



Brownfields 2009 Job Training Grant Fact Sheet Chattanooga

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 January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Chattanooga was selected to receive a job training grant. Located in southeastern Tennessee, Chattanooga (population 169,884) is targeting underemployed and unemployed residents in the central city community. Once a heavy manufacturing center, Chattanooga has experienced an economic decline. Numerous plants closed as global conditions and manufacturing methods changed, leaving Chattanooga with 1,200 to 1,500 potential brownfields, including former foundries and textile mills. The majority of these sites are located in the central city area, where 62 percent of residents are minorities and unemployment is nearly 14 percent. The city indicates that the market for environmental technicians is strong, with several brownfields cleanup projects underway or planned. The city also expects cleanup to begin soon at the 3,000-acre Enterprise South Industrial Park site. The need for environmental technicians in Tennessee is projected to grow by 30 percent through 2014.

Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected the City of Chattanooga for a job training grant. Chattanooga plans to train 30 students, place 18 or more graduates in environmental technician jobs, and track students for one year. The training program will consist of two, 497-hour training cycles, including a brownfields redevelopment overview; courses on environmental assessment, sampling, and analysis; HAZWOPER and other safety and health training; lead and asbestos abatement; and heavy equipment operator training. Seven certifications will be offered. The primary trainer will be Chattanooga State Technical Community College. Students will be recruited mainly from the low-income central city area. Chattanooga will work with the Tennessee Career Center and a network of environmental firms 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 4 Brownfields Team
(404) 562-8792

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf>)

Grant Recipient: Chattanooga
(563) 589-4393

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.