

**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831548-0    Hands Across the Mountain Inc. (HAM)  
**Constituency:** LIW                      *Grant Application ID: 2003002*

**EPA Region:**    3  
**State:**        VA

***Coal Country Water Quality and Environmental Justice Project***

Issue

The residents and communities that inhabit the three watersheds (McClure, Guest River, Upper Powell Watersheds) have significant social issues with respect to low-income, lack of education, and low employment rates. Resource extraction still has a major impact on the region, despite the fact that a majority of the coal mines are no longer active. Runoff from operational and abandoned mines contributes heavy metal and sediments to the streams of these watersheds and impacts both human and animal life. All 3 watersheds lack developed public water systems and septic systems. Many residents still draw water directly from local streams and rivers, the same rivers that receive "straight pipe" sewage from those homes and businesses. There are 11 stream segments in the 3 watersheds that are classified as "impaired" by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Seven of those segments are impaired due to fecal coli-form contamination from human waste.

Environmental Statutes

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)

Goal

The goal is to enhance existing community organization partnerships and establish new partnerships with local, regional, state, federal, and private sector organizations to fully identify and characterize the environmental and public health issues associated with straight pipe sewage disposal and acid mine drainage, and then develop and implement the strategies necessary to successfully address these issues.

Project

Work with educators to teach the people in the community about the environmental and health effects of straight-piping so that local citizens can return to their communities to make improvements to the sewage disposal system. Using preliminary inventories already compiled by the Coal County Watershed Coalition and other data sources, HAM will prepare an environmental health inventory of problem areas and community needs and desires for revitalization. It will be used to identify and prioritize projects, track project progress, prepare background materials, and guide the design of the visioning process and workshop.

Partnership

Guest River, the Upper Powell River, and McClure River watersheds, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the coal industry, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the community. Additional partnerships will be forged, and an organizational structure will be developed so that community-based and community-driven collaboration is the primary focus. Community-based collaboration will be augmented through layers of secondary partners (e.g., the Tennessee Valley Authority and coal industry and government partners such as the DOI and the Appalachian Regional Commission).

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
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**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831553-0    Oak Grove Neighborhood Association (OGNA)    **EPA Region:** 7  
**Constituency:** AA    *Grant Application ID: 2003003*    **State:** KS

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***Back to the Park: Collaborative Problem Solving on the Oak Grove Community***

Issue

The Oak Grove neighborhood is located in the northeastern part of Wyandotte County in Kansas City, KS. There are 7,833 residents, 91% are African American, 8% are Caucasian and the other 1% includes Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, and others. According to the 2000 Census, the median household income for the area was approximately \$22,500, and 51% of households have an income of less than or equal to \$12,500. Before becoming John Garland Park (a community park located in the Oak Grove neighborhood), the property operated as a landfill from 1972-1974 and accepted municipal and industrial waste. When the landfill was closed it was covered with clean soil and used as a community park. In the late 1980s, however, the park was closed due to environmental concerns. The Kansas City Department of Health and Environment continues to monitor the site and work toward reducing seepage of contaminated water from the landfill and safely venting the methane gas to prevent migration and build-up in nearby homes.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

Goal

The overarching goal is to move forward the community-driven redevelopment of John Garland Park. OGNA will create the John Garland Park Task Force to organize the necessary stakeholders in the redevelopment initiative and will oversee and monitor progress toward this goal.

Project

The Oak Grove Neighborhood Association will create the John Garland Park Task Force to organize the necessary stakeholders in the redevelopment initiative and monitor progress toward the goal of reopening the park. The Task Force will develop a redevelopment plan for implementing the Oak Grove community's vision for John Garland Park, to include: (1) identifying and securing funding; (2) identifying and organizing human resources; and (3) assuring the redeveloped park is consistent with Oak Grove's vision, but will not compromise the safety and integrity of the landfill cap and monitoring systems.

