USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Help Sheet for Match Waivers

Pacific Southwest Region

Looking to waive match requirements in your application? Below we have compiled available tools and maps that comply with the rules outlined in the [IRA UCF Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)](#).

If you are wondering if you can use a tool or statistic not mentioned in this document for justification, please reach out directly to SM.FS.UCF_IRA@usda.gov.

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American Samoa

We suggest you look at the **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool** to see if your work qualifies for a match waiver.

*Currently, the tool identifies **all** of American Samoa as eligible for a match waiver.*

Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

- o What does this tool do?

    The tool shows information about the burdens that communities experience. It uses datasets to identify indicators of burdens and can be seen on a census tract level. Census tract boundaries for statistical areas are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau once every ten years. Certain burdens use percentages or a simple yes/no. A community is considered disadvantaged if they are located within a census tract that meets the tool's methodology or is on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    Yes; we suggest that you reference the results of this tool in your match waiver request if your community is identified as disadvantaged on the map.
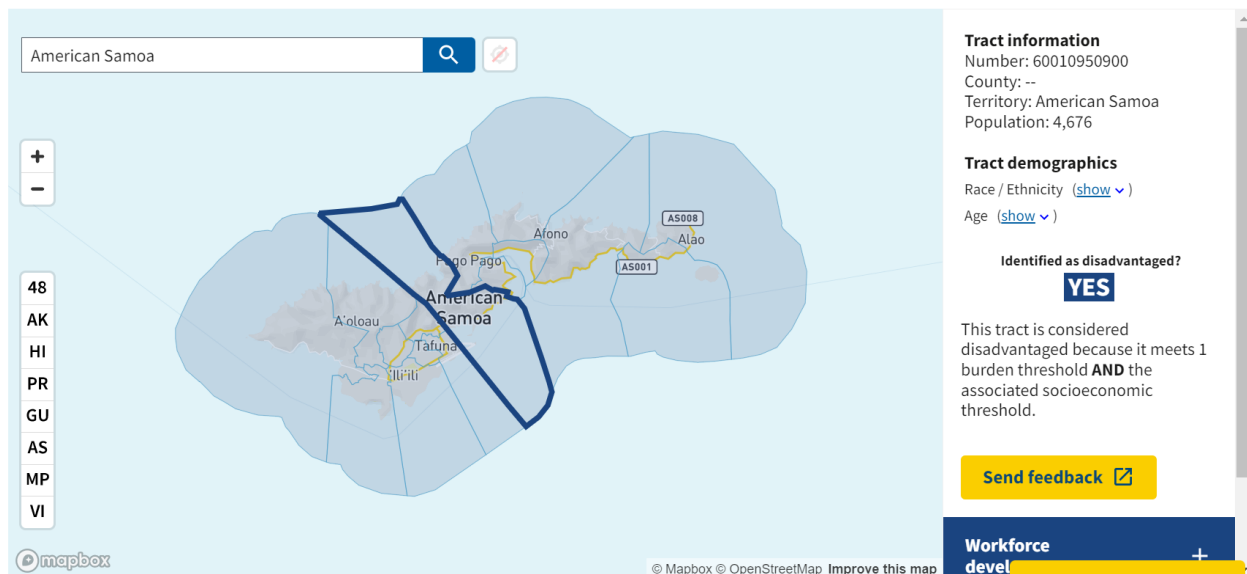

Figure 1: Screenshot of CJEST tool map viewer with one census tract in America Samoa selected.

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California

We suggest you look at the **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool** and the **CAEnviroScreen 4.0 Tool** to see if your work qualifies for a match waiver.

Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

- o What does this tool do?

    The tool shows information about the burdens that communities experience. It uses datasets to identify indicators of burdens and can be seen on a census tract level. Census tract boundaries for statistical areas are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau once every ten years. Certain burdens use percentages or a simple yes/no. A community is considered disadvantaged if they are located within a census tract that meets the tool's methodology or is on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference the results of this tool in your match waiver request if your community is identified as disadvantaged on the map.

