

**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program
2007 Awards**

Project Descriptions

Region 1

Organization: *The Way Home, Inc.* (Manchester, NH)

Project Description: The project will facilitate community education and outreach to assist in developing community and tenant advocacy groups and leadership to empower the members to participate in a meaningful way in the decisions and policies which affect their health. This project will raise awareness of lead poisoning, its health effects, causes, hazard identification, control, reporting and remediation as well as the tenant's rights and responsibilities in regards to safe affordable housing. The project will engage these stakeholder groups in a collaborative team to build the necessary levels of understanding and respect of each member's role and interest in creating Healthy Homes to protect the health of the community and a sustainable future for the neighborhoods and their residents.

Organization: *Committee for Boston Public Housing, Inc.* (Boston, MA)

Project Description: The project will reduce the exposure of children to the air toxins associated with the use of the pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides used by public housing residents by conducting in-home training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM focuses on using safer pest elimination methods and reducing and/or eliminating the number of pesticides used in the homes as well as its relationship to asthma exacerbation. The program will offer a pesticide exchange program and replace commercial pesticides with Home Safe kits and with input from residents, create a public health campaign and the dangers of pesticide use.

Region 2

Organization: *Brooklyn Center for the Environment, Inc.* (Brooklyn, NY)

Project Description: The project will establish a Youth Consortium to bring students together with community-based organizations to collectively address clean air and clean water issues in the community. The five primary goals of the project are: 1) engage students as an affected stakeholder group, 2) assess environmental health factors in the community, 3) inform the general public of clean air/clean water issues, and 4) build the capacity of collaborating community-base organizations to involve students in addressing clean air and clean water issues, and 5) propose an action plan that will effect change in the affected community. This project brings together community-based organizations and other organized stakeholder groups with high school students in the Williamsburg-Greenpoint area of Brooklyn, NY to address clean air and clear water issues in the community. The participants of the project will engage in hands-on activities to explore techniques and local resources available in monitoring their community's environmental health.

Organization: *West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.* (New York, NY)

Project Description: The project goal is for residents to transition from current pesticide use to safer alternatives in order to reduce negative health impact from pests and pesticide application in this community. The campaign will seek to address the issues through 3 major initiatives; 1) build a collaborative of Northern Manhattan residents and stakeholders who will both determine and ultimately implement the work that is to be done; 2) identify and fully define the specific problems related to garbage disposal, pests, rodents and pesticide use in the community; 3) empower the Northern Manhattan community through education, training, and outreach to both work towards the full identification of the problems and act as key players in the implementation of solutions.

Region 3

Organization: *Northern Liberties Neighborhood Association* (Philadelphia, PA)

Project Description: The project will protect the public health of the residents by reducing exposure to contaminants; empowering members through education and outreach; encouraging meaningful public participation in the revitalization of brownfields in the community; ensuring compliance with environmental laws and regulations; and providing best practices. NLNA will research and create an inventory of contaminated sites and convene community meetings and focus groups to discuss the redevelopment of these sites. The project will educate and empower the community and create a database to alert communities about redevelopment work at the early stage before actual work begins. Empowering the community to be proactive rather than reactive enables the community to develop a process that will better ensure land reuse development.

Organization: *Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project* (Roanoke, VA)

Project Description: The project seeks to reduce the community's exposure to toxic water caused by high levels of fluoride in two wells that service the community. The project plan includes the development of a Community Committee, whose focus will be on training, educating and providing technical assistance to the affected community. The training will educate the residents about the environmental harms and health risks. Southeast RCAP will work with the committee and its partners to develop solutions and assist the community in implementing these solutions.

Region 4

Organization: *Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.* (Apopka, FL)

Project Description: The project will reduce the farmworkers' exposure to the pesticides applied to fern fields. The project will accomplish this goal by conducting air monitoring tests to determine the presence, levels and nature of, and distance from application sites of pesticides applied in the fern fields. The results, with an analysis, will be shared with the community through community meetings. The importance of the use of hand washing stations at work sites will be shared with the farmworker community, as well as with fern grower associations and health care providers in the area. Likewise, the past results of workplace assessments, or diagnostic's, will be shared with the community to alert them to the incidence of violations of

Worker Protection Standards and Field Sanitation Laws. On-going pesticide safety and environmental health training and the newly implemented health care provider training are opportunities for continuing to learn and share information with community members.