Partnership

Associated Youth Services, Kansas State University-Center for Hazardous Substance Research, Faith Lutheran Church, Commissioner Nathan Barnes, the Quindaro Ruins/Underground Railroad Site. Other stakeholders include Unified Government Parks and Recreation, Unified Government Wyandotte County, Environmental Protection Agency, Kansas City Parks and Recreation-Public Works, and Kansas City Parks and Recreation-Community Development and Planning.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831557-0    **Indochinese Cultural and Service Center (ICSC)**    **EPA Region:** 10  
**Constituency:** API    **Grant Application ID:** 2003016    **State:** WA

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***Asian Pacific Islander Environmental Awareness Project***

**Issue**

According to the 2000 Census in Pierce County, the Asian Pacific Islander population is 57,959. There are 20 or so sewer outfalls along the eastern shore of Puget Sound. There is also industrial discharge and runoff from freeways and parking lots that have lead and other contaminants. This pollution contributes to high levels of mercury in the shellfish in the area that the Asian Pacific Islander community depends on for subsistence shellfish harvesting. Traditions, cultural differences, and misunderstandings have been identified as primary causes for many of the unsafe environmental practices among API communities. Paralytic shellfish poisoning pose serious health risks to SE Asian communities. For example, in August 2000, 9 Cambodian workers were hospitalized after eating mussels from a closed area on the Puget Sound.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
2. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
3. Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203

**Goals**

Building and sustaining strong working relationships among partners will be through the development of mechanisms that facilitate the provision of safe and sustainable harvesting practices and safe fish consumption. This will be done by increasing public awareness of dangers from mercury poisoning, unsafe harvesting practices, and non-point sources of pollution – including mercury and hazardous waste disposal, and build the capacity of the community to reduce exposure to these health risks.

**Project**

Establishment of Beach Monitoring and Closure Management Plan. This will include a Public Information and Notification Initiative described as public meetings, beach postings, public announcements, and other control mechanisms. Activities as part of the Management Plan include bio-toxin monitoring and sampling, training (rules and regulations for safe harvesting, sample collection, etc.), and sustainable harvesting.

**Partnership**

Korean Women's Association, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, State of Washington Department of Health, Puget Sound Action team. Government partners including the Washington State Department of Health which has reported the need to have access to the API communities, as their traditional methodology of providing information is largely ineffective with Limited English Speaking communities.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831552-0    West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC)    **EPA Region:** 5  
**Constituency:** AA/HI    *Grant Application ID: 2003030*    **State:** MI

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**Community Organizing Project**

Issue

The community of focus for this project is the Madison/Baxter, and Grandville Avenue communities. The 2000 Census shows that 66% of the neighborhood residents are African American and 27% are identified as Hispanic. More than half the area residents report income below the federal poverty level. The Kent County Health Department reported that 805 of the 1,195 children were screened for lead in 2002. Of those children screened, 38% (228 children) had elevated blood lead levels. Included in this target area are 5 city blocks reported as among those with the most lead poisoned children in the State of Michigan.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

As part of the "Get the Lead Out" (GTLO) strategic plan is the goal of ensuring that the community understands the causes of childhood lead poisoning and how to protect the children. Two strategies will be used: (1) develop and implement a countywide community awareness strategy; and (2) develop and implement a geographically concentrated education campaign for at risk residents.

Project

Developing a "Train the Trainer" curriculum for educating both professionals and caregivers around lead awareness. With this grant, the Education and Outreach committee will collaborate with the Madison/Baxter and ¡Saquemos el Plomo! citizen groups to develop and implement a primary prevention "Peer to Peer" Training component that will be included in the overall "Train the Trainer" curriculum for residents of the Madison/Baxter and Grandville communities. At a minimum, 30 community residents of the 3 target neighborhoods will receive the "Peer to Peer" training. The Community Organizer will coordinate this. This primary prevention approach will not only address residents' understanding of lead, but also expand their understanding of their neighborhoods, of available and missing resources, and of their potential role in the community as change agents. Development of the "Peer to Peer" training component will occur simultaneously with the completion of the community capacity-building process. Participation in the development of the curriculum will provide a practical and important opportunity for the citizens groups to help shape a proactive response to the issue of lead within their communities, hence facilitating the capacity-building aspects of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving model described in the grant proposal.

