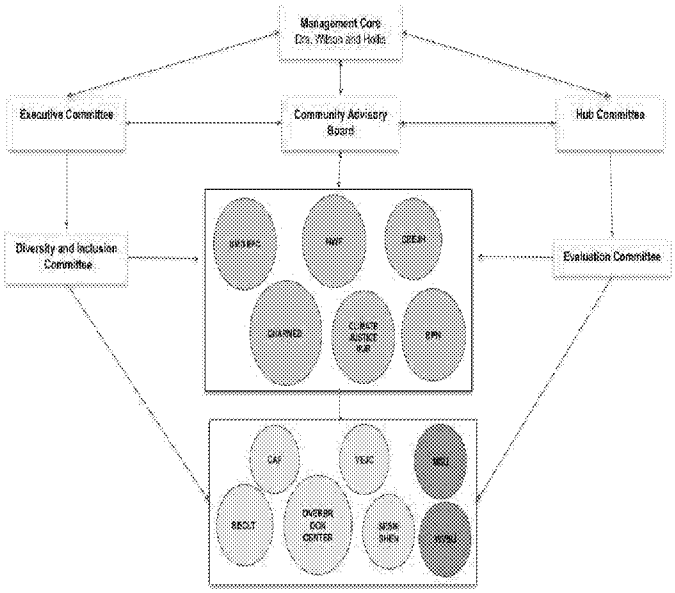
Program Objectives:

Program Design & Operation of the EJ TCTAC

Approach: Core partners NWF, UMD CEEJH and UMD EFC, will design, operate and lead a Mid-Atlantic Thriving Communities Hub (MATCH) to be an Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center for EPA Region 3, serving the states of DE, MD, PA, VA, and WV and DC. We will work closely with multiple community-based partners as core partners selected due to their experience and expertise in environmental and energy justice work. Using a 'hub' approach, the core partners will act as 'core hubs', and the community-based 'hubs' will allow for service delivery to be more accessible to potential program participants, both geographically as well as culturally, due to their on-the-ground community presence. The community hubs include: (1) Centro De Apoyo Familiar (CAF) (DC Metro Hub); (2) South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT)(Baltimore area Hub); (3) Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC) (VA Hub); (5) Overbrook Education Center (PA Hub); and (6) Sussex Health & Environmental Network (SHEN)/Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health (SESH)(Eastern Shore Hub). Morgan State University (MSU) will act as the primary HBCU Hub and West Virginia State University (WVSU) will act as a hybrid community and HBCU Hub. From a bricks and mortar standpoint, this is effective as participants will have more local or regional places to receive services. From a cultural perspective, this is effective in that these organizations can draw upon their existing relationships and networks to be able to reach participants quickly, and they can also use the baseline information and services created and maintained by MATCH to distribute to participants, and further modify or tailor to the specific needs of communities in their service area.

MATCH Structure and Project Governance .

Management Core. NWF and the UMD's EFC and CEEJH will draw upon their unique institutional qualifications and experience to produce content for all of the services that will be provided to participants, as detailed in the Objectives section. We will also oversee the MATCH operations and oversight. Drs. Wilson and Hollis will act as MATCH Co-Directors. NWF will hire a day-to-day manager to help run the Center, and to oversee the flow of information between the core hubs and the hubs. Operationally, NWF will be responsible for the grant management, the overall MATCH management, and act as the central hub for the suite of core and secondary partners. As detailed in the Outputs section, NWF will hold regularly scheduled meetings throughout the five-year project period—bi-weekly with core partners and host annual retreats. This will allow for centralized but collaborative information flow and an agile service delivery system to maximize participant benefits and EPA ROI.



Executive Committee. We will establish an Executive Committee to lead all management activities. It will consist of the MATCH Co-Directors, and directors of each community and HBCU hub. The committee will: (1) monitor the allocation and use of MATCH resources to ensure appropriate and equitable distribution among all partners (**see Budget Justification**); (2) lead the strategic planning process; and (4) monitor and facilitate MATCH activities including but not limited to: annual progress

Region 4

1) **Deep South Center for Environmental Justice**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

2) **Research Triangle Institute**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)

PROJECT SUMMARY

A. Project Title

The title of the project is the **"Community Investment Recovery Center" or "CIRC."**

B. Project Geographic Areas

Regional Geographic Areas #4 and #6

C. Applicant Information

Name: Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ)
Location: 9801 Lake Forest Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70127
Contact: Dr. Beverly Wright, Executive Director, beverlyw@dscej.org, 504-272-0956 (office)

D. Description of Applicant

The DSCEJ is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families harmed by pollution and vulnerable to climate change through research, education, community and student engagement, as well as environmental, health and safety workforce training. Founded in 1992, the DSCEJ is the longest serving environmental justice resource center that provides opportunities for communities, scientific researchers, and decision makers to collaborate on projects that promote the rights of all people to be free from environmental harm as it impacts health, jobs, housing, education, and quality of life.

E. Project Partners

Academic: Alabama A & M Univ., Bethune Cookman Univ., Spelman College, Dillard Univ., Jackson State Univ. North Carolina Central Univ., South Carolina State Univ., Tennessee State Univ. Texas Southern Univ., Xavier Univ. **Community-Based:** Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe and Sustainable, Unity in the Family Ministry, Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate, and Health Organization, East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission, Coalition of Community Organizations. **Government:** U.S. Representative, 2nd District, City of New Orleans Office of Hazard Mitigation, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, New Orleans City Council District E. **Research and Policy:** Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice, Alliance for Affordable Energy, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Protection Network, Health Impacts of Degraded Environments, Healthy Gulf, Land Loss Prevention Project, Ocean Conservancy, Union of Concerned Scientist, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Metropolitan Group, Center for Earth Energy and Democracy, People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources. **Faith-Based:** Louisiana General Missionary Baptist Convention and the Baptist Pastors Conference of New Orleans.

F. Project Abstract

The DSCEJ request support to establish the Community Investment and Recovery Center (CIRC) as a Technical Assistance Center to serve rural, remote, and underserved communities in each of the states located in Regions 4 and 6. The CIRC will build the capacity of 250 community-based organizations (CBOs) to apply for ~ $50-100 million in grants from the EPA, DOE, and other sources over the 5-year performance period, and to manage those grants. To this end, the DSCEJ designed the CIRC to provide direct services through six levels of capacity building and training that will: (1) build knowledge of environmental, health, climate, and energy issues of concern; (2) develop research skills to access, analyze, and present community-level data; and teach participants to (3) develop workplans to reach priority goals, build partnerships, and engage decisionmakers; and (4) access grant opportunities, and write, submit, and manage grants. The DSCEJ has a proven track record of helping environmental justice communities

create sustainable change that spans more than 30 years, and a track record of successfully writing, winning and managing federal grant awards spanning 25 years.

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Building on a 30+ year track-record, partnerships with HBCU faculty members and institutions in Regions 4 and 6, and collaborations with over 200 community-based organizations (CBOs) across the US, the DSCEJ's **Community Investment and Recovery Center (CIRC)**, a Technical Assistance Center Program, will pursue the following three objectives: (1) Build the organizational capacities of least 250 CBOs in underserved communities in Regions 4 and 6 through the provision of direct services spanning a progression of six levels designed to meet communities where they are and build their capacities for research, community engagement, and applying for grants from the EPA, DOE, and other sources; (2) Assist CBOs in applying for $50-100 million in grants over the 5-year performance period, leveraging over $4.8 million in committed funding (for re-granting and other purposes applicable to this project) from other funders; and (3) Scale-up the reach and impact of the CIRC to sustain capacity-building services beyond the 5-year performance period.

1.a. Program Design & Operation of the CIRC. The narrative below presents how the DSCEJ will establish and operate the CIRC.

