Columbus Regional Justice40 Training

Cityfi MID-OHIO REGIONAL MORPC PLANNING COMMISSION COLUMBUS PARTNERSHIP COTA

Welcome

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Introductions

- Name
- Organization
- Role

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Training Agenda and Objectives

- Welcome and Introductions
- Background and Overview of Justice40
- BREAK
- Introduction to Columbus Regional Justice40 Framework
- Agency Specific Guidance and Gaps
- BREAK
- Applying the Framework, a Case Study Exercise
- Recap, Learnings, and Next Steps

Training Objectives and Agenda

- Gain background knowledge on Justice40
- Understand Justice40's broader impacts
- Become familiar with the Columbus Regional Justice 40 Framework
- Learn about federal agency guidance and gaps
- Practice applying the framework
- Reflect on learnings and next steps

What We Will Not Cover

- Broader equity strategy and regional needs
- Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB)
- Regional history of equity needs and repercussions

Community Agreements

- Stay engaged and curious
- Every voice is important; listen actively and respectfully
- Make room for multiple perspectives
- Lean forward, lean back
- Challenge the idea, not the person
- Ask clarifying questions throughout; save big discussion questions for the end of each segment

Columbus Regional Equity Strategy

- The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the Columbus Partnership, and the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) are committed to realizing a more equitable future for the region
- This initiative marks the beginning of a regional Justice40 strategy for federal investment pursuits and is an important step in addressing barriers faced by historically disadvantaged communities in Central Ohio

Background on the Justice40 Initiative and Overview of Objectives

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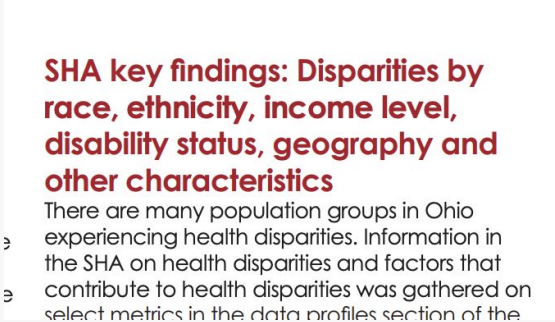
Justice40 History and Context

- Historically in the US, institutionalized policies based on internalized prejudice have led to vastly inequitable investments and outcomes
- The greatest environmental burdens have fallen on communities impacted by these policies and investments
- The environmental justice movement was partially a response to this, recognizing that the greatest burdens and impacts of climate change fall on the most underserved communities

Justice40 Impacts Beyond current political context

- Climate change is only one area where the impacts in underserved communities are clear
- Geographic underinvestment, racism, sexism, and other harmful policies have caused disproportionate burdens across all aspects of life, including health, education, economic opportunity, and safety
- Justice40 is one opportunity to address multiple negative outcomes



Establishing Shared Language

- **Inequity:** Intrapersonal, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic mechanisms that organize the distribution of power and resources differentially across lines of race, gender, class, sexual orientation, gender expression, and other dimensions of individual and group identity
- **Environmental Justice:** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies

Establishing Shared Language

- **Race:** A social construct that divides people into categories based on nationality, ethnicity, phenotype, or other markers of social differences
- **Racism:** An organized social system that devalues and disempowers racial groups regarded as inferior; reduces access to resources and opportunities such as employment, housing, education, and health care; and increases exposure to risk factors

While race alone is NOT officially called out in Justice40, it is an important layer in the intersections of historic inequity examined in the initiative

Justice40 Initiative

Why?

Confront decades of **underinvestment** and bring **resources** to communities with legacy pollution and environmental hazards

How?

Distribute **40% of overall benefits** of certain federal investments to disadvantaged communities marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution

When?

Became effective with President Biden signing an **executive order on January 27, 2021** and implementation beginning by federal agencies in July 2021

A Whole-of-Government Initiative

Hundreds of programs across federal agencies have been transformed to meet Justice40 goals

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Labor
- Department of State
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Environmental Protection Agency
- NASA
- National Science Foundation
- Army Corps
- AmeriCorps

Establishing Shared Language: Disadvantaged Communities

Community: A group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another or a geographically dispersed set of individuals (e.g., migrant workers), where either type of group experiences common conditions

Disadvantaged:

- Low income, high, and/or persistent poverty
- High unemployment and underemployment
- Racial and ethnic residential segregation
- Linguistic isolation
- High housing cost burden and substandard housing
- Distressed neighborhoods
- High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access
- Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts
- Limited water and sanitation access and affordability
- Disproportionate impacts from climate change
- High energy cost burden and low energy access
- Jobs lost through the energy transition
- Access to healthcare

Justice40 Covered Programs and Investments

A **covered program** is a federal government program that falls under the Justice40 initiative because it includes investments that can benefit disadvantaged communities across one or more of seven investment categories:

- Climate Change
- Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Clean Transit
- Affordable and Sustainable Housing
- Training and Workforce Development
- Remediation and Reduction of Legacy Pollution
- Development of Critical Clean Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Covered federal investments include any grant or procurement spending, financing, staffing costs, or direct spending or benefits to individuals for a covered program in a Justice40 category.

