

# 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

## Project Summaries by Project Type

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In an effort to increase outreach to affected communities in the United States and U.S. Territories, the 2017 EJSG program placed special emphasis on proposals from *under-represented states* that have been awarded three or fewer EJSGs over the last five years. These projects are designated under project location as an *underrepresented State*. Of the 36 total projects selected, 23 are from underrepresented states (64%).

The 2017 EJSG program also placed special emphasis on *newer grantees* defined as eligible organizations that have not received an EPA Environmental Justice Grant award over the last five years. These projects are designated in the recipient title as newer grantee. Of the 36 total projects, 35 are from newer grantees (97%).

Final awards will be made upon successful completion of the award application process.

## LEAD EXPOSURE

### 1) **Recipient:** Childhood Lead Action Project

**Project Title:** Lead-Safe Blackstone Valley

**Project Location:** Providence, RI (*underrepresented State*)

**Project Partners:** Rhode Island Department of Health, Blackstone Valley Community Action Program, and Progreso Latino

**Project Type:** Lead Education and Abatement

**Environmental Statute(s):** Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** Childhood Lead Action Project's *Lead-Safe Blackstone Valley* initiative will work strategically in three of Rhode Island's high risk communities to reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning, improve the safety of rental housing, and increase the capacity of Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket residents to address lead issues in their communities. These cities have a very high incidence of lead poisoning and are home to substantial low-income/minority populations. *Lead-Safe Blackstone Valley* project activities include promoting effective lead prevention practices, developing Lead 101 and worker safety trainings, and providing training and technical assistance.

**2) Recipient:** Near Northwest Neighborhood, Inc. *(newer grantee)*

**Project Title:** Community Health Outreach: A Neighborhood Responding to High Rates of Lead Exposure

**Project Location:** South Bend, IN *(underrepresented state)*

**Project Partners:** St. Joseph County Health Department; Lead Exposure Affinity Group

**Project Type:** Childhood Lead Poisoning

**Environmental Statute(s):** Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** The aim of this project is address high rates of lead exposure among children in the Near Northwest Neighborhood (NNN) of South Bend. In December 2016, it was reported that 31.3% of children in this Census tract have tested over the blood level of 5 micrograms per deciliter. In addition, over 48% of the residents in NNN live below the poverty line. By partnering with the local health department, this organization plans to reach 75% of families with children under the age of 7 to engage them on lead education and opportunities for lead screening. Outreach and education will be conducted through a variety of efforts including going door-to-door, holding public meetings, and engaging with local schools and churches.

**3) Recipient:** Refugee Development Center (RDC) *(newer grantee)*

**Project Title:** Co-Creating Healthy Homes & Renters' Rights Trainings with Refugee Newcomers

**Project Location:** Lansing, MI *(underrepresented state)*

**Project Partners:** Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD), MSU College of Law (MSU Law), Courtney Myers Keaton, B.A. (CMK)

**Project Type:** Lead Poisoning in Children

**Environmental Statute(s):** Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** This project seeks to reduce the high rates of lead exposure among refugee children in Lansing. Annually, two in three children who test for high blood-lead levels are refugees and live in rental properties in the city. This project will meet with a minimum of 75 refugees to assess their proficiency in identifying and mitigating lead paint hazards. RDC will then develop print, web, and video materials to educate refugee families on home health hazards. Materials will be available in six refugee languages to reach a variety of populations. At least 50 refugee residents will pilot/test film, booklets, and web materials to be used subsequently in educational home visits.

**4) Recipient:** Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment *(newer grantee)*

**Project Title:** UPHE Lead Safe Outreach Program: Creating a Safe Environment for Children

**Project Location:** Salt Lake City, UT *(underrepresented state)*

**Project Partners:** Salt Lake County's Lead Safe Program and Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, Utah Department of Health's Lead Education and Screening Coalition, Salt Lake City's Department of Sustainability (SLC Green)

**Project Type:** Childhood Lead Poisoning

**Environmental Statute(s):** Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** Lead poisoning is a leading cause of preventable child health problems and only about 3% of Utah children are tested for lead. Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment's Lead Safe Outreach Program aims to create a safe environment for children by educating the community and schools about the sources and health risks of lead poisoning, informing them about local programs for abatement, educating physicians about screening and the state requirements for blood lead level test reporting, providing information to the Lead Education and Screening Coalition, and sharing information from this coalition back to the community. Project activities include 1) community outreach events, 2) referral to lead screening programs, and 3) presentations at five local schools.

