



**Philanthropy Northwest’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Region 10 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grant  
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Application Title:** EPA Region 10 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grant

**Total Amount of Funding:** \$48 million

**Estimated Funding Range per Award:** \$150,000-\$350,000

- Type 1 (Assessment): up to \$150,000
- Type 2 (Planning): up to \$250,000
- Type 3 (Development): up to \$350,000

*For details on each grant type, see below.*

**Expected Period of Performance:** 1- or 2-year grants; May 2025 – June 2027

This funding is open to eligible organizations in rural and urban areas across EPA’s Region 10, comprising Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and 271 Tribal Nations.

**Application link:** [https://philanthropynorthwest.fluxx.io/user\\_sessions/new](https://philanthropynorthwest.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new)

**For more information contact:** [thrivingcommunities@philanthropynw.org](mailto:thrivingcommunities@philanthropynw.org)

The timeline for the entire grantmaking program is below:

**Thriving Communities Grants Timeline**

Please note that the deadline is 5 pm on the day the application closes (see dates below).

Type 3 (\$350,000)

Round	Application Opens	Application Closes	Notice of Selection
Round 1	October 10, 2024	December 15, 2024	March 2025
Round 2	January 1, 2025	February 28, 2025	May 2025

Type 2 (\$250,000)

Round	Application Opens	Application Closes	Notice of Selection
Round 2	January 1, 2025	February 28, 2025	May 2025
Round 3	February 1, 2025	March 31, 2025	June 2025

Type 1 (\$150,000)

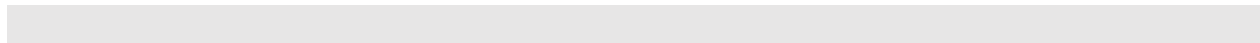
Round	Application Opens	Application Closes	Notice of Selection
Round 2	January 1, 2025	February 28, 2025	May 2025
Round 3	February 1, 2025	March 31, 2025	June 2025
Round 4	March 1, 2025	April 30, 2025	July 2025

**Please note that all grants must be complete (all work done and funds spent) by July 31, 2027.**



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**1. Background**

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (“Thriving Communities Program”) **aims to make it easier for community-based organizations to access federal environmental justice funding.** Philanthropy Northwest has created a grant process that is as easy as possible with federal funds, so applicants should not be discouraged based on the source of the funding. Eligible project activities can include, but are not limited to, environmental justice projects that improve air quality, water quality, environmental clean-up, stormwater, or lead or asbestos abatement.

The goal is to reduce barriers and provide a simpler application process for federal funding, including fewer forms, budget requirements, a simpler project narrative and an easier grants system to navigate. Philanthropy Northwest and other technical assistance agencies will be providing help throughout the application and grants management process.

The Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program was created by the Biden-Harris administration as a part of the Investing in America Agenda. Through the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history. The Administration committed \$600 million nationwide over three years to the Grantmaking program. The program is part of [the Federal Interagency Thriving Communities Network](#) and delivers on the Administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#) under Executive Order 14008, which set the goal that 40% of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by under investment and overburdened by pollution. under Executive Order 14008, which set the goal that 40% of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by under investment and overburdened by pollution.

In December 2023, Philanthropy Northwest, in partnership with an extensive network of regional partners across EPA Region 10, was selected as the Region 10 Grantmaker for the Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program. Region 10 consists of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and the 271 Tribal Nations within those states. Philanthropy Northwest's goals are to distribute resources to historically underinvested communities by leveraging powerful partnerships, facilitating participatory grantmaking and designing a simplified application process. Philanthropy Northwest will be distributing \$40 million to the region over three years.

There are three types of grants that potential sub-awardees could apply for:

- **Type One (Assessment Projects) for up to \$150,000** (*1-year project period*): funding is focused on gathering information, assessing and understanding the problem(s) before developing a plan.
- **Type Two (Planning Projects) for up to \$250,000** (*1- to 2-year project period*): grants for those who already have a strong understanding of the local environmental and/or public health issues and are ready to formulate a community-wide plan to address those issues.
- **Type Three (Project Development) for up to \$350,000** (*2-year project period*): grants for those who already have a strong understanding of the local environmental and/or public health issues, have already formulated a community-wide plan addressing those issues, and/or are now ready to develop the technical aspects of the project (i.e., implement the project on the ground).

