# **Washington State Department of Health Request for Applications (RFA)**

**Application Title**: HEAL (Healthy Environment for All) Capacity Building Grants

**Total Amount of Funding:** $11.6 million

**Estimated Funding Range per Award:** $250,000-$1,000,000

**Expected Period of Performance:** Date of Execution – June 30, 2025

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). All required documents must be submitted by the due dates and times specified.

Organizations can request application materials and apply in a language other than English if desired. Information sessions will be held in English, Spanish, and other languages at your request.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Application release date   | April 8, 2024  |
| Informational webinars  | April 15, 2024, 11am-12pm (English)April 22, 2024 1-2pm (Spanish speakers)   April 24, 2024, 5-6pm (English) |
| Application due date   | May 5, 2024 at 11:59pm   |
| Estimated internal review of applications   | May 6-29, 2024   |
| Estimated notification of award   | May 31, 2024   |
| Estimated agreement execution/start date   | July 1, 2024 |
| Funding period end date  | June 30, 2025 |

# **Background and Purpose:**

The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act was passed in 2020 to reduce environmental and health disparities, equitably distribute environmental benefits, and improve the health of all people in Washington state. The DOH is one of seven named state agencies, along with Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Ecology, Attorney General’s Office, and Puget Sound Partnership, committed to reducing environmental health disparities across Washington State through the implementation of HEAL.

This HEAL capacity grant program focuses on enhancing community-led decision making to advance environmental justice (EJ) and build climate resilience. This funding equips communities most impacted by environmental hazards, including but not limited to Native Nations, Black communities, rural communities, youth, low income, unhoused, disabled, LGBTQ+, and/or other communities most vulnerable to climate impacts, with necessary resources needed to collaborate with state agencies on climate and environmental health decisions. We recognize that communities experiencing the greatest impacts of environmental injustice have historically been left out of state decision-making processes. This exclusion has contributed to the environmental health disparities we see today. At the same time, these communities often hold rich perspectives and experience on environmental justice issues. The Legislature required the state Department of Health (DOH) to set this grant program based on the Environmental Justice Council (EJC) Climate Commitment Act (CCA) funding recommendations and budget priorities. These grants are supported with funding from Washington’s Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington’s climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at [www.climate.wa.gov](https://stateofwa.sharepoint.com/sites/DOH-OEPHSEJEvalandPlanning/Shared%20Documents/General/GROUP%20%231%20Work%20RFA/www.climate.wa.gov).

Community-based and community-led organizations are uniquely positioned to identify and respond to the engagement and participation needs of the communities they serve. They are invaluable partners in navigating the specific cultural and linguistic contexts, logistical and access barriers, and environmental justice concerns of their communities. We offer two funding opportunities to support communities in building capacity to engage in HEAL activities. Eligible organizations may apply to one or both of the following:

1. **Pass-through funding** (500,000-$1,000,000): We invite community-based organizations to sub-grant funds to other community-based organizations working with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations across Washington State to support equitable community engagement and building capacity to participate in HEAL activities. The selected organizations will work closely with DOH staff to ensure accountability, transparency, and equity throughout the funding period and grant process. This funding builds on the [EJ Community Participation Fund](https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/health-equity/environmental-justice/community-engagement) developed in 2023.
2. **Project funding** ($250,000-$500,000): An organization may apply on its own or in partnership with other organization(s) for funds to build organizational and community capacity to provide guidance and input to:
* the Environmental Justice Council on implementation of the HEAL Act, and
* the Department of Health on updates to the [environmental health disparities map](https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map).
* state agencies on implementation of the HEAL Act (including environmental justice assessments, budgeting and funding, community, and Tribal engagement).

**Activities**

*Passthrough Fund Activities:*

Passthrough grant funds will be used to establish a process to sub-grant funds to community-based organizations and Tribal organizations working with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations across Washington State. It is expected that funded organizations use strategies rooted in equity to sub-grant funds.

