

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANTMAKING PROGRAM SELECTEES

Project Summaries by Geographic Region

The following profiles are of the 11 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers selected to participate in a cooperative agreement with the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR). The following key points were pulled from the initial applications submitted at the close of the request for proposals in late June of 2023 and include brief description of the Grantmakers proposed goals and objectives, their location the award amount, proposed collaborations with the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) and named partners, partner locations and ways of mitigating conflict of interest. Please note these profiles will be further developed and updated with the input of the Grantmakers by the Spring of 2024.

The Grantmakers are anticipated to make subgrants available to communities beginning in Summer 2024. The EPA has provided guidance to the Grantmaker applicants on participatory governance to ensure communities and community voices drive the structure and implementation of the Grantmakers program, as well as guidance on mitigating conflicts of interest. EPA will continue to work with the Grantmakers throughout this entirety of this program period. Each Grantmaker was carefully considered for their stated approach and their ability to meet the needs of the program guidance stated.

The 11 Grantmakers consist of regional selectees (i.e., Regional Grantmakers) who will issue subgrants to communities in specific EPA Regions, as well as national selectees (i.e., National Grantmakers) who will provide additional support, coordination, and oversight to the subgrantees, applicants, and the Regional Grantmakers themselves, as well as issue additional subgrants to fill potential gaps in the regions. Ten Grantmakers are receiving \$50 million each with one selectee, Research Triangle Institute, receiving \$100 million to serve as both a Regional Grantmaker serving communities in EPA Region 4 and as a National Grantmaker in which part of their responsibility is providing subgrants to communities in EPA Region 7. Collectively, the 11 Grantmakers will issue thousands of subgrants to disadvantaged communities over the next three years.

National Grantmaker Profiles (3 Grantmakers)

National Grantmaker East

Recipient: Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC)

Hub Location: Montpelier, VT

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (EJ TCGM) - National

Regional Coverage: Regions 1 – 3

Partners:

- Emerald Cities Collaborative (Washington, DC)

- Groundwork USA (Yonkers, NY)
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network (Washington, DC)
- Trust for Public Lands (San Francisco, CA)
- River Network (Boulder, CO)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

Institute for Sustainable Communities is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1991 with a mission to create equitable solutions through collaborative partnerships that support communities disproportionately impacted by the global climate crisis. In 2023, ISC was selected as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC). For the Grantmaker program, they will leverage their expertise, experience, networks, and their five partners to provide equity-centered coordination services to the regional Grantmakers. They will develop a National Grantmaker Website that will host a Data Visualization Hub linked to the National Evaluation and Tracking System with public-facing grantmaking information and data tracking and evaluation tools for regional Grantmakers. They will fill gaps in Grantmaking coverage with the objective of ensuring that communities most impacted by environmental injustices are poised to receive funding. Their team’s collective community-based relationships and networks, equity-centered expertise, and well-honed tools and materials enable them to offer flexible, on-demand services and solutions to the EPA and regional Grantmakers to ensure a successful TCGM Program. ISC’s implementation of the TCGM Program rests on participatory governance approaches, and their partners are key to the success of design, decision-making, and achieving the results of the program.

National Grantmaker Central *also the Region 4 Grantmaker

Recipient: Research Triangle Institute

Hub Location: Research Triangle Park, NC

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$100,000,000

Title: Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (EJ TCGM)

Regional Coverage: Regions 4 - 7

Partners:

- International City/County Management Association (ICMA) (Washington, DC)
- National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) (Columbia, MD)
- Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) (Charlottesville, VA)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

As a National Grantmaker, Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and their partner team will emphasize local community outreach to accelerate grant awards to communities most in need, which is an important implementation pathway for Strategy 4 of EPA’s 2022–2026 Strategic Plan, which calls for strengthening partnerships and enhancing engagement. As part of the program portfolio, they will ensure funding enables

projects that support the goals and strategies of the EPA's Strategic Plan and the broader Justice40 Initiative, such as clean and healthy air for all communities, clean and safe water for all communities, and safety of chemicals for people and the environment.