A limited number of non-compete \$75,000 fixed-amount grants will be made to community-based organizations to advance environmental justice goals.

- **Purpose of non-compete grants:** These non-competitive grants are intended to support equitable distribution of resources across Region 10, ensuring that historically underserved areas receive the support they need.
- **Eligibility:** Eligible applicants are “severely capacity-constrained” organizations: those with budgets under \$500,000 **or** those serving areas with populations of 50,000 people or fewer. These criteria determine initial eligibility only and are not used to select award recipients. Our priority is to allocate resources in a way that promotes geographic equity across the region.
- **How to be considered:** Eligible entities can enter the non-compete pool through two methods: (1) entry from the competitive process, where we will review eligible applicants declined from previous competitive cycles, or (2) self-identification based on the completion of a brief intake form that will be available on PNW’s grantmaking portal Fluxx.
- **Timeline:** Philanthropy Northwest will begin accepting proposals for non-competitive grants in Round 4, opening March 2025.
- **Awards:** We anticipate making approximately 72 non-competitive subawards.

## 2. Purpose

The Region 10 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities grant program will provide funding to organizations addressing the unequal impacts of environmental justice issues in local communities throughout the region.

This grant program is committed to equitably distributing EPA’s funding to:

- Organizations led by and serving communities that are chronically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and/or inequality; or
- Organizations that are in rural and remote communities;
- Organizations that address environmental justice: communities who bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from commercial operations or execution of public programs/policies.

Philanthropy Northwest will prioritize projects that benefit Justice40 communities and have direct participation from communities and populations impacted by the environmental justice issue.

*Environmental justice* means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, tribal affiliation or disability, in agency decision-making and other federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

- Are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to

climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and

- Have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

### **3. Eligibility and Qualifications**

This funding is open to eligible organizations in rural and urban areas across EPA's Region 10, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and 271 Tribal Nations.

Eligible organizations include:

- Nonprofit organizations, community-based and grassroots nonprofit organizations
- Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia
- Local governments: counties, boroughs, municipalities, cities
- Institutions of higher education
- Native American/Indigenous-led organizations
- Local governments: counties, boroughs, municipalities, cities
- Institutions of higher education

Ineligible recipients include:

- Individuals
- For-profit businesses
- State governments
- Any organization that has been suspended or debarred from federal funding

Information needed for registration in the grant application portal includes ensuring the project you are applying for does not involve these ineligible activities:

- Lobbying
- Legal advice, services, or representation
- Inherently religious activities such as worship, prayer, proselytizing, or religious instruction

#### **Maximum number of awards per organization**

To ensure equitable distribution of funds, an organization is limited to receiving one grant award in Region 10 for the duration of this three-year Thriving Communities Program.

In the context of grantmaking, each organization is identified by its employer identification number (EIN), state nonprofit registration, or tribal recognition. Both federally and state-recognized Native American tribes are eligible to apply for grants

based on their legal status. For example, a regional or national organization with multiple affiliates, or a tribal government and its nonprofit entities, may be eligible to receive more than one grant if each operates under a separate EIN, state nonprofit registration, or tribal designation. This ensures that distinct entities within a broader organizational network or tribal governance structure can apply independently, as long as they meet the criteria for separate grants.

Applicants may use a fiscal sponsor, with some restrictions. An individual fiscal sponsor can receive up to five individual awards, with a maximum of \$1 million in funding for the course of the program.

A fiscal sponsor is considered the applicant organization and is responsible for all aspects of the grant, including compliance with the grant agreement, financial management, reporting and ensuring that the funded activities align with the grant's objectives. A fiscal project should not apply without its fiscal sponsor's knowledge and consent. Exceptions to the limitation on the number of grants received by an individual organization may be made due to significant community impact, critical environmental need or innovative approaches.

#### **4. Application Requirements**

The Thriving Communities application is available [here](#). All applicants will be required to complete the full application, including attaching all requested documentation as prompted.

Applicants must have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) in the Federal System of Award Management (SAM) to be eligible to receive awarded funds. For organizations that do not yet have a UEI, please know it may take several weeks to register for one. SAM registration is not required at the time of submission, but if awarded funding, your organization will need a current/approved SAM registration number.

Applicants who do not have adequate broadband access can work with a PNW Program Officer to find a suitable solution for submission.

