

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS RECIPIENTS -- FY 1995

EQ991431

River Watch Network (RWN)

Montpelier, VT

Contact- John Byrne

(802) 223-3840

Grant Amount: \$20,000

RWN is a national non-profit organization established in 1987. The mission of RWN is to bring together people concerned about the health of their local river ecosystems, and to monitor, restore and protect these rivers.

Project Objectives- Train volunteers in designing, administering, and analyzing data from cross-sectional epidemiological health and river water use surveys; provide expertise in interpreting epidemiological data and in understanding and prioritizing the community's health risks; help coordinate community meetings to disseminate resulting information and to provide advice on community risk reduction strategies.

EQ991344

Roger Williams Park Zoo

Youth & the Environment Program

Providence, RI

Contact- Keith Winsten

(401) 785-3510 ext 310

Grant Amount: \$14,934

The Roger Williams Park Zoo Docent Council is a private non-profit corporation responsible for educational programming at the Roger Williams Park Zoo. The council targets at-risk and disadvantaged urban youths. The proposal's goal is to train teens about pollution and to assist the teens in creating an education program about litter.

Project Objectives-

1. Recruit 10 urban youths from the local JPA and Providence Summer Job Lottery to participate in the program as Youth in the Environment interns;
2. Provide the interns with a wide-range of environmental experiences through time spent with zoo staff and through visits to other institutions;
3. Support the interns in creating an interactive, exciting educational program on environmental health by collaborating with "Keep Providence Beautiful";
4. Deliver the teen-lead program to children gathering for free lunches at 18 urban parks;
5. Inspire the children to take ownership of the parks by organizing trash clean-up in the park following the program; and

6. Conduct follow-up surveys of the parks to document any long-term reductions in litter.

EQ991348

ROCA, Inc. of North Suffolk Mental Health

Chelsea, MA

Contact- Molly Baldwin

(617) 889-5210

Grant Amount- \$20,000

ROCA Inc's mission "is to be a leadership organization for social justice and the common good". ROCA operates two multi-cultural youth development programs for youth in the cities of Chelsea and Revere, Massachusetts, ROCA of Chelsea and the ROCA of Revere.

Project Objective- Youth STAR (Service Taking Action in Revere) is part of the ROCA Revere Project. The Youth STAR project proposes to do the following: create and organize a movement of committed environmental concern in the City of Revere through development and implementation of environmental justice practices and education programs. For example the Project will develop on-site environmental programs in North Revere Conservation Land (NRCL), which is 17 acres of conservation woodlands that have been environmentally destroyed. The project will also strengthen partnerships with existing local conservation groups and organizations and host a regional environmental summit.

EQ991350

Lena Park Community Development Corporation

Dorchester, MA

Contact- Alan Feinberg

(617) 288-7398

Grant Amount- \$20,000

Lena Park is a large multifaceted minority human service agency located in Dorchester, Massachusetts. The mission of this agency is to improve the quality of life in Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan. Services provided at the Agency include daycare, social services, college counseling, recreation, summer camp, residential programs for the mentally ill, and "at risk youth" projects.

Project Objective- Lena Park will collaborate with the Northeast Lead initiative to provide outreach to daycare providers, schools and health centers. Lena Park will also set up a training plan that can be used to educate other communities with similar issues.

EQ991408

The Fitchburg Spanish Council

Fitchburg, MA

Contact- Genoveva Algarin

(508) 345-1882

Grant Amount- \$20,000

The Fitchburg Spanish Council, founded more than 20 years ago, serves the Hispanic population in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. The proposal's goal is to educate the public about storm drains and their impact on the Nashua River.

Project Objectives-

1. Facilitate and increase communication between grassroots/community-based environmental organization, local government, the general public and regional environmental groups about the impact storm drains have on the local river;
2. Motivate the community to take action to address the issue; and
3. Teach about risk reduction and pollution prevention and seek technical experts to demonstrate how to access, analyze and interpret public environmental data.

EQ991356

The Coalition for Better Acre

Lowell, MA

Contact- Nancy Turner

(508) 452-7523

Grant Amount- \$20,000

The Coalition for Better Acre, founded in 1982, serves a large multi-cultural disadvantaged community in Lowell, MA. The proposal's goals is to recruit and train 75 low-income Cambodian residents to launch a site-control campaign to acquire six vacant care lots for use as community gardens.

Project Objectives-

1. Increase the number of green spaces in their dense community;
2. Provide up to 25,000 square feet of lead free land where residents can grow their own food; and
3. Demonstrate the powers of community-based organizing to residents who are unaccustomed to working together.

EQ991404

The Holden School (Seaport Solutions)

Charlestown, MA

Contact- Janice Brenner

(617) 242-3940

Grant Amount- \$20,000

Seaport Solutions is an innovative, collaborative community-based environmental justice demonstration project proposed by the Holden School (a private high school with 20 year history of serving multi-cultural, high-risk Boston youth), and the New England Historic Seaport (a maritime historical education and preservation program serving Boston).

