

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS RECIPIENTS – FY 1999

SOUTHEND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Superfund and Brownfield Community Education Project

835 South Main Street

Waterbury, CT 06710

Contact- Samuel Arroyo

(203) 591-1063

Amount Awarded - \$15,000

Organization- The South End Revitalization Corporation is located in the “South End” section of Waterbury, Connecticut and is bounded by Interstate 84 to the North, Route 8 to the West, Madison Avenue to the South, and Sylvan Avenue/Rose Hill to the East. This neighborhood is a mixture of residential (60%), industrial (30%), with a small concentration of commercial businesses located predominantly on South Main Street and Baldwin Avenue. Generally this area is classified as “undesirable”, most often citing a fear of crime, drug dealing, deteriorated housing, and mixed ethnic populations.

Objectives- To enable the community to deal appropriately with all sectors involved to make this area investment ready. After research, youth will be hired to go door-to-door to obtain information on environmental health, and to conduct environmental health assessments and risk mapping utilizing the GIS provided by the EPA.

HOULTON BAND OF MALISSEET INDIANS

Community Development in a Sustainable Residential Development Project

Route 3, Box 450

Houlton, ME 04730 Aroostook County

Contact- Shari Venno

(207) 532-4273

Amount Awarded - \$15,000

Organization- The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is a small American Indian tribe located in Aroostook County in Northern Maine that was federally recognized in 1980. Since then HBMI has adopted the traditional form of Tribal Council/Tribal Chief government and has acquired 800 acres of land held in trust by the federal government.

Objectives- To support the development and implementation of a community planning process designed to familiarize and involve the community in sustainable development concepts and their applications; to train interested tribal members in a sustainable development construction technique.

RECYCLING INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN

Boston Neighborhood Recycling Campaign

29 Temple Place

Boston, MA 02111

Contact- Vivien Watts

(617) 292-4821

Amount Awarded - \$15,000

Organization- Recycling Initiative Campaign (RIC) is an organization that was incorporated in 1992. RIC has worked to reduce trash in Massachusetts by encouraging corporations, the Commonwealth, and municipalities to implement strategies to reduce, reuse, and recycle our wastes. RIC's mission is to work with citizen groups to boost recycling and waste prevention in their communities. RIC provides background information on successful components of recycling and waste prevention programs. RIC helps citizen groups plan campaigns and connects them to a larger statewide network of other recycling activists, officials, and professionals.

Objectives- The Recycling Initiative Campaign's (RIC) Boston Neighborhood Recycling Campaign (BNRC) objective is to boost the recycling rates in three Boston communities: Dorchester, East Boston, and the South End where the target audience is primarily residents of low-income neighborhoods. These communities also include people of African-American, Vietnamese, Haitian-Creole, and Latino descent. Due to multiple languages spoken in these neighborhoods, Urban Recycling programs face particular challenges. The project will help decrease the amount of solid waste in landfills or burnt in incinerators by increasing neighborhood recycling rates. Through educational outreach, RIC will create models that will help inform and improve the city's overall program.

WESTERN MASSCOSH

Healthy Schools Networking

458 Bridge Street

Springfield, MA 01103

Contact- Susan DeMaria

(413) 731-0760

Amount Awarded - \$14,982

Organization- The Western Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (Western MassCOSH) is a private, non-profit, community-based organization that has been educating employees on health and safety issues in the workplace for over 25 years. Incorporated in 1991, Western MassCOSH has expanded the original coalition to include labor unions, community groups, educators, health care professionals, legal experts, and health safety professionals. The mission of the organization is to create a safe and healthy environment throughout all the work sites. It has sponsored numerous regional conferences on health and safety issues, and has published and distributed a comprehensive book on workers' compensation, *Hurt On the Job: A Guide to the Massachusetts Workers' Compensation System*.

Objectives- To coordinate Environmental Team building at the Springfield School District level and at individual schools. Western MassCOSH will work with the District to identify five (5) out of the 41 Springfield schools to implement their services; they will survey each selected school to identify environmental problems including its hazardous materials, waste management systems, and pest management strategies; provide a train-the-trainer program on the *Tools for Schools*; facilitate the western regional arm of the Healthy Schools Network Coalition (HSN); and implement the institutionalization of hazardous materials and waste management systems.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CITIZENS ALLIANCE

Merrimack County Air Quality Awareness Project

4 Park Street, Suite 403

Concord, NH

Contact- Jan Pendlebury

(603) 225-2097 ext. 20

Amount Awarded - \$15,000

Organization- New Hampshire Citizens Alliance (NHCA) is a 501 (c) (3) organization that has sought to educate and empower NH residents by conducting research and publishing reports on issues of interest; hosting educational forums; sharing information through printed materials and the media; meeting with people in communities seeking to improve access to quality health care. NHCA's mission is to help ensure a voice for consumers in policy decisions that affect the quality of all lives. By organizing consumers, informing people about issues and offering training and assistance to empower citizen leaders, NHCA strives to engage consumers in shaping key policies and institutions.

