

2018 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM

Project Summaries by Region

The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding to support community-based organizations in their efforts to collaborate and partner with local stakeholder groups (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical providers, and academia) as they develop and implement solutions that address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities. The term “underserved community” refers to a community with environmental justice concerns and/or vulnerable populations, including minority, low income, rural, tribal, and indigenous populations. Awarded projects must demonstrate use of the [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model](#) to support their collaborative efforts during the project period. The long-term goals of the EJCPS Program are to help build the capacity of communities with environmental justice concerns and to create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve local environments in the future.

Rural Areas

In an effort to increase outreach to underserved communities in rural areas, the 2018 EJCPS program gave special consideration to applications proposing projects in areas with populations of 50,000 or less that have limited access to public and private resources commonly found in metropolitan areas. These projects are designated under “project location”. Of the 10 total projects selected, 8 are occurring in rural areas (80%).

New Recipients

The 2018 EJCPS program also placed special emphasis on brand new EJCPS recipients. All 10 recipients this year are brand new to the EJCPS program (100%).

EJ Small Grant → EJCPS Award Progression

Additionally, a target goal of the EJ Grants program is to promote grantee and community development by encouraging EJ grantees to first manage a \$30,000 EJ Small Grant project followed by a \$120,000 EJCPS project. This progression tends to demonstrate an increase in organizational and community capacity through effective management of the second larger and longer EJCPS project, especially for organizations that are not as experienced with federal grants. The projects awarded to past EJ Small Grantees are designated under “applicant type”. Of the 10 EJCPS recipients in 2018, 5 are former EJ Small grantees (50%).

REGION 1

Recipient: Central Maine Community Health Corporation (CMCHC)

Applicant Type: Not for Profit (past Healthy Communities/EJ Small Grantee¹)

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

¹ Project was selected for award by the EJ program but funded by Region 1’s Healthy Communities Program in 2017

Project Title: *Addressing Poor Housing as a Collaborative Primary Prevention Strategy for Improving Community Health*

Project Location: Downtown Lewiston, Maine 04240 (*rural area*)

Project Partners: City of Lewiston, Six Sigma Properties, Healthy Homeworks, Healthy Neighborhoods Planning Council, Lewiston Area Public Health Committee, LA Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and the Green & Healthy Homes Initiatives of Lewiston-Auburn-Learning Network,

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

Project Type: Toxic Substances and Lead Exposure related to Safe Housing

Project Goal and Description:

Central Maine Community Health Corporation (CMCHC) and partners seek to help the underserved community residents of downtown Lewiston who experience extreme poverty and disproportionate housing-related health impacts, including lead exposure and asthma, by increasing the number of healthy residential housing units available and empowering those residents to access healthy housing. This project was born out of a community-driven effort and CMCHC's Neighbor-to-Neighbor program where community residents identified the need for the city and local organizations to support local landlords to improve their housing stock and remediate environmental housing hazards. After convening diverse stakeholders, CMCHC will implement strategies that provide tools and resources to landlords to create healthier housing and empower the underserved community to access safe housing. Project activities include: 1) creation of a Safe Housing Public Database of local rental units that have passed a recent health inspection, 2) outreach and education for the underserved community residents in downtown Lewiston to notify them of new resources for finding safe housing, 3) recurring *First-time Investment Property Owner* workshops; 4) creating a Landlord Network for landlords and other housing stakeholders, 5) creating a Rental Registration and Inspection Program in Lewiston; and 6) marketing and promotion of local landlords who are working to provide safe housing.

REGION 2

Recipient: Center for Family Services, Inc. (CFS)

Applicant Type: Not for Profit

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: Community Engagement Partnership to Reduce Illegal Dumping in Camden

Project Location: Camden, NJ 08103; Neighborhoods: Cooper Lanning, Bergen Square, Centerville, Liberty Park, Center City, Downtown Camden, Central Business District

Project Partners: Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (Utility); Camden County Police Department (Law Enforcement); Camden Lutheran Housing (Nonprofit Community Based Organization); City of Camden (Local Government); Cooper's Ferry Partnership/Camden Collaborative Initiative (Nonprofit Economic Development Corporation)

Environmental Statue(s): Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Project Type: Illegal Dumping and Community Clean-up Project

Project Goal and Description:

