

2019 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Project Summaries by EPA Region

The Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) Program provides funding directly to community-based organizations and tribes for projects that help residents of underserved communities understand and address local environmental and public health issues. The term “underserved community” refers to a community with environmental justice concerns and/or vulnerable populations, including minority, low income, rural, tribal, indigenous, and homeless populations. The long-term goals of the program are to support underserved communities in their efforts to build their overall capacity and create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will improve local environments in the future. In 2019, 50 organizations nationwide were selected to receive awards totaling \$1,500,000 in EJ Small Grant funding. Individual grants were for up to \$30,000 each for one-year projects. Four to six organizations in each EPA region were selected to receive an award.

Urban Waters Partnership

EPA’s Urban Waters program in the Office of Wetlands Oceans and Watersheds provided \$300,000 (of the \$1,500,000 total) for 10 small grants addressing clean water issues in 2019. The Environmental Justice and Urban Waters programs have partnered since 2018 to provide funding and additional expertise to underserved communities disproportionately impacted by clean water issues. The Urban Waters Program seeks to reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways while encouraging community stewardship. Some of the 2019 Urban Waters-funded projects address toxic water-based algae blooms, local green infrastructure development, and watershed restoration.

Disaster Resiliency & Emergency Preparedness

Due to the increased likelihood of extreme weather events now and in the future, and that underserved populations tend to be the most vulnerable and least equipped during such events, EPA gave special consideration in 2019 to projects addressing the needs of communities impacted or likely to be impacted by natural disasters, including hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and earthquakes. 16 of the 50 awarded projects address disaster resiliency and emergency preparedness, including projects in Puerto Rico and along the Florida coasts.

Opportunity Zones and New EJ Grantees

In 2019, 25 of the 50 projects (50%) are located in or impact areas within qualified [Opportunity Zones](#) as designated in the *2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*. Additionally, each year, the EJ grants program prioritizes funding organizations who not only have never received an EJ grant before but have never received any federal funding. The EJSG program strives to be one of the most accessible federal funding programs for small, community-based organizations. 42 of the 50 recipients (over 80%) are receiving their very first Environmental Justice grant.

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REGION 1

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1) **Organization:** Passamaquoddy Tribe of Pleasant Point

Project Title: *Passamaquoddy Tribe of Pleasant Point Drinking Water Environmental Justice Small Grant*

Project Type: Water Sampling

Environmental Statute(s): Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b)(3); Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Passamaquoddy Reservation of Pleasant Point (Sipayik), Maine

Project Description:

This project will test local drinking water for contaminants that are in violation of safe drinking water standards and address community concerns about the quality of the drinking water available at the Pleasant Point Reservation. The Passamaquoddy Tribe of Pleasant Point's community members do not trust that the drinking water delivered to their homes is safe to drink. Community residents report the water being discolored periodically each year sometimes appearing yellow or brown in color. This project will engage community members who volunteer their homes to be used in the drinking water study. Additional project activities include installation of a drinking water fill station accessible to all community members, approximately 75 total water tests from 25 separate locations, multiple community meetings and workshops detailing drinking water needs, development of a drinking water report, and the beginning stages of developing a community action plan to improve drinking water quality.

2) **Organization:** Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT)

Project Title: *Contaminants in our soils, food and water: A community-based approach to learning about and measuring contaminants in the gardens that feed us*

Project Type: Urban Agriculture

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, sec.104(b)(3); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, sec. 20(a), Toxic Substances Control Act, sec. 10(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls cities in Rhode Island

Project Partners: Providence After School Alliance, Providence, RI; Childhood Lead Action Project, Providence, RI; and Garden Environmental Leaders.

Project Description:

Contamination by lead and other toxic materials is a major threat to the health and wellbeing of urban residents in Rhode Island. SCLT serves hundreds of residents in the greater Providence area who grow food for their families in the urban environment. The safety and quality of this home-grown food is at risk when soils are contaminated with heavy metals, or when gardeners apply synthetic chemicals to their plants. Together with local gardeners, partner organizations and local youth, SCLT plans to support community-based education on the hazards of toxic contaminants in our outdoor environment, and how to work around those hazards to safely grow food. In addition, communities will develop approaches that serve to minimize the spread of toxic contaminants into public waterways. Project activities include local citizen scientists collecting soil and food samples for accurate chemical analysis performed by university laboratories, training residents on methods for creating growing systems that avoid contaminated soils, and learning strategies for minimizing transport of contaminants, including garden mulching and crop. Through this project, over 300 local residents will be empowered to safely grow food and to protect their local environments.

- 3) **Organization:** Housatonic Valley Association (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *Still River Watershed Connections: Building Community around Watershed Restoration*

Project Type: Watershed Restoration

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency, New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Danbury, Connecticut

Project Partners: Danbury Public Schools, Danbury Youth Services, and Western Connecticut State University

Project Description:

The Still River Watershed Connections program (“Connections”) engages local youth in the restoration of the Still River in order to build a sense of stewardship, teach valuable career skills, and provide a steady source of volunteers for watershed restoration projects. This project aims to support a significant expansion of the existing Connections program to reach 250 additional at-risk youth many of whom live in neighborhoods close to the impaired Still River. Project activities include 1) retooling a local high school’s existing Aquatic Science curriculum to integrate the Connections program, 2) conducting 4 student-led restoration projects along the Still River, and 3) developing a paid summer job-training internship program. 6-8 interns will be hired to perform work on the 4 restoration sites, and 10 local high school science teachers will be trained in Project-Based Learning methods and Still River watershed issues and will integrate that training into their courses.

4) **Organization:** Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN)

Project Title: *Mercury contamination of fish and crayfish, key components of the traditional sustenance diet of the Penobscot Indian Nation, Maine*

Project Type: Water Contamination and Subsistence Fishing

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Sec. 104(b)(3); Toxic Substances Control Act, Sec. 10(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Franklin counties in Maine

Project Partners: University of Maine - Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions and Sawyer Environmental Research Laboratory

Project Description:

This project aims to address mercury contamination in freshwater fish from the Penobscot Indian Nation's water sources. Recent studies have identified harmful levels of toxic pollutants in fish from the tribe's Penobscot River reservation waters, which lie downstream of industrial dischargers, leading tribal members to shift their sustenance fishing to the isolated tribal lakes which do not have direct point source dischargers. However, fish from these isolated water bodies have been rarely, if ever, sampled for contaminants. This project will provide species- and site-specific information on mercury concentrations in fish and crayfish from lakes subject to PIN sustenance fishing rights. Findings from this project will be used to inform the tribal community and to influence behavior to minimize mercury exposure during sustenance fishing. Finally, data on mercury in fish and crayfish will provide the baseline data needed to design a long-term mercury monitoring program that informs policymakers on the effectiveness of current mercury water quality regulations. Proposed activities include taking a total of approximately 500 samples from 8-10 lakes of 2-8 species of fish/cray fish in each, community forums on the project, several school presentations, and the development of a summary brochure and a technical report on the sampling results.

5) **Organization:** Refugee Dream Center

Project Title: *Journey to Health*

Project Type: Lead Exposure

Environmental Statute(s): Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Providence, Rhode Island

Project Partners: Childhood Lead Action Project

Project Description:

The Refugee Dream Center will lead a project to address housing safety and lead poisoning among refugees in Rhode Island. The majority of refugees in Rhode Island live within the 02907-area code in Providence. According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, refugee children in RI are 4.3 times more likely to be lead poisoned than children in the general population. Additionally, over the past seven years, 16% of refugee children were poisoned for the first time. The main objectives of this project are to increase awareness about Lead Safety and decrease the incidence of lead poisoning among refugees. The primary activity for this project will be the *Journey to Health* workshop series, which is a series of culturally attuned preventative health education workshops for refugees. The main proposed project outcome is for approximately 30 participants and their families to have increased knowledge, skills, and access to resources on housing safety and lead poisoning. The project proposes to hold six workshops with up to 10 participants attending each. Additionally, funds will be used to support a community health worker and healthy homes case manager to provide direct guidance to refugee families.

