

Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate

2024 Environmental Justice Impact Grants

Awarded Projects (rank order)

December 19, 2024

	<i>Applicant Name</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Project Location</i>	<i>Funding status</i>	<i>Summary (awarded projects, only)</i>
Awarded					
1	Dearborn Public Schools	Green Schoolyards at Salina	Dearborn	Awarded	The Salina Green Schoolyards Initiative will transform school grounds into vibrant, green spaces that promote health, environmental education, and recreation. This nature- based project will serve as a community hub, fostering environmental stewardship and addressing environmental justice by providing equitable access to healthy green environments.
2	City of Benton Harbor	Bobo Brazil Community Center Blight Remediation and Redevelopment Project	Benton Harbor	Awarded	Benton Harbor will revitalize a downtown blighted building into the Bobo Brazil Community Center, a resilience hub offering recreation, community engagement, and health promotion. With extensive community input, the project will address blight while enhancing the quality of life and fostering community connections.
3	Avalon Village	The Avalon Village Healing House	Highland Park	Awarded	Avalon Village plans to convert a blighted Highland Park home into a community healing and wellness clinic. This project will address pressing health issues in the area, providing residents with vital services and fostering well-being in a historically underserved community.
4	People Helping People of Pullman	Playscape/Recreation Area On Remediated Site In Pullman	Pullman	Awarded	People Helping People will remediate arsenic and lead contaminated soil on its Pullman, MI campus, transforming 2.5 acres into safe, green recreational spaces. The project includes a nature playscape and covered pavilion, promoting physical and mental health for over 200 youth and residents.

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5	Eastside Community Network	Stoudamire Wellness Campus	Detroit	Awarded	Eastside Community Network plans to create a Wellness Campus integrating the Stoudamire Wellness Hub with the adjacent Manz Playfield Connector. The project will address legacy pollution, beautify undeveloped land, and create green buffers to mitigate industrial pollution and traffic impacts, providing a safe, health focused outdoor sanctuary for Detroit's Lower East Side residents. This initiative will promote wellness, community engagement, and improved health outcomes in an under resourced neighborhood.
6	Original United Citizens of Southwest Detroit	Climate Resilient SW Detroit Homes	Detroit	Awarded	The Resilient Homes Project will pilot home upgrades in Southwest Detroit to improve health, affordability, and emergency preparedness for 10 selected households. The project will address flooding risks, enhance air quality, and boost energy resilience through measures like mold remediation, solar power systems, electrification of HVAC and appliances, sump pump installations, air sealing, removal of mold, installation of air purifiers, and replacement of gas-powered appliances. This pilot is a community-driven response to Southwest Detroit's significant economic, public-health, and climate-risk disparities.
7	Great Lakes Environmental Law Center	Detroit-Hamtramck Environmental Health Project	Detroit	Awarded	The Great Lakes Environmental Law Center will establish an air quality monitoring network and implement public health interventions in Detroit- Hamtramck neighborhoods. Partnering with JustAir and local leaders, the project will deploy monitoring equipment, collect data, and develop strategies to reduce environmental health risks. This initiative aims to empower community residents with actionable insights to improve air quality and public health outcomes in vulnerable areas.
8	Hackley Community Care	Redevelopment of Vacant, Contaminated Site - Broadway Street, Muskegon Heights	Muskegon Heights	Awarded	The Hackley Community Care Project will redevelop a vacant brownfield property at 100 and 150 West Broadway in Muskegon Heights to create a multi- faceted community hub. Hackley Community Care will lead the effort by constructing a new facility, while partners will establish resources like a commercial kitchen, daycare services, workforce development programs, and a community library. This initiative aims to transform a blighted area on the remediated property into a vibrant Center for health, education, and economic development.

