

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## The EPA Office of Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal state, local, and tribal programs and policies. Meaningful involvement means that: (1) people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health; (2) public contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; (3) their concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and (4) the decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Environmental justice is about people confronting local environmental and/or public health problems by working collaboratively with their local government agencies, impacted community groups and the responsible state and federal agencies.

Environmental justice promotes environmental and public health protection within the context of sustainable development. EPA recognized that community involvement was critical to environmental decision-making and made a commitment to invest resources in projects that would financially benefit affected communities. In 1994, the Office of Environmental Justice established the Small Grants Program whose purpose is to assist community-based/grassroots and tribal governments that are working on local solutions to local environmental problems. Funding should specifically support affected local community based organizations efforts to examine issues related to a community's exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Each year funds are made available for the Small Grants Program and funding is divided equally among the ten EPA regions where the actual grant is awarded and managed.

This publication is an inventory of the profiles from the grants awarded in 2005. Each region conducts a grant selection process in which grant proposals are evaluated through a competitive review and ranking process. Award decisions are made within each region based on established criteria that include geographic and socioeconomic balance, diversity of project recipients, and sustainability of benefits of a project after the grants is completed.

*Environmental Justice Small Grant Awards - FY 2005*

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Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Summary

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>\$ Amount</u> | <u>Awar<br/>ds</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1994               | 500,000          | 71                 |
| 1995               | 3,000,000        | 175                |
| 1996               | 2,800,000        | 152                |
| 1997               | 2,700,000        | 139                |
| 1998               | 2,500,000        | 123                |
| 1999               | 1,455,000        | 95                 |
| 2000               | 899,000          | 61                 |
| 2001               | 1,300,000        | 88                 |

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>\$ Amount</u> |    |
|--------------------|------------------|----|
| 2002               | 1,113,000        | 74 |
| 2003               | 858,907          | 56 |
| 2004               | 423,545          | 17 |
| 2005               | 625,000          | 25 |

***REGION 1***  
***(CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)***

**Lawrence Environmental Action Group (LEAG)**

**\$25,000**

4 Bicknell Terrace  
Lawrence, MA 01841

**Project**

LEAG will conduct research to increase the scientific understanding of the implications of using mercury in spiritual and cultural ceremonies and to understand its effects on the health and well being of the community of Lawrence, Mass. This project seeks to educate the residents through the dissemination of bilingual educational information and facilitate meetings between residents, public officials, neighborhood/civic groups and health-related organizations to address the environmental and public health concerns of the residents related to this environmental exposure.

**Partners** include the JSI Center for Environmental Health Studies, Casa de Salud and several Lawrence city officials and agencies.

**New Haven Ecology Project, Inc. (NHEP)**

**\$25,000**

358 Springfield Ave.  
New Haven, CT 06515

**Project**

NHEP will: 1) engage and educate urban high school students about the science and social science of local environmental justice issues related to air and water quality through the investigation of local issues and presentations to community groups, officials and area schools; 2) generate data and disseminate findings on air and water quality in the New Haven community, thereby informing residents and expanding the body of data previously collected on local air and water quality; and 3) create a replicable model of community-based participatory research on local environmental justice concerns to be disseminated to area schools. NHEP is physically located in the West Rock neighborhood, one of the six New Haven neighborhoods considered severely distressed and in need of revitalization.

**Partners** include the New Haven City Plan Department, Environmental Northeast, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, Environmental Council for the City of New Haven, Yale School of Nursing, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven Health Department, Quinnipiac River Watershed Partnership, the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association, and the New Haven Sierra Club.

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**Strafford Historical Society (SHS)**

**\$25,000**

P.O. Box 100  
Strafford, VT 05072

**Project**

SHS will create a one-hour documentary and two 20-minute documentaries on the environmental concerns associated with three copper mines in Orange County, VT, including the history of the mines and the combined work of citizens and the EPA to clean up the mines. SHS has been an active member of the Elizabeth Mine Superfund Site Community Advisory Group, which represents the citizens of the town in communicating with the EPA about the contaminated former copper mining site. SHS is an all-volunteer organization with a small, dedicated core of individuals who focus on special initiatives.

