



[Loan Programs Office](#) [Applicant Resources](#) [Community Jobs and Justice](#)

Community Jobs and Justice

Community Benefits Plan Overview

Investments made by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [Loan Programs Office](#) (LPO) help advance the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of achieving carbon pollution-free electricity by 2035 and delivering an equitable, clean energy future, putting the United States on a path to achieve net-zero emissions, economy-wide, no later than 2050 to the benefit of all Americans. LPO utilizes Community Benefits Plans (CBPs) to show how [projects](#) support an equitable clean energy future. In a CBP, an [applicant](#) should discuss how they are engaging and will engage with Tribal governments, the neighboring communities, and stakeholders affected by the proposed project.

LPO supports applicants to ensure their project planning and applications, including CBPs, sufficiently address the four key pillars of community jobs and justice that LPO considers when evaluating applications. LPO considers how projects:

1. Support meaningful community and labor engagement.
2. Invest in America's workforce.
3. Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the workplace.
4. Contribute to President Biden's [Justice40](#) goal that 40% of the overall benefits of clean energy investment flow to disadvantaged communities.

CBP requirements are flexible to allow applicants and their partners to tailor plans to the project's and community's needs. All CBPs must include specific, actionable, and measurable ways the applicant intends to address each of the four key elements listed above. These key principles will help ensure broadly shared prosperity in the clean energy transition for all Americans.

LPO considers the quality of a CBP among the factors that indicate the prospect of loan repayment. An applicant's early and meaningful engagement with communities and labor and their thoughtful attention to equity and justice can substantially reduce or eliminate slowdowns, defuse potential opposition, and address other [risks](#) associated with project implementation.

Community Benefits Plan Requirements

[Title 17 Clean Energy Financing Program](#) – Title 17 applications must include a CBP. Detailed instructions are available in Attachment A to the [Part II Application](#) of the Title 17 Clean Energy Financing Program guidance document.

[CIFIA Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure](#) – CIFIA applications must include a CBP. Detailed instructions are available in Attachment C

of the [CIFIA Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure guidance document](#).

What to Expect When Working With LPO

LPO's Community Jobs and Justice team works with applicants throughout the process to understand how the project is approaching community benefits, share resources, and answer related questions. From early in the application process, the team supports applicants in strengthening and implementing CBPs.

Community Benefits Plan Resources

- [How to Get Started on Your Community Benefits Plan](#) – This LPO blog highlights the four key priorities that all CBPs must address.
- [Community Benefits Plan Overview](#) – Learn more about CBPs through DOE's Frequently Asked Questions.
- [Justice40 Initiative Overview](#) – Learn more about the Justice40 Initiative, including how DOE is defining Justice40 and what is a Justice40 Covered Program.
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) – Use the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool, including the interactive map, to help identify disadvantaged communities that will benefit from programs included in the Justice40 Initiative.
- [Energy Communities](#) – Identify census tracts where advanced energy projects may be eligible for the section of the 48C tax credit reserved for projects in Energy Communities.
- [Good Jobs Initiative](#) – The Good Jobs Initiative, led by the U.S. Department of Labor, provides critical information to workers, employers, and government as they work to improve job quality and create access to good jobs free from discrimination and harassment for all working people.
- [Ensuring Prevailing Wages: A Closer Look at the Davis-Bacon Act](#) – Through the requirement to pay Davis-Bacon Act wages, this blog details how LPO helps to ensure that the workers in the communities where the projects are being built will be paid prevailing wages for that area.

CJJ Quarterly Newsletter Archive

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