



State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreements FACT SHEET

Background

The Office of Environmental Justice's (OEJ) first efforts to assist States in achieving environmental justice goals and objectives began with the States and Tribal Environmental Justice (STEJ) Grants Program pilot projects which were developed and awarded during fiscal year 1998-2001. These pilot projects were initially directed to assist States and Tribal governments in the development of environmental justice considerations and approaches in their environmental programs. The State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement (SEJCA) Initiative is a step beyond the pilot grants. The objective is to further OEJ's commitment to advance the integration of environmental justice goals into State government environmental programs, policies, and activities, as defined by EPA's strategic plan for fiscal year 2006-2011.

Key Elements of the State Cooperative Agreement Initiative are:

- State strategies, programs and activities in place for identifying, developing, planning and working on local environmental issues with communities, for educating and empowering the community concerning environmental justice issues, building consensus, and setting community priorities.
- Collaboration with other stakeholders (e.g., community-based organizations, environmental groups, businesses, industry, Federal, Tribal, State and local governments, and academic institutions) to realize their goals and objectives.

Year	Total Funding	Number of grants
2009	\$800,000	5

For More Information

For more information please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/index.htm>

Objective

The purpose of this new cooperative agreement initiative is specifically to support/produce model State activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health results in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks by leveraging or utilizing the existing resources or assets of state agencies.

Goals of the SEJCA initiative are to:

- achieve measurable and meaningful environmental and/or public health results in communities;
- build broad and robust, results-oriented partnerships, particularly with community organizations within affected area;
- pilot activities in specific communities that create models, which can be expanded or replicated in other geographic areas;
- strengthen the development and implementation of specific approaches to achieve environmental justice.

Projects should leverage: (1) state information; (2) state leadership; (3) state results; (4) relationships between delegated programs and state environmental justice policies, and (5) state targeting of disproportionately burdened areas.

Eligible Applicants

An eligible applicant's had to be one of the following types of entities:

- a state, U.S territory; commonwealth; or
- an instrumentality of the state.

The following entities were ineligible:

- Tribal governments or entities of tribal government
- Quasi-governmental entities (e.g., water districts, utilities)*

*Generally, a quasi-governmental entity is one that: (1) has a close association with the government agency, but is not considered a part of the government agency; (2) was created by the government agency, but is exempt from certain legal and administrative requirements imposed on government agencies; or (3) was not created by the government agency but performs a public purpose and is significantly supported financially by the government agency.