

Environmental Justice Small Grant Awards - FY 2001

The EPA Office of Environmental Justice
Small Grants Program

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Environmental justice is about local people facing local problems by working collaboratively with the local government agencies, impacted community groups and the responsible state and/or federal agencies. Environmental justice promotes environmental and public health protection within the context of sustainable development.

EPA recognized that community involvement was critical to environmental decision-making and made a commitment to invest resources in projects that would financially benefit affected communities. In Fiscal Year (FY) 1994, the Office of Environmental Justice established the Small Grants Program whose purpose is to assist community-based/grassroots and tribal governments that are working on local solutions to local environmental problems. Each year funds are made available for the Small Grants Program and funding is divided equally among the ten EPA regions where the actual grant is awarded and managed. Awards range from \$2,500 to \$20,000 each and some grants have also been awarded with Superfund money.

This publication is an inventory of the profiles of the Environmental Justice Small Grants that have been awarded for FY 2000. Each region conducts a grant selection process in which grant proposals, for the EJ Small Grants Program, are evaluated through a competitive review and ranking process. Award decisions are made within each region based on established criteria that include geographic and socioeconomic balance, diversity of project recipients, and sustainability of benefits of a project after the grants is completed.

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program Summary		
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>	<u>Awards</u>
1994	500,000	71
1995	3,000,000	175
1996	2,800,000	152
1997	2,700,000	139
1998	2,500,000	123
1999	1,455,000	95
2000	899,000	61
2001	1,300,000	88

REGION 1

(ME, VT, NH, MA, CN, RI)

MAINE

**Maine Lead Action Project (MLAP)
130 Highland Street
Portland, ME 04103**

\$15,000

The MLAP will partner with three existing Healthy Communities/ Communities for Children coalitions in Houlton, Bath, and Rumford communities to develop prevention and education intervention campaigns targeting low-income, high-risk populations. Specifically the project would establish a primary prevention model with the following goals: (1) Increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention among all target communities, with a special focus on outreach to low-income families; (2) Promote lead screening of children, which will serve to educate families about lead poisoning and provide an interim baseline of information about the prevalence of the problem; (3) Strengthen organization, agency, and business partnerships including those with daycare providers, healthcare providers, social services agencies, landlords, realtors, and others in order to facilitate information exchange that will promote a nurturing community with safe housing where our children can live, grow, and thrive. MLAP will measure the success of the project by determining if there is a marked increase in the number of lead screenings in the three project communities.

MASSACHUSETTS

**Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)
178 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111-1017**

\$15,000

Through the project ABCD and Health Care For All (HCFA) will coordinate educational outreach on housing and health concerns through radio and community television programs, and by partnering with other community-based organizations, like the Haitian Multi-Service Center and Vida Urbana/City Life, to distribute information. To further promote environmental justice education, ABCD and HCFA will also organize a community forum made up of key community-based organizations, health agencies, environmental organizations, immigrant advocacy groups, and immigrant media outlets. Forum participants will be trained to take leadership in identifying contamination sources in their neighborhoods, knowing the current laws that protect communities and how to report violations, and working in a coalition with local environmental justice and health access groups in addressing toxic waste and clean air.

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Chelsea Human Services Collaborative
300 Broadway
Chelsea, MA 02150

\$15,000

The Green Space project will address the severe truck traffic problem that is a major contributor to the soaring asthma and respiratory illnesses in Chelsea. The Green Space project plans to involve 750 people in its traffic reduction campaign by organizing its members, staff, volunteers and youth crew, and by recruiting new members. Green Space will then accomplish the following: (1) compile quantifiable data on truck traffic in Chelsea by doing research and conducting traffic counts and surveys, (2) determine air quality and the quantity of diesel exhaust through monitoring, (3) educate community members about the health hazards of diesel exhaust through a series of workshops, (4) highlight the project research at a community forum, (5) initiate roundtable discussions to develop a plan to reduce truck traffic, and (6) finally seek support from the City Council and City Manager for the plan.

The Food Project
10 Lewis Street
P.O. Box 705
Lincoln, MA 01773

\$15,000

In 2001 The Food Project's youth, staff, and community members will work through their urban agriculture program and capacity-building initiatives to: (1) Educate peer organizations and participants at local and regional conferences about the connections between healthy food, healthy land, and healthy communities; (2) Launch the second year of a public media campaign that focuses on the value of a sustainable local food system; (3) Develop further business partnerships to increase awareness of, and support for, safe local food systems; (4) Utilize an organic agriculture lot as a tool for neighborhood environmental education about sustainable agriculture; (5) Increase organic food production on its lot by 30 percent; (6) Coordinate a youth-led National Action day to link 20 like-minded organizations in the U.S. to carry out a set of simultaneous community service activities organized by youth.