Sub-grantees should use funds to build capacity to provide guidance and input to agencies, the Environmental Justice Council on the HEAL Act, and the state Department of Health on updates to the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map, or work with HEAL agencies on EJ (DOH, Department of Commerce, WA State Department of Agriculture, WA State Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Ecology, Attorney General’s Office, and Puget Sound Partnership).

*Project Fund Activities:*

Project grant funds may be used to build community capacity to engage in HEAL Act activities. Funds may support activities that include, but are not limited to building capacity to provide guidance and input to:

* agencies on implementation of the HEAL Act (including environmental justice assessments, budgeting and funding, community, and Tribal engagement),
* the Environmental Justice Council on implementation of the HEAL Act, and
* the Department of Health on updates to the environmental health disparities map.

Examples of How Project Funding May be Used

Grantees may focus projects on a range of environmental justice topic areas, included but not limited to:

* Clean energy
* Clean air and clean water
* Waste management, recycling, composting
* First foods projects (with traditional knowledge protection)
* Community gardening, green space access and management, and urban heat island

It is expected that applicants propose a project that reflects community determined environmental justice priorities and includes activities that are culturally relevant and tailored to community needs. We provide the table below as a sample of potential activities, and their associated deliverables.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Example Activity  | Example Deliverables |
| Hire staff to lead environmental justice activities and state agency coordination | Record of hiring and onboarding staff  |
| Increase community/organization knowledge and understanding of the HEAL Act  | List of community meetings, outreach activities, events Meeting agendas or documentation of meeting minutes Establishment of a community coalition  |
| Increase community knowledge about a particular environmental justice issue  | List of community meetings, outreach activities, events Documentation of an educational video Meeting agendas or documentation of meeting minutes  |
| Attend Environmental Justice Council meetings or agency briefings related to specific topic areas | Documentation of meetings, such as meeting minutes or summary, shared or co-created with state agency program manager. |
| Conduct environmental health and justice assessment related to specific topic areas | Documentation of assessment, such as summary of key findings. Collection of qualitative data such as stories about how environmental injustices have impacted Tribes and communities, with associated protocols to ensure safety and data sovereignty including transparency to participants on how data will be used.  |
| Participate on technical workgroups, or other offerings to inform the Environmental Health Disparities Map development. This may include review or updates to data sharing and governance protocols. | List of new or updated health indicators.  Documentation of technical workgroup meetings, such as meeting minutes or summary, shared or co-created with DOH program manager. |

# **Eligibility and Qualifications:**

This funding is open to eligible organizations in both rural and urban areas. We hope to reach communities across the state through this funding.

Tribal organizations and Urban Native led non-profits with 501(c)3 status with service areas in WA state are encouraged to apply for either type of funding. These applications will be scored to account for Tribal sovereignty, data sovereignty, and proprietary traditional knowledge protection. Federally recognized Tribes are eligible to apply for the [Tribal Heal Capacity reserved for Tribal governments](https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/health-equity/environmental-justice/grants/heal-act-tribal-capacity).

*Passthrough funds*

Community based organizations with 501(c)3 status are eligible to apply for passthrough funds. Large institutions (i.e. hospitals/community health centers, academic institutions, local health jurisdictions, local government such as city our county) are invited to apply in partnership with a 501(c)3 or fiscally sponsored community based organization. It is expected that passthrough fund grantees will spend a reasonable amount of awarded funds on administrative costs associated with establishing and distributing the funds.

Organizations receiving pass-through funds must also meet the following qualifications:

* Administrative and fiscal capacity to set up and manage pass-through funding.
* Capacity to develop and implement a plan for equitably soliciting applications from, selecting, and allocating funding to subgrantee organizations.
* Demonstrated ability to work equitably with communities and populations across the state, in particular, those most impacted by environmental injustice.
* Demonstrated ability to collaborate and partner with external organizations with accountability and transparency.