**5) Recipient:** Women for a Healthy Environment (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** A Community Education Campaign: Lead in Pittsburgh

**Project Location:** Pittsburgh, PA

**Project Partners:** Allegheny County Health Department: Healthy Homes and Maternal and Child Health Programs, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Office of Child Development at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority

**Project Type:** Lead Exposure and Education

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; and Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** This project will provide education and outreach to community residents of Pittsburgh about public health risks associated with lead exposure and will provide solutions for reducing such risk. Over 60% of Pittsburgh's housing units were built before 1950 which indicates greater potential exposure to lead. The project will develop a comprehensive educational awareness campaign on the sources of lead, its health impacts, strategies that can be taken to reduce those risks, and community training that focuses on equipping citizens with tools and resources to engage with decision-makers and advance policies and plans that address lead exposures. Proposed project goals are to hold 36 community workshops, 2) Engage 500 community residents on lead risks, 3) Conduct advocacy training with 20 residents, 4) Facilitate 6 stakeholder meetings between new community leaders and City decision-makers, 5) Refer 36 residents to lead-focused programs, and 6) Distribute over 350 faucet mount filters and pitchers that remove lead in water.

## OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES

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### 1) **Recipient:** Clinton Substance Abuse Council (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Clinton County Safe Medication Disposal Project

**Project Location:** Clinton County, IA (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Centers for Disease Control, Clinton County Solid Waste Authority, Clinton County Board of Health, Clinton County Public Health, Iowa American Water, Wagner Pharmacy, Gateway Area Police Association (Chief of Police from Clinton, Camanche, DeWitt, and the Clinton County Sheriff)

**Project Type:** Water Pollution and Solid Waste Disposal

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act; Safe Drinking Water Act

**Project Description:** This project seeks to raise awareness of the environmental and public health effects of improper medication storage and disposal in Clinton County, Iowa. In the local area, unused prescription medication is often flushed down the toilet which contaminates local water sources. Contaminants from pharmaceuticals can survive wastewater treatment and end up in surface water. By educating and empowering the community about these issues, project partners aim to reduce local water pollution and build consensus to prioritize proper medication storage/disposal in Clinton County. Area residents will engage in practices that promote proper medication disposal and environmentally-friendly behaviors. These changes in behavior will lead to the reduction of waste and contaminants in the water system. Trainings aim to reach up to 500 community residents.

### 2) **Recipient:** Taking Neighborhood Health to Heart (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Building Community Capacity and Improving Indoor Air Quality in Northeast Denver

**Project Location:** Denver, CO

**Project Partners:** American Geophysical Union, APEX Radon, BeWell Block Captains/BeWell initiative, Denver Environmental Health, Greater Park Hill Community, Inc., NE Park Hill Coalition, University of Colorado Boulder

**Project Type:** Healthy Homes (Radon Education)

**Environmental Statute(s):** Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** Radon is highly prevalent in Colorado yet many low income and racial/ethnic minorities are unaware of its dangers and have not tested their homes for its presence. The project's principal goals are to raise awareness about radon and the need for home testing in two Denver neighborhoods with large populations of minority and low-income residents. Proposed project activities include: 1) sampling for radon in 100 homes, 2) holding educational workshops about radon and indoor air quality, 3) training and deploying environmental peer advocates to promote and assist with radon testing in East Montclair and Northeast Park Hill, and 4) convening a Northeast

Environment and Health Coalition to identify and address other environmental issues in the project neighborhoods.

**3) Recipient:** Kaua'i Environmental Health Network (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** The Kanawai Community Engagement Project

**Project Location:** Waimea, HI (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Kekaha Hawaiian Home Lands Association, Kekaha Community Garden, Po'ai Wai Ola: West Kaua'i Watershed Alliance

**Project Type:** Pesticide Education

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

**Project Description:** The Kānāwai Community Engagement Project will provide opportunities for west Kaua'i residents to learn about and protect against impacts to water quality and public health due to toxic pesticide use by large agricultural companies working in the local area. The project will educate community members on the CWA, FIFRA, and local watersheds through exchanges with local water experts, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, policymakers and state agency conservationists. Project activities include: 1) Engaging at least 150 residents through a Neighborhood Door-to-Door Education effort 2) Conducting walking tours and trainings, and 3) Developing a First Draft of a Community Collaboration Plan of Action.

