



# Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Essex County, NJ*

### **EPA Brownfields Program**

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### **Community Description**

Essex County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Essex County is a densely populated county, where more than 15 percent of its 793,633 residents live below the poverty level, and more than 56 percent are minorities. In some pockets of the county, these numbers rise to more than 19 and 94 percent respectively. The county's brownfields sites are located in older residential neighborhoods, where a workforce arose around the factories constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The vacant and abandoned buildings invite illegal dumping, attract trespassers, and pose potential health hazards. Brownfields cleanup and redevelopment is expected to



### **Assessment Grant**

**New  
2004**

\$200,000 for hazardous substances  
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected Essex County for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to expand a brownfields coalition established in 2000, augment an existing database, identify brownfields clusters, conduct community-based planning to determine the end use of selected clusters, and perform pre-remedial site assessments. Petroleum grant funds will be used to augment an existing database, conduct community-based planning to determine the end use of selected clusters, and perform pre-remedial site assessments.

### **Contacts**

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team  
212-637-4314  
<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Essex County, NJ  
973-395-8422

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

rebuild the county's shrinking tax base and provide increased opportunities for housing, employment and recreational amenities.