

**Name of Applicant:** Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC)

**Project Director/Principal Investigator(s):** Alexis Washburn and Steve Gelb

**The Project Title:** Emerald Connections: Achieving Comprehensive Energy Retrofits by fostering Deep Community Connections

**Description of the Project:** The WAP program is well-positioned to deliver dramatic reductions in energy use, energy burden, and greenhouse gas emissions in disadvantaged communities (DACs), but it will require innovative approaches to outreach and program delivery to reach a larger number of eligible households. The Emerald Connections program aims to demonstrate best practices for reaching underserved communities at scale by taking a more comprehensive approach that integrates energy, health, and climate strategies. Emerald Cities Collaborative and its partners aim to do this by employing a community engagement strategy that centers the community in program design, aligns energy savings goals with other mutual objectives like health, and streamlines the process for overcoming pre-weatherization and health barriers. Lessons learned from this program will be used to develop solutions that scale in order to address community identified challenges and achieve broader societal climate goals. Implementing Emerald Connections will include collaboration from key partners including community-based organizations for community engagement, the Center for EcoTechnology for technical assistance and training, WAP Providers for measure implementation, and CADEO for program evaluation. If successful, our Emerald Connections will have achieved Justice40 goals by reaching 120 disadvantaged households in two states demonstrating the potential for the WAP program to reach a greater number of eligible households.