

**2016 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING  
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM  
Project Summaries by Region**

**REGION 1**

**Recipient:** Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island (EJLRI)

**Project Title:** Asthma Hotspot Action Plan

**Project Location:** South Providence, Elmwood, and Washington Park Neighborhoods (Providence, Rhode Island)

**Project Partners:** Rhode Island Department of Health (state government); City of Providence (local government); Brown University Superfund Research Program (educational institution); and Rhode Island Jobs with Justice (labor and professional organization)

**Project Type:** Asthma and Air Pollution Mitigation

**Project Description:** The two year asthma hotspot action plan project will work with the residents in the South Providence, Elmwood and Washington Park neighborhoods impacted by the Port of Providence, where air pollution and high rates of asthma are prevalent. The project will connect families dealing with asthma to free services to improve their health, knowledge, and environmental conditions. Project activities, including individualized outreach to residents, community workshops and meetings, and leadership development trainings, will result in the following: 1) increasing residents' knowledge about the sources of air pollutants and their impact on health; 2) engaging impacted residents in processes to investigate, survey, and monitor air pollution; and 3) developing actionable recommendations to reduce the community's exposure to pollutants. *An asthma hotspot is an area where there is high incidence and prevalence of asthma, as well as very high rates of asthma related emergency department visits.*

**REGION 2**

**Recipient:** People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc. (PUSH)

**Project Title:** Buffalo River Watershed Environmental Stewardship Worker-Training and Partnership Development

**Project Location:** First Ward City of Buffalo and the Buffalo River Watershed (Buffalo, New York)

**Project Partners:** Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (local non-profit); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (federal government); Ken Parker, Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional (local subject matter expert); Buffalo Museum of Science (educational non-profit); Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (local coalition); Silo City (local business); Paul Fuhrmann, Horticulturalist (local subject matter expert)

**Project Type:** Green Infrastructure (GI) Implementation through GI Worker Development

**Project Description:** This is a two-part educational project that will 1) prepare local, underserved communities impacted by water pollution to address local water quality issues and 2) support job

readiness in the green infrastructure (GI) and environmental restoration sectors. The project will produce a cadre of qualified workers and contractors for work in the GI and restoration sectors throughout the Buffalo River Watershed through an organized series of multi-faceted educational training workshops. Community residents participating in the workshops will be trained as natural habitat stewards with valuable environmental stewardship and maintenance knowledge, including the skills and abilities to support the many restoration efforts currently underway and being planned for the Buffalo River watershed. The workshops will also educate residents about how to be community leaders in affecting positive change in the City of Buffalo. The project brings together a diverse group of partners who are working to contribute to making the Buffalo River Watershed a more sustainable and livable community for all and supports the development of trainees to become well-versed community leaders.

## **REGION 3**

**Recipient:** CASA de Maryland, Inc.

**Project Title:** Langley Park Housing Matters Campaign

**Project Location:** Langley Park, Maryland

**Project Partners:** University of Maryland Center for Smart Growth Research and Education (academic); Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (local government); and Langley Park tenant associations (community tenant associations)

**Project Type:** Healthy Homes and Housing Policy Improvements

**Project Description:** This project aims to address unhealthy housing conditions and develop housing policy improvements in the Langley Park community. Common environmental hazards in Langley Park apartment complexes include vermin and insect infestations, failing heating and plumbing systems, and problems with mold and moisture. These hazards are linked to several health issues, including asthma (due to mold and pest droppings), cancers and developmental issues in children (due to chemical exposures to homemade pesticides and fungicides), and carbon monoxide poisoning (due to using the stove as a source of heat). CASA's Langley Park Housing Matters Campaign will: 1) establish a broad multi-stakeholder coalition dedicated to advancing healthy housing and improving environmental conditions; 2) educate and engage residents to avoid environmental health hazards and work with apartment complex management and the County to resolve complaints; and 3) research and develop a list of policy recommendations focusing on strengthening existing regulations and creating new ones to improve environmental conditions in Langley Park.