Nuestra Comunidad Development Corp.
56 Warren Street, Suite 200
Roxbury, MA 02119

\$15,000

The goal of the Swiftly Auto Mall Environmental Education and Prototype Project is to demonstrate that the auto service industry can be both environmentally-friendly and economically viable. The purposes of the project are (1) to implement an environmental education program to teach best practices and pollution prevention to auto repair mechanics, and (2) to create an analysis of the effectiveness of the program to generate change in business practices and to determine the value of replicating the program. The project will allow auto mechanics in the Roxbury and surrounding areas to understand relevant environmental laws, how to comply with the laws, and how to go beyond compliance and be both environmentally-friendly and economically viable.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Way Home **\$15,000**
20 Merrimack Street, Suite B
Manchester, NH

The purpose of The Way Home's Community Organization for Environmentally Safe Housing project is to increase Manchester's stock of affordable, lead-safe housing. The project goals are to (1) use a peer education process to reduce environmental hazards to children's health in low-income housing, (2) influence landlords to reduce exposure to hazards in their older housing units and make safe housing available to needy families, (3) provide temporary lead-safe housing for families with lead burdened or at-risk children, (4) provide specialized cleaning to reduce lead dust and asthma triggers in the homes of low-income families with at-risk children, and (5) offer property owners low-cost methods to reduce lead hazards as primary prevention of lead poisoning. Through the project The Way Home specifically plans to map all of the housing units in Manchester that are in need of lead-safe renovations.

Keep Providence Beautiful/ Groundwork Providence **\$10,000**
69 Washington Street
Providence, NH 02903

The Environmental Education Outreach Project was designed to increase West End residents' understanding of community environmental and public health problems and solutions by (1) identifying and assessing environmental risks and pollution sources in the community; (2) devising strategies for environmental improvements; and (3) providing education, information, and training on crucial environmental and public health issues, such as lead contamination, solid waste disposal, water pollution reduction, and recycling, among others. The project will first establish an Executive Committee of organization and resident stakeholders, and then use grassroots outreach to increase membership in partner neighborhood associations by 20 percent. Twelve environmental education workshops will later be held on topics that are most important to the West End community, printed informational brochures on the same 12 workshop topics will be published in English, Spanish, and Cambodian, two neighborhood cleanups will be organized, and a set of standards for community development projects will be developed to ensure that they are completed in an environmentally sensitive fashion.

REGION 1 TOTAL **\$100,000**

**REGION 2
(NY, NJ, PR, VI)**

NEW JERSEY

**Boat People SOS, Inc. \$15,000
Camden, NJ**

Through a series of outreach activities including information workshops, radio talk shows, and monthly newsletters Boat People SOS aims to build community capacity and enhance community understanding of lead paint hazards faced in Camden homes. This Virginia-based organization is targeting Vietnamese refugees in Camden, New Jersey.

NEW YORK

**Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment \$12,000
Brooklyn, NY**

This pilot program is an interactive hands-on program that emphasizes career development and environmental justice by exploring the community and environmental issues surrounding local gardening sites. The teens in the effected communities will engage in a systematic study if environmental conditions at these sites and relay the data to a GIS program.

**Make The Road by Walking \$15,000
Brooklyn, NY**

Make the Road By Walking will undertake a Community Environmental Health Project that will target environmentally hazardous conditions known to exacerbate or cause asthma and childhood lead poisoning. This two-phase project (research and mapping and community organizing, outreach and education) aims to build community capacity to identify local environmental justice problems and to enhance community understanding of environmental and public health systems.

**UPROSE \$14,000
Brooklyn, NY**

UPROSE will educate parents, senior citizens, and other adults about the environmental justice issues that are currently impacting their community. The Sunset Park community in Brooklyn houses numerous industrial users, former industrial sites, solid waste transfer stations, auto salvaging operations as well as other industries. UPROSE will conduct targeted outreach to community groups and community-based organizations in the area including churches, hospitals, schools and senior citizen centers. The purpose of which is to enhance community understanding of environmental and public health information systems and generate information on pollution in the community.

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Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment, Inc. (ATFE) **\$20,000**
Hogansburg, NY

The ATFE proposes to build upon existing partnerships, which will enable them to collect, analyze and consolidate data on both contaminant levels and cultural use areas using GIS mapping. The target audience for this work includes their existing partners: ATFE members, a community advisory group which consists of health care providers, educators, environmental programs and cultural institutions in Akwesasne that continues to participate in cultural activities. The ATFE expects by the end of the project to develop an atlas which will visually show levels of contaminants and their overlap with traditional cultural use areas and to conduct a series of meetings that will communicate the findings of this project to interested community members.

Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) **\$14,000**
New York, NY

The Lead Poisoning Prevention/Asthma/Air Pollution will focus on increasing awareness on the correlation between health and the environment in a linguistically and culturally appropriate way. The environmental focus will be asthma and lead poisoning. CPA will conduct community workshops targeting tenant associations, community groups, senior centers, day care centers and churches.

West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) **\$10,000**
New York, NY

WE ACT in partnership with the Healthy Schools Network, plans to work with four schools in Harlem and Washington Heights to address the issues of indoor air quality and empower parents to protect their children from environmental health threats in schools. In schools, common indoor air issues included inadequate fresh air, carbon monoxide, irritant dusts, poisonous molds, volatile organic compounds formaldehyde and pesticides. WE ACT and Healthy Schools Network will use "Tools for Schools" kits provided by EPA Region 2 to work with parent/youth teams to prioritize what environmental solutions need to be implemented.

Atlantic States Legal Foundation **\$10,000**
Syracuse, NY

The goal of this project is to organize an environmental justice committee representing the ethnic minority community in Onondaga County for whom English is not their primary language (e.g., Spanish, Albanian, Asian, and Russian). The Environmental Justice Committee will be educated on what environmental and health information is available and how to disseminate it to minority populations. Examples of valuable information include lead paint inventory (GIS mapped), TRI, Onondaga Lake fish advisory, and other information regarding identified Superfund sites and subsites in the County.

