

**Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program (EJG2G)
Application Workplan
The City of Fort Worth, Texas**

EPA-R-OEJECR-OCS-23-02

1.0 Program Objectives

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Environmental Issues: Industrial and commercial land use growth has occurred near the intersection of U.S. Highway 287 and Interstate 20. Local residents adjacent to an industrial growth center have expressed environmental justice (EJ) concerns related to current/future land use, environmental impact risks for residential areas, loss of open space and quality of life, in general. Examples of specific environmental concerns presented include possible exposure to diesel emission fumes, toxins and/or particulate matter in air, lead exposure, other contaminants in soils and possible pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Project Abstract: The main objective of this project is to collaborate with stakeholders, utilize robust research methods and active community engagement, through the application of an EJ lens, to develop a strategic plan with specific action items. The plan would be developed within Year 1, subsequent timelines and funding would focus on plan implementation of feasible action items while focusing on building capacity for long-range success. Specific activities would include community education and outreach, stakeholder engagement, data collection/analysis, plan implementation, and evaluation. The main outcome of the project for the specific geographic area of focus is to address community concerns through planning, identification and implementation of avoidance and mitigation strategies. In addition, the project seeks to build community capacity, advocacy, relationships, and trust. Beyond the geographic area of focus, the project is intended to serve as model to address community concerns in other communities. The specific geographic area is bounded by Highway 287, Highway 820, Mansfield Highway and Miller Street in Fort Worth (Ft. Worth), Texas (TX).

Project Type: Research existing public health, land use, transportation and environmental data; collect data through local surveys for area stakeholders to include residents and industry, business owners and operators. Planning and research will help to develop a planning document for action. Based on community conversations, research and survey data, training elements will also be developed to educate stakeholders on advocacy, land use, and environmental topics.

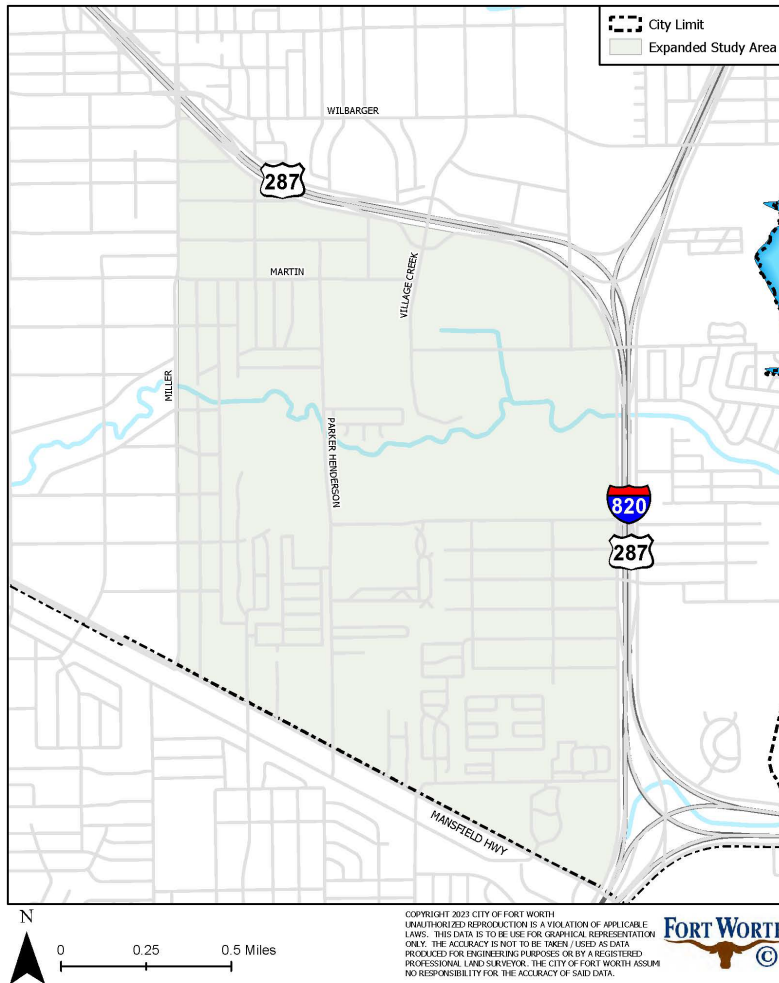
Underserved Communities and Vulnerable Populations: Geographic area of focus within Zip Code 76119 to include the Echo Heights Neighborhood and vicinity, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. Please see Figure 1, below.

Special Considerations: Climate Change, Disaster Resiliency, Health Impact Assessment, Environmental Pollution Assessment, Land Use Assessment, Transportation Assessment.

List of Project Partners: City of Fort Worth (Local Govt.); Community Frontline (Non-Profit/CBO); Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce (COC) (NGO/Institution); Fort Worth Hispanic COC (NGO/Institution); Fort Worth Metropolitan Black COC (NGO/Institution); Southeast Fort Worth Inc. (Business); Sun Valley PID (Business); Texas Christian University – Institute for Environmental Studies (Academic); Tarrant County Public Health (Govt.); and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Govt.).