Break

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Columbus Regional Justice40 Framework

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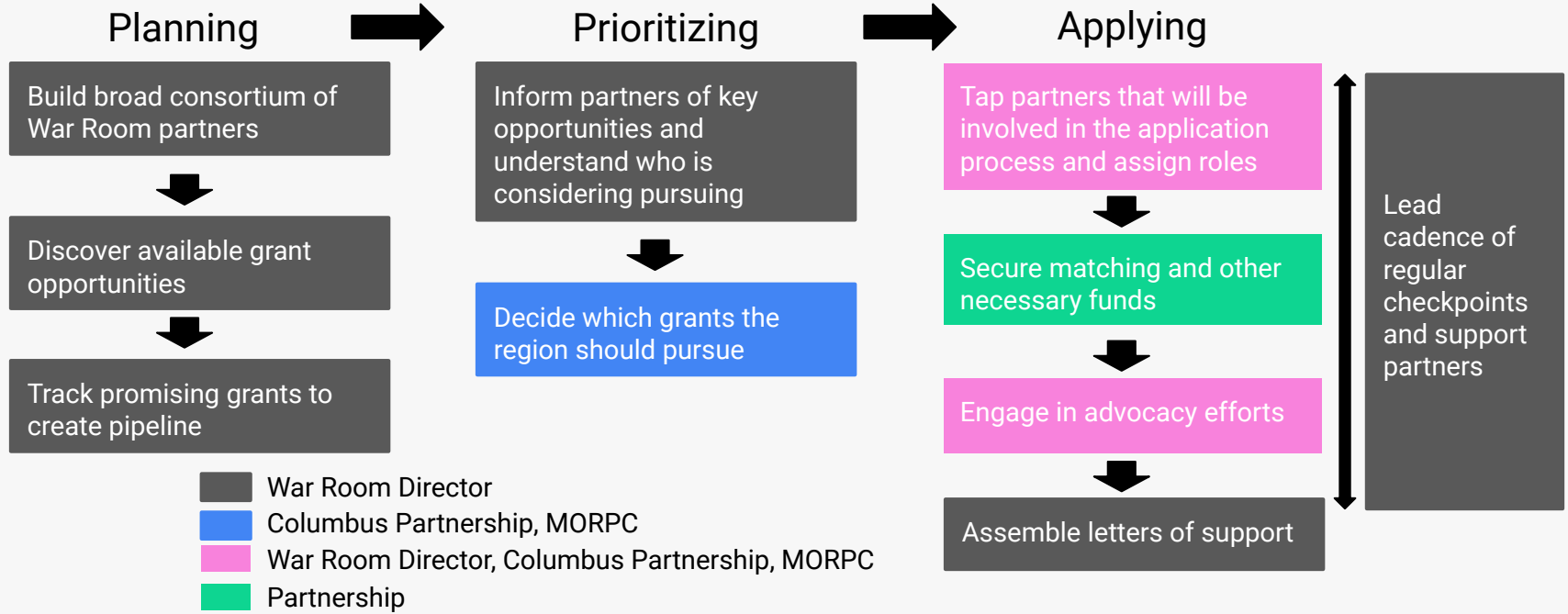
Justice40 Goal Areas and the Columbus Region

- Justice40 requirements across involved agencies and programs align with local stated categories

Current War Room Decision-Making Process



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Justice40 Framework Overview

- Planning, prioritizing, and applying phases
- Questions to ask at each phase
- Actions to take at each phase
- Partners to work with
- Tools to support work

Federal Grant Pursuit Phases

Planning – *Identify projects and needs (engagement and burdens)*

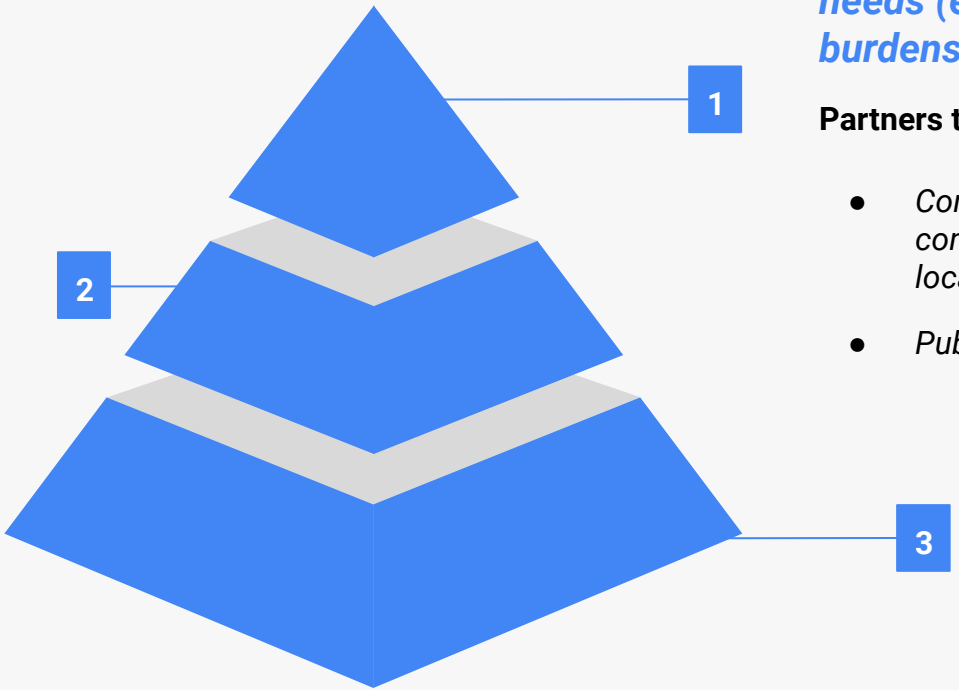
Partners to involve:

