Chicago Recovery Plan
Climate Infrastructure Fund

Informational Webinar | **January 10, 2023**

CHICAGO
RECOVERY PLAN

DPD
Department of Planning
and Development

Welcome

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Agenda

1. Program Overview

2. Project Types and Examples

3. How to Apply

4. What Makes a Successful Application

5. Q+A and Next Steps

Program Overview

Chicago Recovery Plan

$1.2 billion
in new investments in our residents and their future

Equitable Economic Recovery

* Community Development
* Small Business & Workforce Support
* Community Climate Investments
* Arts & Culture
* Tourism & Industry Support
* Parks & Infrastructure

Thriving and Safe Communities

* Affordable Housing
* Assistance to Families
* Violence Prevention & Reduction
* Health & Wellness
* Youth Opportunities
* Homelessness Support Services
* Environmental Justice

Chicago Recovery Plan – DPD projects

$1.2 billion
in new investments in our residents and their future

DPD leading several programs in these categories, accounting for **$237 million**

Equitable Economic Recovery

- ★ Community Development
- ★ Small Business & Workforce Support
- ★ Community Climate Investments
- ★ Arts & Culture
- ★ Tourism & Industry Support
- ★ Parks & Infrastructure

Thriving and Safe Communities

- ★ Affordable Housing
- ★ Assistance to Families
- ★ Violence Prevention & Reduction
- ★ Health & Wellness
- ★ Youth Opportunities
- ★ Homelessness Support Services
- ★ Environmental Justice

Chicago Recovery Plan – DPD projects

$1.2 billion
in new investments in our residents and their future

Across departments, the City is investing $188 million in Climate and Environmental Justice, the largest investment in City History

Equitable Economic Recovery

* Community Development
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* Arts & Culture
* Tourism & Industry Support
* Parks & Infrastructure

Thriving and Safe Communities

* Affordable Housing
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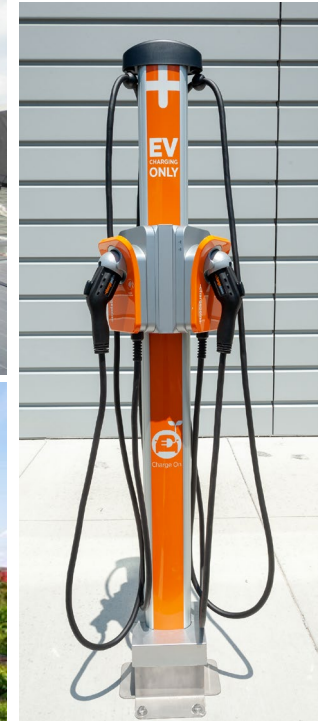# Climate Infrastructure Fund

