



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



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COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM

FY2003-2004 AWARDS





# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM

In March 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Environmental Justice announced the projects selected for award through its new Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program. The Program awards cooperative agreements to affected local community-based organizations seeking to address environmental and/or public health concerns in their communities through constructive and collaborative problem-solving with other stakeholders, such as state and local governments, industry, and other non-governmental organizations. Each of this year's 30 selected recipients were awarded \$100,000 for use over a three-year period.

Using their program funding, the selected community-based organizations will assess and quantify their communities' environmental and/or public health concerns, build partnerships with other organizations, identify strategies, and work towards ensuring safe and healthy communities.

The projects reflect the diverse environmental justice issues that affect communities throughout the country, such as ensuring meaningful participation in urban redevelopment initiatives, reducing air pollution from local traffic or industrial sources, raising awareness of safe fish consumption, and addressing high levels of lead poisoning in households.

Though diverse in location and goals, all of the projects conducted under the program will share a common thread—use of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model. Developed by the EPA Office of Environmental Justice, the Model relies on the following seven key elements to address environmental justice concerns:

- ◆ Issue identification, community vision, and strategic goal-setting
- ◆ Community capacity-building
- ◆ Consensus-building and dispute resolution
- ◆ Multi-stakeholder partnerships and resource mobilization
- ◆ Supportive and facilitative role of government
- ◆ Management and implementation
- ◆ Evaluation, lessons learned, and replication of best practices

To be eligible for this program, the applicant must be an “*affected local community-based organization*.” A local community-based organization is defined for this Cooperative Agreement Program as an entity/organization that is: (1) at the most basic level of the organizational hierarchy, such as a grassroots group/neighborhood organization that is not affiliated with a larger national, regional, or state organization; (2) located in the same area as the environmental and/or public health problem that is described in the application and where the residents of the affected community reside; (3) focused primarily on addressing the environmental and/or public health problems of the residents of the affected community; and (4) comprised primarily of members of the affected community. “Affected” is defined as being in the locale which is influenced or altered by the environmental and/or public health problems.

For more information, visit the Office of Environmental Justice Web page at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants>.

# COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

## REGION 1

*Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire, Rhode Island,  
Vermont, & 10 Tribal Nations*

### **Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)**

**Project:** Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model

**Location:** Lowell, MA

**Project Description:** CBA will work with its partners to incorporate environmental and health considerations, and to involve disadvantaged communities into the decision-making process of the City of Lowell's Master Plan for housing redevelopment and revitalization. CBA will also work with community residents to encourage their use of natural, non-toxic cleaning products and practices to reduce exposure to lead paint and decrease the incidence of asthma.



### **Pioneer Valley Project, Inc. (PVP)**

**Project:** Vietnamese Nail Salon Health Project

**Location:** Springfield, MA

**Project Description:** PVP will work with its partners to develop city and state regulations to protect and improve the health and safety of Vietnamese salon workers exposed to the hazardous chemicals found in nail care products. PVP will also work with nail care technicians to raise their awareness of best practices regarding the safe use of these products.

## REGION 2

*New Jersey, New York,  
Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands,  
& 10 Tribal Nations*



### **Make the Road by Walking (MRW)**

**Project:** Bushwick Environment and Health Collaborative

**Location:** New York City, NY

**Project Description:** MRW and its partners will reexamine the environmental and health needs of this low-income, predominantly Latino and African-American community. The project intends to increase community and government involvement by focusing on current community concerns that include high levels of lead in drinking water, rat infestation, and illegal pesticides.

## **United Community Centers, Inc. (UCC)**

**Project:** Environmental Justice in East New York

**Location:** New York City, NY

**Project Description:** UCC will create an Environmental Council, composed of its partners, to conduct air sampling tests in schools, apartments, and community locations to determine the extent of indoor and outdoor air pollution in the community. The Council will help the community educate itself about asthma, asthma triggers and allergens, and what can be done to minimize or eliminate indoor air asthma triggers.