QAPP Requirements: A Quality Assurance Project Plan will be required for this program if selected based on the QAPP Assessment. If selected an QAPP would be developed and submitted to the EPA prior to initiation of activities.

Figure 1. Geographic Area of Focus
Geographic Area of Focus



Disproportionate Environmental and Public Health Issues Impacting Underserved Communities

The City of Fort Worth, Texas was incorporated in 1873 and is a political subdivision and municipal corporation of the State of Texas. The city covers approximately 359 square miles and is the third fastest growing city in the nation. Situated on the Trinity River, Fort Worth is approximately 75 miles south of the Oklahoma state line and 270 miles northwest of the Gulf of Mexico. During the first half of the 20th century, Fort Worth was known for livestock and food operations, which required stockyards for production and processing. Since World War II, the City of Fort Worth has become known as an aerospace, education, and industry service center.

The geographic area of focus consists of five U.S. Census block groups, which include 484391061011, 484391061021, 484391061022, 484391061023, and 484391061024. Please see Figure 2, below. The total population of the combined census block groups identified within the project area is 5,875 people. The two largest populations, by race, in the geographic area of focus are Black Americans and Hispanic Americans (EPA, 2023 EJ Screening tool). According to the census data, the geographic area of focus presents as an African American/Black and Hispanic neighborhood with low to moderate income and near a designated industrial growth center. An elementary school and Prairie Dog Park serve the neighborhood. There also is an industrial growth center that includes several trucking facilities, garbage collection sites and shipping centers near W.M. Green Elementary School and a city animal shelter (KERA 2022).

According to the EPA, the U. S. Census Bureau's (USCB) American Community Survey (ACS) averages for 2016-2020, there were 2,492 residents in the geographic area of focus that identified as Black Alone. The Black Alone census race category contains the largest group of individuals when compared to all other U. S. census race categories. The Black American residents of the Echo Heights Neighborhood and vicinity represent 42% of the total population within the area of focus. This percentage is significantly higher than the national (12%) and county (17%) averages for Black American populations. Following the Black Alone Category in population size were residents who identified as Hispanic Alone, occupying 40% of the total population in the geographic area of focus. Another 3.3% of the total population in the project area identified as Two or More Races Alone. Lastly, 0.6% of the population identified in the geographic area of focus identified as Other Race Alone. Like national comparisons for Black Americans, Hispanic populations also exceed the national (19%), state (39%), and county (29%) averages. There were no American Indian Alone, Non-Hispanic Asian Alone, or Pacific Islander Alone represented within the geographic area (EPA 2023).

Comments expressed by residents located in the Echo Heights Neighborhood and vicinity living near industrial areas support the need for capacity building to support community leaders and organizations so that they can continue working with the affected residents after the program's outreach and engagement have ended. When socioeconomic variables such as Low Income, Unemployment Rate, Less than High School Education, and Limited English-Speaking Proficiency are averaged between all five block groups, residents that identified as having Limited English-Speaking Proficiency exceeded the national average by 4%, the state average by 2%, and the county average by 3% (EPA 2023).

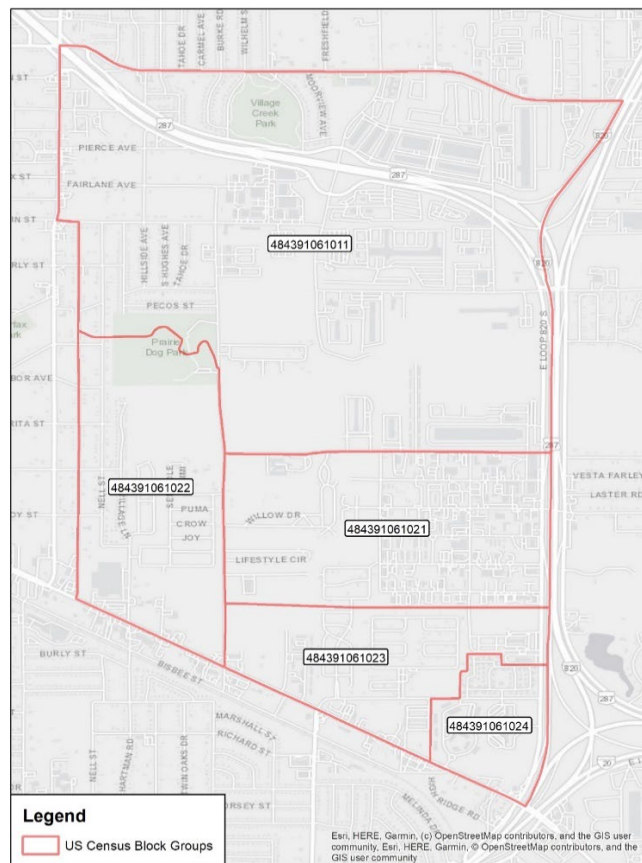
Consistent with the aforementioned socioeconomic variables, 58% of the population residing in the geographic area of focus are low-income individuals. The number of low-income individuals exceed the state averages by 25% and the national averages by 28%. Additionally, the 11% unemployment rate in the geographic area of focus exceed the national, state, and county averages by 6% (EPA 2023).