1.a(i). Plan and approach. The DSCEJ's extensive experience with, and competencies in, community capacity-building will undergird and ensure the successful delivery of services to be provided in the CIRC. Our team recognizes that in order to identify and apply for grants, proposals must be strong, and that the strongest and most competitive proposals are the ones that are achievable and impactful. To help our CBO partners to be better positioned to achieve substantial levels of funding support for their communities from the EPA, DOE, and other sources, the DSCEJ employs a holistic approach. We meet communities where they are and position them to *win* more grants by building their capacities to effectively *research, plan, design, and implement* their own solution-oriented projects to address environmental, health, climate, and energy justice issues. To this end, the DSCEJ will assist CBOs to "learn the ropes" that DSCEJ has used to secure nearly $7.5 million in grant funding this year alone.

The DSCEJ has in-place infrastructure for building the capacities of small, grassroots organizations; this work is currently ongoing in five states across the Southern US in Regions 4 and 6. Funding from this grant would support the DSCEJ to expand the breadth of our work to cover all states in Regions 4 and 6, and to offer direct services to at least 250 CBOs from underserved urban and rural/remote communities within these states. Additionally, the grant award would allow us to enhance and replicate DSCEJ's model in new states. In other words, establishing a Technical Assistance Center draws on DSCEJ's strengths as the longest-serving environmental justice resource center.

The DSCEJ recognizes that not every community is the same. We, therefore, have developed a process to assess organizational capacity and to identify the level of service a CBO should receive in order to build the capacity and skills for writing and submitting grant applications to the EPA, DOE, and other sources, as well as using best practices to manage grant awards. We have defined six levels of service (see Figure 1); the levels of services delivered to CBO partners will be informed by their need/ positioning. This approach – which the CIRC will follow – is based on the *Communiversity Model*, developed by the DSCEJ Founder and Executive Director, Dr. Beverly Wright.

Research Triangle Institute (RTI International)

Project Summary Page

Project Title: Resource for Assistance and Community Training – Region 4 (REACT4EJ)

Project Geographic Area: EPA Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Applicant Information (name, address, main contact information):

Research Triangle Institute (RTI International)
3040 East Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194
Contract Negotiator: Kaitlin Hayes, 919-541-7482, kehayes@rti.org

Brief Description of Applicant Organization:

RTI is a not-for-profit applied research institute headquartered in Research Triangle Park in Durham, North Carolina. Our projects turn practice into impact by improving human and environmental health outcomes for communities in the southeast and across the United States in the topical areas of clean and safe drinking water and air, green and just energy resources, climate and community resilience, food access, education, and economic mobility. We use culturally responsive, multidisciplinary approaches to address the world's most critical problems. Consistent with our mission, RTI is committed to helping communities thrive through transformative projects that leverage our influence and privilege as scientists and changemakers to shift narratives and dismantle oppressive systems to advance equity in the communities that bear the burden of environmental and energy injustice.

List of Project Partners:

REACT4EJ supports every state of EPA Region 4 and will connect to local community-based organizations with a hub-and-spoke design. With a Coordinating Office at RTI in NC, the project partners include: North Carolina Central University (academic/Minority-serving Institution [MSI]), University of Memphis (academic), University of South Carolina (academic), University of Georgia (academic), Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (academic/MSI), Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (academic/MSI), University of Kentucky (academic), Jackson State University (academic/MSI), and Environmental Protection Network (non-profit).

Project Abstract:

REACT4EJ will provide the greatest value to EPA and DOE by establishing a center for educating and capacity building in underserved communities that will be sustainable and easily adapted to the needs of participants well beyond the initial period of performance. REACT4EJ proposes to use a co-creation approach for the design of activities that centers the needs and inputs of the communities and program participants. Through the collective experience of our team members, we will follow a comprehensive process that enables our technical assistance to evolve in response to shifting landscapes and community needs, and to the results of an ongoing robust evaluation of outputs and outcomes through the project. The result will be a comprehensive training and technical assistance center that provides program participants access to a combination of locally focused materials on environmental and energy justice topics and programs and trainings with broad applicability. The project partners will provide vital in-person training and resources within their state, with joint efforts and material development managed through the Coordinating Office at RTI. REACT4EJ brings existing connections with community-based organizations and state/local government agencies that will enable the network to provide services broadly across Region 4.

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1.0 Program Objectives

Although events like the recent flooding and drinking water shortage in Mississippi bring systemic issues to public awareness, environmental and energy injustices occur across the country daily. Many institutions are examining how structural racism has permeated their practices and are intentionally working to advance equity. There is a need to increase access to resources to address environmental and energy justice concerns in impacted communities. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4's needs are diverse because of a range of concerns including emerging contaminants, extreme weather events, varying energy and environmental regulations (e.g., vertically integrated power sector utilities and competitive wholesale markets that respond to energy justice needs differently), and the presence of rural and urban minority communities.

Our proposed Region 4 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC), called the **Resource for Assistance and Community Training – Region 4 (REACT4EJ)**, leverages a wealth of institutional experience with training and technical assistance (TA) to support communities and organizations in Region 4. Our team provides world-renowned researchers in environmental health, energy policy, and equity and justice with a commitment to community engagement who will work with a broader network of community-based organizations (CBOs) and state/local government agencies to achieve the program's goals, operating as described in the logic model in ***Exhibit 1***, which shows key inputs (people, funding, and resources) supporting TA activities and the resulting outputs and outcomes. EPA's and the Department of Energy (DOE)'s investment in the TCTAC program aligns with our team's commitment to addressing environmental and energy justice issues.

1.a. Program Design & Operation of the EJ TCTAC

Approach to establishing the EJ TCTAC. A critical aspect of the TCTAC program is meaningfully engaging members of underserved communities. Our team includes proven track records of providing resources to communities of varying needs, including those located in rural areas and those disproportionally burdened with energy, environmental, and health risks. The REACT4EJ partner organizations are:

- RTI International (**RTI**), a not-for-profit research institute (Coordinating office [CO]) in NC
- North Carolina Central University (**NCCU**), a public historically Black college and university (HBCU) in NC
- University of Memphis (**UofM**), a public research university in TN
- University of South Carolina (**UofSC**), a public research university in SC
- University of Georgia (**UGA**), a public land-grant research university in GA
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (**FAMU**), a public land-grant HBCU in FL
- Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (**AAMU**), a public land-grant HBCU in AL
- University of Kentucky (**UKY**), a public land-grant research university based in KY
- Jackson State University (**JSU**), a public HBCU in Jackson, MS

REACT4EJ will also draw on the considerable experience of the Environmental Protection Network (**EPN**), a non-profit offering the expertise and networks of former EPA staff to deliver TA, including supporting participants in connecting with subject matter experts (SMEs) and government officials to advance justice goals.

REACT4EJ university partners will provide vital in-person training and TA, while cross-cutting efforts and material development activities are managed through the CO. **The administrative structure and multidisciplinary expertise of our network, local academic institutions and a global not-for-profit organization, provides the best value to EPA to**

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Region 5

-TCTAC Selectees-

1) Blacks in Green (BIG)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

2) University of Minnesota

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

EPA REGION V Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC) Program Community-Led Alliance by Blacks in Green & Partners

Geographic Area

EPA Region 5

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin & 35 Tribal Lands

Applicant Information

Blacks in Green (BIG), Ms. Naomi Davis, Founder & CEO
6011 S St Lawrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60637
naomidavis@blacksingreen.org 773-678-9541

Blacks in Green: The BIG Organization in Brief

BIG, NFP " Blacks in Green" is an environmental justice economic development 501c3 organization that serves as a bridge and catalyst among communities and their stakeholders in the design and development of green, self-sustaining, mixed-income, walkable-villages – so that every household can ultimately walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, walk-to-play – and neighbor dollars can circulate locally to limit the greenhouse gasses overheating our planet. BIG conveys the risks of global warming; the health/wealth opportunities of the new green economy; the power of neighbors to lead in their city's enviro-economic policy and practice; and the primacy of land and business ownership. Our approach links our heritage to environmental/economic justice through the Sustainable Square Mile.

