

Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund Climate Justice Challenge

BACKGROUND:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program in November 2023, allocating \$2 billion to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects to reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community response capacity. The program design integrated nationwide community and stakeholder input, and the resulting grants will focus on community-driven and place-based initiatives to advance environmental justice and climate equity.

OPPORTUNITY:

To maximize the impact of this funding on environmental justice and climate equity in Michigan and help meet the goals of the MI Healthy Climate Plan, the Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate, in partnership with the Office of Climate and Energy and the Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO), is offering support to interested Community Change Grant applicants.

The Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund has allocated up to \$10 million in matching funds for coalitions that win support from the EPA, as well as \$1 million in technical assistance support for the development of strong applications and/or grant management support if awarded. Eligible applicants include partnerships of two or more community-based organizations (CBO) or partnerships between a CBO and a federally recognized tribe, local government or higher education institution. The State of Michigan, through the Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund, will match five percent (5%) of the total amount awarded by the EPA for eligible coalition awardees of the Community Change Grants program. This funding is intended to add to the project size or further build organizational capacity, without limitations. Community Change Grant applicants interested in receiving a 5% match need to submit their application to the EPA by August 1 and request a letter of commitment via the form shared on the Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance website.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

Track 1: Community-driven investments

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

Track 2: Facilitating engagement of disadvantaged communities in public processes

- Support for state and federal advisory groups for environmental and climate justice
- Participation in workshops
- Engagement in environmental and related rulemakings
- Engagement in other public processes

Visit the Make it in Michigan Competitiveness Fund website to learn more and apply