



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT PROGRAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

OUR CHALLENGE

Communities across the U.S. face increasing environmental and social challenges, yet many struggle to access the funding needed to address them. The **EPA's Community Change Grant (CCG) program** offered financial support to organizations implementing environmental justice initiatives. For many of these applicants, **navigating the grant process could be difficult due to:**

- **Complex application requirements** that demand technical expertise.
- **Limited familiarity with federal grant opportunities** among grassroots organizations.
- **Challenges in aligning projects with EPA's priorities** while meeting compliance guidelines.
- **Resource constraints** that make it difficult for applicants to refine their proposals.

OUR VISION

We believe that **every organization**—regardless of size or resources—**should have an equal opportunity to access federal funding to drive meaningful environmental change.** Our approach to technical assistance was built on:

- 🔧 **Simplifying the grant process** so that organizations can focus on their mission rather than paperwork.
- ✦ **Enhancing proposal quality** through expert feedback, strategic guidance, and compliance reviews.
- 🌿 **Building confidence and capacity** so applicants can independently navigate future funding opportunities.
- 🌍 **Providing culturally relevant support** to ensure inclusiveness and accessibility for all communities.

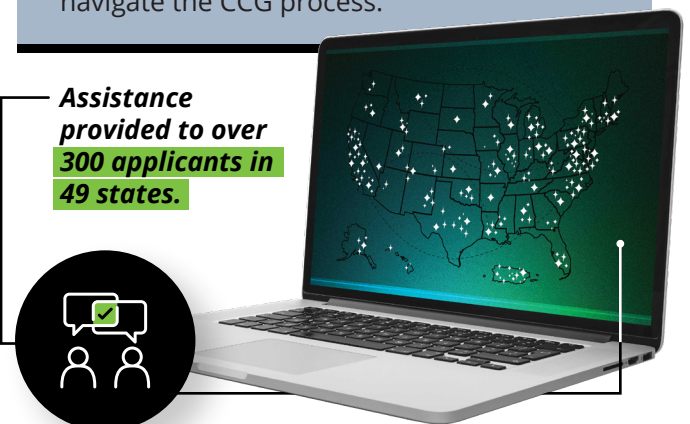
Without dedicated support, many organizations risked missing out on crucial funding that could help improve environmental sustainability and resilience in their communities.



To bridge this gap, the **EPA's Technical Assistance (TA) Program**, in collaboration with Greene Street Communications, provided tailored guidance and hands-on support to help applicants successfully navigate the CCG process.

Through personalized technical assistance, organizations received support to develop strong, fundable proposals, increasing their chances of securing grants and advancing their initiatives.

Assistance provided to over 300 applicants in 49 states.



OUR WORK

Structured Technical Assistance Framework

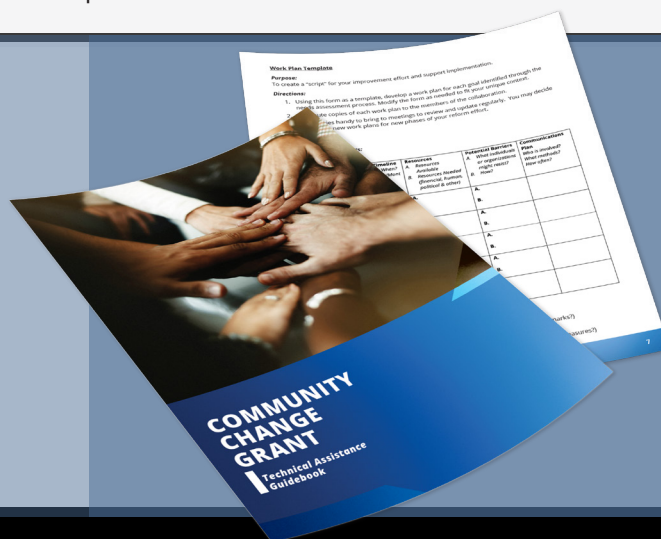
To ensure organizations received the support they needed, we implemented a multi-tiered approach to technical assistance:

- **Technical Assistance Coordinators (TACs)** – TACs directed and supported Technical Assistance by overseeing the Lead Technical Providers (LTPs), ensuring alignment with EPA goals, and ensuring efficient, timely TA delivery.
- **Lead Technical Providers (LTPs)** – LTPs were the primary point of contact for applicants, helping them navigate the grant process and refine their proposals.
- **Subject Matter Experts (LTPs)** – These experts who offered strategic feedback, ensuring project narratives and supplemental documents align with EPA funding criteria.
- **Rapid Response Teams (RRTs)** – RRT specialists who provided last-minute guidance and thorough proposal reviews to enhance clarity, consistency, and compliance.

