

DESCRIPTION

Communities that have Superfund sites often have established support networks to share information and pool resources. Forging partnerships with existing community-based organizations is an excellent way for CICs to tap into local resources and engage community participation early. Also, partnerships may be able to rouse additional support to solve problems, such as job placement, that go beyond the purview of Superfund.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHEN TO USE

Form partnerships when you are in need of additional resources or need help bolstering community involvement. Forming teams is an excellent way to help share resources and overcome common obstacles.

Opportunities for partnering exist when more than one community-based organization exists in an area; or when your site involves *other EPA or Federal Agencies* [e.g., *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA) or DOE].

A word of caution is in order: a partnership may cause a conflict of interest. If you have questions regarding a potential conflict of interest, it may be helpful to contact the designated Agency Ethics Official in the Office of General Counsel at EPA Headquarters.

HOW TO USE

Identify contacts for other federal, state, and local programs in the community and work with them to share educational resources. You might even bring to a community meeting a representative from another program to explain that program's activities.

Some examples of other community-based programs and organizations that might be implementing related activities in a Superfund community are included in this section as separate subsections:

- Community-Based Environmental Protection (CBEP)
- National Organization of City and County Officials (NACCHO)
- Step-Up
- Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI)
- Weed and Seed

Tips

- Brainstorm ways to team up with other community-based programs;
- Plan community involvement activities with relevant activities in other programs;
- Speak regularly with contacts in other programs to avoid duplication of effort and the release of contradictory information;
- Educate your community about resources other programs provide and who to contact; and
- Identify partners with the financial means to ensure long-term viability of important community programs related to Superfund.



[See Other EPA Programs, Tab 27; Federal Agencies, Tab 16](#)

RELATED TOOLS/RESOURCES IN THE TOOLKIT

- [Local Resources, Tab 22](#)
- [Community Groups, Tab 4](#)
- [Community Profile, Tab 8](#)
- [Brownfields, Tab 1](#)
- [Federal Agencies, Tab 16](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions/Referrals, Tab 18](#)
- [Other EPA Programs, Tab 27](#)

OUTSIDE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Partnering Opportunities at Superfund Sites—This program matches U.S. cities with related environmental programs or initiatives in those cities. The attachment briefly describes each of the initiatives or programs, and how to use their services (*under development pending finalization of the program*).

COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

Because community members are a vital resource for ensuring the long-term protection of local ecosystems and habitats, EPA established an innovative approach called Community Based Environmental Protection (CBEP) to tap that resource. The purpose of CBEP is to give community members a voice in the remedy decisions to ensure the protection of local ecological resources. The CIC can use CBEP to increase community involvement in cleanup decisions.

USING THE RESOURCE

WHEN TO USE

Use CBEP when your community is concerned about protecting a local natural resource, or to enhance the community's involvement in decisions affecting the long-term use of the site.

It is most effective to use CBEP when:

- An important local natural resource is threatened by site contamination;
- Your community wants to establish specific cleanup goals and priorities for a local resource; and
- You want to develop better ties with an affected community and strengthen their ability to make a difference in cleanup efforts.

Do not use CBEP when local ecological risks are already driving the cleanup.

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Clear Creek, CO—A partnership formed between local community organizations, private citizens, industry, and several government agencies to protect the 600 square-mile Clear Creek Watershed. Actions taken to restore the river included Superfund and voluntary cleanups, wetlands planning, mapping of endangered species, land use plans, water quality projects, and an emergency phone tree to inform water users of spills in the creek.

Example 2: St. Louis, MO, and East St. Louis, IL—In an effort to enhance communication and coordination among the many agencies involved in environmental issues in the St. Louis Metropolitan area, EPA formed a partnership among EPA's multi-media teams. This partnership successfully recruited an on-site liaison in response to community requests for more regular EPA contact. The partnership is promoting creative solutions to environmental problems, such as hazardous and radioactive sites, poor air quality, wetland and riparian management issues, and water quality issues.

Example 3: Henryetta, OK—A partnership with city and State agencies and a citizens' advisory group was formed to address redevelopment of an abandoned mining and smelter site owned by the city; solid waste collection and recycling issues; and drinking water and wastewater delivery systems.

TIPS

- Learn about CBEP experiences in your Region;
- CBEP is one of several ways to involve community members in the remedy selection process;

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COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Identify ecological resources in your community that hold specific interest to stakeholders; and
- Develop a list of people or organizations who are involved with the protection of those resources.

RELATED TOOLS/RESOURCES IN THE TOOLKIT

- [Community Groups, Tab 4](#)
- [Community Profile, Tab 8](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions/Referrals, Tab 18](#)
- [Local Resources, Tab 22](#)
- [Other EPA Programs, Tab 27](#)

OUTSIDE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- *Community-Based Environmental Protection: A Resource Book for Protecting Ecosystems and Communities*. September 1997. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy, Planning, and Efforts. 146 pp. EPA 230-R-96-003

Description

The National Association of County and City Health Officials, or *NACCHO*, is a nonprofit membership organization serving all of the nearly 3,000 local health departments nationwide. NACCHO provides assistance and resources for local health departments in communities affected by Superfund sites.