For any additional support or accommodations to access the application, please email the Thriving Communities Program at [thrivingcommunities@philanthropyNW.org](mailto:thrivingcommunities@philanthropyNW.org)

To access the application, you will first need to register with [Fluxx](#), an online grants system designed to make the application process easier and more accessible. Through Fluxx, you will submit the application, and if successfully awarded, this is also where you will submit your grant reports. Your login information is not captured by Philanthropy Northwest so please store it in a safe space so you can access the Fluxx system. If you encounter any technical issues with creating a Fluxx account, please email us at [fluxxta@philanthropyNW.org](mailto:fluxxta@philanthropyNW.org).

After registering, you will be able to access the grant application. Once started, you will be able to save your progress as you work through the application, and it does not need to be completed in one sitting.

## 5. Allowable and unallowable costs

Applicants are recommended to visit [How to Develop a Budget | US EPA](#) to review online training for EPA grant budget development.

<p><b>Examples of allowable costs include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salaries and wages</li> <li>• Fringe benefits</li> <li>• Consumable materials/supplies</li> <li>• Services provided by contractors or consultants directly related to the project (see guidance about consultant cap not to exceed \$91.95 hourly).</li> <li>• Equipment necessary for the project (meeting specific criteria)</li> <li>• Costs for project-related training and educational activities and</li> <li>• Indirect Costs with an approved indirect cost rate or 15% de minimis rate</li> </ul>		<p><b>Examples of unallowable costs include*:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcoholic beverages</li> <li>• Fines or penalties</li> <li>• Expenses related to lobbying or political activities</li> <li>• Conference meals, beverages, snacks entertainment, catering. Costs for light refreshments and meals for recipient staff meetings and similar day-to-day activities are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements.</li> <li>• Gifts</li> <li>• First class/business class travel</li> </ul>
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\*Unallowable costs are strictly prohibited using EPA funds. Organizations can seek funding elsewhere to support needs, such as food for conferences, outside of this grant application.

## 6. Program Overview and Types of Funding Available

The Thriving Communities Program offers grants for three types of projects:

Type 1: Assessment - For communities that need to gather information and understand the environmental justice problem before they can develop a plan and take action to address and eventually resolve the problem.

Type 2: Planning - For communities that are ready to create a community plan to address environmental justice issues. This can include developing partnerships with other organizations, holding planning meetings, and creating an action plan with goals, objectives, and steps to take.

Type 3: Project Development - For communities that already have a strong understanding of the local environmental and/or public health issues, have already formulated a community-wide plan addressing those issues, and/or are now ready to implement the plan.

Each type of grant has its own duration.

Grant Type	Grant Amount	Grant Period
Type One: Assessment Projects	Up to \$150,000	Up to one year (12 months)
Type Two: Planning	Up to \$250,000	1 or 2 years
Type Three: Project Development	Up to \$350,000	2 years

Examples of environmental justice projects that may be funded include but are not limited to:

- Air quality & asthma
- Fence line air quality monitoring
- Water quality & sampling
- Small cleanup projects
- Improving food access to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Stormwater issues and [green infrastructure](#)
- Lead and asbestos contamination
- Pesticides and other toxic substances
- Healthy homes that are energy/water use efficient and not subject to indoor air pollution
- Illegal dumping activities, such as education, outreach, and small-scale clean-ups
- Emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency
- Environmental job training for occupations that reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
- Environmental justice training for youth
- Other



Projects that propose research, sampling, testing, monitoring, investigations, use of environmental data and other scientifically based activities require a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that can be paid for with this grant. For more information about QAPP requirements, please visit [this EPA website](#) or [this link](#) with more information on data collection.

If you will be conducting human subjects research activities as part of your project your project protocol will need to be approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) as well as the Human Subjects Research Review Officer (HSRRO) at EPA. To find out more whether your work will involve conducting human subjects research, visit [our FAQs here](#).

### **Type 1 Assessment Projects – 1 year, up to \$150,000**

The Type 1 assessment grants are for communities that need to gather information and understand the problem before they can develop a plan and take action to address and eventually resolve the problem.

Assessment grants are available for organizations and applicants to assist them during the initial steps of their work to address specific issues impacting them locally by conducting assessments of environmental and public health concerns. Type 1 assessment awards are for up to \$150,000 for a one-year project period.