## CLEAN WATER

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**1) Recipient:** The ARC Foundation (ARC) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** The Oklahoma City Water Conservation and Awareness Training Program

**Project Location:** Oklahoma City, OK (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Common Wealth Urban Farms; Closer to Earth

**Project Type:** Water System installations

**Environmental Statute(s):** Safe Drinking Water Act

**Project Description:** Oklahoma suffers from frequent heat waves and drought during summer months, which disproportionately impact low-income residents. ARC seeks to train up to 200 Oklahoma City residents on affordable water conservation practices for home use, as well as to bring more awareness to the community about the need to protect its natural water resources. The program will develop a curriculum to train local youths and adults on the design and installation of residential water collection

and storage systems. The course curriculum will also include identifying sources of fresh water available for consumption (surface/groundwater) and exploring strategies for conserving water at home. The project aims to install approximately 23 water collection and storage systems.

**2) Recipient:** Blackfeet Tribe (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species in Blackfeet Waters through Increased Partnerships and Community Involvement

**Project Location:** Browning, MT (underrepresented state)

**Project Partners:** Flathead Basin Commission (state agency), Flathead Lake Biological Station at University of Montana; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Project Type:** Water Contamination

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** The Blackfeet Nation will undertake a baseline monitoring study using eDNA testing techniques to determine the presence/absence of invasive mussels in Tribal waters. Invasive mussels can greatly reduce the levels of life-supporting algae blooms in local waters, thusly harming native fish populations. Waters in the Missouri River System in the State of Montana have been declared positive for invasive mussels. The Blackfeet Nation proposes to analyze 150 water samples from 5 bodies of water to determine if Tribal waters have been contaminated by the fouled waters in the Missouri system. Approximately 40 citizen scientists from the local community will be trained in substrate collection and water monitoring activities as a part of the project.

**3) Recipient:** Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Microplastics in Tribal Subsistence Foods in Southeast Alaska

**Project Location:** Sitka, AK

**Project Partners:** University of Alaska, Southeast, Mount Edgecumbe High School, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Sitka Conservation Society

**Project Type:** Water Sampling

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act, Section 104 (a)(1); Solid Waste Disposal Act

**Project Description:** The body of research about microplastics in the ocean and their effect on marine and terrestrial animals has increased substantially in the past ten years. STA will collect water and subsistence food samples from four locations within STA's traditional territory to test for the presence of microplastics and associated toxins. These results will be compared to commercially purchased foods and the safety standards. STA will share these results with the public so people can make informed decisions about harvesting traditional foods. Local students will assist in sampling of local food and water. Proposed outputs include: 72 subsistence food samples, 18 commercial food samples, and 12 water samples collected and tested. Samples will be analyzed by the University of Alaska.

**4) Recipient:** Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Caño Martín Peña (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Rainwater Harvesting Strategies in the Buena Vista-Santurce Community of the *Caño Martín Peña*

**Project Location:** San Juan, Puerto Rico **\*Project delayed due to hurricane recovery efforts. Project start date is dependent on recipient's needs and readiness to begin\***

**Project Partners:** (1) *Corporación del Proyecto ENLACE del Caño Martín Peña* (ENLACE); (2) *Grupo de las Ocho Comunidades Aledañas al Caño Martín Peña* (G-8); (3) *Junta de Residentes de Buena Vista Santurce* (BV-S Board)

**Project Type:** Rainwater Harvesting

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** Fideicomiso will develop a pilot project for the analysis, implementation and monitoring of rainwater harvesting strategies on three lots prone to flooding events in the *Caño Martín Peña (CMP)* area of the San Juan Bay Estuary, which serves seven local communities. This pilot project is a continuation of the efforts of Fideicomiso and ENLACE (project partner) to manage rainfall discharges and significantly reduce the communities' susceptibility to flooding events, which result in: (1) water contamination of the San Juan Bay Estuary; and (2) exposure to health risks to community residents. The pilot project will analyze case studies on the three lots, and then implement and monitor strategies based on this analysis.

**5) Recipient:** Patapsco Latino Action Network (PLAN) (*newer grantee*)  
(a program of the Conservation Dept-National Aquarium)

**Project Title:** Patapsco Latino Action Network

**Project Location:** Baltimore, MD (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** The Templo de Ablanza y Restauracion (TAYR) congregation, Maryland Port Administration, The Living Classrooms Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Project Type:** Marine Debris and Community Engagement

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** The Patapsco Latino Action Network (PLAN) project seeks to clean-up marine debris and engage community residents in the local Baltimore neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Curtis Bay. These neighborhoods are in close proximity to high levels of industrial activity and the impaired Patapsco River branch of Baltimore Harbor. The project will expand the use of the program's community-led conservation model in the communities. Additional project activities include: (1) organizing four clean-ups and three neighborhood beautification events, (2) surveying community members on perception of marine debris and other environmental issues, (3) developing Spanish-language outreach materials, (4) conducting educational outreach to PLAN partners on marine debris and other environmental challenges in the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay, and (5) developing a marine debris mitigation action plan.