- *Community leaders, community-based organizations, local businesses*
- *Public partners*

Prioritizing – *Analyze outcomes and select projects (impacts)*

Partners to involve:

- *Community members, local businesses, employees, and workforce agencies*
- *Public agencies and private partners*
- *War Room partners*



Applying – *Tell the story*

Partners to involve:

- *War Room partners*

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Planning Phase *Actions*

- Leverage screening tools like the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) to identify disadvantaged communities and proactively engage them
- Initiate ongoing outreach to regional Justice40 communities to build relationships, foster collaborative dialogue, and better understand their needs
    - Ensure you are reaching leaders representative of the community's diversity
    - Remove participation barriers and identify and implement strategies to reach underserved communities, non-English speakers, immigrant communities, and people with disabilities
- Engage and build relationships with a wider range of local stakeholders that work with or support disadvantaged communities (DACs), such as labor unions, local governments, Tribal governments, and community-based organizations
- Identify needs and opportunities from DACs before applications are live
- Create Community Benefits Plans for DOE grant applications prior to Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) releases

Planning Phase *Questions:* Identifying Projects

- Which DACs in Central Ohio have not been recipients of recent federal investment? Why?
  - What are the needs that have already been identified in these locations?
  - How are DACs, local governments, Tribal governments, community-based organizations, and labor unions being informed and giving feedback on the region's federal investment pipeline and plans?
- Where are there gaps in understanding the needs of and engaging individual DACs?
  - What community groups exist that have trust and representation?
  - What existing analysis has been done with or from these communities?
- Which DACs face the most adverse impacts and are harmed most by legacy pollution and environmental hazards? What issues are most important to them to prioritize?
  - How have these DACs been involved in identifying issues and wants? How could they be reached?
  - What existing planned or proposed projects are in these communities?

Planning Phase *Questions:* Expanding Projects to Consider Justice40 Needs

- How might the initial project approach or scope need to change to incorporate Justice40 benefits and meaningfully engage DACs?
- What quantitative data connects DACs to the proposed project (live, work, or otherwise engage with project area and goals?)
- How might the project be expanded to include workforce or economic development opportunities for DACs in the region?

Prioritizing Phase *Actions*

- Prioritization should be informed by the magnitude of the opportunity to deliver benefits to historically disadvantaged communities in Central Ohio
    - Leverage screening tools like the CEJST to
        - Understand which communities could be incorporated into application
        - Ensure application would be able to meet requirement that 40% of benefits go to Justice40 communities
- Incorporate input and feedback from Justice40 communities and all impacted stakeholders into decision-making and prioritization at this stage
    - Ensure you are reaching people who would be most directly impacted by the project

Prioritizing Phase *Questions*

- Which projects would be implemented in or directly affect DACs? How are these projects prioritized?
- What positive or negative impacts would each project have on surrounding or affected DACs (equity analysis) and how does that affect prioritization?
- Who represents all of the DACs, local and Tribal governments, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders involved in the proposed project? How are they involved in decision-making about whether to pursue a grant?
- What additional resources and support would DACs and other stakeholders need to fully contribute to and develop a competitive application?

Applying Phase *Actions*

- Incorporate inputs and feedback from Justice40 communities and supporting local stakeholders (e.g., labor unions, local governments, Tribal governments, and community-based organizations) into application development
    - Qualitative and quantitative supporting points for the narrative to illustrate both impacts communities are facing and the specific benefits that would flow from the federal investment
    - Ensure alignment with Justice40 communities around how collaboration and implementation would occur if the application is successful
    - Establish community advisory board/committee/group early at start of pursuit phase and incorporate into regular meetings so they can review project plans and represent their communities' interests
- Incorporate benefits and burdens (positive and negative outcomes that are reasonably expected to result from a project) on Justice40 communities

Applying Phase *Actions*

- Leverage screening tools to help quantify existing adverse impacts of legacy pollution and environmental hazards and anticipated benefits of federal investments
- Incorporate strategies for harm mitigation and benefits enhancement into all proposed projects
- Include narrative stories and lived experiences from DACs related to project goals and objectives
- Include all quantifiable impacts into BCA, and qualitative impacts into narrative (push grant definitions of equity through examples of impacts)

Applying Phase *Questions*

- What processes are in place to regularly share feedback, raise concerns, and incorporate suggestions from all stakeholders into the application?
- How will impacts, project benefits and burdens, and progress toward delivering the investment's benefits be quantified in the application? What federal tools and local data can support this?
- What qualitative impacts are faced by the DACs, and how are these incorporated into the application narrative with quotes, anecdotes, and stories?
- How are the Justice40 application requirements specific to the federal agency responsible for the program being met?