The following is a list of activities which may be considered for a Type 1 award. These examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and the list is not comprehensive:

- Research, qualitative and/or quantitative\*
- Sampling\*
- Testing\*
- Monitoring\*
- Investigations\*
- Surveys and studies
- Public education

(\* indicates a QAPP may be required)

#### **TYPE 1 PROJECT EXAMPLE**

A small nonprofit that supports local food sovereignty initiatives has been gifted land located in a chronically underfunded community to start a local food forest. Unfortunately, this lot had been used for illegal dumping and there are bags of trash and other debris on the property. This funding will support coordination for volunteers to conduct transect surveys to document necessary remediations and potential health hazards on the site. This type of project will likely require a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) because environmental information is being

collected, evaluated and used. The grantee will need to work with their Program Officer to better understand the QAPP process.

### **Type 2 Planning Projects – 1-2 years, up to \$250,000**

The Type 2 Planning grants are for organizations that have assessed the environmental justice issues in their community and are ready to create a community-wide plan to address those issues. This includes developing cooperative partnerships with other stakeholders and organizations, holding planning meetings, and creating an action plan with goals, objectives, and steps to take.

Planning project activities can address more than one environmental issue—for example, both air quality and water quality. Type 2 grants are for up to \$250,000 each for a one- or two-year project period.

The following is a list of activities which may be considered for a Type 2 award. These examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and the list is not comprehensive:

- Planning
- Partnership building
- Public outreach and education
- Coordination with community members to address environmental issues
- Training activities for community organizations and community members
- Projects and activities to spur community involvement, like cleanup of vacant lots
- Smaller land purchases and acquisitions that require less than half of the total grant (up to \$125,000)

Similar types of projects are also eligible.

### **TYPE 2 PROJECT EXAMPLE**

Community Action will convene the local housing authority, electric utility and service organizations to coordinate a collaborative Healthy Homes and beneficial electrification campaign. The campaign will benefit a disadvantaged community that was relocated due to construction of a freeway years ago. The project is focused on creating a community-wide plan to include stakeholder engagement, training sessions and public education.

### **Type 3 Project Development – 2 years, up to \$350,000**

The Type 3 Project Development grants are for communities that already have a strong understanding of their local environmental and/or public health issues, already have the required scientifically based results and/or evaluation completed, have already formulated a community-wide plan addressing those issues, and/or are now ready to implement the project on the ground.

Creating or maintaining key partnerships with community stakeholders is an essential part of developing and implementing a community-wide plan. Therefore, creating partnerships can also be part of development projects.

Development project activities can address more than one environmental issue—for example, both lead and asbestos exposure. Type 3 grants are for up to \$350,000 for a two-year project period.

The following is a list of activities which may be considered for a Type 3 award. These examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and the list is not comprehensive:

- Blueprints for construction or cleanup projects, schematics, and technical development
- Work to get permits in place for an environmental project
- Smaller land purchases and acquisitions that require less than half of the total grant (up to \$175,000)
- Implementation of project plans
- Public outreach and education on your community's environmental justice issue
- Clean up and restoration work

Similar types of projects are also eligible. Please contact our staff with specific questions on the eligibility of your project.

### **PROJECT EXAMPLE**

A rural tribal government has been monitoring the declining water quality of Blue River for many years after the cessation of mining activities in the watershed over decade ago. Tribal members depend on the stream and river for drinking water and subsistence but have to limit these activities due to contamination in the water and declining fish populations. The tribal government recently finished a Natural Resources Plan that lists addressing this water quality issue as a high priority and includes a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that has already been EPA-approved through a different grant project. This grant will help them begin implementation of three water quality initiatives identified in the planning process.

## **7. Grant Program Timeline**

Please see the planned review and funding timeframe for each of the grant phases. Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for the window in which that grant type is open (marked with an "X" below); however, each round has a set due date to facilitate the grant review process in a fair and timely manner. Please note that application dates are subject to change and may be updated periodically

throughout the three years of grant funding. Updates will be available at the Philanthropy Northwest [website](#).