## **REGION 3**

*Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania,  
Virginia, West Virginia,  
& the District of Columbia*



## **Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice (BCEJ)**

**Project:** Community Involvement in Urban Redevelopment

**Location:** Baltimore, MD

**Project Description:** BCEJ, with their partners, will train community block monitors to perform block assessments to minimize environmental and safety hazards present during and after planned urban redevelopment activities. As part of the project, the partners will develop health education materials and presentations, and convene forums to be held in the community about environmental and public health issues.



## **Hands Across the Mountain, Inc. (HAM)**

**Project:** Coal Country Water Quality and Environmental Justice Project

**Location:** Appalachia communities in VA

**Project Description:** HAM will work with a range of partners to identify and characterize the environmental and public health issues associated with straight pipe sewage and acid mine drainage, educate the community residents about the environmental and health effects from these impacts, and work to develop and implement the strategies necessary to successfully address these issues.



## **Park Reist Corridor Coalition, Inc. (PRCC)**

**Project:** Park Heights Environmental Justice Project: Creating a Model for Success

**Location:** Baltimore, MD

**Project Description:** PRCC, with its partners, will assist in the formation and support of a trade organization to represent the community's auto body shop owners in attaining regulatory compliance and understanding the impacts of their solid waste and air emissions practices. In addition, the project will utilize the city's master planning process to engage residents in an assessment of community environmental issues and resources for the positive development of the Park Heights community.

## Village of Arts and Humanities, Inc. (VAH)

### **Project:** Shared Prosperity Through Environmental Justice Initiative

**Location:** Philadelphia, PA

**Project Description:** VAH and its partners will engage communities in the cleanup and improvement of vacant lots into green spaces and sustain their upkeep through a recycling program to help reduce pollutants that contribute to communities' high asthma rates. This collaboration is expected to improve Philadelphia's recycling rate and air quality.



## Washington Village/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council (WVPNPC)

### **Project:** Operation: Clean & Healthy Neighborhood

**Location:** Baltimore, MD

**Project Description:** WVPNPC, in collaboration with its partners, will implement a sanitation campaign that will establish a sanitation workgroup, distribute a manual on proper trash disposal, offer residents information about free city transfer stations, and share information about cleanup efforts to reduce trash and create more green spaces throughout the community.

## REGION 4

*Alabama, Florida, Georgia,  
Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina,  
South Carolina, Tennessee*



## Fresh Ministries, Inc. (FM)

### **Project:** Community Centered Environmental Education & Cleanup In East Jacksonville, Florida

**Location:** Jacksonville, FL

**Project Description:** FM and its partners will utilize the Protocol For Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) as a planning tool to assist in the assessment of the environmental and public health needs of the East Jacksonville community. Through a series of workshops, FM and its partners will educate the residents who have been affected by environmental exposures from industrial facilities in proximity to their neighborhoods.



## Harambee House Inc. (HH)

### **Project:** From Assessment to Action: Hudson Hill Community

**Location:** Savannah, GA

**Project Description:** HH will collaborate with its partners to establish a process which includes a series of planning charettes, intensive workshops where people come together to suggest solutions for complex planning issues. HH and its partners intend to empower the community and other stakeholders to design a Comprehensive Action Plan to address community health and environmental concerns associated with pollution from a neighboring paper plant.

## Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP)

**Project:** Community First—Building Bridges for Inclusion

**Location:** Columbia, MS

**Project Description:** JPAP will develop multi-stakeholder partnerships to formulate a “vision to action” for the impacted community. This vision will include an action plan for the possible relocation of 150 to 200 families who surround the site of a former chemical plant.



## West Anniston Foundation (WAF)

**Project:** Health Education Coalition (HEC) Project

**Location:** Anniston, AL

**Project Description:** WAF and its partners will form the Health Education Coalition. The Coalition will primarily focus on the development of a youth-driven, community-based video to educate the youth and community about PCB exposure under an overall health education agenda.