Partnership

WMEAC, Community Leadership Institute, ¡Saquemos el Plomo!, Madison/Baxter Citizen Group. By year three, the Community Organizers will also work closely with the community trainers and "Get the Lead Out" to identify community institutions such as neighborhood organizations, faith based institutions, schools, service providers, and other community resources that will sponsor the "Peer to Peer" training program in their settings. This effort will bring other resources to the table to expand the capacity and sustainability of the lead prevention effort beyond the grant period.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831544-0    *Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)*  
**Constituency:** MR                    *Grant Application ID: 2003032*

**EPA Region:**    1  
**State:**    MA

***Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model***

**Issue**

The area of focus for this project is a distressed neighborhood known as "the Acre" and 3 other neighborhoods (Back Central, Lower Highlands, and Lower Centralville) in Lowell, MA. According to the 2000 Census, 36.8% of the residents in this area had incomes below the poverty line. The Lowell Asthma Coalition reports that a study of children enrolled in Head Start classes in Lowell found that nearly one-third, 32%, of the 3 and 4 year olds had difficulties with asthma. Air pollution in low-cost, rental housing is a major cause of rising asthma rates. The contributing factors to poor indoor air quality include lead paint problems, roach infestations, mold and dust. Another area of concern is reducing the solid waste generated in the city. Promoting a recycling program will prevent solid waste from ending up in landfills or incinerators that have a direct impact on environmental health. Furthermore, educating the public that leads to increased recycling of more toxic items will also improve the environment and public health. The population is made up of 26% Hispanic; 26% Caucasian; 24% Asian (Cambodian); 19% Mixed Race; 6% African American.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

**Goals**

Residents will learn that there are steps each person can take to address problems of indoor air pollution, solid waste disposal, and recycling, and that additional community-wide steps will be needed to successfully address the full array of factors creating indoor air pollution problems and other environmental and health problems.

**Project**

The 3 partner organizations will carry out 12 "toxics in the home" educational sessions featuring a natural, non-toxic cleaning products baskets and distribute asthma barrier products to local residents. Residents will learn that there are steps each person can take to address problems of indoor air pollution, and that additional community-wide steps will be needed to successfully address the full array of factors creating indoor air pollution problems in Lowell. Additionally, the partners will carry out 8 education sessions on solid waste and recycling. The education and training activities will serve as a way to recruit people into participating in the large community deliberations leading to the City's Master Plan. For example, Item 11.1.5 in the Master Plan calls for adopting a "pay as you throw" program for municipal trash collection. However, there is no focused process for moving city waste collection in that direction. Ultimately, this project is designed to help low-income residents work with city decision-makers to design a process that will build community support and formulate regulations leading to better indoor air quality and improvements in solid waste disposal and recycling.

**Partnership**

Lowell Community Health Center, the Center for Family, Work, and Community, City Government, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Community Leaders. The project will bring the city's large Asian, Hispanic, and lower-income white communities together to play a role in major policy decisions in the city through the City of Lowell's Master Planning Process.



**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831550-0    West Anniston Foundation (WAF)  
**Constituency:** AA/LIW        *Grant Application ID: 2003058*

**EPA Region:**    4  
**State:**        AL

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***Health Education Coalition (HEC) Project***

**Issue**

The city of Anniston is 49% black and 49% white. Of the people within Anniston who are 25 years and older, 26% do not have high school diplomas. Over 20 of Anniston families live below the poverty level. There are major issues that Anniston is facing: (1) PCB exposure and contamination problems; (2) destruction of the nation's chemical weapons stockpiles at the Anniston Army Depot; (3) high levels of lead have been found at 270 properties in West Anniston; and (4) residents of West Anniston are suspicious of the government's commitment to their environmental and public health concerns. Because West Anniston is home for the Anniston PCB Superfund site and the Anniston Lead Superfund site, the citizens are primarily concerned with PCB contamination into the area's air, lakes, rivers and soil.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)

**Goal**

The primary goal is to educate the citizens, especially the youth, of West Anniston about PCB exposure. There is a cloud of fear among the residents resulting from misinformation and lack of understanding regarding environmental and public health issues, especially PCB exposure. Although West Anniston residents have some level of awareness of environmental problems, residents experience stress and anxiety about health threats that may not actually be imminent. By targeting the young people of West Anniston, the goal is to break the cycle of misinformation so that the citizens can make the best and most informed decisions regarding their health and environmental needs.

