# Draft list of disadvantaged communities

The draft communities list contains information about census tracts across all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories that have been identified as disadvantaged by the current version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

The tool will provide important information for the Justice40 Initiative. The goal of the Justice40 Initiative is to provide 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments in seven key areas to disadvantaged communities. These seven key areas are: climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water infrastructure.

The current version of the tool is in a public beta form and the tool will be continuously updated and refined on feedback and as new datasets and research become available.

# How to use the list

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool considers communities to be disadvantaged for the purposes of the Justice40 Initiative if they are in a census tract that meets the requirements of the current methodology. Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county defined by the U.S. Census Bureau and usually  cover a contiguous area. A census tract is generally between 1,200 to 8,000 people, with an average size of 4,000 people. The census tract level currently represents the smallest geographical unit for which
publicly-available and nationally-consistent datasets can be consistently displayed on the tool.

The spreadsheets contained in this zip file list the unique codes for communities across the U.S. states and territories.

For reference, the current version of the draft communities list is v0.1. Updated versions will be made available when the next version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool is released.

If you have further questions or feedback regarding data and tool usability, please email Screeningtool-Support@omb.eop.gov.

# Draft methodology (v0.1)

Under the current formula, a census tract will be identified as disadvantaged:

**IF** the census tract is above the threshold for one or more environmental or climate indicators

**AND** the census tract is above the threshold for the socioeconomic indicators

The methodology for identifying disadvantaged communities is currently in a beta form and may be updated based on feedback and research.

# Things of note

(!) **The current version of the tool uses the following approach to address data limitations in the U.S. territories:**

The data sources used to identify disadvantaged communities in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. However, not all of these data sources are currently available for the U.S. territories.

For Puerto Rico, the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey data from 2015-2019 were used for higher ed enrollment rate and all the other fields in the training and workforce development category to identify disadvantaged communities. Data in the other categories are unavailable at this time.

For American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands, the data used to identify disadvantaged communities are from the 2010 Decennial Census, the last reported data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Available data for these territories include unemployment, poverty, low median income, and high school degree achievement rate fields in the training and workforce development category.

Work is currently underway to identify disadvantaged communities and update the tool accordingly for Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(!) **Tribal Nations**

The tool covers all U.S. census tracts, including those located within Tribal Nations, to the extent that data are available. CEQ is engaging in consultation and coordination with Tribal Nations on the beta version of the tool to provide Tribal Nations with meaningful opportunities for input, consistent with CEQ's Action Plan for Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Nations, President Biden's Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, and Executive Order 13175 on Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments.

(!) **Thresholds and percentiles**

The beta version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool uses thresholds to identify whether a census tract is disadvantaged. Each threshold consists of an environmental or climate indicator and two related socioeconomic indicators. For example, each of the tool's reduction and remediation of legacy pollution thresholds use an environmental indicator related to proximity to pollution sites and socioeconomic indicator related to income and education. A census tract must meet the thresholds for both indicators to be considered disadvantaged

Most of the datasets that feed into the thresholds are percentiles. Percentiles reflect the distribution of a variable and run from the 0th percentile, meaning the lowest score on a given scale, to the 100th percentile, meaning the highest score on a given scale. A variable that lists a census tract as "77th percentile" means that this census tract has a higher measurement on this variable than 77% of all other census tracts.

Each indicator has a cutoff value as a threshold, so a tract satisfies an indicator if it exceeds the indicator's cutoff value. For example, to exceed one of the legacy pollution thresholds, a tract must be closer to hazardous waste, Risk Management Plan facilities (RMP), or Superfund sites than 90% of all census tracts, and meet the socioeconomic indicators (i.e. have more households living at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level than 65% of all census tracts, and have 80% or more of individuals 15 years or older who are not currently enrolled in higher education in the census tract).

# Draft communities methodology

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** by the current version of the tool for the purposes of the Justice40 Initiative if they are located in census tracts that are at or above the thresholds in one or more of eight categories of criteria below.

## Climate change

**IF** at or above the 90th percentile for expected agriculture loss rate OR expected building loss rate OR expected population loss rate

**AND** is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

## Clean energy and energy efficiency

**IF** at or above the 90th percentile for energy burden OR PM2.5 in the air

**AND** is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

## Clean transit

**IF** at or above the 90th percentile for diesel particulate matter exposure OR traffic proximity and volume

**AND** is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

## Affordable and sustainable housing

**IF** at or above the 90th percentile for lead paint AND median home value is at or less than the 90th percentile OR at or above the 90th percentile for housing cost burden

**AND** is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

## Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution

**IF** at or above the 90th percentile for proximity to hazardous waste facilities OR proximity to National Priorities List (NPL) sites OR proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities

**AND** is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

## Critical clean water and waste infrastructure

**IF** at or above the 90th percentile for wastewater discharge

**AND** is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

## Health burdens

**IF** at or above the 90th percentile for asthma OR diabetes OR heart disease OR low life expectancy

**AND** is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

## Training and workforce development

**IF** at or above the 90th percentile for low median income as a percent of area median income OR linguistic isolation OR unemployment OR percent individuals in households at or below 100% Federal poverty level

**AND** 10% or more of adults 25 or older have not attained a high school degree AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

# Draft communities data

The datasets used in the current version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The current version of the tool relies on publicly-available, nationally-consistent data on income, education, environmental and climate burdens, health, and other economic and environmental factors.

