

# Justice40 Initiative Fact Sheet



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF

**ENERGY**

Office of Economic  
Impact and Diversity



Low-income communities of color disproportionately bear the environmental harm and economic burdens of the energy system and do not equitably receive its benefits or have equitable access to decision-making processes. The clean energy transition presents an opportunity to transform communities. **Justice40 is the tool to get there.**

## THE JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE

Created under the Biden-Harris Administration, **Justice40 establishes the goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs).** The Justice40 Initiative applies to over 145 Department of Energy (DOE) programs and to much of the \$62 billion investment in DOE under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The DOE is rolling out programs and funding opportunities that could provide transformational benefits to disadvantaged communities across the country. Community-based organizations, local, state, tribal, and territorial governments, small businesses, and educational institutions can apply to some of these programs and may be able to participate in the development of many more.



## WHAT DOES JUSTICE40 COVER?

**J40 Covered Programs:** Federal government programs that make investments in one or more of the following seven areas are covered by Justice40:

- Climate change
- Clean energy and energy efficiency
- Clean transportation
- Affordable and sustainable housing
- Training and workforce development
- Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- Critical clean water and waste infrastructure

## THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL)

The BIL is a once-in-a-generation, \$1.2 trillion investment in our nation's infrastructure that provides the foundation for a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy. The BIL provides opportunities to enhance U.S. competitiveness in the world, diversify regional economies to include supply chain and manufacturing industries, create good union jobs, and ensure stronger access to these economic benefits for underserved communities. Learn more about BIL on the [Department of Energy's BIL Factsheet](#).

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## More about the Justice40 Initiative

### HOW DO WE MEASURE AND TRACK BENEFITS?

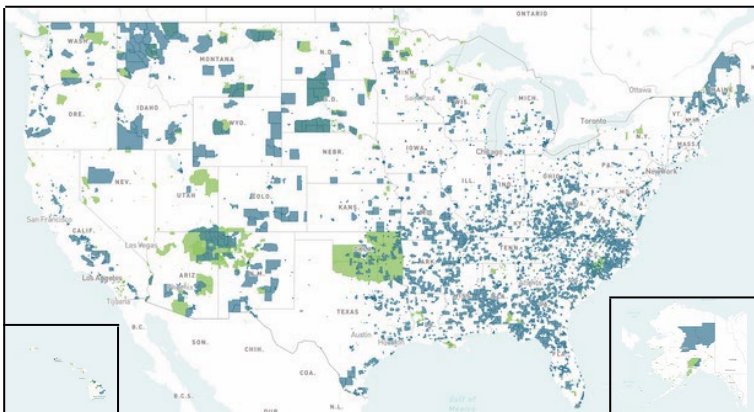
DOE has set eight **policy priorities** that define the types of energy-related outcomes J40 could deliver to disadvantaged communities (see right). Under J40, DOE Program Offices will establish metrics, measure, and report on the applicable benefits (or disbenefits) that their respective programs can have in a community related to these priorities. Below are examples of benefit metrics.

POLICY PRIORITY	EXAMPLE BENEFIT	EXAMPLE METRIC
Decrease energy burden	Reduction in energy costs due to technology adoption	Annual energy expenditures in DACs before and after program intervention
Decrease environmental exposure and burdens	Reduction in local pollutant emissions	Measurement of local pollutant in DACs before and after program intervention
Increase clean energy access	Increase access to clean energy serving DACs	Percentage of local electricity generation mix from clean energy that serves DACs

### WHERE ARE THE DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES?

A **community** can be either people in **geographic proximity** or people experiencing a **common condition**. **Disadvantage** was measured based on a score across 36 indicators, such as energy burden, housing burden, park access, power outages, cancer incidence, and more. The higher the score, the more disadvantage. Census tracts with at least 30% low income households and disadvantage scores higher than 80 percent of those in their state are considered a disadvantaged community (DAC). DACs are shown in blue and green on the map below, with all territories and tribal lands in green.

#### DOE DEFINED DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES



### JUSTICE 40 POLICY PRIORITIES

Decrease energy burden in disadvantaged communities (DACs)

Decrease environmental exposure and burdens for DACs

Increase parity in clean energy technology access and adoption in DACs

Increase access to low-cost capital in DACs

Increase clean energy enterprise creation and contracting in DACs

Increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from DACs

Increase energy resiliency in DACs

Increase energy democracy in DACs



More information on the DAC indicators and the methodology can be found on the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity's [Justice40 Initiative page](#) or by scanning this QR code. You can also find your community in the [Department of Energy's Disadvantaged Communities Reporter](#).

# Justice40: Get Involved

## The roadmap to funding and engagement

### ALL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Visit [DOE's Funding & Financing page](#) and identify the funding opportunity.

#### FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS

Formula grants are noncompetitive awards for state and local governments based on a congressionally directed formula.

#### COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS

Competitive grants are awarded to parties that apply to funding opportunities based on the merit of submitted proposals and other criteria. The table below....

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY PROCESS

### APPLY TO OPPORTUNITY

### ENGAGE IN OPPORTUNITY

#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

DOE may release a public Request for Information (RFI) to inform the objectives and structure of the funding opportunity.

DOE may release an RFI. The RFI can be found on the program's main webpage or the DOE BIL webpage.

#### PARTICIPATE IN THE RFI

By responding to the RFI, groups or individuals can voice their concerns about and desires for the opportunity.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)

DOE may release a formal public announcement of its intent to release a funding opportunity.

DOE will typically release a NOI. The NOI can be found on the program's main webpage.

#### READ THE NOI

Time for groups or individuals to prepare for the FOA by identifying partners, the impact of the opportunity, and more.

#### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA)

DOE will release an announcement that it is accepting applications for funding, describing the opportunity in depth, the rules, timeline, and criteria that must be met by the awardee.

DOE will release a FOA. Applicants may form partnerships with organizations that have experience responding to a FOA or they may submit their own proposal. In addition, the FOA may require a CBA. The FOA can be found under each program's main webpage or the DOE BIL webpage.

#### REVIEW THE FOA

Many FOAs will have a requirement for community engagement, an equity plan, and potentially, a CBA. Groups or individuals can review the FOA and identify how the project team will be required to engage with the community and prepare to participate in that process.

#### COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT (CBA):

Many FOAs will call for a Community Benefits Plan or similar element in order to help ensure high quality jobs and other benefits to the community. This could include a Community Benefits Agreement with community groups and key stakeholders.

#### PRE-APPLICATION REGISTRATIONS

Obtain a Unique Entity Identity from the System for Award Management, register on Grants.gov, and register on FedConnect.

The CBA is an opportunity to have local concerns addressed within the project proposed and ensure benefits reach communities.

#### COMPLETE & SUBMIT APPLICATION

Application requirements and submission instructions are detailed in the FOA.

#### FUNDING AGREEMENT (FA)

DOE establishes the award amount negotiated between DOE and the project team, describing the scope of work, project milestones, schedule and budget.

#### ESTABLISH FUNDING AGREEMENT

The award amount will be negotiated with DOE, discussing the final scope of work, project milestones, schedule, and budget. When the award is approved by DOE, a start date is established and project work begins.

#### ENGAGE WITH PROJECT TEAM

Community groups and stakeholders should stay engaged with selected applications throughout final award, project evaluation, and verification.

### NEED SUPPORT? CONTACT US.

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