

## Scorecard Department of Homeland Security



### Department of Homeland Security

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### About the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its homeland security mission are born from the commitment and resolve of Americans across the United States in the wake of the September 11th attacks. With the passage of the Homeland Security Act by Congress in November 2002, DHS formally came into being as a stand-alone, Cabinet-level department to further coordinate and unify national homeland security efforts, opening its doors on March 1, 2003. DHS has a vital mission: to secure the nation from the many threats we face. This requires the hard work of more than 260,000 employees in jobs that range from aviation and border security to emergency response, from cybersecurity analyst to chemical facility inspector. Our duties are wide-ranging, and our goal is clear—keeping America safe.

This page provides information on how **the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** is working to advance environmental justice for communities across America. It is part of Phase One of the Biden-Harris Administration's Environmental Justice Scorecard.

### Justice40 Initiative

As part of President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), the federal government is working toward the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments reach disadvantaged communities that are marginalized and overburdened by

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and underinvestment. In particular, the President’s Justice40 Initiative applies to federal investments that address climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure.

This Phase One Scorecard provides an update on initial progress made by **the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** in implementing the Justice40 Initiative. Future versions of the Environmental Justice Scorecard will provide additional information and updates on the benefits of Justice40 covered programs.

For more information on DHS’s Justice40 covered programs, please contact [FEMA-Justice40@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Justice40@fema.dhs.gov).

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights in Fiscal Year 2022 include:

- **4** Justice40 covered program(s)
- **4** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$4,083,500,000** in funding made available from Justice40 covered programs<sup>1</sup>
  - DHS’ Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Justice40 covered programs include the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program, Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP), Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). FEMA’s RCPGP program focuses on improving national preparedness by promoting regional coordination and planning among emergency managers and other key stakeholders to identify and address regional risks and vulnerabilities. Risk MAP—the only one of FEMA’s Justice40 covered programs that is not grants based—identifies risk and produces flood risk data that is intended to be used to mitigate flood risk.
  - FEMA announced \$2.295 billion in its FY 2022 BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity. BRIC continues to invest in a variety of mitigation activities with an added focus on infrastructure projects benefitting disadvantaged communities, including nature-based solutions, climate resilience and adaptation, and adopting hazard resistant building codes.
  - FEMA announced \$860 million in its FY 2022 FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity. The purpose of this program is to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. As a Justice40 pilot program, the FMA program is committed to providing 40% of overall benefits toward disadvantaged communities, as defined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, including communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and flooding.
- Made program modifications for Justice40 covered programs such as:
  - In the FY 2022 grant cycle, FEMA modified their grant scoring criteria for BRIC and FMA to prioritize funding for projects benefitting disadvantaged communities. FEMA also made access to the BRIC and FMA grant programs more equitable for highly disadvantaged communities by addressing one of the common barriers—successful completion of a project benefit-cost analysis (BCA). Highly disadvantaged communities as well as Tribal applications and Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities can submit subapplications without completing a BCA to demonstrate the cost-

effectiveness of their mitigation projects. If their subapplication is competitive, and is otherwise eligible and technically feasible, FEMA will work with the applicant or subapplicant to complete the BCA.

<sup>1</sup> This funding amount describes examples of the funding that was made available in Fiscal Year 2022 through Justice40 covered programs. The amount does not represent the total funding that benefits disadvantaged communities. The funding was made available through grants, notices of funding opportunity, and other funding announcements. These funding announcements were from Justice40 covered programs that were funded through discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those enacted under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58). The Justice40 Initiative sets a goal that 40 percent of overall benefits from certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

## DHS' Highlights

BRIC non-financial Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) gives full support to communities that may not have the resources to begin climate resilience planning and project solution design on their own, including mapping. Through process-oriented, hands-on support, BRIC DTA will work to enhance a community's capacity to design holistic, equitable climate adaptation solutions that advance numerous community-driven objectives. In alignment with the Justice40 Initiative, FEMA doubled the number of communities for BRIC DTA from 20 to at least 40, thereby providing support for both project or application-specific needs and community-wide resilience needs.

In the spring of 2022, FEMA launched the Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current initiative providing tailored technical assistance to local communities to support sub-application development in Mississippi. These efforts empowered Mississippi to successfully submit over \$4.8 million in sub-applications, including 17 property acquisitions and nine home elevation flood mitigation projects in six communities across the state.

## Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

### DHS' Highlights

DHS operates an environmental planning and historic preservation decision support system which is an online system of record for documenting NEPA review and compliance for certain DHS actions and a repository and reporting mechanism for Departmental Environmental Assessments (EAs) and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). In FY 2021, the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) expanded its capacity to review DHS grantees' Civil Rights Evaluation tool submissions and provide detailed feedback and technical assistance to grantees through an increase in staffing and the procurement of a state-of-the-art data management system. CRCL also conducted monthly civil rights webinars to educate recipients on the tool and provide targeted training on specific civil rights topics.

To better serve Tribal Nations, FEMA published its first ever National Tribal Strategy. This strategy was developed hand-in-hand with Tribal communities for the agency to take critical steps toward delivering training and assistance that meets the unique needs of Tribal communities. The agency also appointed the first Tribal political appointee in its history to advise FEMA Administrator Criswell on Tribal affairs, while working to ensure that FEMA lives up to its treaty and trust responsibilities to Tribal Nations.

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work **the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [DHS Environmental Justice Strategy: Homeland Security](#) .