## West End Revitalization Association (WERA)

**Project:** “Lack of Basic Amenities:” Links to Environmental and Health Disparities in Low-Income and Minority Communities

**Location:** Mebane, NC

**Project Description:** With its partners, WERA will develop a collaborative process that encourages measures for the installation of safe water and sewer services, the clean up of toxic substance sites, and the improvement of air quality in Mebane’s low-income communities and other comparable communities that do not have access to basic amenities. Grassroots training will assist residents in working collaboratively with local, state, and federal government officials.

## REGION 5

*Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,  
Minnesota, Ohio,  
Wisconsin*



## People for Community Recovery, Inc. (PCR)

**Project:** Environmental Justice for Altgeld Gardens, Chicago, Illinois

**Location:** Chicago, IL

**Project Description:** PCR and its partners will create an Environmental Justice Research and Training Center that will provide skills development and job training to residents. The center will also serve as a hub for strategizing with a variety of stakeholders on the redevelopment of a “clean” industrial park and production of educational materials focusing on environmental health.



## **West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC)**

**Project: Community Organizing Project**

**Location: Grand Rapids, MI**

**Project Description:** WMEAC, in collaboration with its partners, will build the capacity of citizen groups in order to develop and implement a “peer to peer” training curriculum on lead awareness. Participation in the development of the curriculum will provide a practical and important opportunity for the citizen groups to help shape a pro-active response to the issue of lead within their communities.

## **REGION 6**

*Arkansas, Louisiana,  
New Mexico, Oklahoma,  
Texas*



## **Colonias Unidas (CU)**

**Project: Community Solid Waste Management Project**

**Location: Las Lomas, TX**

**Project Description:** CU, along with its partners, will establish a program, “Colonias Limpias,” to address the problem of solid waste disposal in the predominantly poor, Spanish-speaking population and work for solutions. The program will produce a report on city and county waste management practices and foster community involvement to conduct cleanup efforts. Collaboration results are expected to bring effective ideas for new relationships that will support the revitalization of Colonias.



## **Louisiana Environmental Justice Project (LEJP)**

**Project: New Orleans Lead Education and Advocacy Development (NO LEAD) Capacity Building Project**

**Location: New Orleans, LA**

**Project Description:** LEJP and its partners will establish a lead assessment program to provide information that will be used to develop a Carpentry Pre-Apprentice program for the community’s young adults. The program will feature training in how to properly address the renovation of homes with lead hazards.



## **Mothers for Clean Air (MfCA)**

**Project: Improving Environmental Quality Through Collaboration: Reducing Exposure of SE Houston Residents**

**Location: Houston, TX**

**Project Description:** MfCA will collaborate with local governments, universities, citizen organizations, elected officials, and industries to reduce risk exposure from air pollution. Southeast Houston residents will develop a “Citizens Air Quality Tool Kit” for participants in a community-based air sampling program that will identify pollutants of concern and provide an aid to regulatory agencies.



## REGION 7

*Iowa, Kansas,  
Missouri, Nebraska*



### Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN)

**Project:** Mid-County Community Clean Sweep

**Location:** St. Louis, MO

**Project Description:** NAN, along with its partners, will develop the Mid-County Community Clean Sweep project to coordinate 10 cleanup efforts throughout the community targeting solid waste removal along river beds, on vacant lots, in alleys, on problem properties, and in common areas, improving the area's environmental outlook and promoting reuse and recycling through cleanup campaigns.



### Oak Grove Neighborhood Association (OGNA)

**Project:** Back to the Park: Collaborative Problem-Solving on the Oak Grove Community

**Location:** Kansas City, KS

**Project Description:** OGNA and its partners will create the “John Garland Park Task Force” to organize the necessary stakeholders in the community-driven redevelopment initiative and to monitor progress toward the goal of reopening the John Garland Park, a redeveloped landfill in the Oak Grove neighborhood that was closed in the late 1980's due to environmental concerns related to gas venting and water contamination.