**Partners** are the Strafford Select Board, the State of Vermont's Division for Historic Preservation and the Center for Environmental Health Sciences at Dartmouth College and local and state government agencies.

**Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT)**

**\$25,000**

109 Somerset Street  
Providence, RI 02907

**Project**

SCLT will provide a practical, safe and affordable solution to the environmental and public health constraints placed on a school garden built on the site of a former municipal solid waste dump. The project partners will plan and construct a safe, affordable off-ground garden structure, and share its designs and curriculum with local educators and community members wanting safe alternatives to deal with environmental and public health issues at the site. SCLT is dedicated to assisting communities in becoming more self-sufficient and improving their quality of life through: 1) promoting and implementing community gardening; 2) providing access to locally grown food; 3) facilitating environmental education; and 4) catalyzing solutions for related community needs.

**Partners** include the Olneyville Community Schools Initiative, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, City of Providence, Rhode Island Department of Health, Springfield Middle School, The Hartford Park Tenant's Association and a registered landscape architect.

***TOTAL***

***100,000***

**REGION 2**  
**(NJ, NY, PR, VI)**

**West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.(WEACT)** **\$25,000**  
271 West 125th Street  
New York, NY 10027

**Project - Healthy Homes Project**

WE ACT is an organization dedicated to empowering communities, as well as, improving the environmental health, protection and policy decisions which affect low-income, and/or communities of color. WEACT will provide training/workshops to the residents and communities of Northern Manhattan and South Bronx on potential harmful indoor air exposures and their associated environmental health effects to infants and children. The workshops will further educate the residents on available measures they can apply to reduce these potential environmental/ public health impacts.

**Partnering** with WE ACT is the Columbia Children s Center for Environmental Health (CCCEH).

**Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation(BOEDC)** **\$25,000**  
198 East 161 Street  
Bronx, NY 10451

**Project - Monitoring of a Demonstration Green Roof**

BOEDC works with local residents and business owners to create green pathways throughout the Bronx. This project will study the control of storm water runoff, water quality, heat generation via the installation and data collected from the construction of a green roof. Green roofs consist of vegetation grown atop roofs. The green roof thus replaces a portion of the vegetated footprint that was destroyed when the building was originally constructed. By recovering green space, this project seeks to identify potential improvements in the quality and absorption rate of storm water runoff (thus reducing stagnant water sources for vermin and insects). In addition, the pilot will demonstrate the reduction in heat generation levels that in turn creates a public health benefit to those individuals sensitive to outdoor air quality levels (e.g., asthma) during the summer months in an urban setting.

**Partnering** in this project is Green Roofs LLC.

**TOTAL** **\$50,000**

**REGION 3**  
**(DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WA)**

**Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning** **\$25,000**  
Baltimore, Maryland

**Project - No Lead Baltimore! A Baltimore Environmental Justice Campaign to Eradicate Childhood Lead Poisoning**

The Coalition project will provide a sustainable multimedia outreach and education campaign to tenants and rental property owners in Baltimore City about lead poisoning. It will focus on pre-1978 rental properties. The objectives are to: empower tenants to understand and assert rights under federal laws for the safe repair of lead hazards in their homes; empower parents to insure that lead hazards are addressed in their children's drinking water supply; and assist rental property owners and contractors in increasing compliance under federal lead related laws for lead safe work practices and disposal of lead hazardous materials.

**Partners** include the Maryland Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Partnership, Baltimore City Public School System and the Baltimore City Health Department.

**Southern Appalachian Labor School (SALS)** **\$25,000**  
Kincaid, West Virginia

**Project**

SALS will focus on awareness, testing and correction of lead and mercury poisoning conditions in coal-camp houses owned by low income families in rural West Virginia. The objectives of the project are to: (1) create awareness of conditions and consequences of lead and mercury contamination in the home; (2) arrange testing and /or investigation for lead and mercury presence and contamination in old coal camp houses; and (3) correct and/or mitigate the problems.