Hands-On Guidance for Applicants

Applicants received tailored support through:

- **One-on-one proposal reviews** to strengthen project narratives.
- **Webinars, training sessions, and grant workshops** to demystify the application process.
- **Strategic feedback** on aligning projects with EPA's funding priorities.
- **Grammar, structure, and compliance reviews** to ensure proposals met NOFO requirements.



By offering targeted, applicant-centered support, we helped organizations transform complex grant requirements into actionable steps, making the process more accessible and manageable.

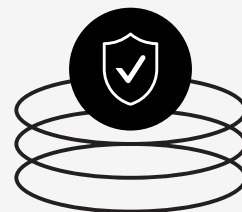
OUR RESULTS

The **EPA Technical Assistance Program significantly increased the success rates of Community Change Grant applicants** by equipping organizations with the skills and resources needed to submit competitive proposals.

Empowering Communities to Secure Grant Funding

Organizations that participated in our technical assistance program reported:

- **Stronger, more polished applications** that aligned with EPA's funding criteria.
- **Increased confidence** in navigating the federal grant process.
- **Improved oral presentations**, leading to higher success rates in grant interviews.
- **Over 300 applications were submitted** with Greene Street's assistance.





APPLICANT SUCCESS STORIES

Organizations that received technical assistance shared how it helped them refine applications, strengthen proposals, and successfully compete for funding.

La Familia Counseling Center, Inc.:

With a tight deadline, **La Familia Counseling Center needed assistance with their oral presentation.** Greene Street's advisors provided structured practice sessions, offering feedback on content clarity and delivery. Their flexibility and encouragement helped La Familia refine their messaging, **resulting in a polished presentation and a successful grant award.**

"The team's flexibility and expertise strengthened our presentation and boosted our confidence."

- Dorene Rose, La Familia Counseling Center, Inc.

Barnstable Land Trust:

Technical assistance **helped Barnstable Land Trust strengthen their application** and develop new partnerships aligned with environmental justice initiatives. Lead Technical Provider Stephanie Jerez Rodriguez provided tailored recommendations, helping them refine their project narrative and enhance the proposal's impact. **With this support, they successfully positioned themselves for future funding opportunities.**

"Stephanie's insights refined our application and expanded our collaboration network, setting us up for success beyond just this grant cycle."

- Janet Milkman, Executive Director, Barnstable Land Trust

Dillard University:

Dillard University sought help in refining their vision and ensuring alignment with EPA's grant criteria. Through multiple discussions, technical assistance providers guided them in shaping their ideas into a focused, fundable project that met both community needs and EPA priorities. **The expert feedback provided clarity, structure, and compliance insight, leading to a stronger, more competitive proposal.**

"We turned multiple ideas into a cohesive vision that met community needs and EPA goals. The support and strategic direction we received were invaluable."

- Kem Opperman-Topres, Director of Sustainability, Dillard University

City of Morgan City:

With limited experience in federal grant applications, the **City of Morgan City relied on Greene Street's technical assistance team for last-minute guidance.** Experts reviewed their application, clarified NOFO requirements, and provided detailed feedback on compliance and project structure. **This hands-on support helped them successfully submit their proposal on time, now under EPA review.**

"The team helped us bridge gaps in understanding NOFO requirements, ensuring we met all necessary criteria. Their support was invaluable in getting our application across the finish line."

- Monica Mancuso, Ph.D., Executive Director, St. Mary Excel

These **success stories highlight the transformative impact of hands-on technical assistance, making federal funding more accessible and helping organizations develop strong, competitive proposals to advance their environmental initiatives.**