**6) Recipient:** Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Inc. (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Neighborhood Water Watch

**Project Location:** Atlanta, GA (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Adopt-A-Stream (AAS), City of Atlanta (COA), Proctor Creek Stewardship Council (PCSC), West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA), Mozley Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA), and Georgia State University (GSU)

**Project Type:** Water Sampling

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** "Neighborhood Water Watch" is a one-year effort aimed at engaging and educating people in historically low-income and minority communities in West Atlanta to improve water quality and decrease public health risks. Working with partners, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) will address water quality concerns through data collection and by involving participants in education initiatives. Proposed project activities include: 1) Volunteer Led Weekly Water Sampling, 2) a One Day Mass-Sampling Community Event, and 3) a Community Focused Water Quality Forum. The proposed target goals are to have up to 600 water samples analyzed and 100 community residents engaged with the program.

**7) Recipient:** Midwest Environmental Justice Organization (MEJO) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Starkweather Creek Environmental Justice Project

**Project Location:** Madison, WI (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** East Madison Community Center, Northside Planning Council, UW-Madison Department of Geography (GIS Capstone program)

**Project Type:** Stormwater Pollution

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act; Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** MEJO will develop an interactive watershed mapping tool and educate the community on stormwater risks in an effort to reduce nonpoint source pollution to Starkweather Creek. The creek has been severely degraded from extensive channelization, urbanization, airport and industrial waste discharges, and non-point stormwater runoff. The project will also target minority subsistence fishers in the area and engage with them on contaminated fish consumption concerns. By hosting community meetings, in person discussions, and using current EPA stormwater materials, the project will engage and recruit local fishers to be part of the solution in reducing pollution to the creek.

**8) Recipient:** Friends of Deckers Creek, Inc. (FODC) (*newer grantee*)



**Project Title:** Expanding Environmental Education Opportunities in Northern West Virginia

**Project Location:** Dellslow, WV (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** The Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club (BGC), the Shack Neighborhood House (the Shack), Morgantown High School (MHS), and the Morgantown Utility Board (MUB)

**Project Type:** Clean Water Education

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act; Safe Drinking Water Act

**Project Description:** FODC will coordinate environmental education workshops and field trips related to water quality within the local **rural** communities of Monongalia and Preston counties. These counties are home to large swaths of abandoned mine land that have contributed to water impairment in the area. FODC will lead tours of stream restoration projects, acid mine drainage remediation projects, water treatment facilities, and other areas within the watershed where environmental improvements are taking place. FODC will set dates for a minimum of 15 lessons, tours, and field trips that will have the participation of at least 375 local youth and will provide hands-on lessons regarding ecological concepts and the effects various nearby pollutants have on the environment.

**9) Recipient:** Pueblo of Sandia (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Sandia Pueblo Culturally Responsive Science and Water Quality Camps

**Project Location:** Sandia, NM

**Project Partners:** Flower Hill Institute, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, US Forest Service, South Central Climate Center (USGS)

**Project Type:** Water Quality Monitoring

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** Sandia Pueblo camps seek to address surface water impairment on the 19 Pueblo reservations by providing water quality monitoring trainings and improving educational outcomes for tribal youth. Of the 19 Pueblos, 17 have impaired surface waters flowing onto the reservation. Sandia Pueblo will implement culturally responsive 2-day science camps for up to 250 students that include lessons on water monitoring techniques, the scientific method, and stream ecology. The camps will use an engaging outdoor-based curriculum and extensive community involvement to expose students to career options in STEM disciplines.

**10) Recipient:** Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Reducing Drinking Water Contamination through Well Closures on the PBPB Reservation

**Project Location:** Mayetta, KS

**Project Partners:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service – Office of Environmental Health, PBPN Road and Bridge Department

**Project Type:** Water Pollution and Safe Drinking Water

**Environmental Statute(s):** Safe Drinking Water Act; Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation proposes to increase community stakeholder awareness of drinking water problems, hazards, exposure, illness, and performance gaps through establishing an abandoned well-closure program. Proper well closures will reduce health risks associated with contaminated groundwater, as contaminated water from abandoned wells leeches into groundwater. The program aims to 1) engage approximately 580 local community households through outreach and community events, 2) establish well closure procedures and Tribal ordinances for the purposes of protecting groundwater resources and the health and safety of those utilizing groundwater for their domestic and agricultural needs, and 3) close multiple wells in the initial phase of the program.

