



Environmental Justice Small Grants Program FACT SHEET

Background

The EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) established the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program (EJSG) in fiscal year (FY) 1994. The purpose of this grant program is to support and empower communities that are working on local solutions to local environmental and/or public health issues. Summaries of all the EJSG projects funded in FY 2005 and prior years are available on the OEJ website <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>. In FY 1994, the pilot program started with only \$500,000 and a limit of \$10,000 per award. Each region received \$50,000 and funded a total of 61 projects. Below is a summary of the number of grants and total program funding for every year since 1995.

| Year | Total Funding | Number of grants |
|-----------|---------------|------------------|
| 1995 | \$3,000,000 | 170 |
| 1996 | \$2,800,000 | 152 |
| 1997 | \$2,700,000 | 139 |
| 1998 | \$2,500,000 | 134 |
| 1999 | \$1,490,000 | 95 |
| 2000 | \$899,000 | 61 |
| 2001 | \$1,300,000 | 88 |
| 2002 | \$1,113,000 | 74 |
| 2003 | \$930,000 | 55 |
| 2004 | \$423,545 | 17 |
| 2005 | \$625,000 | 25 |
| 2006-2007 | \$1,000,000 | 20 |
| 2008-2009 | \$800,000 | 40 |

Project Focus

The primary purposes of proposed projects should be to develop a comprehensive understanding of environmental and public health issues, identify ways to address these issues at the local level, and educate and empower the community. The long-term goals of the EJSG Program are to help build the capacity of the affected community and create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve local environments in the future.

Eligible Applicants

An eligible applicant MUST BE :

- (1) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service;
- (2) a non-profit organization, recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which it is located;
- (3) a city, township, county government; **OR**
- (4) a Native American tribal government (Federally recognized)

In addition, an eligible applicant must be able to demonstrate that it has worked directly with, or provided services to, the affected community. An "affected community," for the purposes of this assistance agreement program, is a community that is disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks and has a local environmental and/or public health issue that is identified in the proposal.

The focus of this assistance agreement program is to build the capacity of community-based organizations to address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level. Therefore, for this assistance agreement program, the term "non-profit organization" EXCLUDES:

- colleges and universities;
- hospitals;
- state governments and their entities;

We anticipate releasing a new announcement for the EJSG Program in Fiscal Year 2010.

- quasi-governmental entities (e.g., water districts, utilities)*;
- national-, multi-state-, or state-wide- organizations with chapters;
- non-profit organizations that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995; and
- those non-profit organizations which are excluded from coverage under paragraph 5 of OMB Circular A-122 (see OMB Circular A-122, paragraph 5 at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a122/a122_2004.html)

* Generally, a quasi-governmental entity is one that: (1) has a close association with the government agency, but is not considered a part of the government agency; (2) was created by the government agency but is exempt from certain legal and administrative requirements imposed on government agencies; or (3) was not created by the government agency but performs a public purpose and is significantly supported financially by the government agency.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the EJ Small Grants Program, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

EPA's Commitment to Environmental Justice

On November 4, 2005, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Stephen L. Johnson issued a memorandum reaffirming EPA's commitment to environmental justice for all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. Environmental justice means not only protecting human health and the environment for everyone, but also ensuring that all people are treated fairly and are given the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Because minority and/or low-income communities frequently may be exposed disproportionately to environmental harms and risks, EPA works to protect these and other burdened communities from adverse human health and environmental effects of its programs, consistent with existing environmental and civil rights laws and regulations, as well as through the implementation of Executive Order 12898 ("Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and/or Low-Income Populations," Feb. 11, 1994).

The memorandum identified eight national environmental justice priorities and directed the integration of environmental justice considerations into EPA's planning and budgeting processes, including into the Agency's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2006-2011. This cooperative agreement program (Program) focuses on one of those eight priorities, which is the use of collaborative problem-solving to address local environmental and/or public health issues. Each remaining priority involves a specific issue, including: (1) reducing asthma attacks; (2) reducing exposure to air toxics; (3) increasing compliance with regulations; (4) reducing the incidence of elevated blood lead levels; (5) ensuring that fish and shellfish are safe to eat; (6) ensuring that water is safe to drink; and (7) revitalizing contaminated sites (please note that this Program cannot be used to fund Brownfields projects).

EPA will continue to fully implement its programs, policies, and activities to ensure that they do not adversely affect populations with critical environmental and/or public health issues, including minority and/or low-income communities.