



Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

Canóvanas, PR

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. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this 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. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Municipality of Canóvanas was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Canóvanas (population 43,335) is located in northeastern Puerto Rico. The territory is dominated by mountains, coastal plains, and riparian flood zones. Part of the municipality lies within the Caribbean National Forest. While the municipality has seen a population boom in the last five years mainly due to the construction of a new highway, it has significant economic hardships. For over a decade, the municipality had a strong economy based on agriculture and industry. In recent years, the agricultural sector has disappeared, and there has been a sharp decline in industry. The unemployment rate is 21.1 percent, and more than 50 percent of residents live in poverty. There are three



Assessment Grants

New
2008

\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Municipality of Canóvanas for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct up to eight Phase I and four Phase II environmental site assessments, develop a site inventory, and support community outreach activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

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
212-637-4309

<http://www.epa.gov/region2/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Municipality of Canóvanas, PR
787-256-6878

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

vacant industrial parks, and 11 manufacturing plants have shut down. These vacant properties are now being used for illicit activities such as illegal dumping. Assessment of brownfields is expected to help the municipality identify and quantify potential human health and environmental risks at these sites, facilitate planning for addressing risks, and promote sustainable redevelopment.