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9	Oakland County Neighborhood and Housing Development	Partnering to Create Lead Free Homes in Oakland County	Oakland County	Awarded	Oakland County's project will address lead exposure risks in older homes within disproportionately impacted communities like Pontiac, Hazel Park, and Farmington. The initiative will strengthen collaboration between health and housing departments, fund lead abatement efforts, and provide grants or loans for home repairs through the Home Improvement Program. This project seeks to reduce lead-related health disparities in vulnerable populations particularly children under six.
10	YesRx	Addressing Disparities in Cancer Care and Community Health Impact for the American Indian Population in Michigan	12 federally recognized tribes, the lands, and waterways in 57 Michigan counties	Awarded	The YesRx project will enhance Health Equity and underserved Michigan communities by improving access to free cancer medication and reducing environmental harm from cancer medication waste. Through a network of 50 cancer drug repository programs, the project will provide timely treatment to patients in need and prevent medication waste from contaminating lead land and water. The initiative will directly support American Indian communities across 57 counties and positively impact public health and environmental outcomes statewide.
11	Michigan State University	The Otsego Story Project: Uplifting Voices and Improving Public Health	Otsego	Awarded	The Otsego Story Project, led by Michigan State University and Justice for Otsego, will collect and share the stories of Otsego residents to raise awareness about health concerns linked to local contamination. The project will use these narratives to inform community driven environmental sampling and analysis efforts. By increasing awareness of toxic exposures and engaging young people, the project aims to improve public health and empower the community for a healthier future.
12	Michigan Health Improvement Alliance	Resilient Roots	Saginaw	Awarded	The Michigan Health Improvement Alliance will implement the Resilient Roots initiative in Saginaw, MI to empower residents to address environmental challenges and advocate for improved public health. Through a community stewards institute and a Resilient-Roots webinar series, the project will engage stakeholders, complete 24 environmental improvement projects, and produce a strategic priorities plan for ongoing progress. The initiative will foster trust and collaboration among residents, government entities, and public health organizations.

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13	Dream of Detroit	The DREAM Center	Detroit	Awarded	Dream of Detroit will establish the DREAM Center, a modular multi-purpose community center on Detroit's West Side to expand its programming and services. The facility will feature a digital literacy lab, pop-up retail space, arts performance venue, outdoor courtyard, and a pocket park, creating a hub for entrepreneurship education, and community events. Designed to grow with neighborhood development, the 1,760 square foot center will serve as a catalyst for revitalization along Woodrow Wilson Street.
14	Mexicantown Community Development Corporation, Inc.	Hubbard Richard: Clean Air, Healthy Homes, Greener Communities	Detroit	Awarded	Mexicantown Community Development Corporation will address air pollution and environmental health disparities in Detroit's Hubbard Richard neighborhood, which is impacted by heavy vehicle emissions from the nearby Ambassador Bridge traffic. The project will install two black carbon monitors to track emissions, provide home air filtration units to affected residents, conduct environmental assessments for a former Greyhound Bus depot, and implement a neighborhood tree replanting program to purify air and soil. These efforts aim to improve air quality, promote safe land reuse, and foster a healthier community environment.
15	Flint Institute of Science and History (FISH) / Longway Planetarium	Longway Planetarium - Asbestos Abatement Project	Flint	Awarded	Flint Institute of Science and History (FISH) / Longway Planetarium will remediate asbestos in its Longway Planetarium facility to ensure long-term safety for its community visitors. The project will involve the removal and replacement of asbestos containing materials, including floor tiles, duct insulation, and ceiling tiles, by licensed contractors. This initiative will support the health and safety of approximately 60,000 annual visitors, including K-12 students and residents of the greater Flint area.

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16	Flint Community Lab	Flint Community Lab Water Analysis Project	Flint	Awarded	The Flint Community Lab (FCL) will expand its efforts to address water quality issues and community education needs resulting from the Flint water crisis. The project will train additional interns, enhance testing capabilities to include bacterial analysis, and increase educational outreach through partnerships with local schools and universities. By empowering Flint residents with tools for water safety and fostering STEM education pathways, FCL aims to advance environmental justice and improve public health across the community.
17	B.A.S.S.. Inc. (Building Assets to Strengthen Society)	The Green Revolution in Highland Park: A Youth Environmental Leadership & Eco-Friendly Community Project	Highland Park	Awarded	B.A.S.S. Inc. will lead a Green Revolution in Highland Park by creating sustainable green spaces and urban gardens while fostering youth environmental leadership and advocacy. Through the youth environmental leadership program, local youth will engage in mentorship, environmental justice training, and hands-on projects such as rooftop gardens, green space transformations, and renewable energy initiatives. This project aims to empower youth, reduce the community's carbon footprint, and advance the state's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.
18	Child Care Resource & Referral of Kalamazoo	Clean Air for Children Program	Kalamazoo County	Awarded	Child Care Resource & Referral of Kalamazoo will implement the Clean Air For Children Program to improve indoor air quality in underserved childcare facilities and home-based childcare programs. The project will provide IAQ monitoring systems, air cleaning strategies, and educational resources to enhance environmental quality and support the health of children and staff. This initiative will address environmental health disparities and target Michigan counties, fostering safer and more equitable childcare environments.