Organization: *Hyde & Aragon Park Improvement Committee, Inc.* (Richmond, GA)

Project Description: Hyde & Aragon Park Improvement Committee, Inc. (HAPIC) will create a one-hour documentary and host a town hall forum on environmental issues that the Hyde Park community has faced and continues to face. The objective of this project is to inform, educate and empower the community on the environmental issues such as water quality, outdoor air quality, solid waste and environmental justice that confront Hyde Park. The documentary will include a complete description of the numerous environmental and public health issues in Hyde Park, and some potential remedies to resolve the environmental issues and the available resources from local, state and federal governments and the private sector to resolve environmental and health issues. There will be town hall meeting in which community residents can have a meaningful dialogue with the local government officials responsible eliminating environmental contamination in Hyde Park.

Region 5

Organization: *Healthy Schools Campaign* (Chicago, IL)

Project Description: The project will educate and empower parents with the knowledge and skills needed to become "agents of change" in improving the environmental quality of the community school. The parents will learn how to conduct and implement indoor air quality management programs at their schools to improve the indoor air quality of the schools. This project will be conducted in partnership with Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI), and will use a training model that fosters peer-learning to teach the participating parents how to conduct and implement indoor air quality management programs at their schools. This training program will include information on: the connection between learning, health and school environment; how to conduct an indoor air assessment; and strategies for improving the school environment along with leadership skills necessary to build strong school support for these changes.

Organization: *Madison Environmental Justice Organization, Inc.* (Madison, WI)

Project Description: The primary purposes of this project are (1) to work with minority and poor subsistence anglers to better understand fishing and fish consumption practices on Madison's Northside to identify social, communication, cultural, economic, and environmental factors that affect fish consumption in these communities, (2) to reduce the consumption of the most contaminated fish, while still encouraging the consumption of less contaminated, self-caught fish as a healthy local food source; (3) to build collaborative and effective partnership among minority and poor anglers, neighborhood associations, community centers, non-profit organizations, university scientists, and governments agencies that can effectively address fish consumption and water quality issues on Madison's Northside and throughout the Madison area; and (4) to empower citizens and build community capacity to educate the community about fish consumption and water quality issues and work to improve these issues in the long-term.

Region 6

Organization: *Border Fair Housing and Economic Justice Center* (El Paso, TX)

Project Description: The Border Fair Housing and Economic Justice Center intends to implement its Colonias Sanas Initiative (CSI), or Healthy Communities Initiative, throughout the colonias in El Paso County, Texas and Doña Ana County, New Mexico. Specifically, CSI will address perhaps the most pressing needs in the US/MX border region; water pollution reduction, safe and potable water, promoting proper solid waste disposal, improving air quality, controlling toxic substances and unsafe household pesticides. The project will establish a Regional Environmental Consortium (REC) consisting of organizations that, while very diverse, directly deal with the issues of environmental justice in the proposed service area at the grassroots level through their direct involvement in the colonias. REC will develop a bilingual colonia-specific training curriculum. Upon its completion, REC will continue to serve CSI in an important advisory capacity as it seeks to expand the project into other colonias along the US-Mexico border.

Organization: *Doña Ana County Colonias Development Council* (Les Cruces, NM)

Project Description: The Colonias Development Council (CDC) intends to develop the Colonia Environmental Action Initiative to address the community's exposure to toxic materials and contaminated groundwater due to the presence of several landfills and industrial entities located in or near the communities. Through this initiative, CDC and its partners will work with the large colonia communities of Sunland Park and Chaparral to: (1) build community knowledge and capacity to effectively assess and monitor present and potential community environmental hazards; (2) develop leadership capacity among the residents and support them in the formation of "Comités de Vigilancia"; and (3) create a partnership forum that brings together major stakeholders (community-based groups, Public health, New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico State University) to exchange data and work plans to monitor ongoing potential hazards and address existing contamination.