CA EnviroScreen 4.0 Tool: https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40

- o What does this tool do?

    CalEnviroScreen is a mapping tool that helps identify California communities most effected by many sources of pollution and where people are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects. CalEnviroScreen uses state-derived environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores for every census tract in the state. The scores are mapped so that different communities can be compared. An area with a high score experiences a much higher pollution burden than areas with low scores. CalEnviroScreen ranks communities based on available data from state and federal government sources. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 was last updated in October 2021.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference the results of this tool in your match waiver request if your community is in the 70th percentile or above for overall CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Results.

EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool: https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen

- o What does this tool do?

    EJScreen is an EPA's environmental justice mapping and screening tool that provides EPA with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic socioeconomic indicators. EJScreen users choose a geographic area; the tool then provides demographic, socioeconomic, and environmental information for

that area. All of the EJScreen indicators are publicly-available data. EJScreen delivers a way to display this information and includes a method for combining environmental and demographic indicators into EJ indexes.

- o Should I include it in my application?

  Unlike the first two tools mentioned, the EJScreen does not designate "disadvantaged communities" but provides an array of statistics that might be beneficial to cite as part of your application. We suggest that you reference the results of this tool in your match waiver request, mainly if the statistics are relevant to a community you are working in or the type of project you are proposing.

Environmental Atlas: https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/

- o What does this tool do?

  EnviroAtlas contains over 500 data layers for users to explore. The Featured Collections data are data clusters that highlight different environmental decision-making scenarios. These subsets of data allow users to explore and understand a curated selection of data around a topic of interest.

- o Should I include it in my application?

  Unlike the first two tools mentioned, the Environmental Atlas does not designate "disadvantaged communities" but provides an array of statistics that might be beneficial to cite as part of your application. We suggest that you reference the results of this tool in your match waiver request if any are relevant to the community you are working in or the type of project you are proposing. Please be careful about the source of some data as it must be state or federally derived to qualify for a match waive justification.

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Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

We suggest you look at the **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool** to see if your work is in disadvantaged communities that qualify for a match waiver*.*

Currently, the tool identifies <u>all but one census tract</u> as eligible for a match waiver.

If you want to work in that one census track in Saipan that is not identified as disadvantaged, please cite <u>available statistics on workforce development in the map tool for that census track</u> as well as **the failure of the tool** to provide statistics on other metrics available to states like Climate Change, Energy, Health, Housing, Legacy Pollution, Transportation, Water and wastewater.

Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

- o What does this tool do?

  The tool shows information about the burdens that communities experience. It uses datasets to identify indicators of burdens and can be seen on a census tract level. Census tract boundaries for statistical areas are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau once every ten years. Certain burdens use percentages or a simple yes/no. A community is considered disadvantaged if they are located within a census tract that meets the tool's methodology or is on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes.

- o Should I include it in my application?