## **REGION 4**

**Recipient:** Cape Fear River Watch, Inc.

**Project Title:** Identifying Populations at Risk: Fish Consumption on the Northeast Cape Fear River

**Project Location:** New Hanover and Pender Counties, North Carolina

**Project Partners:** Wake Forest School of Medicine (academic), New Hanover County NAACP (non-profit), New Hanover County Department of Health (local government), Duke University Environmental Law & Policy Clinic (academic)

**Project Type:** Subsistence Fishing Hazards due to Water Pollution

**Project Description:** This project will bring together several partners to educate and empower residents living along the lower portion of the Northeast Cape Fear River who rely on subsistence fishing. The Northeast Cape Fear River has been classified as “impaired” due to high levels of mercury contamination detected in fish tissue samples. Subsistence fishers and their families are at risk from exposure to mercury and other toxins in the fish tissue. The project will educate the affected communities about the risks of subsistence fishing using empowering, culturally-specific, and appropriate language and techniques, including train-the-trainer sessions. Additionally, the project also will help build the capacity of the affected community to better participate in the regulatory processes that affect their source of subsistence fishing and drinking water.

## REGION 5

**Recipient:** Metropolitan Tenants Organization (MTO)

**Project Title:** Chicago Healthy Homes Inspection Collaborative (CHHIC)

**Project Location:** North Lawndale and Englewood Neighborhoods (Chicago, Illinois)

**Project Partners:** Chicago Department of Public Health (local government), Loyola University (academic), Sinai Urban Health Institute (medical), Elevate Energy (local non-profit), and National Center for Healthy Housing (national non-profit)

**Project Type:** Healthy Homes / Home Inspections

**Project Description:** The CHHIC project will work with two Chicago neighborhoods, North Lawndale and Englewood, impacted by residential environmental hazards. The project will conduct educational outreach on home-based health hazards, including lead and major asthma triggers, such as mold, Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS), second-hand smoke, and dust mites and other pests that are known to trigger asthma. The goals of the project are to improve housing conditions and abate health hazards in these neighborhoods, while also providing a model for a city-wide housing inspection program. The project will pilot in-home housing inspections for 100 households, provide medical referrals for community residents, and provide lead and mold remediation referrals for landlord action.

## REGION 6

**Recipient:** Mary Queen of Viet Nam Community Development Corporation (MQVN)

**Project Title:** Viet Village Housing Urban Water Management Collaboration

**Project Location:** New Orleans East Neighborhood and Bayou Michoud (New Orleans, Louisiana)

**Project Partners:** Enterprise Community Partners (national non-profit); Vietnamese American Young Leaders of New Orleans (VAYLA-NO) (a multi-cultural youth non-profit); Tulane University Sustainable Real Estate Development Program, School of Architecture (academic)

**Project Type:** Stormwater Management through Riparian Buffer Development and Installation

**Project Description:** This project proposes to specifically address concerns related to the Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3) by demonstrating methods to manage stormwater runoff and reduce water pollution and which can be replicated in large developments in the Gulf South. MQVN will create, design, and implement a demonstration riparian buffer, the largest feature of the stormwater management/pollution reduction system, to address the issue of pollution in Bayou Michoud. The riparian buffer will comprise approximately three acres, and the site will be used to demonstrate the potential of reducing urban run-off from residential areas utilizing riparian buffers and other environmental designs that will have the added benefit of beautifying the surrounding residential area. In addition, MQVN will leverage its past experience in successfully engaging residents in community-based participatory research to monitor the efficacy of the riparian buffer, as well as disseminate data and engage in public outreach and education on methods to reduce urban run-off into the Bayou from the New Orleans East neighborhood. This project will be achieved through comprehensive collaborative partnerships, and these efforts will be multi-lingual to reflect the linguistic needs of the community.

## REGION 7

**Recipient:** Dutchtown South Community Corporation (DSCC)

**Project Title:** So Fresh, So Clean, So Creative, Southside St. Louis

**Project Location:** Neighborhoods of Dutchtown, Gravois Park, Marine Villa, and Mt. Pleasant in Southeast St. Louis (St. Louis, Missouri)

**Project Partners:** Thomas Dunn Learning Center (local non-profit/education), Greater Gravois Park Neighborhood Association (civic organization), and Brightside St. Louis (citywide non-profit)

**Project Type:** Illegal Dumping and Proper Waste Disposal in neighborhoods

**Project Description:** The goals of the “So Fresh, So Clean, So Creative, Southside St. Louis” project are to increase public awareness of solutions to solid waste issues and build community capacity to address and enact system-level changes in regard to the amount of litter, improper waste disposal, and illegal dumping in the community. Key project activities include: 1) a localized neighborhood-level Sanitation Systems review; 2) multiple neighborhood cleanup demonstrations and development of recycling educational programs for residents; 3) workshops for landlords and tenants about sustainable materials management for rental housing; and 4) consultations for developing a self-sustaining waste diversion program to leverage resources and create green jobs in historically underprivileged areas of St. Louis

