

**Environmental Justice Fund Sample Narrative Responses**

**These sample responses are a resource to give applicants an idea of strong responses. This should be used for reference only.**

Narrative Questions

Response length: We encourage brief responses whenever possible (1-3 paragraphs), keeping in mind the capacity of the community reviewers. If reviewers want more details or clarification, they can ask for them during the Q&A period.

9. **COMMUNITY NEED**: Who is the community you are serving? How is your community being impacted by climate change and/or environmental hazards?

ABC was created in the EFG neighborhood to address the growing air quality problems affecting our community. The EFG neighborhood covers about one square mile and is home to 2,000 people. Our location in the HIJ Valley adds to the difficulties we face since it has features that trap air. We take pride in being one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Seattle. Our residents have different backgrounds, with 30% identifying as Black, 20% as Asian, 20% as Hispanic/LatinX, 10% as white, 5% as Indigenous, and 15% as multiethnic/multiracial or from other backgrounds.

Air quality has been a major concern in our community for a long time, and it has been made worse by the wildfires that climate change has exacerbated. In 2017, a group of five concerned residents decided to take action and address the growing air quality concerns made worse by climate change. We organized a neighborhood meeting that brought together more than 50 residents, and that's how ABC started. Currently, our organization has 20 dedicated resident volunteers.

In a survey we conducted in 2019, we discovered that only 16% of EFG residents had air purifiers in their homes to help improve the air quality. We also found that household members in our community visit the hospital often due to breathing and asthma problems, especially during wildfire season.

10. **PROJECT**: What will you do, and how will you do it?

Our project will help EFG residents deal with bad air quality days by giving them useful tips and strategies. This includes educating households on the Air Quality Index (AQI) and providing easy-to-implement tips on what to do at home when AQI hits benchmark numbers. We will also share resources available to access air purifiers for their homes. We aim to involve all 550 housing units in our neighborhood and make sure everyone gets the information they need. Working together with the XX State Department of Health, we will also serve as a distribution point where we can provide free air purifiers to elderly residents in our neighborhood. We will ask community members to help us find the senior households that need it the most.

From June to August 20xx, our outreach project will have teams of two workers visiting houses in our neighborhood. We will make sure that at least one worker in each team can speak Spanish, which is the second most common language in our neighborhood. If we cannot talk to someone at their house, we will leave a bag with information in English and Spanish on their doorknob. The bag will also have a flier explaining how to get information in other languages. We know that not everyone feels comfortable opening their doors, so we have planned to have a table at the EFG Neighborhood Block Party on August 10, 20xx, at PQR Plaza. We will also be at the JKL Community Fair on August 24 at RST City Park. This way, we’ll be able to chat with people who prefer face-to-face conversations. In the fall, we will do a survey to find out if people have used the strategies we suggested, taken advantage of the resources we shared, or been able to access an air purifier for their homes. At our first community meeting, we will ask people which way they'd like us to conduct the survey, whether on paper, using a QR code, or by going door-to-door.

11. **PEOPLE**: Who designed the project? If different, who is leading it and what lived experiences/skills do they bring?

Our project is led by the people who live in the EFG neighborhood and are directly affected by the health issues exacerbated by climate change. Sadie Williams is our chairperson. She is a 26-year resident of EFG, mother of two school-aged children, and runs a home-based childcare program. She is a skilled facilitator and manager. Adam McDonald, a four-year resident and mobile nurse at OPQ company, is our vice-chair. He uses his medical background to make sure we have the most up-to-date public health information. Rosie, an 11-year resident and experienced bookkeeper, alongside Lani and Cesar, two EFG High School students, make up our programming committee. We value community involvement, so we have quarterly meetings where residents can share their ideas and help us come up with solutions for the community. Sadie, Ron, and the programming team work together to create and coordinate our outreach program based on these ideas. With support from the EJ Fund, eight members of the outreach team will receive meaningful stipends for their work.

In addition to partnering with the XX State Department of Health, ABC also works closely with three local nonprofit agencies that have strong community programs in our neighborhood: Sunshine Agency, Hope Organization, and Resilience International. These organizations help us distribute community information, support our residents' basic needs, and join us in advocating for positive changes.

12. **PLANNING**: Provide a bullet point list of main activities (project milestones) for this project.

* Quarterly: community meeting which will include a co-design process with residents
* January - June: Create and translate materials
* May: Recruit and train 8 community members for outreach team
* June-September: Door-to-door outreach and staff outreach events
* October: Community-wide survey

13. **IMPACT**: What are your project outcomes? How do these outcomes address the community impacts you named in “Community Need”?

For Large Project Fund:

What are three (3) speciﬁc outcomes of your project that will advance environmental and/or climate justice for your community?

How do you deﬁne success for your project and how you will know your eﬀorts were successful?

Our anticipated project outcomes will be:

* Through door-to-door outreach, door hang bags, and/or in-person outreach at community events, all 550 housing units in our neighborhood will receive critical information and resources on how to deal with poor air quality days
* All 550 housing units will also receive information on how to access low-to-no-cost air purifiers
* 25 free air purifiers will be given out to households with elderly residents
* Community members will meet at least once a quarter to report on how their lives are being impacted by air quality and share ideas with ABC on how to address these hazards

Our project will be successful if the impacts of poor air quality are reduced in our neighborhood. Through our follow-up survey, we hope to find that:

* More than 50% of our community members report that they understand what AQI is and how to find out what it is at any given time
* More than 50% report using the tips and strategies we shared on poor air quality days
* At least 25% more households report having an air purifier in their homes than before our project began - either through XX State Department of Health’s free program for the elderly, low-to-no-cost purifiers for low-income households, or self-funded purifiers

We also anticipate that gathering community members together quarterly will result in new project ideas that we can implement in the future with additional funding. This may include a strategy to get air purifiers in every home and/or advocacy campaigns to fight against public policies that leave our neighborhood vulnerable to climate hazards.

14. **RACIAL JUSTICE**: What practices and approaches does your organization or group use to advance racial justice? How do you measure the success of your practices and approaches?

EFG is very diverse, with most of our residents belonging to races or ethnicities other than Non-Hispanic White. We think it's important to have leaders in our organization who come from the community and understand its needs. Our chairperson, Sadie, is a Black woman, and our program team lead, Rosie, is Latina. We also have two high school representatives who identify as BIPOC. Sixty percent of our regular volunteers also identify as BIPOC and include retired, working, and young residents. Because our neighborhood is so diverse, it is important for us to work with partners who reflect the identities of our community members. Thanks to a grant from the XX Foundation, we have been able to hire skilled trainers who identify as BIPOC to provide leadership development for our programming committee. They gather input from the committee to identify topics which then shape the workshops. They also facilitate regular assessments to help us understand our growth and identify additional leadership development programming that meets our needs. We believe our work with these trainers is critical for the growth of our committee to better work together and to better serve our community.

We believe that building a community is more than just doing “business.” We focus on building relationships and listening to each other instead of just focusing on goals and outcomes. Our community meetings are designed to foster relationships and provide a space for people to share news, concerns, and ideas. We always start the meetings with an activity to get to know each other, and we also provide food, drinks, and childcare. Sadie is a skilled facilitator and makes sure everyone's voice is heard. We write down everyone’s ideas and explore them during program team meetings.