Since its beginnings in 1994, NACCHO and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (*ATSDR*) together have assisted local health departments near Superfund sites. The cooperative agreement between NACCHO and ATSDR provides selected communities with a grant to conduct an environmental health education needs assessments, and all communities technical assistance and health education information.

The overall goal of the NACCHO and ATSDR agreement is to build the capacity of local health departments to provide community environmental health education and to assist community members in decisions regarding hazardous waste sites. To reach this goal, NACCHO has:

- Enhanced the capability of local health departments to take a leadership role in their communities;
- Tested novel approaches and strategies for involving communities and engaging them in decisionmaking processes at hazardous waste sites; and
- Evaluated NACCHO's methods and support to ensure success of the program.

NACCHO developed a community environmental health education needs assessment tool, identified and trained local health officials located near selected hazardous waste sites to pilot test the tool, and established a peer network to aid local health departments in the needs assessment process. When a community is selected by a needs assessment, local health departments are trained under the tutelage of a peer advisor. Peer advisors provide consultation to local health departments on issues, such as identifying community concerns and community opportunities, undertaking an educational needs assessment, working with locally elected officials, enhancing interagency coordination and communication, and securing additional resources and training.

Using the Resource

As a CIC, you should be aware of the information NACCHO provides to a community to avoid duplication of effort and conflict with EPA information. NACCHO can offer two types of *Technical Assistance for Communities*. Through a grant process, NACCHO can provide detailed assistance through the community environmental health education needs assessment tool. This assistance enhances a local health department's capacity to prepare community profiles of sites, collaborate with the community to assess their environmental health educational needs, and develop an action plan to address those needs. The second type of assistance involves technical assistance (by telephone) and distribution of resource materials, such as the needs assessment tool and NACCHO publications.

When to Use

Leveraging NACCHO as a resource is most appropriate when the need to involve local health officials arises, generally early in the Superfund process.

Seeking NACCHO's assistance may be least effective for sites that have a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) and, therefore, may not need NACCHO's community environmental



[See Federal Agencies, Tab 16](#)



[See Technical Assistance for Communities, Tab 41](#)

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health educational needs assessment. However, TAG recipients are not precluded from seeking NACCHO assistance.

How to Use

CICs may refer communities and local health departments to NACCHO, particularly if they are struggling to obtain health education information related to a contaminated site. NACCHO makes available each year three new grants of \$6,000 each for local health departments to undertake the community environmental health educational needs assessment. NACCHO issues a request for proposal for these grants, and a panel selects winners based on specific criteria. Local health departments that do not receive a grant can still access NACCHO's technical assistance (through phone consultations) and obtain resources, such as the needs assessment tool, NACCHO publications, and other publications as requested.

Local health departments seeking a NACCHO grant should contact the Project Manager, Environmental Health Division of NACCHO. Citizens groups interested in receiving general information about NACCHO and NACCHO documents should call NACCHO at (202) 783-5550.

Related Tools/Resources in the Toolkit

- [Technical Assistance for Communities, Related Tool, Tab 41](#)
- [ATSDR, Related Resource, Tab 16](#)

Outside Sources of Information

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
440 First Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20077-0338
(202) 783-5550

- Documents/information available from NACCHO:
 - *Don't Hazard A Guess: Addressing Community Health Concerns at Hazardous Waste Sites*
 - *Partnerships for Environmental Health Education: Performing a Community Needs Assessment at Hazardous Waste Sites*
 - *Improving Community Collaboration: A Self-Assessment Guide for Local Health Departments*
- NACCHO's Internet Web site: www.naccho.org.

[See Internet,
Tab 10](#)



Description

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Step-Up program was created under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (**HUD**). The program trains disadvantaged community members for a mainstream employment market and complies with Department of Labor (DOL) training standards. Each Step-Up program across the country must include the same relevant safety requirements and measures and the same number of classroom and on-the-job hours for each occupation, and delineate wages to be paid. Prospective employers can count on these three elements when inquiring about hiring Step-Up participants.

Step-Up programs are offered in communities that have a low economic standing and need increased work opportunities. Often these communities are in inner-city areas or small towns abandoned by major employers.

The program ultimately creates an identifiable employment base of people with practical work experience. Participating community members (called “apprentices”) are offered several educational services and classroom training while they work and learn practical skills through on-the-job training. Many of these individuals have not had any formal training in a trade. This makes the Step-Up program an important vehicle to revitalize the community. Apprentices not only learn a trade, but also they receive regular pay and gain practical work experience.