**Project**

The project will involve the formation of the Health Education Coalition (HEC) that will include WAF and its partners. The primary objective of this project is to build capacity among the impacted community, healthcare providers, the public school system, state and local government, and other stakeholders to address the need for improvements in healthcare education concerning PCB exposure and prevention. The project will primarily focus on the development of a youth-driven, community-based video to educate the youth and community about PCB exposure under an overall health education program. The project will work with Anniston city schools to incorporate basic health education on PCB exposure, prevention and related health effects. Youth organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club and Concern for Children will also incorporate the video and other projects developed through HEC into their existing youth programs.

**Partnership**

Calhoun County Health Dept., Anniston City Board of Education/Anniston City School System (incorporate basic health education on PCB exposure prevention and related health effects into Anniston City Schools health-related programs), Family Services, Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Interfaith Ministries, Boys and Girls Club of East Central Alabama (help coordinate activities which provide health education to youth), Concern for Children (develop and implement "First Steps" program to incorporate health education for PCB exposure prevention geared toward first time parents), East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Corporation, St. Michael's Clinic, etc.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831549-0    **Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP)**  
**Constituency:** AA/LIW        **Grant Application ID: 2003066**

**EPA Region:**    4  
**State:**        MS

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***Community First - Building Bridges for Inclusion***

**Issue**

According to the 2000 Census, the city's population is 6,603 with approximately 62% of the population Caucasian and 36% African American. The poverty rate is 30% with the median household income at \$14,926. Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP) was founded to represent the residents in regards to the 1997 explosion at the Reichhold Chemical Plant in Columbia, MS. A 1999 survey of residents living by the Reichhold site showed that more than half of the respondents had symptoms/conditions of allergies, body aches, and itching of skin. Other problems include breathing problems, dizziness, infections, bad coughs, etc.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
4. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)

**Goal**

This project seeks to address the many serious limitations of the data contained in the 1999 study. The most significant limitation of this data set is the substantial amount of missing data for the federal environmental statutes. The results of the study will be compiled into a document that can be used to show the extent of the environmental contamination in the area which will ultimately facilitate the relocation of the Web Quarter residents and the redevelopment of the Web Quarter for non-residential use as well as documentation to support additional environmental and public health services in the city of Columbia.

**Project**

The project will be a survey development plan. The partnership will conduct a health survey to document the water pollution, safe drinking water, solid waste and toxic substances and environmental health consequences resulting from the Reichhold chemical explosion and proper clean up of the contaminated site to support relocation of Web Quarter community residents over 3 years. Data will be collected from residents, stakeholders, partners and program staff, and all qualitative data will be maintained and analyzed to finally form the final document. JPAP will also design a plan for relocating the 150 to 200 families that surround the Reichhold Site, and the health survey will be used to help secure lifetime environmental health services and monitoring for on-going treatment for affected residents.

**Partnership**

River Network, MS River Basin Alliance, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Jackson State University, and Green Management. A special effort will be initiated to include residents, business, and the private sector. A membership and outreach subcommittee will facilitate the inclusion of new partners.

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**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831556-0    **Anahola Homesteaders Council (AHC)**    **EPA Region:** 9  
**Constituency:** API    **Grant Application ID:** 2003070    **State:** HI

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***Project Imua***

**Issue**

As Hawaii became a state, sugarcane production was the main source for employment on Kauai. In 2001, the island's largest sugar company, AMFAC, halted its sugar operations. The land has been used as a dump site for abandoned vehicles, hazardous waste materials, and discarded household goods. Streambeds have become contaminated and have become the breeding ground for invasive plants and an infectious disease called leptospirosis. Leptospirosis warnings are posted on trees along the Anahola River where recreational enjoyment and fish once flourished. For many Anahola residents, one of the most disturbing aspects of the environmental and public health issues facing the community is the uncertainty and lack of information that complicates discussion of these environmental and public health concerns.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(A)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)

**Goal**

The primary goal is to engage the Anahola community in an investigation of Anahola's environment. Currently, the community does not understand the environmental and public health issues they face, and so their fears are based on speculation and lack of knowledge. By conducting this environmental assessment, the community can take ownership of the problems they face and work collaboratively to fix them. Furthermore, the Community Plan will be used to engage local and regional governments who have largely ignored the problems that the Anahola community faces.

