



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

OAI, Inc., Chicago, IL

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

OAI, Inc., was selected to receive a job training grant. The training program will be offered in Chicago (population 2,895,964), where approximately 26 percent of the city's residents are Hispanic and 37 percent are



Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected OAI, Inc., for a job training grant. OAI plans to train 60 participants, place 40 in environmental jobs, and track graduates for a minimum of one year. The training program will provide two 1,600-hour job training cycles focused on environmental jobs in three skill tracks: ecological restoration, environmental remediation, and health and safety. Students will receive OSHA- and EPA-recognized certifications in ten courses, including asbestos and lead abatement, HAZWOPER, mold remediation, and hazardous material emergency response awareness. OAI will partner with the City of Chicago Department of the Environment's Greencorps Job Training Program to provide the training. Students will be recruited from areas directly impacted by brownfields, with a focus on residents living in three of Chicago's Empowerment Zones. OAI will work with the Greencorps Job Training Program and the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development to place 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 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-4747

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

Grant Recipient: OAI, Inc., IL
312-528-3500

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

African-American. The training program will target residents living in areas impacted by brownfields sites, with a primary focus on residents living in three of Chicago's federally designated Empowerment Zones: West Cluster; Pilsen/Little Village Cluster; and South Cluster. These areas are located near former industrial properties and are home to more than 200,000 residents. Assessment, remediation, and ecological restoration jobs will be created through public-private partnerships that are facilitating the redevelopment of commercial and residential brownfields and the restoring of previously contaminated sites into recreational parkland.