

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS RECIPIENTS – FY 1998

EQ991040

Re-Vision House, Inc.

38 Fabyan Street

Dorchester, MA 02124

Contact- Judy Lieberman

(617) 825-8642

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization- Re-Vision House, Inc. (RHI) is a shelter, transitional residence and urban aquaculture/agriculture program for pregnant and parenting teens, located in the Franklin Field section of Dorchester, one of the poorest areas of the city. Re-Vision House opened its first facility in 1990, and has served over 500 homeless pregnant and parenting teens to date. RHS is working with neighborhood residents and collaborating organizations to transform the vacant lots across from their shelter into an urban community farm.

Project Objectives- To address vacant lot pollution.

- To establish an efficient agro-ecosystem which recycles carbon and nutrients in the production of fish and produce for local consumption.
- Revitalize the neighborhood through “green” development with direct economic impacts and associated improvements in nutritional health and quality of life, neighborhood aesthetics, environmental awareness and community cohesiveness.

EQ991171

The Way Home, Inc.

20 Merrimack Street, Suite B

Manchester, NH 03101

Contact- Mary Sliney

(603) 627-3491

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization- The Way Home, is an incorporated, nonprofit, social service organization. The Way Home’s mission is to help low income households obtain and keep safe, affordable housing with direct housing assistance services; empowerment of low income tenants; and advocacy for community involvement in low income housing issues.

Project Objectives- (1) To identify necessary improvements in communication and coordination among stakeholders; facilitate communication and create partnerships to address disproportionate, and adverse environmental exposures. (2) Build community capacity, identify local environmental justice problems and involve the community to design and implement activities to address

these concerns.

EQ 991054

Christian Activities Council, Congregational (CAC)

47 Vine Street

Hartford, CT 06112

Contact- Edwin O. Ayala

(860) 527-9860

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization- CAC is a nonprofit, charitable organization aimed to develop resources and programs for those in need and to reform inequities in social and economic systems in the Greater Hartford area.

Project Objectives- To develop a five-week curriculum for children in grades K-6 on the theme of environmental justice in partnership with teachers, environmental professionals, nonprofit community organizations and community leaders.

The goal of the curriculum is to combine academic skill development with the study of environmental justice.

EQ-991229

Crittenton Hastings House

10 Perthshire Road

Boston, MA 02135

Contact - Carson Berglund

(617) 782-7600

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization - Crittenton Hastings House is a nonprofit organization formed primarily to provide support for pregnant, parenting and other at-risk individuals and families; in their efforts to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency. Crittenton Hastings House has offered services in response to the changing needs of women and families in Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain, and the South End.

Project Objectives - To provide at least 400 adolescent families per year with asthma education, outreach and referral services; (2) To increase the number of asthmatic children who receive follow-up health care by a non-ER physician, as a result of counseling; (3) To decrease the number of school days missed by children with asthma; (4) To implement testing of indoor air allergens for families that have asthmatics; (5) To decrease the number of ER visits by families with an asthmatic member as a result of counseling; (6) To empower neighborhood residents to address more issues related to air quality and environmental hazards in their community.

EQ 991075-010N

Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)

2343 Washington Street, 2nd Floor

Roxbury, MA 02119

Contact-Penn Loh

(617) 442-3343 x24

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization- Neighborhoods Against Urban Pollution (NAUP) is a collaboration of six Boston-based neighborhood organizations and environmental nonprofits. Their goal is to support resident activists in low-income and minority communities in their efforts to develop local environmental leadership and the capacity to achieve healthy and sustainable neighborhoods.

Project Objectives- To institutionalize the partnerships among the various resident-driven environmental efforts across Greater Boston's EJ communities. Through conferences, workshops, and direct assistance, NAUP will help these groups gain the knowledge and tools they need to think critically about the regional connections and actively participate in regional initiatives. Specific issues targeted will include brownfields, small polluting businesses, and air quality.

EQ991148

Penobscot Indian Nation

6 River Road, Indian Island

Old Town, ME 04468

Contact- Dan Kusnierz

(207) 827-7776 ext 361

Amount Awarded - \$19,700

Organization- The Penobscot Indian Nation is a federally recognized tribe located in the east central portion of Maine. The Penobscot Reservation begins approximately 12 miles north of Bangor, nearest urban area, and immediately adjacent to the city of Old Town. Over the last two decades, the Penobscot Nation has established various programs for the provision of health and social services to the members of the Penobscot community.

Project Objectives- The proposed project will allow the Penobscot Nation Health Department (PNHD) to obtain the necessary training to understand, recognize, and address potential health problems in tribal members who eat contaminated fish from the Penobscot River and other tribal lakes and ponds. It will expand the Nation's ongoing efforts to prevent, reduce and eliminate mercury, dioxin and other contaminants in their water resources.

EQ991036

Chelsea Human Services Collaborative

300 Broadway

Chelsea, MA 02150

Contact- Ed Marakovitz

(617) 889-6080

Amount Awarded - \$19,940

Organization - The group is a community based, grassroots organization. The mission is to develop a citywide constituency to protect and expand open space in Chelsea, improve its parks, and maximize its environmental, recreational, historic and scenic resources.

