



Brownfields 2009 Job Training Grant Fact Sheet

Richmond, CA



EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Recovery Act is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, and create or save millions of jobs. This law provided stimulus funds to the Brownfields Program to award grants to train unemployed or underemployed individuals to evaluate and clean up former industrial and commercial sites. Under this law, EPA will provide financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants.

Community Description

The City of Richmond was selected to receive a job training grant. Located in the San Francisco Bay area, Richmond (population 101,454) grew rapidly during World War II, and became a center of heavy industry and petrochemical production. In recent years, however, it has experienced large-scale deindustrialization, which has led to unemployment and poverty rates that are higher than the state and national averages. Brownfields within the city cover a total area of over 321 acres. The city's job training program will help prepare workers to assist with the revitalization of these areas. Labor market assessments show promising employment opportunities in environmental cleanup and green jobs in the San Francisco Bay area, and the field of hazardous material removal is expected to grow by six percent. Several projects are currently underway within the city that promise to provide substantial environmental opportunities, including a lead abatement project that will generate about 200 jobs in the next three years.

Job Training Grant

\$500,000

EPA has selected the City of Richmond for a job training grant. The city plans to train 128 students, place 102 graduates in environmental jobs, and track graduates for one year. The training program will consist of 250 hours of training in a variety of environmental, green technology, and construction skills. Graduates will receive six certifications, including HAZWOPER; lead, asbestos, and mold abatement; and solar technology and installation. The primary trainers will be staff from the Richmond Employment and Training Department, as well as instructors from private environmental training firms who will be identified through a competitive procurement process. The city will work with private environmental companies with local facilities such as MS Environmental Solutions, Veolia Water, and the Chevron Corporation to place graduates in environmental jobs.

Contacts

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

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team
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EPA Region 9 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region9/brownfields>)

Grant Recipient: City of Richmond, CA
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The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.