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PENNSYLVANIA

American Littoral Society **\$10,000**
Washington Crossing, PA

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) will provide subsistence anglers in Camden, New Jersey a comprehensive Delaware River Watershed Toxic Fish Alert. The fish advisory will detail risk, provide information on toxins, explain how contaminations occur, and provide information on steps that can be taken to reduce exposure to contaminants. DRN will seek out and identify alternative means for communicating with subsistence anglers which may include posters/signage, community events, and direct contact.

REGION 2 TOTAL **\$120,000**

REGION 3

(MD, DE, WV, VA, PA, DC)

MARYLAND

Park-Reist Corridor Coalition **\$15,000**
3901-03 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

The program, “ALERT: Asthma and Lead Education Readiness Training” focuses on educating approximately 100 teenage mothers from low-income, inner-city Baltimore neighborhoods on the dangers of lead poisoning and asthma. It intends to hold monthly meetings with stakeholders to assist in training and to supplement this training with teaching the teenage mothers to use internet resources regarding asthma and lead poisoning.

PENNSYLVANIA

AMD & ART, Inc. **\$15,000**
411 Third Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

This project intends to facilitate communication and coordination among local stakeholders regarding environmental, economic, and social health issues of a previous coal mining community in Somerset County, PA. They hope to facilitate cooperation among community members, government, and the private sector by providing a series of meetings, discussion forums, work shops, and training sessions, which is an extension of the education and outreach started by the Brownfields project and the Shade Creek Watershed Association. The goal is to stimulate environmental cleanup, economic growth, and opportunities for commercial business, recreational areas, and acid mines’ drainage treatment systems, by means of creating well-informed local leaders and cooperation of local businesses.

Clean Water Fund **\$10,015**
1201 Chestnut Street, Suite 602
Philadelphia, PA 19107

The Clean Water Fund seeks to work with the Community/Labor Refinery Tracking Committee (CLRTC) to train South and Southwest Philadelphia residents in proximity to Sunoco how to conduct ambient air sampling tests. Ambient air samples taken from these neighborhoods will be analyzed by a certified laboratory. Results will be presented to the public and discussed with city officials. Their plan also includes organizing community forums to educate the residents about pollution and its health effects. The outreach portion of the project will utilize the broad spectrum of member organizations, multimedia, and personal contact to solicit participation in the exercises. CLRTC, an association of civic and community groups in South and Southwest Philadelphia, will directly oversee the project, effectively serving nearly 82,000 residents in

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seven communities.

The Village of Arts & Humanities **\$15,000**
2544 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19133

The 15-year-old Village of Arts and Humanities proposes to transform a two-block area consisting of 17 vacant lots into green spaces with trees, shrubs, and flowers, fostering indigenous vegetation growth. The North Philadelphia region is primarily African-American with an average income of \$10,000. The Camac Area Greening Project will aid in enhancing air quality (trees) and water quality (runoff), education of approximately 150 residents on local ecology, pollution prevention, pollution-related health issues, and watershed awareness.

VIRGINIA

Vietnamese Community Southeastern of Virginia, Inc. **\$15,000**
535 Rogers Avenue
Hampton, VA 23664

The Community Health Awareness Project's focus is Vietnamese refugees in Hampton Roads, VA. The community lives in old buildings which are subject to high levels of carbon monoxide and lead. The project's goals are to raise health risk awareness, identify and assess pollution sources, and recruit and train environmental and health community advocates. The goals will be met by health advocate training, information workshops held at local organizations, a Vietnamese-language newsletter mailed to the specific families, and flyers/brochures.

White Rock Hill Neighborhood Council, Inc. **\$15,000**
2101 Grace Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program targets an inner city neighborhood in Virginia for lead poisoning prevention and remediation of lead hazards. The project involves educating and training neighborhood youth and their families about childhood lead poisoning and how to follow-up on lead remediation efforts that have already been established and implemented. The project uses various forms of interaction, education, and communication to fulfill its goals. This project is part of a long-term economic development plan for the community that incorporates training adults in job and life skills.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington Very Special Arts (WVSA) **\$14,985**
1100 16th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

WVSA connection serves Washington, D.C. area as an arts-in-education organization providing

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educational arts programs to children and youth with special needs. Childhood lead poisoning continues to be a problem in Washington, D.C. and WVSA plans to provide an arts-based approach to educate the public in childhood lead poisoning prevention. Inner city youth, ages 14-25 will develop colorful posters with easy to read and act upon lead poisoning prevention messages. The posters will be placed in up to 50 D.C. healthcare facilities and WVSA arts connection's Website with links to relevant sites.

REGION 3 TOTAL

\$100,000

REGION 4

(AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

ALABAMA

Community Against Pollution **\$20,000**
1012 West 15th Street
Anniston, AL 36201

This project will address protecting children's health and reducing lead exposure and poisoning from uncontrolled lead releases such as lead-based paint and surface soil. The project proposes to: (1). Utilize soil samples and blood level testing collected by government agencies. (2). Analyze and interpret data and present the results to the community. (3). Establish and maintain an accurate and reliable database of resources for community uses. (4). Form a working network of community organizations, local, state, and federal governments, and other agencies regarding lead poisoning and exposure prevention.

Village Creek Human & Environmental Justice Society **\$14,995**
205 20th Street, North, Suite 227
Birmingham, AL 35203

This Village Creek Environmental Justice Project will address the polluted water and the solid waste products which overflow into the neighborhoods in Village Creek. The project will: (1) present two initial awareness workshops for the community; (2) conduct bimonthly forums with community, government, business, industry for the betterment of the Village Creek watershed; (3) develop video presentation and brochure concerning issues in the Village Creek watershed; and (4) complete a Village Creek education map.