**11) Recipient:** Friends of Rio de Flag (FoRio) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Helping Underserved Residents in Flagstaff Understand and Plan for the Future of their River and Watershed

**Project Location:** Flagstaff, AZ (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** City of Flagstaff, Friends of Flagstaff's Future, Northern Arizona University, Southside Community Association, Willow Bend Environmental Education Center

**Project Type:** Water Pollution due to local flooding

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** The Rio de Flag runs through the Southside neighborhood of Flagstaff and floods periodically, directly affecting the quality of life of Southside residents. FoRio will lead a collaborative, community-based education and river planning initiative focused on Flagstaff's underserved Southside neighborhood. Through this project, Southside residents will identify the economic and environmental hazards and health risks associated with periodic flooding and polluted local waterways. Friends of Rio de Flag will develop reports on information gathered from community surveys, conduct three community listening forums, and host a larger community meeting. Public input from these activities will be included in watershed planning efforts and help decision makers prioritize watershed projects.

**12) Recipient:** Three Degrees (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Kivalina Biochar Reactor Operator Training Program

**Project Location:** Anchorage, AK

**Project Partners:** Re-Locate Kivalina (relocate-ak.org); The City of Kivalina; The Native Village of Kivalina; Re-Locate LLC; and Biomass Controls, LLC.

**Project Type:** Water Pollution and Safe Drinking Water

**Environmental Statute(s):** Safe Drinking Water Act; Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** Kivalina, an Alaska Native village of approximately 475 residents, lacks adequate water and sanitation infrastructure placing increased risks on both the local environment and public health. In 2015, the Kivalina City and Tribal Councils worked with community partners to co-develop a prototype large-scale biochar reactor, a relocatable device that converts human waste into pathogen-free biochar. Biochar has proven to be useful as a soil amendment, for odor elimination, and to mitigate pollution at toxic waste sites. The project proposes to initiate operation of the reactor by hiring local workers from the community that will operate and manage the reactor, track system performance, and lead community educational programming about the reactor and its benefits to the community. Community outreach activities include community workshops, household surveys, radio announcements, and long-term planning town halls.

**13) Recipient:** Rocking the Boat (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Monitoring Bronx River Water Pathogen Levels: Awareness Leading to Empowerment

**Project Location:** Bronx, NY

**Project Partners:** Bronx River Alliance, Inc.

**Project Type:** Water Monitoring

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** High School students from the underserved neighborhoods of the South Bronx will monitor pathogens at six sites spanning the Bronx River over the course of a year. Rocking the Boat proposes to increase youth capacity in the STEM-related job sector through development of this water monitoring program. Throughout the year, students will present monitoring results, findings, and conclusions at 5 community outreach events that typically reach 600 community residents each. The Bronx River Alliance, Rocking the Boat's project partner, will make all water monitoring data publicly available through their online database of Bronx River water quality, as well as the EPA's STORET database.

## **CLEAN AIR**

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**1) Recipient:** Bluegrass Greensource (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Home Energy Workshops for Low-Income and Linguistically-Isolated Kentucky Communities

**Project Location:** Lexington, KY (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Kentucky State University's College of Agriculture, Food Science, & Sustainable Systems, Global Lex, through the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development's

How\$martKY residential energy efficiency program.

**Project Type:** Air Pollution Reduction

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Air Act

**Project Description:** Bluegrass Greensource will provide a series of 10 home energy workshops that will address air pollution in Central Kentucky communities facing high rates of exposure to both ozone and particulate matter. In terms of energy use, housing for low-income residents is disproportionately inefficient. Greater uptake of energy efficiency can result in lower emissions and reduced pollutants that contribute to ozone. Project partner How\$martKY staff will teach workshop participants how to implement basic energy efficiency measures in their homes, while Bluegrass Greensource will provide energy efficiency information and free energy efficiency kits with materials participants can use in their homes. Each workshop will host between 60 – 300 community participants.

**2) Recipient: Vista Community Clinic (VCC) *(newer grantee)***

**Project Title:** Empowering Domestic Workers to Address Environmental Quality at Work and Home

**Project Location:** Vista, CA

**Project Partners:** Lideres Comunitarios; Vista Unified School District; Community Housing Works; San Diego Promotores Coalition; Farmworker CARE Coalition; Mexican Consulate; Office of Binational Border Health; Vista Unified School District and affiliate schools.

