The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s mission is to protect human health and the environment. Historically, people of color have been and continue to be unequally overburdened by environmental hazards and pollution. The proposed budget for the EPA will make it more difficult for communities of color and low income communities to achieve environmental equity. Minnesota, of EPA Region 5, has a population of 5,519,952 with 15% non-white residents and 10% living in poverty. In Minnesota, there are three member organizations that participate in the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum (EJLF) to work on advancing climate justice and policies that promote environmental justice. Indigenous Environmental Network of Congressional District 7 will receive a $4.3K decrease under Trump’s budget, Center for Earth, Energy & Democracy of Congressional District 4 will receive a $1.1M decrease, and Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota of Congressional District 4 will receive a $1.1M decrease.

What does Minnesota have at stake?

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- In 1992, the U.S. EPA’s Office of Environmental Equity was established and later changed to the Office of Environmental Justice to address the inequities in environmental health and decision making opportunities.
- The proposed budget by the Trump Administration would eliminate the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) from the U.S. EPA, meaning there will be no conscious coordination of environmental justice protection in all policies and activities. These efforts would likely be transferred to the Office of Policy. Under the House budget, the program would receive a 15% reduction at $5.728 million.
- The Office of Environmental Justice has developed EJSCREEN, a mapping tool that provides demographic and environmental measures, training and workshops on integrating environmental justice into the work of internal and external stakeholders, and created the framework that includes environmental justice concerns into science and policy research at the EPA.
- EJ 2020, which is EPA’s strategy for addressing environmental justice concerns until 2020, would likely be removed under the proposed budget by the Trump administration.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

- There are 751 hazardous waste sites in Minnesota, which includes both Superfund and brownfield sites.
- While people of color make up only 37% of the U.S. population, 44% of people of color live within one mile and 46% live within three miles of Superfund sites. Residents surrounding Superfund sites are more likely to be low income people of color, which means they often have fewer resources to address the issues impacting their community.
- Communities of color and low income communities are more likely to receive EPA Brownfield grants due to historical factors such as “housing discrimination, residential segregation, and community disinvestment.” Census Block Groups receiving EPA Brownfield funding identified as 20% in poverty and 38% people of color, compared to 12% in poverty and 31% people of color from Census Block Groups nationwide.
- The proposed budget by Trump’s administration would decrease Superfund program funding by 43%. Under the House budget, it would receive a 2% increase.
- The proposed budget by Trump’s administration would reduce Brownfield program funding by 37%, Brownfield Projects State Assistance Grants by 14%, and a Brownfield Categorical Grant funding decrease of 30%. Under the House budget, the Brownfield grant receives $10 million more in funding than 2017 levels.
Low-income communities and communities of color are less likely to have access to clean water.

The proposed budget under the Trump administration would increase the Drinking Water Science and Technology Program by 4%. The proposed budget under the Trump administration would increase the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for Minnesota by .002%.

The proposed budget under the Trump administration would decrease funding of Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research by 36%, the Wetlands program by 14%, Drinking Water Program under Environmental Programs and Management by 19%, Surface Water Protection by 83%, Public Water System Supervision by 30%, and Wetlands Program Development Categorical Grant by 30%.

The proposed budget under the House would keep drinking water and wastewater infrastructure at the same levels as those in 2017.

The proposed budget under the Trump administration would eliminate Water Quality Research and Support Grants, the National Estuary Program, Beach/Fish Programs, Marine Pollution Programs, Nonpoint Source Categorical Grant, and Beaches Protection Categorical Grant.

Great Lakes Restoration Program will be eliminated under the Trump administration’s proposed budget. Mercury, dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are the most common contaminants found in the Great Lakes, which increases the risk of cancer and slowing developmental growth. The St. Louis River is a remaining area of concern. Tribal communities are at the highest risk of contaminant exposure. Under the House budget, the Great Lakes Restoration program will receive 2017 level funding.
LEAD

- Lead is a toxic metal that can cause cardiovascular problems in adults and behavioral and learning problems in children. Lead can be found in fossil fuels and products in the home.
- In 2015, 1,671 Minnesota children age 6 or younger were found to be living with blood lead levels over 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL), higher than what CDC recommends. (Note: Many states under-report and under-test)
- Children of color are more likely to be exposed to high levels of lead, particularly those living in inadequate housing built before 1946.
- The proposed budget by the Trump Administration would eliminate the Categorical Grant for Lead, Toxic Substances: Lead Risk Reduction Program, and Lead Infrastructure State Grants, making it harder to address health disparities.
- The proposed budget by Trump’s administration would increase funding for the Toxic Substances: Chemical Risk Review and Reduction by 11%.

TRIBAL GRANTS

- Tribes receive complimentary funding from EPA to aid in implementation of priorities in environmental and public health.
- Tribal grants are combined with state grants in Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposals, which make it difficult to distinguish how much funding is at risk for tribal communities. Targeted airshed and tribal grants will be eliminated under the proposed budget of the Trump administration. Under the House budget, Targeted Airshed Grants receive $10 million more in funding.
- Lead infrastructure assistance grants and Brownfield projects will be removed under the proposed budget of the Trump administration.
- Tribal resources for the clean water revolving fund and drinking water revolving fund stay at their 2017 levels.