



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation, Brooklyn, NY

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

St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation was selected to receive a job training grant. Greater



Job Training Grant

\$141,764

EPA has selected St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation for a job training grant. The corporation plans to train 80 community residents in environmental remediation technologies and anticipates placing a minimum of 48 graduates in the environmental field. Graduates will be tracked for two years. The corporation's workforce development arm, Williamsburg Works, will conduct the 16-week, 415-hour training program. OSHA HAZWOPER, construction health and safety, confined space entry, and disaster site worker certification courses will be offered to all trainees. Additional courses in asbestos and lead abatement, air monitoring and sampling, radon and vapor intrusion, and microbial remediation also may be offered, based on employer interests. The program will enroll both underemployed and unemployed residents of North Brooklyn, a community severely impacted by brownfields. The applicant maintains a job placement service, funded through other programs, to assist graduates with job placement and critical services.

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 2 Brownfields Team

212-637-4314

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation, NY
718-302-2057, ext. 210

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

Williamsburg (population 88,000) in North Brooklyn is an industrial park with numerous brownfields and other contaminated sites near disadvantaged communities in need of improved housing. Williamsburg residents are predominantly Hispanic and African-American. The median household income is \$16,409, which reflects a combination of low education and under-employment. About 25 percent of residents live in poverty, and 33 percent of the population depends on public assistance. The area consists largely of manufacturing and industrial operations that use hazardous substances. Although the number of brownfields is declining, a great number of vacant and under-used properties remain, many of which are closed gas stations. With rising redevelopment needs, including those for new and affordable housing, the demand for environmental technicians to clean up contaminated areas is expected to rise.