

# **JUST BECAUSE YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA... RECOGNIZING AND AVOIDING ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE**

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# bhate



# RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

- Everyone is potentially affected by environmental decisions
- We have two different audiences here today with two different Environmental Justice concerns
- EPA Brownfield Grant Environmental Justice and Community Relations requirements
- Private Section Brownfield Developers have a different set of concerns
- What you think is or is not an environmental justice issue may or may not be the same as what the surrounding community and those who see themselves as affected think is environmental injustice



# The Johnson Management Group, LLC





# **THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

# EMPHASIS ON MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Starts with understanding
- Meet people where they are
- Honesty and transparency
- Build a genuine rapport
- Empower with knowledge
- Instill sense of community ownership

# PLANNING AND DESIGN

- Aim for maximum level of participation
- Selection of key stakeholders
- Effective communication
- Identifying available resources
- Recognizing barriers/limitations
- Timely feedback and next steps

# IDENTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS

- Community and neighborhood groups
- Community service organizations
- Educational institutions and academia
- Environmental organizations
- Industry and business
- Medical community
- Non-governmental organizations
- Faith-based communities
- Racial, ethnic and cultural groups
- Civic/public interest groups
- Unions/employment related organizations



# ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION

- Public Meetings
- One-on-One Conversations
- Workshops & Focus Groups
- Forums/Roundtable Discussions
- Web-based & Social Media
- Community Surveys

# OUTREACH STRATEGIES

- Research existing community networks or forms of communication
- Address any potential barriers to participation (language, transportation, culture, childcare)
- Who, where, when, and how



# **THE BROWNFIELD GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS**

# EPA BROWNFIELDS REGION 4

## Brownfields Program Office

## Grant Application Assistance

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# EPA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES (TAB)

- Develop community engagement and visioning action plans
- Creative ideas for meaningful community engagement
- Strategize around stakeholder interactions
- Help develop theories of change and logic models for project
- Review and give feedback on community benefits agreements
- Offer training on Brownfields, community engagement strategies, tactical urbanism, and stakeholder development
- Link to technical resources regarding brownfield redevelopment
- Instruction on the Brownfields to community asset process
- Assistance with determining the scale and pacing of project

# GRANT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

- Average doesn't get funded (what makes your project unique)
- Read thoroughly and follow directions and guidelines carefully
- Be very precise and detailed in describing program
- Use tables and graphs where appropriate
- Show community successes (community visioning, upgrades, outreach)
- Only focus on 3-4 priority sites
- Quantity information incorporating available statistics
- Show general timeline and stay within 3 year timeline (avoid grant extensions)
- Describe project management strategies to keep project on track
- Substantiate cost detail with unit cost and remember to check the math
- Clearly distinguish between outcomes versus benefits
- Avoid using hyperlinks instead include detailed information
- Utilize an external editor to review before submitting application
- Write application based on evaluation criteria not ranking



# QUESTIONS

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