

## 2025 Environmental Justice Fund Scoring Rubric

**COMMUNITY NEED** : Who is the priority community this project will serve? How are they being impacted by climate change and/or environmental hazards?

\*Priority communities: Black, Indigenous, people of color, immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, youth, and elders.

Criteria	Strong	Satisfactory	Developing
How is the community defined?	Clearly	Somewhat	Not clear
Does the project serve one or more of the EJ Fund's priority communities?	Directly	Mostly	No
Does the applicant show an understanding of their community's environmental and/or climate justice needs?	Clearly, and with specificity	With generalized reference to environmental and/or climate inequities	Without taking into account inequitable environmental or climate impacts

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**: What will you do, and how will you do it? Where will it happen?

Criteria	Strong	Satisfactory	Developing
How does the proposal propose a solution that directly advances climate or environmental justice?	With clarity and specificity	Generally	Vaguely
How do the project activities align with EJ Fund purpose?	Closely aligned	Somewhat	Not clearly aligned
How clear is the project description?	Provides key activities with specific details on who will be served, including the number of people	Outlines activities with broad details on who will be served, including the number of people	Project activities are missing or it's unclear who and how many people will be served.

**PROJECT IDEA:** How did the project idea come about? How was the priority community involved with its design?

Criteria	Strong	Satisfactory	Developing
<b>How involved was the priority community with the project idea?</b>	Came up with the project to address needs that they identified	Involved with the project idea	Were not involved.
<b>How involved was the priority community in the project design?</b>	Designed it.	Helped external partners design it	Were not involved.

**PEOPLE:** Who will implement the project, and what lived experiences and skills do they bring? How is the priority community involved in leadership? If applicable, who are the project partners and what are their roles?

Criteria	Strong	Satisfactory	Developing
<b>To what degree do the project team members contribute skills, lived experiences, and expertise?</b>	Meaningfully	Some	Little to none
<b>How engaged is the priority community in project leadership?</b>	Takes a lead role in decision-making in all project phases	Partially leads portions of the work	Has minimal decision-making influence in some or all of the project stages
<b>If partners are involved, what do the ongoing or new partnerships look like?</b>	Authentic collaboration and reciprocity, shown by actions like budget inclusion	Alignment with the proposed work	Unclear if there is reciprocity and/or mutual agreement

**IMPACT:** What are at least three project outcomes? How do these outcomes address the community impacts you named in “Community Need”?

Criteria	Strong	Satisfactory	Developing
<b>How do the project outcomes align with the community needs identified by the applicant?</b>	Clearly	Somewhat	Proximally
<b>How well do the project activities advance environmental and/or climate justice in the community?</b>	Directly tied	Related	Marginally related
<b>How are the project benefits outlined for EJ Fund communities?</b>	Benefits are clear, specific, and meaningful	Benefits are present and generalized	Benefits are unclear

**RACIAL JUSTICE:** What practices and approaches does your organization or group use to advance racial justice?

Criteria	Strong	Satisfactory	Developing
<b>How does racial justice inform the group/organization's work?</b>	Is a core value, with specific examples of how it is applied internally and in their external work	Stated as a core value, but without specific examples of how it is applied internally and in their external work	Does not address racial justice, focusing only on class or gender without an intersectional lens
<b>How is the group/organization's racial justice work demonstrated?</b>	Examples address systems, such as advocacy, supporting BIPOC leadership, equitable org/group policies, etc.	Examples are limited to diversity and/or access practices only.	No examples or irrelevant examples

**PROJECT TIMELINE & PROJECT BUDGET**

Criteria	Strong	Satisfactory	Developing
<b>Does the timeline capture the project's key activities and milestones?</b>	Yes, very clearly	Somewhat	No
<b>How realistic are the project activities given the timeline provided?</b>	Realistic	Somewhat realistic	Not realistic
<b>How does the budget align with the project activities?</b>	Complete, and Aligned	Complete, and mostly aligned	Incomplete or not well-aligned
<b>Is the budget reasonable and feasible?</b>	Yes	Partially	Generally unrealistic