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**The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated.** Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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# Delta Regional Authority


**2 office(s), 2 location(s), 22 employees,**  
and **6 new hire(s)** in Fiscal Year 2023

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) envisions the region as a place where people and businesses have access to economic opportunities in vibrant, sustainable, and resilient communities. DRA's mission is to realize that vision through the practical application of innovative ideas and strategies that will foster inclusive communities, strengthen regional collaboration and productive capacity, achieve sustained, long-term economic development, and produce meaningful opportunities for all people

## Get Involved

[Check out the Delta Regional Authority's public engagement events](#) 


## Latest News & Updates

[Find out the latest news at the Delta Regional Authority](#) 

## Get Funding & Support

[Find NOFOs, grants, and](#)

in the DRA region.

[technical assistance](#) 

DRA was created to promote and encourage economic development in the Delta region. Over 90% of counties and parishes in the DRA region are economically distressed, reflecting a pervasive norm of hardship across the Delta region. Factors such as environmental racism and classism compound these challenges for Delta residents, highlighting systemic issues.

Some examples of well-known DRA offices, bureaus, or agencies are:

- Programs Department
- Policy and Communications Department
- Strategic Partnerships Division

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## Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at the Delta Regional Authority in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

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**Key Highlights** ([show less](#) ^ )

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## **Strategic Investments in Job Creation, Job Retention, Supporting Families, and Training People**

In FY 2023, DRA estimates its strategic investments helped to create over 6,700 jobs. In FY 2023, DRA estimates its strategic investments helped to retain over 1,300 jobs. In FY 2023, DRA estimates that more than 18,000 families were benefitted by improved infrastructure as a result of DRA's strategic investments. In FY 2023, DRA estimates that more than 2,400 people were trained as a result of DRA's strategic investments.

## Delta Regional Authority's Justice40 Covered Program Benefits

DRA's collective efforts resulted in increased benefits from Justice40 covered programs accrued across its eight-state, 252 county/parish area. DRA estimates its strategic investments helped to create eight times as many jobs and train two times as many people in year-over-year increases from FY 2021 to FY 2023. This is a testament to the focused and localized efforts the agency undertook to expand its Justice40 impact.

[Learn more](#) 

## Justice40 Initiative

This section demonstrates progress on the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative at the Delta Regional Authority in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

### Overview

DRA is a joint federal-state collaboration

### What is the Justice40 Initiative?

The Justice40 Initiative set the goal that 40 percent of

created to address the economic needs of the eight-state, 252 county/parish Mississippi Delta region. DRA is participating in the Justice40 Initiative through its grantmaking activities, including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded activities.

As an identified agency with covered programs, DRA works to advance the Justice40 Initiative goal as part of its covered programs. These actions include identifying the benefits of covered programs, determining how covered programs distribute benefits, and calculating and reporting on reaching the 40% goal of the Justice40 Initiative. Benefits include direct and indirect investments (and program outcomes) that positively impact disadvantaged communities. Therefore, all entities also comply with reporting, data collection, and evaluation necessary for DRA to assess its progress toward the Justice40 Initiative goal, as outlined in interim guidance for the Justice40 Initiative and Executive Order 14008. Further, DRA's Regional Development Plan IV will guide the agency's strategic priorities and actions from 2023 through 2027 to help the region build on previous successes and maximize future opportunities. For more information, please visit DRA's [Regional Development Plan IV](#).

For more information on DRA's Justice40 covered programs, please contact

the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

[Learn more](#) 

[info@dra.gov](mailto:info@dra.gov) 

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## Justice40 Covered Programs ([show less](#) ^)

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The Delta Regional Authority has:

- **1** Justice40 covered program(s), including **1** Justice40 covered program(s) that is/are funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, or both

### Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

Through President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda and other sources, **DRA** has:

approximately

**\$210 million**

in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.<sup>1</sup>

Through President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), **DRA** is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative

delivers benefits in at least one of [seven investment categories](#) , and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The **1** covered program(s) at **DRA** working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- **1** program(s) delivering and advancing clean transportation options for communities
- **1** program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits
- **1** program(s) delivering critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure benefits

Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.

*<sup>1</sup>In the Phase Two Scorecard, the Justice40 Initiative section contains information about federal investments that Congress has funded through both discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental*

*appropriations, such as those that Congress made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169). The Phase Two Scorecard includes information on each agency's budget authority (that is, the total amount of funds that Congress has appropriated to the agency to spend on Justice40 covered programs) and the period of availability (that is, the period of time over which Congress has authorized the agency to spend the funds).*

*In some cases, agencies may not yet have the authority to spend the full amount indicated, such as when Congress has appropriated funds that will only become available in future Fiscal Years. Agencies provided the data presented here in spring 2024, and therefore the data does not reflect the annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 that Congress made in March 2024.*

*Thus, the information that the Phase Two Scorecard presents in this section includes what the agency has available to spend in its Justice40 covered programs (i.e., its budget authority). These figures represent the total funding amount for all Justice40 covered programs, not only the portion that benefits disadvantaged communities.*

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## **Justice40 Covered Program Highlights** ([show less](#) ^)

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The Delta Regional Authority is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:



## Delta Regional Authority Grants

DRA's strategic investments over FY 2023 are expected to have the following outcomes: 6,716 jobs created, 1,327 jobs retained, 18,055 families benefited, and 2,477 people trained.

