

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
3500 PAN AMERICAN DRIVE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133
TEL: 305-250-5300
FAX: 305-854-4001
www.miamigov.com/mayor



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
VIVIAN ROMERO (305) 416-1435,
ED@miamigov.com

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION:
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

EPA Presents Brownfield Grant Check to the City of Miami

City of Miami Will Provide Green Job Training through EPA Brownfields Grants



City of Miami Manager Pete Hernandez; Commissioner Marc Sarnoff; Meredith Beattie, City of Miami Grants; Commissioner Tomas Regalado; Commission Chair Joe Sanchez; Daisy Kathleen Curry, J.D, EPA; Glendon Hall, City of Miami Economic Initiatives; Mayor Manny Diaz; Harry James, City of Miami Economic Initiatives; Laura Cherney, City of Miami Grants and Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones. *Photo: Jorge R. Perez/City of Miami*

(Miami, FL) The United States Environmental Protection Agency presented the City of Miami with a \$500,000 grant funding to help train City residents for jobs assessing, remediating and redeveloping brownfield sites. Funding for these grants is supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009.

“The City of Miami is very fortunate to have been chosen for this program and we look forward to working with the EPA to train our residents in these exciting and profitable careers,” said Mayor Manny Diaz.

“This Recovery Act funding will train people for real jobs that help restore their neighborhoods,” said Stan Meiburg, EPA Acting Regional Administrator in Atlanta. “It will go a long way in protecting public health and the environment and providing economic benefits through cleanup and redevelopment of properties that have been sitting idle due to real or even perceived contamination.”

Daisy Kathleen Curry, J.D., Regional Brownfields Job Training Coordinator for the EPA, traveled to Miami to present the check to the City of Miami.

This award is the latest component to The City of Miami’s Brownfield/ Land Revitalization Program that already manages four EPA Brownfield assessment and remediation Grants totaling \$1.2 million, focused on sites in Liberty City, Wynwood, Allapattah and Little Haiti. The City’s Office of Economic Initiatives has used EPA grant funding effectively as an economic development tool to stimulate affordable housing, retain area businesses, assist non-profits, create greenspace and promote job growth in underserved markets.

The Miami Brownfields Job Training Program will employ residents and facilitate the cleanup of brownfields by providing free “green job” training for 120 city residents over nine 16-week training cycles. Training will include brownfields assessment, remediation, and redevelopment and will prepare graduates for entry-level positions as asbestos inspectors and abatement workers, emergency spill response technicians, environmental technicians, field sampling technicians, HAZWOPER technicians, and OSHA safety inspectors.

Since 1998, EPA has awarded more than \$25 million in brownfields job training funds. More than 5,000 people have completed EPA-funded training programs, with more than 3,250 obtaining employment in the environmental fields, earning an average wage of \$13.81 per hour. EPA established the Brownfields Job Training Program to help residents take advantage of jobs created by the assessment, cleanup, and sustainable reuse of brownfields sites and to ensure that the economic benefits derived from brownfields redevelopment remain in the affected communities.

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. EPA's Brownfields Program encourages redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. The City of Miami currently has 450 known contaminated properties. A disproportionate number of these brownfields exist in urban areas of economic despair and blight.

The 120 trainees have yet to be selected, as agreements with area partners such as Lindsey Hopkins Technical School and SERJobs for Progress will be finalized over the next several weeks.

Updates on the upcoming Brownfield Job Training Program can be found on the Office of Economic Initiative's job website: www.accessmiamijobs.com.

###