The purpose of this program is to **accelerate Chicago's transition to the green economy** by seeding climate projects across Chicago that align with the 2022 Climate Action Plan of **reducing emissions 62% by 2040** and driving **equitable co-benefits** to all Chicagoans.
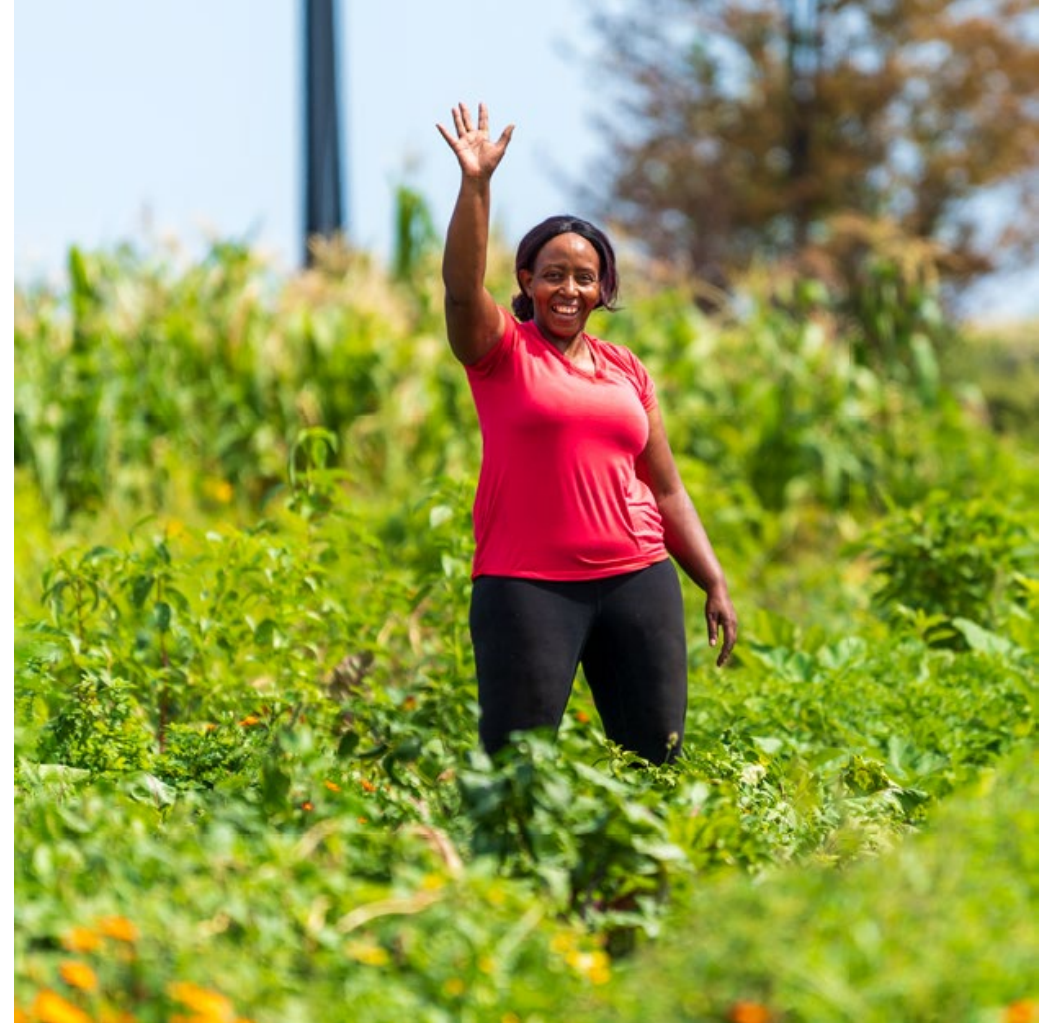
Through these grants, the City aims to:

- Promote solar and other community-based renewable energy sources

- Decarbonize buildings and support energy efficiency improvements

- Increase electric vehicle ownership and presence of associated charging infrastructure

- Improve resilience infrastructure

Overview

- **Grant Summary:**
  - Applicants: Nonprofit organizations and small businesses
  - Project awards: $50,000 - $250,000
    - Exceptions may be made for projects below or above that range; case-by-case basis

- **Project Types:**
  - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
  - Electric Vehicles and EV Charging Infrastructure
  - Green Infrastructure

Connecting to We Will Chicago

PILLAR 1: Arts & Culture

PILLAR 2: Civic & Community Engagement

PILLAR 3: Economic Development

Objective 3.2.2 – Prioritize investment in small businesses

Objective 3.4.3 – Enhance the public sector's toolkit of financial incentives for economic development

PILLAR 4: Environment, Climate & Energy

Goal 4.1 – Prioritize climate resiliency in Black, Latino, and low-income community areas

Objective 4.2.2 – Ensure community organizations have tools and resources to address the climate crises