**Project**

The end product of the Community Plan will be a "living document" suitable for a Web site that permits the reader to "drill down into the document" to access the research, references and logs of the various Project Imua activities that provide background information and support the conclusions in the Plan. The project will use a consultant, but the consultant will be there to consult and teach more than to conclude, and the community will do most of the groundwork which involves sampling and testing. For instance, the students at Kanuikapono Charter School will perform the majority of the physical data collection and analysis under the supervision of experienced team leaders, experienced government specialists and the project consultant. The final hard document will serve to educate the youth, elderly and government officials who are concerned about the environmental degradation left behind with the departure of the sugar plantation from Anahola. Everyone in the area will have a means to access this "living document" and be tied to the problems facing the community. This document will also be a powerful tool to demonstrate to the government partners the seriousness of the environmental and public health issues faced by the community and will put to rest any speculation about the nature of the problems. The production of this "living document" will require collaboration between community participants, subject matter experts and project organizers. It will provide the means by which the community will establish ownership of the project and take responsibility for carrying the work forward.

**Partnership**

Local charter school, community (parents and other local citizens), County of Kauai, local real-estate developers (their vast development of the area is contributing to the poor water quality), local businesses (Heli USA has committed to providing helicopter service for aerial photos & transportation to remote locations), State of Hawaii Energy Resources Division, Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Office of State Planning, State Water Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency.



**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831547-0    Village of Arts and Humanities Inc. (VAH)  
**Constituency:** AA/LIW            *Grant Application ID: 2003077*

**EPA Region:**    3  
**State:**        PA

***Shared Prosperity Through Environmental Justice Initiative***

Issue

The Village is located in a blighted section of North Philadelphia. More than 40 years of economic decline have contributed to the vast tracts of vacant land and abandoned and deteriorating buildings. After demolition of existing structures, lots often are not properly capped, thus leaving toxic dust exposed to wind. Abandoned buildings contribute to air pollution as they deteriorate and expel materials contaminated with lead and other particulate air pollutants. Hazardous wastes either existing in the lots or recently dumped on the abandoned land pose a threat of toxic contamination. The Village recognizes that asthma rates are high in the 19133/19122 zip code area of the community. Forty percent of the residents are African American and the median household income is just under \$14,000 with 41% of the households having incomes under \$10K. The project will focus on recycling because Philadelphia's recycling rate is ranked 8th out of 9 major US cities. Thirty percent of refuse is burned in incinerators, polluting the air with toxic smoke and 70 % is buried in landfills, which can leak toxic chemicals to the soil and water.

Environmental Statutes

1. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

Improper disposal of solid waste, including dumping and littering, is unintentionally facilitated by the abundance of inconspicuous sites, a lack of enforcement, and a lack of knowledge about proper avenues for disposal. Many illegally dumped items contain hazardous wastes and pose a threat of toxic contamination to the air, land and water. Through greening, improved conditions in vacant lots are much less susceptible to dumping which encourages proper waste disposal including recycling. The goal of the project is to improve vacant lot maintenance and sustain their upkeep through a recycling program, thereby eliminating the toxic dust from the uncapped vacant lots which contribute to the high asthma rates in the community.

Project

The project will be a vacant lot management program with a recycling focus. This recycling program will not only improve Philadelphia's recycling rate and the air quality due to the reduced level of refuse entering incinerators, but will directly benefit the Village community by transforming vacant lots into green spaces. Much of the vacant lots are not properly capped, thus leaving toxic dust exposed to wind, and abandoned buildings contribute to air pollution as they deteriorate and expel materials contaminated with lead and other particulate air pollutants. The green spaces will be maintained through a sustainable recycling program. Once vacant lots are transformed, they are less susceptible to dumping and degradation. Some activities include a Philadelphia Partnership Recycling Program, an after-school program with a design contest to promote awareness of the new recycling program.

