



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Woonsocket, RI

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

The City of Woonsocket was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in northern Rhode Island, Woonsocket (population 43,224) was a booming textile manufacturing center during the 19th Century. During the 20th Century, it struggled economically as manufacturing jobs left the region. From 1992 to 2002, the city lost almost half of its remaining manufacturing jobs. It is now characterized by its numerous underutilized and abandoned mill complexes. Today, per capita income is 74 percent of the state average, and more than 64 percent of the city's residents are classified as having low-to-moderate incomes. There are 182 brownfields in the city, including many located in areas with higher concentrations of minority residents and people living in poverty. When brownfields are assessed, they will be used



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Woonsocket for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform up to four Phase I and up to two Phase II environmental site assessments. Funds also will be used for cleanup planning, and community outreach and education 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 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1424

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Woonsocket, RI
401-767-1418

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

for mixed-use development or greenspace expansion. Brownfields redevelopment will create jobs, mitigate environmental hazards, remove blight, revitalize underserved neighborhoods, create improved open space along the Blackstone River, and return properties to the tax rolls.