CFS' PowerCorps Camden, a program composed of teams of young leaders serving to address environmental challenges in the community, will work directly with the Camden Collaborative Initiative to plan and execute a demonstration project creating community engagement and utilization of Camden Reports, an active portal empowering the community to report illegal dumping. In instances of illegal dumping reported to Camden Reports, the portal will alert the appropriate authorities and activate PowerCorps Camden members to undergo training and respond to those impacted areas. Project activities include community events focused on illegal dumping education, school presentations to engage youth through projects, partner meetings, training for PowerCorps members, distribution of informational flyers and brochures on dumping, and the production of a marketing and advocacy campaign including PSAs and videos about Camden Reports and the hazards of illegal dumping. Outputs and outcomes of the project include, but are not limited to, increased education of community residents, increased utilization of Camden Reports, an increase in the number of PowerCorps members trained, an increase in the number of students engaged in educational outreach and clean-up efforts addressing illegal dumping, and an increase in the number of community events disseminating public information about illegal dumping and instruction on Camden Reports; all done in an effort to keep Camden beautiful, safe, and clean.

REGION 3

Recipient: Friends of Deckers Creek

Applicant Type: Not for Profit (past EJ Small Grantee)

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: Deckers Creek Restoration Team: Reducing the Impacts of Fecal Coliform

Project Location: Morgantown, Monongalia County, West Virginia 26505 (*rural area*)

Project Partners: 1. City of Morgantown (Local Government); 2. Morgantown Utility Board (Municipal Utility); 3. West Virginia University (Academic Institute); 4. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (State Government); 5. West Virginia Water Research Institute (Research Institute); 6. Downstream Strategies (Business)

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

Project Type: Water Sampling & Monitoring with Citizen Science Training

Project Goal and Description:

Friends of Deckers Creek (FODC) will monitor fecal coliform and E. coli levels in the Deckers Creek Watershed, educate the public about the hazards of contamination and their rights under the Clean Water Act, and actively engage communities by involving them in the monitoring process and holding public forums on contamination issues. Shaped by community input and expert advice from partners, the end result of the project will be the development of a stormwater best management practices implementation

plan. Program activities will include 1) the collection of fecal coliform and E. coli data from 337 sites over the first 12 months to identify major sources of pollution; 2) the training of 45 Citizen Scientists for fecal coliform sampling; 3) the development of a stormwater upgrade implementation plan with constructive engagement from relevant stakeholders and the community; 4) two public forums held to inform Morgantown residents about the results of the monitoring program and about water safety while inviting input on the stormwater implementation plan; and 5) a comprehensive education program reaching 650 young people ages 6-11 in Monongalia County to provide meaningful, hands-on outdoor conservation experiences while teaching about water safety.

REGION 4

Recipient: Athens Land Trust (ALT)

Applicant Type: Not for Profit (past EJ Small Grantee)

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: Community Garden Network Monitoring and Public Education Project

Project Location: West Broad Community, Athens, Georgia, 30606

Project Partners: Upper Oconee Watershed Network, Athens Clarke County Stormwater Management Program, Athens-Clarke County Extension Office

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

Project Type: Air & Water Monitoring Project (with Green Infrastructure & Youth Development)

Project Goal and Description:

Athens Land Trust seeks to monitor the disproportionate air and water quality hazards experience by two historically African American neighborhoods of West Broad and East Athens and inform residents about the severity of those hazards and steps they can take to better protect themselves and their families from those environmental impacts. ALT will hire three Young Urban Farmers (YUF) each summer of the project period to perform water and air quality monitoring at West Broad School and present their results at public education opportunities, including community garden network events, the West Broad Farmers Market, and community-wide symposia. Additionally, ALT will hire a part-time Community Garden Network (CGN) Coordinator to oversee monitoring and research activities, promote public environmental education in the West Broad neighborhood, and support environmental health through community gardening. Finally, ALT will host monthly workshops on environmental and agricultural topics and install rain barrels at all gardens in the CGN. This project will result in the following outputs: 240 residents will be educated on environmental justice issues related to water, air, and agriculture; twelve individuals will be trained in community gardening operations and EJ issues; and scientific findings on air and water quality in the West Broad neighborhood will be disseminated to 400 residents.

