

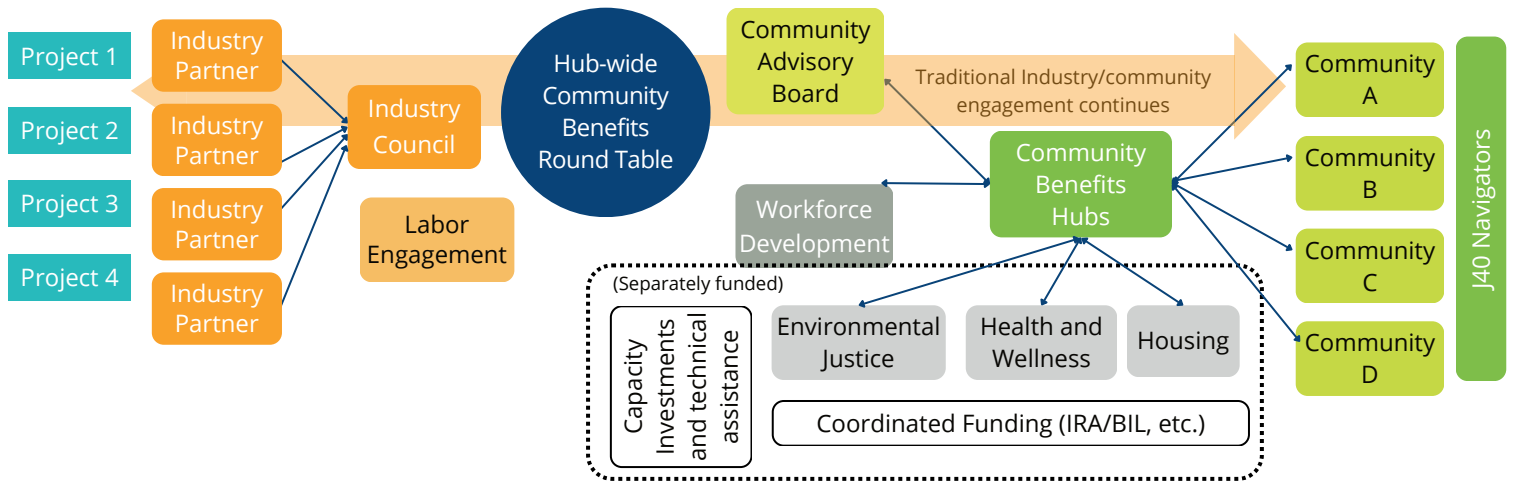


## ADVANCING CLIMATE EQUITY THROUGH COMMUNITY BENEFITS HUBS

As billions of dollars are being invested into new clean energy hubs to decarbonize the industrial sector, we must also build up the connective social infrastructure and support systems to ensure that the benefits of those investments flow to the disadvantaged communities most affected by climate change. Climate equity involves ensuring the just distribution of the benefits of climate protection efforts and alleviates unequal burdens created by climate change. The Community Benefits Hub framework aims to:

- **strengthen disadvantaged communities** through capacity building and technical assistance;
- **empower community representatives** through participation and agency in decision making processes; and
- **ensure accountability of the benefits** flowing to those communities.

### HARC COMMUNITY BENEFITS HUB FRAMEWORK



**Community Benefits Hubs (CBH)**<sup>1</sup> will serve as structural, physical, and virtual centers to engage with community values and needs, build capacity in local community assets, provide connections with technical assistance and available funding, and build trust to activate community participation in clean energy hub development and planning. They should be developed alongside clean energy hubs to provide formal routes for direct participation and decision-making. Structural support will be provided by that hub’s development while additional funding will be solicited to support other community needs.

**The Community Advisory Board (CAB)**, consisting of leaders and stakeholders from local communities, will guide CBH development and serve to represent community interests throughout project planning, development, implementation, and operations.

**The Industry Council** will be an organized association of industry participants across projects within a clean energy hub. They will develop common frameworks for community engagement, share lessons learned and best practices, and engage with the CAB and other community and labor benefits stakeholders through the clean energy hub-wide Community Benefits Roundtable.

**The Community Benefits Round Table** is intended to serve as a forum for members of the industry council, labor and workforce development representatives, and the CAB to engage and co-develop hub-wide frameworks for benefits flows, review and make recommendations to project plans, target opportunities for good paying jobs and workforce development opportunities, evaluate options for investment in existing community assets, review benefits metrics and scorecards, and coordinate with other clean energy hubs.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Well-Being Hub Summary, IC2 Institute, The University of Texas at Austin