

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS RECIPIENTS – FY 1996

EQ 991694

Citizen Research Education Network (CREN)
32 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Contact - Kim McClain
(860) 249-1416
Amount Awarded: \$15,000

Organization - CREN is an organization with more than 14 years of community organizing and research experience. CREN has worked with the Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood (CSS/CON) to tackle urgent problems facing the neighborhood such as land use and environmental and safety concerns.

Project Objectives - * Build a collaborative relationship between the State of CT and neighboring communities in Hartford.

* Promote the goal of sustainable development.

* Develop a model environmental assistance program for neighbors and urban areas across the State.

EQ 991688

New Haven Ecology Project
c/o West Rock Nature Center
PO Box 2969
New Haven, CT 06515
Contact - Oliver Barton
(203) 946-8017
Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization - This organization has developed education programs for inner-city youth that teach about the environment. Their goal is to foster responsibility, leadership and critical thinking skills.

Project Objectives - Establish a seasonal calendar of workshops developed by neighboring residents of a small pilot farm (that teaches ecology, gardening, nutrition and soil and water testing). It is hoped that the community's involvement will promote land and body stewardship, leadership skills, and inter-generational transfer of knowledge.

EQ 991699

Committee for Boston Public Housing (CBPH)

100 Terrace Street, Suite B

Roxbury, MA 02120

Contact - Richard Ward

(617) 427-3556

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization - Committee for Boston Public housing is a "private, non-profit, multicultural organization that is committed to social and economic justice for low-income families." CBPH was founded in 1981.

Project Objectives - "The Asthma Education and Prevention Project will build public housing resident capacity to organize around pressing environmental justice issues (asthma) by training residents on how to identify hazardous sources, educate their neighbors about the issue and then work collectively with stakeholders to develop strategies to eliminate the causes and diminish the effects on their lives."

EQ 991735

Boston Globe Foundation (Lead Action Collaborative)

Boston, MA

Contact - Mariella Puerto

(617) 929-2893

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization - The Lead Action Collaborative is a partnership of non-profit organizations, foundations and public agencies whose goal is to significantly and comprehensively reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning in Boston's high risk neighborhood.

Project Objectives - * Provide technical assistance and training to community based organizations.

* Strengthen the communication channels and foster collaboration and resource sharing among grassroots organizations, non-profit organizations and public agencies through community fora, briefings and workshops.

* Provide centralized support and coordination to organizations working on lead poisoning prevention.

EQ 991722010

Institute for Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (ISIS)

Prescott D-1

Hampshire College

Amherst, MA 01002
Contact - Herbert Bernstein
(413) 582-5582
Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization - ISIS is a non-profit corporation which has been in partnership with the Environmental Health Coalition of Western Massachusetts for the past two years. A primary goal of the partnership is to correct critical environmental justice issues caused by exposure to toxic substances in the air and water in low income/public housing and schools.

Project Objectives: Redress serious problems faced by the Hampshire County multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) community resulting from their exposure to toxins in the environment, compounded by their marginalization and exclusions from services and policy decisions. We will address this issue by (1) improving communication and coordination among the MCS community and their stakeholders and (2) increasing the general public's awareness of the problems and involving them in reaching solutions.

EQ 991678

Penobscot Nation
6 River Road
Old Town, ME 04468
Contact - Richard Hamilton
(207) 827-7776
Amount Awarded: \$16,000

Organization - the Penobscot's "is a federally recognized Indian Tribe with nearly 2,000 tribal members. The principal residence is Indian Island, one of the many islands in the Penobscot River which makes up the reservation."

Project Objectives - "To address Penobscot's concern about mercury contamination in tribal waters. They will collaborate with the University of Maine researchers to expand an ongoing study of mercury in the Penobscot river watershed to focus on two impoundments within tribal waters, and direct attention to to the tribe's environmental justice concerns.

