



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. 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

This year, the EJSG Program is designed to assist recipients in building collaborative partnerships that will help them understand and address the environmental and/or public health issues in their communities. Successful collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders involve well-designed strategic plans to build, maintain and sustain the partnerships, and to work towards addressing the local environmental and/or public health issues.

The New Request for Applications period will be open from June 22, 2006 to 11:59pm October 23, 2006.

Request for Applications

On February 1, 2006, OEJ released the Request for Applications (RFA) for the EJSG Program. The EJSG Program is of a national scope, and therefore, the purpose of the RFA was to make one grant award per region. The RFA closed on March 31, 2006; however, the EJSG program was cancelled and no awards were made because OEJ did not receive enough applications to meet its national program objectives.

On June 22, 2006, a new announcement for the EJSG will be released. Significant changes to the RFA have been made in an effort to solicit more applications. Some of these changes include:

- The definition of "eligible applicant"
- The contents of the application package
- The format of the workplan
- The Threshold Eligibility Criteria

Any organization that applied under the earlier RFA must submit a new application.

Eligible Applicants

An eligible applicant **MUST BE** either:

- (1) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service; OR
- (2) a non-profit organization, recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which it is located.

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.

A “non-profit organization,” means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that:

- (1) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;
- (2) is not organized primarily for profit; and
- (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations.

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 and local governments and federally-recognized Indian tribal governments;
- 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 call the Office of Environmental Justice's 24-hour hotline (1-800-962-6215) or visit the website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-cps-grants.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.