

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

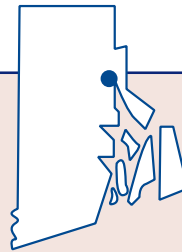
## *Providence, RI*

### 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 City of Providence was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Providence (population 173,618), the second largest city in New England, sits at the head of Narragansett Bay at the confluence of the Woonasquatucket, Moshassuck, and Seekonk Rivers. It has long been the industrial, commercial, cultural, and transportation hub of southern New England. It was once home to some of the nation's industrial giants. The demise of the textile industry after World War II, and later the jewelry industry, has had a devastating effect on Providence. The city lost thousands of jobs and residents, and is now a federally designated Enterprise Community. The city-wide per capita income of \$15,525 is significantly lower than that



### Cleanup Grant

New  
2005

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**

EPA has selected the City of Providence for a brownfields cleanup grant. Funds will be used for the design and implementation of groundwater treatment and foundation venting systems at the former Louttit Laundry site at 93 Cranston Street. The contamination at the site is the result of releases that occurred during the use of chlorinated solvents in dry cleaning operations for 90 years. Funds also will be used for community involvement activities.

### 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](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

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

Grant Recipient: City of Providence, RI  
401-351-4300

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

of the state, and 24 percent of residents live in poverty. The target site is the former Louttit Laundry site in the West Side, a slowly decaying inner-city neighborhood. More than half the area's residents are Hispanic, African-American, and Asian, and median family income is below the city-wide median. Cleanup of the target site will remove a health risk to the surrounding population, including children at two adjacent schools and residents of local housing projects. It is also expected to serve as a catalyst for economic development in the neighborhood.