



How do I obtain more information about EWG's Title VI Program or EJ?

Additional information can be obtained on EWG's website at www.ewgateway.org/titlevi or by contacting EWG's Title VI Coordinator at the email, address, or phone number provided on the back panel of this brochure.

How do I file a complaint?

If you have a complaint, you may file it with EWG's Title VI Coordinator up to 180 calendar days from the date of the alleged discrimination. The complaint may be submitted using EWG's Title VI Nondiscrimination Complaint Form (found online at www.ewgateway.org/titlevi) or may be submitted in writing. If you do not use EWG's complaint form, your complaint should be in writing and signed and should include:

- Your name, address, and telephone number.
- The name and address of the agency, institution, or department that you believed discriminated against you.
- The how, why, when that you believe you were discriminated against. Include as much specific, detailed information as possible about the alleged acts of discrimination and any other relevant information.
- The names of any persons, if known, who EWG can contact for clarity regarding the allegations.

More information about EWG's Title VI Complaint Procedures can be found in Appendix 3 of EWG's Title VI Program located online at www.ewgateway.org/titlevi.

Title VI Coordinator's Contact Information

Title VI Coordinator
East-West Gateway Council of Governments
1 S. Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102

314-421-4220 • 618-274-2750 • fax 314-231-6120
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EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries



Environmental Justice



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Metropolitan Planning Organization for the St. Louis Region

Commitment to Environmental Justice

East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG) has developed a Title VI Program that is designed to protect against discrimination and ensure that all agency planning processes are fair and consider issues that impact disadvantaged residents. The Title VI Program reflects EWG's commitment to adhering to environmental justice standards in EWG's programs and activities.

EWG staff is readily available to provide you with technical assistance, resources, guidance, and any other information in regard to EWG's Title VI Program or environmental justice. Please do not hesitate to contact EWG for further assistance.

What is environmental justice?

Environmental justice (EJ) refers to the federal government policy that all agencies " ... make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." This policy was issued in 1994 through Executive Order 12898 – Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations.

What do EJ standards require?

EJ standards are broadly aimed at:

- Avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low-income populations (referred to as EJ populations).
- Ensuring the full and fair participation in an entity's decision making process by all potentially affected communities.
- Preventing the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by EJ populations.

Federal-aid recipients, like EWG, are required to:

- Identify EJ populations that may be affected by a proposed program, project, or activity.
- Determine whether EJ populations will experience potential adverse human health or environmental effects as a result of a proposed program, project, or activity.
- Compare the burdens and benefits of the proposed program, project, or activity experienced by the EJ population with those experienced by non-EJ populations.
- Elicit public involvement, including solicitation of input from affected EJ populations in considering the proposed program, policy, or activity.
- Propose measures to avoid, mitigate, or minimize disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects.
- Consider alternatives to proposed programs, policies, and activities, where these alternatives would result in avoiding or minimizing disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects.

Who is covered by EJ standards?

Minority populations and low-income populations are covered by EJ standards. A minority population or a low-income population means any readily identifiable group(s) of minority persons or low-income persons, as applicable, who live in geographic proximity and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (i.e. migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed program, policy, or activity.

Minority includes persons who are American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander.

Low-income means a person whose median household income is at or below the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty guidelines or the threshold developed by a particular grant funding agency, whichever is more inclusive.

EJ standards do not require that a population be **both** minority and low-income to be covered. A population that is minority without any low-income persons is covered by the EJ standards. Similarly, a population that is low-income without any minority persons is covered by the EJ standards.

What is a "disproportionately high and adverse impact"?

A disproportionately high and adverse impact refers to an adverse effect that is predominantly borne by a minority population or low-income population or will be suffered by the minority population or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the non-minority population or non-low-income population.

Examples of an "adverse impact" include, but are not limited to:

- Bodily impairment, infirmity, illness, or death
- Air, noise, and water pollution
- Soil contamination
- Destruction or disruption of availability of public and private facilities and services
- Vibration
- Adverse employment effects
- Displacement of persons, businesses, farms, or nonprofit organizations
- Increased traffic congestion
- Isolation, exclusion, or separation of minority individuals or low-income individuals with a given community or from the broader community
- Denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits of an entity's programs, policies, or activities