

February 2, 2024



Calumet Stormwater Collaborative

We will begin shortly!

February 2, 2024



Calumet Stormwater Collaborative

Sheila Sutton
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- **Welcome + Member Updates**
- **Overview of 2024 meeting schedule**
- **Call for Presentations and Hosting**
- **Discussion of 2024 Funding Opportunities**
- **GSI Maintenance Presentation**
- **Closeout**

Introductions

- **In chat box, type:**
 - Name
 - Organization
 - Projects you are excited about working on this year (5 words or less)

Member Updates

- **If you are in-person**
 - **raise your hand and we add you to the stack**
- **If you are online**
 - **type “update” in the chat box**
- **I will call on people**
 - *Unmute!*
 - *Webcam on, please*

Calumet Stormwater Collaborative 2024

MEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE

- July 12, 2024 - 10am to 11:30am
- September 13, 2024 - 10am to 11:30am
- November 8, 2024 - 10am to 11:30am

BRAINSTORM PROJECTS & SITES FOR MEETINGS

- Are there any projects that a CSC meeting could be paired with for an onsite meeting?
- Do you want to be a host?
- Do you have any projects or reports that might be available for presentation for any of the remaining dates?

Group Discussion

How can CSC members best activate the EPA's Community Change Grants Opportunity?

Kate Evasic

Chicago Metropolitan Planning Agency

&

Pearl May

Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.

EPA's Community Change Grants

NOFO open now through Nov 2024

How much? \$2 billion

Who is eligible?

Community-based organizations in partnership with:

- Other community-based organizations
- Local governments
- Institutes of higher education

To learn more:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

Informational video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2xy4XZ5Oks>

What can it fund?

- Climate resiliency and adaptation
- Mitigating climate and health risks from extreme heat
- Community-led air, water, and waste pollution monitoring, prevention, and remediation
- Investments in low- and zero-emission and resilient technologies
- Workforce development that supports the reduction of GHG emissions and air pollutants
- Reducing indoor toxics and air pollution
- Engaging disadvantaged communities in government processes

EPA Equitable Recovery & Resilience Assistance
Now Known As
Community Change Equitable Resilience TA

Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-equitable-resilience-technical-assistance>

- Up to \$200 million program
- Intended for disaster-prone and disadvantaged communities
- Design assistance, community engagement, and partnership development that result in climate resilience projects eligible for [Community Change Grant](#) funding
- 50 projects completed by fall 2024

Goals of Each Technical Assistance Project

Help disadvantaged communities produce climate resilience and environmental justice projects and supportive partnerships eligible for Community Change Grant funding.

What This Project will offer

- Design and project development assistance
- Community engagement
- Partnership development charrettes

What This Project Will Not Offer

- Consultants will not be providing stamped drawings.
- Consultants will not be submitting grant proposals.
- Consultants will not be implementing the designs under this contract.
- Consultants will not be providing funding for construction.