EQ 991692

Neighborhood Against Urban Pollution (NAUP)
126 Warren Street
Roxbury, MA
Contact - Charles Lord
(617) 442-3343

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization - This team consists of the following collaborating agencies: Alternatives for Community and the Environment, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Environmental Diversity Forum, Massachusetts Campaign to Clean Hazardous Waste and Tellus Institute. The Teams's mission is to remedy existing environmental threats and prevent future polluting sources while building environmental leadership.

Project Objectives - (1) Work with low income and minority community groups in Boston to identify, prioritize and address environmental threats in their communities.

These include mapping and campaigning on vacant lots. Develop action plans to support a sustainable and healthy auto body repair and auto body industry.

(2) Build a City-wide network of NAUP with special emphasis on pollution prevention.

EQ 991681

Environmental Diversity Forum (EDF)

33 Union Street

Boston, MA 02108

Contact - Russell Lopez

(617) 523-2611

Amount Awarded:\$5,000

Organization - EDF is an organization founded in 1991 and is working with the community of color to help them improve the environment in which they live in.

Project Objectives - * To increase communication and coordination between diverse stakeholders, communities and government agencies.

* Educate and motivate the public about environmental justice. Students will combine employment with classroom discussion. They learn about the problems facing low-income and culturally diverse neighborhoods. They gain experience in community organizing to meet these challenges.

EQ 991682

Massachusetts Health Research Institute (MHRI)

18 Tremont Street

Boston, MA 02108

Contact - Jonathan Spack

(617) 523-6565

Amount Awarded: \$19,998

Organization - MHRI is a "private, non-profit organization founded in 1959 and their mission is to assist public and private agencies, institutions and other organizations in conducting research, demonstration and training projects for the public benefit.

Project Objectives - * to design and disseminate educational materials describing health risks associated with harvesting contaminated shellfish for the Vietnamese and Laotian communities.

* to develop an educational plan for Vietnamese and Laotians in greater Boston.

* to increase awareness of environmental protection by helping immigrant communities to have access to, understand, and appropriately respond to environmental advisories.

EQ 991686

ROCA, Inc

148 Washington Ave.

Chelsea, MA 02150

Contact - Rick Hough

(617) 284-6281

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization - ROCA is an organization that works along with the Youth STAR (Service Taking Action in Revere) which has been in service for the past three years. ROCA along with Youth STAR are working to provide outreach and education and leadership to the youths which are comprised mostly of Cambodian people.

Project Objectives - * to create and organize a movement of committed environmental concern in the City of Revere through implementation and development of environmental justice practices and education programs.

The work focuses on increased training and information on species identification in marine biology and botany. They propose to develop a data base of environmental health status indicators for the City of Revere.

* "Youth STAR would like to increase communications, provide community education, demonstrate environmental justice practices in woodlands and wetlands conservation, and enhance community understanding."

EQ 991732

Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW)
160 Kneeland Street
Boston, MA 02111
Contact - Michael Liu
(617) 426-5313
Amount Awarded: \$12,150

Organization - AARW is an organization working to help prevent and preserve Chinatown existing sites, monitor institutional expansion, and "prevent further discriminatory policies against Chinatown."

Project Objectives - Investigate the impact of traffic on the living conditions of Boston's Chinatown.

EQ 991733

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)
28 Paris Street
East Boston, MA 02128
Contact - Stacey Chacker
(617) 567-5882 ext.223
Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization - NOAH is an "eight year old community development corporation serving the neighborhood of East Boston."

Project Objectives - * Provide project management, community organizing expertise, technical assistance, and comprehensive planning for the East Boston component of the Chelsea Creek Project.

* Conduct adult outreach and education to diverse sectors of the East Boston community about the Chelsea Creek watershed.

* Coordinate efforts between grass-roots community groups and individuals in East Boston with URP and EDF.

* Generate a long-term community-driven plan for use of Chelsea Creek as part of the East Boston community planning process.