FLORIDA

Bethune Village Community Center **\$19,726**
101 Bethune Village
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

The project will research and evaluate the existence of lead in the environment of the Bethune Village community. The operation of the project will occur in a series of tasks as follows: (1) perform an evaluation of the potential occurrence of lead in the homes and yards of the residents; (2) take lead samples at six locations and perform analysis; (3) conduct community meetings on results of samples, findings, present reports and plans for future operations.

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Le'Azon Technology Institute **\$15,000**
P. O. Box 4097
Clearwater, FL 33758-4097

The "Access to Information" project will provide North Greenwood residents with tools to understand environmental and health impacts of brownfields on their daily lives. The tools are: (1) develop a brownfields web site with Internet connections which will present difference perspectives on the environment, community and public health; (2) provide computers in three locations that will be accessible to the community; (3) create a tradition and electronic newsletter to get the information to the public; (4) coordinate with the City of Clearwater to sponsor workshops to inform and market the web site, newsletters and provide information on the brownfields community; (5) visit cities and towns with communities similar to North Greenwood to observe and learn about the methods they used to address environmental justice in their neighborhoods.

Smith-Williams Service Center Foundation **\$15,000**
2295 Pasco Street
Tallahassee, FL 32310

The project is to develop an environmental education/awareness program in the Bond Community Environmental Partnership. The project will focus on human health risks, trash/illegal dumping and solid waste disposal. The project proposes to: (1) promote/ encourage the community's capacity to address its own environmental concerns through education and training; (2) develop a quarterly newsletter; (3) develop a strong network in the community by building good working relationships with participating governments and (4) serve as a pilot program for the development of a citywide illegal dumping task force.

KENTUCKY

West Jefferson County Community Task Force **\$15,000**
The NIA Center, Suite 218
2900 West Broadway
Louisville, KY 40211

The Risk Assessment/Risk Management Education Outreach project will address the West Jefferson County residents' concern regarding the potential health threats from air pollutants. The purpose of this project is to develop an outreach strategy to present, inform and teach the community of the findings of the air toxins study. The project will: (1) develop a risk management plan in collaboration with representatives from the community, University of Louisville, local governments and medical professionals; (2) develop and maintain an Internet web site regarding the study and (3) prepare a video that would explain all aspects of the air toxic study.

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MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi 20/20 Network, Inc. \$14,800
P. O. Box 13506
Jackson, MS 39236

The purpose of this project is the creation of a student-driven process that will make campuses a model of health and safety. The project will also, motivate students to becoming “organizers” of health and safety in their homes and neighborhoods. The project will focus on the five worst environmental threats to children’s health (lead, air pollution, pesticide, tobacco smoke and drinking water contamination).

NORTH CAROLINA

West End Revitalization Association \$15,000
P. O. Box 661, 206 Moore St.
Mebane, NC 27302-0661

This project will address the environmental problems that occur as a result of failing septic systems and no water/sewer services: The project objectives are; (1) conducting educational workshops for residents in the target area and (2) supporting activities of planning, funding, and installation of water/sewer services for the long-term public health and safety of current and future residents

Shaw University \$20,000
118 East South Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Shaw University proposes to enhance the role of the Environmental Justice Education and Research Center to better address the disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences, which result from lack of education, knowledge, and awareness of environmental justice issues and concerns. The Center proposes to engage high school and college age students in research activities that respond to community, and environmental justice issues affecting Raleigh citizens.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Union Heights Community Council \$15,000
2449 Beacon Street
North Charleston, SC 29405

The project, **Children Learning about the Environment and their Neighborhood (CLEAN)**, proposes to involve the youth of the Union Heights community in helping to create a safer and healthier environment in their neighborhood. Substandard houses in the community have been

REGION 5

(IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)

ILLINOIS

Wentworth Gardens Resident Management Association **\$15,000**
262 West 39th Street
Chicago, IL 60609

This project is designed to identify and eliminate local environmental hazards by training resident peer educators who will assist in the implementation of asthma classes and environmental health workshops in the low-income Wentworth Gardens public housing development. The project will employ an environmental education model composed of peer-to-peer outreach, environmental health workshops, and information distribution. The project will address asthma management and control, integrated pest management, and community health resources. The project is a joint partnership between the Wentworth Gardens Resident Management Association, the Pediatric Case Management Services, the Safer Pest Control Project, and the Chicago Housing Authority's Environmental Unit.

The Field Museum ECP **\$10,000**
1400 South Lakeshore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605

The project, "Earth Force" will build community capacity to identify and address EJ issues by: (1) providing educators and community leaders from four program sites with the training and resources to support youth in utilizing problem-solving processes to address EJ issues; (2) providing 100 youth at four program sites and after school program sites with the opportunity to participate in the Earth Force environmental education program for one year; and (3) developing ongoing partnerships that facilitate communication and information exchange about EJ issues in the Chicago/Lake Calumet region. Training for educators, building community capacity, information networks and facilitating program implementation to empower youth will occur in partnership with the Grand Calumet Task Force and the Calumet Environmental Resource Center.