As reported by Pisello et al., 2017, higher education is often associated with a greater awareness of climate change and may lead to a better understanding of how to mitigate against climate change related hazards such heat islands, which are urban communities that experience higher temperatures than rural areas. In the project area, the number of people with less than high school education exceeded the national average by 14%, the state average by 10%, and the county average

by 12% (EPA 2023). This illustrates the need for community education and training to increase environmental awareness and mitigation techniques against environmental stressors.

The geographic area of focus contains one school, the W.M. Green Elementary School. Industrial facilities are near the school on the east side of the geographic area of focus. There are numerous residential communities located within the geographic area of focus including Redwood Estates Mobile Home Park, Magnolia at Village Creek Apartments and Amelia Park II. According to the 2020 U.S. Census counts, the residential components of the geographic area of focus contain 2,785 housing units of which 143 are vacant. Approximately 65% of the housing units are renter occupied (USCB 2020). There are approximately eleven places of worship located within the boundaries of the geographic area of focus that serve community members of different religious backgrounds and ethnicities, such as Mt. Sinai Community Baptist Church and Open Arms of Love Church. Additionally, Fort Worth Prairie Dog Park is a popular attraction located in the geographic area that is open to the public for recreational activities.

Figure 2. U. S. Census Block Groups in the Geographic Area of Focus



Environmental/Public Health Issues: As noted in Environmental Issues above, residents have expressed concerns regarding environmental impacts. Residents have also expressed concern for negative and historical, health impacts. Public health data demonstrates disparity for some health indicators (e.g., high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.), when compared to Tarrant County and

national averages. Health disparity is perceived by the community to be due in part to industrial land use. Some stakeholder engagement in the community already has taken place and is expected to continue throughout the process. Strong relationships coupled with outreach, advocacy, and collaborations with governments, business partners and education are important to realize solutions for potentially disproportionate adverse public health impacts.

The geographic area of focus is an example of a potential underserved community according to the Biden Administration Justice 40 Initiative with vulnerable, marginalized, and underinvested communities present. Environmental challenges within the vicinity of the geographic area of focus have a direct impact on the members of the community and their daily functions. Some air pollutants can be toxic and inhaling them could increase the chance of heart or lung disease. Historically, marginalized, diverse, and low-income communities, similar to those present in this geographic area, have experienced a disproportionate burden of environmental impacts. As denoted by the EPA, Near-Source Air Pollution includes living near industrial facilities that may lead to an array of negative impacts, such as medical bills from respiratory complications, a reduction in quality of life, and loss of wages during illness. Residents of the area would benefit from community education programs for environmental awareness and mitigation. An initial investigation of the EPA's Pollution and Sources indicators provided by the EPA EJ screening tool shows that the geographic area of focus exceeds state and county averages for the Diesel Particulate Matter, Air Toxics (Respiratory), Air Toxics (Cancer), and RMP Facility Proximity pollution indicators. While the geographic area of focus did not exceed the Diesel Particulate Matter and RMP Facility Proximity national averages, the area did exceed the national averages for Air Toxics (Respiratory) and Air Toxics (Cancer) (EPA 2023).

Communities near commercial and industrial uses with environmental impacts, such as the geographic area of focus, are at a higher risk of incurring adverse health effects including asthma, reduced lung function, and cardiovascular disease. People with low incomes are more likely to live in polluted areas and have unsafe drinking water. Additionally, children and pregnant women are at higher risk of health problems related to environmental impacts (Landrigan, P.J., et al. 2017 and Van Den Hooven, et al. 2011). While the Tarrant County Public Health Division of Epidemiology and Health Information public health data for the 76119-zip code area suggests that public health concerns in the project area may not be due to industrial uses at this time, it is important that appropriate public education, outreach and engagement occur to prevent and mitigate potential future disparate public health impacts in these communities.

Results: The overall goals and outcomes of the grant proposal align with the EPA Justice 40 Initiative and Strategic Plan to promote Sustainable and Livable Communities. The project vision of this grant is to develop a multi-year approach aligned with best practices to build community capacity and promote education and EJ equality for at-risk communities. If awarded this grant, the City of Fort Worth will use the funds to build a collaborative team of city and community stakeholders to interact with this community to define their needs and concerns and developing a planning document that promotes both education and communication and also works to identify, avoid and mitigate, if necessary, potential future environmental impacts. There are two primary goals of this grant:

1. To plan and implement strategies to address quality of life issues in the Echo Heights Neighborhood and vicinity with an EJ focus.
2. To demonstrate a neighborhood-focused project model that can be used in neighborhoods across the city, state, region and nation.