Project Objectives - The project addresses the environmental and public health hazards and quality of life issues associated with a 100,000-ton rock salt receiving, storage and distribution site located on the Chelsea Creek. The purpose of this project is to halt expansion of Eastern Minerals and ultimately eliminate environmental hazards through a two-pronged approach, regulatory and direct community action based on public health, environmental and nuisance criteria.

EQ991225

Committee for Boston Public Housing, Inc.

100 Terrace St., Suite B

Roxbury, MA 02120

Contact - Willie Mae Bennett-Bradley

(617) 427-3556

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization- The Committee for Boston Public Housing (CBPH) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt multi-cultural organization of Boston public housing residents and supporters who are committed to social and economic justice for low income families. The mission of CBPH is to ensure that residents secure the resources and build the organizational capacity required to develop strong, safe, and healthy public housing communities through grassroots community organizing, leadership development, and coalition-building.

Project Objectives- The committee's project will address the poor air quality, deteriorating building conditions and prevalence of asthma in Boston's public housing developments through education, training and community organizing.

EQ991017

Tellus Institute

11 Arlington Street

Boston, MA 02216

Contact- Anne Reynolds

(617) 266-5400

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization- Tellus Institute is a Boston based nonprofit organization founded in 1976 to address environmental and energy issues. Tellus uses community-based initiatives to address sustainability, equity, environmental protection, and environmental health, with projects focused on environmental justice, facility siting, and watershed protection. They empower minority and low-income communities to shape programs and policies to build a healthy and sustainable future for all.

Project Objectives- The project is designed to educate nurses who will work in the community setting about environmental justice issues and provide several community-based organizations in Boston with a student group project that links environmental justice with environmental health in their neighborhood.

EQ 991070

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf

Boston, MA 02110

Contact - William Spitzer

(617) 973-0281

Amount Awarded - \$19,998

Organization - The New England Aquarium opened in 1969 as a private nonprofit corporation. It was the first modern aquarium in the United States. In 1992, the board of trustees adopted a new mission with a focus on environmental stewardship and community outreach and developed Aquarium 2000, a long range plan for programmatic and physical expansion of the Aquarium. In response to this new mission, the Aquarium has developed a series of community access and youth programs. These programs serve two broad institutional goals: (1) to diversify their audience and their workforce and (2) develop the next generation of aquatic scientists and environmental leaders.

Project Objectives - To advance the Aquarium's mission, the following activities will be implemented under this project: conduct a survey of environmental leaders to identify key environmental leadership skills; recruit 60 teens from community-based teen programs to participate in the Environmental Leadership Academy; develop a program format and schedule to meet the needs of all partners; hold two cycles of environmental leadership Academy workshops; evaluate the program's impact on teens and develop strategies for disseminating and institutionalizing the Program.

EQ 991297010

Keep Providence Beautiful

385 Westminister Street

Providence, RI 02903

Contact: Kathleen Beck

(401) 351-6440

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization - Keep Providence Beautiful is a nonprofit educational organization that was incorporated in 1982. Its mission is to promote a cleaner, safer Providence through education, public awareness, partnerships, and community outreach activities.

Project Objectives: Educate Bellevue Avenue residents about the environmental threats to their health and steps they can take to make their homes and neighborhood safer from contaminants and disease. Activities will include recycling, testing of drinking water and soil for lead and combating the problems of rodent infestation through education about proper solid waste disposal.

EQ 991339010

Connecticut Fund for the Environment

1032 Chapel Street, 3rd floor

New Haven, CT 06510

Contact - Karyl Lee Hall

(203) 787-0646

Amount Awarded - \$18,000

Organization - Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Inc. (CFE), is a private, nonprofit organization that is made up of 3,000 members. CFE's staff of six, Board of Directors, and a network of volunteer scientists and attorneys, advocate for the environment. CFE works closely with the community leaders where necessary, to provide legal expertise and advice, and develop environmental solutions to problems relating to air, water, solid waste, land use and transportation.

Project Objectives- CFE will focus on affected communities in New Haven, Hartford and Bridgeport. Their activities will include: introduce CFE's pro bono attorney network as a potential tool for resolving environmental justice issues in the affected communities; increase community awareness of environmental hazards and the rules regarding those hazards; help members in affected communities to identify and respond productively to environmental violations in their neighborhoods.

EQ 991015010

John P. Holland Elementary School

85 Olney Street

Dorchester, MA 02121

Contact- Matthew E. Goode

(617) 635-8832

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization- The Holland elementary school is part of the Boston Public School System, and is located in Dorchester, one of Boston's most ethnically diverse neighborhoods. Dorchester contains many industrial sites of environmental concern.

Project Objectives- In 1997 the Holland School was granted \$250,000 from the city to design and construct a new schoolyard through the School Yard Initiative (SYI).

SYI is specifically intended to bring the classroom to the outdoors.

However, the educational programming component of this endeavor is left up to the schools themselves. This project will actively engage the educational and residential community at the start in the design process with learning modules developed through cooperative brainstorming between stakeholders (parents, students, teachers) and enlisted experts (urban planner, education consultant, environmental justice specialist and scientist).