Neighborhood Law Office **\$15,000**
705 Summit Avenue
East St. Louis, IL 62201

The project will facilitate the exchange of information in addressing the environmental threat of soil erosion into local waterways and flooding in the low-income, African American areas known as "below the bluff" caused by the continued development and urban sprawl in the affluent areas above the natural bluff. Citizens will be educated and encouraged to work together to find appropriate solutions that ensure the implementation of best management practices. This project will enhance community understanding of the impacts and causes of flooding and will facilitate a

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unified approach to managing stormwater and flood prevention. The project will: (1) explain the regulatory requirements of the Phase II stormwater regulations; (2) facilitate the exchange of ideas of citizens and administrators in solving the stormwater problems in a cost-effective manner; and (3) facilitate broad-based support in the development of a comprehensive stormwater management plan.

INDIANA

Health Visions Midwest **\$15,000**
4522 Indianapolis Boulevard
East Chicago, IN 46312

This organization will implement a community-based lead poisoning education, testing, and awareness project in partnership with the Lake County Task Force. This project will serve low-income and minority communities located in Gary, Hammond and East Chicago, Indiana. This project will implement a strategic plan that includes providing education to parents, health and day care providers and the general public, case management and home risk assessment, and also to develop a speaker's bureau and local clearinghouse of lead education materials and information.

MICHIGAN

City of Flint, City Hall **\$15,000**
1101 South Saginaw Street
Flint, MI 48502

This organization will plan and implement an Environmental Summit which (1) addresses how information regarding environmental issues, particularly cleanups and permitting, are made available to minority and low-income communities; (2) provides an overview of various environmental statutes; (3) provides a primer in public participation and how to effectively provide public comment; (4) discusses ways a citizen can participate in the environmental permitting process; (5) provides information on environmental careers.

MINNESOTA

Independent School District 196 **\$15,000**
14445 Diamond Path,
Rosemount, MN 55068

This project is designed to empower and coordinate grassroots community efforts to begin addressing problems related to the degradation of wild rice habitats on Red Lake Reservation. This project will develop and use a traditional Anishinabe-based model of community participation to involve the Red Lake community members in identifying critical wild rice sites

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and generating community awareness to the decline of wild rice.

WISCONSIN

**Menominee Tribe
P.O. Box 910
Keshena, WI 54135**

\$15,000

The Menominee will implement a household hazardous waste collection program. This project will also facilitate communication and environmental education of local residents and will encourage alternate use of non-toxic consumer products which promote waste minimization through pollution prevention education. This project will support the participation of two Menominee Nation College students to assist in education efforts in the reservation schools and to assist in the actual collection efforts.

REGION 5 TOTAL

\$100,000

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South Dallas/Fair Park area schools, and the project will culminate in the Earth Camp 2002, when the students who are selected competitively will explore the Trinity River and the natural habitat of the South Dallas area during the two-week camp.

Community Action Agency Project Bravo **\$15,000**
4838 Montana
El Paso, TX 79903

The project “**Environmental Justice in the Neighborhoods**” will train 130 residents from sixty five grassroots Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIA). Through this training, residents will be empowered with the skills to participate in public debates on environmental issues; participate in committees, task forces and/or boards overseeing such issues; and the skills to seek redress on environmental issues concerning their communities. Each NIA will develop an Environment Plan of Action, identifies the issues and solutions to these problems in their community. Youth participation will be insured by selecting two to five students from each of the twenty seven high schools and middle schools in El Paso County to serve on a Youth Council on the Environment. The students will attend the training as well as participate in four workshops.

Wesley Community Centers of San Antonio, Texas, Inc. **\$20,000**
1406 Fitch
San Antonio, TX 78211

“**Screening for Health’s Sake**” is a project involving the residents in the environs of Kelly Air Force Base (KAFB) in San Antonio. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) studies have shown that households over a plume of contaminated groundwater near the base have an increased number of deaths attributed to liver and kidney cancer and leukemia, as well as an elevated number of low birth weight babies and an excess of reported cases of heart and circulatory system defects. This project will research why the most-affected households do not seek the free health screening, and a community health profile will be taken of the residents at the same time to determine their attitudes about the relationship between the contaminated groundwater plume and their perceived illnesses. Using the results of the study, the volunteers of the Wesley Community Centers will produce a bilingual pamphlet explaining the details of the screening and encourage people to get screened. The project will target one hundred households in the contaminated area in which there will be door to door canvassing and community meetings.

REGION 6 TOTAL ***\$140,000***

REGION 7
(IA, KS, MO, NB)

IOWA

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement **\$15,000**
2005 Forest Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311

This project will identify and research sources of pollution that potentially threaten the health and quality of life of local residents, and involve area residents in addressing the pollution. The target audience are community residents of a low-income portion of zip code 50317 located in the city of Des Moines. This low-income area is overburdened with industrial-type businesses and pollutants. Preliminary research revealed that for the year 1998, zip code 50317 was identified by the Environmental Defense Fund as ranking in the top 90 to 100 percentile for the dirtiest/worst zip codes in the United States for total environmental releases. The project will enhance understanding of the environmental and public health information systems by educating residents about the policies and government departments that deal with environmental concerns.

City of Waterloo, Iowa **\$20,000**
Waterloo Planning, Programming and Zoning Commission
715 Mulberry Street
Waterloo, IA 50703

This project will study the drinking water in the city of Waterloos' Cedar Valley Aquifer. This study will include the effects of the proximity of rail lines and maintenance facilities operating near the Waterloo Water Works to the future quality of the drinking water for the area.