Implementation of this grant proposal will build the capacity of local residents to engage in their own community development processes. Community outreach and engagement initiatives will seek to build trust between the community members and stakeholders and empower local residents of the project area through education and outreach tools to make a real and significant difference in their community, effectively furthering the City of Fort Worth's goals of providing the best available service to its residents.

To affect these changes, public outreach and data collection in the project area are an essential part of the planning document. This is accomplished through surveys and public stakeholder meetings. The collected feedback will define resident's concerns, identify risks, and also highlight details of adaptation and resilience in the community. These activities will help to ensure that the community's interests and resources are identified and documented to support the EJ analysis and to ensure that the community stakeholders are part of the team that develop resolution, avoidance and mitigation strategies.

Once the data is collected, the project team will develop a community-based planning document and a list of actions to support the project area's EJ needs and health impact concerns. Actionable items may include community education, public training, environmental sampling, and building the capacity of community organizations to continue the programs after the grant project concludes.

Outcomes of the proposed community plan include:

- A document detailing action items to help address EJ concerns within the geographic area of focus with specific consideration given to current/future land use, potential environmental impact risks to residential areas, loss of open space, and quality of life.
- Ongoing communication and outreach to the geographic area of focus, which include residents in underserved communities that may be currently at risk of experiencing disproportionate impacts associated with future land development.
- Reduction of risk and/or perception of risks for environmental impacts through education, outreach, evaluation, and/or remediation activities which may include use of zero-emission technologies, as appropriate.
- Increased confidence and quality of life through positive changes, built-in neighborhood capacity, community resources, communications and strong relationships.

This grant builds on the foundation of community partnerships and supports the development and growth of community-led organizations. After implementing research and planning activities identified during the planning stages, the remaining budget will be allocated to implement feasible community projects such as: creating or improving open space, qualified community improvements; qualified quality of life enhancements; small-scale construction projects; on-going

public education, outreach and engagement; on-going monitoring, as needed; access to resources and support; other project-related costs with EPA grant oversight approval.

Recent Efforts of the City of Fort Worth to Directly Support Underserved Communities: To address environmental, safety and health concerns associated with the community infrastructure and quality of life, the City of Fort Worth has updated a Strategic Plan to include east of Interstate 35 in the City of Fort Worth as the Number 1 area in the city with the greatest need for economic development and the Number 2 area with the greatest economic potential. The city has positioned itself for equitable real estate development by funding catalyst projects in the historically underserved areas and providing foundational infrastructure in new growth centers through external funding, city resources, and private sector engagement. The city has focused on key commercial corridors that need revitalizing while maintaining the preservation of historical and cultural assets by redeveloping preexisting sites. Of the city's 11 identified areas of focus, 4 are near the project area: East Lancaster (3 miles north), East Berry (1 mile north), Polytechnic Heights (2 miles northwest), and Stop Six (2 miles north) (BA, 2023).

Additionally, recent development work on the East Lancaster Corridor is proving to have a positive impact. A youth library opened in 2021, plans are in place to develop a 66-unit affordable housing complex for seniors, and East Lancaster Avenue was selected by Trinity Metro as the pioneering segment of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor for Fort Worth. The city is currently working on a proposal for the East Berry Corridor to redevelop East Berry Street using Tax Increment Funding (TIF).

The city also is working with the Fort Worth Housing Solutions to redevelop the Butler Place priority site and plans to create a mixed-use development with residential, commercial, and educational facilities, including a potential amphitheater. Direct sale paperwork for the purchase of the R. Vickery School priority site, which will become to the graduate chapter of Beta Tau Lambda, has been submitted. This African American fraternity's mission is to focus young men in "community leadership, civic engagement, and forward-thinking citizenry with valor and tenacity to the fraternal aims of Manly Deeds, Scholarship, and Love for All Mankind."

These revitalization efforts in areas east of Interstate 35, further supported by activities funded through this grant, all work together to help promote community revitalization which includes efforts to address the project area's environmental, public health, and economic concerns expressed by residents.

How the residents of the Project Area were part of the decision-making process: To advocate for long-range planning and future land use considerations, residents of the project area joined with others to form a community group recognized as the Echo Heights / Stop Six Environmental Coalition. On February 21, 2023, efforts were made by the City Council and city staff to arrange a meeting with the coalition to discuss the city's comprehensive planning process and how the coalition and all residents can play a role in environmental awareness and community development. It was also suggested that staff discuss zoning applications, development/land use planning and the public input process for zoning and land use applications.

During the February 21, 2023, City Council public presentations, residents discussed land use impacts and development from an EJ perspective for the Echo Heights Neighborhood and vicinity. The city's staff have worked to establish and maintain good working relationships with all individuals of the community and to collaborate on issues during meetings.

On March 10, 2023, the city staff met with representatives from the Echo Heights Neighborhood and other organizations to listen to concerns for current land use planning, environmental and public health concerns, and quality of life concerns. Following the meeting, the City of Fort Worth also met with the Fort Worth NAACP staff to discuss concerns expressed by the community on March 13, 2023. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss strengthening communities and community resiliency. Examples for ideas across a wide range included: green schools, access to healthy foods, community gardens, community safety and policy, energy management, the beautification of green spaces, and green energy.

