



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

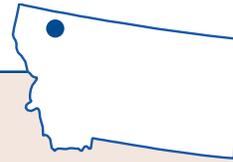
Blackfeet Community College, Browning, MT

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

Blackfeet Community College was selected to receive a job training grant. The tribally owned college is located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, which encompasses more than 1.5 million acres in north



Job Training Grant

\$187,914 □

EPA has selected Blackfeet Community College for a job training grant. The college plans to train 30 students and place 21 in environmental jobs. Graduates will be tracked for one year. The 246-hour training program will include HAZWOPER/HAZMAT certification and course work in hazardous materials management, lead risk assessment, asbestos and mold abatement, methamphetamine lab cleanup, and geographic information systems. Montana Tech will provide a majority of the training, although the college plans to hire additional qualified Native American instructors. A limited number of training spots will be made available to non-tribal members residing on the reservation. The Blackfeet Tribal Employment Rights Office will assist in the placement and support of trainees throughout their first year of employment.

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 8 Brownfields Team
303-312-7074
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Blackfeet Community College,
MT
406-338-5441

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

central Montana. More than 12,000 people live within the boundaries of the reservation, which is the area targeted by this grant. The unemployment rate for the

ervation is nearly 63 percent, compared with a state-wide average of 4.3 percent. The Blackfeet Indian Reservation has suffered numerous environmental, cultural, social, and economic impacts from activities such as transcontinental railroad transportation, oil and gas development, operation of a pencil factory, and the unregulated dumping of hazardous materials. Site inventories are currently being conducted by the Blackfeet Environmental Office, and several potential brownfields have been identified, including old industrial properties, gas and service stations, dumping sites, methamphetamine labs, buildings contaminated with asbestos and black mold, automobile junk yards, and mine-scarred lands. This grant will provide the funds necessary to train low income heads of households who are continuously underemployed or who have been unemployed for an extended period of time.