Objective 4.3.5 – Facilitate renewable energy generations and distribution

Objective 4.4.3 – Maximize the use of native plants

Objective 4.4.7 – Protect Chicago's freshwater resources

Goal 4.5 – Mitigate and eliminate sources of carbon emissions

PILLAR 5: Housing & Neighborhoods

Objective 5.4.2 – Support locally-owned neighborhood businesses

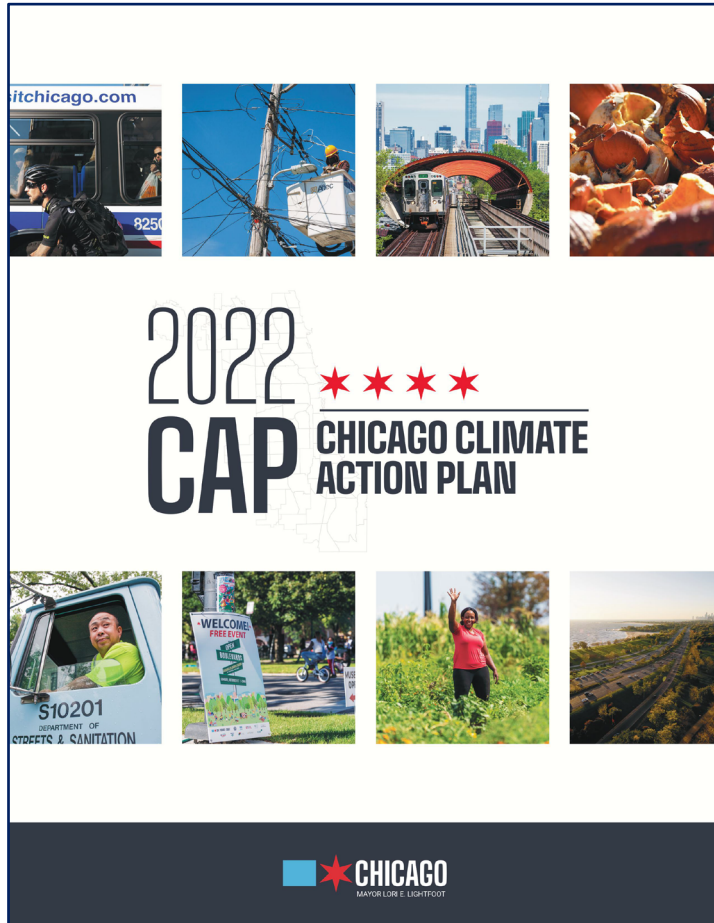Objective 5.4.4 – Strengthen community-based organizations

PILLAR 6: Lifelong Learning

PILLAR 7: Public Health & Safety

PILLAR 8: Transportation & Infrastructure

Goal 8.5 – Leverage resources for transportation and infrastructure projects that promote environmental sustainability and resilience

Connecting to the 2022 Climate Action Plan

2022 CAP — CHICAGO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Pillar 1 Strategies

#1 Retrofit buildings

#2 Connect communities to renewable energy

Pillar 2 Strategies

#1 Reduce waste and landfilling

Pillar 3 Strategies

#1 Make walking, biking, or transit viable options for all trips

#2 Increase transit performance and encourage equitable transit-oriented development

#3 Enable zero-emission transit and fleets

Pillar 4 Strategies

#1 100% clean renewable energy

#2 Enable building and personal vehicle electrification

#3 Align building codes and standards with climate best practices

#4 Decommission fossil power

Pillar 5 Strategies

#1 Collect relevant data
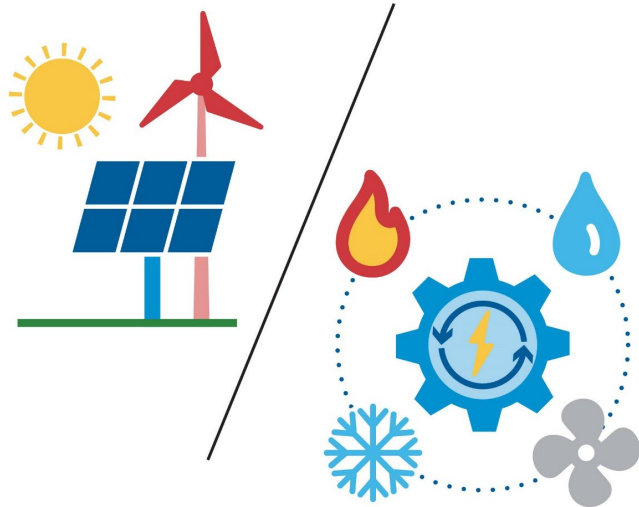
#2 Enable data-driven decision-making