REGION 2

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1) **Organization:** Randall’s Island Park (RIPA)

Project Title: *A phytoremediation study in New York City: public participatory research for reclaiming urban green space*

Project Type: Urban Agriculture

Environmental Statute(s): Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Randall’s Island Park, New York, NY

Project partners: Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, Brooklyn College, Legacy Lead Coalition, Mount Sinai Transdisciplinary Center for Early Environmental Exposures, Wave Hill

Project Description:

This project will pilot phytoremediation strategies in NYC, where many areas suffer from elevated soil contaminant levels due to centuries of human use. Areas with soil contamination are disproportionately distributed where people of color and low-income communities are located, increasing their risk of exposure to harmful contaminants. This project aims to reduce such risks in East Harlem and the South Bronx by studying phytoremediation strategies and increasing soil safety awareness. Toward this goal, RIPA and partners will facilitate phytoremediation research, engage stakeholders in additional scientific research, collaboratively develop soil safety programs, and promote youth development in STEM careers. During the project, high school students from the

South Bronx and East Harlem will monitor plant physiological responses to soil conditions at 30 locations onsite and local undergraduates will assist with soil contaminant monitoring, including sample processing and lab analyses. Additional proposed project outputs include: 600 residents and practitioners reached through two local conferences, 40 students engaged through mentorships, 120 residents engaged through site tours and soils safety workshops, and 100 gardeners receive pamphlets about soil remediation.

2) **Organization:** PathStone Island Services Corporation

Project Title: *Environmental Justice in Aibonito, Puerto Rico*

Project Type: Community Resiliency

Environmental Statute(s): Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a); the Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b)(3); and the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a).

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness; Newer EJ Grantee

Project Location: Aibonito, Puerto Rico

Project Partners: Aibonito Municipal Emergency Management Division; Aibonito Municipal AMSI (Workforce Development) Division; Aibonito Municipal Public Library; Dr. Jose N. Gandara High School; The Vector Control Unit of PR—an initiative of the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust (private nonprofit organization); CRECE Personnel Recruitment & Development; and Best Environmental Consultants Inc.

Project Description:

This project seeks to build local capacity in Aibonito, PR for Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness in the face of environmental disasters, such as hurricanes, tropical cyclones and floods. In September of 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Aibonito. Farms were flooded, livestock drowned, and homes destroyed. People were without water, food, power or medical services for dangerous lengths of time. To better prepare for such catastrophes in the future, during this project, 10 community responders will learn and practice skills for Rapid Needs Assessments and disaster relief activities; pesticide safety; debris/waste management; water safety; cognitive behavioral health and trauma resiliency; and will engage their community in further learning and practice activities. As a result of these demonstrated knowledge and skill gains, the community of Aibonito will be better equipped for extreme weather, including an increased capacity to identify additional health and environmental risks during disaster events.

3) **Organization:** Rockaway Waterfront Alliance (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *Shore Corps: Environmental Stewards Youth Internship & Workforce Development Program for a Healthy and Resilient Rockaway*

Project Type: Community Resiliency / Watershed Restoration / Green Job Training

Environmental Statute(s): *Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3), Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3).*

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness; Newer EJ Grantees

Project Location: Far Rockaway, New York City, New York

Project Partners: Science & Resiliency Institute of Jamaica Bay (SRIJB), New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD), New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks), NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYC DEC), and Surfrider Foundation.

Project Description:

The *Shore Corps* project aims to engage the community by stabilizing and expanding the existing dune system protecting local neighborhoods from storm surge and wave action. Restoration efforts will work to make the dunes more biodiverse with complex networks of root systems to prevent erosion. The restorations will also be an avenue for job training for local youth. The project will serve the predominantly very low to moderate income community of color situated in the environmental justice impact areas on the eastern end of the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens, New York. Proposed outcomes are to: 1) Stabilize 2 miles of dunes system along the Atlantic Ocean through the planting of 20,000 sprigs of grasses and 140 bushes to better withstand wave action, storms, and erosion, 2) Engage at least 400 local residents in 4 plantings and cleanups throughout the project, 3) Train 40 local youth in environmental conservation and dune restoration, and 4) Increase long-term emergency preparedness and climate adaptation awareness through a community conference for at least 75 attendees.

4) **Organization:** Groundwork Hudson Valley (GHWV)

Project Title: Preparing for Extreme Weather: Resiliency Education in Southwest Yonkers

Project Type: Community Resiliency

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Sec. 103 (b)(3); Clean Water Act, Sec. 104 (b)(3); and Toxic Substances Control Act, Sec. 10 (a).

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness, Newer EJ Grantees

Project Location: Yonkers, New York

Project Partners: Yonkers Public Schools, Jacob Burns Film Center, New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps, Downtown Yonkers Waterfront Business Improvement District.

Project Description:

Through this project, GWHV will expand the reach and impact of an important education program that informs the public, especially students and their families, about community resiliency and

storm preparation within a highly vulnerable area. Yonkers has been affected by 3 hurricanes in the last decade and floods are increasingly affecting the local neighborhoods. The program will be based at Ecohouse, a dynamic STEM center operated by GWHV that demonstrates how buildings can be constructed and adapted to achieve sustainability goals. The Center highlights sustainable floors, draft-free windows, green insulation, LED lighting, low-flow showers and toilets, biodigesters, and smart home technology. The grant will enable Ecohouse to expand its program on extreme weather and emergency preparedness from engaging just one school to engaging over 700 local residents from the surrounding community. Youth ambassadors will be trained to reach out to the community, and a nonprofit media center will work with students to document the efforts.

5) **Organization:** Unified Vailsburg Services Organization (USVO)

Project Title: *UVSO Street Team: #GetMAD! Motivated & Doing! Campaign Youth Assignment: Solid Waste & Illegal Dumping Awareness Project*

Project Type: Solid Waste Disposal

Environmental Statute(s): Solid Waste Disposal Act, sec. 8001(a)

Special Considerations: Newer EJ Grantee

Project Location: Newark, NJ

Project Partners: City of Newark - Summer Youth Employment Program, Newark Public Schools – Office of Community Engagement, Heart of Vailsburg Block Club Coalition, Vailsburg Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee, The Gem Project

Project Description:

The *#GetMAD* project aims to increase awareness regarding litter and dumping in Vailsburg and Newark and share information about the effects that toxic materials in solid waste have on the community. The UVSO project team will collect survey data and impressions from community residents and train youth as eco-ambassadors addressing illegal dumping. Project activities include youth conducting research, recording, and reporting on the dumping and litter landscape and the health impacts. Proposed project outputs include: (1) facilitation of 6-community meetings targeting 150 community members of varying local audiences; (2) 500-resident survey respondents; (3) 10 youth ambassadors trained on solid waste and illegal dumping best-practices; (5) and production of one video message about solid waste management. The *#GetMAD* Campaign strives to use this project to increase: (1) resident awareness of the health effects of illegal dumping and improper solid waste disposal; (2) resident participation in quality of life renewal efforts; and (3) illegal dumping reporting and convictions.

REGION 3

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- 1) **Organization:** Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF)

Project Title: *Healthy Families: Healthy Homes*

Project Type: Lead Exposure / Toxic Substances

Environmental Statute(s): Toxics Substances Control Act, Sec. 10(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Prince Georges County, Maryland

Project Partners: Five local community churches

Project Description:

Healthy Families: Healthy Homes is an outreach and education effort designed to engage the low income latino residents of highly stressed neighborhoods in Prince Georges County, MD. Project activities are intended to mitigate the health impacts of environmental toxins and their effects on public health, particularly high rates of pediatric asthma and lead poisoning. The project team will utilize a train-the-trainer model where local church leaders will be trained as community health workers, known as promotoras, focused on toxic household chemicals and healthier alternatives. Promotoras will train low income Latino members of the community through educational workshops in five local churches. The project team anticipates engaging approximately 300 low income local latino residents.