KANSAS

Associated Youth Services **\$15,000**
P.O. Box 6145
Kansas City, KS 66106

This project will use John Garland Park, a former landfill designated as a park, to build a Heartland Greenhouse. The Greenhouse will demonstrate sustainable and environmentally safe design by improving the methane gas control system and reducing the leachate at John Garland Park.

Heart of America Family Services **\$14,825**
626 Minnesota
Kansas City, KS 66101

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This project will implement environmental and training programs for minority and low-income residents of Wyandotte County to ensure fair treatment and equal access to information about the impact of environmental toxins on brain development in children. Key community members from faith-based and community-based child care centers, service providers, visiting nurses and youth workers will learn the sources of environmental toxins in the home and at school and alternatives to harmful household products. The train-the trainer project will provide the communication and coordination of information through workshops.

Sunflower Community Action, Inc.
1540 North Broadway, Suite 103
Wichita, KS 67214

\$15,000

This project is aimed at the low income neighborhoods in Wichita containing a predominate number of poorly maintained, pre-1950 houses. Neighborhood leaders will be trained by public health officials to inform their neighbors about the dangers of lead and indoor air quality. There will be six public meetings providing opportunities for newly trained grassroots leaders to inform at least three-hundred community residents about lead poisoning and substandard air quality. Public health officials will also be connected with public school leadership to educate the parents of kindergarten and preschool children. Landlords will be encouraged to comply with federal lead paint disclosure requirements that have been in effect since 1996.

MISSOURI

Metropolitan Energy Center
3808 Paseo
Kansas City, MO 64109 (Jackson County)

\$14,954

This project will improve the quality of life for low income residents living in energy inefficient homes within the Kansas City urban core area. It will inform and educate urban core residents about energy efficiency management. Energy efficiency in the home has a direct correlation with afford ability and often with the families' health. Recent increases of more than 40% in energy prices have placed a great burden on low income residents. The targeted neighborhoods are located between Troost and Prospect in Kansas City, MO's urban core area. The results of this project are envisioned to be transferable to almost any at-risk community in the Kansas City metropolitan are, the region and the United States.

Barton County Environmental Health Services
1301 East 12th Street
Lamar, MO 64759

\$14,298

This project is a dual component educational program to address lead poisoning with respect to low-income families (with small children), landlords, Realtors, renovation contractors, and master gardeners. The first component targets low-income families with children between 6

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months and 6 years of age. It is designed to provide educational materials on hazards of lead ingestion, food planning, and demonstrations of lead cleaning/testing techniques. The second component will consist of a series of specialized lead training sessions for at-risk groups.

Junior College District of the Mineral Area, MO **\$12,300**
Post Office Box 100
Park Hills, MO 63601

This project will address the need for the operation of the Madison County Environmental Roundtable that functions as a public policy group dedicated to education, open communication, and community problem solving. This target community is one of old, lower cost housing located near mine wastes that continue to expose residents to tailings and contamination. This project will also work with the development of a power point computer presentation module to advance knowledge for churches, civic groups, and execute at least eight targeted presentations at local group meetings. The project is a necessary, valuable and inexpensive way to implement some proven methods of community involvement in detached rural mining areas that have socioeconomic and educational barriers.

Operation SafeStreet **\$15,000**
City Hall Suite 422
1200 Market Street
Saint Louis, MO 63103

This project focuses on broadening the communities' focus to work on ways to fully integrate environmental justice issues in environmental planning solutions. Stakeholder partnerships have emerged to address air pollution, abandoned buildings, solid waste, lead in the environment to lack of green and recreational space to the lack of environmental information. The problem exists that these initiatives disproportionately impact low-income and communities of color. The goal is to have a community-based and environmental justice issue work cooperatively where they exist.

St. Louis Medical Waste Incinerator Group (St. Louis MWIG) **\$14,500**
2717 Ann Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63104-2223

This project targets residents living near the incinerator. The demographics of this area are low income, less formal education, 50% White and 50% Black. This project will train a core of neighborhood outreach leaders in the science and law of medical incineration, environmental networking, an grass-roots organizing. These leaders will lead MWIG to new partnerships. These partnerships will be with the producers of the medial waster burn off toxins. These new partnerships will enable the community to tackle other environmental injustice issues.

REGION 7 TOTAL ***\$150,877***

REGION 8
(CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

COLORADO

Environmental Learning for Kids **\$14,985**
14460 E. 50th Avenue
Denver, CO 80239

Environmental Learning for Kids will recruit 15 young people residing in a low-income neighborhood in Denver for the Youth Mentor Corps. Supervised and trained by a Colorado Division of Wildlife Biologist, they will participate in environmental justice issues in educational workshops, host workshops for small business owners, create and disseminate bilingual fact sheets on EJ issues and pollution prevention, and publish a quarterly newsletter and educational articles for local newspapers on environmental issues.

The Ute Conservation Corps **\$10,000**
42492 E. Deerfoot Lane
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

The Ute Conservation Corps proposes to employ young adults from the Northern Ute Tribe to conduct water quality testing and lakeside rehabilitation in the Flattops Wilderness and water-quality testing in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Curricula built around the Clean Water and Air Acts will be implemented and accredited through the Colorado Mountain College. By doing so we provide an affordable workforce to the US Forest Service and provide employment and education opportunities to indigenous youth while promoting land stewardship.