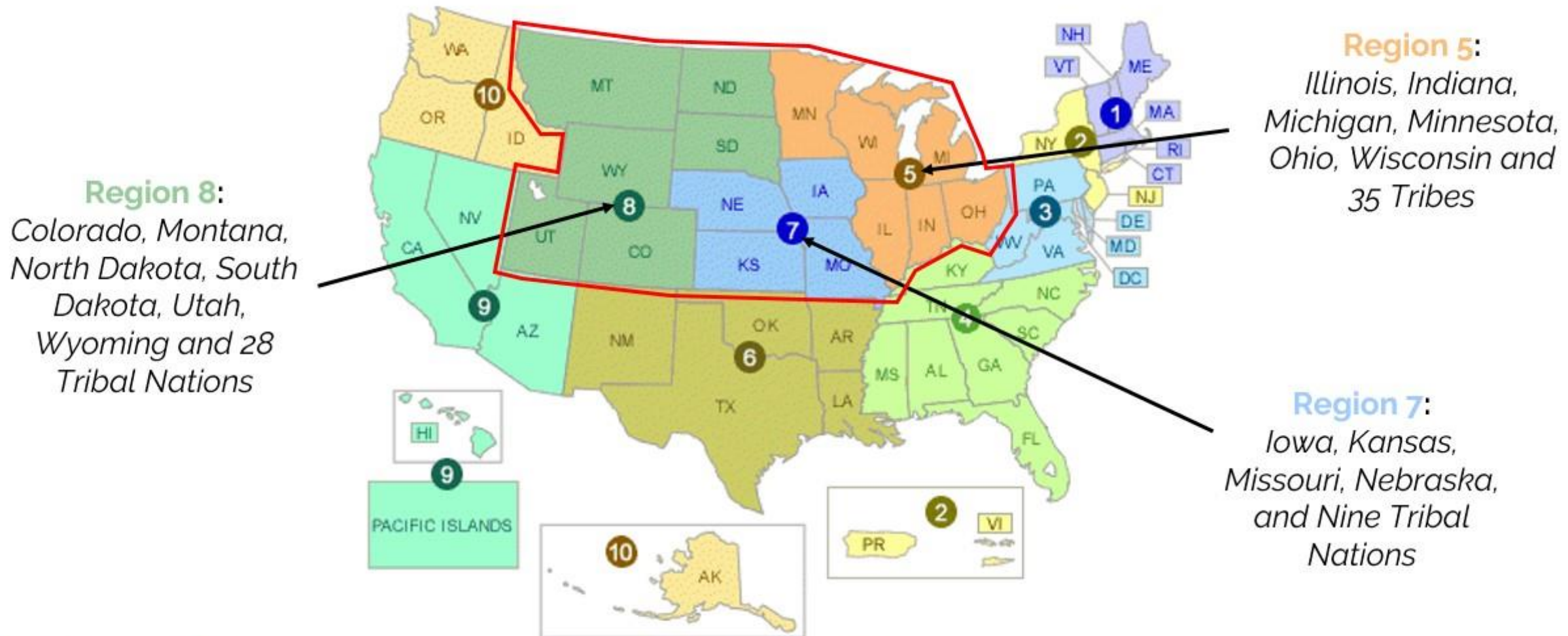
Example Project Types

- Community-Serving Buildings
- Public Parks and/or Open Space
- Transportation and/or Mobility
- Other project types outlined in the NOFO are eligible

Eligibility

- A partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBOs).
- A partnership between a CBO and one of the following:
 - a Federally-Recognized Tribe
 - a local government
 - an institution of higher education.

FYI Midwest Super Region: 11 CBOs from EPA Regions 5, 7, and/or 8



Questions?

- Technical Assistance Application Materials: <https://communitychangeta.org/technical-assistance>
- CCERTA: [Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-equitable-resilience-technical-assistance)
<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/community-change-equitable-resilience-technical-assistance>
- Notice of Funding Opportunity: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>

ITS RAINING MONEY \$\$\$

Discussion

- Are there members of CSC applying for the funding-tell us what-why-who?
- Are people looking for partners to apply with (let's connect)?
- What ways can CSC act as a technical advisory space for member projects based on our meeting schedule?
- Are there other funding opportunities people want to connect on?

Part 2

Coordinated maintenance for Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

Lyndon Valicenti

Daylight

&

Daniella Pereira

Operating Officer of Openlands

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Background

Recommendations for **Chicago's Green Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance**

A Multi-Agency Effort to Address Coordinated Maintenance
for Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Chicago

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

“Green stormwater infrastructure” is a term used to refer to strategies for handling storm precipitation where it falls rather than after it has run off into a sewer system. Green stormwater infrastructure employs natural systems such as vegetation, wetlands, and park space to handle rainfall. It can also include the use of manufactured solutions such as rainwater harvesting systems or permeable pavement. Green stormwater infrastructure is therefore an alternative or complement to conventional stormwater management approaches.



Green stormwater infrastructure IS public infrastructure and should be funded, valued and maintained as such by public agencies.

Co-Benefits of Green Stormwater Infrastructure

The City of Chicago has emphasized the importance of GSI in citywide strategies such as Resilient Chicago, Sustainable Chicago 2015 and the City of Chicago Green Stormwater Infrastructure Strategy, as well as the Chicago Recovery Plan.



**Reducing disparities
between Chicago's
neighborhoods**



**Addressing the root
causes of crime
and violence**



**Ensuring investment
in critical infrastructure
— particularly climate
resilience infrastructure**



**Supporting engaged,
prepared and
cohesive
communities**

Learning from Peers

The establishment of a central point of coordination or accountability to lead the Chicago region's GSI maintenance efforts could follow an approach similar to those taken in peer cities such as New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC, which have strategic plans for designing, building, and managing GSI.