### Thriving Communities Grants Timeline

Type 3 (\$350,000)

Round	Application Opens	Application Closes	Notice of Selection
Round 1	October 10, 2024	December 15, 2024	March 2025
Round 2	January 1, 2025	February 28, 2025	May 2025

Type 2 (\$250,000)

Round	Application Opens	Application Closes	Notice of Selection
Round 2	January 1, 2025	February 28, 2025	May 2025
Round 3	February 1, 2025	March 31, 2025	June 2025

Type 1 (\$150,000)

Round	Application Opens	Application Closes	Notice of Selection
Round 2	January 1, 2025	February 28, 2025	May 2025
Round 3	February 1, 2025	March 31, 2025	June 2025
Round 4	March 1, 2025	April 30, 2025	July 2025

**Please note that all grants must be complete (all work done and funds spent) by July 31, 2027.**

If awarded, your final project timeline will be listed in the grant agreement and will begin as soon as the grant agreement is signed. We cannot offer any time extensions, so please plan to ensure grant funding is spent by the end of the award period. All funding must be spent within the timeframe of the grant agreement.

### 8. Application Questions and Guidance

Please see the Philanthropy Northwest [Thriving Communities](#) website for a Downloadable Word version of the application questions to assist in planning your grant application. Philanthropy Northwest staff will hold a series of webinars to support application development, along with holding office hours with our Program Officers. Please go to the Philanthropy Northwest website for more information or contact the [thrivingcommunities@philanthropynw.org](mailto:thrivingcommunities@philanthropynw.org) email address.

### 9. Review Process

A team of community members will review and score each application, first individually, then collectively. Philanthropy Northwest will review all application scores to ensure equitable distribution among geographies and demographics.

Philanthropy Northwest will use a community-centered peer review process to evaluate applications, that will center decision-making in the Region 10 community, to honor their lived expertise and voice. The review process will have three phases: an initial review, a community peer review and a fund balancing process to determine funding recommendations.

The first phase will be an initial review to ensure that applications are from eligible organizations, that the projects are eligible to be funded, and that applications are complete. After passing the initial review, the second phase is a community peer review. Teams of peer reviewers, who are from Region 10 and are not affiliated with any organizations applying for Region 10 Thriving Communities grant funding, will individually review a small batch of applications and score them, then come together as a group to go over their scores and adjust if needed.

The scores from the peer review teams will then be compiled by Philanthropy Northwest to decide the awardees for that round of funding. Some recommendations on funding may be made by staff to ensure that funding is distributed equally across the region and to Justice40 communities.

Philanthropy Northwest staff has worked with our Advisory Committee and Task Force to create a comprehensive rubric to review the grant applications, ensuring that the peer review committees are using the same criteria to guide their review.

## 10. Evaluation Criteria

Below are the evaluation criteria and the points awarded for the Thriving Communities grant.

Funding Priorities	Points	Criteria
Community Benefit, Community Involvement, and Community Representation	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program supports Justice40 defined communities</li> <li>• Program engages community members in planning and goal setting</li> </ul>

Environmental Justice Result	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program address environmental justice: communities who bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from commercial operations or execution of public programs/policies</li> <li>• Program establishes clearly defined goals and uses a system to track results.</li> </ul>
Budget *	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed budget expenses appear reasonable (allowable) and justified given program scope and duration</li> </ul>

**\* BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE QUESTIONS ARE ONLY REQUIRED FOR TYPE 3 GRANTS**

## 11. Reporting Requirements

### Performance Reporting

Philanthropy Northwest aims to ease the reporting burden for grantees. Program officers will work with grantees on how they will track and measure project success, and reports will be submitted in the Fluxx system.

Reports will be submitted quarterly and will cover updates and progress on the project, successes and challenges encountered, preliminary data results and a statement of activity anticipated during the subsequent reporting period, including a description of equipment, techniques and materials to be used or evaluated. An update on the budget and progress on the workplan, including any changes to the expected schedule and spend down, will also be included in the reports. The report shall also include any changes of key personnel associated with the project.

## 12. Terms and Conditions

Please see the applicable Environmental Protection Agency terms and conditions for the Region 10 Thriving Communities grant on the [EPA website](#), or as a separate document on our website.

## 13. Application Checklist

Below is an application checklist to review before submitting:

- Application Questions
- [Project Workplan](#)
- [Project Budget](#) (Type 3 only)
- Budget Narrative (Type 3 only)

- Fiscal Sponsor Agreement (if applicable)
- Partnership Documentation (if applicable)