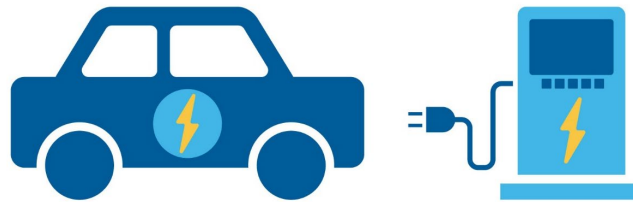#3 Enable community resiliency

Project Types and Examples
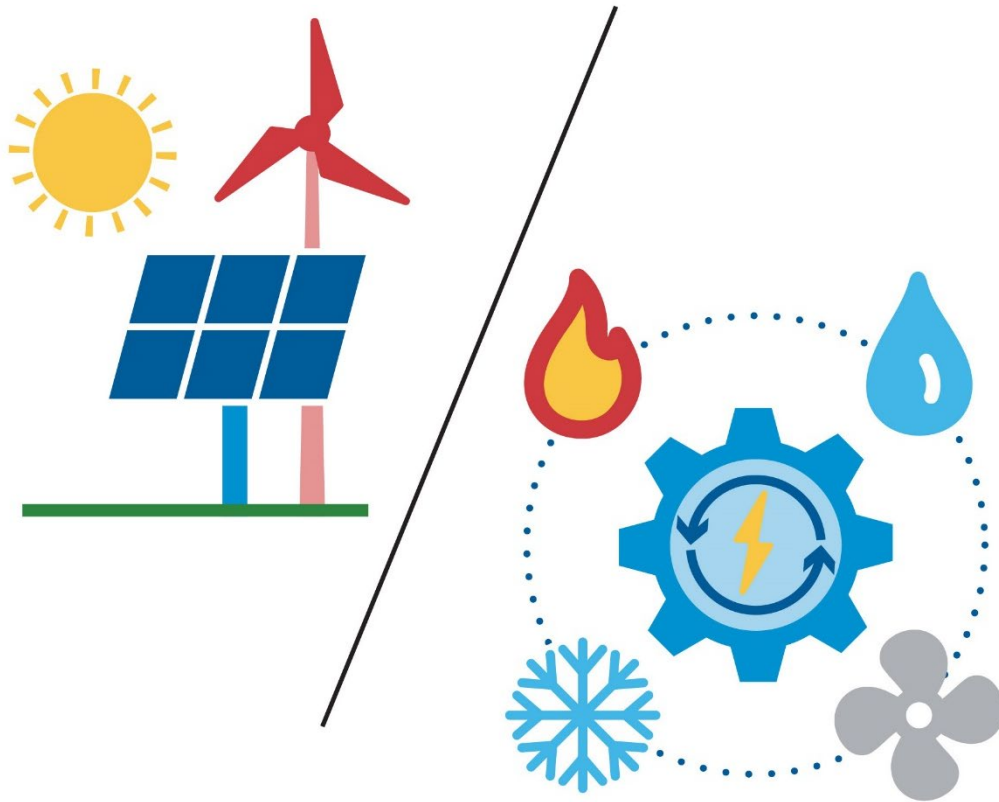
Project Types

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Electric Vehicles and EV Charging Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Investments may include installation of **onsite renewable energy** and **energy efficiency upgrades**, such as space heating and cooling with electric heat pumps, air sealing and insulation, lighting, heat pump water heaters, and induction cooktops.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
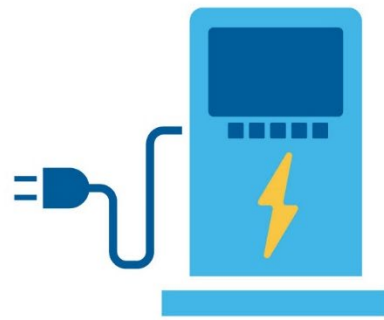## Best Practices

SOUL construction training programs are focused on empowering returning citizens, foster care alumni and women entering the construction industry.