The Step-Up program offers training in a wide range of occupations:

- Bricklayer (Construction);
- Carpenter (Maintenance);
- Child Care Development Specialist;
- Dry Wall Applicator;
- Electrical Appliance Repairer;
- Electrician (Maintenance);
- Exterminator (Termite);
- Floor Layer;
- Furnace Installer and Repairer;
- Lead-Based Paint/Hazardous Materials Removal;
- Housekeeper;
- Inspector (Building);
- Maintenance Repairer (Building);
- Painter (Construction);
- Plasterer;
- Plumber;
- Roofer;
- Welder-Fitter;



[See Federal Agencies, Tab 16](#)

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- Health Care; and
- Office/Computer Technology.

Using the Resource

An established Step-Up program can provide you with information about local community groups, organizations, and businesses around your site, and can help support your outreach efforts. For instance, Step-Up participants might be a critical audience when communicating site activities, and they could become allies of yours in the community if they are directly participating in hazardous waste cleanup. Superfund staff can refer job inquiries from local businesses, including contractors working at the Superfund site, to the Step-Up program. Also, an established Step-Up program can be an excellent information resource for a community that would like to start a program of its own.

Tips

Establish connections between your community outreach program and a Step-Up program in your area;

- Keep a list of Step-Up program contact persons who could assist you and the community;
- A Step-Up program can help your community get involved in site cleanup; and
- Assess the Web site www.hud.gov/olr/olr_abot.html for more information on Step-Up.

Related Tools/Resources in the Toolkit

- [Community Profile, Tab 8](#)
- [Cross-Cultural Communications, Tab 12](#)
- [Brownfields, Tab 1](#)


SUPERFUND JOBS TRAINING INITIATIVE

DESCRIPTION

EPA's Superfund Jobs Training Initiative (SuperJTI) provides job training for residents living near Superfund sites, particularly residents in disadvantaged communities. EPA has partnered with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to provide pre-employment training and classroom instruction. Residents who take part in SuperJTI gain career skills and participate in the environmental remediation activities in the neighborhood. SuperJTI is a valuable program that enhances community involvement, benefits the local economy, and should be a part of the **Community Involvement Plan** for certain disadvantaged communities. SuperJTI helps residents who could benefit from learning career job skills and provides an employment base for Superfund site cleanup contractors.

USING THE RESOURCE

For more information on participating in this program, consult the attached EPA fact sheet "The Superfund Jobs Training Initiative (SuperJTI)," which provides in-depth information on the program, its benefits, and the levels and types of training it offers, or contact the Community Involvement and Outreach Center (CIOC) at (703) 603-8835.

 [See Community Involvement Plans, Tab 7](#)

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SUPERFUND JOBS TRAINING INITIATIVE

WEED AND SEED

DESCRIPTION

The Department of Justice's Weed and Seed program is designed to ameliorate drug abuse, violent crime, and gang activity in limited geographical areas, some as small as a ten-city block area. The Weed and Seed program assesses the most imperative needs of the community and provides a solid structure to implement programs that focus on:

- Law enforcement;
- Community policing;
- Crime prevention/intervention/treatment; and
- Neighborhood restoration.

To receive Weed and Seed funding, applicants must conduct a detailed resource assessment, which includes information on:

- Schools and libraries;
- Recreation centers;
- Human services;
- Shelters;
- Churches;
- Transportation;
- Special programs;
- Hospitals or health clinics;
- Parks;
- Police stations;
- Social service agencies;
- Drug treatment facilities or programs;
- Businesses; and
- Neighborhood associations.

USING THE RESOURCE

Weed and Seed's community information and outreach efforts can help you characterize a community and its needs when you are preparing a *Communications Strategy*. Some Weed and Seed activities may be implemented in conjunction with Superfund outreach efforts where the Weed and Seed community encompasses a Superfund site community. If you are encountering law enforcement problems at your site, the Weed and Seed program might be able to assist you in finding ways to prevent crime.

A Steering Committee, comprised of community members with diverse experiences, leads and implements the program. Considering the variety of interests of its members, the Steering Committee can be an excellent resource for you to better understand your community's concerns, especially local policies and procedures. Even if a Weed and Seed program does not



[See
Communi-
cation
Strategies,
Tab 3](#)

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encompass your site community, you may find that members of the Weed and Seed program can give you useful information on where and how to obtain local information. You also may benefit from reviewing the needs assessment for the Weed and Seed area.

Tips

- Establish connections between your community outreach program and a Weed and Seed program in your area;
- Keep a list of contact persons who could assist the community;
- Weed and Seed can be a ready source of demographic information; and
- Access this Web site for more information: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/ws/welcome.html.

RELATED TOOLS/RESOURCES IN THE TOOLKIT

- [Brownfields, Tab 1](#)
- [Communications Strategies, Tab 3](#)
- [Cross-Cultural Communications, Tab 12](#)