

Draft communities of focus list



The draft communities of focus list contains information about communities identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool as disadvantaged. The list, which contains information about every community across the U.S. and Puerto Rico, provides data that seek to describe some of the significant burdens in the lived environment within these communities of focus.

The data in the draft communities of focus list, which will be updated and refined based on public feedback, is being developed to help guide the implementation of the Justice40 initiative, through which federal agencies are to direct at least 40% of the overall benefits of covered programs investments to disadvantaged communities.

Draft methodology (v0.1)

To identify communities of focus, the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool uses reliable, national, publicly available data from the Census's American Community Survey on income, poverty, and high school degree achievement rates for adults.

Under the current methodology (v0.1) in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, communities of focus are identified as census block groups where:

EITHER the median income is less than 80% of the area median income OR the percent of households at or below 100% of the federal poverty level is greater than 20% AND the high school degree achievement rate for adults 25 years and older is less than 95%.

The methodology for identifying communities of focus is currently in a draft, pre-decisional form that may change over time as more datasets become available.

How to use the list

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool considers census block groups to be a community of focus if it meets the requirements of the current methodology (v0.1). A census block group is generally between 600 to 3,000 people. It is the smallest geographical unit for which the Census bureau publishes sample data, i.e. data which is only collected from a fraction of all households. The census block group is labeled with a 12-digit code which you will find in the first column of the list.

The spreadsheet contained in this zip file lists the codes of the whole of the United States and Puerto Rico.

The data in the draft communities of focus list is being developed and refined for the purpose of helping federal agencies improve the geographic targeting of the benefits of certain federal programs to better address the needs and challenges of communities that are overburdened by pollution, the subject of historic disinvestment, or are otherwise disadvantaged.

For reference, the current version is 0.1. Updated versions will be made available via the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

If you have further questions, please email screeningtool.feedback@usds.gov.