List of Project Partners

1. The Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA)
2. Black Environmental Leaders (BEL)
3. Environmental Health Watch (EHW)
4. The School of Public Health, University of Illinois, Chicago
5. The Smart Energy Design Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (SEDAC)

Project Abstract

The most just, equitable, and enduring solutions emanate when the communities most affected by the problem take the lead. Strong, collaborative organizations and experts form this cross-disciplinary coalition. Led by BIG, the thought leaders, subject matter experts, staff, and stakeholders recognize that the participants themselves are the most valuable partners. United in mission and vision, the team is representative of communities served. The partners embrace varied skill sets and geographic terrain covering the six states and tribal lands. This powerful network will guide participants toward environmental and energy justice resources through customized training on program development and administration, clean-energy workforce development, evaluation and tracking of measurables, customized grant assistance, identifying alternative funding sources and advancement of positive community policy and practice. Services provided will enable participants to design solutions, obtain needed funding and resources, and direct activities and resources toward their identified needs with emphasis on those with "capacity constraints, including underserved communities and rural/remote communities, historically underserved and disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards and health consequences."

The Innovative Process of Program Design: What can 5 years transform?

From the frontline we do more than dream a life beyond the whole-system problem common to communities of color everywhere. Every day we rise and work to weave hard won, fragmented solutions into whole cloth. Nevermind, traditional wisdom whispers to us, we cannot win in this way. Our indefatigable spirits drive us to a freedom, dignity, and triumph we inherently understand as given by the Creator — what our European cousins famously declare as 'inalienable.' Five years is a small field, but in the realm of resolve, the authors of this grant understand commitment with persistence has otherworldly power. Our journey, however imperfect it may be will create a richly needed new normal.

That belief fuels this application, which uses ordinary tools in a system change alchemy to "flip the script" of business as usual with the simple step that no movement for equity can ever thrive without: Black, Brown, and Indigenous people leading in all matters essential to thriving communities. Only by winning awards such as this can we ever gain essential self-help experience. Unbridle the standards and practices designed by and for the perpetrators of oppression, extraction, and denial of fairly shared American opportunity. The new terms of engagement between frontline people and our white allies isn't actually new. Generations of people in America recognizing their enslavement resolved to be free or die trying, made a plan, took a step, and then reached out across the bounds of race and class for others also willing to give their all. Quite naturally we see this as the sequence for liberation and for a world that works for everyone, with nothing and no one left out. Our plan shifts power from theoretical academics to experts in community well-being and from university overhead to frontline outcomes. In short order we assembled a community-centric team of experts, partnered with America's leading university researchers in energy and equity, and augmented with environmental innovators. What can be achieved? New leadership!

PROGRAM DESIGN & OPERATION OF THE EJ TCTAC

With a skilled network of specialized partners that spread across the entire six-state-and-tribal geography of EPA Region V, this Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJTCTAC) is uniquely situated to shape equity by providing assistance, training, and resources to program participants. Each operational partner has evolved through grassroots efforts, comprehensively integrating science, tradition, and culture. The consortium derives its power from the people .Located near the EPA Region 5 headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, BIG serves as the epicenter of the EJTCTAC. Powerful partners ensure that this targeted, specialized program extends throughout the 35 tribal lands, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. This dedicated team ensures that each EJTCTAC focus area outlined by EPA is carried out professionally, thoroughly, and continuously, incorporating real-time advances, arising challenges, and meaningful involvement of the communities.

To help achieve equity, in alignment with Executive Order 13985, each involved organization envisions a technical assistance center that empowers communities to remediate social, economic, and health burdens by seeking environmental and energy justice. For maximum impact, services provided engage participants at every level of readiness to design solutions, obtain needed funding and resources, and direct activities and resources toward their identified needs with emphasis on those disproportionately harmed. To best ensure that all eligible services of EJTCTAC objectives are provided throughout the entire geographic area, including remote and rural areas, 23 documented, supporting partners provide valuable assistance. The TAC will operate according to the following guiding principles:

University of Minnesota

Project Title: Community Development and Technical Assistance to Advance Environment and Energy Justice in the Great Lakes Region

Project Geographic Area: EPA Region 5

Applicant Information: Regents of the University of Minnesota
420 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street, SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070
Victoria Troxler, Sr GCO, (612) 624-9567 (vtroxler@umn.edu)

Applicant Organization: The University of Minnesota is a land-grant institution encompassing world-class education, groundbreaking research, and community-engaged outreach, ranked as a top 10 university for research activities.

List of project partners: University of Minnesota (academic), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (academic), Michigan State University (academic), Purdue University (academic), Ohio State University (academic), Great Plains Institute (non-profit), Environmental Protection Network (non-profit), Community Engineering Corps (non-profit), Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (non-profit)

Project Abstract: This proposal presents our plan to leverage existing University extension networks and technical service providers to reach remote, rural, and underserved communities across EPA Region 5, including the states of Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio and 34 Tribal Nations. The assembled individuals and institutions have long-standing connections within their states and constituencies, are well-versed in the regulations, policies, procedures, and programmatic requirements of federal, state, local, and private foundation grants, and have decades of experience providing technical assistance in the form of outreach, education, training, leadership development, grant support, and access to specialized expertise.

The proposed **Great Lakes Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Center** (TAC) is oriented around three interrelated activities: 1. identify underserved and overburdened communities who could benefit from environmental and energy-related programs, 2. build capacity for communities to engage in environmental decision making and access technical assistance, and 3. provide tailored, accessible, culturally appropriate assistance that allows communities to secure funding and resources that materially improve their social, economic, and environmental outcomes. We will deliver these activities through a coordinated network of university extension offices, nonprofit partners, and technical advisors overseen by a central hub based at the Center for Community Vitality at the University of Minnesota.Our network has experience working collaboratively with rural, remote, and underserved communities through university extension programs and long-term partnerships with community organizations. Extension programs have existing relationships across the states they serve, helping communities navigate federal funding opportunities, providing educational workshops, and delivering site-specific technical assistance in partnership with state agencies. Activating extension staff that represent "boots on the ground" will be especially critical in reaching rural and remote communities throughout Region 5. Network partners Great Plains Institute and the Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association have track records of providing customized and culturally appropriate technical assistance to underserved communities on a range of programs, from community solar to weatherization and energy efficiency training. Partnerships with the Environmental Protection Network and the Community Engineering Corps bring technical, policy, and engineering expertise, including experience working with a range of communities of all capacities. Collectively, the TAC network represents individuals and programs with expertise in community development, renewable energy, tribal governments, community engagement, environmental justice, air and water pollution, natural resource management, environmental remediation and restoration, and disaster resilience, among other environmental and energy issues. This proposal creates a structure that aligns, coordinates, and amplifies existing efforts into a cohesive network that greatly expands the quality and reach of energy and environmental justice assistance, with a focus on communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health risks.

Region 6

-TCTAC Selectees-

1) **Deep South Center for Environmental Justice**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

2) **New Mexico State University**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

New Mexico State University

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: South Central Environmental Justice Resource Center (SCEJRC)

Project Geographic Region: EPA Geographic Region #6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)

Applicant Name: New Mexico State University, 1025 Stewart Street, Las Cruces, NM 88003

Main Contact Information: Patricia Sullivan, Associate Dean for Outreach and Recruitment

Applicant Organizational Background:

New Mexico State University (NMSU) is a land grant university and classified as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) under Title III and Title V programs administered by the Office of Postsecondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education. NMSU's Carnegie classification is "R2: Doctoral Universities with Higher Research Activity." The National Science Foundation (NSF) has ranked NMSU in the top 18% of all institutions, 2nd in expenditures in life sciences among High Hispanic Enrollment Institutions and third among High Hispanic Enrollment institutions without a medical school. NMSU's main campus faculty stands at 972, 36% of whom identify as racial minority and 52% are women. In fall 2021, NMSU main campus enrolled 13,904 students, 58% of whom were Hispanic and 58% female. In the same period, 68% of students applied for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Project Partners:

NMSU (*Academic*-College of Engineering and Cooperative Extension Service), Beloved Community (*Non-profit*), UT Arlington-based Texas Manufacturing Extension Program (*Academic,* TMAC), LifeCity (*Business/Industry)*, Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce (*Non-profit,* SFGCC), Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana (*Non-profit*), Arkansas Capital Corporation (*Business/Industry,* ACC), Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry Association (*Non-profit,* GSREIA), Together Louisiana (*Non-profit*), and G.A.A.P. Grant Writing Training (*Non-profit*).

