

Low Income and Disadvantage Communities (LIDAC) Climate Action Plan Assessment – ARPA
Questions + Answer Session from June 20th, 2024.

Meeting Recording link:

<https://elpasotexas.webex.com/elpasotexas/ldr.php?RCID=d6b92546484f74af5f971f904a709a5d>

Password: hM6uCv4s

Due Date of July 28th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. MDT. *Please note that late submissions will not be accepted.*

1) Are the climate fellows under the consultants, the city or a hiring agency?

The Climate Fellowship is managed by the City who provides all training, outreach and engagement opportunities. Workforce Solutions Borderplex coordinates payments and recruitment. The consultants selected to develop the Climate Action Plan have developed the syllabus and activities for Fellows to drive community outreach and improve their skills in multiple professionally relevant topics such as research, career exploration, financial literacy, presenting in public spheres, meeting facilitation, community engagement, leadership, effective communication, and more.

While fellows are learning professionally relevant topics, they are also learning how to effectively communicate what a climate action plan is and how it will benefit the community and region.

2) What will coordinating between all agencies look like? You mentioned fluid feedback, will there be monthly meetings?

Coordinating between all agencies will involve the LIDAC-selected partner engaging in meetings with technical consultants. These meetings aim to align and coordinate outreach, engagement, and community input activities. The City will also participate in these discussions. The specific format and frequency of these meetings will depend on the proposals from the agencies.

3) From the City's perspective, what encompasses low income and disadvantaged communities?

The City is following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) definition, "Low Income / Disadvantaged Communities (LIDACs) are communities with residents that have low incomes, limited access to resources, and disproportionate exposure to environmental or climate burdens". Although the Inflation Reduction Act does not formally define LIDACs, EPA strongly recommends grantees use the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool to identify LIDACs in their communities. These tools identify LIDACs by assessing indicators for categories of burden: air quality, climate change, energy, environmental hazards, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development.

4) From a regional climate action plan perspective, what encompasses low income and disadvantaged communities?

Please See question 3 on the definition that the City of El Paso is referring to a LIDAC community. We encourage applicants to define in their narratives “what encompasses low-income disadvantaged communities” from a regional climate action plan perspective.

5) Can indirect costs be charged?

Indirect costs along with direct costs are permitted to be charged as administrative costs. Direct costs are those that are identified specifically as costs of implementing the project objectives. Indirect costs are general overhead costs of an organization where a portion of such costs are allocable to the award. Further, costs must be reasonable and allocable as outlined in 2 CFR 200.403, 2 CFR 200.404 and 2 CFR 200.405.

6) Are all non-profits eligible or are you looking for community-based organization?

The City of El Paso requires organizations to have 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status. This status is granted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and indicates that an organization is recognized as a nonprofit. Additionally, having a strong community connection can significantly enhance your application. The City of El Paso is seeking applications from organizations deeply rooted in their communities, actively engaged with local residents, and addressing specific community needs. Demonstrating your organization’s impact and involvement can strengthen your case.