

Draft communities list



The draft communities list contains information about communities identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. It shows where certain federal agencies should focus on directing 40% of the overall benefits from their program's investments as a part of the Justice40 initiative.

The list also provides additional data that describes the significant burdens in the lived environment of communities and can help federal agencies better understand and address the challenges of particular communities.

Draft methodology

Communities of focus should be where (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 Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool uses national, publicly available data from the Census's American Community Survey that reflect income, poverty, and high school degree achievement rates for adults.

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 will consider census block groups to be a community of focus if it meets the requirements of the draft methodology. 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.

There are additional datasets along with the list that may also be useful to you.

If you are a Federal Program Manager tasked with delivering Justice40 benefits, think about your program eligibility, outreach and awareness methods, what the benefits of your program are and if they are currently place-based, and how you could get at least 40% of the overall benefits of your program to those communities of focus.