**Funding Needs Template**

*American Rescue Plan $50 M Supplemental Funding*

1. **Title of Proposal:** Advancing Metrics for Assessing Climate Vulnerabilities in EJ Communities
2. **Lead NPM:** Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
3. **Supporting NPM(s)/Region(s):** EPA Regional Office(s) associated with selected State/local/tribal air agency
4. **Funding Range (specify need for new FTE where appropriate)**
   1. Minimum Funding Needed *(smallest amount that could achieve progress):* $150K
   2. Maximum Funding Needed *(largest amount proposed within the $50 M available):* $300K
5. **Proposal Description:** *Provide a summary of the proposal and activities to be supported with proposed funding. Include how the proposal advances environmental justice priorities and assists EJ communities. Include range of work under the minimum and maximum funding proposed.*

Communities with EJ concerns are especially vulnerable to climate change impacts and adverse health effects from pollution exposures. Addressing these vulnerabilities requires analytic methods that characterize relevant climate and EJ metrics and their interaction at the scales of relevance to the community. However, climate and EJ metrics are often developed for different purposes and are hard to integrate due to their different spatial and temporal scales. The development and analysis of climate data layers of relevance to EJ communities is needed to comprehensively characterize and address the compounding vulnerabilities of these communities.

In this project, we propose to

1. Collect existing climate data layers of relevance to EJ concerns and also develop new data layers of importance (e.g., wildfire smoke and projected climate variables),
2. Incorporate these layers into appropriate screening tools (e.g., NEXUS and EJSCREEN) and add functionality for analyzing the data layers, and
3. In coordination with EPA Regions and state/local/tribal air agencies, select 2 to 3 areas to apply the tools and identify vulnerable communities, perform analyses to quantitatively characterize the climate, air pollution, and EJ issues, and synthesize results for stakeholders and communities.

Under minimum funding, we would largely rely on existing climate data layers and developing tool capabilities for overlaying and analyzing the layers. Under maximum funding, we would additionally develop a suite of climate data layers using air quality modeling (e.g., wildland fires) and consider a broader range of metrics and data sources.

1. **Linkage to Existing Programs:** *Describe how this proposal is related to existing efforts or activities and current authorities. Include information on potential leveraging of EPA or other resources.*

OAQPS and EPA Regional offices currently work with state/local/tribal air agencies in implementing NAAQS across the nation. The proposed work allows current air quality planning efforts to better connect with underlying EJ issues within selected areas with technical information that can assist in identifying more robust control strategies as part of SIPs, TIPs, and Advance area plans for O3, PM2.5, SO2, etc.

1. **Outcomes and Tracking Performance:** *Describe how progress will be measured. Are there existing performance measures that would be used? What outcomes would be accomplished with the proposed funding and how will they be measured and reported?*

This project will incorporate data into existing screening tools and add functionality for analyzing climate and EJ related data layers. Progress will be measured by the delivery of an updated screening tool with the new functionality and data layers for use by selected areas. Results will be synthesized and provided to the relevant stakeholders and communities for purposes of considering appropriate control strategies as part of ongoing air quality planning efforts.

1. **Budget Details:** *Provide the appropriation and program project where funds are proposed.*