MONTANA

Fort Belknap Indian Community **\$15,000**
R.R. 1, Box 66
Harlem, MT 59526

The Tribal Environmental Protection Program proposes to safeguard surface, ground and drinking water sources under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act by participating in Technical Work Group meetings with BLM, MDEQ, and EPA during/after the Zortman and Landusky Mine Reclamation SEIS process. In addition the Program proposes to protect air and water resources under the CWA and CAA by participating in the military Target Range for the Montana Air National Guard EIS process. Based on this participation and interaction with federal agencies, the Tribe will become knowledgeable about the issues so they can educate members through news articles, meetings, training seminars and passive educational materials which will help them make informed decisions on these and other NEPA actions.

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Eastern Plains Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. **\$15,000**
123 West Main
Sidney, MT 59270

This grant will provide public information and capacity building for the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Municipal and Rural Water Supply System and Dry Prairie Rural Water (DPRW) Authority in northeastern Montana. The central issues address the serious health and quality of life concerns related to the very poor quality of existing ground water sources that provide drinking water for municipal and rural residents of northeastern Montana. This rural area project area has a population of 24,000 people, which includes 12,000 members of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Another objective is to raise public awareness regarding contaminated ground water aquifers and sources that contribute to the contamination.

UTAH

Utah Society for Environmental Education **\$15,000**
350 South 400 East, Suite G4
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

This grant will focus on health concerns being raised over the processing of tires at the Tire Disposal and Recycling Center located in a low-income residential neighborhood in the Salt Lake Valley. The proposed "Tire Dust Project" will evaluate the health impacts of this facility and educate residents of one of Salt Lake's lowest income communities, providing them with the skills needed to address environmental justice issues related to clean air and solid waste disposal. The project will help the residents evaluate and address their primary health concerns about their local air quality. Addressing the environmental justice concerns will empower the residents to take pride in their community and take action to improve their air quality.

WYOMING

Northern Arapaho Tribe **\$14,999**
P.O. Box 396
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514

The goal of this grant is to provide environmental policies and guidelines from the Tribe to public and private sector representatives constructing clean water and safe drinking water systems on and near the Wind River Reservation. The policies and guidelines reflect the interest of the Northern Arapaho tribal members in the recovery of artifacts and specimens that pertain to American Indians. Tribal members have expressed concern that environmental information does not include provisions related to the recovery of American Indian artifacts and data. Tribal members believe that environmental justice not only include the right to clean air, water and soil, but also to the recovery and preservation of historical objects that may be uncovered because of

Environmental Justice Small Grant Awards - FY 2001

environmental construction activity. If the Tribe can develop a program that implements environmental policies and guidelines at the front-end of clean water and safe drinking water projects, it is more likely to engage tribal members in the support of creating and sustaining environmental regulatory programs. This critical piece is currently missing in the present regulatory structure of the local area.

**Wyoming Energy Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 972
Laramie, WY 82073**

\$15,000

Wyoming Energy Council's (WEC) proposed project addresses health effects caused by environmental exposure to poor indoor air quality and potentially hazardous and solid waste in low income households in Carbon and Albany Counties in Wyoming, particularly those including young children or the elderly. WEC will join in partnership with local community organizations to mutually raise understanding of indoor pollution and its harmful effects. Members of such organizations will receive training and information that enables them to identify and help those low-income households with specific needs. Educational presentations will be made to all interested groups. Information on indoor pollution and hazardous toxic wastes will be provided through newspaper articles, public service announcements, and brochures and pamphlets. WEC will operate a toll free question and referral hot line.

REGION 8 TOTAL

\$99,984

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Community Building Institute **\$14,285**
2135 Clark Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

The Community Building Institute is a nonprofit organization for youth and young adults in East Palo Alto. Their purpose is to prepare at-risk young people to assume positive, nonviolent roles in the family, school, and community. Their goal is to promote social responsibility, provide job readiness skills and community service activities between youth and young adults. They will conduct a community-wide campaign to provide information and education to residents about the illegal and unsafe dumping of hazardous and/or toxic waste materials onto more than 20 vacant lots in the community. They will target residents with a particular emphasis on non-English speaking residents who do not have access to information in their own languages.

Concerned Citizens South Central LA **\$14,285**_____
4707 S. Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles is a nonprofit grassroots organization. Their mission is to work to improve the quality of life for all residents in the Vernon Central community of South Central LA. They will address the issue of information dissemination and public participation in the clean up process of a Middle School built on a contaminated site. Their goal is to ensure that contamination is cleaned up and that the community is aware of and involved in the process. A youth education and empowerment program will also be a part of this project

Asian Pacific Environmental Network **\$14,285**
310 8th Street, Suite 309
Oakland, CA 94607

The Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) launched the first community capacity building effort in the Laotian community of West Contra Costa County in 1995. Their goal is to bring together the different ethnic groups of the Laotian community to organize, develop indigenous leadership, and build the capacity of the community to work for social and environmental justice. This project will focus on improving the county's disclosure of the release of toxic substances and their impact on human health, and the delivery of this information to the Laotian and other non-English speaking communities.

