

Securing Environmental Justice for All

How the Biden Administration Is Fighting for Clean Air and Water, Climate Protection, and Healthy Communities for Every American

By Cathleen Kelly, Michele Roberts, and Rachel Chang March 2024

TABLE 2

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) invests \$93 billion for clean air and water, climate protection, access to clean affordable energy, and healthy communities for all

Program/administrator*	Description	Funding and type	Who is eligible to apply
Ensuring clean air, safe water, and a healthy climate			
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Service Lines Replacement program (EPA)	Supports lead service line removal and replacement and related activities, such as identifying lead service lines and planning and designing replacement projects	\$15 billion in loans and grants	States, Tribes, and territories distribute the funds to water utilities, municipalities, or other eligible entities
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (EPA)	Funds improvements to drinking water systems to protect public health and support compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act	\$11.71 billion in loans and grants	States, Tribes, and territories distribute the funds to water utilities, municipalities, or other eligible entities
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (EPA)	Provides communities with low-cost financing for water quality infrastructure improvements	\$11.71 billion in loans and grants	States, Tribes, and territories distribute the funds to water utilities, municipalities, or other eligible entities
Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act: Small and Underserved Communities Emerging Contaminants Grant Program (EPA)	Funds improvements to public water systems in small, underserved and disadvantaged communities that need assistance to comply with drinking water regulations. Prioritizes activities to help communities reduce the health risks of emerging contaminants, such as PFAS – or forever chemicals – water testing and filtration	\$5 billion in grants	States, Tribes, and territories provide grants and loans to water utilities, municipalities, and other eligible entities in small and/or underserved or disadvantaged communities
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants (EPA)	Funds projects that reduce the health risks of emerging contaminants, such as PFAS, or forever chemicals	\$4 billion in grants	States, Tribes, and territories provide grants and loans to water utilities, municipalities, and other eligible entities for projects to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants (EPA)	Funds projects that reduce the health risks of emerging contaminants, such as PFAS, or forever chemicals	\$1 billion in loans and grants	States, Tribes, and territories distribute the funds to water utilities, municipalities, or other eligible entities

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Indian water rights settlements (Interior Department)	Provides funding to satisfy water rights settlements to ensure Tribes acquire permanent access to clean, reliable water supplies	\$2.5 billion in contracts, compacts, or trust funds	Recognized Tribal governments
Rural water projects (Interior Department)	Funds seven rural water projects authorized by an act of Congress, consistent with the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006	\$1 billion in project funding	Tribal and local governments
Safety of dams, water sanitation, and other facilities (Interior Department)	Supports the Bureau of Indian Affairs Safety of Dams Branch in maintaining dam safety to protect communities and property from damage	\$200 million in contracts or compacts	Recognized Tribal governments
Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program (HHS)	Supports American Tribes and Alaska Native villages with developing and building safe drinking water, sewage, and solid waste disposal facilities	\$3.5 billion in Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements and direct federal spending	Federally recognized Tribal governments
Tribal irrigation and power systems (Interior Department)	Addresses deferred maintenance at irrigation projects located on Native American reservations in the Rocky Mountain, Northwest, Southwest, Navajo, and Western regions	\$50 million in contracts or compacts	Recognized Tribal governments
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund (Interior Department)	"Funds cleanup of abandoned coal mine sites and related challenges that threaten public health and safety, restoration of land and water resources degraded by the effects of past coal mining, and emergency projects"	\$11.3 billion in grants	States and Tribes
Orphaned Wells Program (Interior Department)	"Closes orphaned wells and remediates environmental hazards, including cleaning up water contamination, restoring native habitats, and reducing emissions"	\$4.7 billion in direct federal spending, grants, and technical assistance	States, Tribes, and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
Superfund site cleanup (EPA)	Funds the cleanup of areas contaminated by harmful industrial waste to protect public health and the environment	\$3.5 billion in contracts, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements. According to the EPA, "nearly 80% of the [Superfund] funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has gone to sites in communities with potential environmental justice concerns."	Industry partners; federal, state, local, and Tribal governments; special districts

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Reinstatement of the chemicals and hazardous substances excise taxes (EPA)	Reauthorizes the Superfund chemicals excise tax through December 31, 2031, at double the rates that were in effect in 1995	\$8.3 billion in tax revenue between 2021 and 2032, as estimated by the Joint Committee on Taxation. Based on current Superfund program funding allocations, roughly 80 percent of these funds are expected to go to "communities with potential environmental justice concerns."	Industry partners; federal, state, local, and Tribal governments; special districts
Brownfield remediation and revitalization (EPA)	Provides financial and technical support to clean up and reuse former industrial sites in disadvantaged communities overburdened by pollution, build public infrastructure on these sites, engage communities, and offer job training to transform brownfields into community assets	\$1.5 billion in cooperative agreements	States, counties, cities, or townships; federally recognized Tribal governments; public housing authorities; Indian housing authorities; nonprofit groups
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program (DOT)	Funds transportation projects that reduce congestion and improve air quality in areas where ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter pollution exceed national air quality standards	\$13.2 billion in formula grants	States
Pollution Prevention grants program (EPA)	Provides technical assistance to businesses to reduce or eliminate pollution	\$100 million in grants	States, Tribes, state/Tribal institutions to deliver technical assistance to businesses
Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities program (DOT)	Reduces truck idling and emissions at ports, including through the advancement of port electrification	\$400 million in competitive grants	State and local governments, transportation providers, planning and project organizations
Lowering household energy costs and providing access to clean, renewable energy			
Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE)	Increases the energy efficiency of low-income households to lower home energy bills and improve health and safety, with a focus on low-income households with children, older adults, or people with disabilities	\$3.5 billion in formula grants	States and Tribes
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (DOE)	Supports activities to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions and to improve energy efficiency	\$550 million in block and competitive grants	State, local, and Tribal governments
Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program (DOE)	Funds the creation of state revolving loan funds to "provide loans and grants for energy efficiency audits, upgrades, and retrofits to increase energy efficiency."	\$250 million in formula grants	States