Federal Agency Justice40 Guidance and Gaps

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Cross-Agency Guidance

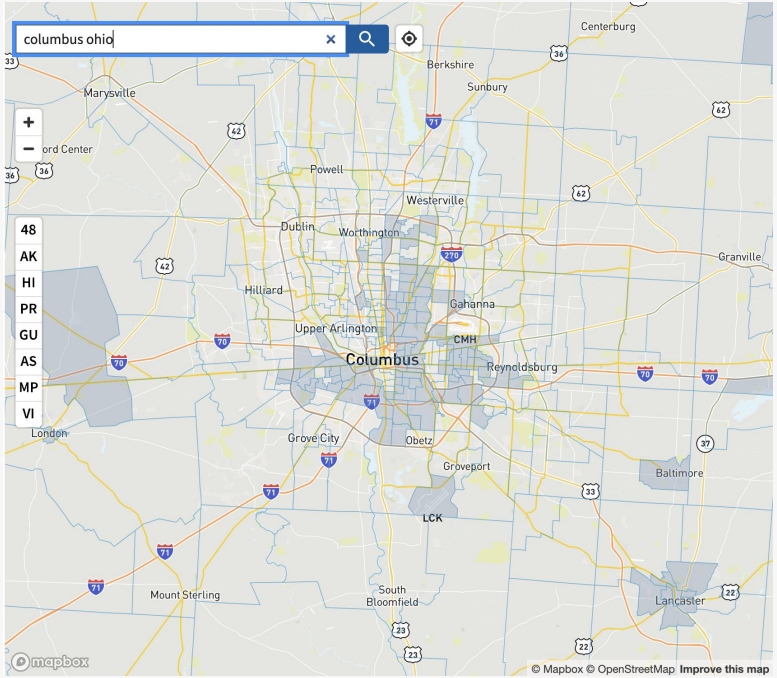
- Consider need (burden), process (engagement), and impact (outcomes)
- Workforce, environmental, safety, health, and economic outcomes
- Use the tools and resources provided, but apply local data and context

Cross-Agency Guidance

- Accountability and transparency is essential to trust and project success in DACs
- Include quantifiable and qualitative performance metrics in projects where possible
  - Number of crashes in corridor (records)
  - Feeling of safety in corridor (survey)
  - Number of people with access to workforce programs
  - Number of people enrolled in workforce training
- Tailor to project and grant opportunity, and keep simple

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

- Geospatial mapping tool identifying disadvantaged U.S. census tracts, which either:
    - Meet thresholds for one of the categories of burdens: climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development
    - Are on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes



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USDOT Justice40 Burdens

Applicants are required to speak to the project burdens expected in five areas

Focus Areas	Burdens
Safety	• Increased risk of frequency of injuries, deaths, and crashes
Jobs and Economic Competitiveness	• Reduced economic vitality of an area through construction impacts or reductions in accessibility or air quality
Resilience	• Increased vulnerability or reduced reliability of a transportation asset by building in a way that does not account for hazards or climate-related risks
Access	• Reduced access in an area, including through the construction of facilities that may divide or disconnect a community
Emissions	• Increased exposure to emissions and water pollution, often as a result of increased speeds or traffic volumes

USDOT Justice40 Benefits

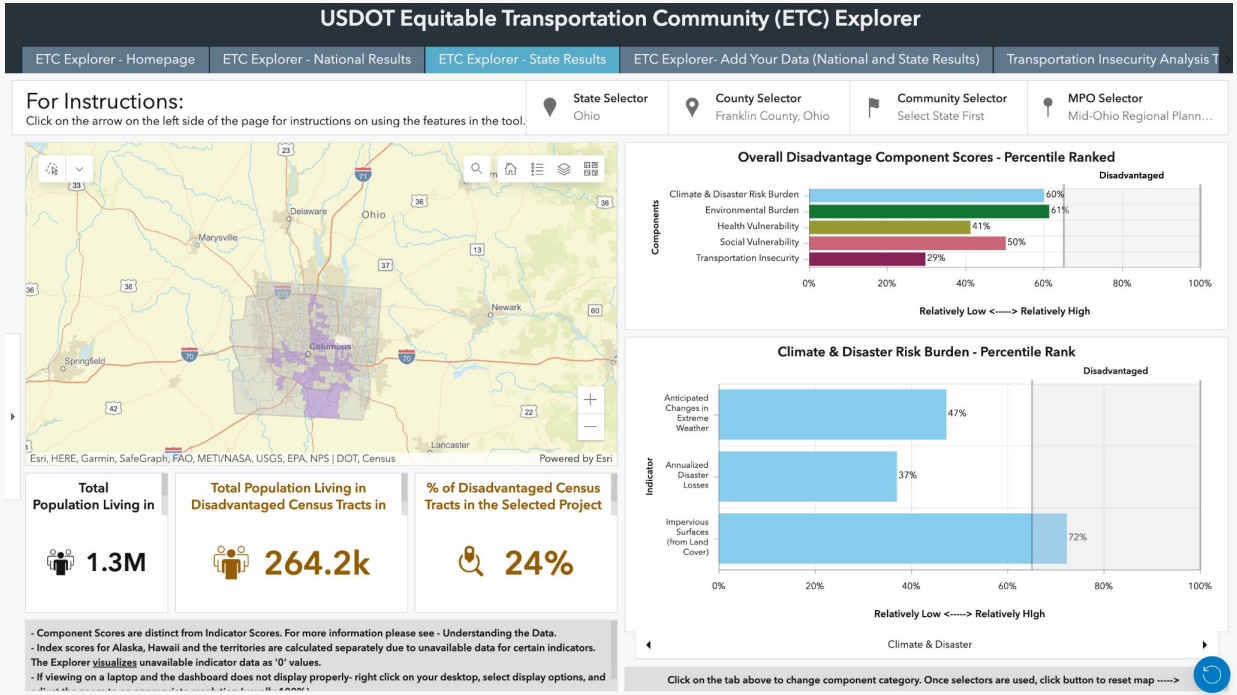
Applicants are required to speak to the project benefits expected in five areas