Key issues flagged by Chicago's peers include:

- 1. The need for a dedicated agency or a staff position among the agencies that “owns” or coordinates GSI across the city**
- 2. The need for dedicated funding and resources for GSI installation and maintenance**
- 3. An over-reliance on uncompensated community stewards to maintain GSI**
- 4. The need for a well-trained workforce to maintain GSI installations**
- 5. The need for a responsive, cross agency database of existing GSI**

Across the board, stakeholders from public agencies and their partners who work on GSI in the Chicago region agree that **there must be a shift in the way GSI maintenance is prioritized, valued, and addressed.**

GSI Maintenance Working Group

Co-Conveners

Healthy Schools Campaign
Openlands
City of Chicago, Office of Climate
and Environmental Equity (OCEE)

Public Participants

Chicago Department of Assets, Information and Services (AIS)
Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
Greencorps Chicago
Chicago Public Schools (CPS)
Chicago Department of Planning + Development (DPD)
Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM)
Chicago Department of Streets + Sanitation (DSS)
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
(MWRD)
Chicago Park District (CPD)

Non-Profit Participants

Current
Greencorps Chicago Not for Profit
Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)
OAI, Inc.

With support from U-Haul and The Conservation Fund's Parks With Purpose program.

With support from the Illinois Coastal Management Program to restart in early 2022.

2019

Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) and Openlands first gathered public agency partners to explore the needs, opportunities and interest for a more coordinated approach to maintaining the city's GSI assets

Conducted research and held focus group meetings with regional partners

Issued a survey of GSI partners to understand the baseline maintenance conditions of public GSI in Chicago

Identified needs and opportunities

2020

Co-convened three sessions of nine Chicago public agencies with the Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Chicago

Identified four main threads of work:

1. Funding + Policy
2. Mapping, Data + Inventory
3. Workforce Development + Training
4. Guidelines + Standardizations

2021

2022

Regularly reconvened the Working Group, with participation from all member agencies

2023

Reconfirmed the charge of the working committees identified in October 2020 and selected co-chairs for each.

Convened eight committee meetings

Conducted a survey of all Working Group members to identify priority next steps

Key Challenges

In May 2023, Working Group co-conveners developed, disseminated, and analyzed a survey to better understand the participants' preferences on next steps and direction. Working Group members identified these near-term (6-8 month) challenges.

- **Lack of funding allocated for maintenance of GSI assets**
- **Lack of a dedicated point person (position), department or office that is responsible for GSI**
- **Lack of centralized data system/inventory for tracking GSI assets and their maintenance needs**
- **Difficulty with establishing inter-agency or cross-departmental agreements to allow for cooperation or coordination to maintain GSI assets**

Key Actions

At the same time, Working Group members identified the following three near-term actions that could help address these needs.

- **Convene a task force of public agency leaders from the city's sister agencies and MWRD to identify a point position, department or office to be responsible for GSI maintenance coordination efforts**
- **Build a dynamic, spatial inventory (interactive map) of public GSI across the city that includes the current site condition and can serve as the basis for operationalizing GSI maintenance**
- **Further research GSI maintenance and associated funding models from across the country**

Next Steps

The Working Group has built great momentum, and with the recent change in Mayoral administration and influx of federal funding being made available, this is an opportune time to move this group into action. Here are the recommended next steps in 2024.

1. **Continue regular Working Group and committee meetings, with the goal of moving to authorize one agency or department to house and lead the effort starting in 2024.**
2. **Consider convening a task force with public, advocacy, community and philanthropic representatives to develop an updated green stormwater infrastructure strategy that includes long-term sustainable funding for maintenance; conduct more research and/or feasibility studies on inter-agency coordination models and/or distinct GSI department within an agency.**

Next Steps, continued

The Working Group has built great momentum, and with the recent change in Mayoral administration and influx of federal funding being made available, this is an opportune time to move this group into action. Here are the recommended next steps in 2024.

3. Explore and work collaboratively to compete for federal funding for this work, including a potential workforce development pilot focused on GSI initiatives at Space to Grow sites.
4. Conduct more research into the U.S. Water Alliance's One Water initiative; determine whether/how Chicago can align.
5. Provide more GSI industry leadership development for public agency staff, such as participation in the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange or attending national conferences focused on GSI and other water industry issues.



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Let's connect (5 min)

Discussion

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Closing

- Thank you to our speakers!!!!!!
- Updates will be posted next week on our website
- Let Sheila know if you are interested in **hosting or presenting at the next meeting:**
July 12, 2024, 10 am,
location: TBA
- Send along any exciting news and funding opportunities for the next CSC e-blast

Links Mentioned in Meeting

- Daniella Pereira (Openlands) & Lyndon Valicenti (Daylight)
- <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/52ce0176afc747a48a03755a132e218b#ref-n-xOVkDD>
- Kate Evasic (CMAP) and Pearl May (ECTINC)
- [Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance | US EPA](#)
- [VIDEO: 15-minute informational video](#)