- 2) **Organization:** Nueva Esperanza, Inc

Project Title: Residents Beat the Heat in Hunting Park

Project Type: Community Resiliency

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, sec. 103(b)(3); Clean Water Act, sec. 104 (b)(3)

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness, Newer EJ Grantee

Project Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Project Partners: PA Interfaith Power & Light, City of Philadelphia Office of Sustainability

Project Description:

Nueva Esperanza, in partnership with Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light and the Philadelphia Office of Sustainability, will address urban heat inequalities in Hunting Park, a low-income, majority Black and Hispanic neighborhood in North Philadelphia. Due to the prevalence of impermeable surfaces in the neighborhood, temperatures in Hunting Park are disproportionately higher than other sections of the city. This project will activate the city's first community heat relief network. The network will include community organizations, such as places of worship, schools, and health centers, that are willing to provide safe and engaging spaces for residents to cool down, build connections, participate in programs, and access resources within walking distance of their homes. The project will respond directly to community needs around environmental resilience and mitigate the impact of extreme heat on community health by: building capacity to respond to extreme heat events; informing residents about the urban heat island effect and improving access to resources and adaptive strategies that will help residents stay safe, cool, and bring temperatures down in their neighborhood. Project activities include training 10 residents as "beat the heat" ambassadors, hosting 5 bilingual workshops and events, and developing a toolkit to support approximately 20 organizations participating in the network.

3) Organization: Grounded Strategies, Inc

Project Title: *Pb & G(rounded): Reducing Lead Toxicity in Neighborhood Vacant Lots*

Project Type: Lead Exposure

Environmental Statute(s): Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a) [Lead]; Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Project Partners: Abiding Ministries, Allegheny County Conservation District, Hilltop Alliance, DECO Resources, Allentown CDC

Project Description:

Grounded Strategies plans to use a vacant lot in the Allentown neighborhood of Pittsburgh as a demonstration site for a new low-cost method for reducing the toxicity of lead. Based on soil sampling, the lot has very high lead levels and is a cause for anxiety in the neighborhood. Five residents will be recruited as ambassadors to champion the project in the community. Through four educational sessions for approximately 50 residents, residents will assist in building of a lead abatement apparatus that combines an earth battery and composting pit to change the chemical composition and toxicity of lead in soil. Based on their new knowledge and experiences, more Allentown residents will be able to protect themselves from lead exposure, seek assistance from city agencies, help clean up and beautify vacant lots, and advocate with the city for more support.

4) Organization: City Schoolyard Garden (CSG)

Project Title: *Youth Environmental Stewards (YES!)*

Project Type: Urban Agriculture

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, sec. 103(b)(3); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, sec. 20(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Charlottesville, Virginia

Project Partners: Urban Agriculture Collective of Charlottesville, Charlottesville City Schools, Charlottesville Food Justice Network

Project Description:

Youth Environmental Stewards (YES!) is a garden-based, hands-on ecological literacy and youth development program created with City Schoolyard Garden (CSG) that gives youth in Charlottesville opportunities to engage in nature through the cultivation of schoolyard gardens, stewardship of natural habitats, and application of ecological principles in everyday practice. In collaboration with Charlottesville City Schools (a Title I, high poverty school district) and Urban Agriculture Collective of Charlottesville, this project will grow in eight schoolyard gardens and three urban agriculture farm sites. It is estimated that these efforts will produce 10,000 pounds of fresh produce for food insecure families and engage over 3,500 youth. Each garden site includes ecologically sound practices such as water collection and reuse, composting, cultivation of native and wildlife habitats, agroforestry projects and pollinator gardens. Other project activities include 20 Community Market Days in low-wealth communities and 10 paid youth garden apprenticeships. Long-term outcomes of the project are to empower neighborhood residents and youth leaders in advocating for improvements in their local community.

- 5) **Organization:** Delaware Riverkeeper (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *Finding Frankford: Investing in the Long-Term Recovery of a Forgotten Urban Stream*

Project Type: Watershed Restoration

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, sec. 104(b)(3)

Project Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Project Partners: Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF)

Project Description:

The Frankford Creek watershed in Philadelphia has long been abused and marginalized. However, local residents are determined to foster meaningful improvements in water quality and community health by improving the health of the watershed. Through a partnership with local and regional

watershed organizations, this grant will invest in local residents' capacity to identify both the problems and the viable solutions through customized training and tours with approximately 100 engaged residents. This engagement will be complemented with data collection regarding water-borne pathogens, as well as a community tree planting for stormwater and water quality benefits. Through this grant, current efforts to build momentum and improve conditions can be greatly expanded, with the potential for fishable and swimmable uses for the creek and the community increasingly within reach. General project activities include water sampling, monitoring, outreach, and watershed tours.

REGION 4

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- 1) **Organization:** LEAD Coalition of Bay County, Inc.

Project Title: Communities Respond to Environmental Health Impacts of Hurricane Michael

Project Type: Indoor Air Monitoring

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness, New EJ Grantee, and New Urban Waters Applicant

Project Location: Panama City, Florida

Project Partners: Gulf Coast State College, Florida State University-Panama City, Bay Company Public Library, Community Health Task Force, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Panama City Marine Institute, Girls, Inc., and Florida Department of Health-Bay

Project Description:

The Glenwood and Millville communities of Panama City, FL are experiencing a rise in respiratory illness since Hurricane Michael made landfall in 2018. Many families are currently living in homes that are being refurbished and rebuilt because of the storm damage. These families have no other options and are exposed to mildew, mold and particulate matter from construction debris. Workplaces and schools that were hastily repaired also present interior air quality challenges. The main objective of this project is to build on an existing local model of community-based public health decision-making to engage the community in improving indoor air quality and to establish a collaborative Work Group to continue to address Hurricane Michael-related public health issues. Project activities will include STEM education on air quality problem solving, community forums, a survey, indoor air quality monitoring, public outreach, and a multi-stakeholder convening. This project will engage approximately 2,000 local residents.

- 2) **Organization:** Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Inc (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *Assessing the risk of toxin transfer from algae blooms to subsistence fishing communities*

Project Type: Water Sampling and Subsistence Fishing

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, sec. 104 (b)(3); Toxic Substances Control Act, sec. 10(a)

Special Considerations: Newer EJ Grantees, New Applicants to Urban Waters Program

Project Location: Saint Lucie County, Florida

Project Partners: Hispanics in Action

Project Description:

Cyanobacterial algae blooms are becoming more prevalent in Florida waters due to increasing temperatures and excess nutrients in waterbodies. Often these blooms produce cyanotoxins, such as microcystin, the most toxic and most common cyanotoxin. According to studies, chronic exposure to microcystin, has been linked to higher levels of liver disease in coastal regions impacted by blooms. This project aims to expand research efforts in Saint Lucie County to collect data on exposure to microcystin and through partnerships with local health care and social services providers. The Ocean Research & Conservation Association will also determine strategies for fishers to minimize health risks without removing access to a vital food source, as well as an important social and cultural practice. The project will include 50-100 fish samples, educational materials, surveys, and public events.

- 3) **Organization:** Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development (SEED)

Project Title: *GreenCAP in the House: House Calls, Cohorts and Community Conversations for Resilience*

Project Type: Clean Air and Energy Efficiency

Special Considerations: Disaster resiliency and emergency preparedness, New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Knoxville, Tennessee

Project Partners: City of Knoxville Office of Sustainability, City of Knoxville Office of Neighborhoods, Alliance to Save Energy (non-profit), Knoxville Utilities Board, Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville Emergency Management Agency, Shelton Group (for-profit business), University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Office

Project Description:

This project is part of a larger 2-year project (2019-2020), culminating in building a partnership of grassroots groups, agencies, and local government committed to addressing community concerns identified through careful listening to the community. SEED's role in this project is to conduct Green House Calls, and to conduct Cohort Workshops in Energy/Water Efficiency, Healthy Homes, and Emergency Preparedness. Desired project outcomes include that Knoxville residents will become healthier and more financially secure through no-and low-cost improvements to their homes and that the local environment benefits from reduced greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production, natural gas combustion, and water/wastewater treatment. The project looks to engage 1,500 local residents, including 115 families that will receive home visits and evaluations and/or and receive home resiliency installations.

4) **Organization:** Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network

Project Title: *Connecting Science and Citizens: Engagement, Education, and Collaboration to Improve Public Water Systems in Martin County, KY*

Project Type: Safe Drinking water

Environmental Statute(s): Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b)(3) and Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3).