*Project funds*

Community based organizations with 501(c)3 status are eligible to apply for project funds as a sole or lead applicant, and may partner with organizations with fiscal sponsorship.

# **Payment:**

Payment is through deliverable based invoicing. The State of Washington prefers to utilize electronic payment in its transactions. Successful awardees will be expected to register as a statewide vender (if not currently registered). This allows awardees to receive payments from all participating state agencies by direct deposit, the State’s preferred method of payment. Additional funds may become available to awardees after initial agreements have been established with all grantees.

Allowable costs include:

* Staffing costs
* Administrative costs, including any costs associated with Fund administration, including but not limited to salaries, benefits, goods, and services.
* For subgrantees: direct costs relevant to the purpose of this grant, including but not limited to stipends for community participants, transportation costs, food and beverages, translation and interpretation services, printing and dissemination of outreach materials, etc.

Non-allowable costs include:

* Capital projects
* Funds for research
* Billable clinical care, except as allowed by law
* Reimbursement of pre-award costs, unless DOH provides written approval to the recipient
* Generally, recipients may not use funds to purchase furniture or equipment. Any such proposed spending must be clearly identified in the budget.
* Other than for normal and recognized executive–legislative relationships, no funds may be used for:
	+ publicity or propaganda purposes to prepare, distribute, or use any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body.
	+ the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before any legislative body.

***Application Process***

Application materials can be found below (pages 8-13). Applicants should download the file, complete all required forms, and return them by email to ejgrants@doh.wa.gov by May 5, 2024 at 11:59pm. Please reach out if you require any assistance accessing the application.

Interviews will take place as needed to solicit additional information or to meet a request for accommodation. If you have a specific accommodation need and would like to request a formal interview to supplement your application please contact ejgrants@doh.wa.gov.

# ***Application Support***

Interested organizations are invited to register for information sessions held on April 15, 2024, 11am-12pm and April 24, 2024, 5-6pm to ask any clarifying questions about the RFA and application process. The information session will be recorded and be made available on the [HEAL Act Community Capacity Grants website](https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/health-equity/environmental-justice/grants/community-capacity). Interested organizations can reach out to ejgrants@doh.wa.gov to discuss a project idea and address any questions or concerns with the grants team directly. Organizations may also connect with EPA funded environmental justice technical assistance centers serving our region: [Northwest Environmental Justice Center](https://nwejc.org/) and the [University of Washington Center for Environmental Health Equity](https://deohs.washington.edu/cehe/). These organizations are not affiliated with the Department of Health but may provide independent technical assistance.

[Register](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsfuugrz0oEtdRY39CurSxeeIMS8hBV93N) for information session on Monday April 15th from 11am-12pm (English)

[Register](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtfuyrrTssHdEkvkH70fpjCZP7J3gb2PY8) for information session on Wednesday April 24th from 5-6pm (English)

[Register](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZElc-6rrzsqE9Ub0rYeB81lVZAYE1Ko4Qz2) for information session on Monday April 22nd from 1pm-2pm (Spanish)