  We suggest that you reference the results of this tool in your match waiver request if your community is identified as disadvantaged on the map.
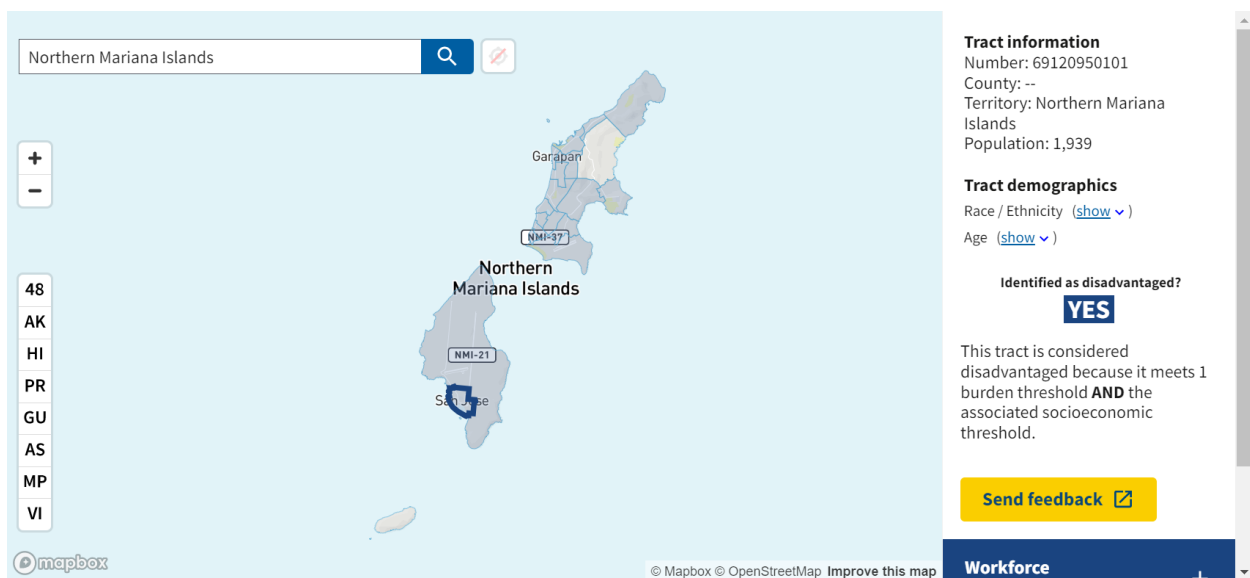

Figure 2: Screenshot of CJEST tool map viewer with one census tract in CNMI selected.

Federated States of Micronesia

We suggest you cite relevant data from various organizations to apply for a match waiver: 1) the **United Nations Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Designation**, 2) **United Nations Human Development Index Score**, and 3) various statistics from the **CIA World Factbook.**

United Nations Small Island Developing States: https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/small-island-developing-states

- o What is it?

    Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of United Nations regional commissions that face unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities. The aggregate population of all the SIDS is 65 million, slightly less than 1% of the world's population. SIDS face a host of challenges, including, for many, their remote geography. As a result, many SIDS face high import and export costs for goods as well as irregular international traffic volumes. Yet, they must rely on external markets for many goods due to the narrow resource base.

    For SIDS, their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)—the ocean under their control—is, on average, 28 times the country's land mass. Thus, for many SIDS the majority of the natural resources they have access to comes from the ocean. Factors like small population size, remoteness from international markets, high transportation costs, vulnerability to exogenous economic shocks and fragile land and marine ecosystems make SIDS particularly vulnerable to biodiversity loss and climate change because they lack economic alternatives.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference your designation status as a SIDS country.

United National Human Development Index Score: https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights#/ranks

- o What is it?

    The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable, and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth. The education dimension is measured by the mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of education for children of school-entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income (GNI) per capita. The HDI uses the logarithm of income to reflect the diminishing importance of income with increasing GNI. The scores for the three HDI dimension indices are then aggregated into a composite index using geometric mean. Most developed countries have an HDI score of 0.8 or above, landing them in the high human development tier. These countries have stable

governments, widespread affordable education and healthcare, high life expectancies and quality of life, and growing, powerful economies.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference your HDI score if **below 0.8.**

CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/

- o What is it?

    The World Factbook provides information on the history, people, government, economy, energy, geography, environment, communications, transportation, military, terrorism, and transnational issues of 266 world entities.

    There are various statistics you can cite, but a few recommending ones are:

    - Relevant <u>demographic data</u> about communities you want to work in. For example, if you work with youth, you may want to include age class, public health, youth unemployment, and education statistics.
    - <u>Gini Index Coefficient Score</u> is one of the most well-known measures of income inequality. A Gini coefficient of zero (0) means an equal income distribution, whereas a number closer to one (1) indicates greater inequality. The lower the Gini coefficient, the more equal the society is said to be.
    - <u>Population Below Poverty</u> estimates of the percentage of the population falling below the poverty line are based on sub-group surveys. The results are weighted by the number of people in each group.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest you reference relevant social, environmental, and economic statistics in your application.

Guam

We suggest you look at the **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool** and various maps below to see if your work qualifies for a match waiver.