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency, New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Martin County, Kentucky

Project Partners: Martin County Concerned Citizens (MCCC); Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky

Project Description:

Martin County suffered a major disaster in 200, a massive coal slurry impoundment collapse. The area has been heavily impacted by surface mining and is very vulnerable to flooding from extreme weather events. The "Connecting Science and Citizens," project will educate, empower, and meaningfully engage residents in collecting quantitative and qualitative data about water vulnerability in the eastern Kentucky county. The project seeks to facilitate public education about water infrastructure and regulatory requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act; conduct participatory action research to develop a comprehensive profile of community needs, concerns, and understandings associated with water vulnerability; and conduct user-centered assessment of data portals related to economic and environmental monitoring of water to increase local public participation and capacity. The project proposes to create innovative platforms for public participation and education to improve environmental and economic outcomes associated with investments in public water infrastructure in vulnerable, rural, Appalachian counties. Through the establishment of a Community Research cohort and mentorship program, local citizens will organize local community forums, conduct surveys, and use participatory methods to document their communities and create public education materials.

5) **Organization:** The Sustainable Workplace Alliance

Project Title: *Community Education and Advocacy: Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) Affecting Lake Okeechobee*

Project Type: Public Education and Training

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3) and Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness, Newer EJ Grantee, New Applicants to Urban Water Program

Project Location: Lake Okeechobee and inland waterways in Florida

Project Partners: Mote Marine Laboratory and Calusa Waterkeeper

Project Description:

The Sustainable Workplace Alliance will provide community outreach and training to low income and non-English speaking residents surrounding Lake Okeechobee who are adversely affected by harmful algae blooms (HABs). In 2018, Florida's governor issued Executive Order 18-221 declaring a state of emergency due to impacts of red tide (a form of harmful algae bloom) in Florida. Outreach will include two site visits for 40 local students, other local stakeholders, a community engagement workshop, five community awareness presentations and door-to-door outreach to up to 200 families. Short-term outcome will be improved awareness of HAB causes and mitigation factors. Intermediate and long-term benefits will be for students, local media and communities who have an awareness of the HAB problem in our lakes and rivers and who are better motivated to get involved in finding solutions and becoming better stewards of the water systems in Florida.

REGION 5

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1) **Organization:** Legal Council for Health Justice

Project Title: *Building Community Capacity to Address Lead Poisoning: Creating a Blueprint for "kNOw LEAD" App Development*

Project Type: Lead Exposure

Environmental Statute(s): Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a) and Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442 (b)(3).

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Cook County, Illinois

Project Partners: Cook County Department of Public Health/Cook County Health, Dr. Nicole Hamp, 8th Light

Project Description:

Experts including the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), the Illinois Department of Public Health, medical service providers and policy advocates have determined that there is a critical need to put readily accessible and up-to-date information on lead poisoning prevention in the hands of service providers to strengthen provider capacity and promote access to services for lead-exposed children and their families. Recognizing that apps are fast becoming a best practice tool in the medical community, the project seeks to develop the blueprint for the “kNow LEAD” web app. To succeed, the project partners will conduct outreach and engagement through targeted education, focus groups and surveys of providers and families that will powerfully inform app design to insure adoption, usability and relevance. Co-creating the design of the app with providers serving the community and community members themselves are critical elements that will support eventual development of a well-designed, replicable product with the necessary scope and reach to increase lead testing rates and access to follow-up services in suburban Cook County and beyond.

2) **Organization:** HOURCAR

Project Title: *Twin Cities EV Community Mobility Network Outreach and Engagement Project*

Project Type: Clean Air through Electric Car-sharing Service

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Special Considerations: New Environmental Justice Grantee

Project Location: Twin Cities Metro area (Minneapolis and Saint Paul), Minnesota,

Project Partners: Xcel Energy, City of Saint Paul, City of Minneapolis

Project Description:

In 2018, HOURCAR established a partnership with Xcel Energy and the Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to develop a new all-electric carsharing network with a focus on creating transportation solutions for disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities of color. This partnership will create an all-electric one-way carsharing service with 150 electric vehicles and 70 mobility hubs with charging infrastructure. At least half of the mobility hubs will be located in neighborhoods defined as ACP50 (areas of concentrated poverty, >50% people of color). HOURCAR will use this EJ Small Grant to conduct dedicated outreach and engagement with local disadvantaged communities to gather information from long-time residents and impacted neighborhoods to ensure optimal

placement of charging infrastructure and mitigate negative externalities, such as gentrification. Secondly, HOURCAR will use the grant to educate the public as to the benefits of the new service to ensure robust utilization of the new service, especially among those who cannot afford to own a car. HOURCAR will also publish a report detailing the findings from the local engagement process so that others who may be considering similar large-scale service projects can benefit.

3) Organization: Mill Creek Alliance (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *Mill Creek Alliance Water Quality Education and Monitoring Program*

Project Type: Water Quality Monitoring and Job Training

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Cincinnati, Ohio

Project Partners: Butler County Stormwater District, University of Cincinnati Environmental Studies Program, South Cumminsville Community Council, Lower Price Hill Community Council, Spring Grove Village Community Council, Northside Sustainability Committee, Dr. Mike Miller

Project Description:

This project aims to expand the existing Mill Creek Water Quality Monitoring program, including Blue Team youth workforce development program. The expansion of the program would add new sampling sites as well as engage with environmental justice communities in the watershed. In conjunction with these changes, we would expand the Blue Team youth workforce education program, which educates youth from surrounding communities, to sample, run monitoring tests and engage with the target neighborhoods. The Blue Team would take part in training on the water quality monitoring process and outreach to these communities. This would allow youth to gain skills in a laboratory setting as well as the sampling procedure used throughout the watershed. The Blue Team would be paired with existing sampling teams where experts would help them gain first hand sampling experience as well as environmental career education. Through working with local experts and partners, the Blue Team will get exposure to environmental careers and pathways. Up to 175 local residents will participate in water monitoring activities, with 4 new Blue Team members trained by water quality experts.

4) Organization: Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Program (MMLAP)

Project Title: *Complying with WPS to reduce pesticide exposure and poisoning*

Project Type: Public education and training

Environmental Statute(s): Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a); Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10 (a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Southwestern Michigan Counties of Kent, Ottawa and Allegan

Project Partners: Interagency Migrant Services Committee (IMSC), Fair Food Project (FFP)

Project Description:

MMLAP has developed, with the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Advisory Group, The Michigan Worker Protection Standard Resource Guide for Agricultural Employers meant to inform Michigan agricultural employers of changes made on November 2, 2015 to the US EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) that are now fully enforceable. It also developed, with input from migrant workers and pesticide workers, a bi-lingual pocket guide for quick reference by people directly affected by pesticide use. MMLAP will use this EJ Small Grant to bring these products into a three-county service area in which thousands of migrant families work and live during the growing season. MMLAP plans three audience-specific presentations to accompany dissemination of the written materials: one for farm owners, one for healthcare workers, and one for migrant workers. These presentations will reach nearly 500 people with interests in protecting workers from pesticide exposure and/or addressing problems that arise from exposure. MMLAP's long-term goal is to improve the health and long-term well-being of migrant workers and their family members by reducing exposure to and mitigating damage from pesticides.

5) **Organization:** Legal Aid Chicago - Illinois Migrant Legal Assistance Project (IMLAP)

Project Title: *Pesticide Assessment Project of Illinois (PAP-Illinois)*

Project Type: Pesticide Exposure

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Central and Southern Illinois

Project Partners: The Jackson County Health Department (Southern Illinois) and Community Health Partnership (Central Illinois)

Project Description:

The Pesticide Assessment Project of Illinois (PAP-Illinois) will conduct research directly through education, monitoring and investigation, by surveying the migrant farmworker population in Central and Southern Illinois. PAP-Illinois will work in rural areas of Illinois with agricultural workers, many of whom have limited or no English skills. PAP-Illinois staff will 1) survey workers on their knowledge about pesticide use; 2) educate workers on pesticide awareness, including the rules and rights preventing early access to sprayed fields and possible exposure and violations of law; 3) monitor pesticide use by returning to see workers to examine whether their increased knowledge has been effective; and 4) research and investigate possible violations or worker illness from pesticides. This project will result in a final report assessing pesticide issues in Illinois to determine a baseline from which LAF, migrant farmworkers, and other community members and stakeholders,

can develop future work to support worker’s health and provide environmental justice for Illinois’s migrant farmworker population.