Since March 13, 2023, staff have worked to explore alternatives to aid in building the capacity to support the project area with resources and services. One of the many avenues to explore is the EJG2G Grant for dedicated funding for three (3) years to support plan development and action item implementation, where possible and feasible. On March 21, 2023, city staff completed a two-hour field visit to the Echo Heights neighborhood and vicinity and spoke with residents. That evening, City Council excluded future land use items during the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023 Comprehensive Plan Update for 30 days.

The examples mentioned above demonstrate that the City of Fort Worth has taken numerous steps to include members of the community in the decision-making process as well as supplying the tools and resources needed for communities to address expressed public health and environmental impacts. The examples include survey/questionnaires, public meetings, facilitated listening sessions, field tours, and maintaining open lines of communication.

Project Linkages: The overall outcome of this grant proposal aligns with multiple goals and objectives set forth by the EPA's Strategic Plan, to protect human health and the environment by using the science of survey research to develop meaningful plans that advance justice and equity. This grant proposal seeks to address environmental concerns on the local level in a way that promotes EJ and in a manner that promotes equity. This can be accomplished by providing training for leaders of local environmental coalitions and groups to strengthen their community and to promote EJ, which is consistent with Goal 1- Objective 1.3 of the FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic plan.

The City of Fort Worth plans to develop educational collaterals for information sharing sessions, outreach, and technical assistance events as a part of this project. Aside from facilitated listening sessions, the community seeks to promote advocacy at the community level by engaging in research and development activities to gain an understating of the perceptions and concerns of residents in the geographic area of focus This is line with Goal 2- Objectives 2.1 and 2.3 of the EPA Strategic Plan.

As previously mentioned, community members have concerns about possible environmental impacts. Therefore, in accordance with Goal 3- Objective 3.1 and 3.2 of the EPA strategic Plan,

the city and project partners seek to address not only their concerns about adverse health effects from potential environmental impacts, but also any EJ concerns that may arise which may include survey research methods and facilitated conversations with industrial and community stakeholders to identify any potential environmental concerns, in support of Goals 4 and 5 of the EPA Strategic Plan.

List of Partners	
City of Fort Worth https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Development and Implementation • Measures and Grant Administration • Outreach and engagement • Implementation of priority plan activities
(CBO) Community Frontline https://communityfrontline.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a framework to prioritize issues of disadvantaged communities • Developing a selection criterion for environmental health projects • Determining community leaders in the decision-making processes • Implementation of the proposed projects for funding
Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce https://www.fortworthchamber.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support review and analysis of business growth and land use • Provide industry perspective for addressing environmental issues • Serve as leading business/industry representation partner • Promote community inclusion through Chamber members
Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce https://fwhcc.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support review and analysis of Hispanic business growth and land use • Serve as leading Hispanic business/industry representation partner • Promote community inclusion through Hispanic Chamber members • Provide Hispanics the industry lens for addressing environmental issues
Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce https://fwmbcc.org/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support review and analysis of minority business growth and land use • Provide minorities industry lens for addressing environmental issues • Serve as leading minority industry representation for partners • Promote community inclusion through FWBCC members
Southeast Fort Worth, Inc. http://www.southeastfw.com/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support review and analysis of city-regional business growth and land use • Provide city-regional industry lens for collaboration • Serve as leading regional business/industry representation for partners • Promote community inclusion through development planning
Sun Valley PID https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/econdev/pid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support review and analysis of project area • Provide a project area-specific business/industry lens • Serve as leading business/industry representation for partners • Promote community inclusion through Sun Valley PID members
Texas Christian University https://environment.tcu.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support review and analysis of data • Provide technical guidance for addressing environmental issues • Serve as leading academic partner • Promote community inclusion through academic partnership
Tarrant County Public Health tarrantcountytx.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide available public health data • Provide technical guidance and known resources • Serve as leading technical advisor on project team • Serve as technical advisor on community health equity and inclusion.

<p>Tarrant County Environmental Quality https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/compliance/environmental-quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide available environmental data • Provide technical guidance and known resources • Serve as technical advisor for environmental equity and inclusion. • Serve as leading technical advisor on project team to
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After examining the challenges, the partners plan to develop actionable items to address identified environmental impacts and to help communities thrive. The project partnership also seeks to employ initiatives in the project area to help in the protection of human health while building a vibrant community. The community will also take action to reduce waste and to prevent environmental contamination by supporting sustainable materials management practices and sharing information during educational outreach events and trainings. Additionally, the city is prepared for and responds to environmental emergencies that may arise throughout the community and within the project area. These actionable items are consistent with Goal 6- Objectives 6.1 and 6.3 of the EPA Strategic Plan. To support the objectives outlined in Goal 7 of the FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan, the city promotes pollution prevention by leveraging partnerships, and coordinating with government agencies and community leaders. The City of Fort Worth also seeks to support pollution prevention (P2) in the project area by educating the public on increasing energy use efficiency through implementing energy conservation practices.