Sustainable Options for Urban Living South Suburban Site

SOUL is a nonprofit organization in Dolton that provides workforce training in construction trades and infrastructure building; SOUL also operates a for-profit construction company in Chicago that employs some of its program graduates.

- Interior/exterior lighting retrofit
- Heat pump installation (for heating and cooling)
- Lighting controller installation
- Installation of EV charging station
- ENERGY STAR® appliance upgrades
- ***Annual energy savings:*** *234,678 kilowatt hours*

Electric Vehicles and EV Charging Infrastructure

Approved projects will fund the purchase of **electric vehicle(s) or fleets** and may include the installation of **EV charging infrastructure**.

Electric Vehicles and EV Charging Infrastructure
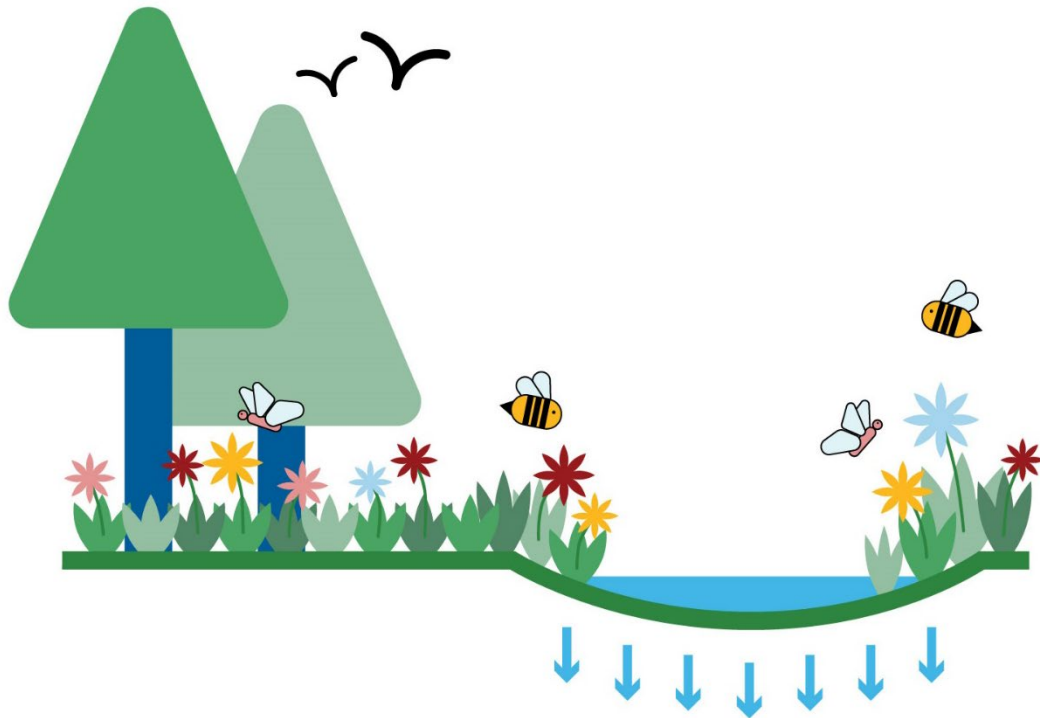## Best Practices

Plant Chicago
Back of the Yards, Chicago
Incentivizing electric vehicle adoption by providing easy, affordable access to EV charging

- Nonprofit with established presence in community - focusing on circular economy

- Two Level 2 charging stations installed (10/2021)

- Available via EVmatch, an online EV charging station reservation platform

- Nominal fee – covers cost of electricity

Credit: Audrey Henderson; "Climate laws boost Chicago efforts on equitable shift to electric transportation" https://energynews.us/2022/08/17/climate-laws-boost-chicago-efforts-on-equitable-shift-to-electric-transportation/

17

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure (GI) collects stormwater from paved and unpaved surfaces to **filter and absorb stormwater** where it falls, reducing the amount of stormwater going into the sewer system.