- 6) **Organization:** The Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village (SBEV)

Project Title: SBEV Nutrition Program

Project Type: Lead Exposure through Food

Environmental Statute(s): Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)

Special Considerations: Newer EJ Grantees

Project Location: Flint, Michigan

Project Partners: Hurley Wellness Services, Michigan State University Extension, and the Center for Cognition and Neuroethics at the University of Michigan-Flint

Project Description:

The SBEV Nutrition Program aims to identify and understand how socioeconomic conditions and cultural barriers impact food selection among Flint residents, as well as how nutrition and lead exposure can be overcome through educational interventions. Accordingly, SBEV will run a one-year pilot program to explore and test technologies, techniques, and training among a select cohort of vulnerable students and families. Secondly, SBEV will introduce best practices learned over the course of the pilot program to SBEV’s general nutrition programming audience of Flint students and families. Project partners will develop survey vehicles and instruments that measure culture and food among 10 pilot study families. Meanwhile, SBEV will conduct preparation and cooking demonstrations using fresh fruit and vegetables, hold outings to the Flint Farmers’ Market, and conduct debriefings with families to uncover what is working and not working. Once the data is compiled, the project team will examine the ways in which meaningful changes to diets can be made that are both culturally sensitive and lead diminishing.

REGION 6

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- 1) **Organization:** Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light

Project Title: Sustainable Self-Sufficiency Development for Veterans & Community

Project Type: Local Agriculture and Energy Efficiency

Environmental Statute(s): Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a) and Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442 (b)(3).

Special Considerations: Homeless and Veteran populations

Project Location: Little Rock, Arkansas

Project Partners: Ark. State Veterans Home, Amboy/Gardner United Methodist Churches, Fort Roots VA Hospital, Amboy Community Food Pantry, North Central Veterans-Clergy Partnership CAB (Community Action Board), Common Roots Cooperative, Network of Growers, Ark. Dept. of Environmental Quality, Camp Robinson, University of Ark. Medical Sciences Public Health Department, Interfaith Arkansas, Good Grid, University of Central Ark.

Project Description:

The Arkansas State Veterans Home and two church yards in the vicinity of Fort Roots V.A. Hospital will provide an opportunity for public participation in community-driven projects that build consensus through community engagement. Veterans and other vulnerable citizens in the North Little Rock communities of Amboy, Gardner, and Fort Roots V.A. The population served will include military veterans in the community, veterans at the Ark. State Veterans Home, and others at risk for homelessness. Three community gardens will be at the Ark. State Veterans Home, Amboy United Methodist Church (which includes Spanish-speaking services, and Gardner United Methodist Church. Community gardens with raised wicking beds will 1) accommodate disabilities (some wheelchair accessible garden beds), 2) allow the impacted population to raise some of their own food using new sustainable organic growing methods, 3) demonstrate how local fresh food reduces impact on the planet through a reduced carbon footprint related to the transportation of pre-packaged foods, 4) increase awareness of how local, fresh organic food positively affects diabetes through reduced sugar intake, 5) positively impact the morale of disabled veterans and other participants.

2) **Organization:** Pueblo of Zia

Project Title: Zia Youth Environmental Collaboration

Project Type: Demonstration Project

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Special Considerations: Newer EJ Grantee

Project Location: Zia Pueblo, New Mexico

Project Description:

This project seeks to address the overabundance of litter, illegal dumpsites and scrap tires that are left within the Pueblo of Zia boundaries. Some of these are left by Pueblo members while others are

dumped by people passing by. This is an obvious environmental health issue due to the fact that these illegal dumpsites and scrap tire piles are often within close proximity to the river or homes. There is often litter on the banks of the river or in the river. This contamination also spreads to the underlying soil as well as adjacent ecosystems. With this project the Pueblo of Zia Department of Environmental Resources (DER) hopes to achieve several results: 1) Public Awareness of the conditions on Pueblo land 2) Community participation in the identification and clean-up of illegal dump and litter sites 3) Database preparation of an “Environmental Concern Inventory” 4) Youth involvement in environmental concerns to hopefully garner interest in environmental resource management 5) A better understanding of environmental concerns so that future research and remediation can be done. This project will involve approximately 20 youth aged 15 – 25 who will document illegal dumping sites around the Pueblo.

3) Organization: Southern United Neighborhoods (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *Blight to Bioswales (B2B) Water Quality Project*

Project Type: Water Quality and Job Training

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness, Homeless Populations, New EJ Grantee, New Applicant to Urban Waters Program

Project Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Project Partners: Lead Lab; Next Generation Original Morning Star; 9th Ward ACV; AMFM

Project Description:

In an effort to address water quality and flooding, Blight to Bioswales (B2B) Water Quality Project will empower, educate and train low income African American residents in New Orleans to create an action plan to address environmental and public health issues to prevent water pollution under the Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3). This project specifically addresses environmental and public health threats related to storm water runoff, disaster resiliency and water quality through training residents to engage in community assessments of risk and foster community participation in collaborations with partners (decision-makers, researchers) to work together to build community capacity to address local water quality and mitigate disaster impacts from flooding through soil testing of pollution on blighted lots and investigating community bioswales to effectively manage stormwater runoff. The project includes the training of 40 homeless individuals who will install a demonstration riparian buffer to protect the watershed from runoff.

4) Organization: Black Space Oklahoma, Inc

Project Title: *Youth Leadership and Community Action for Healthier Homes*

Project Type: Healthy Homes

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee, Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness by educating the public on how to use, store, and properly dispose of household hazardous waste, which will mitigate any potential release of these chemicals into the local environment during a natural disaster.

Project Location: Northeast Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Project Partners: I HAVE A VOICE NOW!, Mt. Triumph Baptist Church, the John F. Kennedy Neighborhood Association, and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

Project Description:

This project will promote healthy homes through youth development in northeast Oklahoma City, zip code 73117. Activities will involve youth training and education, creation and distribution of surveys to the community, and public education programs to address community concerns, including the impact of household hazardous waste to the community and the mitigation of potential health and environmental risks by addressing environmental justice concerns. Youth leaders will present the conclusions of the project to local decision makers. The target outputs of this project include: 25-30 youth leaders trained; 500 households reached through surveys and in-home assessments; and 1,000 residents attending the projects educational programs. Long-term benefits are to develop the next generation of community leaders and of youth leaders and engage with current local decision-makers to make community-driven improvements in the near future.

5) **Organization:** Sankofa Community Development Corporation

Project Title: *The Sankofa Wetland Environmental Empowerment Team (SWEET) project*

Project Type: Green Infrastructure and Job Training

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee, New UW Applicant

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3).

Project Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Project Partners: Martin Luther King Jr High School (MLK) and Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL)

Project Description:

Sankofa will engage with 20 high school students in the Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood of the City of New Orleans as a part of the Sankofa Environmental Empowerment Team (SWEET) project to conduct hands-on educational activities within a design/build learning program. Students will receive education and training on the importance of wetland ecosystems, stormwater drainage systems, and habitat restoration. They will engage in hands-on work to co-lead park design planning meetings for the expansion of the site to an additional 8 acres; monitor changes to

stormwater storage; examine animal and plant habitat growth; measure water quality within the bioretention ponds; lead environmental educational activities with visitors to the Wetland Park. Project participants will share their learned knowledge of wetland habitats and green infrastructure by creating their own engaging activities to share with other community members. They will apply the information they learn towards special event wetland educational programs with the extended community during the project period.