To promote engagement, RTI and their partners will establish a culture of equity by using a community-engaged transformative governance model. As part of their participatory governance approach, they will encourage individuals affiliated with eligible subrecipients to participate and serve as application reviewers to enhance their awareness of the process and the TCGM program. This approach ensures that applications are evaluated by their peers and provide capacity-building opportunities for individuals affiliated with eligible subrecipients. Embedded checks within the workflow mitigate possible conflicts of interest for each application review cycle, such as preventing individuals affiliated with active proposal(s) from reviewing within the same review cycle.

National Grantmaker West

Recipient: Climate Justice Alliance

Hub Location: Berkeley, CA

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: UNITE-EJ: United Network for Impact, Transformation, and Equity in Environmental Justice Communities

Regional Coverage: Regions 8-10

Partners:

- The Chisholm Legacy Project (Baltimore, MD)
- NDN Collective (Rapid City, SD)
- Fund for Frontline Power Governing Body (13 locations)
- JustFund (Oakland, CA)
- Amalgamated Foundation (Washington, DC)
- Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School (New York, NY)
- Center for the Urban Environment at Kean University (MSI) (Union, NJ)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

Through a strategic learning stance of cooperation, mutual benefit, and power building in EJ communities, UNITE-EJ (United Network for Impact, Transformation, and Equity in Environmental Justice Communities) brings together collaborators across the nation — including Regional Thriving Communities Grantmakers, Regional and National Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs), and EPA — to leverage the Thriving Communities moment. The goal of UNITE-EJ is to build capacity within EJ communities and organizations to address environmental and public health issues and to build healthy, thriving communities. The two core strategies that will advance this overall goal are to: 1) resource community-based organizations (CBOs) to address past, current, and future environmental health and justice challenges; and 2) coordinate efficient, effective, and equitable grantmaking and reporting processes across EPA's 10

regions and at the national level, thereby reducing grassroots organizations’ barriers to accessing federal resources. Climate Justice Alliance (CJA) leads the UNITE-EJ partnership through their model of EJ leadership and accountability, existing national infrastructure, and widespread coverage, along with its high-impact consortium of partners. Their replicable model of co-governance between impacted communities and government agency officials will facilitate healthy, resilient, thriving communities in areas most affected by environmental injustice and the climate crisis. UNITE-EJ will: a) coordinate outreach to EJ communities nationwide, b) synthesize best practices and standardize data collection across regions, and c) provide funding to frontline communities. Cohesive national and cross-regional implementation of TCGM, led by UNITE-EJ, will ensure strengthened EJ organizations, networked regionally — taking them from surviving to thriving. Via a participatory governance model, UNITE-EJ and its partners will collaboratively develop and implement a simplified application, review, and award process that reduces barriers to EJ organizations’ access to federal funding and expeditiously moves resources to awardees.

Regional Grantmaker Profiles (9 Profiles)

Region 1

Recipient: Health Resources in Action (HRiA)

Hub Location: Boston, MA

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: Grantmaking to Build Sustained EJ Capacity and Networks Across EPA Region 1

Location: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and 10 Tribal Nations

Partners:

- Alternatives for Community and Environment, Inc. (ACE) (Roxbury, MA)
- New England Grassroots Environment Fund, Inc. (Grassroots Fund) (Newmarket, NH)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

Health Resources in Action (HRiA), the lead applicant, is joining with two core partners, ACE and Grassroots Fund, to design and manage a comprehensive Environmental Justice (EJ) TCGM program to support community-based organizations (CBOs), EJ organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other entities representing underserved, urban, rural, indigenous, remote, and capacity constrained communities in implementing projects to address local environmental and/or public health challenges in Region 1. Six EJ CBOs (referred to as “Anchor partners”) will be engaged as collaborative pass-through partners and sub-awardees, to provide additional extensive outreach, via boots on the ground, and support prospective applicants within their respective states and tribal regions. HRiA will work together with the EPA, TCTAC and their partners to determine the skills and organizations they need to fulfill their mission.