Partner and Collaborate: Thriving partnerships have been vital to the success of Fort Worth’s EJ initiatives. Past partnerships with educational institutions, municipalities, and local organizations have paved the way for the city to efficiently support EJ initiatives. The capacity to influence resources while retaining deep partnerships offers collaborators assurance and stability. As told by the EPA, protecting natural resources requires a diverse group of partners to participate in the assessment and protection process. By providing clear, two-way communication and remaining transparent, the City of Fort Worth will continue to work to instill trust with the partners and collaborators during EJ efforts in the project area and throughout the community. Additionally, recurring city and stakeholder meetings with the public ensures that open lines of communication are maintained for further collaborations. A list of partners identified for this collaborative team is provided below. Please note that the City of Fort Worth’s intentions are to enter into a partnership agreement with the CBO, Community Frontline, through the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or similar agreement upon grant award. This agreement will detail the grant subaward that will be provided to Community Frontline for qualifying, environmentally-focused, community improvement-related activities.

2.0 Project Activities, Milestone Schedule, & Detailed Budget Narrative

Project Activities: As described in the following table, phase one of the project will be used to collect data from existing sources, gather community feedback, and offer education, engagement and outreach with stakeholders. The results of Phase 1 are to provide continuing clarity to the community and to inform focused plan development with distinct action items. Phase 1 will be completed within Year 1. Phase 2 will focus on plan implementation where possible and feasible. The expected communication activities include education and outreach; the development of communication pathways; continuing communication with neighborhood advocacy groups;

producing education materials and campaigns and coordinating efforts with business and industry partners. Plan implementation could begin as early as Year 1 and will continue into Year 2 and 3. Specific action items are intentionally not defined to allow for a collaborative, community-centric process where stakeholders and city staff define qualified action items. City staff believe that specific action items could include the following: local environmental sampling; small area cleanup projects; improvements to public areas; qualified improvements and cleanup at homes and yards, in particular for the sick, elderly, and in need populations; repairs or improvements to local parks, streets, lighting, sidewalks; and providing safe routes to schools. Health related activities include improved access to healthcare, health interventions, health fairs, providing access to community health workers, etc. There is a wide range of concepts which create or improve open space, improve communities, and enhance quality of life. Again, staff anticipate small-scale construction projects; on-going public education, outreach and engagement; ongoing monitoring, as needed; access to resources and general community support. All project-related costs assume EPA grant oversight approval.

Project Activities and Milestone Schedule	
Phase 1	
Project Implementation:	Review data, research, surveys, assemble stakeholder group, community feedback which may include outside facilitation of community engagement. Phase 1 will conduct research that is incidental to the project design and engage in community revitalization planning that addresses local environmental impacts and open space. Facilitate outreach of disadvantaged communities in State advisory groups, workshops and rulemakings and other public processes.
Anticipated Project Schedule:	Year 1: During Notice Phase: Organize partners/stakeholders/schedule of meetings, consider outside resources and material procurement for planning phase. Y1 (Starting Dec. 1, 2023) Plan: Q1 Public Kickoff Meeting/Research/Organize Steering Committee, Q2 Meeting/Feedback/Survey, Q3: Meeting/Review/Engage, Q4: Draft Plan Review, Meet, Finalize.
Milestones:	Collect data, assemble stakeholders, conduct meetings, implement minimum 4-6 project activities.
Outcome:	A document detailing action items to help address EJ within the geographic area of focus with specific consideration given to current/future land use, environmental impact risks for residential areas, loss of open space and quality of life.
Phase 2	
Project Implementation:	Build capacity through consistent meetings and implement tasks within plan which may include public education and EJ partnership building that engages disadvantaged communities in Local, State and Federal public processes, such as advisory groups, workshops, and Rulemakings.
Anticipated Project Schedule:	Year 2 and Year 3: Q1-4 – staff assume 2-4 tasks per quarter completed, and quarterly meetings.
Milestones:	Collect data, assemble stakeholders, conduct meetings, implement minimum 4-6 project activities in Year 2 and 4-6 project activities in Year

	3. Tasks may include: specific, time-bound, environmental monitoring; small clean-ups; and other activities identified by the stakeholder’s and city staff. If awarded, regular collaboration with EPA grants coordinator will be incorporated.
Outcome:	<p>Ongoing communication to the geographic area of focus which include residents in underserved communities which may result in measurable risk reduction in a specific media and communities’ participation directly in that potential risk reduction.</p> <p>Reduction of risk and/or perception of risks for environmental impacts through education, outreach, evaluation, and/or remediation activities which may include use of zero-emission technologies, as appropriate.</p> <p>Increased confidence and quality of life through positive changes, built-in neighborhood capacity, community resources, communications and strong relationships.</p>

Itemized Budget: As listed in Attachment C, the anticipated cost estimates for this project are expected at \$1,000,000. If awarded, funds would be used to build neighborhood and community group capacity, to research specific land use and EJ issues and to collaborate with all stakeholders for plan development within Year 1. Year 2 and Year 3 will focus on implementation of feasible community projects and subsequent reporting of activities. Planned subaward to the CBO, Community Frontline, will be tentatively be distributed across the three (3) program years and total an anticipated \$200,000. Please refer to *Attachment C: Itemized Budget Sheet* for additional details on planned budget.

