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www.epa.gov/brownfields/



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

St. Louis Community College, MO and IL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected St. Louis Community College for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. St. Louis Community College's assessment pilot partners are the City of St. Louis, Missouri, and the City of East St. Louis, Illinois. The Job Training Pilot will focus on neighborhoods in the St. Louis/East St. Louis/Wellston federal Empowerment Zone. Residents of the Empowerment Zone are primarily African American, although there has been a dramatic increase in the number of immigrants from Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. Residents suffer from a 47 percent poverty rate, and 62 percent of the area's children live in poverty. Only half of the students in the area complete high school, and the unemployment rate is correspondingly high at 24 percent. The St. Louis area has undergone an epidemic of lead poisoning, and asbestos is a major health threat in the community.

The economy of the St. Louis area has changed dramatically over the past 50 years. Many warehouses, factories, and other commercial buildings are vacant, and many brownfield sites are contaminated by various hazardous materials. The St. Louis and East St. Louis Brownfields Assessment Pilots are helping to stimulate redevelopment efforts in the Empowerment Zone.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*St. Louis, Missouri
and
East St. Louis,
Illinois*

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 50 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from low-income, Welfare-to-Work, and unemployed residents of the federal St. Louis/East St. Louis/Wellston Empowerment Zone, which is comprised of severely depressed neighborhoods suffering from years of disinvestment in the area's commercial and industrial facilities.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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(913) 551-7964

Visit the EPA Region 7 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region07/specinit/brown/brownfields.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/>

The severely depressed economic conditions and number of brownfields sites in the area indicate a strong need for an environmental training program. Properly trained environmental technicians are in high demand by St. Louis employers.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

St. Louis Community College plans to train 50 participants, achieve a 75 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from low-income, Welfare-to-Work, and unemployed residents of the federal Empowerment Zone. The Pilot training program will consist of 190 hours of classes over a six-week period, including courses on environmental technologies, HAZWOPER, lead and asbestos abatement, OSHA 30-hour general construction, and ecosystem restoration, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies. OSHA-approved instructors will conduct the training for general construction.

St. Louis Community College's training efforts will be supported by organizations such as Work Link, St. Louis University Center for Education and Training, St. Louis Development Corporation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis Regional Jobs Initiative, St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association, Workforce Partners of Metro St. Louis, New Spirit Neighborhood Organizing Office, and St. Louis Urban Male Resource Center. St. Louis Community College will offer graduates continuing education opportunities. A bi-state Workforce Development Advisory Group will assist the program meet employer needs.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit low-income, Welfare-to-Work, and unemployed residents of the federal Empowerment Zone;
- Conducting brownfields technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

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