Allowable expenses:
- Native plantings and soil systems
- Permeable pavement,
- Stormwater harvest and reuse

Types of projects:
- Comprehensive green infrastructure garden with multiple GI solutions; or
- Smaller scale property/site solutions

Green Infrastructure
Best Practices

Popi's Italian Restaurant

A family-owned restaurant in Philadelphia

- **Site description:** 2 rain gardens on parking lot adjacent to restaurant

- **Construction time:** 1 month

- **Acreage greened:** .74 acres

- **Volume of stormwater managed:** 11,400 gallons

Want more ideas? See Philly H$_2$O Blog and select topics on right menu, "PWD Programs: Green City Clean Waters"

On the left from the top down, the parking lot is shown before construction, during and after. The green infrastructure installation has reduced the businesses monthly stormwater assessments and continues to help reduce stormwater runoff in the community. City of Philadelphia has granted over $158 million over the years to privately owned building owners, and across the city, have nearly 2000 "greened acres." Photos and information courtesy of City of Philadelphia.

Walking the Walk – Chicago Recovery Plan
A selection of City-led Climate Initiatives

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Electric Vehicles and EV Charging Infrastructure	Green Infrastructure
Library Solar Project	**Fleet Electrification**	**Expand Space to Grow**
Install rooftop solar and invest in energy conservation measures on select libraries located in historically disadvantaged and under resourced communities that will benefit communities, serve as training opportunity for BIPOC workforce and lower operating costs and energy consumption for AIS.	Electrification of City of Chicago's fleet, with investment in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, while prioritizing deployment in areas with air quality vulnerable on Chicago's south and west sides.	Building off an existing program, this funding supports additional installations of green schoolyards, transforming schoolyards into functional spaces to play, learn, garden and explore, while significantly reducing stormwater runoff.

How to Apply

Who can apply and what do funds cover?

This application is open to:

✓ 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and small businesses

✓ Priority given to applicants located in or serving populations in historically underserved, under-resourced, and environmental justice communities

Eligible expenses include:

✓ Pre-development such as energy assessments, site plans

✓ Construction and renovation costs for permanent capital improvement projects

✓ Specific eligible expenses by project type (next slides)

Only eligible expenses can be covered by the Climate Infrastructure Fund. Final eligibility will be determined on a project-by-project basis. Other items can be included in the total project cost, but those will not be reimbursable.

Apply Online

Online application portal opened Monday, December 19, 2022

1. Access via www.chicago.gov/ClimateFund
2. First step will be the Project Assessment. After completing it, you will either be directed to the full application or to additional resources to help you prepare for the next round
3. After successfully completing the Project Assessment, create account on Submittable.com
4. Begin the online application – you may save and continue later if preferred
5. Upload all supplemental files and review to ensure accuracy and completeness
6. Submit via the portal before the deadline

Applications must be submitted in online Submittable portal; PDF applications will not be considered

The application portal will close on Friday, February 24, 2023

What Makes a Successful Application?

Program Priorities

Priority will be given to applications that incorporate these components:

Catalytic projects with a **strong local impact** that leverage local talents, capacities, and institutions **to strengthen and contribute to the community**

Projects located in **environmental justice communities**

Projects that demonstrate momentum and are **expected to break ground in 2023**

Site control is preferred

Evaluation Criteria

Climate Criteria

Applicant must prove that their project will deliver meaningful GHG reductions and other environmental benefits; and/or adapt an area or community to changing climate conditions; and/or build local resiliency to climate shocks and stressors.

