



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
LATINO  
COMMUNITY  
ASSET  
BUILDERS

**For Immediate Release**

**July 14, 2023**

**NALCAB Contact:**

Kristian Ramos, Autonomy Strategies, 202.510.2809; [kristian@autonomy-strategies.com](mailto:kristian@autonomy-strategies.com)

## **NALCAB Applauds Launch of Historic \$27 Billion in Grant Competitions to Create National Clean Financing Network**

**(Washington DC)** - Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched \$27 billion in funding opportunities to increase investment in clean energy and address the climate crisis. In response, [Marla Bilonick](#), NALCAB's President and CEO, joined Vice President Kamala Harris today in Baltimore for the announcement of these grants and released the following statement.

"This is a win for Latino communities, minority-owned businesses and the environment. The three Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant competitions will provide transformational resources for communities, particularly those overburdened by pollution and too often passed over by traditional banks and investors – including communities of color.

This funding is an important step forward and NALCAB applauds the administration's commitment to combating climate pollution, lowering energy costs, and creating good-paying jobs in the communities that need it most."

**The three funding opportunities are:**

- **National Clean Investment Fund** (\$14 billion, 2-3 national nonprofit awardees): This fund will focus on direct investments to businesses, communities, community lenders, and others.
- **Clean Communities Investment Accelerator** (\$6 billion, 2-7 hub nonprofit awardees): This program will focus on building the capacity of community lenders to ensure low-income and disadvantaged communities have access to capital for green finance.
- **Solar for All** (\$7 billion, up to 60 awards focused on local governments and nonprofit awardees): These grants will expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities that are primed for investment in residential and community solar.

NALCAB is a proud member of the [Community Builders of Color Coalition](#) - a national network of financial institutions and advocacy organizations led by people of color working together to ensure low-income and disadvantaged communities can equitably benefit from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

## Background Information

**Latinos are at an exacerbated risk of facing the adverse effects of climate change due to where they live and work.**

- **54% of Latinos** live in states already experiencing profound weather events due to climate change, including California, Texas, and Florida.
- Farmworkers are **20 times more likely to die** from extreme heat as they disproportionately work in outside occupations; Latinos represent **43% of workers** in farming, fishing, and forestry; **38%** of building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers; **35.7%** of construction and extraction workers; and **24%** in transportation and material moving workers.
- Latinos are **21% more likely** than their white counterparts to live in **urban heat islands**, in areas up to **22°F hotter** than the area average.
- According to an **EPA study**, Latinos are about **40% more likely** to live in areas that will experience more days where it is too hot to work outside.
- Latinos are **twice as likely** to live in areas at high risk of wildfires, representing roughly **37%** of the population in those regions.
- Latinos breathe **63% more particulate air pollution** than they produce, compared to whites who experience 17% less air pollution than created through their consumption

**Addressing the climate change crisis creates health and economic benefits for Latinos.**

- Energy efficiency creates the **highest number of clean energy jobs** in the US, employing nearly **3.3 million people** as of 2019. The proportion of Latinos in the solar and wind industry is **2-3% higher** than the average share across other industries.
- Small businesses employ **70% of all workers in the energy efficiency**, renewable energy, and natural gas sectors. Even small firms with **less than 100 employees** are key agents in the response to the climate change crisis, providing 89% of US clean energy jobs.

**Greenhouse Gas.**

- In 2022, greenhouse gas emissions **rose in the US by 1.3%** compared to the previous year.
- A study from **Harvard University** showed that air pollution in Latino-majority zip codes are 14% higher than in predominately white areas. The same study shows that in the past two decades, air pollution decreased in the predominately white areas, but Latino communities saw their air pollution either remain constant or increase.

### **About [NALCAB](#)**

The National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB) is the hub of a national network of 200+ member organizations that are anchor institutions in geographically and ethnically diverse Latino communities in 46 states, Washington DC and Puerto Rico. NALCAB supports its member institutions through funding, training, research and advocacy, enabling them to invest in their communities by building affordable housing, ensuring equitable neighborhood development, supporting small business growth, and providing financial counseling on issues including credit building and homeownership. As a grant maker and US Treasury certified CDFI lender with offices in San Antonio and Washington DC, the NALCAB Network serves hundreds of thousands of low- to moderate-income people, advancing economic equity and inclusivity in the communities we serve.