

American Cities Climate Challenge Justice40 Capacity Building Fund

The goal of the American Cities Climate Challenge Justice40 Capacity Building Fund (J40 Fund), is to support community-based organizations to engage and partner with their local government to advance community-led projects that align with the Justice40 Initiative. This initiative aims to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of federal investment in areas such as clean energy and climate preparedness to disadvantaged communities. The Fund intends to help communities scope, plan, and pursue partnership strategies in order to more effectively work with local government partners to achieve these shared goals. This fund is open to projects across the United States, and not limited to Climate Challenge cities, in order to extend the opportunity for learning and sharing of new ideas across communities.

This is a Bloomberg Philanthropies funded project.

Application Updates

The Fund has been expended. Please stay tuned via our website for updates on another iteration of the Fund.

Please join us for the Journey to Justice100 Convening on June 13, 2022
at 10 am PT.
[Register here.](#)



The poster features a black box on the left with white and orange text. To the right is a photograph of three people holding a banner that says 'HESTIVE PATH'. Below the photo is a blue 'REGISTER TODAY!' button. The main text is in black, and the bottom section lists featured speakers and co-hosts with their respective logos.

Monday, June 13
Journey to Justice100
10AM-12PM PT/1PM-3PM ET

REGISTER TODAY!

A year and a half since President Biden took office and established the Justice40 Initiative, what are we learning about how we might leverage this Justice40 moment to make progress towards Justice100 – public funding systems that meet the needs of all communities?

Join us for a conversation about the opportunities and challenges that frontline groups and community-based organizations are encountering as they mobilize to access public funds for community-led climate projects.

Featuring:

- An overview of the current Justice40 context and landscape of allied efforts
- Key takeaways from Emerald Cities Collaborative's People's Justice40+ Community Benefits Playbook
- Stories from Justice40 Accelerator cohort members *Souladarity*, *Highland Park Community Crisis Coalition* & *Green Door Initiative*
- American Cities Challenge Justice40 Capacity Building Fund CBO grantees leveraging partnerships with their local governments

Co-Hosted by:

- Kapwa Consulting
- Emerald Cities Collaborative
- People's Climate Innovation Center
- Upright Consulting
- City Scale

UPRIGHT
Consulting Services

EMERALD CITIES COLLABORATIVE

CITY SCALE

KAPWA CONSULTING
EQUITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY

Application Resources

Please check out this new resource from our partners at Emerald Cities Collaborative:

The first 4 modules of [THE PEOPLE'S JUSTICE 40+ COMMUNITY BENEFIT PLAYBOOK](#) has been released. The playbook breaks down the various Federal Spending Bills, how the money will flow, and how to organize for and develop community benefit strategies to harness these investments for your community. Since most of the federal funds will not go directly to communities, this is an organizing toolkit and not a fundraising guide.

For more information and advice on potential projects, please join us during our launch webinar or office hours:

- **Launch Webinar - Overview of the Fund followed by Q & A sessions**
 - Monday, February 7 10-12 pm PT/1-3 pm ET ([Click here for the recording](#))

For additional funding opportunities, please see the following:

- [CHEJ Small Grants Program](#) (deadline February 25)
- [Climate Justice for all Project Grants](#) (deadline March 7)
- [Partners for Places Mini Grants](#) (deadline March 31)
- [Partners for Places Round 19 Matching Grants](#) (deadline April 31)
- [EPA Research Grant: Drivers and Environmental Impacts of Energy Transitions in Underserved Communities](#) (deadline April 28)
- [ECC Emergent Communities Capacity Building \(ECCB\) Program](#) (deadline June 1)

Application Materials



The screenshot shows a PDF viewer interface with a toolbar at the top. The document content is as follows:

JUSTICE40 CAPACITY BUILDING FUND APPLICATION

PURPOSE

The goal of the American Cities Climate Challenge Justice40 Capacity Building Fund (J40 Fund), is to support community-based organizations to engage and partner with their local government to advance community-led projects that align with the [Justice40 Initiative](#). This initiative [aims to deliver](#) 40% of the overall benefits of federal investment in areas such as clean energy and climate preparedness to disadvantaged communities (see 5 a-f for full list). The Fund intends to help communities scope, plan, and pursue partnership strategies in order to more effectively work with local government partners to achieve these shared goals. This fund is open to projects across the United States, and not limited to Climate Challenge cities, in order to extend the opportunity for learning and sharing of new ideas across communities.

To support these projects, the J40 Fund can assist in providing the following capacity building and technical assistance services directly

FUNDS

The fund is managed by Kapwa Consulting, LLC (the prime contractor with Bloomberg Philanthropies), who will issue approved awards as direct **professional service subcontracts to qualified contractors**. Contract amounts are estimated to be up to \$30,000. This will be done on a rolling basis until the pool of funds is depleted.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. A project that can be completed before [August 1, 2022](#)
2. A lead community organization that serves environmental justice communities ("disadvantaged") as defined by the [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Committee](#) (See below)
3. Lead contractor who can demonstrate knowledge and expertise that reflects the interests of BIPOC and EJ communities who are being served.
4. Lead contractor who can submit proof of general liability insurance and W-9 to Kapwa Consulting.
5. A clear project scope that advances a community-led project or initiative within at least one of the J40 investment areas:
 - a. clean energy and energy efficiency;
 - b. clean transit;
 - c. affordable and sustainable housing;
 - d. training and workforce development;
 - e. the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution;
 - f. and the development of critical clean water infrastructure
6. A project that involves collaboration with a local

[Click Here to Download This Application Packet](#)

[Click Here for an Example Scope of Work](#)

Submit all application materials through this Google Form:

[Click Here for the Application Submission Form](#)



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to meet all the criteria of a disadvantaged community to apply?