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| --- | --- |
|  **Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria** | **# of points** |
| **Project Narrative** |  |
| *Organizational Profile* – does the organization meet all the key qualifications? Describe how leadership composition of the organization(s) reflects the community being served? | 15 |
| *Project Description* – does the project meet the intent and spirit of the HEAL Act and environmental justice? does the organization describe an approach (outreach strategy, sub-grantee selection, and reporting and accountability) that centers and will reach those most impacted by environmental harms? Is the organization’s approach and methodology clear and comprehensive in addressing the questions from the project narrative?  | 20 |
| *Evaluation* – does the organization describe an evaluation plan that is clear, comprehensive, and connected to goals in the work plan? Does the organization describe how they will work in iterative consultation with the sub-grantees throughout evaluation?  | 5 |
| *Community Connectedness* **–** does the organization demonstrate a connection to a priority population, *including (see definitions) “overburdened communities” & “vulnerable populations”? Does the project redress past harms: Are there root causes or factors creating these EJ inequities that this project plans to alleviate or repair. Examples include but are not limited to: redlining, policy, city planning, locations waste facilities? Is community participation prioritized and uplifted in power in knowledge base and construction while centering their concerns?*  | 25 |
| **Statement of work** – does the work plan describe meaningful steps towards achieving the purposes of this grant? Are the activities described in the work plan specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely? | 10 |
| **Budget Narrative** – does the budget narrative support the activities described in the budget narrative and work plan? Does the budget maximize resources allocated to community and/or sub-grantees? | 10 |
| **Funding type-specific criteria (only 15 points total and may be shared if grant is a mix of types)** |
| **Fiscal Capacity (for Passthrough Funding Only) –** does the applicant share a plan for distributing funds upfront to subgrantees and receiving deliverable based reimbursement? How does the administrative cost consider equity? How will subgrantees be set up for financial and project success? | 15 |
| **Partner Support –** do the committed partners help expand the reach and impact to prioritized populations? Are resources split equitably among partners? Does letter of support (see template) show understand of funding split and reimbursement plan? | 15 |
| **For organizations serving Urban Natives, Tribal Nations, or Tribal organizations:** How do your board and senior staff reflect the community you serve? Does the project design and evaluation center Native priorities while valuing Indigenous ways of knowing and protecting traditional knowledge?  | 15 |

**Application Checklist:**

Send all forms to ejgrants@doh.wa.gov. If there are any technical issues using the included Exhibit forms, applicants can use another format, but it must include all elements included in the Exhibit forms.

* Complete an Applicant Information form (Exhibit 1)
* Complete a Project Narrative describing the project (1-3 pages single spaced using the outline provided in Exhibit 2)
* Complete the Project Work Plan (Exhibit 3) describing the specific goals, activities, and timeline for the project
* Complete the Budget Narrative (Exhibit 4)
* Complete the Financial Attestation Form (Passthrough Fund applicants) (Exhibit 5)
* Complete the Partner Letter of Support form (For organizations working in partnership) (Exhibit 6)
* If the lead applicant is a hospital/community health center, academic institution, local health jurisdiction, or local government such as city our county, include at least one, but no more than three, letters of support from community based partner organizations.

Exhibit 1

**Applicant Information**

1. Name of organization(s) (if multiple indicate lead organization):
2. Primary mailing address:
3. Telephone number:
4. Tax Identification Number (TIN):
5. UBI Number:
6. Statewide Vendor Number:
7. Primary Contact Person Name and Title:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

1. Secondary Contact Person Name and Title:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

1. Applying for (select either or both):
	* Passthrough Funds
	* Project Funds
2. Applying as a:
* Individual organization
* Partnership (multiple organizations)
1. Do you expect your funds to reach urban native communities and/or tribal organizations?
* Yes
* No

Exhibit 2

**Project Narrative**

1-3 pages single spaced;12-point font

Applicants must write a narrative addressing the topics below. When writing your narrative, please use the headings below in bold, in the same order they are listed below.