REGION 7

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- 1) **Organization:** Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA) (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *Water and Garden Soil Testing for Rural Latino Families*

Project Type: Water and Soil Sampling

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee, New UW Applicant

Project Location: Lexington, Columbus, and Denton; Nebraska

Project Partners: University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Shannon L. Bartelt-Hunt, Ph.D., P.E. University of Nebraska, Dept of Civil Engineering, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Fellow

Project Description:

The focus of this project, Water and Garden Soil Testing for Rural Latino Families, Farmers and Ranchers, will be to improve participants' understanding of water and soil contamination. CFRA will provide training in testing techniques, developing wellhead protection plans and increasing participants' awareness of Spanish-language resources for testing and prevention practices in three rural communities in Nebraska. These communities (Lexington, Columbus and Denton) have high Latino populations. The Latino population is operating without benefit of important environmental protection information or knowledge. Language barriers (more than 80% do not communicate well in English) and time limitations require staff time to build relationships and credibility in educating this community on environmental protection. CFRA and its partner will use peer-group learning and field demonstrations to train 20 Latino farmer families in self testing their water and soil for contamination, educate them on how to prevent water and crop contamination from farm practices, and assist them in developing a relationship with technical service providers. This knowledge will increase their ability to access the resources that will help them take steps to reduce the health impacts from contaminated water and soils.

2) **Organization:** Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment Corporation

Project Title: *Justine PETERSEN (JP) Greencubator: Education and Training Program*

Project Type: Urban Agriculture

Environmental Statute(s): Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a) and Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: St. Louis, Missouri

Project Partners: Good Life Growing

Project Description:

The main objective of this project is to address lack of access to healthy foods as a public health issue. Additionally, the project aims to increase the community's knowledge and capacity to influence environmental justice issues that disproportionately impact them. In partnership with Good Life Growing, the grantee will facilitate classroom and hands-on learning programs modeled after an in-house designed curriculum to focus on sustainable urban agriculture practices. This project will feature an education program and a training program. The education program will provide knowledge of opportunities in urban agriculture so that they can take informed, community-driven steps to increasing access to healthy foods in their community. The purpose of the training program is to expand upon the educational program offered to the targeted underserved population. We will make the program available to the population who seek to make sustainable urban agriculture a way of life and generate an income or start their own business. Project goals include: (1) increase the number of residents that know about food scarcity, composting/organic waste, and use of safe pesticides, (2) increase the number of residents and businesses that grow healthy foods while utilizing methods around composting and safe pesticides, and (3) increase the number of retail businesses that sell healthy foods in the focus neighborhood.

3) **Organization:** TrailNet

Project Title: *Calm Streets Project*

Project Type: Clean Air through City Planning

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3); Clean Water Act, Section 104 (b)(3)

Project Location: St. Louis, Missouri

Project Partners: Missouri Department of Conservation (gov't.); City of St. Louis Board of Public Service (gov't), Northside Community Housing, Inc. (nonprofit); 4theVille (nonprofit); Washington University (academia)

Project Description:

TrailNet's Calm Streets Project seeks to improve community capacity to address poor air and water quality in an underserved area of St. Louis which includes The Ville and Greater Ville neighborhoods. Using the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) model, diverse community stakeholders will be engaged to develop a low-stress, green, bicycle-and-pedestrian infrastructure (LGBPI) plan designed to increase biking and walking activity and decrease driving time. Outcomes will include improved air and water quality through improved watershed management, reduced storm water runoff, reduced auto emissions, as well decreased incidence of asthma attacks. Increased physical activity also contributes to reduced obesity among residents. Project activities include: Hosting Educational and Informational Meetings, Conducting Bike/Walk Tours, Plan and Lead Model City Tour (10 participants), Collecting Data, and Developing a Bike/Pedestrian Plan.

4) Organization: Kansas City Rescue Mission

Project Title: Food Waste: Community Engagement and Communication

Project Type: Public Education and Green Employment Training

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Section, 103(b)(3), Clean Water Act, 104 (b)(3), and Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a).

Special Considerations: Homeless/Veterans, New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Kansas City, Missouri

Project Partners: City Union Missions; Life & Justice Grant; Mid America Regional Council (Solid Waste District) MARC; University of Missouri, Kansas City, Henry Bloch School of Business; Missouri Organic; The Nelson Atkins Museum of Art; Kauffman Foundation; The Mixx; The Grooming Project; Second Chance; Rockhurst High School; Rockhurst University; Harry J. Lloyd Charitable Trust

Project Description:

This project has three main objectives: 1) to train homeless individuals, many of whom are veterans, for green employment jobs, 2) to provide Kansas City with a systematic food waste collection service that also employs training program graduates, and 3) to increase public awareness about food waste and encourage responsible action. At the heart of the grantee's mission is community impact and education. Through the introduction of the clearly marked food waste carts into area restaurants, event centers, hotels and schools, this project will raise awareness and encourage positive personal responsibility for the environment and the homeless." The project team will track diversion rates and job creation. The initial geographical focus will include the Crossroads, Power & Light, 18th & Vine and Plaza Districts in Kansas City.

REGION 8

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- 1) **Organization:** Groundwork Denver (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: Resident-Driven Solutions to Improving Denver’s Urban Waterways

Project Type: Water Improvements through Rain Water Installations

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Project Location: Denver, Colorado

Project Partners: Denver Department of Public Health and Environment; City of Sheridan Public Works; Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; Harvey Park Sustainability Team; River Network; Great Outdoors Colorado

Project Description:

Specific project activities will include engaging residents of Northeast Denver and areas surrounding Lower Bear Creek in making property-specific green infrastructure improvements including rain barrel and rain garden installations, as well as face-to-face education, a non-structural best management practice referenced in the “Lower Bear Creek Watershed Plan” Groundwork Denver (GWD) developed in 2014. Members of GWD’s Green Team youth employment program will be engaged in community outreach, education, installation, and maintenance, through which they will gain both hard and soft skills necessary to prepare them for careers in Denver’s rapidly expanding workforce. The project seeks to engage 70 youth employees and collaborative community partners to first expand nonpoint source pollution reduction efforts in Lower Bear Creek, and then scale them to include Northeast Denver. In line with GWD’s mission of promoting health and well-being through community-based partnerships and action, the proposed work will engage residents of low-income neighborhoods who have not historically been part of the solution to environmental degradation in their communities. GWD will do so by providing these residents with the knowledge, tools, and resources to install and maintain green infrastructure improvements on their property, such as rain barrels and rain gardens. These improvements promote improved water quality and conservation and empower members of the target communities to actively think about, promote, and participate in improving the health and well-being of their neighborhoods.

- 2) **Organization:** Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK)

Project Title: *ELK Youth Naturally – Community Water Connections (ELKYN-CWC)*

Project Type: training; monitoring; demonstration; public education

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3); Safe Drinking Water Act (Section 1442(b)(3))

Special Considerations: New Applicants to Urban Waters Program

Project Location: Denver, Colorado

Project Partners: Colorado Parks & Wildlife; U.S. Forest Service; Denver Parks & Recreation; National Park Service; Denver Water

Project Description:

ELK's main objective for the project is to address the direct impacts of water pollution and contamination, warming temperatures, and local environmental and public health issues. Project activities will include connecting human activities to the impacts of water contamination, warming temperatures, and local environmental and public health issues on the natural world, including exploration of aquatic biology, changes in species diversity, and impacts on fish populations from water quality changes; and tying project activities to an understanding of what environmental justice means. Outputs include changes in youth knowledge and attitudes; changes in behaviors and actions due to the knowledge acquired from this project; and positive changes in conditions contributing to water pollution and contamination; a better-informed Denver populace on these issues, and a deeper understanding of the public health impacts. The specific geographic focus of this project is Denver metropolitan area of Colorado, specifically, Montbello, Green Valley Ranch, and Commerce City. Mentorship and Leadership skills development, wetland restoration along water ways, and water quality testing on water bodies are proposed project activities.

3) **Organization:** Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC)

Project Title: *Safer and more energy efficient homes for a healthier northwest Colorado*

Project Type: Healthy Home Improvements

Environmental Statute(s): This project aligns with the Clean Air Act, Section 103(a)(1) and Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a).

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Routt and Moffat Counties, Colorado

Project Partners: Integrated Community, Routt County Council on Aging, LiftUp of Routt County, Routt County Department of Human Services, Routt County Department of Environmental Health, Community Budget Center and Colorado State University Routt County Extension

Project Description:

This project addresses the health disparities and disproportionate burden of energy consumption caused by substandard housing among low-income residents of Routt and Moffat Counties in northwest Colorado. The goal of this project is to improve the health, safety and energy efficiency of homes for the underserved community, benefiting both residents and the environment. Through healthy homes evaluations, energy assessments, home safety and energy efficiency retrofits, and healthy home and energy efficiency education and coaching, YVSC will help

low-income families reduce health and safety hazards and make their homes more energy efficient. This project will improve indoor air quality, decrease exposure to toxic substances and safety hazards, reduce energy use and lower utility bills. The project looks to educate 250 low-income residents and conduct efficiency retrofits for 10 households.