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Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation program (DOE)	Supports "sustained, cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes" to reduce household energy bills	\$225 million in grants	States and state partnerships
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (HHS)	Assists low-income households with energy costs, bill payment assistance, weatherization, and other energy repairs	\$500 million in grants	States, territories, Tribal governments, Indian housing authorities
Improving community climate resilience, transportation, and access to living-wage jobs			
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) (FEMA)	Supports hazard mitigation projects and capacity building to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards, including extreme heat, flooding, hurricanes, and more	\$1 billion in competitive grants. According to FEMA, 61 percent of the BRIC funds from FEMA are benefiting disadvantaged communities.	State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments
Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FEMA)	Funds activities to reduce risk of repetitive flood damage to homes and businesses	\$3.5 billion in grants	State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and local communities
"Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program (DOT)"	Supports activities to strengthen community and transportation infrastructure resilience, including improving evacuation routes and at-risk coastal infrastructure	\$8.7 billion in grants; \$1.4 billion in discretionary funds for competitive grants, \$7.3 billion for formula grants	States, Tribes, local governments, political subdivisions within states, metropolitan planning organizations, "special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function," federal land management agency applying with states, and other eligible entities
Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program (FEMA)	Supports capitalization grants to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters	\$500 million in grants	States and Tribal governments that have "received a major disaster declaration during the 5-year period ending on the date of enactment of the STORM Act."
Reconnecting Communities Pilot grant program (DOT)	Funds the removal of existing transportation infrastructure that cuts off communities from economic opportunities to improve community health, connectivity, and quality of life	\$1 billion in competitive grants	Owners of eligible transportation facilities, such as highways or railroads, that create a barrier to community connectivity
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program (DOT)	Funds projects that improve community connectivity, safety, mobility, and economic security with sustainable and equitable transportation, including public transit, railways, and roads	\$7.5 billion in competitive grants	States, territories, local, and Tribal governments; public agencies; port authorities; Amtrak partnerships; other eligible entities
Tribal Transportation Program (DOT)	Funds transportation safety and mobility improvements in Tribal communities.	\$3 billion in formula grants	Federally recognized Tribal governments

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Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program (DOT)	Funds replacement or repair of bridges in poor condition	\$825 million distributed through the Tribal Transportation Program	Tribes
Grid Innovation Program (DOE)	Funds hardening grid infrastructure and enhancing grid resilience and reliability and demonstrating new approaches to enhance regional grid resilience	\$5 billion in grants or cooperative agreements	States, Tribes, local governments, public utility commissions
Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Grants (DOE)	Supports preventing outages and enhancing the resilience of the electric grid, particularly against wildfires and other disruptive extreme weather events	\$5 billion in grants or cooperative agreements	States, Tribes, grid operators
National Oceans and Coastal Resilience Fund (NOAA)	Strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while enhancing natural habitats, providing increased support for climate-vulnerable communities	\$492 million in grants	Nonprofit organizations; state, Tribal, local, and territorial governments; educational institutions or for-profit commercial organizations
Tribal Climate Resilience Annual Awards Program (Interior Department)	Supports Tribal climate resilience awards for adaptation planning and community relocation for communities affected by climate threats	\$216 million in contracts or compacts	Tribal governments
Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program for at-risk communities (USDA)	Provides grants to communities at risk from wildfires to plan for and reduce the risk of fires	\$1 billion in grants	Communities at risk from wildfires, Tribal communities, state forestry agencies and other nonprofit organizations, private forest owners
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)	Supports projects that address economic disparities in the region, including building community infrastructure, providing job training and workforce development, and supporting community leaders and capacity building, among other activities	\$1 billion in grants and cooperative agreements	State and local governments and nonprofit organizations

* The full names of program administrators are: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Note: Most of these funding opportunities are available for several years, disbursed in annual funding tranches. Methodology: The programs funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) listed in this table are designed to deliver federal funds and/or benefits to disadvantaged communities, communities of color, low-income communities, and/or communities overburdened by pollution—also known as environmental justice communities. Many programs listed aim to reduce environmental harms that disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income areas and were supported by the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform co-authors as programs that advance environmental justice priorities and are in need of additional federal funding. The program funding listed is specifically designated for disadvantaged communities and/or covered by the Biden administration's Justice40 Initiative and is required to deliver at least 40 percent of program investment benefits to disadvantaged communities. This is not an exhaustive list of IIJA programs that have the potential to benefit environmental justice communities. A full list of IIJA programs can be found in "A Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law." To calculate the "total" amount of IIJA funding that will benefit disadvantaged communities, the authors adjusted the program funding amounts identified as benefiting disadvantaged communities based on program specifications in the IIJA or by the agency administering the program. For example, the authors assumed that 100 percent of investments in programs designed to reduce pollution or other environmental hazards that disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income areas would go to disadvantaged communities. For investments in programs that benefit all communities, the authors assumed that 40 percent of the investment would benefit disadvantaged communities, consistent with the Biden administration's Justice40 commitment, unless otherwise specified by the IIJA or the administering agency.

Source: The White House, "A Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law," available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/guidebook/> (last accessed March 2024).