3.0 Environmental Results – Outcomes, Outputs and Performance Measures

Environmental Results- Outputs/Outcomes: Details of the proposed grant actions are reflected in the logic model (Attachment D). As shown in the logic model, Year 1 focuses on securing neighborhood capacity and implementing key plan elements. Year 1 will consist of research, data collection, assembling stakeholder group, and acquiring community feedback. The City of Fort Worth and partners plan to offer education on EJ, land use, zoning, public process, and public health. During Year 2 and Year 3, community capacity will be strengthened through consistent meetings and implementation of tasks within the plan. The city and partners also seek to incorporate training elements to educate on advocacy, land use and environmental topics. Action items will vary, but will focus on improving open space, qualified community improvements, qualified quality of life enhancements and small-scaled construction projects, where possible/feasible.

Performance Measurement Plan: As illustrated in the logic model above, the performance of the project can be quantified based on the number of assessments performed, local partnerships created, tools and programs produced, and the number of homes, residences and communities reached. The performance measurements are expected to more specific and tailored to the community as the assessments are conducted and partnerships formed.

Sustainability Plan and Environmental Justice Integration: This grant aligns with the City of Fort Worth Mission, Vision, Comprehensive Plan, Council Strategies, Environmental Master Plan, Diversity & Inclusion Department Goals and Neighborhood Services Goals. This grant aligns with other state entities such as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Tarrant County Public Health Department. Concepts, experience, tools and programs are expected to be carried forward to other EJ grants and programs.

4.0 Programmatic Capability

Organizational Experience: The City of Fort Worth has robust experience as an organization to manage projects of this nature. Three relevant examples are included below:

- The city's Neighborhood Improvement Strategy is one example of a local program aimed at using data and neighborhood stakeholder collaboration to make communities more vital and promote high quality of life. The Stop Six/Caville Area was selected as the first Neighborhood Improvement Strategy project area. As one example of neighborhood-focused programming, a City of Fort Worth 2017 Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) strategy was funded by City Council to improve neighborhood quality of life in neighborhoods. Learn more about this program, here: <https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/neighborhoods/improvements>
- The City of Fort Worth's Diversity and Inclusion Department promotes the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access as they apply to the City's employee and labor relations, its provision of municipal services and capital investments, and the quality of life that all Fort Worth residents experience. The department fulfills this mission by enforcing civil rights laws as they pertain to fair housing, fair employment, and equal access to public accommodations; by raising public awareness of Fort Worth's diverse cultures and their contributions to the community's social and economic vitality; by fostering harmonious human relations among Fort Worth residents; and by coordinating efforts to eliminate racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in criminal justice, economic development, education, governance, health, housing, and transportation as identified in the 2018 final report of the Task Force on Race and Culture.
- Fort Worth's Brownfields Program aims to decrease blight, remove environmental contamination and reinvigorate redevelopment in the community. By definition, a brownfield is an abandoned or underused building-structure or vacant land that has real or perceived environmental contamination which prevents redevelopment. Since 1995, the Environmental Protection Agency has awarded millions of dollars to local governments to enhance local brownfields programs throughout the country. This program helps developers clean up and redevelop contaminated properties to support reuse. Using grants and low-interest loans, the Fort Worth Brownfields Program may be able to assist clients with technical guidance and resources to offset costs for brownfields cleanup activities.

Staff Experience / Qualifications of Project Manager (PM): The City of Fort Worth's project team will include lead staff from Diversity & Inclusion, Planning & Data Analytics and Code Compliance (Environmental Health Services) Departments. Additional city departments will also

be utilized during the project term to include Economic Development, Neighborhood Services, Financial Management Services, and Communication & Public Engagement. Lead project staff will be responsible for implementing this project, and all leads provide proven and qualified expertise to include community engagement, land use planning, EJ, environmental impact control, development initiatives, community health and outreach. Key project staff include the following:

The Project Manager for this project is Mr. Daniel Miracle. He will be responsible for the day-to-day activities, and oversee research and field operations for this program. Mr. Miracle serves as a Senior Environmental Specialist / Brownfields Program Coordinator for the City of Fort Worth. Prior to joining the City of Fort Worth in early 2023, he served as an environmental consultant and project manager for 24 years. Mr. Miracle possesses a Texas Professional Geoscientists license. In his new capacity at the City of Fort Worth, he will oversee sites assessment and cleanup management, related public meetings, brownfields inventory, grants management, and related communications and outreach. His experience and expertise make him an ideal candidate for the Project Manager position with this grant and overall project.