HRiA and its collaborative pass-through partners, including core and Anchor partners, will ensure meaningful participation and community engagement in decision-making processes by individuals and communities most impacted by EJ issues. HRiA will implement a Governance Council, made up of EJ

Community representatives, to prioritize voices from disadvantaged, urban, rural, remote, and capacity constrained communities most impacted by environmental and public health challenges, as well as identify and recruit Grant Readers and a Grantmaking Committee to serve as ambassadors and review applications. To adhere to Conflict of Interest policies, organizations that are interested in applying for a grant will not serve as a reader of Grantmaking Committee member, but may serve on the Governance Council.

Region 2

Recipient: Fordham University

Hub Location: Bronx, NY

Applicant Type: Private Institution of Higher Education

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: Flourishing in Community: Fordham in Community Environmental Justice Grantmaker Initiative

Location: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and eight Indian Nations.

Partners:

- New York Immigration Coalition (New York, NY)
- New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice (Newark, NJ)
- ConPRmetidos (San Juan, PR)
- Community Foundation Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, USVI)
- Business Initiative Corporation of New York (Bronx, NY)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

The Flourishing in Community (FIC) Grantmaker Initiative, serving as the EPA Region 2 EJTCGM, proposes an intersectional approach to place frontline communities in positions of power to advance environmental justice and climate justice in disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities and communities disproportionately impacted by climate change, pollution, and other environmental stressors in NY, NJ, PR, and USVI. The program leadership team will employ Fordham University's infrastructure to provide grants to community-based organizations and other qualifying organizations, institutions, and agencies, prioritizing rural, remote, coastal, and urban communities, low-income communities, communities of color, and other communities and groups which historically have not had the capacity to apply for or receive federal funding for projects in this area. The FIC employs a participatory community-led governance structure.

Objectives:

- Foster authentic stakeholder engagement & establish participatory governance;
- Facilitate a robust and accessible subgrant application, disbursement, monitoring, & reporting process;
- Share successes from subgrantee cohort & raise the profile of initiatives;

- Provide technical assistance & wrap-around support to subgrantees

The FIC Grantmaker team will work closely with the Region 2 TCTACs, WE ACT and the Univeridad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, to leverage technical support to prospective applicants. To mitigate conflict of interest, no members of FIC's Grantmaker structure and management will be permitted to receive subgrant awards.

Region 3

Recipient: Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Inc.

Hub Location: Baltimore, MD

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: Building Capacity to Advance Environmental Justice for Thriving Communities in Region 3

Location: DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV, and 7 federally recognized tribes

Partners:

- Latin American Community Center (Wilmington, DE) -
- Childrens National Research Institute (Washington, DC)
- Black Millennials 4 Flint (Washington, DC)
- Block Power (Brooklyn, NY)
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation (Annapolis, MD)
- Children's National Hospital Washington, DC)
- Chisolm Legacy Project (Baltimore, MD)
- Coalition for Green Capital (Washington, DC)
- Delaware State University (Dover, DE)
- Howard University (Washington, DC)
- Invest Appalachia (Ashville, NC)
- JustFund (Oakland, CA)
- NAACP Maryland (Columbia, MD)
- New Ecology (Boston, MA)
- Savanah Barber (Tribal lands, VA)
- United Parents Against Lead (Richmond, VA)
- Women for a Healthy Environment (Pittsburgh, PA)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) proposes to serve as the Region 3 Grantmaker for the EJ TCGM plans to use a strong participatory governance framework to build capacity in underserved areas, ensuring robust fulfillment of TJ TCGM's goals. GHHI's communication plan recognizes the need to reach diverse audiences using wide-ranging delivery methods and partners to leverage best practices in outreach and implementation. Moreover, GHHI will engage the community through a stakeholder advisory board, partnerships, and mechanisms for providing direct feedback to adapt frequently to the needs of

communities, particularly those from disadvantaged or underserved areas. Collectively, this proposal outlines GHHI's robust approach for designing competitive application in-take and evaluation processes, subaward processes, outreach, and support for communities throughout Region 3.