4) **Organization:** Utah Clean Energy Alliance, Inc.

Project Title: Empower Salt Lake City (Empower SLC) Program

Project Type: Public Education and Training

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Special Considerations: Natural Disaster Resiliency (Extreme Heat Waves and Increased Air Pollution)

Project Location: Salt Lake City, Utah

Project Partners: Salt Lake City Corporation (Local Government), International Rescue Committee (Nonprofit), Utah Community Action (Nonprofit), Sorenson Unity Center (Community Center), YouthCity Government (Youth Organization), Salt Lake City School District (Education), Salt Lake County Aging Services (Local Government)

Project Description:

Utah Clean Energy's "Empower SLC" program will improve local air quality in Salt Lake City by empowering underserved communities to reduce energy consumption in their homes and businesses, while building the community's capacity to understand and address air quality issues. The program will increase public participation and collaboration with communities by expanding Utah Clean Energy's relationships with Salt Lake City's underserved communities, nonprofits, and local government partners in regard to energy efficiency, social justice, and air quality issues. The program will result in long-term community-based partnerships that will continue to improve local air quality. One key programmatic area is outreach through Energy Ambassadors who work within several community organizations. Utah Clean Energy's Program Manager will train these community leaders on effective ways to communicate the connection between energy use and air quality, and how to entice community members to take energy efficiency actions. Project activities include engaging residents, small business owners, local schools, sharing information about "cool zones" and collecting data to create best practices to replicate the program.

5) **Organization:** Lincoln Hills Cares

Project Title: *Scalable Citizen Science Pilot for Urban Rivers: Advancing a fishable and swimmable Denver South Platte River through innovation and meaningful engagement of underrepresented youth and local leaders.*

Project Type: Public education, research, training, monitoring, demonstration projects

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, sec. 104(b)(3)

Special Considerations: Disaster (flood and heat island effect) resiliency, homelessness, new EJ grantee, new applicant to Urban Waters Small Grants

Project Location: Denver, Colorado

Project Partners: El Laboratorio; Metro Denver Nature Alliance; Colorado State University; City and County of Denver Public Works

Project Description:

This project proposes to produce a replicable and scalable community driven innovation process for radical integration of culturally sensitive citizen science with project-based learning. Activities include recruitment and employment of 38 students from at least 3 local high schools and a state university. The students will co-create with community leaders, scientists, teachers, and decision-makers an innovative citizen science work plan that they will implement 9 restoration activities folded in a 16-day experiential Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Art (STEAM) summer immersion course program and environmental careers and education pipeline with Colorado State University. Activities include: 1) Recruitment and employment of 38 students from at least 3 local high schools and a state university; 2) 16 days of STEM education for the 38 students, immersed in restoration project based learning; 3) Identification of neighborhood leaders and convening of community advisory committee; 4) At least 138 trees planted by students at 12 restoration sites; 5) Students conduct acreage restoration in at least 2 sites (e.g. Northside Park, Rocky Mountain Arsenal); 6) Students remove invasive species in at least 2 sites

REGION 9

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- 1) **Organization:** Sequoia Foundation

Project Title: The Community is our Classroom: San Leandro High School Student

Project Type: Clean Air Sampling

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Toxic Substances Control Act

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: San Leandro, California

Project Partners: San Leandro Unified School District, California Department of Public Health, City of San Leandro

Project Description:

San Leandro High School students will learn about and act to address environmental justice issues in the City of San Leandro. New lessons will be integrated into the science and social justice curriculum so that students can explore environmental health phenomena and understand their impacts on human health and engage other City residents and leaders in developing solutions to protect the health of the community. By taking air and water samples, assessing availability to healthy foods, students will directly investigate how air quality, clean waterways, toxic substances in homes, and poor access to healthy foods affect the health of those in their community. A Community Advisory Board (CAB), made up of City representatives, community-based organizations, public health and environmental experts, educators, and residents, will collaborate with program staff and school leaders to develop lessons by sharing their knowledge of environmental justice concerns in the City. They will also assist the project by identifying opportunities for students to engage community members and City leaders in productive conversations about environmental hazards, policy needs, and strategies to protect human health. The project will produce three lessons for high school students, community educational tools and a community EJ Summit to share student findings and discuss solutions to EJ challenges.

2) Organization: The Santa Monica Bay Foundation

Project Title: *Table to Farm Composting for Clean Air*

Project Type: Urban Agriculture

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, Solid Waste Disposal Act, sec. 8001(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: South Los Angeles, California

Project Partners: Environmental Charter Schools (Gardena, Inglewood, and Lawndale)

Project Description:

The proposed project will provide experiential-learning to South Los Angeles (LA) students and communities about food production, air pollution along transportation corridors, gardening, and carbon sequestration. The Bay Foundation (TBF), in partnership with Environmental Charter Schools (ECS), will install community garden beds in South LA parkways surrounding ECS campus. These gardens will provide fresh produce to food deserts by utilizing the little available green space that exists in this urban landscape. Promoting local agriculture empowers the community by increasing health and social equity while simultaneously localizing solutions to decrease air pollution from transportation. ECS students, along with TBF, will repurpose discarded furniture found in the community to create raised garden beds that will grow fresh edible foods. Students will use the parkway garden as an experiential learning tool to explore topics such as food equity, local healthy

foods, air pollution, and carbon sequestration. Engagement tools such as case studies, flyers, and/or signage will be developed to share findings with the community through existing community outreach efforts of TBF and ECS. Further efforts to engage the community on local air pollution and food equity solutions will be made by local businesses and neighboring apartment complex owners, as well as other interested stakeholders. The project will conclude with an ECS student-led city council presentation. The presentation will show local government officials that health equity, air quality, and warming temperatures are a priority to community members and bring awareness to local social and environmental issues and solutions.

3) Organization: Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek

Project Title: *Healthy Homes Campaign*

Project Type: Healthy Homes

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Air Act, sec. 103(b)(3); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, sec. 20(a)

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: San Diego, California

Project Partners: Millennial Tech Middle School (San Diego Unified School District); Webster Community Council; Airboxlab; Coalition for Clean Air; San Diego Air Pollution Control District; City of San Diego Environmental Services Department; American Lung Association San Diego.

Project Description:

This project seeks to engage low-income youth and families within the Chollas Creek Watershed in an innovative multiple-benefits approach to understanding and addressing the sources of and potential responses to in-home air pollutants, exacerbated by warming temperatures. Groundwork and its partners will enlist and train students as Healthy Home Ambassadors to outreach to their fellow students, their school families and to their community at large with air quality information and education. The project team will assist in delivering education about the health, economic, and environmental risks to vulnerable populations associated with poor in-home air quality. Project activities include providing in-home pollution audits/monitoring; suggesting ways to monitor and remediate those risks; working with families to advocate in the public policy arena for change; and organizing a neighborhood demonstration indoor monitoring/air purification smart building technology. Additionally, an air quality curriculum will be developed and delivered to all school science students.

4) Organization: PUEDE Center / Pico Union Housing Corp (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *The Pico-Union Green Alleys Project (GAP)*

Project Type: Water Quality and Green Infrastructure

Special Considerations: Newer EJ Grantees; New Applicants to Urban Waters Program

Project Location: Los Angeles, California

Project Partners: LA Bureau of Sanitation, Office of Councilman Gil Cedillo, PUHC Graff Lab, UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture

Project Description:

The PUEDE Center's Green Alleys Project (GAP) aims to expand its efforts to beautify the Pico neighborhood by repurposing formerly garbage-filled alleys into vibrant, outdoor spaces through the construction of green infrastructure. The center will accomplish this objective through an integrated strategy of 1) hosting multi-lingual workshops and seminars and distributing informational materials that will boost awareness of the link between environmental and public health, 2) educating the public of appropriate waste disposal methods 3) resurfacing pavements with pervious material to facilitate the sustainable management of stormwater 4) providing training in how to construct, grow and maintain vertical trellis gardens consisting of both drought resistant, pollution absorbing plants and produce, and 5) refurbishing alleyways with community beautification materials. By the end of the project, PUEDE strives to have trained at least 15 people to serve as "Community Coordinators", have at least 50 attendees at workshops, and successfully refurbish 3 alleys. The community gardens will help mitigate the carcinogenic effects of air pollution, decrease urban run-off, recharge groundwater and help improve water quality in the Los Angeles River Watershed, and promote spending more time outdoors.