Equity Criteria

Applicant must prove that their project reduces systemic climate and environmental inequities for BIPOC and disenfranchised communities via direct and/or indirect impact.

Project Feasibility/Project Readiness Criteria

Applicant must prove the ability to successfully implement the project within a two-year timeframe and the ability to adequately staff and maintain said project over time.

Environmental Justice Communities

Screening Tool #1: Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

- Searchable by U.S. address found here

- Developed by White House Council on Environmental Quality

- For implementation of Justice40 priorities

- See methodology including "categories of burden" and datasets used that comprise the results of the tool here

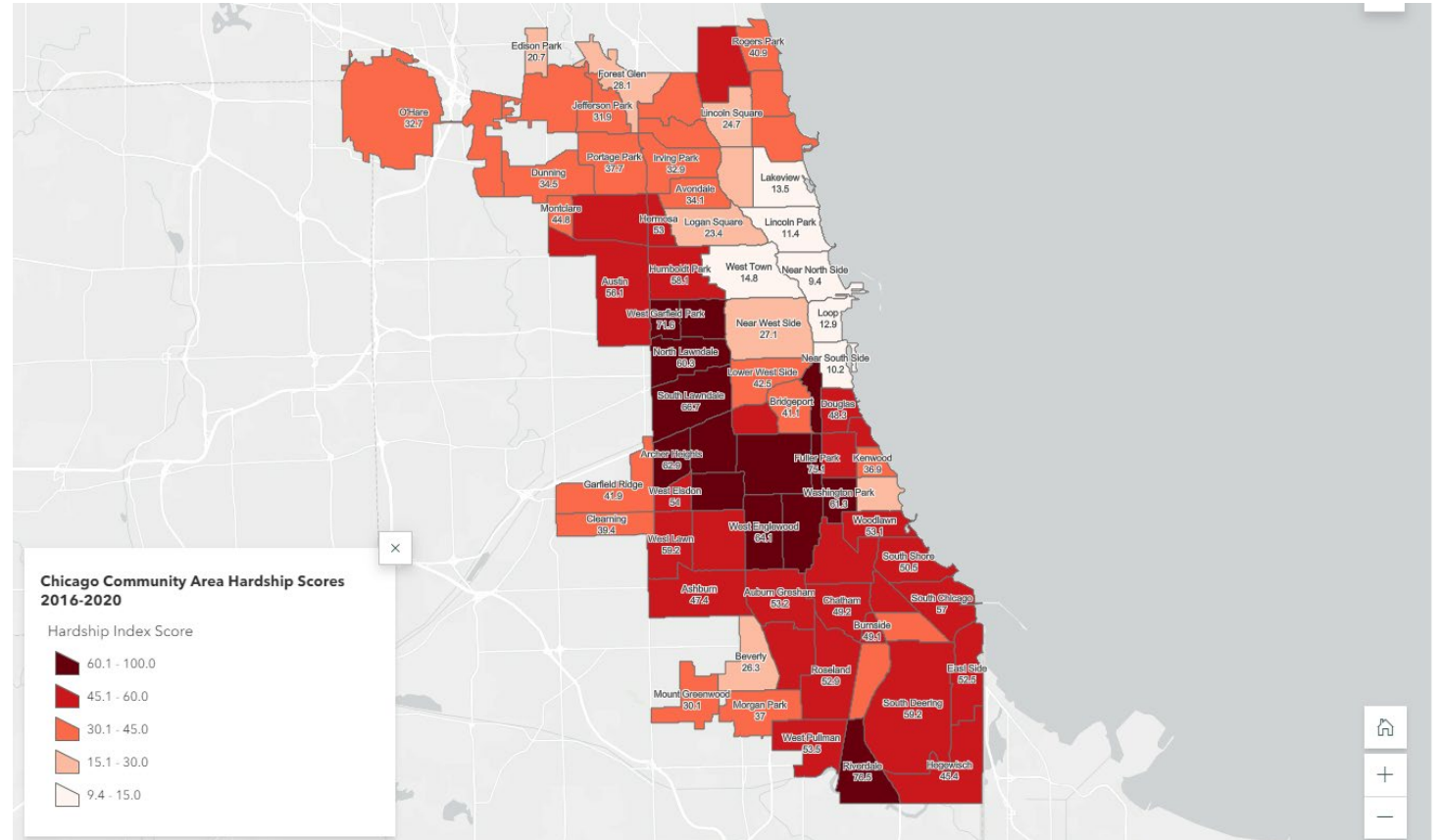**Screening Tool #2: Environmental Justice Communities**