**Project Type:** Indoor Air Pollution

**Environmental Statute(s):** Toxic Substance Control Act

**Project Description:** VCC will address the risks faced by domestic workers in the daily use of toxic household cleaning and air freshening products and the negative impact on their health and the environment. Located in North San Diego County, VCC will educate domestic workers regarding the public health risks faced in their work and homes and ways to reduce risks through precautionary measures and substitution of less toxic cleaning substances. The project will also educate workers on recycling practices of cleaning products and train social service providers, community health workers, and other agencies to continue domestic worker education. VCC will document the results of a needs assessment of domestic workers and develop educational tools and training materials. The project aims to engage approximately 400 domestic workers in the local area.

## **LAND REMEDIATION**

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**1) Recipient: Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership (TNP) *(newer grantee)***

**Project Title:** Safe Soil Handling Practices for Residential and Community Land Use in a Legacy City

**Project Location:** Warren, OH (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation; Parsons Healthy Materials Lab; and Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy

**Project Type:** Abandoned Land Re-use

**Environmental Statute(s):** Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** TNP will create an educational initiative to reduce exposure of residents to potential soil contamination from former industrial activities. The initiative includes the creation of a curriculum of best practices for residents and volunteers re-purposing vacant land in Warren through urban agriculture, food production, recreation, yard expansion, and other means. A range of educational materials will be shared with residents throughout the neighborhoods of Warren. Materials will be distributed strategically across multiple points of interaction including before, during, and after nearby demolitions; and during the launch or continued re-use of vacant land for food production or recreational use.

**2) Recipient:** Arkansas Interfaith and Light (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Sustainable Self-Sufficiency Community Project Model

**Project Location:** Little Rock, Arkansas (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Sprout Urban Farms, Center Street Urban Homestead, The Field, Neighbors That Love, 12th St. Clinic, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Ark. Renewable Energy Association, Stellar Sun, Snyder Environmental

**Project Type:** Land Remediation and Re-use

**Environmental Statute(s):** Toxic Substances Control Act; Clean Air Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

**Project Description:** Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light proposes to renovate and repurpose an abandoned building and lot to become a local community center where individuals in at-risk areas of Little Rock will be introduced to holistic solutions to local energy production and healthy food alternatives. Renovation efforts will include stabilization of lead paint, energy efficiency improvements, and solar panel installations. Leading up to the opening of the community center, the organization will engage the community in organic gardening demonstrations, food distribution activities, and outdoor environmental education workshops. Several environmental programs will be demonstrated at the local community center including multiple community gardens and community workshops on energy efficiency products.

**3) Recipient:** Kansas City Community Gardens (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** The Giving Grove: Growing Sustainable Kansas City Neighborhoods

**Project Location:** Kansas City, MO

**Project Partners:** Mid-America Regional Council

**Project Type:** Land Remediation

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act

**Project Description:** The Giving Grove project aims for community partners and neighborhood leaders from low-income communities in the urban core of Kansas City to establish 15-20 community orchards on repurposed vacant land. After these orchards reach maturity they have the potential to produce an average of 3,758 pounds of fresh, organic produce per site, for a total of 56,000-75,000 pounds of food on an annual basis. Kansas City Community Gardens aims to improve soil quality, safely repurpose vacant lands, and provide a sustainable alternative to large-scale food production, thereby reducing the use of toxic pesticides in the food supply.

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

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### 1) **Recipient:** Trees Atlanta, Inc. *(newer grantee)*

**Project Title:** Youth Tree Team (YTT) Internship Program

**Project Location:** Atlanta, GA *(underrepresented State)*

**Project Partners:** Atlanta Public Schools (APS), Westside Works, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Georgia Tech's College of City and Regional Planning, Perkins + Will, Equifax, HGOR Landscape Design, and Atlanta BeltLine Inc.

**Project Type:** Green Infrastructure

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** The YTT internship program is an environmental job training program focused on increasing Atlanta's greenspace and tree canopy, which can have a positive effect on air quality and mitigate water pollution. The YTT program will target the Atlanta Beltline Westside Trail area providing (1) urban forest protection and restoration, (2) environmental job training, education, and career development for 20 local high school students, and (3) community education about local environmental issues and the benefits of the urban forest. This proposal will help fund implementation of the first official year of the YTT program, in which local high school students work to restore and protect the urban forest while receiving environmental job skills training and education about local environmental issues and the benefits of plants and trees, particularly in the Westside Trail area's primarily low-income and minority neighborhoods.