[Learn more](#) 

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Delta Regional Authority Grants

DRA's metrics estimate that its strategic investments helped to create eight times as many jobs and train two times as many people in year-over-year increases from FY 2021 to FY 2023.

[Learn more](#) 

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## Funding Announcements

([show less](#) ^)

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The Delta Regional Authority has:

- **2** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$46,329,754** available through Justice40 covered program(s) funding announcements<sup>2</sup>

### **DRA Publishes 2023 Notice of Funding Availability for States' Economic Development Assistance Program**

Through this Notice of Funding Availability, DRA has made approximately \$16.8 million available to address basic public and transportation infrastructure, as well as workforce and business development needs for communities across DRA's eight-state service area.

**Learn more** 

## DRA Publishes 2023 Notice of Funding Availability for Community Infrastructure Fund

Through this Notice of Funding Availability, DRA has made approximately \$30 million available to address basic public and transportation infrastructure, as well as flood control issues for communities across DRA's eight-state service area.

[Learn more](#) 

*<sup>2</sup>Further, this section also includes funding that was made available through an agency's Justice40 covered programs in FY 2023. The funding was made available through various mechanisms, like grants, loans, agreements, contracts, 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) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169).*

## Covered Program Design or Modification ([show less ^](#))

The Delta Regional Authority made program or design modifications to maximize benefits and/or remove barriers or constraints for disadvantaged communities, such as:

### Application Criteria

DRA has instituted a technical review process to provide for an objective review of applications.

### Outreach

DRA's strategic partnerships team met with stakeholders throughout the region to discuss funding sources and the application process.

## Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

This section demonstrates progress on community engagement (e.g., partnerships with non-federal organizations, technical assistance, and public processes) and partnership and consultation with Tribal

Nations at the Delta Regional Authority in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

DRA has a partnership with the University of Memphis that provides hands-on, deepened technical assistance to eight DRA communities in a year-long pilot project. Other partnerships include with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and community development financial institutions, among others.

DRA created a capacity-building hub to expand and provide deepened technical assistance to DRA's most disadvantaged communities.

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### Technical Assistance ([show less](#) ^ )

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- **13** technical assistance outreach event(s) to improve access and information about federal programs related to environmental justice

For more information on the Delta Regional Authority's technical assistance events, please visit <https://dra.gov/events/>.

### **Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building Training for Local Development Districts**

In FY 2023, DRA conducted ten in-person and one virtual Local Development District training.

### **Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building Training for the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities Initiative**

In FY 2023, DRA conducted one in-person and one virtual Pre-Technical Assistance training opportunity, which was attended by more than 80 participants. DRA also conducted one virtual Pre-Technical Assistance Training.

Learn more 

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### **Partnership and Consultation with Tribal Nations ([show less ^](#))**

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This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at the Delta Regional Authority, including steps that that agencies take to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

DRA produced a Tribal Consultation Plan that outlines its commitment to ensuring Tribal Nations and communities have access to economic development resources. DRA will follow the consultation policies established through Executive Order 13175 on “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments,” and consistent with policies set forth in the Presidential Memorandum of January 16, 2021, on “Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-Nation Relationships.”

- **2** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice

### **Stakeholder Government-to-Government Consultation with Tribal Nations**

DRA’s strategic partnerships team met with Tribal Nations in the region to discuss funding sources and the application process.

## **Institutionalizing Environmental Justice**



This section demonstrates progress to institutionalize environmental justice at the Delta Regional Authority including to implement [Executive Order 14008](#) and [Executive Order 14096](#) , in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

- **8** staff who work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity

## Training

- **2** employee(s) trained on environmental justice

### **Selma, Alabama Interagency Working Group**

DRA leads an interagency working group to help the city of Selma, Alabama navigate and prepare for federal funding opportunities. In less than

## Advancing Environmental Justice Tools or Resources ([show less](#) ^ )

- **1** tool(s) or resources that advance environmental justice, including access to health, environmental or other impacts, such as:

### Grants Management System

In FY 2023, DRA created a comprehensive grants management system that will measure reporting metrics.

a year, over \$29 million in federal resources has been invested in Selma and Dallas County. Federal agencies, including AmeriCorps, Environmental Protection Agency, and Small Business Administration, among others, have collectively worked alongside the city to inform and assist the city with identifying where its priorities align with available

federal  
resources.

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