Partnership

Temple University Dept. of Geography & Urban Studies, Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, Women's Health and Environmental Network, Germantown Merchants Association (improve recycling strategies for local businesses), Friends of Fotteral Square (recycling education activities and implement on-site recycling at Fotteral Square Park for residents), and local government.

**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831554-0    Groundwork Denver Inc.  
**Constituency:** HI                      *Grant Application ID: 2003091*

**EPA Region:** 8  
**State:** CO

***The EJ Outreach Partnership (EJOP)***

**Issue**

The residents of the north Denver communities of Highland, Sunnyside, Elyria/Swansea, Globeville, Cole, Clayton, and the southern edge of Commerce City live in a heavily industrialized area with nearly 500 regulated facilities and 3 Superfund sites. This part of Denver is also a major transportation corridor with over 10,000 trucks passing through or idling in truck stops and nearby facilities. Over 70% of the residents are Latino with 26% speaking only Spanish. One-third of those who live in these neighborhoods are foreign born. To engage these residents, it is not enough to overcome the language barrier. Lack of trust, cultural differences, and educational barriers need to be overcome.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

**Goal**

The goal of this project is to have a central location where the community can go to acquire information about the environmental and health hazards in their surrounding area. The project specifically targets some of the most marginalized residents of the area; families who use Spanish as their primary language and those who suffer from technological gaps. By providing an information center, it is hoped that the Spanish-speaking community will become more engaged in the policy-making process that affects their environment and health. They will become more aware of the surrounding problems, and the center will help to overcome the barriers to participation.

**Project**

Groundwork Denver will establish the Centro de Salud Ambiental (The Center for Environmental Health) (CSA), and it will function as a sustainably supported center that is specifically for Spanish-speaking only or bi-lingual Hispanics. The purpose of the Center is to provide a place where they can find literature on environmental toxics in their native language, where residents of the target communities can do research either in the library or via computer over the internet with the help of staff. This Center will be the place where Spanish-speaking only or bi-lingual people can come for information about their environment and how contaminants affect their health.

**Partnership**

FrontRange Earth Force, Office of Councilperson Judy Montero, North East Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance (NEMPPA), Tri-County Health, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. In addition, the partners have agreed to enlarge and extend the funding for the project by looking at private industry and government for support of the project.

**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831545-0    **United Community Centers Inc. (UCC)**  
**Constituency:** AA/HI    *Grant Application ID: 2003117*

**EPA Region:** 2  
**State:** NY

***Environmental Justice in East New York***

**Issue**

East New York is a community of 170,000 inhabitants and is roughly comprised of 60% African Americans and 40% Latinos. Approximately 30% of the population is immigrant. East New York is mainly a low-income area with a substantial number of lower/middle income families. More than 30% of the families receive some form of public assistance and 27% of the households had incomes less than \$10,000 in 1999. East New York has the highest number of asthma hospitalizations and the highest number of acute respiratory infectious hospitalizations in Brooklyn.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

**Goal**

To secure government and private business cooperation in an effort to reduce air pollution generated by trucks and buses located in the community and to determine the extent of the indoor and outdoor air pollution in order to inform parents about asthma, asthma triggers, and allergens and what can be done to minimize or eliminate indoor asthma triggers.

**Project**

The first step is to create an Environmental Council which will be developed by the partnership. The Environmental Council will conduct air sampling tests in schools, apartments, and community locations and will inform the local government bodies of the project. This will be done to determine the extent of outdoor and indoor air pollution. Particular attention will be paid around the industrial park near Atlantic Avenue and Linden Boulevard, two heavily used truck routes, in order to characterize the air quality.

**Partnership**

The Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development, the Local Development Corporation of East New York, the Morris L. Eisenstein Learning Center, and the Cornell Agricultural Extension. There are 3 locations that UCC knows of that produces significant levels of toxic emissions because of the buses and diesel trucks that move in and out of these areas although there may be others. One is the Industrial Park, the other is the MTA Bus Terminal and the third is Atlantic Avenue. One of the members of the Environmental Council is the liaison between the Industrial Park and the rest of the community. This relationship will facilitate the meeting with the business leaders of the Industrial Park. They will also meet with the Community Schools Board and ask them to join in the efforts to meet with the administrators of the bus terminal and officials in the MTA, and with the relevant officials in the Department of Transportation.

