

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental Protection Agency Government-to-Government

New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability

March 8, 2024

Funding request: \$1,000,000.00 over three years

The City of New Haven will partner with community-based organizations to enroll energy-burdened New Haven residents in a new program aimed at the electrification of aging heating and cooking systems. These systems are often costly and inefficient, and can exacerbate health conditions related to indoor air quality, such as asthma. They are also significant contributors to the air pollution that causes climate change. Replacing these systems with new high efficiency electric appliances such as heat pumps and induction stoves can reduce energy bills, improve public health, and reduce climate pollution.

The Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) plans to work with JUNTA, Community Action Agency of New Haven, and Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven in order to identify low- and moderate-income residents with aging heating and cooking systems. OCS plans to work with these organizations to inform and engage residents about the benefits of new high efficiency electric appliances and enroll them in the new electrification program.

Once enrolled, OCS plans to work with Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven to design, identify funding and financing for, and implement electrification improvements. Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven will scope out energy efficiency and electrification improvements and work with energy-burdened residents to maximize the benefits available to them, with the objective of shifting residents to a fully-electrified home. Researchers from Yale University will monitor changes to indoor air quality before and after heating system conversions and survey community members to assess their perceptions of energy efficiency and electrification programs and home improvements.

Grant funds will be reserved to assist residents with the cost of electrification improvements. Special focus will be placed on engagement of residents and installation of electrification improvements in DEEP-designated environmental justice census block groups in West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Fair Haven, and the Annex neighborhoods.