Currently, the Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool identifies a few areas in Guam, so new maps have been developed for you by the USDA Forest Serivce Region 5 State and Private Forestry to use to help with justification.

We also suggest you cite the **failure of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool** to provide statistics on other metrics available to states like Climate Change, Energy, Health, Housing, Legacy Pollution, Transportation, Water, and Wastewater.

Guam IRA Priorities Map: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1101630.pdf

- o What is it?

    This map, developed by Region 5 State and Private Forestry of the USDA Forest Service, identifies areas in Guam that align with IRA Priorities. The map displays three identifiers that would help qualify for match waiver: disadvantaged communities, Native Pacific Islander population, and low urban tree canopy.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference this document or embed the map image in your proposal if your project will serve an area highlighted in this map.

Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

- o What does this tool do?

    The tool shows information about the burdens that communities experience. It uses datasets to identify indicators of burdens and can be seen on a census tract level. Census tract boundaries for statistical areas are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau once every ten years. Certain burdens use percentages or a simple yes/no. A community is considered disadvantaged if they are located within a census tract that meets the tool's methodology or is on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference the results of this tool in your match waiver request if your community is identified as disadvantaged on the map.
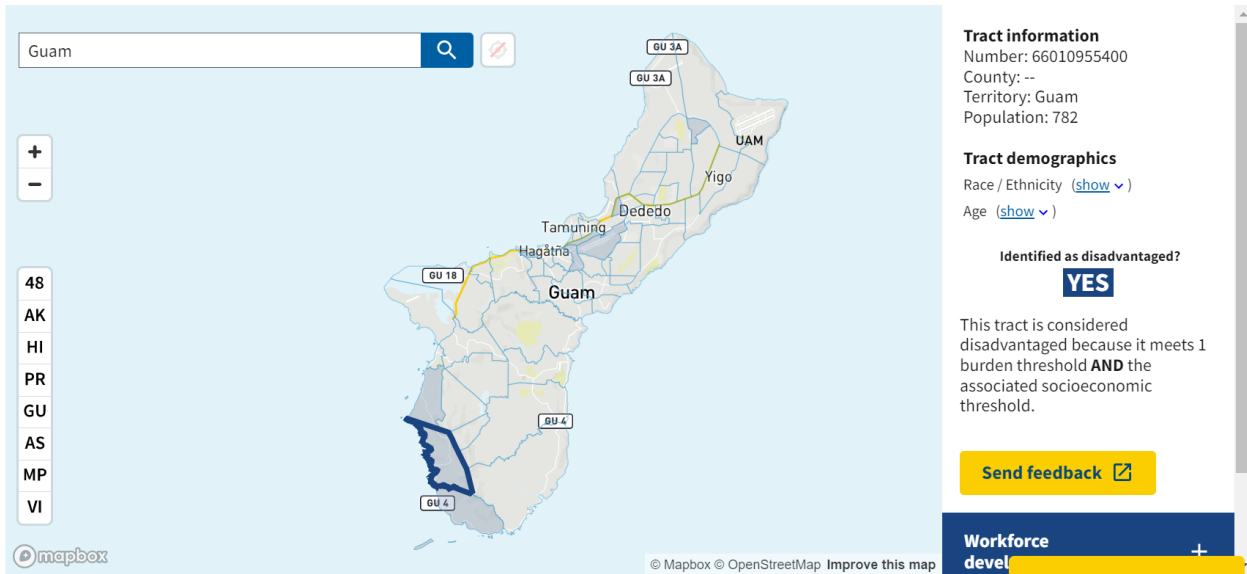
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Figure 3: Screenshot of CJEST tool map viewer with one census tract in Guam selected.

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Hawai'i

We suggest you look at the **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool** and the **Hawaii Tree Viewer Map** to see if your work qualifies for a match waiver.

Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

- o What does this tool do?

    The tool shows information about the burdens that communities experience. It uses datasets to identify indicators of burdens and can be seen on a census tract level. Census tract boundaries for statistical areas are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau once every ten years. Certain burdens use percentages or a simple yes/no. A community is considered disadvantaged if they are located within a census tract that meets the tool's methodology or is on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference the results of this tool in your match waiver request if your community is identified as disadvantaged on the map.