**Partners** include HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Fayette County Solid Waste Authority.

**TOTAL** **\$50,000**

**REGION 4**  
**(AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)**

**Peachtree Woodall Whetstone Watershed Alliance**

**\$25,000**

1935 Woodland Hills Avenue NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30318

**Project**

The Alliance project will address the accelerating loss of tree canopy, stream buffers and other green spaces in the predominately African American and poor communities of northwest Atlanta, and the disparity of negative environmental consequences. The Alliance will also address the dramatic increase in asthma and other respiratory illnesses among the population that has been linked to the rapid destruction of the tree canopy.

**Partners** include the Arborist Department and the Soil and Erosion Control Department of the City of Atlanta.

**West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Inc. (WAWA)**

**\$25,000**

965 Laurelmont Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30311

**Project**

WAWA will: (1) engage residents in identifying, researching and documenting the existence and extent of environmental and public health hazards that exist in the community and (2) facilitate information exchange and cooperation between communities, governmental agencies, environmental organizations, health care providers and academic institutions. Residents will be actively involved in the problem identification, data collection, and mapping of environmental stressors. As a result, the community will increase the level of their awareness and knowledge of the environmental and public health hazards. In addition, community residents will develop the skills needed to engage responsible parties in dialogue to help solve local environmental problems.

**Partners** include local government Agencies, academic institutions and civic and neighborhood clubs.

**Rural Empowerment Association for Community Help (REACH)**

**\$25,000**

1912 West Wards Bridge Road  
Warsaw, North Carolina 28398

**Project**

This REACH environmental health research project will address the health disparities of low-income individuals and people of color who suffer from allergies, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and depression in Duplin County, North Carolina. These health disparities are possibly resulting from exposure of toxins from animal waste at nearby industrial

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hog farms and lagoons. REACH will also conduct community meetings for educating the community on the effects that industrial hog farms have on the air and water.

**Partnered** in the project is the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Public Health

**Bethlehem Baptist Church**

**\$25,000**

271 Bethlehem Circle  
Graniteville, SC 29829

**Project**

On January 6, 2005, a train wreck resulted in a punctured 90-ton tanker car filled with chlorine gas, which leak into the community. The purpose of this project is to provide more information to the citizens within Graniteville about air and the toxic substances that relate mainly to chlorine. through workshops. The workshops would focus on the citizens concerns about the health effects of chlorine and other toxic substances transported through their community, as expressed during town meetings sponsored by the Graniteville Community Coalition and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

**Partners** include the Center for Disease Control, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, and the Medical University of South Carolina.

**Sewee to Santee Community Development Corporation**

**\$25,000**

10017 Highway 17 North  
McClellanville, South Carolina 29458

**Project**

As a pilot project, the Corporation will train the citizens of Germantown in the care and maintenance of their septic and potable water systems and identify inspection and maintenance ordinances and/or regulations for Charleston County and the state of South Carolina. As a result, recommendations will be provided to Germantown, for drafting ordinance language, establishing protocols for a model onsite/decentralized wastewater management inspection and maintenance program. This project will also repair or replace several failed septic systems to protect the portable water supply and surface and ground water.

**Partners** include the Howard African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bethel AME Church and the Germantown Neighborhood Association.

***TOTAL***

***\$125,000***

***REGION 5***  
***(IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)***

**Earth Day Coalition (EDC)**

**\$25,000**

3606 Bridge Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio, 44113

**Project**

The purpose of this project is to build a network of minority student leaders to work with a low-income and minority neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio to promote community involvement on the neighborhood's environmental, health and quality of life issues. The local environmental issues to be addressed are outdoor air quality, community drinking water and water quality concerns, and solid waste concerns including illegal dumping and recycling. The project will provide resources, information access tools and hands-on training to the community. The project will enhance internet education and build community capacity in the community where significant environmental and resulting health hazards exist.

