



**Request for Proposals
CCF EJ/CJ Fund to
Bring Federal Funding to NYC Neighborhoods
November 28, 2023
[Info Session](#), Tuesday, December 12
[Proposals Due](#): Wednesday, January 17**

I. Background

The Inflation Reduction Act, passed in 2022, offers an estimated \$4 trillion through a combination of appropriated funds and tax incentives (which will comprise the majority of funding) to reduce health care and prescription drug costs and stimulate investments that will reduce carbon emissions. An independent analysis by the [Just Solutions Collective](#) estimates that [\\$47.5 billion](#) of appropriated funds will be directed to meet environmental justice priorities. Funds may be used to address a wide range of activities, for example, address air pollution in schools, improve access to drinking water, and clean up toxic Superfund sites. While not without controversy, even among environmental justice advocates, the Act is inarguably the largest source of funding for climate and environmental justice solutions in U.S. history. As such, it presents an unprecedented opportunity to bring new resources into historically disadvantaged neighborhoods in New York City and to grow the capacity of the environmental justice movement to advance their vision of a more equitable, resilient, and universally healthy city. Given the 50-year history of environmental justice organizing and advocacy in New York City, many communities have such plans. What they need is resources.

There are at least three ways for CBOs in NYC to benefit from the windfall of new federal funding.

Apply to one or more federal agencies: Community-based organizations (CBOs) or partnerships of CBOs may apply directly for grants to a plethora of federal agencies. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency's pending \$2

ALTMAN FOUNDATION
BANK UNITED
CAPITAL ONE
DEUTSCHE BANK AMERICAS FOUNDATION
ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS
GOLDMAN SACHS

JP MORGAN CHASE
LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION
M & T CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
MIZUHO BANK LTD.
MUFG

NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST
PRINCIPAL FOUNDATION
SANTANDER BANK
SCHERMAN FOUNDATION
UNITED WAY OF NEW YORK CITY
WELLS FARGO

C/O UNITED WAY OF NEW YORK CITY,
CCF FISCAL SPONSOR
205 East 42 Street
New York, NY 10017
212-251-2408

DONORS' REPRESENTATIVE
Wendy Fleischer
347-683-0538
info@changecapitalfund.org

billion [Environmental and Climate Justice](#) Community Change Grants program will invest “in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges.”

Apply for subgrants: CBOs may be subgrantees of states, municipalities and other large funding entities which apply for block grants or grants. For example, EPA will make grants of \$55 million to grant makers through their [Thriving Communities](#) fund. In EPA Region 2 (New York City, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands) WE ACT for Environmental Justice, New York Community Trust (with other Community Foundations), and NorthStar Fund have submitted proposals in response to the EPA’s RFP. Recipients will be required to distribute 80% of funding through subgrants.

Leverage City/State investments: Finally, disadvantaged communities may realize their goals if New York City and/or State accesses tax credits and direct federal funding to invest in their community’s infrastructure in ways that will benefit residents. To achieve this end, they may need to advocate on behalf of their communities to city and state agencies and policy makers.

CCF understands that a significant hurdle to accessing funding is organizational capacity. Environmental Justice organizations in New York City have been accomplishing much with little since they first began organizing in the late 1960s. With limited resources, they have achieved remarkable gains: improved waste treatment processes, reduced chemicals in the environment, increased access to the city’s waterfront, policy victories, including passing the nation’s most ambitious climate bill and more. Still, even many of the most prominent and effective organizations have annual budgets well below \$5 million and many do not have development staff. While some community-based organizations have the wherewithal to apply for and administer federal funds, nearly all would benefit from additional capacity.

II. **The CCF EJ/CJ Fund to Bring Federal Funding to NYC Neighborhoods**

CCF will distribute approximately \$500,000 in grants to community-based, environmental justice organizations serving disadvantaged neighborhoods in New York City to increase their capacity to:

- apply directly for federal grants within the next year
- prepare to apply for anticipated subgrant opportunities

- to advocate to City and State agencies to apply for and direct federal funding to benefit their communities.

Grant size: In the range of \$50,000

Intended grant purposes: Funds may be used to help access anticipated funding opportunities resulting from the IRA or EJ40 policies. We imagine that grants will be used to:

- Hire a grant writer
- Hire a consultant(s) or staff to develop a plan, conduct a feasibility study or otherwise prepare plans for submission for federal grant funding
- Hire a coordinator to enable a coalition or partnership of organizations to apply for grants/subgrants
- Hire an organizer to support efforts to advocate for City/State investment of federal resources
- Other purposes that will lead to increased federal resources in disadvantaged neighborhoods of New York City.

III. CCF Goals

CCF will consider this fund successful if:

- Grantees access federal funding, either directly or indirectly, substantially in excess of the amount of grant funds distributed by CCF.
- Projects realize gains for disadvantaged NYC residents and their neighborhoods as defined by grantees.
- Projects will materially contribute to the climate sustainability and resiliency of New York City.

IV. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

CCF is inviting environmental/climate justice organizations with a track record of improving the health, sustainability and resiliency of their neighborhoods and communities to respond to this RFP. We are also inviting citywide organizations working in partnerships with community-based organizations in disadvantaged communities. Our invited grantees are:

- *Nonprofit:* 501(c)(3) organizations OR identified nonprofit fiscal sponsor.
- *Community-based or citywide organizations in partnerships with community-based organizations:* Based in and organizing with a community that may be defined by geography, culture, and/or mission-alignment and which is comprised of and designed to benefit low- and moderate-income people. Partnerships and coalitions serving multiple communities are encouraged to apply.

- *Environmental justice focused:* Have a track record of working with and for their communities to address environmental burdens, to improve the health and well-being of residents and advance environmental justice.