Project Abstract:

NMSU plans to lead an experienced team of community-based partners to create the multi-faceted *South-Central Environmental Justice Resource Center* (SCEJRC). SCEJRC activities will focus on providing relevant outreach programming and resources within EPA Geographic Region 6 to enhance environmental and energy justice, with a focus on disinvested populations in underserved communities and those in rural and remote areas. Through community-based partnerships, SCEJRC will develop an ***Equitable Leadership Model*** designed to guide equitable engagement across *two EJ impact sectors*: (1) uplifting disinvested communities through leadership, peer learning, and outreach training to ensure relevant and active engagement in future environmental and energy policy development, and (2) empowering business leaders for equitable engagement through awareness of current assets and options, and emerging economic opportunities. SCEJRC will utilize traditional and innovative strategies to develop place-based resources guided by Participatory Action Research, develop a user-friendly regional web-based portal that navigates access to technical assistance resources within EPA Region 6; and develop and deliver EJ outreach services that are geographically, demographically, culturally, and linguistically relevant, relatable and responsive to community needs (e.g., in-person, web-based, trainings, workshops). SCEJRC will proactively foster a culture of collaboration and trust to forge shared priorities and values at the local, state and regional levels for strategic place-based impact with distinct intentionality. Outcomes will be assessed annually with programming adjusted as needed to ensure the targeted populations are benefiting from the respective services and resources.

1. INTRODUCTION & PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

As a land-grant and Hispanic-Serving Institution, New Mexico State University (NMSU) has adopted a visionary approach to building capacity and engagement across a geographically and ethnically diverse educational system. Under the institutional tagline *Be Bold: Shape the Future*, NMSU core values embrace differences as an asset and actively seek to include wide-ranging perspectives to lead the broader campus community to shape the future. Building on these core values, NMSU proposes to lead an experienced team of community-based partners to create the ***South-Central Environmental Justice Resource Center (SCEJRC) Partnership Network.*** SCEJRC will be realized by a ***Leadership team*** comprised of NMSU (College of Engineering and Cooperative Extension Service), Beloved Community, LifeCity, UT Arlington-based Texas Manufacturing Extension Program (TMAC), Santa Fe's Green Chamber of Commerce (SFGCC), Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Arkansas Capital Corporation (ACC), Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry Association (GSREIA), Together Louisiana, and the non-profit G.A.A.P. Grant Writing Training. This leadership team will be amplified by an extensive network of existing outreach partnerships (chambers, NGO and philanthropic organizations, business and trade organizations, community and faith-based organizations, and government agencies) across EPA Region 6.

At core of SCEJRC's mission is equitable leadership development and the idea that *people change systems*. SCEJRC partners advocate for the need to create sustainable paths to regional racial and economic equity. This connects to a fundamental concept developed by Beloved Community, a SCEJRC Leadership Partner, that people change systems.

- **People**: We believe that people are the greatest unit of change. When people embrace shared values, they maintain systems that amplify those values.
- **Change**: We believe that everyone has an obligation to make personally relevant change. When our leaders change, they also accelerate structural change for the organizations they lead.
- **Systems**: We believe that the default systems in our country are designed to segregate. When we question and challenge the default, we can dismantle it and build equitable systems in its place.

As a team of equity leaders, SCEJRC believes that in order to dismantle systems of privilege and oppression that result in forms like environmental injustice, individuals have to be comfortable acknowledging their own gaps and learning areas. Foundational to realizing equity and justice requires the ability and willingness to talk about race, class, power, and privilege, even when it's uncomfortable. This framework is supported by the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit (Network, 2022) that stresses the importance of focusing on "the rights to safe and healthy environments," "equal partnership," "mutual respect," "cultural integrity," and the "need for urban and rural ecological policies." These Principles highlight the necessity of active community-based engagement in problem solving and decision making in order to address the long-term solutions to energy and environmental issues (Williamson, 2020). SCEJRC seeks to not just uplift leaders in underserved communities, but empower them to drive regional transformation for a more equitable and sustainable world.

SCEJRC will build on evidence-based research in *community capacity theory*, whose foundation tracks to community development practice. The practice of building capacity focuses on

Region 7

-TCTAC Selectees-

1) Wichita State University

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Wichita State University

PROJECT SUMMARY PAGE

Project Title	Promoting Environmental Justice in EPA Region 7 through a Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center at the Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University
Project Geographic Area	Entire EPA Region 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Federally Recognized Tribes
Applicant Information	Wichita State University on behalf of its Environmental Finance Center Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, Kansas 67260-0007 Tonya Bronleewe, Director – Principal Investigator Environmental Finance Center at WSU tonya.bronleewe@wichita.edu | 316-978-6638

Brief Description of Applicant Organization
The Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University provides multi-environmental media training, technical assistance, applied research, tools, and resources to communities in EPA R7, with special focus on small and disadvantaged communities, to build capacity for addressing environmental and environmental finance challenges.

Project Partners	Center for Rural Affairs (nonprofit service provider) Climate and Energy Project (nonprofit service provider) Community Engineering Corps (nonprofit service provider) Environmental Protection Network (nonprofit service provider) Iowa Environment Council (nonprofit service provider) Kansas Rural Center (nonprofit service provider) Kansas State University Engineering Extension (academic) Metropolitan Congregations United (faith-based)

Project Abstract
Over the next five years, the Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University proposes to establish and operate an Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center. The purpose of the Center will be to build the capacity of individuals, organizations, and institutions who serve underserved and disadvantaged communities in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, and adjoining indigenous nations, to make meaningful advances towards environmental and energy equity at the local, state, regional, and federal levels. Through community engagement, trainings, technical assistance, applied research, tool development, community assessments, and more, the Center will build a community's ability to participate in environmental justice and energy justice decision-making at all levels of government, find and apply for grants, and engage with the private sector to be part of energy and infrastructure project design and development.

1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

A. Program Design and Operations of the EJ TCTAC

Program Design and Delivering Services

The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at Wichita State University (WSU or University) is uniquely positioned to seamlessly set-up and conduct the business of an Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC or Center) for the entirety of EPA Region 7 (R7) including Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Federally Recognized Tribes. The EFC currently serves large, small, rural, remote, and tribal communities; nonprofits; businesses; local governments; and state and federal agencies across the Heartland. The establishment of the EJ TCTAC as part of the EFC WSU will advance its vision of thriving communities, empowered to take actions that enhance their environmental and financial health to improve the quality of life for everyone in EPA R7.

The cornerstone of this proposal is the EJ TCTAC's role as listener to underserved communities who have historically and systematically been disproportionately impacted by environmental, energy, climate, and public health adversities. Through an engagement and community assessment process the Center will learn from communities about their burdens, barriers, priorities, and opportunities, then respond to the unique community needs with training, assistance, support, and resources. The result will be an increase in a community's capacity to identify, apply for, and receive grants, and to lead efforts that improve environmental justice and energy justice outcomes.