5) **Organization:** Community Services Employment Training (CSET)

Project Title: *Allensworth Work-based Learning Electrochemical Arsenic Remediation (ECAR) Implementation Project (WEIP)*

Project Type: Community Resiliency

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness; New EJ Grantee

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3) and Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b)(3)

Project Location: Allensworth, California

Project Partners: Allensworth Progressive Association, Allensworth and Alpaugh School Districts, The Allensworth Corporation, Tulare Basin Watershed Partnership, and UC Berkeley Gadgil Lab

Project Description:

The proposed 2020 Allensworth Work-based Learning Electrochemical Arsenic Remediation (ECAR) Implementation Project (WEIP) will build upon a 2019 Allensworth-based field trial of ECAR technology, an innovative, comparatively very low-cost approach to creating arsenic-safe drinking water. ECAR will be incorporated into the Allensworth and Alpaugh Work-based Learning Program (WBL), which brings together 12-20 area high school students for a four-week training program in which students focus in-depth on an environmental issue, in this case safe drinking water, do hands-on projects and experiments, and present their findings to the community and decision makers as part of learning to be effective advocates for environmental justice. Students will operate the ECAR system, while also learning to take soil samples in the context of understanding the challenges of arsenic contaminated water. Students will also participate in water-focused field trips. Combined, the various components of the proposed WEIP will result in a both a better understanding of the viability of ECAR implementation in low-income communities such as Allensworth and beyond, as well as a cohort of approximately 16 rural high schoolers with significantly increased understanding of the region's water issues.

REGION 10

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1) **Organization:** Voz Workers Rights Education Project

Project Title: *Growing Green Leaders*

Project Type: Toxic Substance Exposure

Environmental Statute(s): Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a);

Special Considerations: New EJ Grantee

Project Location: Portland, Oregon

Project Partners: Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Verde, Oregon State University Master Gardener Program, People-Places-Things, Northwest Workers Justice Project

Project Description:

Day laborers are workers hired for manual labor jobs that put them at high risk of exposure to workplace toxics: polluted air and water, pesticides, chemicals, and toxics like lead and asbestos. Voz's Growing Green Leaders project improves environmental, public health, and economic outcomes for day laborers by 1) providing safety trainings on identifying and avoiding workplace toxics, and 2) providing green jobs skills trainings to teach techniques that reduce exposure to toxics, promote a healthier environment, and improve economic outcomes. This project is part of a larger community effort, the Portland Clean Energy Initiative, which aims to increase access to environmental projects and green jobs skills for communities of color, recognizing that people of color face disproportionate impacts of warming temperatures but benefit from few of the benefits

of environmental technology and the green economy. Voz will provide 4 safety trainings and 16 green job skills trainings to 200 day laborers using culturally specific methods. I

2) **Organization:** Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)

Project Title: *Farmworker Self-advocacy and Support*

Project Type: Public education and training

Environmental Statute(s): Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a)

Special Considerations: Newer EJ Grantee

Project Location: Lane and Benton counties, Oregon

Project Partners: Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Verde, Oregon State University Master Gardener Program, People-Places-Things, Northwest Workers Justice Project

Project Description:

The main objective of this project is to educate and empower farmworkers and their families in Benton and Lane counties to better protect themselves from the harmful effects of pesticides. The project partners will meet monthly, and staff will have six meetings with farmworkers in both counties. 200 farmworkers will receive information on mitigating pesticide exposure and resources for continued self-advocacy. 20-25 growers and farmworker advocacy groups will receive resources to enhance their support of farmworkers. The project team will survey the farmworkers to determine their current awareness of pesticide problems and their preferred means of receiving information. With those insights, the project team will gather and translate the relevant information into six, more accessible forms of communication, from a Facebook group for farmworkers, to videos available to growers and farmworker advocacy organizations.

3) **Organization:** Seldovia Village Tribe

Project Title: *You Survived a Natural Disaster, Now Grab Your EPB.*

Project Type: Community Resiliency

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b) (3); Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b) (3); Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Special Considerations: Newer EJ Grantee

Project Location: Seldovia, Alaska

Project Partners: SVT Health & Wellness, Ground Truth Trekking, Seldovia Volunteer

Fire/EMS Department

Project Description:

This project will educate and prepare the residents of Seldovia Village and the City of Seldovia for potential natural disasters. The project will consist of three public learning sessions from different partner organizations on natural disaster preparedness. This project will focus on the effects natural disasters can have on drinking water, waste management systems, and how to prepare for these situations. 120 “emergency preparedness” buckets containing 72 hours of basic emergency supplies will be distributed to the community. A public presentation will be given by local emergency responders about personal items people should add to their bucket such as medications. Additionally, a participant survey will establish the effectiveness of the presentations and distribution of emergency preparedness buckets. After the multiple public learning sessions and distribution of emergency preparedness buckets, 120 or more residents in the Seldovia area will have gained more knowledge and resources to respond to a natural disaster situation.

- 4) **Organization:** Forterra Northwest (funded by Urban Waters)

Project Title: *Springbrook Creek: Training the Next Generation of Water Quality Advocates*

Project Type: Water Quality and Job Training

Environmental Statute(s): Clean Water Act, Section 104(b) (3);

Special Considerations: Newer EJ Grantees

Project Location: Renton, Washington

Project Partners: Unleash the Brilliance, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

Project Description:

Forterra Northwest has been engaged in community-focused river habitat restoration for over a decade. For this project, the grantee is partnering with two organizations, Unleash the Brilliance (a truancy diversion program for at-risk youth) and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (an organization that protects the waters of Puget Sound), who have created a paid environmental internship program for Duwamish Valley students. This project will create a curriculum for this program with the goal of providing technical habitat restoration knowledge to the students. Youth engaged in this program are from historically-underserved communities throughout the Duwamish Valley, and as such are bearing the brunt of the negative social and health consequences associated with this area. The program seeks to provide these students with an experience and technical expertise to allow them to be the next generation of environmental advocates within the Duwamish Valley by focusing on a neglected waterway, Springbrook Creek. Moreover, this program will focus on creating forested buffers along Springbrook Creek to reduce stormwater influx and improve the habitat.

5) **Organization:** Methow Valley Citizens Council

Project Title: *Use of a community-based air monitoring network to develop wildfire smoke resilience and build air quality awareness*

Project Type: Community Resiliency

Environmental Statute(s): *Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)*

Special Considerations: Disaster Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness, Newer EJ Grantees

Project Location: Methow Valley, Washington

Project Partners: Town of Twisp, Methow Conservancy, Methow Valley School District, Bush School Methow Campus, Mazama Store and Cyclewerks Bicycle Shop, Winthrop Library, Room One Social Services, Willowbrook Farms, Washington Department of Ecology North Central Region, Winthrop Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service, the Okanogan River Airshed Partnership

Project Description:

The Methow Valley is a geographically isolated, under-resourced rural area with only 6,000 residents dispersed along a 60-mile river valley. The valley suffers from year-round particulate matter exposures from smoke (predominantly wildfire, prescribed fire, outdoor burning, and woodsmoke). With growing anticipation of annual wildfires and increased prescribed burning in the forests surrounding the Methow Valley, measures to raise awareness about the importance of improving air quality and protecting public health during smoke disasters are of critical importance. This research project proposes to understand how a community-based air monitoring network of Purple Air monitors can be maximally utilized by the community to promote air quality awareness and drive behavioral change to protect health during prolonged wildfire smoke episodes. Using information obtained through community focus groups and online surveys, the Council will build out a “Clean Air Ambassador” program to more directly serve the area’s needs. This project will engage up to six different towns along the river valley including Pateros and Methow, which both have larger minority populations.