- Searchable by state address found here

- Developed by Illinois Power Agency, via 2022 Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan and goal of 25% of incentives go to EJ communities, found here

- See methodology including environmental indicators, economic indicators and sensitive populations characteristics on pp 277- 283

To be considered an environmental justice community, the organization or business address should be identified as such by one of these tools.

Other economic hardship indicators*

- Unemployment
- Education
- Per capita income
- Poverty
- Crowded housing
- Dependency (age)

*See Chicago Community Area Hardship Index by Great Cities Institute as a reference point, found here

Application Tip 1: Climate Impact

Successful applications will demonstrate environmental benefits that address climate change:

1) Reducing the emissions that cause climate change; and/or

2) Increasing the ability to withstand already-changing conditions

CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Climate Mitigation:** Does the project cite a reduction of emissions via reduced electricity or natural gas consumption, fuel switching from electricity to natural gas, or fuel switching from gasoline to electricity?

- **Climate Resilience:** Does the project cite improvements to address individual or community ability to withstand climate-related weather changes such as increased precipitation and temperatures?

- **Qualitative:** Does the applicant generally summarize what actions will lead to climate mitigation and resilience impacts?

- **Quantitative:** Does the applicant estimate or calculate emissions reductions, energy reductions, reduced fuel consumption, collection of stormwater or other quantifiable metrics?

Application Tip 2: Equity

Successful applications will demonstrate that implemented projects will advance racial, health or climate equity.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Equity & Inclusion:** Does the project reduce barriers for community/organization/individuals in order to benefit from or take part in climate action, or to improve resiliency and ability to withstand the impacts of climate change?

- **Environmental Justice:** Is the organization and/or the project site in a designated environmental justice area?

- **Economic Justice:** When applicable, does the project explicitly intend to provide opportunities for BIPOC and local workforce?

- **Cost Savings:** When applicable, do actions reduce costs?

Application Tip 3: Project Readiness

Successful applications must show sufficient planning to demonstrate feasibility and the applicant's readiness to begin as soon as possible

CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Site Control:** Does the applicant have site control? If not, is the applicant able to demonstrate a secured path to site control?

- **Plan for Construction or Installation:** Does the applicant provide a knowledgeable plan for how and when the project will begin and end? Has the applicant obtained an energy assessment, proposal, or provided a site plan (if relevant) as part of the application?

- **Itemized Costs (Budget):** Has the applicant developed a project budget that takes into account realistic hard and soft costs?

- **Long-term responsibility of Maintenance and Operations:** Does the applicant provide a detailed understanding and overview of how organization will maintain said improvements over time and cover the operational costs?

Visit the website for Resources, FAQs and more

Please visit **www.chicago.gov/climatefund**

- Program Overview
- Resources page*
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page*
- Webinars: recordings + future registration

*Will be updated with new information from time-to-time

Questions?

Next Steps

- For a PDF of today's slides, a recording of today's session, and updates to the Frequently Asked Questions, please visit **www.chicago.gov/climatefund**

- **More questions?** Email us at **ClimateFund@cityofchicago.org**

- **Webinar #2 information coming soon:** February 2, 2023

Thank you!

We look forward to reviewing your project applications!

Chicago Climate Infrastructure Fund