| Dataset | Description | Used in | Source | Available for |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Low income | Percent of a census tract's population of households where household income is at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level | All categories except for training and workforce development | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015-1019 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Higher education non-enrollment | Percent of people 15 or older who are not currently enrolled in college, university, or graduate school | All categories | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015-1019 | All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico |
| Expected agriculture loss rate | Economic loss rate to agriculture value resulting from 14 types of natural hazards each year | Climate change category | Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index from 2014-2021 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Expected building loss rate | Economic loss rate to building value resulting from 14 types of natural hazards each year | Climate change category | Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index from 2014-2021 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Expected population loss rate | Rate of fatalities and injuries resulting from 14 types of natural hazards each year | Climate change category | Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index from 2014-2021 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Energy burden | Average annual energy cost per household ($) divided by average household income | Clean energy and energy efficiency category | Department of Energy's (DOE) LEAD Score from 2018 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| PM2.5 in the air | Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers or smaller | Clean energy and energy efficiency category | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) fusion of model and monitor data from 2017 as compiled by EPA's EJscreen, sourced from EPA National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) traffic data | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Diesel particulate matter exposure | Mixture of particles that is part of diesel exhaust in the air | Clean transit category | Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) from 2014 as compiled by EPA's EJscreen | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |

# Draft communities data

The datasets used in the current version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The current version of the tool relies on publicly-available, nationally-consistent data on income, education, environmental and climate burdens, health, and other economic and environmental factors.

| Dataset | Description | Used in | Source | Available for |
|---------|-------------|---------|--------|---------------|
| Traffic proximity and volume | Count of vehicles (average annual daily traffic) at major roads within 500 meters, divided by distance in meters | Clean transit category | Department of Transportation's (DOT) traffic data from 2017 as compiled by EPA's EJscreen | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Housing cost burden | Percent of households in a census tract that are both earning less than 80% of HUD Area Median Family Income by county and are spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs | Affordable and sustainable housing category | Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy dataset from 2014 - 2018 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Lead paint | Percent of housing units built pre-1960, used as an indicator of potential lead paint exposure in census tracts with median home values less than the 90th percentile | Affordable and sustainable housing category | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Median home value | Median home value of owner-occupied housing units in the census tract | Affordable and sustainable housing category | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Proximity to hazardous waste facilities | Count of hazardous waste facilities (Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities and Large Quantity Generators) within 5 kilometers (or nearest beyond 5 kilometers), each divided by distance in kilometers | Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution category | Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) TSDF data from 2020 calculated from EPA RCRA database as compiled by EPA's EJscreen | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Proximity to National Priorities List (NPL) sites | Count of proposed or listed NPL - also known as Superfund - sites within 5 kilometers (or nearest one beyond 5 kilometers), each divided by distance in kilometers | Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution category | Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) CERCLIS database from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJscreen | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities | Count of RMP (potential chemical accident management plan) facilities within 5 kilometers (or nearest one beyond 5 kilometers), each divided by distance in kilometers | Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution category | Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) RMP database from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJscreen | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |

# Draft communities data

The datasets used in the current version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The current version of the tool relies on publicly-available, nationally-consistent data on income, education, environmental and climate burdens, health, and other economic and environmental factors.

| Dataset | Description | Used in | Source | Available for |
|---------|-------------|---------|--------|---------------|
| Wastewater discharge | Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) modeled toxic concentrations at stream segments within 500 meters, divided by distance in kilometers | Critical clean water and waste infrastructure category | Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) Model from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJscreen | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Asthma | Weighted percent of people who answer "yes" to both of the following questions: "Have you ever been told by a health professional that you have asthma?" and "Do you still have asthma?" | Health burdens category | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) PLACES data from 2016 - 2019 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Diabetes | Weighted percent of people ages 18 years and older who report being told by a health professional that they have diabetes other than diabetes during pregnancy | Health burdens category | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) PLACES data from 2016 - 2019 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Heart disease | Weighted percent of people ages 18 years and older who report being told by a health professional that they had angina or coronary heart disease | Health burdens category | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) PLACES data from 2016 - 2019 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Low life expectancy | Average number of years of life a person who has attained a given age can expect to live | Health burdens category | Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP) from 2010 - 2015 | All U.S. states and the District of Columbia |
| Low median Income | Median income of the census tract calculated as a percent of the area's median income | Training and workforce development category | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019<br><br>Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2010 | All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico<br><br>American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands |
| Linguistic isolation | Percent households where no one over the age 14 speaks English well | Training and workforce development category | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019 | All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico |

# Draft communities data

The datasets used in the current version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The current version of the tool relies on publicly-available, nationally-consistent data on income, education, environmental and climate burdens, health, and other economic and environmental factors.

| Dataset | Description | Used in | Source | Available for |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unemployment | Number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labor force | Training and workforce development category | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019<br><br>Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2010 | All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico<br><br>American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands |
| Poverty | Percent of a census tract's population in households where the household income is at or below 100% of the Federal poverty level | Training and workforce development category | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019<br><br>Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2010 | All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico<br><br>American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands |
| High school degree non-attainment | Percent of people age 25 years or older in a census tract whose education level is less than a high school diploma | Training and workforce development category | Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019<br><br>Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2010 | All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico<br><br>American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands |
|  |  |  |  |  |