

# EPA Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

## Chicago, 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 awarded the City of Chicago supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Several areas of Chicago are characterized by mixed residential and industrial land uses. Abandoned industrial properties have created economic blight and hampered redevelopment. In 1993, Chicago established the Chicago Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative to revitalize the city's abandoned and contaminated properties. The Initiative currently manages about 26 sites and is comprised of an interdepartmental team of project managers from the city Departments of Environment, Planning and Development, and Law.

The city's success in returning contaminated and/or abandoned sites to productive use is demonstrated through a number of ongoing redevelopment projects. For example, it was recently announced that a \$190 million minority-owned television studio will be built on a former dump; and a plastics molding factory, which will employ 600 people, will be developed on another abandoned site.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Chicago, Illinois

**Date of Announcement:**  
March 2000

**Amount:** \$150,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will support Chicago's successful brownfields program through supporting environmental assessments at approximately 25 brownfields sites throughout the city.

#### Contacts:

Chicago Department  
of Environment  
(312) 744-9139

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
(312) 886-1960

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:

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

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/>

## OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The objective of this brownfields pilot is to continue the successful work begun by the City of Chicago through supporting additional environmental assessments at brownfield sites. More than 100 potential additional brownfield sites exist and will be evaluated based on access and control, estimates of cleanup costs, and property value. Most of these areas have received special designations (model industrial corridors, planned manufacturing districts, and tax increment financing districts).

To accomplish these objectives, the Pilot plans to:

- Conduct environmental assessments at approximately 25 priority brownfield sites throughout the city;
- Facilitate industrial and commercial redevelopment at abandoned industrial sites; and
- Continue to draw on a variety of funding mechanisms for assessments and other activities necessary to redevelop brownfield sites.

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