Focus Areas	Benefits
Safety	• Reductions in fatalities, injuries, and property damage • Safer multimodal transportation alternatives and improvements
Jobs and Economic Competitiveness	• Creation of good-paying jobs; resources to train people to keep them in jobs/apprenticeships • Employment of hiring practices inclusive of underrepresented populations or local people
Resilience	• Decreased climate-related vulnerability to communities and infrastructure from greater precipitation, flooding, severe wildfires, excessive heat, or other climate-driven effects
Access	• Increased transportation access, influenced by travel times, reliability, comfort, safety, affordable alternatives, and land use → promotes health equity and opportunities for economic success
Emissions	• Reduced pollution from the transportation system, including greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants like noise → improved health, comfort, and well-being

Equitable Transportation Community Explorer (ETC)

- Complements the CEJST by giving deeper insight into its transportation disadvantage component and ensuring USDOT's investment benefits address the transportation-related causes of disadvantage
- Interactive web application using 2020 census tracts and data
- Explores the cumulative burden communities experience as a result of underinvestment in transportation across five components:

Equitable Transportation Community Explorer (ETC)



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DOE Justice40 Priorities

Eight policy priorities guide DOE's implementation of Justice40

1. Decrease energy burden in DACs
2. Decrease environmental exposure and burdens for DACs
3. Increase parity in clean energy technology (e.g., solar, storage) access and adoption in DACs
4. Increase access to low-cost capital in DACs
5. Increase clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (minority business enterprise / disadvantaged business enterprise) in DACs
6. Increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from DACs
7. Increase energy resiliency in DACs
8. Increase energy democracy in DACs

Community Benefits Plan

- Ensures broadly shared prosperity in the clean energy transition
- Required for all BIL and IRA funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and part of the contractual obligation of funding recipients
- Usually scored at 20% of the technical merit review of proposals
- Four core policy priorities to incorporate comprehensively into project proposals and have strong commitments in:
    - Engaging communities and labor
    - Investing in America's workforce
    - Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility
    - Implementing the Justice40 Initiative

Community Benefits Plan Components

Priority Area	Key Components
Community and Labor Engagement	• Community and labor stakeholders engaged to date and to be engaged • Workforce and community agreements • Collective bargaining agreement • Project labor agreement or community workforce agreement
Investing in Job Quality and a Skilled Workforce	• Plan to support worker organizing and collective bargaining • Union support for the project • Job quality and commitments made to wages and benefits, education and training, and health and safety
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	• Commitment to partnering with Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, and Veteran Owned Businesses • Commitment to implementing a plan to reduce barriers and improve job access for local and underrepresented workers
Justice40 Initiative	• Justice40 benefits and plan for identifying and mitigating negative impacts on DACs • For each of 8 benefits: Which DAC benefits, how and when benefits flow to DACs, SMART milestones for benefit delivery, benefit metrics, and community-based organizations involved

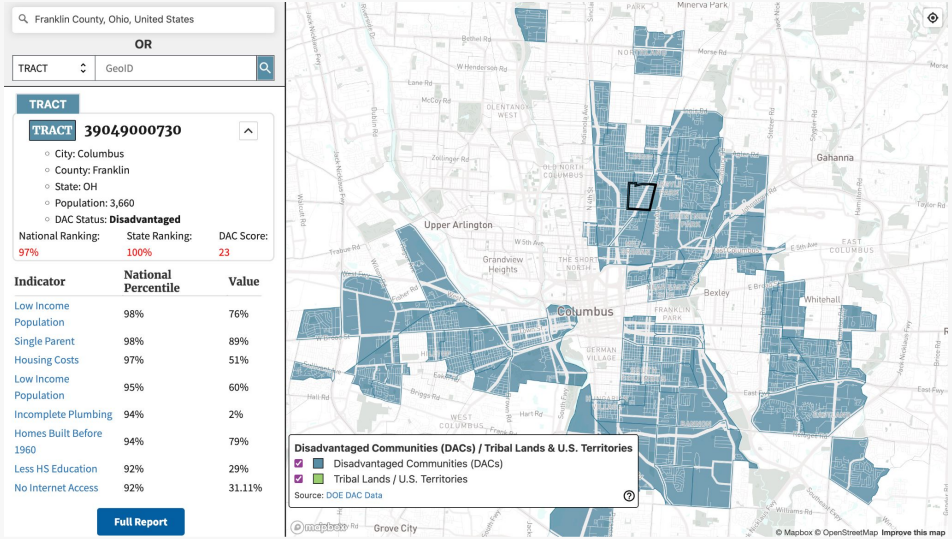
Community Benefits Plan: Justice40 Initiative

In the Justice40 Initiative section, applicants must address the following benefits:

