



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

Bridgeport, CT

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. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Bridgeport was selected to receive a job training grant. Located along southwest Connecticut's "Gold Coast," economically depressed Bridgeport (population 139,529) stands in stark contrast to its

Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected the City of Bridgeport for a job training grant. The city plans to train 45 individuals, place at least 35 in environmental jobs, and track graduates for one year. Bridgeport will provide 110 hours of course work, including certifications in HAZWOPER and lead and asbestos abatement. Students will be recruited primarily from among disadvantaged residents of Bridgeport neighborhoods impacted by brownfields. Trainees will be recruited through the Food Stamps and Employment Program, allowing this grant funding to assist the neediest residents of Bridgeport. Bridgeport's Department of Social Services and Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD), will assist with placing graduates in environmental jobs.

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
617-918-1305
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Bridgeport, CT
203-576-7471

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

affluent neighboring communities. The city, which contains some of the nation's poorest neighborhoods, has an average poverty rate of 25 percent, with certain census tracts suffering from poverty rates of up to 80 percent. For over 150 years, Bridgeport served as a major East Coast industrial center. During the period of

nationwide deindustrialization in the 1970s and 80s, many of the city's factories closed and were left abandoned. Many of these potentially contaminated properties are located in or adjacent to the city's most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. With over 200 inventoried brownfields yet to be addressed and numerous other properties contaminated with lead, the local demand for skilled environmental technicians is strong.