Program objectives are focused primarily on partnerships and Program Design: Community Application Intake and Evaluation Processes. GHHI will be accepting applications for funding during their initial project period through a dedicated web portal; allowing optional submissions for those without reliable access to internet. In alignment with the EPA requirements, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Applications received later in their project period will qualify for one-year awards as opposed to multi-year awards. Within 15 days of receiving an application, GHHI will determine if the applicant meets the basic threshold criteria. Projects that meet the threshold criteria will be fully evaluated for award within 1.5 months of receipt. Following selection, financial risk analyses and award agreements will be completed for successful applications.

Region 4 * Also the National Grantmaker Central

Recipient: Research Triangle Institute

Hub Location: Research Triangle Park, NC

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$100,000,000

Title: Catalyzing Community-Driven Change (CCDC): EJ TCGM Region 4

Location: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and 6 Tribes

Partners:

- North Carolina Central University NCCU (R4)
- Resource for Assistance and Community Training-RTI Center for Applied Research in Environmental Science – CARES (NC)
- Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC)
- University of Kentucky (UKY)
- National Center for Healthy Housing NCHH (MD)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

RTI International and its partners—North Carolina Central University (NCCU), the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), the University of Kentucky (UKY), and the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH)—have come together to form the Catalyzing Community-Driven Change–Region 4 Grantmakers team (CCDC). Our diverse team brings expertise in grant management, environmental science, environmental justice, equity-centered research and evaluation. Our proposed solution advances racial equity by positioning community members, as part of a community advisory board (CAB), as decision makers in selecting subawardees. Our targeted outreach and recruitment strategies are inclusive, accessible to

potential applicants in various modalities, and culturally appropriate to reach communities all across Region 4.

Region 5

Recipient: The Minneapolis Foundation

Hub Location: Minneapolis, MN

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: Region 5 Community Grantmaking for Environmental Justice (CGM4EJ)

Location: (Hub Location – Minneapolis, MN) Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and 35 Tribes

Partners:

- Midwest Environmental Justice Network (R5 Tribal lands (Minneapolis, MN)
- The RE-AMP Network (R5) (Madison, WI)
- NDN Collective (Rapid City, SD) (R5)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

The Minneapolis Foundation (TMF) will serve as the pass-through entity and Regional Grantmaker for the Community Grantmaking for Environmental Justice (CGM4EJ) project along with 3 statutory partners: Midwest Environmental Justice Network (MWEJN), the RE-AMP Network (RE-AMP), and NDN Collective, (hereafter referred to as the Collaborative). The Collaborative is committed to managing and implementing the CGM4EJ program in a way that builds the capacity and strength of grassroots environmental justice (EJ) organizations that work with disadvantaged communities. The Collaborative will build on their structure that includes: expanding its deep and broad set of relationships so those most impacted will guide, inform, and evaluate this program; overseeing and monitoring all aspects of program implementation, paying particular attention to compliance with EPA and federal requirements; has the knowledge and experience to construct an efficient and accessible grantmaking process that meets federal guidelines and funds the most critical EJ work in Indigenous, rural, remote, and urban areas; and ensures that the Collaborative structure has come together to ensure this entire process, from application through implementation and evaluation, is co-developed by partners with deep connections to their respective communities and constituencies. All statutory partners have experience with, and a commitment to, participatory governance. The Collaborative will work with both region 5 TCTACs to ensure communities with EJ concerns have access to capacity building resources so that they can meaningfully engage and provide useful feedback to EPA. All statutory partners have experience with, and a commitment to, participatory governance. The Collaborative will work with a 9–13-member Regional Community Advisory Committee (RAC) that will provide direction and oversight, support outreach and communications, and recommend the slate of sub-grants during each decision-making period. RAC members will be asked to sign a contract that identifies expectations, agreement with a Conflict-of-Interest Policy (that will be developed to address actual or perceived conflicts of interest and to confirm their understanding they must apply to the National

