



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

## *West-to-West Coalition, Inc., Monongahela River Valley, PA*

### 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 West-to-West Coalition, Inc., was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The Coalition represents 21 small communities within the Monongahela River Valley in southwestern Pennsylvania. With a combined population of about 134,000, the region was the nation's center for steel production from 1940 through the 1960s. For years, both banks of the river were lined with steel-making operations and other heavy industries that relied on the river for power and adjacent rail lines for transportation. With the



### Assessment Grant

New  
2005

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the West-to-West Coalition, Inc., for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to perform between six and eight Phase I and II site assessments of properties contaminated with petroleum, with an emphasis upon leaks at abandoned gas stations. Funds also will be used to conduct community outreach 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 3 Brownfields Team  
215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: West-to-West Coalition, Inc., PA  
412-469-1132

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

collapse of the steel industry in the late 1990s, the region lost 54 percent of its manufacturing jobs. The region has catalogued more than 100 brownfields, affecting more than 500 acres. Throughout the valley, abandoned, idle, or under-used properties have contributed to a 75 percent drop in property values and population. While the overall minority population is 19 percent, the populations of many of the affected former industrial communities are 45 percent minorities. Two cities in the region—Duquesne and McKeesport—as well as three boroughs are federally designated Enterprise Communities. Brownfields redevelopment will provide alternatives and options for new entrepreneurs through the area's Urban Commercial Parks Program, address health risks, return

properties to beneficial use, and ameliorate local environmental justice issues.