Hawai'i Urban Tree Canopy Viewer:
https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d1bb42e8e14c46528bbedcede6b03e62

- o What does this tool do?

    The viewer combines the canopy layer with other information to help us understand differences in canopy across communities. The tool aims to aid the process of prioritizing urban greening goals (e.g., tree planting and tree maintenance) through a lens of equity with the goal that all communities will experience the benefits that tree canopy offers.

    At the top right corner of the viewer, there is a "IRA" button (see Figures 4 and 5) that, once clicked, will display five map layers that can be used to identify match waiver opportunities. These layers align with five priorities of the IRA: CJEST, Native Hawaiian Population, High Urban Heat Severity Index, and Low Income Based on Title I Schools.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference results of this tool in your match waiver request if you community is identified through one the 5 layers labeled with the header "disadvantaged indicator."
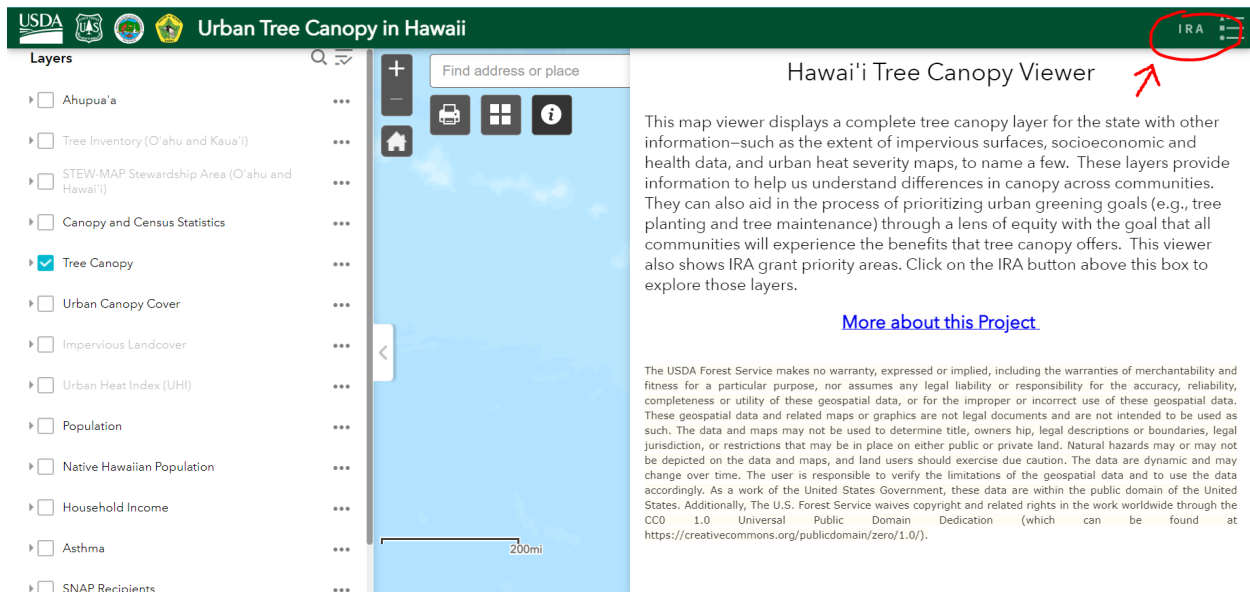
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Figure 4: Screenshot of Urban Tree Canopy in Hawaii Viewer tool with location of "IRA" Layer button circled in red with an arrow.
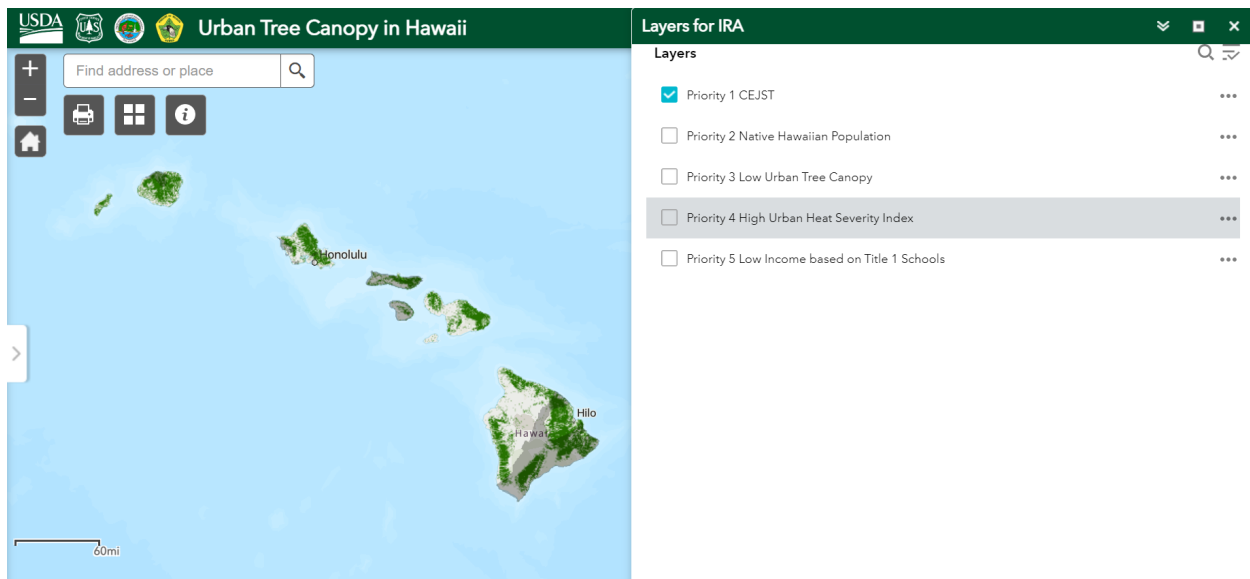