- A decrease in energy burden
- A decrease in environmental exposure and burdens
- An increase in access to low-cost capital
- An increase in quality job creation, the clean energy job pipeline, and job training for individuals
- Increases in clean energy enterprise creation and contracting
- Increases in energy democracy, including community ownership of project assets
- Increased parity in clean energy technology access and adoption
- An increase in energy resilience

Disadvantaged Communities Reporter

- Energy justice mapping tool that further prioritizes CEJST census tracts to identify the ones DOE categorizes as DACs
- DAC scores represent how disadvantaged communities are based on cumulative burden across 36 indicators that reflect:
  - Fossil dependence
  - Energy burden
  - Environmental and climate hazards
  - Socio-economic vulnerabilities



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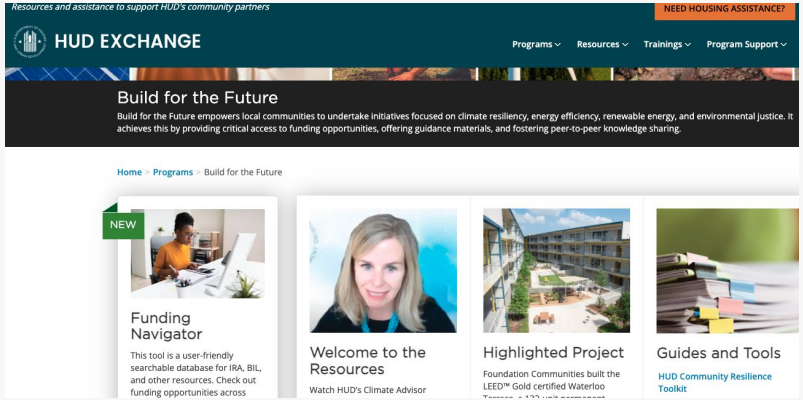
Other Agency Guidance: EPA

- 73 Funding programs identified as impacted by Justice40
- Large new pots of funding included, such as $2 billion in Community Change Grants
- EPA is still creating guidance; opportunities to influence through demonstrations

Other Agency Guidance: HUD

- 24 funding programs covered by Justice40
- History of focusing on low-income housing, lots of resources, and technical assistance
- Build for the Future site includes resources and funding navigator



Gaps and Opportunities to Inform: CEJST Census Tract Improvement

- Opportunity to help the Council on Environmental Quality ground the CEJST in reality and reflect the real experiences of people who live in each census tract
- Areas for providing input:
  - Where census tracts are incorrectly designated or not designated as DACs
  - Data quality issues or missing data for census tracts
  - Other context about the census tract that could impact the CEJST methodology and tract information

Gaps and Opportunities to Inform

- **Where there is ambiguity and opportunity for the Columbus region to inform the administration**
    - Definitions for concepts such as “safety” are not inclusive to all DAC needs. For example, safety improvements could include community investments to create safer environments beyond crashes, resulting in greater access to mobility and improved health and economic vitality, a story that can be told through the narrative
- **Tell inclusive stories where quantitative data is lacking or not enough**
    - This is new territory for many agencies, and ultimately, they want to share the human outcomes as well as the big numbers. Work with communities to share the burdens and impacts with policymakers through personal narratives, story maps, and other qualitative data

Break

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Applying the Justice40 Framework

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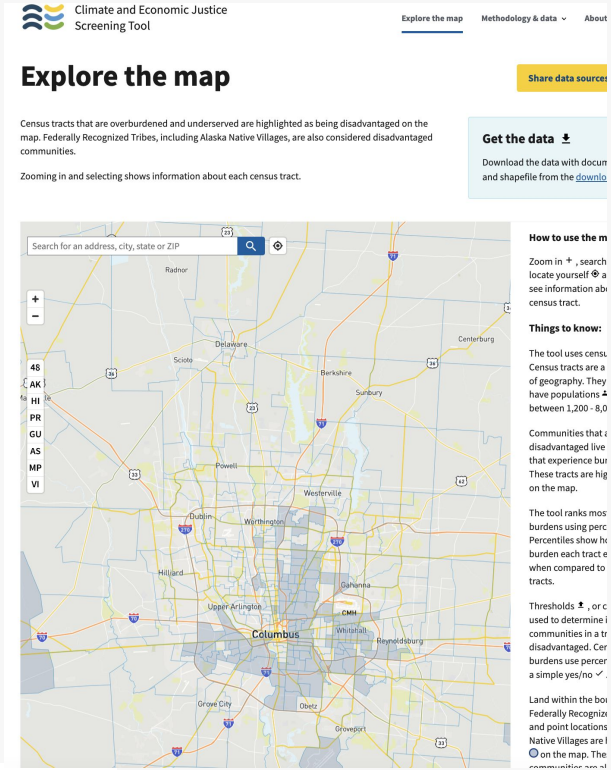
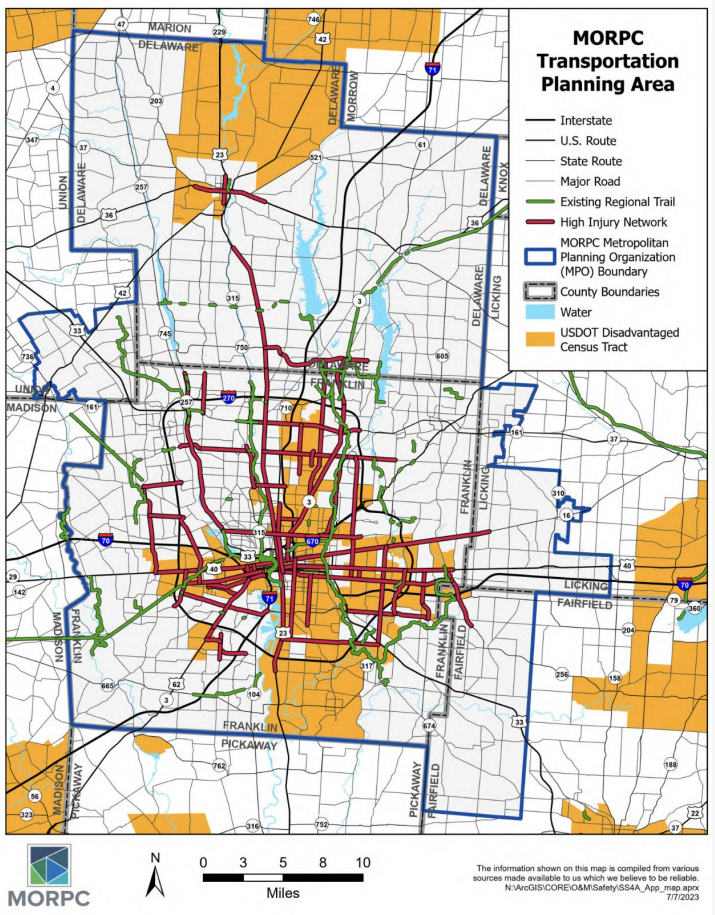
Case Study