The EJ TCTAC will serve as a hub for information, training, resources, technical assistance (TA), and connection for addressing environmental justice and energy justice concerns in underserved communities in R7. The Center will help rural, remote, marginalized, and underserved communities build capacity by assisting with engagement of underserved populations; facilitating needs assessments to identify and prioritize environmental and energy justice challenges; providing TA and applying expertise to help communities respond to specific barriers and opportunities; and providing training and support to identify, develop, and manage grants and other funding opportunities. Activities of the Center will include both 1) general services and 2) targeted community engagement and services.

General Services include *call-center* availability to respond to requests for information or services (phone, email, online forms, direct messaging through social media, etc.), and provision of regular trainings on topics with wide interest. To start, grant trainings and civic engagement trainings will be provided in a variety of locations and formats. Additional regular/general trainings will be added as capacity building topics are identified as commonly needed by a widespread audience. Call-center, general training, and requested TA will be accessible to all underserved communities who wish to engage. As specific community needs are identified, activities will shift toward coordinating TA through partners best suited to address each identified challenge or need.

Targeted Community Engagement will be developed for communities identified as having a greater need for support in addressing environmental injustices. The Center will focus on communities of greatest need (CGN), identified using a set of metrics determined through research to define rural, remote, and underserved communities facing environmental injustices. The Center will concentrate resources in these communities by coordinating focused outreach, developing community assessments, and supporting with activities that respond to the assessment results.

Region 8

-TCTAC Selectees-

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Region 9

-TCTAC Selectees-

1) **University of Arizona**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

2) **San Diego State University**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

University of Arizona

TITLE: **Western Environmental Science Technical Assistance Center for Environmental Justice (WEST EJ Center)**

GEOGRAPHIC AREA: EPA Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU)

APPLICANT INFORMATION: Arizona Board of Regents, University of Arizona
Marcel Villalobos, Assistant Director Post-award Services
Sponsored Projects Services
PO Box 210158B, Rm 538
Tucson, AZ 85721-0158
Telephone: 520-626-6000
E-mail: sponsor@email.arizona.edu

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT ORGANIZATION: The University of Arizona (UA) is both a land-grant institution and a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). Mission Statement: "We will continuously improve how we educate and innovate so we can lead the way in developing adaptive problem-solvers capable of tackling our greatest challenges." The WEST EJ Center will be operated by the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH) in collaboration with other UA units including the: Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center (SWEHSC, NIEHS P30), Western Regional Public Health Training Center (WRPHTC, HRSA), Arizona Prevention Center Participatory Evaluation Institute (PEI, CDC), and the Indigenous Resilience Center (IRes).

PROJECT PARTNERS: Sonoran Environmental Research Institute (SERI) (AZ non-profit)
Public Health Institute (PHI) (CA non-profit)
University of Southern California (USC) (CA academic)
Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity (NV academic)
Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI) (HI non-profit)

PROJECT ABSTRACT: The mission of the Western Environmental Science Technical Assistance Center for Environmental Justice (WEST EJ Center) is to work as authentic partners with communities towards environmental and energy justice (EEJ) by being a one-stop shop for hands-on technical assistance, multi-faceted training, and other eligible forms of assistance, resources, and support to program participants. The WEST EJ Center will serve the entire geographic area of EPA Region 9. We have organized our approach utilizing three Thrusts specifically aligned to meet the objectives of this RFA, as follows: Thrust 1 Provide assistance and training to effectively identify, apply for and manage grants and other funding opportunities; Thrust 2 Increase community involvement in environmental and energy decision-making through training in advocacy, environmental science, climate change, public health, energy infrastructure, and through "Community Champion" and student internship programs; Thrust 3: Provide access to environmental and energy expertise that can assist program participants with EJ analysis, study design, protocol development, and project management. The WEST EJ Center utilizes a hub and spoke model and has established a coalition with five partners with deep community-based networks and knowledge about EEJ needs across Region 9. The Central Hub includes several established units within the University of Arizona and will operate through the following teams: leadership, training, capacity building, technical assistance, marketing outreach, and evaluation. Outputs and outcomes are directly aligned with the RFA. The WEST EJ Center will utilize innovative and participatory quantitative and qualitative evaluation techniques to provide a narrative for the project to monitor progress, share success stories, and improve WEST EJ Center activities. The EPA's promise of clean air, clean water and safe land has not reached many historically marginalized communities, due to a complex interaction of physical, social, and economic factors. In developing the WEST EJ Center, we have brought together a diverse coalition with longstanding relationships and extensive expertise in working with communities to overcome these barriers to work towards EEJ with the aim of assuring self-determination and enabling the meaningful involvement of all people in developing and implementing environmental regulations and policies in their own communities (EPA Strategic Plan, Goal 2).

San Diego State University

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: EPA Region 9 TCTAC: SDSU's Center for Community Energy and Environmental Justice

Project Geographic Area: EPA Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU)

Applicant Information: San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182. Principal Investigator: Dr. Rebecca Lewison, rlewison@sdsu.edu

Brief Description of Applicant Organization: San Diego State University (SDSU) is a designated HSI and AANAPISI Serving Institution with a 125-year history of academic excellence. The mission of SDSU is to provide research-oriented, high-quality education for undergraduate and graduate students and to contribute to the solution of problems through excellence and distinction in teaching, research, and service. With an annual research budget of $164.5 million, SDSU has emerged as a leader of regional and national initiatives in public health, health disparities, and air and water quality, pioneering nationally recognized initiatives in underserved communities.

Project Partners: SDSU Community Climate Action Network (academic), Environmental Protection Network (industry), Center for Creative Land Recycling (non-profit), University of San Diego's Energy Policy Initiatives Center (academic), Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (tribal), Desert Research Institute (non-profit), Climate Science Alliance (non-profit education), Pacific RISA (research), University of Guam's Center of Island Sustainability (academic), Public Health Alliance (non-profit), and Arizona State University (academic).

Project Abstract: The purpose of SDSU's TCTAC for EPA Region 9 - *The Center for Community Energy and Environmental Justice* - is to empower communities in EPA's Region 9 by providing critical services to qualified community organizations. These services will expand participants' capacity to meet community-defined priorities and participate meaningfully in decision-making processes, focusing specifically on underserved, rural, remote, tribal, and indigenous communities. Building capacity in, providing support for, and collaborating with communities often most vulnerable and affected by environmental challenges is central to advancing environmental and energy justice. SDSU TCTAC's mission is to leverage and strengthen community assets by creating an accessible in-person and virtual community that builds capacity and provides technical assistance in energy and environmental justice centered around four unifying objectives: 1) **Outreach and partnership building**, 2) **Development of resources**, 3) **Transfer of knowledge and building community capacity**, 4) **Evaluation, adaptation, and innovation**. Using a hub and spoke model, SDSU TCTAC will create a nexus of centralized expertise and coordination for each critical service for Region 9, which connects eligible organizations with established partners in each state/territory to coordinate, deliver, and monitor uptake of key services while tracking the outcomes and outputs from the communities we serve.

Region 10

-TCTAC Selectees-

1) **Willamette Partnership**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

2) **University of Washington**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP

PROJECT NARRATIVE

A. COVER PAGE

Project Title: **Northwestern Environmental and Energy Justice TCTAC**
Project Geographic Area: **EPA Region 10 (all of AK, ID, OR, WA)**
Applicant Information: **Willamette Partnership**

1300 SE Stark Street, Suite 212, Portland, OR 97214
www.willamettepartnership.org, (503) 841-5466
Sara O'Brien (white), Executive Director, obrien@willamettepartnership.org
Lynny Brown (Thai, Mixed), Health Partner, lynny@willamettepartnership.org
Erin Legg (white), Finance & Operations Partner, legg@willamettepartnership.org

Description of Applicant Organization: Willamette Partnership was founded in 1996 to foster innovative solutions that benefit nature, people, and the economy in the Willamette Basin. Over the past 25 years, it has evolved to work at the intersection of environmental and human health in Oregon, Washington, and beyond. Our mission is simple: We help people and nature thrive together. Ongoing projects include InfrastructureNext (provides TA to find innovative solutions for water infrastructure), Health and Outdoors Initiative (connects Oregonians to nature), and we provide natural resource policy and strategy support to Tribes in Oregon.

