



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

Career Options of Pinellas, Inc., Clearwater, FL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

The Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots will each be funded up to \$200,000 over two years. These Pilots will bring together community groups, job training organizations, educators, labor groups, investors, lenders, developers, and other affected parties to address the issue of providing environmental employment and training for residents in communities impacted by brownfields. The goals of the Pilots are to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites contaminated with hazardous substances and prepare trainees for employment in the environmental field, including training in alternative or innovative treatment technologies.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Career Options of Pinellas, Inc. for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. Career Options of Pinellas plans to concentrate its workforce development efforts in the City of Clearwater, Florida, which is a Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot.

The Job Training Pilot will focus on the downtown area of Clearwater, which has declined environmentally and economically as a result of private disinvestment. Derelict buildings that once housed commercial and industrial operations now dominate the downtown landscape. Approximately 100 potentially contaminated brownfields have been identified in the downtown area. The 10,800 residents of the area are 59% minority and suffer from a poverty rate of 27%. Only one-third of residents are high school graduates. The area is slated to be designated as an Enterprise Zone by the State. The efforts of Clearwater to address the economic decline of downtown neighborhoods and to assess and clean up brownfields indicate a need for environmental training.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Career Options of
Pinellas, Inc.,
Clearwater, Florida*

Date of Announcement:
August 1998

Amount: \$141,364

Profile: The Pilot targets homeless and handicapped veterans and unemployed or under-employed residents of Clearwater's downtown area.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Career Options of Pinellas plans to train 50 students with the EPA grant, achieve an 80% placement rate, and track students for up to one year. Participants to be targeted will be homeless and handicapped veterans and other disadvantaged residents of the downtown area. The Pilot training program will consist of a two-month environmental technician curriculum, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies. The training efforts of Career Options of Pinellas will be supported by organizations such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Pinellas Technical Education Centers, and the City of Clearwater. A Brownfields Advisory Board, consisting of members of local businesses, will assist with job placement in the target area.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Developing a curriculum for brownfields assessment and cleanup;
- Conducting environmental technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Conducting outreach to recruit homeless and handicapped veterans and other disadvantaged residents of the downtown area.

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