



# Brownfields 2003 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Woonsocket, 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 Woonsocket was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Woonsocket is a federally designated Entitlement Community with a 64 percent low- to moderate-income population of 43,000. A portion of the city is within a state designated Enterprise Zone. Median household income in Woonsocket is 37 percent lower than the statewide average, and the per capita income is 34 percent less than that of the state. Many of the city's older industrial areas fail to compete with modern facilities built on greenspace, and mill sites conflict with residential neighborhoods. Assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of these properties will lead to economic revitalization and employment. The city plans to solicit



### **Assessment Grant**

**New  
2003**

*\$103,000 for hazardous substances*

EPA has selected the City of Woonsocket for a brownfields assessment grant. The city plans to prepare a brownfields inventory, perform Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments, plan for redevelopment, and organize community involvement opportunities. While the manufacturing area clustered near the Blackstone River, an American Heritage River, is a likely target area, the city is taking a comprehensive approach to inventorying and selecting sites for assessment.

### **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  
617-918-1210  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Woonsocket, RI  
401-767-9236

Prior to receipt of these funds in fiscal year 2003, the City of Woonsocket has not received brownfields grant funding.

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

community input through several local and regional organizations and to promote a dialogue among neighbors, property owners, and developers.