REGION 5

Recipient: Huron Pines

Applicant Type: Not for Profit

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: *Coastal Community Connections: Capitalizing on Partnerships for Advancing Green Infrastructure*

Project Location: Au Gres, MI 48703; Tawas, MI 48763; East Tawas, MI 48730; Rogers City, MI 49779 (*rural area*)

Project Partners: City of Au Gres, Au Gres-Sims School District, City of Tawas, City of East Tawas, Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, City of Rogers City, Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, Bay Area Community Foundation

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

Project Type: Water Quality Improvements

Project Goal and Description:

Huron Pines seeks to create coastal community collaborations between rural towns on the Lake Huron shoreline in order to develop and implement water quality improvements in the area. The small, rural cities of Au Gres, Tawas, East Tawas, and Rogers City are disproportionately impacted by stormwater pollution and high unemployment. This project will 1) identify environmental degradation issues due to stormwater runoff, 2) strategically plan and leverage funding to protect water quality in the long term, and 3) facilitate the creation of change from within to get these small, often competing cities to work together for the betterment of the Great Lakes and, in turn, the health of local residents. Project outputs include: 3 high-level reviews of current stormwater data and ordinances of the area, 4 green infrastructure presentations by stakeholders to the regional community foundation, and a long-term study reflecting data on beach closures, water borne illnesses and water quality, 6 meetings between city officials and school leadership regarding the creation of a green infrastructure curriculum, and 4 Learning Days for Huron Pines staff and local city leaders.

REGION 6

Recipient: Amigos Bravos

Applicant Type: Not for Profit

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: *The Rio Fernando de Taos Revitalization Collaborative*

Project Location: Taos Valley / Community (*rural area*)

Project Partners: Taos County, Taos Land Trust, Taos Valley Acequia Association, The Nature Conservancy, Town of Taos, and US Forest Service

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

Project Type: Water Sampling and Monitoring Project

Project Goal and Description:

Amigos Bravos will work in the rural area of the Taos Valley to address water contamination of the Rio Fernando de Taos. *E. coli* contamination impairs the entire length of the river and has disproportionately impacted the people of Taos as the water quality has continued to diminish over the years. Year one of the proposed project will focus on determining detailed sources of the on-going *E. coli* contamination on the Rio Fernando de Taos. While there is much speculation about the sources primarily responsible for high *E. coli* levels in the Rio Fernando, studies have yet to positively identify the main contributors. The Rio Fernando de Taos Revitalization Collaborative proposes to conduct a microbial source tracking (MST) study in which bacteria genotyping technology will be used to identify the animal group source (human, cattle, dog, beaver, etc.) of bacteria in river water samples. By identifying and focusing resources on the most significant bacteria sources, the Collaborative will be better equipped to plan projects that achieve measurable reductions of *E. coli* in the river. During year 2 of the project Amigos Bravos will focus on: hiring a watershed group coordinator to organize the group and coordinate its activities, field trips and watershed education activities and trainings for collaborative members and the public, conducting outreach activities, such as the creation of an outreach plan and information materials, and conducting public meetings to establish broad-based, diverse membership.

REGION 7

Recipient: Resource Conservation & Development for Northeast Iowa, Inc

Applicant Type: Not for Profit

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: *Overcoming environmental and public health hazards associated with lead and radon*

Project Location: Postville, IA (*rural area*)

Project Partners: City of Postville, Allamakee County Public Health (Local Government), Postville Public Schools & University of Iowa (Academic), Postville Daycare, Library, YMCA (Private Nonprofit), two local banks (Financial Institutions)

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

Project Type: Radon and Lead Mitigation Project

Project Goal and Description:

This project will unite local, county, and state partners to overcome lead and radon environmental health hazards in a minority-majority community that suffers from linguistic isolation, as well as social and economic disparities. Activities include multilingual education and outreach to residents of the underserved, high-minority, community of Postville, Iowa to increase awareness, encourage action, and reduce incidence of lead poisoning and lung cancer. The project will distribute free test kits for lead and radon testing, provide multi-lingual interpretation of results for residents, and bring together private and public partners so they can develop and implement remediation strategies and increase the flow of information about environmental and public health issues through use of verbal and written multi-lingual education, one-on-one and group outreach, and private and public partner outreach. Outputs include multi-lingual printed outreach materials for lead and radon education in five languages developed and distributed to 830 households, dialog with and direct assistance to 50% of 2,227 community members; 800 (400 lead/400 radon) tests completed and interpreted; remediation planning on 75% of radon/lead tests completed, and a new local, county, and state public-private Task Force developed that will foster implementation of remediation strategies.