List of Project Partners:

Portland State University (academic)
- Institute for Tribal Government, Direlle Calica (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs), JD
- School of Public Health, Kelly Gonzales (Cherokee), PhD
- National Policy Consensus Center, Bobby Cochran (white), PhD

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (nonprofit)
- Kristen K'eit (Tlingit), Alaska and Env Finance Center Coordinator
- Jacqueline Shirley (Yupik), Rural Development Specialist
- Evelyn Agnus (Yupik), Rural Development

Alai Community Consulting (business)
- Alai Reyes-Santos (Taino/Arawak Indian, Black, Puerto Rican, LGBTQ+, person with disability, immigrant), ACC Director
- Perla Alvarez (Chicana/Latina), Lead Collaborator

Oregon Public Health Institute (nonprofit), Becca Brownlee (health)

Verde (nonprofit)
- Oriana Magnera (white), Energy Climate and Transportation Manager
- Vivan Satterfield, Director of Strategic Partnerships
- Cheynne Holliday (Black/African American, Mixed), Water Justice Coordinator

Boise State University (academic), Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute, Jared L Talley, PhD

Kearns and West (private), Amira Streeter (Black/African American), Director

Linguava (private), Lynda Walz, Account Manager

Community Engineering Corps (nonprofit)
- Clare Haas Claveau, CECorps Program Director and COO, Engineers Without Borders USA
- Natalie Celmo, CECorps Program Engineer, Engineers without Borders USA

Total Project Cost:

Federal funds requested: $9,992,181 (approx. $2,000,000/yr) Non-federal cost-share: $96,630
Total project cost: $10,088,811 (approx. $2,017,762/yr)

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B. PROJECT SUMMARY PAGE

The Northwestern Environmental and Energy Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC) team believes that centering values of self-determination, equity, intergenerational Indigenous cultural and ceremonial practices, traditional ecological knowledge, natural resource security, stewardship, resilience, education, and community connection[1] provide a platform from which communities can heal, build power, and emerge toward futures in which everyone and mother earth thrives–no exceptions.[2] For this proposal, we use the term 'EJ' to refer to federal definitions of environmental and energy justice, AND to the ways a variety of communities impacted by environmental and energy crises are leading the charge on EJ in the region and nationally. The TCTAC will focus on underserved communities and where environmental, health, and economic burdens and capacity constraints co-occur–including Tribal and Indigenous communities, Black, Latinx, immigrant, and disabilities communities, especially in remote and rural areas.

Willamette Partnership (WP) and Portland State University's (PSU) Institute for Tribal Government (ITG) will co-manage the TCTAC with a broad diversity of partners (see cover page list) to serve Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington (all of EPA Region 10). We have built a vision for a community-driven TCTAC from our lived and shared experiences. This vision includes extensive community engagement that uplifts the EJ priorities defined by impacted communities. Examples of our team's positive contributions through past projects include staffing Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' water and energy/climate initiatives, assisting Idaho rural communities in building climate resilience, facilitating the Oregon Water Futures project where communities of color advocate for equitable water policies, and providing solid waste removal, water, and community development for American Indians and Alaskan Natives. The Northwestern TCTAC's priorities and services will be shaped by a Community Leadership Assembly composed of TCTAC participants and partners. Through the Assembly's guidance and the TCTAC's services (community engagement, cohort learning and capacity building, technical assistance, and storytelling), we anticipate the following **outputs <u>each year</u>: 80 community engagement actions,** including community meeting facilitations, translation/interpretation activities, 1:1 conversations, and other actions that over five years reach a significant number of EJ communities (e.g., nearly all of the federally recognized tribes in ID, OR, and WA, at least 50% of the tribes in AK, and immigrant communities from Mesoamerica, East Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Asia, and people with disabilities); **60 direct technical assistance projects** (55 in year 1) that range from light-touch navigating of existing resources, to medium-touch preparation for receiving federal funds or updating community needs assessments, to more intensive supports for construction projects or policy analysis; **Cohort-style learning and leadership development for 80 community leaders and members** in data justice, navigating public and private funding, just energy transitions, engaging and influencing policy, environmental justice leadership institute, and five students supporting the TCTAC; and **storytelling and accountability** including a quarterly newsletter, biannual case study/video shorts of success, data visualization tools of EJ priorities, monthly social media, and an annual sharing of feedback, stories, lessons, and actions in addition to the EPA/DOE required reporting.

Ultimately, these activities are intended to build a network that strengthens community connections rooted in Indigenous values[3] and the following **outcomes by Year 5** from the communities who participate in the TCTAC's training and Technical Assistance (TA): at least **50 communities applying for at least $50M** in public and private funding; at least **50 communities engaging in and influencing public decisions** such as commenting on regulatory rulemaking, engaging in government advisory committees, or introducing local or state legislation; a significant strengthening of multi-community partnerships to address EJ opportunities; and a significant improvement in trust amongst EJ communities, government, the private sector, and others with the power to support a community's vision of future where everyone thrives–no exceptions.

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[1] Adapted from Donatuto, J., R. Gregory & L. Campbell. (2016). <u>Developing responsive indicators of Indigenous community health.</u> Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health, 13, 899; doi:10.3390/ijerph13090899.

[2] Thriving Together: A Springboard for Equitable Recovery and Resilience in Communities Across America. https://thriving.us/why-thriving/.

[3] There is no one set of Indigenous values. Some of the values communicated in research and referenced for this TCTAC come from Jacob, M. M., K.L. Gonzales, D. Chappell Belcher, J.L. Ruef, & S. RunningHawk Johnson. (2021). Indigenous cultural values counter the damages of white settler colonialism. Environmental Sociology, 7(2), 134–146; doi:10.1080/23251042.2020.1841370.

University of Washington

Project Title: Pacific Northwest Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Center

Project Geographic Area: Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA)

Applicant Information: University of Washington, DEOHS, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite 100, Seattle, WA 98105 (Contact: Edmund Seto, PhD, eseto@uw.edu)

Brief Description of Applicant Organization: The University of Washington (UW) is one of the oldest state-supported institutions of higher education on the Pacific coast. The Seattle campus is made up of 16 schools and colleges. The primary mission of the university is the preservation, advancement, and dissemination of knowledge. As a public university we are deeply committed to serving all our citizens. We collaborate with partners to bring knowledge and discovery home to elevate the quality of lives of those in our region. We have a strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion[1]. In the Tribal context, the UW has advanced and grown their Tribal relations by honoring Tribal nations by hosting an annual Tribal Leadership Summit where memoranda of understandings are signed to express an ongoing commitment to strengthening campus-wide departments and programs[2].

