

Notification of Environmental Justice Assessment on HEAL Capacity Grants

April 3, 2024

WHAT

The DOH is conducting an Environmental Justice Assessment on HEAL Capacity Grants totaling \$26,355,000 as outlined in [Engrossed Second Substitute Bill 5187](#). These grants are intended to build capacity among tribes, tribal organizations, overburdened communities, and vulnerable populations so these groups may provide guidance and input to the state government and the [Environmental Justice Council](#) on the implementation of the [Healthy Environment for All \(HEAL\) Act of 2021](#) and updates and maintenance of the [Environmental Health Disparities \(EHD\) Map](#).

“At least 50 percent of the total amount distributed for capacity grants...must be reserved for grants to tribes and tribal organizations...” Tribes and tribal organizations may use this funding to “hire staff or to contract with consultants to engage in updating the Environmental Health Disparities Map or on implementing the Healthy Environment for All Act” (pg. 326 [ESSB 5187](#)).

The purpose of an environmental justice assessment is to identify:

- Who might be most impacted by an agency-administered grant program
- Environmental benefits, harms, and health impacts addressed by the grant program
- Ways to minimize or eliminate negative environmental impacts through grant funding
- How to equitably distribute grant funding and positive environmental impacts

Visit our [Environmental Justice webpage](#) to learn more about Environmental Justice Assessments.

WHY

The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act is the first statewide law in Washington to create a coordinated state agency approach to environmental justice. The law covers seven state agencies: the Washington State Department of Health (DOH); the state departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Ecology, Natural Resources, and Transportation; and Puget Sound Partnership.

The covered agencies and the state legislature recognize the historic barriers to engagement with state government, particularly for tribes, tribal organizations, overburdened communities, and vulnerable populations. With these barriers in mind, these grants are designed to better resource these groups so they may provide guidance and input to the state and the Environmental Justice Council on implementation of the HEAL Act and the EHD Map. Some examples of engagement may include:

- Engaging with agencies as they develop rules, draft legislation, create and administer grant and loan programs, etc.
- Attending Environmental Justice Council Meetings to elevate community concerns.
- Providing input on updates and changes to the EHD Map.

WHO

These grants are designed to build capacity among tribes, tribal organizations, overburdened communities, and vulnerable populations. If you identify as a member of one or more of these groups and would like to share your thoughts or connect with one of our staff, please contact us at ejgrants@doh.wa.gov or see ways to get involved below.

WHEN

See below for our proposed timeline and how the environmental justice assessment fits into that process. These timelines and milestones may change. To stay current, please visit the program website or use the contact information provided below. We highlighted **in yellow** when the public can engage:

Date	Milestone
August 2023	Tribal listening session held
September 2023	Tribal roundtables held
September 2023	Initiate environmental justice assessment
September – October 2023	Tribal consultation on HEAL Tribal Capacity Grant
January 2024	Application open for HEAL Tribal Capacity Grant
January 31, 2024	Priority application for HEAL Tribal Capacity Grant due. DOH will continue to accept applications through November 13, 2024, with funds distributed on a rolling monthly basis. The application for the HEAL Tribal Capacity grant can be found here .
February – April 2024	Community Advisory Committee convened to develop a Request for Application (RFA) for Community Capacity Grant.
April 2024	RFA is open for HEAL Community Capacity Grant funds. RFA will be posted on Environmental Justice and Climate Change Grants Washington State Department of Health
April 2024	Information sessions on applying for a HEAL Community Capacity Grant.
May 2024	HEAL Community Capacity Grant applications due. Community Advisory Committee convened to review the HEAL Community Capacity Grant Applications.
May 2024	Community Capacity Grant awards distributed.
June 2024	Finalize and publish environmental justice assessment.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For updates, please visit [Environmental Justice and Climate Change Grants | DOH](#).

For questions about this grant program or the environmental justice assessment, please email ejgrants@doh.wa.gov.



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