



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
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Dear Thriving Communities Network Co-Chairs,

Thank you for the invitation for the U.S. Department of the Treasury (UST) to join the Thriving Communities Network (TCN). The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Program Office within UST shares a commitment to fundamentally advancing the integration of equity and justice as an all-of-government effort. This commitment is exemplified by our approach to deliver on key policy commitments stemming from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which is aiding American families and workers and driving investment toward underserved communities and to new technologies and markets.

Part of the UST IRA Program Office's mission is to enable effective and efficient execution of IRA priorities and outcomes by providing additional internal and external stakeholder engagement capacity; facilitating effective public narrative building, data analysis, operational improvements, problem solving; and elevating opportunities for more effective and equitable implementation, and identifying and addressing any barriers to gaps that would impede these efforts. As an example, to ensure equitable implementation of the IRA, and to raise awareness of opportunities for local governments to use direct pay, Secretary Janet Yellen announced Treasury's plan to reach out directly to 150 cities with high concentrations of poverty and low-capacity local governments. Moreover, the IRA program office is also involved in the IRS Direct File pilot, which is aimed at reaching low- and moderate-income taxpayers.

As such, the UST IRA Program Office would like to accept the invitation to join the Thriving Communities Network and commits to coordination and collaborating with the other network partners.

To support the TCN and its partners, the IRA Program Office commits to the following:

- Align broader IRA Program Office resources, expertise, and stakeholder engagement with those of TCN members. This includes disseminating information about the IRA's clean energy tax incentives that are available for local governments, non-profit organizations and other applicable entities under the direct pay provisions of IRA.
- Coordinate with other UST's programs aimed at creating opportunity in underserved communities.
- Coordinate with other UST programs and TCN members to directly reach out to 150 cities with high concentrations of poverty and low-capacity local governments.

David Eichenenthal, Senior Advisor, will formally serve as the point of contact for the TCN implementation team. For the Leadership Committee, Tonantzin Carmona, Senior Advisor, will serve as the representative.

In addition, the IRA Program Office endorses the following shared principles:

- Scale for Impact – Proactively identify and collaboratively support transformative projects that demonstrate the potential for equitable, inclusive community and economic development in underserved communities.
- Build Community Wealth – Build long-term community capacity to successfully compete for, leverage, and manage the investment of Federal funds in strategic projects and activities that build lasting community wealth.
- Center the Power of Community – Provide technical assistance that values, leverages, and grows the local expertise existing within communities regarding their needs with inclusive and culturally competent public engagement processes.
- Meet Areas of Greatest Need – Prioritize support to rural, urban, suburban, and Tribal communities that have the greatest resource and capacity needs.
- Expand Access and Participation – Intentionally remove barriers and create access to economic, health care, education, energy, housing, and environmental opportunities in every part of the country.
- Diversify Knowledge – Diversify the pool of capacity-building providers to include a greater number of disadvantaged and small businesses, entrepreneurs, and those with community-based expertise.

In conclusion, we look forward to working with the TCN to support community needs and advance equity in the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act.



Laurel Blatchford
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U.S. Department of the Treasury