



Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grant Fact Sheet

American Planning Association

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders 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. EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through assistance agreements to provide training, research, and technical assistance to facilitate brownfields revitalization.

Organization Description

The American Planning Association (APA) brings together 42,000 members—practicing planners, citizens, elected officials—committed to making great communities happen. APA is a nonprofit public interest and research organization committed to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, advance the art and science of planning to meet the needs of people and society. APA's research department is engaged in applied research that results in practical information about best practices in urban and regional planning in the U.S.

Bethel New Life, Inc., is a 28-year-old nonprofit faith-based community development corporation, which serves Chicago's Westside neighborhoods. Bethel has earned a national reputation for cutting edge initiatives



Creating Community-Based Brownfields Redevelopment Strategies

Grantee:

American Planning Association

Project Focus:

Training and Technical Assistance for Community Development Corporations

Project Period:

October 2005 to September 2009

Project Description:

Creating Community-Based Brownfields Redevelopment Strategies is a three-year initiative with the goal of helping community groups in low-income communities develop a new set of "eyes" to see brownfields sites as opportunities. APA's research department is undertaking this project, working in close collaboration with Bethel New Life, a Chicago-based community development corporation (CDC) with extensive experience in brownfields redevelopment issues. By creating a workbook and training program for CDCs and similar groups, the project team intends to provide brownfields communities with a tool to empower residents to effectively participate in brownfields redevelopment and understand how different development strategies will benefit their communities.

The training module is currently being tested and fine-tuned with community groups across the country. The end goal is to create a program that CDCs and planning departments across the country can use to support the active involvement of their communities in brownfields redevelopment. The final workbook and training module will be released on the project web site in late 2007. Additional training workshops are planned for 2008 and 2009.

In addition to the workbook and training program, this effort will also result in: a project web site; a resource list; articles for APA-produced print and digital publications, including a PAS Memo; an audio-web training conference scheduled for May 2008; a best-practices manual designed for planners; and educa-

and pioneering approaches that build on the people, physical assets, and faith of the community. Bethel has been a part of the cleanup and redevelopment of several brownfields sites in Chicago that provided economic stimuli to a low-income community.

tional sessions at a variety of conferences, including the APA National Planning Conference.

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: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields> or call 202.566.2777.

For further information about the American Planning Association or their brownfields initiative, visit <http://www.planning.org/brownfields> or contact Lynn Ross at 312.786.6723.

For further information about Bethel New Life, Inc., visit: <http://www.bethelnewlife.org/> or contact Mary Nelson at 773.473.7870.

**The information on this fact sheet is subject to change.*