### 2) **Recipient:** Groundwork Rhode Island (GWRI) *(newer grantee)*

**Project Title:** Youth-Led Planning for Community Greening in Central Falls, RI

**Project Location:** Pawtucket, RI (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** 1) City of Central Falls, 2) Central Falls High School/School District, 3) University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension/RI NEMO, 4) Trust for Public Land, 5) The Nature Conservancy, 6) Horsley-Witten Group.

**Project Type:** Green Infrastructure

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act; Solid Waste Disposal Act

**Project Description:** Central Falls, RI is one of the most densely populated areas in New England and suffers from localized flooding along with little greenspace and tree cover. To address this, GWRI proposes to work closely with Central Falls High School to develop a youth-based environmental program focused on stormwater management, green infrastructure, public green space, trees, and solid waste disposal. Students will receive training from a Landscape Architect, Urban Planner, and related professionals on design, master planning, urban sustainability, and related issues. Students will conduct outreach to Central Falls residents and, based on community input, will then design a Community Greening Plan to include developing three demonstration projects on green infrastructure.

**3) Recipient:** Coopers Ferry Partnership (CFP) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Camden Groves to the Estuary

**Project Location:** Camden, NJ (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** New Jersey Tree Foundation, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Urban Promise

**Project Type:** Sewer Overflows and Green Infrastructure

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** CFP will accelerate the restoration of local water systems by increasing riparian and urban forests, and connecting both adult and youth residents to water-related health activities in the local area. Stormwater flows and combined sewer overflows will be abated through the tree planting efforts, reducing both human pathogens in these water systems and the broad suite of environmental contaminants that harm these environments. Proposed project activities include: three tree groves of approximately 30 moderately-mature trees to be planted in riparian and floodplain open space, and two community tours of the natural aquatic habitats benefitting from the green infrastructure and the riparian restoration efforts of the community.

**4) Recipient:** New Haven Urban Resources Initiative (NHURI) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** GreenSkills Program

**Project Location:** New Haven, CT (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** EMERGE Connecticut, Inc.; Sound School; Common Ground High School; The City of New Haven; Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES)

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act

**Project Type:** Green Infrastructure

**Project Description:** NHURI's GreenSkills program will address local air and water quality issues in New Haven through an integrated strategy of maintaining bioswales, planting street trees, and stewarding community parks; while also providing green job training for approximately 38 local residents. Bioswales are landscape designs that remove silt and pollution from surface water runoff, and tree plantings will be targeted for low tree canopy areas in underserved neighborhoods. The New Haven area suffers from both water and air pollution due to combined sewer overflows and high levels of particulate matter in the air. Proposed project activities include: 1) planting 500 street trees, 2) engaging 300 local residents as tree stewards, and 3) maintaining 20 bioswales.

## SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

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### 1) **Recipient:** Trash for Peace (TfP) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Trash for Peace Sustainability Education Program

**Project Location:** Portland, OR

**Project Partners:** Home Forward, People-Places-Things, Confluence Environmental Center, Leaven Community, The City of Gresham, The CENTER

**Project Type:** Solid Waste Disposal

**Environmental Statute(s):** Solid Waste Disposal Act

**Project Description:** TfP's Sustainability Education Program (SEP) will foster environmental sustainability and stewardship through solid waste disposal education for youth at various affordable housing properties in Portland. The partner properties are in areas of Portland that struggle with issues of poverty, including a lack of proper trash disposal and recycling options. Proposed project activities include: 1) implementing weekly TfP SEP activities at four affordable housing sites, 2) reaching approximately 60 youth and over 200 families throughout the year, and 3) recruiting and supervising a minimum of two youth interns throughout the year in TfP's enviro-business programming.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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### 1) **Recipient:** Boxerwood Education Association (BEA) (*newer grantee*)



**Project Title:** Boosting Community Well-Being Through Youth Green Teams

**Project Location:** Lexington, VA (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Buena Vista City Public Schools, Rockbridge County Public Schools (Maury River Middle School 21st Century Community Learning Center), Community Action Network, Rockbridge Rising, Washington and Lee University (Shepherd Poverty Program/Bonner; Environmental Studies), Community Service Board (Prevention Services)