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19	City of Springfield	Blight Remediation of 525 N. 24th St., Springfield	Springfield	Awarded	The City of Springfield will remediate a property that has a long history of environmental compliance issues and is long-blighted adjacent to a residential neighborhood by removing mounds of shredded plastics and baled plastic that pose significant environmental and health risks. This project will address issues stemming from Polycytek's failed Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP) grant project, a failed 1994 waste program, including air quality concerns caused by multiple fires at the site. The plastic waste will be safely removed and disposed of in a Type II landfill, improving the environment and quality of life for nearby residents.
20	Flint Innovative Solutions	Food Sovereignty Initiative	The Greater Flint Area, Detroit, Battle Creek, and Dansville	Awarded	The Food Sovereignty Initiative (FSI) aims to transform the food landscape in Flint by empowering Black and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers and strengthening community food systems. By building upon existing initiatives—the Flint & Genesee Food Policy Council, the Flint Eats App, and the Michigan Local Food Council Network—FSI will address food insecurity, improve food access, and foster economic opportunity. This project will bolster the Flint & Genesee Food Policy Council by providing staff support, hosting the Flint Regional Food Summit, and investing in urban gardens. It will also enhance the Flint Eats App to include a statewide-mapping system for community gardens and farms. Finally, it will scale up the Michigan Local Food Council Network's work to support farmers through operational funding and capacity building.
21	We The People of Detroit	Trusting Our Tap - Mobilizing Community to Understand Context/Data of Water Quality	Detroit	Awarded	We the People of Detroit (WPD) will support residents of Southwest and Eastside Detroit to trust their tap water through a series of community presentations to communicate about water testing and qualitative and quantitative assessments of perceptions of water quality in these Detroit neighborhoods. This project will share and contextualize the results of a large academic study with Stanford University and others. In this process, the youth of WPD will be trained in what data visualization is, how to develop visualizations, how to study data and develop research results.

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22	Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Network (DBCFSN)	Building Resilient Environmental Infrastructure at D-Town Farm	Detroit	Awarded	This project will build resilience for the D-Town Farm, a community farm dedicated to greater food security for Detroit's Black community. Proposed improvements include an environmental landscape assessment, flood mitigation, renewable energy installations and amendments for the rainwater retention pond, composting infrastructure development, pest control, and community space upgrades.
23	BEST Early / Benton Harbor Team Solutions	Interventions to Decrease Asthma in a High Risk Environmental Justice Community	Benton Harbor / Berrien County	Awarded	The A 4 Asthma Program will support, educate, train, and provide resources to residents of Benton Harbor/Berrien County, where 24.6% of Black adults have been diagnosed with asthma, and have adults and children who have died from asthma. The project partners will conduct air monitoring, create Healthy Homes resources to educate households about asthma triggers, and implement interventions to reduce these triggers. This initiative will have an immediate impact on asthma symptoms and contribute to long-term improvements in asthma health outcomes.
24	Bridging Communities	Community Air Quality Monitoring, Improvement, & Education Project	Detroit	Awarded	Bridging Communities aims to address environmental justice concerns for underserved and at-risk senior populations within the 48217 and surrounding Detroit community by collecting air quality data, making equitable health and safety improvements to elderly individuals' homes through air cleaning, and facilitating awareness and education on the importance of clean indoor air through public learning tools and educational programs. Through material improvements and education, this project will support elderly residents to age in place with dignity. It will also significantly improve resiliency of the community by supporting individuals to utilize readily available resources and to make informed decisions for their health and safety related to their environments.
25	Detroit Future City	Lower Eastside Environmental Justice Impact Program (EJIP)	Detroit	Awarded	Detroit Future City proposes a collaborative, community-based initiative to promote healthy lifestyles and a healthy environment in the historically disadvantaged and polluted Lower Eastside of Detroit neighborhoods of Poletown East and McDougall Hunt. This project will include tree planting and maintenance and the expansion of local walking pathways to support resident outdoor recreation and community connectivity.

