



Environmental Justice Hazardous Substance Research

Small Grant Program - Fact Sheet

Purpose

The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) established the EJ Small Grant Program in fiscal year (FY) 1994. At its inception, the purpose of the Small Grant Program is to assist community-based/grassroots organizations and tribal governments that are working on local solutions to local environmental problems.

*Starting in FY 2004, the program has been renamed the **Environmental Justice Hazardous Substance Research Small Grants Program**.*

The purpose of the new programmatic focus is to provide financial assistance to affected local community-based organizations to support projects *to examine issues related to a community's exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.*

Projects must be of a research nature only, i.e., survey, research, collecting and analyzing data which will be used to expand scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied.

Research projects need not be limited to academic studies. EPA intends for the results of these research projects to be disseminated to members of the affected community.

Accomplishments

In **FY 1994**, the pilot program started with only \$500,000 and a limit of \$10,000 per award. Each region received \$50,000 and funded a total of 61 projects.

In **1995**, with additional funds of \$3,000,000 provided by Congress, OEJ increased individual award amounts to \$20,000 each, awarding a total of 170 grants.

In **1996**, OEJ awarded 152 grants totaling \$2,800,000.

In **1997**, OEJ awarded 139 grants totaling \$2,700,000.

In **1998**, OEJ awarded 134 grants totaling \$2,500,000.

In **1999**, OEJ awarded 95 grants totaling \$1,490,000.

In **2000**, OEJ awarded 61 grants totaling \$899,000.

In **2001**, OEJ awarded 88 grants totaling \$1,300,000.

In **2002**, OEJ awarded 74 grants totaling \$1,113,000.

In **2003**, OEJ awarded 55 grants totaling \$930,000.

A list of the grants and a brief description can be found on the website.

Publications

The "**Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving, 2nd Edition**" is a compilation of about 72 of the hundreds of grants that have been awarded between 1999 and 2001 through the EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the EJ Small Grant Program, please call the Office of Environmental Justice's 24-hour hotline (1-800-962-6215) or visit the website at

http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej_smgrants.html

To be Eligible to Receive a Grant under this Program, you must be an "affected local community - based organization". An affected local community - based organization (LCBO) is defined for this grant program as an entity/organization that is:

(1) at the most basic level of the organizational hierarchy such as a grassroots group/neighborhood organization that is not affiliated with a larger national, regional or state organization;

(2) located in the same area as the environmental and/or public health problem that is described in the application and where the residents of the affected community reside;

(3) focused primarily on addressing the environmental and/or public health problems of the residents of the affected community; and

(4) comprised primarily of members of the affected community.

Affected" is defined as being in the locale which is influenced or altered by the environmental/public health problem.

- ✓ An applicant must meet all of the above requirements and must explain how its organization fits each of those requirements in the application.
- ✓ An applicant must be a nonprofit organization as demonstrated through designation by the Internal Revenue Service as a Section 501 (c)(3) organization or through incorporation as a nonprofit organization under applicable state law in order to receive Federal funds under this grant program.
- ✓ The following is a list of entities **ineligible** to receive Federal funds under this grant program:

individuals; universities; state governments; local governments; tribal governments; water districts or similar entities; large non-governmental organizations such as national environmental groups; environmental justice networks; and organizations that are not located in the affected communities where the projects are found.

The Request for Applications (RFA) for **FY 2004** will be available February 27, 2004 with an end date of April 30, 2004. The RFA will be posted on the Internet and mailed out by the regional offices.
http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej_smgrants.html

The Office of Environmental Justice coordinates the small grants program through the regions. who are your primary contacts for information pertaining to the EJ Small Grant Program.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

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