Figure 5: Screenshot of Urban Tree Canopy in Hawaii Viewer tool with "Layers for IRA" panel open.

EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool: https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen

- What does this tool do?

  EJScreen is an EPA's environmental justice mapping and screening tool that provides EPA with a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic socioeconomic indicators. EJScreen users choose a geographic area; the tool then provides demographic socioeconomic and environmental information for that area. All

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of the EJScreen indicators are publicly-available data. EJScreen simply provides a way to display this information and includes a method for combining environmental and demographic indicators into EJ indexes.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    Unlike the first two tools mentioned, this data does not designate "disadvantaged communities" but provides an array of statistics that might be beneficial to cite as part of your application. We suggest that you reference results of this tool in your match waiver request the pollution statistics are relevant to a community you are working in.

Environmental Atlas: https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/

- o What does this tool do?

    EnviroAtlas contains over 500 data layers for users to explore. The Featured Collections data are clusters of data that highlight different environmental decision-making scenarios. These subsets of data allow users to explore and understand a curated selection of data around a topic of interest.

    Unlike the first two tools mentioned, this data does not designate "disadvantaged communities" but provides an array of statistics that might be beneficial to cite as part of your application. We suggest that you reference results of this tool in your match waiver request the pollution statistics are relevant to a community you are working in. Please take note of the source of some data; to qualify for match waiver, the source of the data for justification must be state or federally.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

We suggest you cite relevant data from a of different organizations to apply for match waiver: 1) the **United Nations Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Designation**, 2) **United Nations Human Development Index Score**, and 3) various statistics from the **CIA World Factbook.**

United Nations Small Island Developing States: https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/small-island-developing-states

- o What is it?

  Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of United Nations regional commissions that face unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities. The aggregate population of all the SIDS is 65 million, slightly less than 1% of the world's population. SIDS face a host of challenges, including, for many, their remote geography. As a result, many SIDS face high import and export costs for goods as well as irregular international traffic volumes. Yet, they must rely on external markets for many goods due to the narrow resource base.

