

Climate Smart Missoula's EPA Environmental Justice Grant Abstract - 2022



CLIMATE SMART
MISSOULA

Project Title: Clean Air – Healthy Homes: Co-Creating a Wildfire Smoke Ready Community

Project Location: Northside/Westside, Franklin to the Fort, and River Road Neighborhoods and Indigenous residences throughout Missoula, MT

Applicant Information: Climate Smart Missoula; P.O. Box 8945, Missoula, MT 59807; Amy Cilimburg, amy@climatesmartmissoula.org

Start-date: By ~ March 1, 2022. This is a one-year grant.

Organizational Description: Climate Smart Missoula engages our community in climate actions, catalyzing efforts to build a resilient Missoula. We are a nonprofit that works collaboratively to build a climate adapted community that has the knowledge and capacity to address the climate crisis equitably, sustaining a vibrant Missoula for everyone. Our flagship program, *Summer Smart*, is an initiative to increase community preparedness and health, especially given increased wildfire smoke and heat. Both *Summer Smart* and *Climate Ready Missoula*, a community-wide resiliency plan which we co-lead, focus on strengthening community networks and safety nets for the most vulnerable.

Which environmental statute(s) does your project qualify for? Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Project Type: Climate resilience planning, outreach, and surveys with local underserved communities

List of Project Partners: All Nations Health Center, NeighborWorks Montana, Missoula Invest Health, Missoula County Sustainability Program, Missoula City-County Health Department

Project Abstract: “Clean Air – Healthy Homes” is a collaborative initiative to address negative health outcomes during ever-increasing wildfire smoke episodes by co-creating a Wildfire Smoke Ready Action Plan and programs based on outreach, surveys and investigations with local Indigenous and underserved communities. It will also address air pollution by providing direct access to portable air cleaners. The initiative will strengthen community resilience by working with partners to survey how individuals understand the health impacts of wildfire smoke and then prepare. From this we will co-develop an action plan with activities, shared resources, and messaging. It builds on the guiding principles, strategies, and partnerships from the recently adopted county-wide climate resiliency plan, *Climate Ready Missoula* and Climate Smart’s *Summer Smart* Initiative.

We will work in three neighborhoods identified through Missoula Invest Health, a multi-year collaborative effort to improve health equity in underserved neighborhoods. We will work with Indigenous residents throughout the community via All Nations Health Center. Activities include focus group sessions, on-site “pop up” events, individual interviews, and neighborhood gatherings, all designed to survey the state of awareness of the risks from indoor air pollution, develop outreach materials, and build a “neighbor helping neighbor” approach to risk reduction. Activities will help community partners identify and utilize existing resources, as well as build stronger relationships and preparedness for episodic smoke events. New materials and approaches to strengthen the wildfire smoke readiness of underserved communities will be shared widely (with Missoula’s Health Department and other communities), leveraging a network-based approach to accelerate health equity.