Project leads were intentionally selected to cover three critical areas for success: diversity & inclusion, urban planning and environmental health services. Ms. Christina Brooks serves as Chief Equity Officer and Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the City of Fort Worth. Ms. Brooks has over 20 years of experience and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science & History, as well as a master's degree in Nonprofit Administration. She is a certified Master Compliance Administrator and most recently served as the Diversity and Inclusion Officer charged with creating the Mayor Pete Buttigieg Office of Diversity and Inclusion in South Bend, Indiana, before joining the City of Fort Worth in 2019. Mr. Eric Fladager serves as an Assistant Director of Planning & Data Analytics for the City of Fort Worth. Mr. Fladager has over 25 years of planning and local government experience and holds a bachelor's degree in Economics as well as a master's degree in Regional Planning. Mr. Fladager is certified through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and is accredited through the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU-A). Dr. Cody Whittenburg serves as an Assistant Code Compliance Director overseeing Environmental Health Services for the City of Fort Worth. Dr. Whittenburg has over 15 years of relevant experience and holds bachelor and graduate-level degrees in Environmental Science and Civil/Environmental Engineering. Dr. Whittenburg is a National Board-Certified Health and Wellness Coach through the National Board of Medical Examiners and a Sustainability Excellence Associate through the International Society of Sustainability Professionals. This project leadership team is committed to the success of the project goals and will ensure that EPA officials, City of Fort Worth City Manager's Office, Mayor and City Council are informed of project status and successes throughout the project term.

In addition, the City of Fort Worth has a robust grants oversight program spearheaded by the Financial Management Services (FMS) Department. Senior Accountants, led by the FMS Grants and Quality Assurance Manager will provide financial oversight for the grant and assist department staff with management. Ms. Catherine Perry serves as a Financial Services Manager in the City of Fort Worth and oversees the Grants Accounting Team. With over 20 years of professional accounting experience and a Bachelor of Business Administration, Ms. Perry and her team will carefully oversee accounting, financial reporting and administration of grant funds. Ms. Veronica Villegas, Municipal Equity Division Manager for Diversity and Inclusion, will serve as the primary

grant manager for this program. She will be directly supported by Diversity and Inclusion's Senior Grant's Accountant, Joy Egbuta. The project lead staff and the grants accounting team have a combined successful and extensive background with managing grant projects and finances which support future success.

For this project, the City of Fort Worth welcomes community-based organization (CBO), Community Frontline as a subaward recipient and partner for this program. Mr. Dante Williams serves as the President and Co-Founder of the Fort Worth-based 501(c)(3). Community Frontline was formed by a group of friends in 2016 in the aftermath of a violent summer that included the murders of Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, and other unarmed Black men, as well as five Dallas police officers. Community Frontline desired to be a part of the solution and to initiate a long-term commitment to racial justice and healing. The organization focuses on four pillars: racial justice and solidarity, police/community relations and accountability, mentoring and education, and community beautification and development; to be a part of the solution and to initiate a long-term commitment to racial justice and healing. As an established, community focused organization; Community Frontline serves as an excellent partner to improve relationships and instill trust in the program's capabilities. Learn more about Community Frontline, here: <https://communityfrontline.com/>.

Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds: As awarded, the City of Fort Worth EJG2G grant will follow the City of Fort Worth Department of Finance Grants Management Policy (the Policy). The Policy defines best practices and provides the guiding principles for grant management, including the application, approval, set up, management, accounting, and reporting of grant activity performed by the City. The Policy establishes controls to maintain and enforce a system of operational procedures in accordance with industry best practices and internal control objectives. These controls address the operational nature of the processes associated with grant management.

5.0 Past Performance

Past Performance: The City of Fort Worth has implemented several community improvement strategies and projects via various city collaborations, grants and community partners. With reference to Organizational Experience, above, past performance suggests consistent success and results can be expected with the proposed EJG2G project. Examples include: (1) community improvement strategies within the Ash Crescent Improvement Project where the City set aside funds to improve neighborhood vitality and to give residents paths to build neighborhood capacity. (2) The Northside Area Neighborhood Improvement Project which highlights public safety with infrastructural improvements, such as sidewalk repairs and private investment in underserved neighborhoods. (3) Projects in the Northside Area Neighborhood include rehabilitating local streets, sidewalk improvements (4) The City of Fort Worth has been awarded several brownfield grants with the three most recent being the following: 2004 Brownfields Assessment Grant (\$400,000); 2010 Brownfields Assessment Grant (\$400,000); and a 2020 Brownfields Assessment Grant (\$300,000).

Past Performance Reporting: The City of Fort Worth has an excellent record of meeting reporting requirements for funded assistance agreements. The Government Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for excellence in Financial Reporting to the city for its Annual County Financial reports for twelve consecutive

years in a row. The city receives grants each year and is diligent with responsible management. For reference, the city has promptly submitted Federal Financial Reports Annually to EPA Finance Center.