

Scorecard Housing and Urban Development



Housing and Urban Development

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About the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD's vision is to improve lives and strengthen communities to deliver on America's dreams.

This page provides information on how **the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** 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 pollution 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 water and wastewater infrastructure.

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This Phase One Scorecard provides an update on initial progress made by **the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** 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 HUD's Justice40 covered programs, please contact justice40@hud.gov.

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

- **24** Justice40 covered program(s)
- **At least 12** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **Over \$11 billion** in funding made available from Justice40 covered programs¹
 - HUD made over \$92 million in funds available to Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages through the Indian Community Development Block Grant program. The purpose of the program is to create decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities primarily for people with low- and moderate- incomes in Native American and Alaska Native communities.
 - The HOME Investment Partnerships Program announced \$1.5 billion in funding for states and localities (often in partnership with local nonprofit groups) to use for building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership, or providing direct rental assistance to people with low-incomes.
 - HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes made \$5 million available to nine public housing agencies (PHAs) to conduct radon testing and mitigation in approximately 1,000 housing units. Where applicable, funding supported the development of PHAs' plans for future testing and mitigation.
- Made program modifications for Justice40 covered programs such as:
 - HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes updated a 2022 Lead Hazard Reduction Notice of Funding Opportunity, making \$403 million available in funding, to allow additional points for money flowing to disadvantaged communities, as defined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.
 - To advance equity goals, HUD updated the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) template for all programs. Where applicable, HUD will require NOFO applicants to demonstrate experience and capacity to promote racial equity.

¹ 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.

HUD's Highlights

HUD's mission is rooted squarely in service to disadvantaged communities and the goals of the Justice40 Initiative are inherently part of HUD's programs. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, HUD dedicated funds to control lead and other hazards in low-income households, improve housing on Tribal lands, help communities adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, and ensure people have equal access to healthy housing. HUD provided \$28 million in funding to over 100 Fair Housing Initiatives Program grantees across the country to support people who have been impacted by housing discrimination. HUD's programs address energy equity within public housing communities and provide incentives to invest in energy and water efficiency infrastructure and renewable energy programs, including the Energy Performance Contract, Rate Reduction Incentive, Small Rural Frozen Rolling Base, and Utility Partnership Program.

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

HUD's Highlights

HUD takes every step to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. This includes advancing the Fair Housing Act to provide every American with equality and opportunity in the pursuit of housing, regardless of their race, color, sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), religion, national origin, familial status, or disability. Since January 2021, the Department has taken two regulatory actions to reinstate and expand legal tools critical to environmental justice. In June 2021, HUD issued an interim final rule restoring definitions and certifications to the Fair Housing Act's requirement to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH). HUD also conducted stakeholder listening sessions to inform an initial draft of a new AFFH rule to further ensure HUD program participants take meaningful actions to address continued segregation, disinvestment from communities of color, and ongoing discrimination in housing markets.

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 Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [HUD's Climate Action Plan: Pursuing Environmental Justice](#) .

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 Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- HUD regulations addressing environmental review include 24 CFR 58.5(j) and 50.4(l), and the Department is planning to update those regulations to integrate environmental justice-related hazards and health risks. HUD's Environmental Review Process determines if a project meets federal, state, and local standards. This process is required for all HUD-assisted projects to consider and ensure projects do not negatively impact the surrounding environment and residents' health. Every HUD-funded project must comply with NEPA.
- **3** project modification(s) where environmental justice concerns were raised during the NEPA process

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 Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** on Title VI that are related to environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity continues to work toward resolution and civil rights compliance on Title VI cases concerning environmental justice. In addition to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, HUD has authority to enforce

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act, as well as other civil rights authorities.