## **National Environmental Policy Act**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental, health, and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them. Environmental reviews help ensure the public is informed about potential actions, and give communities an opportunity to participate in the government's decision-making process. Environmental reviews also ensure that federal agencies consider ways to protect and enhance public health and the environment, and advance environmental justice in their decision-making. The following information highlights some work **the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:



- The U.S Coast Guard has an environmental planning warrant program that requires environmental staff who review NEPA documents to have the appropriate experience and training in environmental justice. There are currently 194 Coast Guard environmental planning warrant holders. FEMA Training 253, “Introduction to Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance,” was offered 9 times during the reporting period, and is being updated by environmental justice specialists at FEMA. In October 2022, FEMA released guidance for environmental planning and historic preservation compliance reviewers on how to accurately review FEMA actions consistent with Executive Order 12898. The DHS Environmental Justice Working Group participated in a training from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on utilization of the EJScreen tool to assist in identifying communities with environmental justice concerns during NEPA analysis.
- **21** training(s) on environmental justice considerations during NEPA reviews

## **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Environmental Justice**

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that no person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on account of race, color, or national origin. Title VI requires federal agencies to ensure that programs or activities receiving federal funding, including those that affect human health or the environment, do not use discriminatory criteria, methods, or practices. The following information includes updates from January 2021 to September 2022 from **the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** on Title VI that are related to environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **1** open Title VI investigation(s) or compliance review(s) related to environmental justice
- **4** internal training(s) on Title VI civil rights and environmental justice

## **Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making**

Federal agencies work to ensure that the voices, perspectives, and lived experiences of communities are heard and reflected in the priorities, policies, and decision-making of the federal government. Agencies also take steps to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies. The following information highlights work **the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to center environmental justice in its decision-making.

## **Community Input and Engagement**

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- DHS continued implementing the Civil Rights Evaluation Tool, a data collection and technical assistance tool that helps conduct and advance civil rights compliance evaluations of federally assisted recipients. Recipients use the tool to report any civil rights complaints, including environmental justice concerns, along with civil rights policies and procedures for their public-facing programs and activities that have human health or environmental impacts. DHS reviews and

provides feedback to address gaps and ensure recipients can meet civil rights obligations. As an agency within DHS, FEMA provides technical assistance and training; investigates allegations of discrimination; conducts community assessments during a disaster, community outreach, and compliance reviews of FEMA recipients; and provides civil rights subject matter expertise to FEMA Program Offices and Field Leadership.

- **1** technical assistance outreach event(s) in Fiscal Year 2022
  - In November 2021, FEMA Office of Equal Rights hosted the Civil Rights Summit 2.0 which fosters dialogue and partnership through direct engagement. This event included panels on the Justice40 Initiative, equity, climate adaptation, and environmental justice efforts.
- **Yes, DHS has conducted** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions
  - Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) represented DHS at the 2022 National Environmental Justice Conference presenting on Title VI and environmental justice enforcement efforts.
  - From June – August 2021, the Science and Technology Directorate, a component of DHS, led a 4-part whole-of-government virtual research and development showcase, featuring expert panels highlighting U.S. government research organizations that invest in innovation to secure our future and ensure no community is left behind. The theme was, “Unifying Research to Work for You” and featured talks on enhancing community resilience and equity, and how government research organizations work directly with community leaders to deliver solutions in transportation, public health, emergency management, and green infrastructure.

## Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- DHS held a 3-day Tribal Summit in 2021 with more than 200 attendees. The Summit included a presentation by the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer's Sustainability and Environmental Programs on environmental planning, historic preservation, and environmental justice. Additionally, DHS Tribal Affairs holds monthly internal meetings where DHS components can share information and discuss challenges and best practices. An external quarterly DHS Tribal Affairs meeting is also held where environmental justice has been discussed. Tribal liaisons throughout DHS engage with various Tribes and other stakeholders on many topics, including environmental justice.
- **2** internal training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

## Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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Since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, federal agencies have been working to embed environmental justice into all aspects of their work, including by implementing [Executive Order 12898](#) and [Executive Order 14008](#) . The following information shares



some of the work **the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to institutionalize environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **Has** an environmental justice strategic plan that **has been** updated in the past 5 years
  - The first DHS Environmental Justice Strategy was issued in 2012. In May 2021, DHS issued an updated FY 2011-2025 Environmental Justice Strategy signed by Secretary Mayorkas.
  - Environmental justice is also part of the DHS Climate Action Plan.
- **2** tool(s) or resources to advance environmental justice
- **Approximately 225** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **Approximately 40** internal training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **No** new or strengthened office(s) on environmental justice
- **Yes, DHS has a** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice
- The DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer chair the DHS environmental justice working group, comprised of members from DHS component agencies and offices. In FY 2022, the DHS environmental justice working group resumed regular meetings with new priorities based on the updated DHS Environmental Justice Strategy.

## DHS' Highlights

In 2022, FEMA was able to update a number of policies and practices that resulted in immediate improvements to operations by expanding the reach and benefit of disaster assistance programs, including in disadvantaged communities. Examples include: The updating of Individual Assistance policies led to more than 100,000 disaster survivors receiving assistance who may have been deemed ineligible previously. Opening direct housing eligibility to disaster survivors with smaller homes resulted in more than 6,700 disaster survivors being considered for direct housing who previously would not have received assistance, including more than 4,000 lower-income applicants. By expanding Ownership Verification, more than 57,000 additional disaster survivors received FEMA assistance, totaling \$444 million.

The U.S. Coast Guard leads engagements with Alaskan Natives, who are critical first responders in the Arctic region during disasters, for operational activities and for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. Engagement focuses on prevention and response.



The DHS environmental justice working group meets monthly, featuring trainings on current policies, NEPA, Tribal consultation, civil rights, Departmental actions, environmental justice tools, and upcoming training opportunities. The DHS Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer, Sustainability and Environmental Programs, provided an overview of environmental justice and climate change to the DHS climate change professionals and the DHS climate change policy working group.

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## Contact

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### More information

[Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

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