1. **Organizational Profile** – Include a brief summary of your organization’s mission, communities served, and explanation of how organization’s leadership reflects those communities.
2. **Community Connectedness** –describe your organization’s connection to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations, including:
	1. How does the organization center community participation and uplift community power?
	2. How does your organization support community healing from past and present harms?
	3. How are you meeting the community’s ongoing needs beyond this grant?
3. **Partnerships** – Please describe any key partnerships relevant to achieving this project’s goals. Include the length of time and scope of your work together and how working with these partners aligns with your project’s goals and mission. Please also describe how you will use this grant to seek and develop new partnerships.
4. **Project Description** – Please describe your proposed approach for your project. Please address the following in your description:
	1. *Project Description –* Describe your project, including goals and anticipated challenges.
	2. *Environmental justice impact*– How does the project meet the intent and spirit of the HEAL Act and environmental justice?
	3. Intended reach – How will the project center and reach those most impacted by environmental harms?
	4. *For organizations serving Urban Natives, Tribal Nations, or Tribal organizations*: How will you design and evaluate Native priorities while valuing Indigenous ways of knowing and protecting traditional knowledge? What reporting do you expect to require and how will you protect tribal data sovereignty in your reporting? (see definitions for data sovereignty and traditional knowledge)
	5. *For passthrough organizations:* what criteria will you use to select subgrantees, and how will you consider equity in the process? What administrative processes and systems will you put in place to ensure accountability to both subgrantees and the DOH when allocating funding? How will you ensure you’re collecting the necessary information for reporting?
5. **Evaluation** – how will you evaluate your organization’s progress for this grant? How will you work in iterative consultation with your subgrantees to know you’re successful?

Exhibit 3

**Statement of Work**

Please use this template to describe the activities, impact, and timeline for the project. Be as specific as possible. These activities could include achieving the following elements of the project:

**Passthrough funds**

* Development of a DOH-approved plan to identify and distribute funding to subgrantees and the preparation of any internal processes needed to implement this plan.
* Allocating all available funding to community-based organization subgrantees.
* Ongoing reporting and submitting a final report or presentation detailing funding allocation and activities of subgrantees**.**
* Quarterly progress meetings with DOH staff, completion of mid-point and final reports

**Project funds**

* Hiring staff, hosting events, convening roundtables, attending agency meetings
* Quarterly progress meetings with DOH staff, completion of mid-point and final reports

**Statement of Work**

**ORGANIZATION NAME**

**Contract # XXX**

**Date of Execution (DOE) – MM/DD/YYYY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task/Activity** **Description** | **Expected Outcome** | **Deliverable to DOH**  | **Due Date**  |
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Exhibit 4

**Budget Justification**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget Category** | **Total Amount Requested** | **Brief Justification (2-4 sentences)** |
| Personnel, salaries, and wages |  |  |
| Sub-grants |  |  |
| Supplies |  |  |
| In-state travel (if applicable) |  |  |
| Administrative costs |  |  |
| Other Expenses |  |  |
| **Total Amount Requested** |  |

Exhibit 5

**Financial attestation (for passthrough grant applicants only)**

[Organization Name]

[date]

Dear Department of Health,

I understand that [organization’s name] is applying to receive funds to sub-grant to community organizations to build capacity to participate in HEAL activities. At this time, Department of Health will pay grantees upon completion of deliverables outlined in the included statement of work. [Organization name] will be expected to provide funds to sub-grantees.

[Organization name] understands these terms and does have the fiscal capacity to undertake this work, as described in the application materials.

Sincerely,

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Exhibit 6

**Letter of Support Template**

**Only needed for joint community projects or institutions applying for pass through funds with a community based organization**

Dear Department of Health,

I am writing my support for this EJ HEAL Capacity Grant with the lead applicant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We are applying for the:

* + Passthrough Funds
	+ Project Funds

For this project my community-based organization with 501c(3) status or fiscal sponsorship will receive this amount \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the total funds \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The lead applicant and I have a plan for the reimbursement requirement which is:

We have discussed the project, reporting, and evaluation plans included in the application packet.

Sincerely,

Name:

Title:

Organization:

# **Definitions:**

*Community-based organization:*

For the purposes of this grant, a “community-based organization” is defined as a public, private, or tribal nonprofit that is managed by members of a community, actively serves all members of the community, and advocates for positive change in the community.

*Institutions:* i.e. hospitals/community health centers, academic institutions, local health jurisdictions

*Environmental justice:*

The HEAL Act defines “environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies. Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.” In addition, we affirm the rights of nature, and that environmental justice involves balancing the needs of both people and nature together.

