To help fulfill the promise of the Biden administration’s Justice40 initiative, a whole-of-government approach to ensure that 40 percent of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTAC) Program on April 13, 2023, awarding WE ACT for Environmental Justice a grant to operate the EPA Region 2 TCTAC serving New Jersey and New York. Disadvantaged communities and those that serve them often lack the resources needed to access federal funding, and this program was designed to help overcome that challenge.

As one of the 16 virtual centers across the nation, WE ACT’s TCTAC provides technical assistance, training, and related support to nonprofits, municipalities and tribal governments, educational institutions and other entities throughout New Jersey and New York seeking funding for environmental justice projects. WE ACT has partnered with Clean Energy Group, Columbia Climate School, Environmental Protection Network, Inter-American University of Puerto Rico-Metropolitan Campus, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, New York University School of Law Institute for Policy Integrity, and the South Ward Environmental Alliance to provide this service and support free of charge.

Formerly launched on October 30, 2023, WE ACT’s TCTAC is providing training, assistance, and capacity building on writing grant proposals, navigating and applying to grants, and effectively managing grant funding. The center also provides guidance on energy justice and energy projects, building partnerships, engaging with decision makers, and EJ policy and regulatory analysis.

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