Career Training Institute **\$20,000**
1633 84th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94621

Career Training Institute (CTI) is a grassroots, a community-based agency located in East Oakland, CA. The project will address problems related to the cleanup of the toxic brownfield site, K & L Plating, located on 89th Avenue, adjacent to residential properties (a large public

Environmental Justice Small Grant Awards - FY 2001

the unique human health risks to members of the Washoe Tribe resulting from hazardous substances released from the Leviathan Mine Superfund site. For decades, Leviathan Mine-an abandoned open pit sulfur mine has released arsenic, copper, and another hazardous substances affecting tribal trust resources and other natural resources within Tribe's ancestral homelands. Members of the Washoe Tribe engage in activities using potential contaminated natural resources to a greater extent than others, exposing the Washoe people to greater health risks. Standard presumptions upon which human health risk assessments are based will not take into account traditional and customary Washoe tribal uses of the affected resources. Absent human health risk factors developed specifically to address these traditional and customary uses, the human health risk assessment will fail to establish appropriate remediation goals and the site will continue to expose the Washoe people to an unacceptable level of risk following remediation of the site.

NEVADA

**Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley
P. O. Box 219
Owyhee, NV 89832-0219**

\$20,000

The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley Reservation project will address environmental justice issues stemming from the abandoned Rio Tinto Mine that impacts the reservation. Over the last 20 years the tribe has become increasingly alarmed that prior mining activities in a drain that feeds into the East Fork of Owyhee River (Mill Creek), are causing more than occasional fish kills. The Shoshone Paiute has documented impacts on the Owyhee fishery and impacts to the watershed date back to the active mining and milling initiatives especially during WWII and the mid-70's. This project will consist of three research tasks: (1) collect and analyze impacted Mill Creek surface water of the Owyhee River; (2) collect and analyze native fish in vicinity of the impacted effluent discharges of the Owyhee River; (3) collect and analyze the willow roots, leaves, and stems from areas impacted and not impacted, to be used for a basis of comparison of exposure pathways. Data generated from this research and testing will be evaluated from a toxicological perspective for both human direct exposure and food chain accumulation through the fishery or willows that line the banks for the Owyhee River. The research will identify any concerns to the health and safety of the local population, recreationists, livestock and wildlife.

REGION 9 TOTAL

\$179,995

REGION 10
(AK, ID, OR, WA)

ALASKA

Alaska Center for the Environment **\$20,000**
135 Christensen Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Environmental Justice issues exist for Alaskan communities (native and/or economically disadvantaged) affected by Superfund Sites. The center will inform and educate the community about potential exposure to contaminants that may result from dependence on traditional subsistence. Affected communities lack access to information. The objective is to provide access to information about pollution problems that may affect them for independent technical interpretation of remedial investigations, feasibility studies, sampling data, etc. Develop research information with respect to hazardous substances in the environment and their potential effects and risks to human health. Also, provide information on water and air pollution sources and ways to eliminate them.

Circle Village **\$15,000**
P.O. Box 89
Circle, AK 99733

This project will facilitate production of videos showing the relationship of the contamination of the environment in the local region as it is related to daily subsistence lifestyles. This project will also facilitate an understanding of the need for increased local participation in voicing concern about local environmental degradation and the need for remedial correction; increased understanding of the need for increased communication between the local native communities; and the agencies governing the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Disposal. Act.

OREGON

Create **\$8,000**
3821 Pacific Ave.
Forest Grove, OR 96116

This project will educate Washington county farm workers about pesticide exposure and protection; will research to determine pesticides exposure levels among Washington county farm workers; increase farm worker families' understanding about environmental and public health information systems; help to determine ways in which the community can participate in environmental justice processes and pesticide education programs.

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Create **\$12,000**
3821 Pacific Ave.
Forest Grove, OR 96116

The pesticide research project is designed to determine levels of exposure experienced by Washington County farm workers and their families. Research will be conducted to analyze data on toxic levels and their effects on and risks to human health.

Legal Aid Service of Oregon **\$17,717**
421 High Street Suite 10
Oregon City, OR 97045

This project will: (1) facilitate increases of communication, educate, and enhance understanding of accessing safe drinking water for low-income, migrant farm worker communities; (2) conduct drinking water testing in low-income and migrant farm worker communities; (3) build community capacity to identify the degree of the problem; (4) educate and build communication between affected communities and agencies regulating and enforcing safe drinking water.

WASHINGTON

Northwest Communities **\$15,000**
Education Center
P.O. Box 800
Granger, WA 98932

Outreach to and education of spanish-speaking communities to promote education, awareness, and compliance with clean air policies and solid waste recycling is the focus of this project. This will include helping the community to understand and comply with the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

My Service Mind Of the Northwest **\$14,999**
11016 Bridgeport Way SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

This project will address environmental pollution in the daily life of low-income Korean populations in Pierce, South King, Kitsap, and Snohomish counties; to educate about the dangers, proper use and disposal of household products; hazards of incorrect disposal; and the harmful effects of radiation. The project will serve to educate and promote critical thinking and action to develop and improve access to this information due to language barriers of affected community.

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Quileute Indian Tribe **\$13,075**
P.O. Box 279
La Push, WA 98350

The project will improve awareness of environmental problems and alternative solutions related to water pollution and solid waste disposal in isolated tribal communities and promote ideas of stewardship and ecological problem solving.

Washington State University **\$15,000**
2907 Pioneer RD.
Long Beach, WA 98631

The project will broaden community understanding of agriculturally derived surface water pollution; generate GIS mapping products and data to assess agriculturally derived surface water pollution at the micro-watershed level; provide information to the communities on how to understand the various components of the project; assimilated information will be used to build a consensus toward new solutions for prevention of agriculturally derived water pollution; and focus on contaminants, and toxic substances in surface water.

REGION 10 TOTAL ***\$130,791***