- Safe Streets for All Grant Program
  - **US DOT**
- **$1,032,000 request** for a Planning and Demonstration Grant to update MORPC Transportation Safety Action Plan and supplement it with **impactful and measurable** planning and demonstration activities
- Critical need for improved transportation safety in the region, especially for **most vulnerable roadway users and underserved communities.**
- 2012-2021 Central Ohio has seen rise in traffic fatalities. 2013 was the safest year on record, 2021 was the deadliest. **record 153 lives lost in 2021.**
- Plan was developed in **collaboration with local, state, and private sector organizations** with a wide array of expertise on transportation safety in Central Ohio.
- update puts **safety and equity at the center of a shared vision** of zero fatalities on Central Ohio roadways.
- Will be updated in **collaboration with regional public and private stakeholders** and will integrate the latest data
- Innovative technologies that support **transparency and accountability** will be integrated into the plan update

Case Study





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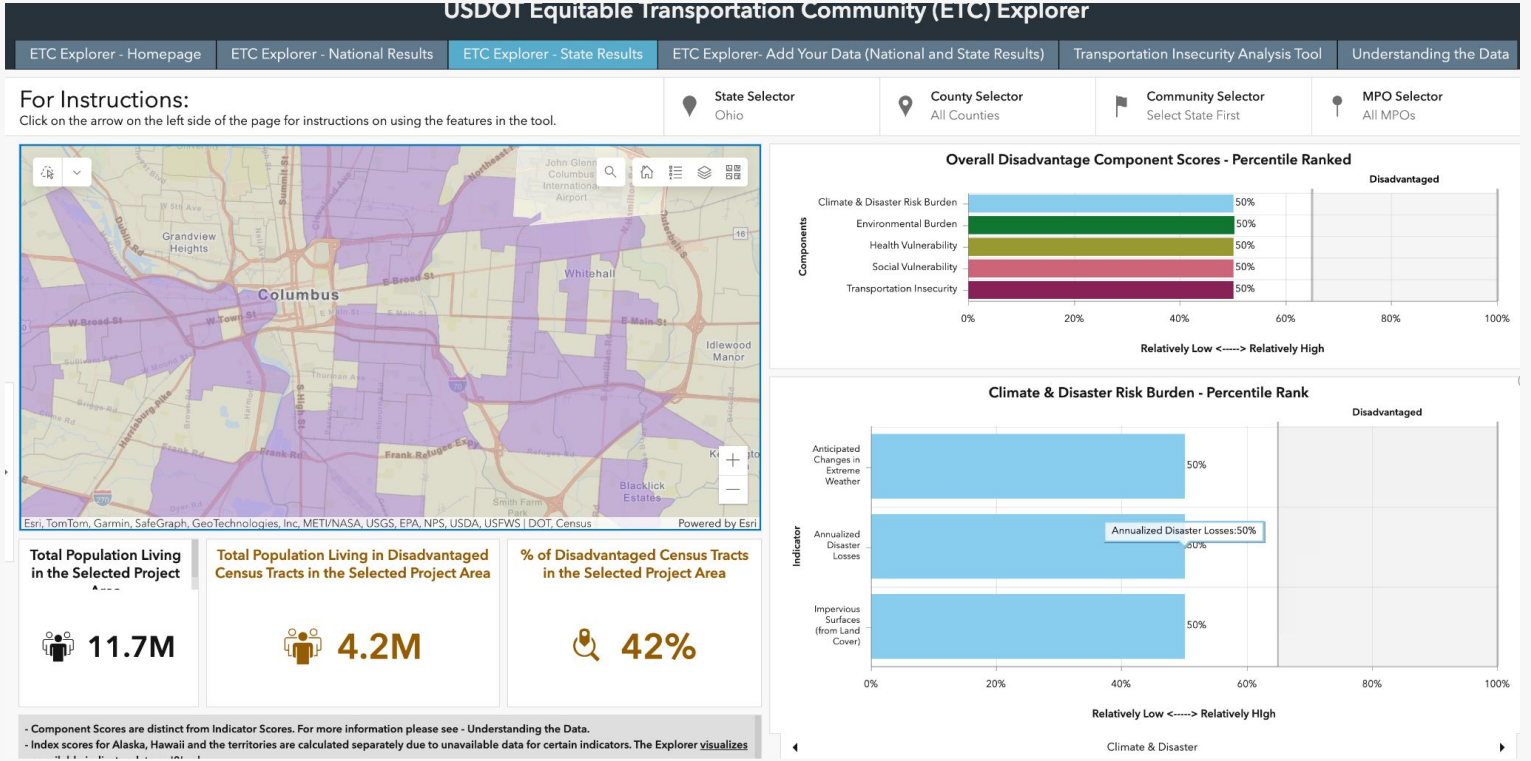
Case Study