## REGION 8

*Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,  
South Dakota, Utah,  
Wyoming*



### Bessemer Association for Neighborhood Development (BAND)

**Project:** Bessemer/Salt Creek Neighborhoods Environmental Health Initiative

**Location:** Bessemer and Salt Creek, CO

**Project Description:** BAND will work with its partnering communities and other stakeholders to identify the range of environmental and public health issues facing the communities. This collaboration will prioritize the issues and select one or two issues to address with the other project partners.

## **Groundwork Denver, Inc. (GD)**

**Project:** The EJ Outreach Partnership

**Location:** Denver, CO

**Project Description:** GD and its partners will establish “Centro de Salud Ambiental,” a virtual center for environmental health that will provide environmental and health information to residents and create new impetus for problem resolutions in this diverse, Spanish-speaking community. The project aims to build powerful relationships by encouraging and interacting with local government and businesses.

## **REGION 9**

*Arizona, California,  
Guam, Hawaii, Nevada*



## **Anahola Homesteaders Council (AHC)**

**Project:** Project Imua

**Location:** Kauai, HI

**Project Description:** AHC will work with its partners and the local community to develop a Community Plan as a means of engaging in discussions with state and municipal officials. The environmental and public health issues to be addressed through site cleanup and redevelopment include water pollution and soil contamination, as well as the socio-economic issues in Anahola.



## **Coalition for West Oakland Revitalization (CWOR)**

**Project:** Neighborhood Environmental Indicators Project

**Location:** West Oakland, CA

**Project Description:** CWOR, in conjunction with its partners, will develop an Environmental Justice Resource Center that will provide access to informational materials and environmental indicator reports to educate residents on air quality issues facing the community.



## **Marin County Grassroots Leadership Network (MCGLN)**

**Project:** Marin Community Collaborative Project

**Location:** Marin City and San Rafael, CA

**Project Description:** MCGLN, in collaboration with its partners, will develop a community action plan to mitigate cancer risk factors identified by a hands-on study project on the incidence of cancer in the Canal and Marin City neighborhoods. The project will be facilitated by experienced consultants and will involve different activities including leadership training for community members.

## **Pacoima Beautiful (PB)**

**Project:** Pacoima Lead Poisoning Prevention Community Program

**Location:** Los Angeles, CA

**Project Description:** PB, along with its partners, will produce and distribute a report on the findings from health care provider and housing surveys. The report will advocate more lead control and increase community capacity of residents to access educational and screening services regarding lead hazards in Pacoima. The project will encourage a long-term, multi-partnership engagement to support community health revitalization.

## **REGION 10**

*Alaska, Idaho,  
Oregon, Washington*



## **Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)**

**Project:** Health and Environmental Collaborative Project

**Location:** Seattle, WA

**Project Description:** CCEJ, in conjunction with its partners, will create an action plan that will enhance communication, outreach, and education regarding air quality issues in three disproportionately impacted neighborhoods. Activities will include the development of reports and fact sheets and the creation of a handbook for environmental health specialists and educators.



## **Indochinese Cultural and Service Center (ICSC)**

**Project:** Asian Pacific Islander Environmental Awareness Project

**Location:** Pierce County, WA

**Project Description:** ICSC will work with its partners to establish state and local government policies and procedures for beach monitoring. The project will also produce a beach closure management plan that can be replicated and can successfully reach out to communities with limited English proficiency. ICSC will also work with partners to raise the Asian and Pacific Islander communities' awareness of safe and sustainable shellfish harvesting.



## **Portland Northern Neighborhood Quality Coalition (EJAG)**

**Project:** Build Collaborative Group to Address EJ Issues in Northern Sector of Portland to Improve Air Quality

**Location:** Portland, OR

**Project Description:** EJAG and its partners will establish the "Portland Northern Neighborhoods Air Quality Coalition" to investigate and implement sustainable solutions to eliminate the disproportionate air pollution problems faced by residents caused by diesel fuel emissions. The process will include the creation of a video and community-based education program to increase understanding of air quality issues, the health impacts on the community, and the sustainable solutions.



United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.  
(2201A)  
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

EPA-300-K-04-002  
Summer 2004