

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

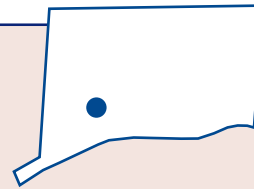
Valley Council of Governments, Naugatuck Valley, CT

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Valley Council of Governments (VCOG) was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. VCOG serves 25 communities representing 623,875 residents in the Naugatuck Valley. The VCOG was once a center of manufacturing. Today, abandoned and contaminated brownfields properties are scattered throughout the valley. Several downtown areas have more land in brownfields than in productive use. A large immigrant population of Muslim, Hispanic, and Portuguese residents occupy older housing stock in brownfields neighborhoods in the inner city. The



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Valley Council of Governments for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I, II, and III site assessments and develop conceptual remedial action plans in the communities represented by the council.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1221
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Valley Council of Governments,
CT
203-735-8688

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

minority populations in some of the VCOG communities are as high as 39 percent. Asthma rates are high in neighborhoods where residents are exposed to a full range of wastes and chemicals associated with the area's industrial activities. Assessment and cleanup of the brownfields sites will help the municipalities address the potential health risks and reduce the blight in neighborhoods throughout the valley. Redevelopment of the sites will generate tax revenues and create job opportunities in an area that is straining to provide services for its residents.