## REGION 8

**Recipient:** Conejos Clean Water, Inc. (CCWI)

**Project Title:** Regional Waste Diversion and Recycling Plan for the San Luis Valley

**Project Location:** San Luis Valley, Colorado

**Project Partners:** San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (local non-profit); Adams State University Community Partnerships (academic); U.S. Bureau of Land Management (federal government); Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties (county governments); San Luis Valley

Regional Solid Waste Authority (quasi-governmental organization); and the Rickey Recycling Center (local government)

**Project Type:** Recycling System Development and Solid Waste Removal

**Project Description:** CCWI and its partners will address the lack of waste diversion opportunities in the San Luis Valley (SLV) through the development of a plan to design and implement a system for regional recycling that is appropriate and affordable to the six counties and other rural and underserved areas of the San Luis Valley. Due to its remote location, the San Luis Valley is physically isolated from any metropolitan-based recycling hub, contributing to the illegal dumping and waste diversion issues in the area. Lack of access to waste diversion options is linked to several health issues, including pest and rodent infestations, respiratory and other health concerns, and land and water contamination. The planning process involves a series of steps and objectives, including technical analysis; establishing and maintaining input from a Solid Waste Management/Recycling Task Force; conducting waste stream audits and asset mapping; recycling demand projections; capital asset inventories for infrastructure expansion and operational needs; cost estimates for improvements; and a plan document community leaders and stakeholders will want to put in place. Through the development and implementation of this plan, this project aims to reduce residents' exposures to solid waste in their communities.

## REGION 9

**Recipient:** Asian Health Services (AHS)

**Project Title:** Achieving Environmental Justice through Technical Assistance for Healthy Nail Salons

**Project Location:** Alameda, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties, California

**Project Partners:** California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (statewide coalition); Federal Reserve Bank (federal government); San Mateo, San Francisco, and Alameda Counties (local governments); Working Solutions (business); and Opportunity Fund (business)

**Project Type:** Reducing Indoor Air Pollution in Nail Salons

**Project Description:** The project will focus on reducing chemical workplace exposures impacting local nail salon workers who are disproportionately exposed to carcinogenic and reproductively harmful chemicals resulting in headaches, dizziness, chronic asthma, memory loss, dermatitis, breathing difficulties, cancer and reproductive harm. The project is the next step in the Healthy Nail Salon Program operating in the project locations and will facilitate the process of accessing additional technical resources and funding needed for salons to transform into "Healthy Nail Salons." The project will establish cross-sector partnerships with organizations and county departments to conduct tailored trainings for nail salon workers/owners about key "Healthy Nail Salon" concepts, related to chemical exposure reduction and proper hazardous waste disposal methods, and about the Healthy Nail Salon low-income loan program. These trained community liaisons and project partners will also provide public education via workshops and community outreach to educate residents.

## REGION 10

**Recipient:** El Centro de la Raza

**Project Title:** Beacon Hill Environmental Health Collaboration

**Project Location:** Beacon Hill Neighborhood (Seattle, Washington)

**Project Partners:** Seattle and King County Environmental Health and Services Division (local government/public health); University of Washington School of Public Health and School of Engineering (academic); InterIm Community Development Association, Got Green, Asian Counseling and Referral Service (non-profits/community-based); International Community Health Services (health care); and Beacon Hill Merchants Association (business)

**Project Type:** Reducing Air and Noise Pollution in local neighborhood

**Project Description:** The Beacon Hill Environmental Health Collaboration is a community empowerment project that aims to improve the neighborhood's environmental health through educational outreach, engagement, and capacity building. The project will inform Beacon Hill's diverse residents about the neighborhood's air and noise pollution issues and engage community leaders in addressing these problems. The neighborhood is located in close proximity to high traffic roadways and two airports and experiences the highest infant mortality rates and deaths due to diabetes and stroke, as well as elevated rates of childhood asthma hospitalizations and significantly higher chronic lower respiratory deaths than other Seattle areas. The project will be implemented in a cross-culturally and linguistically-competent manner to ensure inclusive engagement for improving the health of as many residents as possible. Key project activities include: 1) consolidating information about Beacon Hill's air and noise pollution and public health; 2) developing easy-to-understand training materials and conducting community meeting/training sessions; 3) summarizing and disseminating community feedback and technical findings; and 4) implementing at least two mitigation efforts to improve air and noise quality resulting, ultimately, in improved overall community health.