**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831555-0    *Pacoima Beautiful (PB)*  
**Constituency:** HI                      *Grant Application ID: 2003137*

**EPA Region:** 9  
**State:** CA

***Pacoima Lead Poisoning Prevention Community Program***

**Issue**

Pacoima is located in the northeast San Fernando Valley in the city of Los Angeles. Eighty five percent of the population is Latino, 8% African American, and 7% Asian, Caucasian, and Native American. Forty six percent of all Pacoima residents live below the poverty line. Pacoima is an underserved, vulnerable, at-risk community, and the children are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning. According to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, over 5,000 children in Pacoima under the age of 6 are likely to have high lead levels in their blood. Pacoima Beautiful began investigating lead issues in 1999, when it organized a community survey with Cal State University, Northridge faculty. Conducted in 21 Pacoima neighborhoods, the survey assessed community knowledge about environmental hazards and health. Results revealed that Pacoima families knew very little about lead-related problems.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

**Goals**

Through community-focused and culturally appropriate educational outreach, the project is intended to increase the capacity of community residents to access to the screening services and improve resource networks to prevent and reduce lead hazards in Pacoima.

**Project**

A report on the findings from health care provider and housing surveys will be prepared with the intent of advocating for more lead control in the community. Pacoima residents will receive the report, in Spanish and in English, and develop a presentation targeted at local officials. A strategy will be developed to change state and local laws and codes to eliminate lead hazards. Neighborhoods will be targeted to control lead hazards, and the process will serve as a model for other neighborhoods in other communities. Furthermore, a forum will be convened of interested stakeholders to link community development with lead poisoning prevention. In the end, it is anticipated that a housing registry will be developed listing lead free homes and apartments. Finally, health access issues will address barriers to lead screening and by Pacoima residents with healthcare options.

**Partnership**

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Valley Care Community Consortium, Northeast Valley Health Corporation, Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County, Cal State University Northridge, UCLA Family Medicine Dept., Coalition for Clean Air, and Healthy Homes Collaborative. As the project continues to expand both in scope and depth, Pacoima Beautiful continues to bring in other partners. For example, the UCLA Family Medicine Department, Coalition for Clean Air, and Healthy Homes Collaborative have recently joined the partnership.

**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003  
Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831546-0    **Park Reist Corridor Coalition Inc. (PRCC)**  
**Constituency:** AA                      *Grant Application ID: 2003141*

**EPA Region:** 3  
**State:** MD

***Park Heights Environmental Justice Project Creating a Model for Success.***

**Issue**

In Park Heights, almost 50% of the community, which is 96% African American, receives public assistance. The average income is between \$15,000 and \$24,000 with one-third of children living in poverty and in families headed by females. In this community, there are over 65 auto-body shops, ranging in existence from 3 to 15 years. Most of them are situated on sites that were previously warehouses. One third of all shops had a spray booth present at operation locations. The chemicals that are used in the paint operations include ethyl acetate, toluene, aliphatic polyisocyanates, hexamethylene diisocyanates, etc. In addition to the potentially hazardous chemical exposures, inconsistent waste disposal practices have been identified. The nearby auto body shops contribute to the environmental and health problems in the community by their lack of compliance with EPA and OSHA regulations.

**Environmental Statutes**

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

**Goal**

To develop a more sustained process for environmental assessment within the community, improve communication, and the ability to address environmental justice problems in the Park Heights community. The process will focus on building the capacity of the auto body shops to increase their environmental compliance and understanding of health risks in the community that may be posed by their solid waste practices and air emissions.

**Project**

An organization will be created to represent the auto body shop owners in the Park Heights community. Some examples of projects include identifying learning or resource needs of the auto body owners through their environmental compliance issues. The PRCC will introduce several new activities to further raise awareness about the auto body shop efforts and to educate community residents about other environmental health issues. A proposed activity is the development of an EJ workgroup of community members to develop and implement educational efforts for children, youth, pregnant women, and the elderly.

