

Supplemental Guidance: Underserved Communities and Informational Resources

Operating Definition

The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality, such as disadvantaged communities and Qualified Opportunity Zones.

Resources

The following resources can help inform the narrative response to Application Question 11.

For information on low-income and minority populations, visit <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>. Go to Add Maps → EJ Screen Maps → Demographic Indicators.

For information on rural areas, visit <https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=49cd4bc9c8eb444ab51218c1d5001ef6>

For information on disadvantaged communities, visit <https://tableau.dsc.umich.edu/t/UM-Public/views/IndexofDeepDisadvantage/CountiesCitiesMap?%3Aiid=4&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y>

For more information on Qualified Opportunity Zones, visit <https://opportunityzones.hud.gov/resources/map>

For more information on historically marginalized communities, visit <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=5/39.1/-94.58>

** Note: Historically marginalized communities may only qualify as underserved for this grant if they also currently meet the criteria for one or more categories above. This map may be used in conjunction with other evidence to support designation of a community as underserved but is insufficient to qualify a community as currently underserved on its own.*

Additional Information

For projects that serve individuals from communities meeting the definition above, please provide a description of the community your planned project will serve and how you will ensure that specific community benefits from your project. This narrative justification may be used where map data is not available or insufficient. For example, LGBTQ+ youth center, Jewish community center, center for persons with disabilities, etc.