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Case Study

- How were impacted communities involved in identifying the issues, needs, and project?
- How will these communities be included in project as it moves forward?
- What partners are involved, and who could be involved
  - Workforce training and creation?
  - Community groups and partners?
- What communities have been most harmed by the current state? How?
- What communities may expect to benefit from the proposal? How?
- Are there more details that can be shared beyond data?
- Are there more benefits to be realized beyond US DOT parameters?

Breakout Activity Instructions

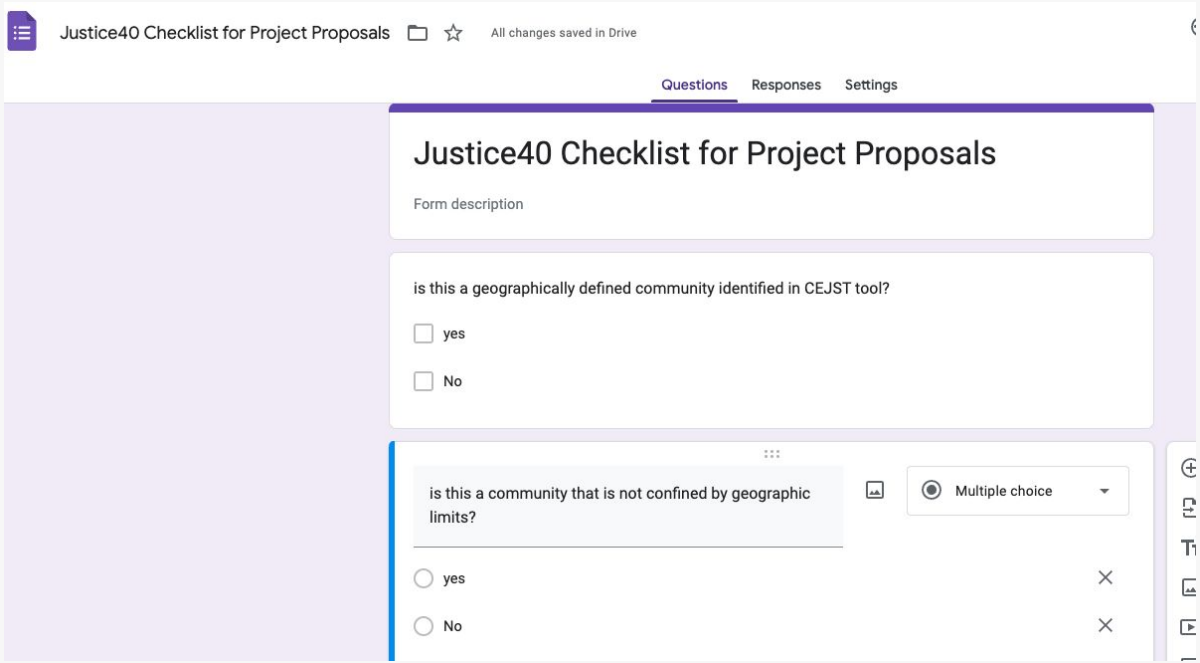
- Pick a report-out representative
- 2 minutes each to present your project
  - What is it?
  - Where is it?
  - What problem are you solving?
  - Who will be impacted? How?
  - How has the community been involved in the project thus far?
  - Based on the list thus far, how would you meet the requirements of the agency you are applying to (DOE, DOT, EPA, etc.)?
- 15 minutes total for a group discussion on how to use the Justice40 framework for
- each project
- 5 minutes total to jot down how you will shift or update your proposal for alignment with Justice40

Report Out and Discussion

Either for a single project you all discussed, or themes that emerged:

- What did you change in your project during this discussion?
- Are there opportunities to expand the project scope, involvement, or benefits for the proposal?
- Are there opportunities to consider other grants and agencies for this project?
- Did the consideration of burdens and benefits change during your discussion?

Justice40 Framework Checklist



Training Recap

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Recap, Learnings, and Next Steps

- Share tools and information with staff and partners
- Consider opportunities to prepare future proposals AND enhance existing proposals
- Deck (with notes) and checklist will be shared
- Survey for how to improve this training will be shared

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Closing Remarks

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Thank You

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