Grantmaker and not the Region 5 CGM4EJ. The Collaborative has over 100 working relationships with Tribes and Indigenous-led, rural, remote, and urban grassroots organizations across the region. A track record for making grants to Tribes and environmental justice (EJ) CBOs across the six-state region and a knowledge of what works best for EJ organizations in terms of capacity to deliver projects and the need for project and program investment to realize valuable outcomes.

Region 6

Recipient: Texas Southern University

Hub Location: Houston, TX

Applicant Type: Minority Serving Institution (Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education)

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: Texas Southern University Bullard Center Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grant

Location: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and with 66 tribal nations

Partners:

- Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (Houston, TX)
- HBCU-CBO Gulf Coast Equity Consortium (New Orleans, LA)
- HBCU Climate Change Consortium (New Orleans, LA)
- National Black Environmental Justice Network (New Orleans, LA)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

The Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice (“Bullard Center”) at Texas Southern University (TSU)—in partnership with Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS), a community-based nonprofit organization—will serve as a Regional Grantmaker (RGM) for the purpose of distributing funds to CBOs that are addressing environmental justice issues in disadvantaged and underserved communities. The Bullard Center RGM program builds on decades of experience, expertise and trust earned the past three decades in operating centers, consortia, and collaboratives engaged in regranting to EJ CBOs. The Bullard Center will reach intended organizations and make judicious choices in the distribution of funds; providing a level of technical assistance and mentorship after receipt of funds that few other organizations would be able to provide, thus maximizing the impact of subrecipients’ work. The Bullard Center, in collaboration with the New Mexico State University TCTAC and Deep South Center for Environmental Justice TCTAC for New Mexico will provide technical assistance coverage and tribal support. To ensure community-oriented planning and participatory governance for the RGM program, the Bullard Center and ACTS will develop a new Advisory Committee (consisting of subject matter experts (SMEs), academic leaders, and leaders of accomplished EJ CBOs), that will provide essential guidance and oversight for the grantmaking program’s design and operation. The RGM will provide funds for research incidental to the project design, sampling, testing, monitoring, investigations, surveys and studies, public education, and other activities deemed by the Advisory Committee and/or evaluation committee. Participatory governance will be employed with the Advisory Committee (consisting of 50:50 Community Based Organizations and HBCU/MSI representation for program prioritization, outreach, funding and dissemination, with other partners and

collaborators. The Advisory Committee will establish guidelines and criteria to mitigate conflict of interest (COI), creating the list of potential reviewers where reviewers will sign a document indicating that they understand the COI plan and that they are qualified under the COI to review applications. The Community-University Partnership (“Communiversities”) Model, to be adapted for use in our Region 6 EJ Thriving Communities Fund (EJ TCF), allows us to take advantage of not only the resources that the HBCUs can dedicate to prioritizing the long-neglected needs and priorities of underserved communities, but also the hub HBCUs’ decades-long trust and credibility with communities of color. Project evaluation will be managed by The Bullard Center, focused on capacity built among EJ frontline organizations, the perception of changes achieved by subrecipients, particularly in underserved, disadvantaged and/or remote communities, and successes and lessons learned.