Objectives- The purpose of the Merrimack County Air Quality Awareness Project is to create and implement a local organizing model that: develops a vehicle to gather data on potential health risks associated with poor air quality; creates new alliances between organizations, agencies and individuals to facilitate

communication and information-sharing; informs people about air quality issues, builds leadership at the community level, and engages those citizens often left out of policy debate; and creates new avenues to raise awareness about environmental issues, ultimately leading to policy reform.

YOUTH IN ACTION

Environmental Justice Action Project

115 Empire Street

Providence, RI 02903

Contact- Karen Feldman

(401) 751-3086

Amount Awarded - \$13,500

Organization- Youth In Action founded in October 1997 is Rhode Island's first non-profit organization created and controlled by community youth. Their mission is to make the community better by supporting local youth to develop as leaders and run their own organization.

Objectives- To offer 5 intensive training sessions to 10 youth about environmental issues plaguing the neighborhood. Youth In Action will create a multilingual survey for use in door-to-door outreach. They plan to reach 100 families through door-to-door outreach; and work with families on an individual basis with health concerns. They will also coordinate community forums for residents to get together and plan collective ways to address environmental injustice.

KEEP PROVIDENCE BEAUTIFUL, INC.

Waverly Street: Implementing an Urban Environmental Model

385 Westminster Street

Providence, RI 02903

Contact- Laura Archambault

(401) 351-6440

Amount Awarded - \$15,000

Organization- Keep Providence Beautiful, Inc. (KPB) is a non-profit educational 501 (c)(3) organization that was incorporated in 1982. KPB's mission is to promote a cleaner, safer Providence through education, public awareness, partnerships and community outreach activities. By working in partnership with neighborhood groups, community centers, schools, city and state government, businesses, other non-profit agencies and volunteers, KPB serves as a catalyst for neighborhood and community involvement and development, respectively.

Objectives- The purpose of this project is to address the environmental health concerns of the Waverly Street community through a model developed and implemented on Bellevue Avenue where specific concerns are: lack of greenery, urban air pollution, rodent infestation, litter, solid waste disposal/recycling. The objectives include envisioning a design for the streetscape; training information distribution, and education about solid waste disposal, recycling, urban trees, air pollution, and rats; planting trees and flowers; and distributing trash cans/recycling bins.

CIRCLE OF CARING, INC.

Mass Military Reservation Superfund Site/Cape Cod Minority Community Engagement Coalition Project

P. O. Box 1034

Mashpee, MA 02649

Contact - Maria Turner

(508) 539-2164

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Organization - The Circle of Caring was founded in 1989 by a Native American mother as a support group for families dealing with substance abuse problems.

Incorporated as a non-profit, the organization's success has led to an expanded scope of its services, and now operates a summer camp for youngsters and after-school sports and academic assistance programs, as well as media access through local cable programming.

Objectives - This project will research community-based multi-level communication needs and translate and integrate environmental management decision-making information for minority residents specifically Mashpee Wampanoags and Cape Verdeans who live contiguous to the Massachusetts Military Reservation, Cape Cod, MA. Research support will be provided to help residents understand the impact of the MMR Site on their lifestyle, livelihood and property and will enable them to participate more fully in environmental management options being discussed for the MMR.

HOUSATONIC RIVER INITIATIVE

Hazardous Waste Identification and Community Awareness Research Project

20 Bank Row #206

Pittsfield, MA 01201

Contact - Timothy Gray

(413) 499-6112

Amount Awarded - \$18,980

Organization - The Housatonic River Initiative (HRI) is a non-profit organization that has

served the community surrounding the Housatonic River in Berkshire County since 1992. HRI's mission has been to educate and create an effective public involvement campaign and to participate in clean up decisions that affect the community.

Objectives -

The 256 acre General Electric industrial plant in Pittsfield represents 10 Massachusetts Tier One hazardous waste sites and is about to begin years of remediation work. The goal of this project is to research and document neighborhood concerns and research health issues in the community. Concerns that have been raised by citizens living around the plant are air quality, water quality, soil contamination, groundwater contamination, land filling and health issues. A door-to-door survey will be conducted to research these concerns and identify community perceptions on the existence and effects of hazardous wastes in their neighborhoods. At the conclusion of the research and evaluation of the research results this information will be disseminated back to the community through cable TV, a newsletter and a research publication