

Notification of Environmental Justice Assessment on Community Informed Budgeting Grant

Updated April 4, 2024

WHAT

The Department of Health (DOH) is conducting an Environmental Justice Assessment on a grant program to fund projects that benefit overburdened communities.

In 2023, the legislature directed DOH to design and implement a participatory budgeting process. “Participatory budgeting” is a term used to describe processes where residents help decide how to spend a part of a public budget.

The DOH will work with a community advisory committee to first identify five geographically diverse overburdened communities. In collaboration with these five communities, the DOH will co-create a process to identify climate resilience and decarbonization projects. The communities will vote on projects and the selected projects will be presented to the Washington state legislature. Once approved by the legislature in 2025, these projects will be funded up to \$32,600,000.

The purpose of an environmental justice assessment is to identify:

- Who might be most impacted by an agency-administered grant program
- Environmental benefits, harms, and health impacts addressed by the grant program
- Ways to minimize or eliminate negative environmental impacts through grant funding
- How to equitably distribute grant funding and positive environmental impacts

Visit our [Environmental Justice webpage](#) to learn more about Environmental Justice Assessments.

WHY

Participatory budgeting allows Washington residents to play a key role in recommending how taxpayer dollars are spent. Community members’ lived experiences are prioritized in the project identification and development steps in the process, reflecting that communities understand their most pressing needs and how best to get these needs addressed.

WHO

If you identify as a member of a community impacted by climate change or are working on a climate resilience or decarbonization project and would like to connect with one of our staff, please contact us at ejgrants@doh.wa.gov or see ways to get involved below.

WHEN

See below for our proposed timeline and how the environmental justice assessment fits into that process. We highlighted **in yellow** when the public can engage in the participatory budgeting process:

Date	Milestone	Purpose
August 2023	Tribal listening session held	Hear from Tribal Leaders, Tribal government staff, and Tribal organization leaders and staff about the potential impacts of this new program and considerations in the program development.
September 2023	Tribal roundtables held	Discuss issues to ensure the right information is brought to Consultation.
February 2024	Initiate environmental justice assessment.	
February – April 2024	Assemble Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Community Advisory Committee convened to identify at least 5 geographically diverse overburdened communities.
April – July 2024	Engage with five geographically diverse communities	Staff will engage with people who live and work in the 5 geographies identified by the CAC to identify individuals and organizations working with communities impacted by climate change.
August – October 2024	Support community members to create project proposals	Community members from the five geographies to create their project proposals
October – November 2024	5 CAC identified communities vote on project proposals	Each CAC identified community votes on projects to move forward for legislative review and approval.
December 2024 – January 2025	Prepare project proposals to present to legislature during 2025 Legislative Session	
January 2025	Present project proposals to legislature	Once approved by the legislature, projects will be funded through the grant program

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For updates, please visit [Environmental Justice and Climate Change Grants | DOH](#).

For questions about this grant program or the environmental justice assessment, please email eigrants@doh.wa.gov.



DOH 300-044 April 2024

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.