Region 8

Recipient: JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc

Hub Location: Denver, CO 80202

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: Mountains and Plains Environmental Justice Grants Hub (“MAP EJ Grants Hub”)

Location: (Hub Location – Denver, CO) Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and 28 Tribal Nations

Partners:

- Montana Watershed Coordination Council (Helena, MT)
- Oglala Lakota Cultural & Economic Revitalization Initiative (Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, SD)
- Dakota Resource Council (Bismarck, ND)
- Wyoming Outdoor Council (Lander, WY)
- Community Health Association of Mountains/Plains States (CHAMPS) (Denver, CO)
- Equitable funding Advisory/Training Partner: Community-Centric Fundraising (Seattle, WA)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc (JSI), together with their partners, will establish the Mountains and Plains Environmental Justice Grants Hub (“MAP EJ Grants Hub”) serving as a Regional Grantmaker. The aim is to achieve measurable environmental, public health, and quality of life improvements in the most overburdened, vulnerable and underserved communities by co-designing an equitable and inclusive grantmaking application and participatory governance scoring process, engaging in robust, diverse, and culturally responsive outreach to communities across Region 8, implementing subgrant management that reduces the burden on subgrantees, and engaging in monitoring, evaluation, and reporting that ensures the integrity, compliance, and impact of the program. JSI has more than 30 years as an environmental health training and technical assistance provider (including at the national scale) and as a large-scale Grantmaker and manager (including at the global scale), our experience and commitment to working with populations that have been historically marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and

inequitable environmental exposures, and our successful history working directly with community-based organizations (CBOs) throughout the United States, particularly throughout Region 8. The RGM will achieve measurable environmental, public health, and quality of life improvements in the most overburdened, vulnerable and underserved communities by co-designing an equitable and inclusive grantmaking application and participatory governance scoring process. This RGM program, engaging in robust, diverse, and culturally responsive outreach to communities across Region 8, implementing subgrant management that reduces the burden on subgrantees, and engaging in monitoring, evaluation, and reporting that ensures the integrity, compliance, and impact of the program. The MAP EJ Hub team will work with the National TCGM entity to determine the process for these organizations to submit their applications for subgrants there to avoid conflict of interest. This RGM program activities include establishing the MAPEJ Grants Hub, outreach/in-reach and pre-application support, which includes language access planning grants management, support and evaluation. The MAP Hub will establish workflows with the TCTAC and National TCGM. The MAP EJ Hub team will work with the National TCGM entity to determine the process for organizations to submit their applications for subgrants there to avoid conflict of interest. All MAP EJ Council members have acknowledged and agreed to this as outlined in their Letters of Commitment.

Region 9

Recipient: Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc

Hub Location: Calabasas, CA

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: EPA EJ Thriving Communities Subgrant: Grantmakers for EPA Region 9

Location: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Pacific Islands, 148 Tribes

Partners:

- Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (CFSA) (Tucson, AZ)
- International Community Foundation (ICF) (National City, CA)
- Liberty Hill Foundation (Liberty Hill) (Los Angeles, CA)
- Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) (Washington, DC)
- Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) (Sacramento, CA)
- Climate Justice Alliance (Berkeley, CA)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE) and five grantmaking partners will serve as the Regional Grantmaker (RGM) for Region 9 to collaboratively design a subgrant program, leveraging each partner's existing grantmaking expertise and connections in the local communities of Region 9. The systems and core efficiencies that SEE has developed over the past three decades will be complemented by the localized, grantmaking expertise of the cohort of partners – all of whom bring substantial history, relationships, and commitment to environmental justice communities and issues over many decades. With efficiency prioritized at the “top of the funnel” combined with grassroots connections and equity-centered

grantmaking processes and procedures. SEE's proposed grantmaking structure consist of: flexibilities of the application process (online form, phone, previous proposals or video); extensive and intensive in-person outreach in rural and remote areas, prioritizing those where financial resources are needed to meet urgent needs; geographically and culturally appropriate outreach plans involving local, trusted individuals; streamlined award process to fund projects designed to reach communities that are socially vulnerable, overburdened with pollution, or experience high levels of environmental or health risks and participatory governance through a selected Region 9 Community Advisory Panel to inform the outreach and grantmaking approach.