*Climate Justice:*

Climate change threatens the health, livelihoods, and wellbeing of everyone, but it negatively affects specific groups more than others and often makes existing social and health inequities worse. Climate justice is focused on addressing the unequal impacts of climate change by prioritizing the health and safety of those who face the greatest risk as we prepare for and recover from climate events, such as extreme heat and cold, wildfires and wildfire smoke, and flooding.

The goals of climate justice are to make sure no one is left behind in the climate crisis and to transition to a healthier and more fair future for all living beings. This also means as we move away from fossil fuels, we also move toward a “just transition” that promotes a stable and sustainable economy, advances job and health equity, and is rooted in a thriving and healthy environment.

*Overburdened communities:*

The HEAL Act defines “overburdened communities” as geographic areas where “vulnerable populations face combined, multiple environmental harms and health impacts.” The term “overburdened communities” also encompasses communities in census tracts that are fully or partially on "Indian country" as defined in [18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title%3A18%20section%3A1151%20edition%3Aprelim))

Within this definition, we acknowledge that this disproportionate environmental impact has been created and continued by the effects of environmental racism, colonization, and discriminatory policy and practice, including redlining, failure to honor treaty rights, and the placement of polluting industry and hazardous waste sites in low-income communities of color and Indigenous communities. State government has too often excluded these communities from environmental decision-making, despite their rich perspectives, deep knowledge of environmental issues, and active resistance to unjust treatment. In recognition of these strengths, for the purposes of this grant, we affirm the need to center their leadership, lived experience, and perspectives in addressing environmental injustice and health disparities.

A tool that can aid identifying “overburdened communities” is the [Washington Tracking Network](https://doh.wa.gov/data-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map) [Environmental Health Disparities Map,](https://doh.wa.gov/data-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map) which ranks census tracts according to environmental health disparity and can be used with other sources of publicly available and community-generated data to identify communities most impacted by environmental harm.

*Climate Resilience*

The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit defines climate resilience as “The capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a disruption.”

*Vulnerable populations:*

Under the HEAL Act, “vulnerable populations” means “population groups that are more likely to be at higher risk for poor health outcomes in response to environmental harms, due to:

Adverse socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, limited access to nutritious food and adequate health care, linguistic isolation, and other factors that negatively affect health outcomes and increase vulnerability to the effects of environmental harms; and sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.”

"Vulnerable populations" includes, but is not limited to:

* Racial or ethnic minorities;
* Low-income populations;
* Populations disproportionately impacted by environmental harms; and
* Populations of workers experiencing environmental harms.

Similar to the definition of “overburdened communities,” within this definition we recognize the concentration of these “adverse socioeconomic factors'' in low-income communities of color and indigenous communities is rooted in ongoing systemic marginalization, erasure, exclusion, and structural racism. Without explicit recognition of the conditions causing these disparities, we risk putting the blame on impacted populations and communities, rather than larger systems of social inequity.

*Traditional Knowledge protection*:

Traditional knowledge may be owned by various Indigenous individuals and groups and not be allowed to share with outsiders or those who have not done the proper training to interact with the knowledge. When working with outside parties such as government agencies or funders, culturally relevant intellectual property rights protocols must be part of the process. “Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions” (UNDRIP Article 31).

*Data Sovereignty/Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)*:

FAO defines FPIC as “FPIC is a specific right [reaffirmed] to Indigenous Peoples recognized in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which aligns with their universal right to self-determination. FPIC allows Indigenous Peoples to provide or withhold/ withdraw consent, at any point, regarding projects impacting their territories. FPIC allows Indigenous Peoples to engage in negotiations to shape the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of projects. FAO's Policy on Indigenous Peoples aligns with the UN and the international legal framework, prioritizing the inclusion and promotion of Indigenous Peoples' issues in its work. The FAO Policy upholds core principles such as self-determined development, respect for Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, cultures and traditional practices and FPIC.” (FAO FPIC policy).