Project Objective- is to provide high risks youth, boat owners, and other community residents with simple strategies for disposing boat waste. The proposal's objective is to utilize 20 high risk, multi-cultural Boston youths between the ages of 14-21 to research, design, implement and evaluate a community environmental justice project to decrease boat waste and to promote cleaner marinas in Boston harbors.

EQ991428

Maine Indian Township- Passamaquoddy

Princeton, ME

Contact- Veronica Smith

(207) 796-5635

Grant Amount- \$20,000

Indian Township, Passamaquoddy is one of two reservations of the federally recognized Passamaquoddy Tribes of Eastern Maine. It is located in one of the poorest counties in New England. The Township established its Environmental Department in September, 1993 with programs in pollution prevention, water quality monitoring and environmental planning.

Project Objectives- To establish the necessary lines of communication between the tribal government, federal and state agencies and other local stakeholder communities to establish Tribal capability to deal with the West Grand dam re-authorization by identifying and educating legal standing in protecting its water, wildlife, and archeological resources, and other environmental issues such as shoreline erosion related to water management.

EQ991358

Urban Resources Initiative (URI)- New Haven

New Haven, CT

Contact- Leigh Shermitz

Grant Amount: \$18,417

URI is a non-profit organization working with community groups in New Haven since 1991. URI's mission is to assist the process of social revitalization in inner-city neighborhoods through ecological restoration projects.

Project Objectives-

1. Create vibrant open spaces where garden products can be planted and harvested;
2. Provide training necessary to motivate community organizations and stewardship of neighborhood sites; and
3. Create a self-sufficient program.

EQ991424

Housatonic Valley Association

Pittsfield, MA

Contact- Thomas Stokes

(413) 637-3188

Grant Amount- \$20,000

The Housatonic Valley Association is concerned with enabling residents of the West Side of Pittsfield to solve environmental justice issues affecting their community. To this end, they will collaborate with other organizations such as the Christian Center of Pittsfield, the Center for Ecological Technology and the City Department of Community Development, and pool their resources to focus on the following activities: Housatonic River Greenway planning and development, river monitoring, and radon testing.

Project Objective- “To help engage West Side residents in a fight for a healthier environment, both around their neighborhood and within their own homes”. Activities will include: building community consensus on the design and uses of the West Branch Greenway; providing information to the community about the health and safety of the river and initiating a radon testing program.

EQ991444

Roger Williams Park Zoo

Providence, RI

Contact- Keith Winsten

(401) 785-3510

Grant Amount: \$11,844

Roger Williams Zoo is located in the culturally and ethically diverse south side of Providence. The Roger Williams Docent Council is a private non-profit corporation that is responsible for educational programming at the zoo. The “Youth in the Environment Program”, and “Zoo Power” are programs that focus on ‘at risk and disadvantaged urban youth’.

Project Objective- Expand the activist role of Zoo Power by empowering student activity leaders (SALs) to create an environmental monitoring program that they will teach to children from urban school-aged child care (SACC) programs...” in essence, a grassroots environmental network would be built by kids.

EQ991345

South End Community Center

Bridgeport, CT

Contact- Willy Freites
(203) 331-0200

Grant Amount: \$20,000

South End Community Center is a non-profit community center providing recreational services to disadvantaged children between the ages of 5-17. Its proposal's goal is to expand an existing program called "Project Pride". Project Pride's goals is to increase environmental awareness in young people of the South End neighborhood while developing civic responsibility and promoting community pride.

Project Objectives-

1. Become more ecologically aware of their surroundings;
2. Learn the importance of serving the community by participating in projects that will benefit the entire neighborhood; and
3. Promote community awareness around environmental issues.

EQ991415

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center

Dorchester, MA

Contact- Pat Arnold

(617) 825-3400

Grant Amount: \$18,172

Harvard Street neighborhood Health Center's mission is to serve as a primary resource in caring for the sick and afflicted without regards to sex, color, political or religious beliefs and to promote the general health of the North Dorchester, Mattapan and Roxbury communities of Boston.

Project Objective- To develop community-based educational Lead Prevention Workshops. The workshops will educate parents, including parenting teens, about lead poisoning in children and provide information, discussion and resources available for affected children.

EQ991354

Lawrence Planning & Neighborhood Development Corporation

Lawrence, MA

Contact- Ana Levy

(508) 685-3115

Grant Amount: \$20,000

Lawrence Planning & Neighborhood Development Corp. provides affordable housing for low and moderate income Anglo and Hispanic communities of Lawrence.

Project Objectives- develop a neighborhood organization that will work in partnership with a CDC to improve target neighborhoods. The target areas for this project are “two adjacent neighborhoods of Northern Lawrence, the Arlington and the Back Bay neighborhoods. The two neighborhoods are located between the polluted banks and the waterway of the Spickett River to south, and the town of Methuen to the north... More than 62% of the residents in our target area are of Hispanic origin”. Efforts in the targeted areas will include: (1) develop an extensive outreach campaign that relies on person to person recruiting and a sensitivity to cultural and language differences that divide the neighborhoods and (2) work with the Inspection, Police, Fire Departments to immediately ensure buildings are either up to code or properly boarded-up to prevent unlawful entry and delinquent activities.