**Project Type:** Environmental Stewardship

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Solid Waste Disposal Act

**Project Description:** BEA will develop and pilot a replicable model that addresses the problem of how to advance citizen-level environmental stewardship in under-resourced **rural** or small-town populations. The pilot will target the town of Buena Vista, a former manufacturing town in economic decline and prone to flooding and water pollution. A primary component of the model is the creation of youth action teams who collaborate with small-scale, local community institutions such as churches, volunteer fire stations, and pre-schools. Project activities include: 1) recruiting at least 48 high/middle school students for the fall and summer action team programs, 2) Green Teams make public presentation/reports to at least five organizations in 2017-18, reaching at least 20 leaders directly and 500 constituents indirectly, and 3) the creation of a sustainable Green Team curriculum and toolkit for other organizations and communities facing environmental justice issues to replicate.

**2) Recipient:** Cook County Family Connection, Inc. (CCFC) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** The Get Growing Project

**Project Location:** Sparks, GA (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** Young Farmer's Club of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Valdosta State University, Department of Sociology; The Boys & Girls Club of Cook County; The Cook County Senior Center, and Lake Park Christian Church

**Project Type:** Water Conservation and Agriculture Education

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

**Project Description:** CCFC will train, educate, and promote the significance of water conservation and organic gardening through this project. Cook County is a small, rural community that has very few local food options resulting in many residents depending on canned and boxed foods purchased at convenience stores and gas stations. CCFC is proposing addressing this limited food access through pesticide-free community gardens and water conservation. The collaborative will convene monthly (12) leadership meetings, facilitate monthly (12) community workshops on gardening and water conservation practices, and will create a multimedia marketing campaign to continually educate and inform the community.

**3) Recipient:** Teaching Responsible Earth Education (T.R.E.E.) (*newer grantee*)

**Project Title:** Grassroots Decision-Making for New Orleans Environmental Justice Population

**Project Location:** New Orleans, LA

**Project Partners:** Local schools, National Park Service, and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

**Project Type:** Environmental Education

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Solid Waste Disposal Act; Toxic Substances Control Act

**Project Description:** T.R.E.E.'s Sunship III program brings 7th grade students from local, low-income schools to the outdoor classroom. This project will increase access for economically disadvantaged students to life-changing educational opportunities that offer realities on planetary ecological functions. Over the 2017 to 2018 school year, T.R.E.E. will work with partners to serve 140 students and 20 teachers and adult volunteers with hands-on science learning. Each planned outdoor classroom experience will last for 3 days and 2 nights. Pre and post-tests will be designed to ensure that expected educational and environmental perception outcomes may be measured effectively. Funding support from interested schools and Shell Oil Company's matching grant program are committed in advance to ensure that T.R.E.E. can increase its reach to new, low-income schools.

**4) Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) (newer grantee)**

**Project Title:** Turning the Tide (T3): EJ Curriculum for Building Grassroots Leadership in Red Hook and Gowanus

**Project Location:** Brooklyn, NY

**Project Partners:** New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WeAct), Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC), and The Red Hook Initiative (RHI.)

**Project Type:** Air and Water Quality

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act

**Project Description:** FAC will develop and promote an EJ Curriculum for public housing residents in Red Hook and Gowanus, Brooklyn. Topics covered will include indoor and outdoor air quality concerns, as well as the health and management of local waterways. The targeted housing developments are home to nearly 10,500 residents living in over 4,700 units dealing with a wide range of disproportionate environmental harms including poor air and water quality. The curriculum will be presented in Spanish and English. The project will foster resident engagement by providing them with tools and opportunities to educate others, organize, and participate in public processes for a cleaner and safer environment. The proposed final curriculum will include up to 8 workshops for 15-25 community participants each.

**5) Recipient: Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) (newer grantee)**

**Project Title:** Northern Nevada Healthy Waters Education

**Project Location:** Reno, NV (*underrepresented state*)

**Project Partners:** The Nature Conservancy in Nevada, Washoe County School District, and Natchez Elementary School.

**Project Type:** Water Conservation Education

**Environmental Statute(s):** Clean Water Act; Safe Drinking Water Act

**Project Description:** SNJ seeks to protect the local watershed in Washoe County by engaging students from underserved communities. The focus of the program will be galvanizing youth to address polluted drinking water, groundwater threats, and water conservation, all explored through the lens of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education. The project aims to engage approximately 648 students, 72 volunteers, and 24 teachers who will receive first-hand experience with their local watershed and participate in hands-on activities and discussions to increase their understanding about the environmental issues that affect their community.