Region 7

Organization: *Black Health Care Coalition, Inc.* (Kansas City, MO)

Project Description: The overall purpose of the proposed project of the Black Health Care Coalition (BHCC) is to provide a community based approach to educating high risk communities about potential environmental health hazards for children, identify those who need additional services and refer them accordingly. One focus of health education will address child exposure to lead. The second population to be targeted is families of children who have asthma. The BHCC plans to: organize interested parties to work in partnership to reduce lead poisoning among high risk children and lessen environmental (home) triggers for asthma.

Organization: *Stoddard County Development Foundation* (Bloomfield, MO)

Project Description: SCDF will present meaningful health and environmental education programs to the residents of Pennermon in order to make well-informed decisions regarding the benefits of clean water, solid waste management and control of vermin. This project intends to

effectively reduce the incidence and spread of chronic and vectorborne diseases and conditions, such as asthma, West Nile Virus and encephalitis, through public education campaigns and community participation programs to promote trash reduction, reduce burning of refuse, recycling and reuse, as well as promotion of better wastewater practices through studies of improved management techniques and technologies.

Region 8

Organization: *Plateau Restoration, Inc.* (Moab, UT)

Project Description: The project is to address immediate threats of herbicide contamination in drinking water for residents of Castle Valley, Utah. It will reduce the need for herbicides by investigating and employing alternative methods of removal of Diffuse Knapweed and other noxious weeds and by educating residents of threats to water quality from herbicides. It will develop a Castle Valley weed management plan and coordinate a Weed Board consisting of landowners, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and State land managers and Grand County Weed Department to ensure long-term protection of the aquifer from herbicides. This group will educate residents about these issues through public workshops that include presentations by regional experts in herbicides and health effects.

Organization: *The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, Inc.* (Paonia, CO)

Project Description: The identified issue is the resident's exposure to increased levels of air pollution associated with the use and release of many volatile chemicals in rapidly expanding gas fields in an area called the "gas patch". The goal of the project is to empower and educate the individuals and grassroots groups living in the impacted regions to demand full disclosure of all chemicals used and released during drilling, fracturing, completion, and delivery of the gas and a comprehensive water and air monitoring program based on the results of the disclosure. The ultimate goal is to ensure safe water and clean air.

Region 9

Organization: *Environmental Health Coalition* (San Diego, CA)

Project Description: The project is striving for a reduction in the residents' exposure to air pollution from the existing operations of the terminals and port district. Environmental Health Coalition will form a collaborative working group to identify environmental health problems associated with the existing operations of the National City Marine Terminal and the Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal operated by the San Diego Unified Port District on adjacent neighborhoods and develop a plan to reduce diesel particulate and other pollution from existing and the proposed expansion of these operations.

Organization: *Asian Pacific Environmental Network* (Alameda, CA)

Project Description: The purpose of the Richmond Environmental Justice Community Leadership Project is to build the leadership and capacity of Richmond's Laotian refugee community to address the immediate and long term environmental justice and public health hazards and risks posed by urban development and land use decisions; and to work with partner

organizations in making their efforts more effective. Richmond is currently in the preliminary stages of updating its General Plan. APEN will use the process as a means to engage and educate their members on these issues and participate in the updating process to build relationships with other potential partners.

Region 10

Organization: *Alaska Community Action for Toxics* (Anchorage, AK)

Project Description: ACAT research team will partner with the community to sample the water of the Suqi River to test for contaminants to identify the existing toxics to be remediated. ACAT will work together with community and partners to plan the restoration of the Suqi River.

Organization: *Organizing People, Activating Leaders* (Portland, OR)

Project Description: The Lents Community Project seeks to reduce the community's polluted air, toxic hazards, substandard housing and a host of other environmental health risks in the Portland metro area. This project will focus on three national environmental justice priorities: (1) reducing asthma attacks; (2) reducing exposure to air toxics; and (3) revitalizing contaminated sites. OPAL will incorporate the first two priorities –asthma and air toxics- within Portland's I-205 Breathe Campaign. OPAL intends to empower the community through education, training and outreach will help stimulate leadership development and proactive involvement around social and environmental justice issues.