EQ991411

Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI)

Roxbury, MA

Contact-Albert Lovata

(617) 442-9670

Grant Amount: \$5,000

DSNI “is a grassroots, community based coalition of residents, non-profits, religious organizations and businesses working to rebuild the Dudley Street neighborhood in Roxbury and North Dorchester.

Project Objectives- “To develop a long-term solution to eliminating the ongoing solid waste issues in the Dudley Street area and to develop a comprehensive neighborhood cleanup effort including neighborhood -wide cleanups.” This effort will also include increasing the City’s responsiveness to: residents request for more frequent trash pick-ups; to businesses who do not have frequent trash pickups; the cleaning of vacant lots and the prohibition of illegal dumping.

EQ99134

Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWSC)

West Newbury, MA

Contact- Ralph Goodno

(508) 363-5777

Grant Amount: \$20,000

MRWSC’s mission is to restore and protect “the Merrimack River and its tributaries for the enjoyment of the public, the benefit of its communities and the health of the watershed ecosystem”.

Project Objectives- The project which is called Natural Environment Awareness Training (NEAT) “will develop a program to train leaders within the minority community, and create a model and materials that will be used to broaden the community’s involvement in the environment, economy and community culture in the Merrimack watershed”.

EQ991412

The Providence Plan

Providence, RI

Contact- Jane Sherman

(401) 455- 8880

Grant Amount: \$20,000

The Providence Plan a 501(c) (3) organization that is committed to the revitalization of the City of Providence.

Project Objective- the organization “will hire a full time outreach coordinator to raise environmental awareness and increase community participation in the Woonasquatucket River Project”. This individual will be responsible for developing environmental awareness materials for use in year-round community outreach and educational programs.

EQ991342

Houlton Band of Maliseets Indians

Houlton, ME

Contact- James Burton

(207) 532-4273

Grant Amount: \$20,000

The Houlton Band of Maliseets Indians of Northeastern Maine are a federally recognized tribal entity. The proposal’s goal is to develop and carry-out monitoring and evaluations of the Brown Ash Tree (*Fraxinus Nigra*) on and off tribal lands. The Brown Ash Tree is used by the Maliseets Indians, and many other tribes in Maine, to weave baskets. Basket weaving is a source of income for the Maliseets Indians. The Maliseets Indians consider basket weaving as a valuable cultural heritage and resource.

Project Objectives-

1. Evaluate the health of the Brown Ash tree, and determine the extent and severity of the current health problem;
2. Investigate correlations of various site factors with these events;
3. Investigate contribution of specific stressors as predisposing, exacerbating and/or casual factors;
4. Provide for tribal capacity-building to assure an environmental presence for identifying forest health hazards and seek to establish a communication with the Maine State Forestry Division, and State and local environmental officials; and
5. Provide the Maliseets Tribe and users of the Brown Ash Tree, and the interested public with findings of these investigations and evaluations.

EQ991414

Environmental Diversity Forum (EDF)

Boston, MA

Contact- Russ Lopez

(617) 737-3214

Grant Amount: \$20,000

The Environmental Diversity Forum (EDF) is a non-profit community based organization whose membership include individuals from neighborhood groups, city and state agencies and environmental organizations. EDF was founded in 1991, and is primarily concerned with “the environmental challenges that confront urban areas and people of color”.

Project Objectives- EDF will collaborate with Tufts University in placing fourteen (14) interns from the Peace and Justice Studies Summer Program at Tufts, in internship positions in community organizations and environmental groups/agencies. The students will be able to combine knowledge gained from their employment in these organizations with the knowledge obtained in the classroom. The goal of these internships is to two-fold, interns will help organizations in addressing ongoing and new environmental justice projects and (2) interns will leave the summer internship more enlightened and aware about environmental justice.

EQ991413

O.N.E. C.H.A.N.E. (Organized North Easterners and Clay Hill and North End, Inc.)

Hartford, CT

Contact- Larry Charles

(203) 525-0190

Grant Amount: \$20,000

ONE CHANE - “A non-profit United Way Agency with the mission to rebuild North Hartford through community organizing, ownership housing development, employment training and economic development”.

Project Objectives- Identify and facilitate improvements in communication and coordination among community organizations, government programs, and other stakeholders to address environmental justice; develop methodologies to address high-priority issues regarding **environmental injustice**; and motivate the general public to be more conscious of local environmental justices/problems.

EQ991407

Massachusetts Health Research Institute (MHRI)

Boston, MA

Contact- Jonathan Spack

(617) 523-6565

Grant Amount: \$19,995

MHRI is a private non-profit organization, whose primary mission is to assist public and private agencies, institutions and other organizations in conducting innovative research, demonstration and training projects for the benefit of the public.

Project Objectives- MHRI will investigate how the regulatory enforcement of coastal fishing impacts the Cambodian community in the City of Revere. MHRI will also facilitate the communication among the leadership in these communities and provide them access to regulatory and risk assessment expertise in order that they better safeguard the health of their community residents.