

Scorecard Delta Regional Authority



Delta Regional Authority

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About the Delta Regional Authority (DRA)

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) works to improve regional economic opportunity by helping to create jobs, build communities, and improve the lives of the 10 million people who reside in the 252 counties and parishes of the eight-state Delta region. The DRA fosters local and regional partnerships that address economic and social challenges to ultimately strengthen the Delta economy and the quality of life for Delta residents.

This page provides information on how **the Delta Regional Authority (DRA)** 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 Delta Regional Authority (DRA)** 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.

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

- **2** Justice40 covered program(s)
- **2** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **Over \$32 million** in funding made available from Justice40 covered programs¹
 - DRA assisted in the implementation of \$34.2 million in the U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) Initiative grants. The funding invests in projects providing career and support services to people in the Delta Region so they may secure quality jobs in stable, high-demand occupations, particularly in areas that have suffered significant job losses in the energy extraction industry.
 - DRA announced the 2022 funding cycle for the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP). SEDAP provides direct investments into community-based and regional projects to support basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, workforce development, and small business development with an emphasis on entrepreneurship. Under federal law, at least 75% of DRA funds must be invested in economically distressed counties and parishes.

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.

DRA's Highlights

DRA has taken steps to ensure the agency is reviewing its financial assistance and community capacity building programs to ensure we are advancing environmental justice. In its Regional Development Plan IV, DRA made a commitment to expand the Delta Region's energy infrastructure and production capacity, by emphasizing high efficiency, clean technologies and indigenous resources (e.g., biofuels, water, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, and solar) wherever possible; and to provide investments that support clean energy and resilience while creating jobs and rebuilding manufacturing capacity in the DRA region. Additionally, DRA is expanding workforce development programs to provide industry-specific training (e.g., clean energy, broadband installation and maintenance, and healthcare),

strengthen talent pipelines, enhance industry clusters, and support regional economic development. DRA supports entrepreneurs, small and micro businesses, programs, and investments that focus on high-growth industry sectors (e.g., health, technology, and energy) or high-demand regional challenges (e.g., childcare, food access, clean energy and technology, and transportation).

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

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 Delta Regional Authority (DRA)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

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 Delta Regional Authority (DRA)** 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:

- DRA conducted three technical assistance workshops, to ensure communities were able to equitably compete for grants, and then to help facilitate awarded grants. DRA conducted pre-award technical assistance trainings for the WORC Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). Specifically, DRA conducted a pre-award webinar for WORC FOA in June 2022, an in-person training in Memphis in June 2022, and a post-award peer exchange for Delta Workforce Grant Program and WORC grantees in January 2022.

Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

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Contact

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More information

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

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