



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

January 17, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Grassley:

I am responding to your November 20, 2023 letter outlining concerns regarding oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 2021 Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) program, as well as how the EPA responded to your questions about this program.

Today, my office issued our Fiscal Year 2024 Oversight Plan, which outlines the independent audits, evaluations, and other oversight activities we plan to conduct in the coming months. The plan includes two audits that address the concerns you raised. Specifically, we will initiate an audit of the EPA's Environmental Justice Grant Adherence with American Rescue Plan Requirements to determine whether the EPA is monitoring higher-risk American Rescue Plan environmental justice grants to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. We will also initiate an audit of Environmental and Climate Block grants to determine the extent to which the EPA has procedures, policies, capacity, and measures in place to effectively administer the Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants Programs established by section 60201 of the Inflation Reduction Act. The EJCPS will be one of the programs included in both audits. As we conduct these audits, we will seek to further understand the EPA's influence over its grantees and how they respond to external and independent oversight.

A copy of our Oversight Plan is enclosed for your convenience. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. Michael C. Zola, Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs, at (771) 200-0577 or Zola.Michael@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Sean W. O'Donnell
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Chairman