List of Project Partners: Akiak Native Community, Swinomish Tribe- Education Division, Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission (KRIFC) (Tribe); Northwest Indian College, American Indian Studies Department (academic), Center for American Indian & Indigenous Studies (academic); Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute (Federal agency research institute); Clean Energy Institute, Center for Exposures, Diseases, Genomics, and Environment, Industrial Assessment Center, Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety, NW Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center; (academic), National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) (practice); El Centro de la Raza, El Proyecto Bienestar, Front and Centered, Sound Defense Alliance (community orgs)

Project Abstract: The **objective** of the Pacific Northwest Environmental Justice Thriving Communities (PNW-EJTC) Center is to provide technical assistance services to Region 10 program participants that will strengthen their capacity and effectiveness in applying to and successfully managing environmental and energy justice (EEJ) grants and programs. The center's **activities** will include online/in-person outreach and engagement with regional participants, establishment of funded partnerships to foster community leadership, hosting of workshops and trainings, and consultations with center-affiliated faculty and students. The center will provide program participants with assistance in (1) conducting environmental justice analyses and needs assessments, (2) identifying, applying for, and managing EEJ grants and programs, (3) facilitating meaningful engagement with other EEJ stakeholders and decision-makers, (4) building capacity to strengthen and focus their work on EEJ issues, and (5) fostering community leadership in EEJ solutions. The center's **geographic focus** will reach tribal, rural, remote, and other underserved areas by collaborating with other established Region 10 focused UW centers. To ensure services meet evolving regional needs, the center's will be guided by a Performance Measurement Plan and input from two advisory boards (AB): the Tribal Advisory Panel (TAP) and the Community Governing Board (CGB). Main center **outputs** will be the number of program participants and partnerships, documented outreach efforts, utilization of services, evaluation reports from AB and program participants. Center **outcomes** will be program participants' increased capacity and effectiveness in applying for environmental/energy justice opportunities, increased participation in defining technical service needs and offerings for the region, and successful development, implementation, and continuation of environmental and energy justice programs led by PNW-EJTC program partners.

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[1] University of Washington, "Diversity Blueprint 2022-2026: Actions toward Access, Inclusion, and Equity," 2022, http://bernadettes16.sg-host.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/UW-Diversity-Blueprint-2022%E2%80%932026_WEB_a11y.pdf.

[2] University of Washington, "Memorandum of Understanding Between Northwest Regional Tribes and the University of Washington," 2010, https://uw-s3-cdn.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2013/03/24030853/tribal-summit-mou2011.pdf.

National

-TCTAC Selectees-

1) **International City/County Management Association (ICMA)**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

2) **Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC)**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

3) **National Indian Health Board**

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

ICMA
777 N Capitol Street NE
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002

Tad McGalliard
Managing Director
Research, Development &
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202-962-3563 (office)
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PROJECT TITLE

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THRIVING COMMUNITIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (NATIONAL EJ TC TAC)

PROJECT GEOGRAPHIC AREA

NATIONWIDE

APPLICANT

INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

ICMA is the professional association for local government leaders, managers, staff, and stakeholders working to create stronger communities worldwide. Its mission is advance professional local government through leadership, management, innovation, and ethics. For nearly five decades, ICMA has been a frequent partner with EPA and other funders to deliver training and education, technical assistance, research, and peer to peer engagement on the environmental and energy challenges facing local communities. Most recently, ICMA has partnered with EPA and DOE on technical assistance programs such as the National Brownfields Training Conference (2003-present), the Region 4 Technical Assistance for Brownfields (TAB) initiative (2021-2024), SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (2010-2016), and SolSmart 1.0 (2016-2022) and SolSmart 2.0 (2022 - 2027).

PROJECT PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

- Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (academic, tribal)
- National League of Cities (elected officials, local government)
- National Forum for Black Public Administrators (local government)
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network (local government, community organizations)

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The ICMA Team is proposing a vision for a National EJ TC TAC that focuses on local and tribal government stakeholders and the community organizations with which they frequently partner. Our proposed approach includes leveraging the substantial training/education, outreach, technical assistance, content, and peer to peer capabilities and capacities in support of those small, rural, and underserved places. The approach includes in-person and virtual technical assistance-based training on environmental and energy justice topics including grant funding, community collaboration, and other related challenges and issues. Our strategy will leverage the power of our membership bases and other professional networks to provide peer to peer technical assistance advisory services, one to one coaching, and on the ground and virtual support. In addition to marshalling our team's existing assets in support of a National EJ TC TAC, a key strategy will be to seek out additional federal, philanthropic, and other resources to amplify EPA's investment and as part of a longer-term sustainability strategy that goes beyond the period of anticipated federal funding. Our objectives are to create meaningful programs, products, and services that will substantially elevate the capacity of small, rural, and traditionally under resourced communities during this transformative period of federal investment to right the wrongs of the past.

SECTION 1.0 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, coupled with previous investments through the American Rescue Plan Act as well as annual appropriations for traditional programs managed by EPA, HUD, DOT, FEMA, and other federal agencies have created a generational opportunity to advance environmental and energy justice, invest in a sustainable economy, and build thriving communities for all. Through the Justice40 guidelines, the federal government is rightly focusing attention and investment to ensure that disadvantaged and marginalized communities, including those in remote and rural places, have an equitable opportunity to benefit from this investment era.

ICMA in partnership with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), National League of Cities (NLC), and Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) presents a vision for a National EJ TC TAC that is premised on proven approaches for increasing the capacity of our proposed target audiences in local and tribal governments as well as their community partners. Local and tribal governments, as well as the community-based organizations and other local stakeholders directly impacted by environmental injustice, are integral partners in building stronger, more equitable, and resilient communities.

The Need for New Environmental and Energy Justice Programming for Local and Tribal Governments and Community Partners

There are more than 35,000 general purpose local governments (cities, counties, towns, and townships), many of them small towns and rural places, and 574 federally designated tribes across the United States. Within this governance ecosystem are thousands of communities that have faced a combination of water, air, hazardous waste, and other environmental impacts for years and in many cases, generations. Those disproportionately burdened by environmental hardship often face resource and other capacity challenges that severely inhibit their ability to identify and implement holistic solutions. As the level of government directly connected to communities and the residents that call them home, local, and tribal governments are uniquely positioned to advance environmental and energy justice—but they need new tools, training, and technical assistance to engage their residents and community partners in this work.

A. Program Design and Operation of the National EJ TC TAC

A.1 Plan an Approach for Establishing and Operating a National EJ TC TAC

Upon award, ICMA will ensure that administrative startup is swift and effective. ICMA will work with EPA to design and implement a series of project team kickoff meetings that will inform initial rollout, finalize performance measures (outputs and outcomes), and establish effective collaboration between the EJ TC TAC team and EPA. Key outputs of the kickoff meetings will be the first annual workplan, outlining activities, tasks, milestones, and deliverables, as well as a five-year strategy of goals, objectives, and performance measures (e.g., number of communities served, individuals trained, and resources leveraged) for the project. These two management tools are intended to help ensure that the proposed EJ TC TAC is focused on providing the best possible support to communities and other stakeholders dealing with environmental and energy justice challenges.

A.2. Programs, Products and Services of the EJTCAC

The ICMA team's approach for delivering programs, products, and services is built around five strategies for effectively working with local governments, tribes, and community stakeholders. Sections **A.2.1 through A.2.5** below provide further detail on the ICMA Team's proposed activities of a National EJ TC TAC.

PROJECT NARRATIVE / WORK PLAN

A. PROJECT SUMMARY PAGE

Title: *Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC)*

Geographic Area: National

Applicant: Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), 535 Stone Cutters Way, Montpelier VT 05602. Sonia Joshi, Director, United States (U.S.) Programs: sjoshi@sustain.org, 734-215-5673

ISC is a global non-profit organization founded in 1991. Its work drives environmental and energy solutions by building people-centered community resilience and providing training, technical assistance (TA), and other support to underserved and environmentally overburdened communities. Our Mission is to help communities address environmental, economic, and social challenges to build a better future shaped and shared by all. Since 2008, ISC has worked with rural, remote, and urban communities across the U.S., empowering government and community leaders to transform their communities and accelerate environmental and energy solutions.

Core Project Partners: To implement the core functions of a National EJ TCTAC, ISC has formed a lean team of core partners. We will engage a wider network of stakeholders in collaborative activities and partnerships during the project.

- Atma Connect (Atma), a non-profit technology organization
- American Society for Adaptation Professionals (ASAP), a non-profit association

Project Abstract: The ISC team's experience and expertise offer the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a robust national coordination mechanism that will build capacity, reduce duplication, and use complementary services to support all levels of the EJ TCTAC Program. Using our networks, including ISC's *National Climate Leaders of Color Network* and ASAP's members, we will establish a National EJ TCTAC that will build the capacity of regional TCTACs, local leaders, communities, and TA providers through needs-based, virtual, and in-person support and coordinated activities, tools, and resources. A key component of the National TCTAC will be ensuring the measurable success of the 10 regional centers. When regional needs emerge, our team will provide direct services to program participants and communities.

