

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant Awards 2003
Selected for Award

EPA Grant ID: EQ-831607-01-0 *Grant Application ID 2003047* **EPA Region:** 10 **State:** WA
Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ)

Health and Environmental Collaborative Project

Issues

The community of focus for this project is South Park, White Center (West Seattle) and Beacon Hill. Beacon Hill is 83% Asian, South Park is 71% Latino, and White Center is 45% people of color. South Park is the most impacted by toxic waste dump sites and pollution generating facilities. The unifying concern of the three areas is the impact of 3 industries emitting high amounts of carbon monoxide which is a recognized developmental toxicant and suspected neurotoxicant. Other pollutants include lead, lead compounds, and nitrogen oxides. Lead and lead compounds are recognized as developmental toxicants, and nitrogen oxides are linked to respiratory illness. LaFarge Corp., Ash Grove Cement and Birmingham Steel were listed in the 2000 toxic release inventory data as being among the highest emitters of air toxins in these neighborhoods.

Environmental Statutes

1. Toxic Substance Control Act, Section 10(a)
2. Clean Air Act 103(b)(3)

Goals

The primary objectives of CCEJ's project are: (1) to reduce exposure to indoor and outdoor neurotoxins; (2) to improve the knowledge base of medical professionals and links to child nervous system disorders; (3) to initiate increased enforcement of pollution prevention strategies; (4) to increase access to environmental health information; (5) to increase communication among health professions, scientists and community members; and (6) to increase overall public understanding and sensitivity to environmental justice concerns of low-income communities and communities of color. These goals will be accomplished through the project activities (see below).

Project

The project will create an Action Plan that will have the following three components: (1) Communication; (2) Outreach, and (3) Education. Activities include: (1) development of reports and fact sheets about the sources of neurotoxicants and their impact on children for several audiences including community members, the media, policymakers, government agencies, and the scientific community (for non-English speaking communities, ensure that material is culturally appropriate and translated for wide distribution in the community); (2) creation of a handbook for environmental health specialists, providers and health educators; and (3) communication of data gathering findings and policy recommendations to the media, policymakers, and government agencies through the implementation of a media plan.

Partnership

The partnership will include Dr. Jordan Firestone at the University of Washington; John Ridgeway at the Washington State Department of Ecology; Elise Miller of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health; Dr. Ngozi Oleru at the Seattle King County. The objectives will be accomplished through the partnership between the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice and the University of Washington, the Institute for Children's Environmental Health, and Seattle's King County. Three committees will be created which include the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the Child Health Advisory Committee (CHAC). The CAC will be the driving force of the work of the entire workgroup and will be comprised of residents of the impacted community and the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice.