**Partners** include the St. Martin De Porres School and Glenville Community Development Corporation.

***TOTAL***

***\$25,000***

***REGION 6***  
***(AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)***

**Old Acres Homes Citizen s Council**  
Houston, Texas

**\$25,000**

**Project - Baseline Data Gathering of the Impact of Landfills on Water Quality in the Acres Home Community**

This project will involve the research of various un-permitted landfills in the community and their potential effects on water quality, water safety and drinking water. The project includes the following activities; 1) Geographical identification of past landfill sites through maps provided by the City of Houston Planning Department; 2) Documenting the current land use of the sites by community volunteers who will visit the site and observe the current land use; 3) Identifying the directional flow of ground water from the sites through observations and assistance from the University Environmental Health Department and 4) Educate students on the concepts related to research sampling of water and soil for contamination.

***TOTAL***

***\$25,000***

**REGION 7**  
**(IA, KS, MO, NE)**

**El Centro, Inc.**  
650 Minnesota Ave.  
Kansas City, KS

**\$25,000**

**Project - Youth Advocates for a Healthy Community**

El Centro will develop a middle school/high school youth campaign and advocacy effort designed to increase awareness about childhood lead poisoning and increase prevention. The anticipated results of the project are a decrease in the number of children with elevated blood levels, an increase in the number of homes evaluated for lead and an increase in the number of children tested for lead.

**Partners** include Empower for Health Partners; the University of Kansas School of Journalism, Broadcast and Public Relations, Advertising Faculty and Students; Unified School District 500; Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Wyandotte County Health Department and MANA de Kansas City.

**Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council**  
3210 Michigan  
Kansas City, MO 64109

**\$25,000**

**Project - The Ivanhoe Reduction in Hazardous Waste/Toxic Substances Project**

The Council will provide outdoor trash containers, dumpsters, organize tire pickups and organized block clean ups through partnerships to reduce the amount of hazardous waste/toxic substances. Expected results of the project are: a reduction in the amount of improperly disposed trash; an increase number of residents who use dumpsters or clean ups; an increase in the number of residents who recycle; and collected data to show benefits of trash containers in high traffic areas.

**Partners** include Keep Kansas City Beautiful; the City of Kansas City; Missouri and the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

**Howardville Community Betterment**  
102 E Eddie Avenue  
Howardville, MO 63669

**\$25,000**

**Project**

Howardville Community Betterment will develop and implement a safe drinking water campaign in the community by addressing the causes and effects of respiratory (asthma) related illnesses through information collection, workshops and demonstrations to aid in prevention and control of air pollution. Expected results would be a reduction in the number of asthma cases and an increased number of families knowledgeable about air and water quality.

**Partners** include Missouri Bootheel Healthy Start; Missouri Stream Team 31617 - Howardville; and Southeast Missouri Hospital.

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**Sisters Together, Inc. Omaha Chapter**

**\$25,000**

3040 Lake Street  
Omaha, NE 68111

**Project - Take it to the Street**

The project will collect data to determine the present level of residents' knowledge of lead and asthma and present the findings to the community decision makers in an effort to work toward a reduction in lead poisoning and asthma in the community. In collaboration with the Urban League of Nebraska and other grass root communities, this will address Clean Air Act and Toxic Substance Act education areas due to the high incidence of lead poisoning and asthma in the eastern portion of Omaha.

**Partners** include the Urban League of Nebraska and City Sprouts, Inc.

**Mid-America Regional Council Community Services Corporation (MARC) \$25,000**

600 Broadway, Suite 300  
Kansas City, MO 641085

**Project - Urban Air Pollution Inequities**

MARC will characterize the spatial concentrations of ground level ozone and evaluate the degree of differential exposure among urban and suburban communities. The project will continue work with community members to reduce ozone precursors, promote air quality awareness, and meet federal attainment standards. MARC will also extend partnerships to include more researchers in Kansas City and expand research to include respiratory illness, pollen, and particulate matter.

**Partnering** in this project is the University of Missouri Kansas City Center for the City and Laboratory for Climate Analysis and Modeling.

