



# Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

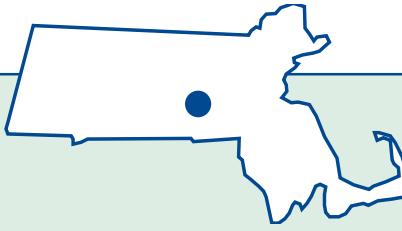
## Worcester, MA

### 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 Worcester was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Worcester (population 175,966) has a long industrial and manufacturing history. In the past, large factory complexes provided city residents with ample job opportunities. As manufacturing industries declined, so did the quality of life in many of the city's neighborhoods. South Worcester has been especially impacted by this decline. Over ten years, South Worcester's poverty rate significantly increased to 31 percent. Its unemployment rate exceeds the citywide rate. Worcester contains more than 200 brownfield sites, many of which are located in South Worcester. It is expected that brownfields reassessment will leverage cleanup and redevelopment funding, providing opportunities for new businesses, affordable housing, greenspace, and employment opportunities.



### Assessment Grant

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

EPA has selected the City of Worcester for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct four to six Phase I and II environmental site assessments throughout Worcester. Sites in South Worcester will be given priority. Grant funds also will be used to support 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 1 Brownfields Team  
617-918-1424

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

Grant Recipient: City of Worcester, MA  
508-799-1400, ext. 238

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.