

JUSTICE40 OVERVIEW

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The climate crisis presents unprecedented challenges to our global society. A livable future requires drastic economic and social changes and multinational cooperation. At the same time, we must recognize and address the inequitable burdens the climate crisis places on marginalized and disadvantaged communities. These communities have historically been underserved or damaged by government policies and underinvestment in transportation, housing, water service, public health, and more.

In January 2021, the Biden Administration signed Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad [1], and creating the government-wide Justice40 Initiative. The initiative centers around environmental, racial, and economic justice for disadvantaged communities that have been systemically affected by discriminatory policies, underinvestment, and other inequities.

The Iowa Environmental Council is committed to working with other Iowa organizations, agencies, and communities to ensure state and local entities are able to take advantage of key federal funding opportunities, with an emphasis on seeing the goals of the Justice40 Initiative and accountability measures included.

WHAT IS JUSTICE40?

- Justice40 is a whole-of-government effort with the purpose of ensuring that Federal agencies work with states and local communities to deliver at least 40 percent of all benefits from investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.
- 72 EPA programs are covered [2].

THE CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE SCREENING TOOL

- The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool [3] hosts an interactive map with indicators to assist agencies in defining and identifying disadvantaged communities.
- Using the tool, a census tract will be identified as disadvantaged in one or more categories of criteria:
 - IF the census tract is above the threshold for one or more environmental or climate indicators AND the census tract is above the threshold for the socioeconomic indicators.

ACTIONS REQUIRED OF AGENCIES THAT MANAGE COVERED PROGRAMS:

1. Identify the benefits of covered programs
2. Determine how covered programs distribute benefits
3. Calculate and report on reaching the 40% goal

COVERED PROGRAMS

A “covered program” is a Federal Government program that makes covered investment benefits in one or more of the following seven areas:

- Climate change
- Clean energy and energy efficiency
- Clean transportation
- Affordable and sustainable housing
- Training and workforce development
- Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution
- Critical clean water and waste infrastructure

CALCULATING AND REPORTING

- To respond to the Justice40 directive, each agency must establish a methodology for calculating the benefits that:
 - Flow from each applicable covered program
 - Accrue in disadvantaged communities from each covered program
- Agencies are responsible for calculating the accrual of covered program benefits to disadvantaged communities.

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW ALLOCATIONS FOR IOWA [4]

- \$5 billion total for Iowa over five years.
 - \$51 million for electric vehicle infrastructure. Iowa is joining many other states in developing plans to create a national electric vehicle charging network along major transportation corridors. The Iowa Department of Transportation [4] will utilize the EV Charging Justice40 map tool to analyze the existing and future EV network for Iowa.
 - \$5 billion nationally for EPA’s new Clean School Bus Program [5] to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models.
 - More than \$82 million to reduce transportation emissions under the Federal Highway Administration’s Carbon Reduction Program.
 - \$45 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program. [6]
 - \$638 million for clean water and drinking water infrastructure improvements in Iowa. This includes \$45 million annually for lead service line replacement.

SOURCES

1. Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (January 27, 2021) available at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPPT-2021-0202-0012>
2. Justice40 Initiative Covered Programs List for the Environmental Protection Agency at <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-06/Justice40%20Initiative%20Covered%20Programs%20List%20for%20the%20Environmental%20Protection%20Agency.pdf>
3. Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>
4. Iowa Department of Transportation at <https://iowadot.gov/iowaevplan/Overview>
5. EPA Clean School Bus Program at <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus>
6. Fiscal Update Article - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Legislative Services Agency at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/BL/1292111.pdf>