Led by SEE and a cohort of five grantmaking partners on the frontline of equitable grantmaking, the RGM for the EJ Thriving Communities Subgrant will design competitive application in-take and evaluation processes centered on efficiently and effectively addressing urgent environmental and public health issues across the region. All grantmaking partners will engage in mapping out the landscape of stakeholders and consult with trusted community leaders, including faith leaders, tribal leaders, community-based organizations, local government officials, academics, and others to understand community dynamics, local environmental justice issues, and the most pressing needs. The RGM will establish criteria and procedures for the Community Advisory Panel to mitigate conflict of interest including disclosure of relationships to potential applicants and recusal mechanisms to prevent actual or apparent conflicts of interest. Grantmaker partners will rely on leaders to point toward the projects with the ripest opportunity for impact and the community-based organization doing the most critical work.

Region 10

Recipient: Philanthropy Northwest

Hub Location: Seattle, WA

Applicant Type: Nonprofit

Award Amount: \$50,000,000

Title: Northwest Network for Environmental Justice

Location: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and 271 Tribal Nations

Partners:

- Alaska Conservation Foundation (Anchorage, AK) -
- Denali Commission (Anchorage, AK)
- Rasmuson Foundation (Anchorage, AK)
- Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health (Boise ID)
- Nonprofit Association of Oregon (Portland, OR)
- JustFund Us (Oakland, CA)
- Northwest Health Foundation (Portland, OR)

- Inatai Foundation (Seattle, WA)
- Russell Family Foundation Gig Harbor, WA)
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (Portland, OR)
- Native Americans in Philanthropy (Washington, DC)

Proposed Grantmaker Structure and Goals:

Together with partners that hold deep community relationships across Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and 271 Native tribes, Philanthropy Northwest's goal is to ensure the accessibility and equitable distribution of EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities resources to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led and BIPOC-serving organizations, rural organizations, and other historically underserved communities to improve environmental and community health and wellbeing. The key to PNW's structure and approach is the ability to leverage powerful partnerships that uniquely contribute to a grantmaking process that builds on PNW's previous success with rapidly and equitably dispersing public and private funds. Woven throughout the structure is a deliberate and intentional process to center community members in decision-making. The collective work will result in increased federal funding supporting racially and geographically diverse communities working on community-identified environmental justice issues. PNW also brings a strong track record of leveraging our platform to increase awareness of local community needs and solutions to place-based Grantmakers who are positioned to provide additional funding to all EPA grant applicants, both funded and unfunded. During project initiation period, PNW will establish procedures and finalize a conflict-of-interest policy (COI). Additionally, a conflict check will be established where all reviewers will be required to attend a reviewer orientation that includes a one-hour anti-bias training, meet strict review timelines, and participate in a live peer review meeting. PNW's participatory grantmaking will convene two groups: the Advisory Group and Peer Review Group, comprised of partners and community members. The Advisory Group will guide program development and implementation. PNW's participatory grantmaking will convene two groups: the Advisory Group and Peer Review Group, comprised of partners and community members. The Advisory Group will guide program development and implementation, defining additional application questions, reviewing application guidelines, and establishing metrics defining BIPOC-led and BIPOC-serving demographics. Philanthropy Northwest's (PNW) plan for EPA's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (EJ TCGM) is anchored by a core goal to disburse program funds expeditiously and equitably through the design and implementation of a simplified grantmaking process that: centers community voice and participatory grant making; leverages the knowledge and relationships of our partners; and addresses environmental justice issues for communities most in need. PNW's process is grounded in participatory grantmaking. This framework puts decision-making into the hands of communities and adds legitimacy, public accountability, and a sense of agency and control over the process and decisions affecting communities. Our participatory grantmaking process will engage partners using an Advisory Group to co-design the program and a Peer Review Group to evaluate applications.