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26	Covert Public Schools	Improved Air Quality and Equality	Covert	Awarded	Covert Elementary School aims to reduce environmental health burdens for the students and families of Covert Public Schools and Van Buren ISD’s early education and migrant students (the largest in the state), by upgrading its antiquated mechanical and Building Management System. The project includes new unit ventilators; ionization to reduce airborne contaminants, viruses and, mold spores; CO2 sensing to improve and better control ventilation; relative humidity sensing to maintain the preferred RH rates at 40%-60%, and implementation of US EPA Framework for Effective School IAQ Management recommendations.
27	Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Addressing Historic Dumping & Blight Conditions on Tribal Properties	Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties	Awarded	Since its federal recognition was restored in 1994, the Pokagon Band has acquired multiple properties that benefit tribal citizens and protect historically important lands. While these properties provide essential benefits, many also have blighted conditions, including abandoned, dilapidated, or structurally unsound buildings as well as refuse and debris that have been left by others. Through the proposed project, the Pokagon Band intends to assess structures for asbestos and lead, complete abatement of these hazards as needed, and remove these structures as well as refuse and debris from tribal properties to eliminate the hazards that they pose to their respective communities.
28	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	Baseline Metals Survery	Huron Bay / Baraga County	Awarded	The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community will develop a tool allowing their Natural Resources Department to evaluate for changes to stream metals concentrations. This one-year, bi-weekly sampling effort will focus on quantifying aqueous metals concentrations in the Silver River and Slate River watersheds because they support traditional tribal hunting, gathering, and fishing activities near Huron Bay. Twenty-three metals will be quantified - aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, low level mercury, molybdenum, nickel, potassium, selenium, sodium, uranium, vanadium and zinc.

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29	Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies	Climate READY Detroit: Fostering Healthy Homes for a Sustainable Future	Detroit	Awarded	Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies proposes a community-driven approach - including door-to-door education, expanded monitoring of indoor and outdoor air pollutants, and targeted household interventions - to reduce environmental burdens related to flooding, asthma-triggers, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in ZIP codes 48214 and 48215 of Detroit.
30	St. Patrick Senior Center, Inc.	Environmental Health Inequities for Older Adults by Built Environment Improvements	Detroit	Awarded	St. Patrick Senior Center aims to improve the quality of life for older adults impacted by negative environmental factors in Southwest Detroit by improving the HVAC infrastructure of an older adult day center, providing air quality education, and addressing indoor air quality (IAQ) health concerns. Proposed project deliverables are development of a replicable model community/population specific IAQ Management Plan, upgrade the HVAC of an older facility that is accessed as a community focal point to improve indoor air quality, and provide air quality education to over 300 older adults to support actionable recommendations to impact health.
31	City of Grand Rapids	GR Urban Agriculture	Grand Rapids	Awarded	The City of Grand Rapids will build on current efforts of the community organizations implementing urban agriculture projects in community parks. The project will advance urban agriculture projects throughout the Grand Rapids community in parks in neighborhoods with environmental justice concerns. This project will support organizations' efforts to bring urban agriculture and the benefits of reduced food costs, improved air quality, healthier food practices, and education to the City's disadvantaged populations.
32	City of Flint	Flint In-Home Plumbing	Flint	Awarded	This City of Flint will partner with the Greater Flint Health Coalition and Local Initiatives Support Corporation to abate in-home lead and galvanized plumbing, a necessary project for which funding has not been available. Public Health Navigators from Greater Flint Health Coalition will provide targeted outreach to residents whose water has tested positive for lead in the past and will support the Lead Based Paint Hazard Program to complement ongoing work on residential walls and windows.

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33	Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI)	HOPE Mobile Services	Detroit	Awarded	BFDI is proposing the HOPE Mobile Services Project, a mobile and a-behavioral health spectrum of care to promote community-centered collaboration that builds off longstanding relationships between residents and community block clubs. The purpose of the mobile services is to improve public health to a) increase accessibility to a behavioral health array of services within Detroit neighborhoods, and b) to reduce escalation to formal systems of care. The project will use evidence-based practices to help 400 community youth, adults and families annually access neighborhood-based behavioral health services, and to reduce hospitalization, incarceration, and formal system escalation of community residents.
34	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians	Grand Traverse Band Community Revitalization	Leelanau, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse Counties	Awarded	The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians seeks resources to address blighted properties within GTB tribal lands and trust lands owned by GTB within boundaries of 1836 and the 1855 Reservation. This project will help protect the health, safety, and welfare of the tribal community by preventing blight, protecting property values and neighborhood integrity, avoiding the creation and maintenance of nuisances, and ensure the safe and sanitary maintenance of residential dwellings. Activities include removing junk motor vehicles and other accumulated refuse, as well as removing structures that are no longer habitable and clearing debris.
35	Four County Community Foundation	Imlay City EV Rides	Imlay City	Awarded	Four County Community Foundation seeks funding to deploy three minivans, including one equipped for wheelchair use, to provide healthcare-related transportation in Imlay City. This service is critical for a community where 29% of homes lack access to a vehicle, public transit is not accessible, and healthcare providers cite lack of transportation as a main reason for missed appointments.