***TOTAL***

***\$125,000***

**REGION 8**  
**(CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)**

**Northeast Denver Housing Center (NDHC)**

**\$25,000**

1735 Gaylord St.  
Denver, CO 80205

**Project**

NDHC will research and document the presence of lead-based paint hazards in child-accessible public areas of neighborhoods in NE Denver, including alleys, sidewalks, vacant lots, and boundary fences. Once the research and documentation of the problem are complete, the information will be presented to the various stakeholders. NDHC will facilitate the development of an action plan to address the problem. This information will be a catalyst for cleaning up the many suspected lead hazards in child-accessible areas of the environmental justice communities of northeast Denver.

**Partners** include Denver Lead Coalition, The VB/I-70 Superfund Community Working Group, Lead-Safe Denver, the Healthy Children Partnership, Cole Neighborhood Association, Clayton Neighborhood Association, Zion Baptist Church, and the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative.

***TOTAL***

***\$25,000***

**REGION 9**  
**( AZ, CA, HI, NV, GM, AS)**

**Sonora Environmental Research Institute Inc. (SERI)/Comadres** **\$25,000**  
P. O. Box 65782  
Tucson, AZ 85728

**Projec**

SERI seeks increase the capacity of the community of Ambos Nogales (Nogales, AZ and Nogales, Sonora) to understand and address a variety of environmental risks in their neighborhood, while working to collaboratively develop risk prevention and reduction measures. This project will train a group of community women on environmental issues, in addition to developing tools to identify high risk sources, prevention/compliance measures, and a community-based plan for emergency response. SERI will also promote community-wide awareness, create a partnership between the neighborhood team and industry to address risks, and use the new partnership to develop a strategic plan to reduce risks and improve public health. An evaluation will take place throughout the project with a final report at the end.

**Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)** **\$25,000**  
310 8th St. #309  
Oakland, CA 94607

**Project**

APEN aims to build the leadership, capacity, and political effectiveness of Oakland s low income Asian immigrant community to address the immediate and long term environmental and public health risks posed by the 60 acres, port-owned, Oak to 9<sup>th</sup> Street site. As a result of training and leadership development workshops, the residents will develop the skills to analyze and address the environmental and public health concerns in their community. In turn, these community members will work to maintain and build sustainable relationships between communities, and increase awareness and engagement. The project will culminate with a public education and media campaign.

**TOTAL** **\$50,000**

**REGION 10**  
**(AK, ID, OR, WA)**

**Farm Worker Pesticide Project (FWPP)**

**\$25,000**

NB3, 5031 University Way, NE  
Seattle WA 98105

**Project**

FWPP will address the environmental injustice of exposures to pesticides experienced by farm workers and their families who handle pesticides and are exposed through splashes, spills, and drift. FWPP seeks to support and empower farm workers and their families who are exposed to highly toxic pesticides. FWPP's goal is to make sure that the community has the information it needs to understand and address this problem by receiving: results of studies done in the community, data on potential health effects, notice of upcoming policy forums and how to participate, etc. FWPP wants to make sure the problems of the farm workers are visible and to ensure a seat at the table for their community.

**Partners** include Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), Farmworker Justice Fund, Pesticide Action Network, The University of Washington Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health (PNASH) Center, Heritage University, The Institute for Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders, and Columbia Legal Services.

**The Indochinese Cultural and Service Center (ICSC)**

**\$25,000**

PO Box 8382  
Tacoma WA 98418-0382

**Project**

The project goals will be to promote and sustain healthy SE Asian communities, and reduce the risks from environmental hazards in the home environments of SE Asian families--particularly focusing on parents with children as well as the elderly, and to strengthen the ICSC/Health department partnership after the grant project ends. ICSC will create an opportunity for SE Asians to participate in identifying and learning about environmental health hazards in their home environments; develop culturally appropriate strategies to reach out and educate the communities; disseminate language-specific educational materials to the SE Asian communities; strengthen and expand the collaborative partnership between ICSC, the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Dept. as well as with members and groups of the SE Asian communities concerning the environmental health hazards impacting them.

**Partners** include the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department.

**TOTAL**

**\$50,000**