REGION 8

Recipient: Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment

Applicant Type: Not for Profit (past EJ Small Grantee)

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: *Improving Air Quality for Families in Summit County, UT*

Project Location: Summit County, Utah (*rural area*)

Project Partners: Summit County Health Department (local government), Habitat for Humanity of Summit & Wasatch Counties (non-profit), PurpleAir: Air Quality Monitoring (business sector)

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

Project Type: Air Quality and Wood-burning Fireplace Retrofit program

Project Goal and Description:

This project will focus on improving the air quality of Summit County, Utah, a rural area in northern Utah that is subject to severe winter inversions. First, the project team will launch an intensive education and awareness campaign targeting underserved populations in the community to address the environmental and health effects of wood smoke. The proposed activities build on current local regulation with a multi-faceted approach to building the capacity of the community through strategic partnerships and the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model, to initiate changes in knowledge and behaviors. The project also includes a voluntary fireplace exchange program focusing on low and moderate-income residents in Summit County that would encourage participation by supporting most of the costs associated with removing and retrofitting a limited number of wood units. 20-30 households will be part of the exchange program. Continual air emissions monitoring is also planned, which would allow the project team to identify target areas, evaluate progress toward goals, and determine when project milestones are met.

REGION 9

Recipient: Southeast Arizona Area Health Education Center, Inc. (SEAHEC)

Applicant Type: Not for Profit

Project Period: 9/1/2018 – 8/31/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: *Proyecto Agua Limpia*

Project Location: Winchester Heights, Cochise County Arizona, 85643 (*rural area*)

Project Partners: Winchester Heights Residents (community); University of Arizona MEZCOPH (academic); Cochise Health and Social Services (CHSS) (government); Chiricahua Community Health Centers (CCHC) (health care industry)

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

Project Type: Community Center Program Development and Water Outreach

Project Goal and Description:

SEAHEC, based in Nogales, has partnered with academia, government, and other health care organizations to provide community capacity-building and leadership training for health professional students and community health workers in rural southeast Arizona. SEAHEC's project focuses on the colonia of Winchester Heights in Cochise County, an isolated, unincorporated community where residents have been working with SEAHEC to improve public health. The project continues building community capacity by developing an organizational structure for a newly-established community center and addressing drinking water quality by training community health workers on: 1) community involvement and education strategies, 2) conducting home visits to assess drinking water, and 3) remediation of drinking water issues through installation of water filters, application of chlorine, or addressing faulty pipes. SEAHEC aims to recruit 4 community members as community health workers and 10 residents for the Community Action Committee that will develop a community action plan, and conduct up to 50 home visits to assess drinking water. The University of Arizona will provide two public health interns and a bilingual project coordinator to support the project.

REGION 10

Recipient: Zender Environmental Health & Research Group

Applicant Type: Not for Profit (past EJ Small Grantee)

Project Period: 12/3/2018 – 12/3/2020

Award Amount: \$120,000

Project Title: *Developing and Implementing Alaska Native Community Engagement and Stakeholder*

Collaboration Necessary for the Success of the Backhaul Alaska Program

Project Location: Rural communities in Alaska (*rural area*)

Project Partners: Kawerak (Tribal consortia), ANTHC (Tribal consortia), ADEC (state government), UA (University), Participating rural community environmental coordinators (Tribes and 2 cities), Total Reclaim (Industry)

Environmental Statute(s): Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a), Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a), Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3), Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

Project Type: Solid Waste Disposal and Backhaul Program Development

Project Goal and Description:

This project will serve to address waste issues at 160 rural Alaska Native predominant tribal communities (“villages”) located off the road system, accessible by summer barge/boat or small plane. Remote Alaska communities under about 1,000 people each are under a singular RCRA classification that allows unlined landfills and contained open waste burning, and there is a resultant disproportionate health burden. Alarming, birth defects are 4.3 times more likely to occur for babies born to mothers in villages with such landfills, associated specifically with high hazard contents. To avoid this risk, the main answer for villages is to backhaul hazardous wastes out to proper facilities. For that option to be viable, the newly planned Backhaul Alaska Program is launching its pilot. This project will support the participation of 30 pilot villages in designing the final program. The project also builds community capacity and leadership for villages to carry out the program’s local waste handling tasks safely, and to interact with industries and agencies in a way that brings them to the table. To get Backhaul Alaska to this point has required collaboration among many varied stakeholder groups and partners, and to sustainably fund it, this proposal also supports further development of partnerships and expanded stakeholder outreach to realize a number of promising leveraging efforts.