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36	Marquette County Planning Division	Silver Lead Creek Greenway Trail	Marquette County	Awarded	The Marquette County Planning Division proposes to connect the Little Trout Lake Park and the KI Sawyer Community Fitness Strip via the construction of a non-motorized trail along the Silver Lead Creek in KI Sawyer, Michigan. The segment of trail is 1.3 miles on public-owned land to be established as the Silver Lead Creek Greenway. The vision of the Silver Lead Creek Greenway is to connect neighborhoods to recreation, work/school, and services via a non-motorized trail. This leg of trail is located in the heart of the Silver Lead Creek Greenway, where the community can interact with nature and escape the built environment.
37	North Flint Neighborhood Action Council	Advancing Wellbeing Equity: Environmental Justice in North Flint (AWE)	Flint	Awarded	North Flint Neighborhood Action Council seeks funding to increase access to green space, decrease youth violence, and leverage awareness about wellbeing equity by equipping a cohort of younger residents to rigorously map North Flint's wellbeing assets and challenges, using a nationally recognized wellbeing framework, and to partner with community elders to present these data to other residents and government decision-makers. Residents will then use results to determine specific community-wide and hyper-local investments to increase access to wellbeing (e.g., belonging, safety, stability), with a focus on greenspace.
38	The Boggs Educational Center	Healthy Spaces Support Healthy Minds	Detroit	Awarded	The Boggs School is proposing a community improvement project to positively impact the health and well-being of students, staff, and their families by combining activities that include environmental justice education, pollution monitoring at the school, and the staged retrofit of the 20,000 square foot building in which the Boggs School conducts its educational programming as part of efforts to construct a sustainable campus long-term.

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39	Residents in Action, Inc (RiA)	Equitably Resourcing Residents To Positively Lead And Sustainably Impact Environment	Jackson	Awarded	RiA proposes to develop its resident-led community center to serve as a foundation of support for its established partnerships with Jackson's Black Food Sovereignty Coalition (BFS) and Young People of Purpose (YPOP). Collectively building off the momentum from an evaluative food insecurity project funded by Michigan Health Endowment Fund and the local community garden, this project will implement intentional activities to positively improve Jackson's public health, social, and environmental justice landscape.
40	Flint River Watershed Coalition	Whaley Park Soil & Water Testing, Outreach & Education	Flint	Awarded	The Flint River Watershed Coalition seeks funding to investigate the cause of repeated impacts on the soil and water via the Whaley Park outfall. The proposed project includes analyzing water and soil samples to determine the type and makeup of contaminants, perform tracing to determine point source discharges, designing a remediation plan, and public education regarding pollution and storm drains in the community.
41	Adrian Public School District	Improved Air Quality Project	Adrian	Awarded	Adrian High School seeks to address environmental health challenges in its disadvantaged community by upgrading its outdated HVAC system and controls. The project, requesting \$500,000, will fund necessary equipment, installation labor, and professional services to improve indoor air quality, reducing health risks without utilizing funds for ongoing operations or maintenance.
42	Detroit Public Schools Community District	DPSCD IAQ Improvements through CSD-1 Repairs	Detroit	Awarded	DPSCD intends to repair 28 boiler systems in twenty-four K-12 school locations in Detroit, ensuring that the buildings are properly heated during the heating season, and that temperatures are adequate for students to have a healthy and comfortable environment in which to learn. This project will also deploy new facilities and maintenance software to improve managing the heating, cooling, and indoor air quality at DPSCD schools.
43	48207-11 Grassroots Detroiters	Restoration and Climate Resiliency of the Grassroots Detroiters Community Center	Detroit	Awarded	Grassroots Detroiters propose purchasing and restoring a flood-damaged facility, using green building approaches, to serve as a hub and community center. This facility will support ongoing food distribution as well as recreation activities for residents of the 48207-11 ZIP code neighborhood.