  For SIDS, their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)—the ocean under their control—is, on average, 28 times the country's land mass. Thus, for many SIDS the majority of the natural resources they have access to comes from the ocean. Factors like small population size, remoteness from international markets, high transportation costs, vulnerability to exogenous economic shocks and fragile land and marine ecosystems make SIDS particularly vulnerable to biodiversity loss and climate change because they lack economic alternatives.

- o Should I include it in my application?

  We suggest that you reference your designation status as a SIDS country.

United National Human Development Index Score: https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights#/ranks

- o What is it?

  The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable, and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth. The education dimension is measured by the mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of education for children of school-entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income (GNI) per capita. The HDI uses the logarithm of income to reflect the diminishing importance of income with increasing GNI. The scores for the three HDI dimension indices are then aggregated into a composite index using geometric mean. Most developed countries have an HDI score of 0.8 or above, landing them in the high human development tier. These countries have stable

governments, widespread affordable education and healthcare, high life expectancies and quality of life, and growing, powerful economies.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference your HDI score if **below 0.8.**

CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/

- o What is it?

    The World Factbook provides information on the history, people, government, economy, energy, geography, environment, communications, transportation, military, terrorism, and transnational issues of 266 world entities.

    There are various statistics you can cite, but a few recommending ones are:

    - Relevant demographic data about communities you want to work in. For example, if you work with youth, you may want to include age class, public health, youth unemployment, and education statistics.
    - Gini Index Coefficient Score is one of the most well-known measures of income inequality. A Gini coefficient of zero (0) means an equal income distribution, whereas a number closer to one (1) indicates greater inequality. The lower the Gini coefficient, the more equal the society is said to be.
    - Population Below Poverty estimates of the percentage of the population falling below the poverty line are based on sub-group surveys. The results are weighted by the number of people in each group.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference any relevant statistics to your application.

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Republic of Palau

We suggest you cite relevant data from different organizations to apply for match waiver: 1) the **United Nations Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Designation**, 2) **United Nations Human Development Index Score**, and 3) various statistics from the **CIA World Factbook.**

United Nations Small Island Developing States: https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/small-island-developing-states

- What is it?

  Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of United Nations regional commissions that face unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities. The aggregate population of all the SIDS is 65 million, slightly less than 1% of the world's population. SIDS face a host of challenges, including, for many, their remote geography. As a result, many SIDS face high import and export costs for goods as well as irregular international traffic volumes. Yet, they must rely on external markets for many goods due to the narrow resource base.

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- Should I include it in my application?

  We suggest that you reference your designation status as a SIDS country.

United National Human Development Index Score: https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights#/ranks

- What is it?

  The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable, and having a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions. The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth. The education dimension is measured by the mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of education for children of school-entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income (GNI) per capita. The HDI uses the logarithm of income to reflect the diminishing importance of income with increasing GNI. The scores for the three HDI dimension indices are then aggregated into a composite index using geometric mean. Most developed countries have an HDI score of 0.8 or above, landing them in the high human development tier. These countries have stable

governments, widespread affordable education and healthcare, high life expectancies and quality of life, and growing, powerful economies.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference your HDI score **if below 0.8.**

CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/

- o What is it?

    The World Factbook provides information on the history, people, government, economy, energy, geography, environment, communications, transportation, military, terrorism, and transnational issues of 266 world entities.

    There are various statistics you can cite, but a few recommending ones are:

    - Relevant demographic data about communities you want to work in. For example, if you work with youth, you may want to include age class, public health, youth unemployment, and education statistics.
    - Gini Index Coefficient Score is one of the most well-known measures of income inequality. A Gini coefficient of zero (0) means an equal income distribution, whereas a number closer to one (1) indicates greater inequality. The lower the Gini coefficient, the more equal the society is said to be.
    - Population Below Poverty estimates of the percentage of the population falling below the poverty line are based on sub-group surveys. The results are weighted by the number of people in each group.

- o Should I include it in my application?

    We suggest that you reference any relevant statistics to your application.