Selection criteria:

In selecting grantees, CCF will prioritize proposals from organizations/organizational partnerships that:

- *Emerge from BIPOC communities* and communities that have been historically disinvested and overburdened by toxic infrastructure including citywide/membership organizations working in partnership with BIPOC, disadvantaged communities.
- *Have a strong leadership team (staff, board, volunteers) that reflects the demographic make-up of their communities.*
- *Are community-driven:* Highly engaged and interactive with the identified community members and able to demonstrate a high level of community input into the project/plan.
- *Have clear goals and plans for their projects and neighborhoods* that would benefit from federal funding. This may be reflected by defined goals, workplans, timelines, team members, and partners. Projects may include any activities eligible for federal EJ funding (e.g., increased access to renewable energy; community engagement on climate and environmental challenges; clean-up/redevelopment of toxic land; access /improvement of green space; re-purposing/clean-up of polluting infrastructure, etc.).
- *Are high impact:* Can demonstrate that their project will have meaningful impact for their communities.
- *Are able to identify the federal funding sources* they hope to access
- *Would benefit from CCF funding to leverage federal resources.* Organizations that might be less likely to benefit from the new federal funding without CCF support will be prioritized. We will be unlikely to support proposals related to retrofitting the housing portfolio of a single organization.

V. CCF Funding and Reporting

- CCF will distribute the full amount of the awarded grant to selected grantees upon receipt of an executed grant agreement and other documents to process payment.
- CCF will require one final report one year from the date of our grant agreement. Reports will include:
 - A list of funding applications submitted with the help of the CCF grant (if any), and a narrative describing the use of CCF funds, the purpose of any applications, the status of all applications (denied, pending or received), and the amounts requested/received.
 - Status of advocacy efforts to bring federal funding to the community.
 - Community benefits anticipated or achieved as a result of the federal funding.
 - Anticipated contributions to the sustainability and resiliency of their community/New York City.



VI. Proposal Submission & Evaluation Schedule

Our planned schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, November 28, 2023 [RFP](#) Issued
- **Tuesday, December 12, 2023 2 pm – 5 pm Information Session** (all applicants encouraged to attend!) to be held at the offices of Deutsche Bank, 1 Columbus Circle (entrance on 58th Street) 10th floor, Coliseum Room A. RSVP [HERE](#)
- **Wednesday, January 17, 2024 Proposals Due**
- February 5-9 2024: Follow-up questions by funders to applicants
- Wednesday, February 14, 2024 Announcement of Grants

Questions may be submitted to info@changeccapitalfund.org.

VII. **Proposal Requirements:** To be considered for CCF funding, **please complete and submit the on-line application [HERE](https://changeccapitalfund.org/fund-to-bring-federal-funding-to-nyc-neighborhoods/): <https://changeccapitalfund.org/fund-to-bring-federal-funding-to-nyc-neighborhoods/>.**

VIII. For your convenience, we are listing the application questions below. Completed applications are due [on-line](#) by midnight on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024**.

A. Cover Page

1. Organization Name (if you are applying as a partnership, please list the lead organization which would receive funds if grant is awarded)

Applicant Name

Applicant contact person email

Applicant contact person phone

Organization mailing address

If this is a partnership, please list organizational partners including contact name and email

2. If you will use a fiscal sponsor to receive a grant, please list the name of the fiscal sponsor here.

Fiscal sponsor contact person email

Fiscal sponsor contact person phone

Fiscal sponsor mailing address

3. Project Summary: Please provide 1-2 sentences to describe your project (e.g., we will use CCF funds to hire a fundraiser to enable # partner organizations working together to apply for a \$# million EPA Community Change grant. The federal funds will enable us to complete plans and implementation of xyz project in x neighborhood).

B. Community Need (5 points)

4. Briefly describe your community, including population. Summarize the major ways it has been impacted by racial and economic inequities and environmental injustice as it relates to the proposed project.



C. Proposed Project(s) to Benefit from Federal Funding (30 points)

5. What are the 1-5 outcomes you hope to achieve with federal funding?
6. Describe your project plan. If you get the federal funding you seek, what will you do? Please include your timeline.
7. Describe how you have engaged and will engage your community in developing and implementing your project/plan

D. Anticipated (Hoped For) Federal Funding Sources and Amounts (20 points)

8. Will you be using CCF funds to help you apply directly for federal funding, apply for subgrants from private or public organizations that received federal funds or advocate for City/State governments to apply for and invest federal funds in your community? Check all that apply.
9. IFF applying directly for federal funds, to which agency? Which program? For how much?
10. IFF applying for subgrants, list anticipated funders, e.g., Thriving Communities Funder, a city or state agency receiving Federal funding, or other, program, amount
11. IFF you are using CCF funds to support advocacy to leverage funding from city and/or state government, which agencies, for what purpose? Amounts, if known?

E. Request to Change Capital Fund (15 points)

12. Amount of request to Change Capital Fund
13. How will you use CCF funds to leverage federal funds? E.g., hire a grant writer, a coalition coordinator, consultant to prepare a feasibility study, other.
14. If you plan to use CCF funds to retain consultants, have you identified the consultants you will retain? If yes, please list the name and a line or two about why you choose them.

F. Project Team Capacity & Community Connections (15 points)

15. Please describe the capacity of the key organizations applying for this grant including partners in this application and key individuals and their intended roles. Please indicate how your organization's leadership represents the community it serves.

G. Required Attachments: (15 points)

16. CCF Grant Budget: Attach a budget for use of the proposed grant. List key positions, consultants and overhead expenses (add rows to itemize). Please also Include a list of other sources of funding for the proposed project operations, if any.
17. Current Year Organization Budget: Attach your organization's current year budget.
18. Project budget: if relevant and available, please attach a budget for the project for which you are seeking federal funding.