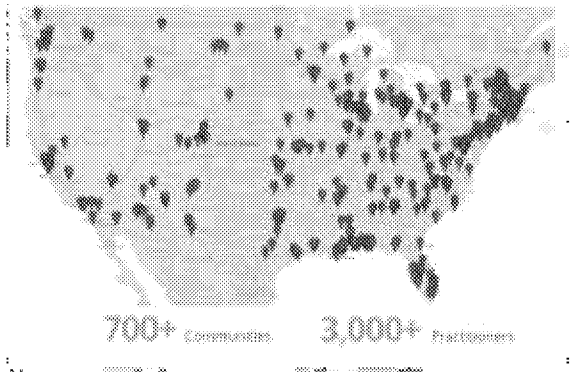
In coordination with the EPA, Department of Energy (DOE), and regional center teams, we will quickly mobilize a national center with flexible, three-pronged services that can adapt to diverse needs through 1) tailored support to regional TCTACs via peer learning, tools, and information sharing; 2) support to underserved communities using ISC's community engagement expertise; and 3) the development of an online National EJ TCTAC Platform for interactive communication, networking, collaboration, and greater funding access. Using the National Platform website, social media, direct contact, and other outreach, we will connect program participants, TA providers, potential partners, the regional TCTACs, and other stakeholders to each other and funding opportunities. Within the first three months, we will organize planning and outreach; by the end of Year 1, the ISC team will have initiated tailored support and launched the online Platform. By Years 2 and 3, our team will provide iterative TA, partnership facilitation, capacity building, financing facilitation, and other services to the 10 regional TCTACs and program participants. By the project's end, these and other activities will have positioned program participants—particularly underserved and rural and remote communities—to successfully access grant opportunities and to participate and engage in environmental and energy justice decision-making, creating tangible impact for their communities.

B. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION, FACILITATION, PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

B.1. Partnerships to Achieve the Objectives of the EJ TCTAC Program

ISC has assembled a lean core team in partnership with Atma and ASAP that will enable us to mobilize quickly and maximize support to the regional centers and underserved populations.

ISC's Work Across the United States



- **ISC** is an international non-profit leader in building capacity and providing TA to civil society organizations, small to mid-size enterprises (SMEs), and all levels of government to address the inequities of climate change and environmental and energy injustices. In the U.S. alone, we have engaged over 700 communities and more than 3,000 actors in our community-based work. With over 30 years of experience, including for multi-million-dollar U.S. Government (USG)-funded programs, ISC has robust management and financial systems and experienced staff to successfully manage a National EJ TCTAC project.
- **Atma** is an award-winning non-profit technology organization that specializes in creating web-based platforms that reach last-mile communities, enable localization, and drive support and funding to smaller organizations. It has created community-serving platforms, many of them featured on Atma's website, that have reached over 10 million people in hard-to-reach locations. Atma takes a lean, adaptive, and human-centered design approach to build tools that unlock trapped knowledge and engage and activate unheard voices and underserved communities while creating measurable, real-world change.[1]
- **ASAP** is a nationwide non-profit that has significant experience with rural and remote communities. It connects and supports practitioners, TA providers, and affected individuals and organizations to become more climate-resilient. ASAP builds individual and organizational capacity to address climate impacts through strong professional networks, fora to exchange best practices and build partnerships, and training and education opportunities. The ASAP member network includes over 1,000 professionals and 40 organizations.

Our team has an extensive network of consultants, non-profits, business and financing contacts, and universities that we are ready to engage (in compliance with USG procurement regulations). During the project, we will manage a database of nationwide resources for use across all TCTACs. Exhibit 1 outlines the roles and responsibilities of our core team members.

Exhibit 1: ISC Team Members' Roles and Responsibilities
ISC will be responsible for oversight, quality control, and compliance for all aspects of the project, including those performed by sub-awardees or later partners. ISC will lead needs assessments of regional TCTACs and, in collaboration with partners and other TCTAC centers and TA providers, design and deliver capacity building, TA, and other services to TCTACs and/or their beneficiary communities. ISC will hold regular coordination and work planning meetings, checking in at least quarterly with the EPA, DOE, and regional centers to integrate

[1] www.atmaconnect.org/tools/

Project Title: **National Indian Health Board** Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center

Geographic Area: Nationwide, specific to federally recognized Tribes

Applicant Information: National Indian Health Board
910 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington DC, 20003
202-507-4070

Applicant Organization: The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) is a 501(c)3 non-profit entity serving all federally recognized Tribes since its founding in 1972. Established by the Tribes to advocate as the united voice of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, NIHB seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People. Governed by a 12-member Board of Directors appointed by the Tribes in each of the 12 Indian Health Service (IHS) service areas, NIHB has a robust body of work in public health, community wellness, and environmental health, including the management of a cohort of Climate Ready Tribes through the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)'s Climate Ready Initiative.

NIHB currently has over 25 ongoing projects, which are funded by private and federal funders, including the CDC, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and Indian Health Services (IHS). EJ TCTAC will be housed within NIHB's Environmental Health Programs Department, which includes a robust body of work on climate change, lead exposure, food safety, and other environmental health issues that disproportionately affect American Indians and Alaska Natives. Through this department, NIHB has partnered with regional Area Indian Health Boards (AIHBs) to create materials—including a GIS data mapping tool—elevating the link between environmental health and the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to programmatic work, NIHB provides policy analysis to Tribes on health issues and coordinates Tribal regulatory work with agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). NIHB advises Tribal leaders serving on Tribal advisory committees at the agency level.

List of Project Partners: As the voice for Tribal health at the national level, NIHB expects to continue and deepen its partnerships throughout this project serving the 574 federally recognized Tribes. NIHB works closely with each of the eleven AIHBs across the country, the Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs), and Tribal governments. NIHB has partnered with non-profit organizations in this field, such as ecoAmerica, the National Tribal Air Association, and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, and looks forward to deepening those partnerships as a result of the EJ TCTAC project. This project will allow NIHB to expand its footprint in health and environmental justice career development through partnerships with Tribal Colleges/Universities (TCUs) and other minority-serving educational institutions.

Project Abstract:

Indigenous peoples have known for millennia that the health of a person and the community is tied to the health of the environment. Due to centuries of colonialism, Tribal communities are some of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and some of the most environmentally

exploited. For example, one in four Superfund sites is located on or near reservation land. At the same time, Tribal nations had the tools and resources needed to address these issues forcibly taken away by paternalistic laws and policies. In the corrective effort to realize environmental and energy justice and to achieve the goals of the Justice40 Initiative, the federal government must ensure Indian Country has sustained access to tools and resources to tackle these issues in the way that works best for Tribes. In short, Tribes need a Technical Assistance Center devoted to Indian Country. NIHB, as the national voice for Tribal health, is the natural entity to serve as this one-stop shop for Tribes.

The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC) will allow NIHB to provide services related to environmental and energy justice at the Tribal level. Like all NIHB projects, the EJ TCTAC will cover the national geographic area and serve federally recognized Tribes throughout the United States. NIHB will use a portion of the award to create funding opportunities open to federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations to conduct environmental and energy justice projects in Indian Country. NIHB has considerable experience managing subawards. NIHB will leverage the 2018-2019 environmental health discussion sessions and the 2021-2022 Regional Environmental Health Summits hosted by NIHB and supported by CDC to address environmental justice concerns in Indian Country, such as the impacts of climate change; external pollutants in the air, land, and water; Superfund sites; and the transition to clean energy sources.