EQ 991687

Center for Hispanic policy and Advocacy (CHisPA)
421 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907
Contact - Christina Abuelo

(401) 467-0111

Amount Awarded: \$17,000

Organization - CHisPA is a non-profit organization that has worked very successfully with bilingual communities on environmental issues. They recently developed "effective culturally appropriate lead poisoning prevention techniques in the City of Elmwood." An area that has one of the highest rates of childhood lead poisoning in the State of Rhode Island.

It is also located in one of UEI's targeted cities, Providence, RI. During UEI's roll-out last Fall, the issue of vacant lots was presented as a very serious environmental problem to the people in that City. CHisPA's project objective is to work with the City in addressing this problem.

Project Objectives - "Create and implement a community-based, participatory model to create permanent solutions to the crisis of polluted, abandoned land in Providence's low income neighborhoods."

EQ 991693

Tellus Institute, Inc.

11 Arlington Street

Boston, MA 02116

Contact - James Goldstein

(617) 266-5400

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization - Non-profit organization founded in 1976. The organization is comprised of scientists and policy analysts with the mission to address environmental and energy issues.

Project Objectives - * To improve local environmental conditions in low-income and minority communities of the Merrimack Valley.

* To empower residents in these communities to effectively participate in the decision making process concerning incinerators and other facilities contributing to local environmental and public health risks.

EQ 991680

Franklin Park Zoo

One Franklin Park Road

Boston, MA 02121

Contact - Robert George

(617) 442-2002 ext 108

Amount Awarded: \$13,540

Organization - FPZ, "considered the brightest gem in the Emerald Necklace," is located in one of

Boston's predominantly low income community. It is managed and operated by the Commonwealth Zoological Corporation (CZC) a public non-profit corporation. CZC offers a wide range of programs that includes programs for at-risk and disadvantaged urban youth. One of their more successful programs is the "Youth and the Environment Program."

Project Objectives - Expand the activist role of youth and prepare them for careers in the environmental field. Various methods will be employed to do this. For example, teens will work with zoo professionals and individuals in the environmental field to develop a curriculum that will then be used to train other urban youth.

EQ 991697

Save the Sound

185 Magee Ave

Stamford, CT 06902

Contact - T. Robbins Brown

(203) 327-3786

Amount Awarded: \$19,898

Organization - Non-profit, membership environmental organization founded in 1972. The organization is dedicated to restoration, preservation and appreciation of Long Island Sound and its watershed through education, research and advocacy. Beginning 1994, one of its focus has been inner-city residents of Bridgeport, CT.

Project Objectives - (1) To encourage African Americans and Puerto-Rican/latino residents of Bridgeport to take action to improve the water quality of the Long Island Sound harbors by expanding their participation in a volunteer water quality monitoring program.

(2) Conduct community education and outreach about coastal water quality including point and non-point sources of pollution.

(3) Involvement in other activities that are dedicated to improving the local water quality and awareness of coastal water quality issues.

EQ 991736

The Providence Plan

The Hanley Building, suite 3B

56 Pine Street

Providence, RI 02903

Contact: Jane Sherman

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Organization: The Providence Plan is a 501(C)(3) organization created in 1992 and dedicated to the revitalization of the City of Providence.

Project Objectives: * Focus on environmental awareness, data collection, interpretation and utilization in two Providence Schools.

* Educate the students about environmental issues impacting the quality of life in the Woonasquatucket watershed and gather information useful for greenway planning and community development.

EQ 991695

River Watch Network

153 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

Contact - Jack Byrne

(802) 223-8080

Amount Awarded: \$15,000

Organization - RWN is a non-profit organization which provides organizational and technical support to people who are concerned about the protection of their rivers. RWN has helped over sixty local programs from Texas to Maine and assists community volunteers by teaching them methods of water quality sampling and analysis; Providing community support and facilitating communication between community members and local government agencies.

Project objectives - * Work with a minority community whose survival depends on the river.

* Assist Native Americans (Abenaki) in establishing a local River Watch Program.

* Test and further develop the comprehensive pilot study in other communities over the year.