**Partnership**

Northwest Baltimore Community Association, Community Congress (local businesses, faith-base orgs, law enforcement), Park Heights Community Health Alliance, ClearCorps (Community Lead Education and Reduction Corps), Auto body repair shop owners, Caribbean Association of Park Heights, Maryland Dept. of Environment and EPA Region 3, Baltimore City, Morgan State University, and University of Maryland. Auto body shops represent a critical part of Park Heights commerce and will be important to maintain in the City's Master Plan. The City will assist auto body shop owners to obtain the appropriate permits and other requirements to be in compliance w/ city ordinances.

**Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003**  
**Recommended for Award**

**EPA Grant ID:** EQ831543-0    Pioneer Valley Project Inc. (PVP)  
**Constituency:** API                      *Grant Application ID: 2003165*

**EPA Region:** 1  
**State:** MA

***Vietnamese Nail Salon Health Project***

Issue

Vietnamese-owned nail salons are a source of employment for low-income Vietnamese women. Vietnamese nail salons dominate the low-cost sector of this industry based on a captive workforce that lacks employment alternatives and uses illegal, low cost chemicals. Nationally, Vietnamese salons make up an estimated 40-50% of the market. As many as 300 salons beyond the Springfield, MA region employ Springfield residents. Nail technicians are often working 10-12 hours in poorly ventilated rooms with hazardous and volatile chemicals. Health hazards include miscarriages and reproductive disorders, damage to the nervous system, respiratory problems, and asthma. Lessons learned from this project may be replicated in other parts of the country since Vietnamese nail salons make up an estimated 40-50% of the nail industry, especially the low cost, quick "discount" salons.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a)
3. Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)

Goal

To resolve emerging conflicts between the expanding population of Vietnamese nail salons and health and safety regulators in order to protect the health of the Vietnamese nail technicians without driving away business. Low-cost services at Vietnamese nail salons have been built on hazardous work practices and conditions that put workers at risk for potential health problems ranging from rashes, asthma, respiratory problems, fungus infections, bacterial and viral infections, spontaneous miscarriages and stillbirths, cancers, and death. Currently, city and state regulators are working to increase regulations in an attempt to improve health and safety practices in this industry without understanding the socio-economic and cultural issues facing the Vietnamese population. The goal is to create a shared context for collaborative problem-solving by facilitating understanding among health providers, regulators, nail salon owners and technicians, and community leaders about the health concerns among low-income Vietnamese nail salon workers.

Project

This project will involve the following activities: 1) to develop a working group of health care providers, nail salon owners and technicians, community leaders in the Vietnamese community, and local regulators to work through a collaborative problem-solving process to assess and resolve health and related economic issues in salons; 2) to increase the capacity of Vietnamese nail salons to create healthy environments through the development and implementation of culturally appropriate education and technical assistance programs in Vietnamese; 3) to develop a demonstration salon that will model safe chemical management and reduction practices, and serve as a site for ongoing, hands-on training and demonstrations for the Vietnamese nail community; 4) to educate Vietnamese technicians and families suffering from health problems due to chemical exposures about the causes to enable them to take appropriate action to protect themselves; 5) to identify the most effective way for Vietnamese nail salons to work together to meet their common needs for affordable, less toxic products and ventilation equipment; 6) to increase the capacity of health care providers that service the Vietnamese community to identify symptoms of chemical exposure to develop appropriate treatments and educate patients; 7) to educate community leaders, the Vietnamese public and agencies that serve the community about the importance of safe management of chemicals in the nail industry; and 8) to gain the cooperation of local and state regulators through development of a long-term strategy to educate and assist salons to improve chemical management practices based on the results of this project.

Partnerships

Vietnamese American Civic Association, Vietnamese Health Project at Mercy Hospital, Springfield Southwest Health Clinic, Springfield Health Department, Toxics Use Reduction Institute, MA Association of Health Agents, MA Association of Health Boards, Dorchester Occupational Health Initiative, the Healthy Cosmetology Committee, Buddhist Temple & Catholic Apostolate, nail salon owners and workers. Also have commitments to cooperate from health regulators such as Springfield Health Dept. & the Division of Occupational Safety and MA Health Officers Association. They understand that the risks of failing to develop a cooperative solution could result in the loss of business as illustrated by Holyoke, located next to Springfield, which developed its own regulations that are closing down salons.