



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Hennepin County, MN

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders 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

Hennepin County was selected to receive a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. Located in eastern Minnesota, Hennepin County (population 1,116,200) is home to one-quarter of Minnesota's population and includes Minneapolis and 44 suburbs. It contains three federally designated Empowerment Zones. Hennepin County has a proud past as an important part of the river and rail corridor systems of the upper-midwest. Today, the county contends with contamination at many of its former industrial and commercial sites. These brownfields reduce the county's property tax valuation and overall quality of life, and inhibit efforts to attract businesses to the area. Although there is no official inventory of brownfields



Revolving Loan Fund Grant



\$1,000,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected Hennepin County for a brownfields revolving loan fund grant. The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which Hennepin County will provide loans and subgrants to support cleanup activities at sites contaminated with petroleum. Grant funds also will be used to establish and market the loan fund, process and execute loans and subgrants, and conduct site-specific 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.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Hennepin County, MN
612-348-5714

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

properties in the county, there are 1,300 contaminated properties in Minneapolis alone and 3,350 contaminated properties in the county that are enrolled in state cleanup programs. Hennepin County has the second lowest median household income in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, and an extraordinarily high rate of unemployment among residents of Minneapolis' Empowerment Zones. Once cleaned up, the brownfields properties will be used for economic development opportunities that are expected to create jobs, increase the county's tax base, and enhance the quality of life in the communities throughout Hennepin County.