- **2** open Title VI investigation(s) or compliance review(s) related to environmental justice
- **Yes, conducts** 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 Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** 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:

- HUD announced the Climate Communities Initiative (CCI). CCI brings together 44 Community Development Block Grant grantees to receive technical assistance for a climate resilience activity focused on the most disadvantaged communities in their area.
- **Over 1,914** technical assistance outreach event(s) in Fiscal Year 2022
 - Dedicated \$72 million to technical assistance events connected to Justice40 covered programs or other activities related to environmental justice.
 - In FY 2022, \$5 million was appropriated to HUD for a Thriving Communities technical assistance program to strengthen local government capacity to better integrate housing investments with transformative infrastructure investments in disadvantaged communities. The Thriving Communities Program aims to ensure disadvantaged communities adversely or disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes have the technical tools and organizational capacity for federal aid and deliver quality infrastructure projects that enable their communities and neighborhoods to thrive.
- **Over 10** public process(es) related to environmental justice, e.g., requests for information or listening sessions
 - Conducted listening sessions and implemented stakeholder feedback in the formation of HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing proposed rule, which implements the Fair Housing Act's mandate to ensure that the agency and program participants take meaningful actions to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, eliminate disparities in housing-related opportunities, and foster inclusive communities that are free from discrimination.
 - Conducted listening sessions to collect and implement feedback on HUD's work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify and clean up Superfund sites in close proximity to HUD properties. Superfund sites are polluted locations in the United States requiring a long-term response to the clean-up of hazardous material and other harmful contaminants.

- For the first time, HUD requested public feedback on how to simplify, modernize, and more equitably distribute critical disaster recovery funds through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program. This is part of HUD's new Climate Action Plan, which emphasizes equity and resilience in disaster recovery, as well as the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative.

Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- Established the first-ever Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (TIAC) to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship between HUD and Tribal communities, coordinate policy across all HUD programs, and advise on housing priorities of American Indian and Alaska Native communities. TIAC intends to supplement existing Tribal consultation engagements. The establishment of this committee follows consistent engagement between HUD and Tribes across the country.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

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 Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** 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
 - HUD is currently working to implement its 2021 Climate Action Plan (CAP), which considers the correlation between impacts from climate change and communities that are most vulnerable to these impacts. Goals for the CAP include to pursue environmental justice, as well as promote environmental justice with Tribal communities, create green job opportunities, and encourage equitable community planning and engagement and healthy housing initiatives. The CAP also seeks to increase climate resilience, implement practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build community capacity through providing climate resilience and environmental justice training.
 - The Environmental Justice Strategy (2016-2020) seeks to enhance HUD's efforts to communicate and engage with overburdened and underserved communities on environmental justice activities, providing increased opportunities for meaningful involvement in the Department's decision-making process.
- **6** tool(s) or resources to advance environmental justice
- **205** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity

- **Provided** internal training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **3** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice
- As part of a joint effort, HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes and EPA's Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation continue to host quarterly meetings and work sessions. In FY22, EPA and HUD updated a Memorandum of Understanding to help ensure that residents of HUD properties are not exposed to contamination above acceptable levels. HUD and EPA finalized status updates for Superfund sites with HUD-assisted housing, and coordinated EPA access agreements on HUD-assisted properties for sampling and cleanup.

HUD's Highlights

HUD has two offices with employees dedicated to environmental justice full time: the Office of Energy and the Environment and the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

HUD is ensuring protection from environmental and health hazards for communities while investing in reversing disparate health outcomes and economic opportunity by: Helping Tribal communities achieve safe, resilient housing and infrastructure; Piloting new models for compliance with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 to support green workforce development; Providing technical support to improve equity in community planning and engagement; Expanding lead control programs and partnering with EPA to assess and remediate potential health risks at Superfund sites; Developing targeted policy, guidance, and technical assistance to minimize radon exposure; Updating environmental review policies to consider environmental justice-related hazards and health risks in all proposed site selections; Funding and publishing research on equity efforts and impacts of flood mitigation strategies that will be used to create informative guides for HUD grantees, subrecipients, and other impacted communities; and Announced updated guidance on the use and eligibility of the Rate Reduction Incentive, a climate-friendly incentive program available to public housing agencies.

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