No, you need to meet at least one of the criteria to apply and be serving BIPOC communities.

Is this Fund primarily designed for urban centers?

Yes, the project needs to be in a city or urban center within a US county.
The population minimum is 100,000.

Can the community-based organization leading the application act as the consultant?

Yes, the community-based organization can serve as the consultant, but the project must be focused on a work product that can be completed within a specific timeline. This contract will not cover general overhead expenses and must be written as a contract for services. An example is an organization providing professional services, such as facilitation, training, etc. towards the outcomes of a larger joint project with many stakeholders, like a planning process.

Who is contracting with Kapwa (CBO, Local Government, Contractor?)

Kapwa does not contract with the local government.

We will contract with the consultant (who can be the CBO). You are welcome to have multiple consultants but you must identify a lead consultant who will be responsible for the contract.

Does the contractor background information refer to the lead community-based organization only, or the partner local government as well?

It does not refer to the local government partner.

It refers to the contractor (which can be the CBO in some cases).

What is an eligible government partner?

For the purposes of this fund, we are focused on city and county government, county health departments, and transit authorities. This does not include education (LEAs) or utilities.

Can a CBO be the applicant and provide some of the services and also share the Scope of work , i.e. TA with their named contractor?

Yes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Whose capacity is this scope of work supposed to build (CBO, Local Government, or both)?

This Fund is intended to support the capacity of CBOs.

Can the same contractor be listed on multiple applications?

A contractor can be listed on multiple applications though we will only select one of the applications.

Can the professional services be work that the contractor completes on behalf of the local government?

No, this is really about building capacity with a community based organization. We are looking for collaborations between community based organizations and local government, but a community based organization must be in the lead, should be directing, or should have a vision for the project and how it's going to build capacity of the community to be able to engage with the government.

Can Kapwa handle distribution of any stipends for community members participation?

No, Kapwa does not have capacity to handle management of community stipends. These must be managed through the contract. Kapwa will only manage one contract per project.

Can Kapwa provide technical assistance?

Kapwa does not provide additional technical assistance or professional services on any of the contracts. Kapwa is solely the Fund manager.

That being said, we are working with some partners to be able to provide some ongoing professional development and opportunities for networking for the contractors and projects that are approved. So, accepted applicants will join a cohort for approximately six months and receive additional technical assistance, learning, and connection.

We're also planning on making some of these workshops and webinars that we have some budget to do, more broadly available. So if your application is not selected to be a part of the Fund, we will be inviting you all to these opportunities as we're trying to build capacity around Justice 40 across the country.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this a grant?

No. This is a professional service contract between Kapwa Consulting and a qualified contractor who is agreeing to complete a set of services toward a joint project with an organization.

Can I apply if my project is located in a city that is not currently participating in the American Cities Climate Challenge?

Yes, this fund is open to projects across the United States, and not limited to Climate Challenge cities, in order to extend the opportunity for learning and sharing of new ideas across communities.

What is a “qualified contractor”?

A qualified contractor can be a for-profit business, independent consultant or non-profit organization. A contractor must be able to complete a W-9 for reporting revenue and show proof of general liability insurance. A contractor can be the organization applying, or a separate contractor that the organization would like to work with. Contractors that are small, locally-owned are given preference.

What are some guidelines I can reference when searching for a contractor?

Pages 18-24 of this [Process Guide](#) lists out some guidelines. Contracts are intended to support work with local, BIPOC, and/or women owned businesses.

I have not identified a contractor. Can I still submit the application and work with Kapwa to identify a contractor?

A completed application includes a SOW for a qualified contractor. Kapwa Consulting can advise on an approach to identifying local contractors, but will not make recommendations on specific contractors.



Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of insurance will be required for contractors?

Kapwa Consulting's insurance general liability policy extends to contractors engaged in management consulting, but not in other fields. Contractors will be required to show proof of general liability insurance. Depending on scope, contractors may also be asked to provide proof of workers compensation, professional, or auto liability coverage.

Are there limitations to what the funds can be used for? Can this funding be used toward membership fees (for example organization membership)?

Funds are distributed through professional service contracts.

Currently, funds cannot be used for membership fees, political lobbying, overhead expenses, furniture/equipment expenses and voter registration activities.

Do the funds need to be used within a specific timeframe?

Yes, all projects should apply with an anticipated completion date by or before August 1, 2022.

How will payment work for this project? Will there be monthly invoices?

Based on the approved scope, Contractors will receive two payments from Kapwa Consulting; a first at the beginning of the project and the second after submission of final project deliverables. There will be no monthly invoicing.

Can my organization submit multiple applications?

No, only one application per organization will be reviewed.

When will I know about my application status?

We estimate about 2 weeks from successful application submission to contract execution. This timeline may be longer if there are many applications submitted at the same time.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will applicants be decided?

The review team will use the rubric in the application packet to assess the request and follow up with the applicant team.

If my application is not accepted, can I reapply with an improved or different concept?

No, not at this time.

Will an interview be a part of the selection process?

An interview may be required as part of the selection process; all teams who are accepted will need to schedule a meeting to confirm understanding and agreement with the scope of work, expectations, and contracting requirements with the fund

How can I stay up to date with announcements and/or resources?

We will be posting general announcements, updates, and resources on the J40 Fund website. For application status and contracting logistics, we will contact teams via email so please make sure to provide the correct email addresses.

Who should I contact if I have further questions?

You can use the Contact Form on the J40 Fund website to submit questions.

Where should I submit completed applications?

All completed applications should be submitted via this [Google Form](#)

Get in touch

First Name

Last Name

Email *

Message

Phone

Submit