

Community Action for a Renewed Environment



Working with Communities to Reduce the
Risks from Toxic Pollutants

Briefing for CAAAC

July 28, 2005

www.epa.gov/care

How CARE Works

1. Join Together

4. Become Self Sustaining



2. Identify Problems and Solutions

**3. Implement Solutions/
Reduce Risks**

CARE Grants

□ Applicant Statistics

- Number of proposal received: 135
- Eligible applications 126
- Applicants from: 39 States & PR
- Total amount of funds requested: \approx \$19 M
- Breakout by Media of the 126 eligible applications
 - Waste: 54 proposals - $54/126 = 43\%$
 - Water: 81 proposals - $81/126 = 64\%$
 - Pesticides/Lead/P2: 54 proposals - $54/126 = 43\%$
 - Air: 88 proposals - $88/126 = 70\%$

- Selected packages will show diversity in media, community and grantees

CARE is More than Money

- EPA works directly with communities to:
 - Provide technical support and information, including
 - Scientific expertise and assessment
 - Collaboration support to set priorities and take action to reduce risks
 - Deliver EPA voluntary programs to help address community concerns
 - Facilitate networking among communities to share learning



The CARE Partners Program



- CARE Partner Communities are treated the same as CARE funded communities.
 - Receive technical support.
 - Work with EPA regional staff.
 - Included in national CARE trainings.
 - Are part of the CARE network.
- A new tool for Regions working with communities without CARE funding.
- Performance Track companies a natural source of funding for CARE Partner Programs
 - Working with OPEI to establish CARE as a Challenge Criteria
- Foundations
 - Working to promote partnerships with CARE communities, EPA and Foundations.

Creating Tools for Communities

- Resource Guide (completed)
 - A map of the EPA website for communities
- Voluntary program guide (summer)
 - Description of the EPA voluntary programs of greatest benefit to communities
- Roadmap (fall)
 - How a community partnership can assess risks
- CARE staff directory (ongoing)
 - Who to go to for help with specific issues

Tracking Progress

- Prior to program implementation we have put measures to track progress in place
 - 6 performance measures
 - 9 program management measures
 - 4 EPA program feedback measures
- Developing an interim tracking system this year
 - Plan to develop a database system for use in future years
- Contracting for external evaluation of the CARE program:
 - Analysis mentioned in RFIP:
 - comparison of CARE to non-CARE communities
 - Comparison of CARE effectiveness based on type of community and type of grantee

CARE is a true cross media effort

- CARE is a tangible example of how cross media approaches can work to achieve environmental results.
 - CARE's unique and innovative organizational structure changes the way environmental programs are framed so they can be seen the way citizens see them - independent of our stovepipes.
- Programs we are reaching out to other programs and they are reaching out to us including: SEQL, Brownfields, Green Suppliers Network, Performance Track
- We are working to build partnerships with other Federal Agencies to help CARE communities

Creates Change in EPA



- ❑ EPA becomes an environmental protection enabler and resource broker
- ❑ Creates a structure to support community based work on a large scale
- ❑ Creates a mechanism to address multiple sources and cumulative risks in communities
- ❑ Breaks down EPA stovepipes
- ❑ Tracks results and generates direct community feedback

Next Steps

- Award grants
- Establish Regional Teams
- Begin work on new RFIP
 - Start by getting feedback from EPA staff, Grantees and States on grant process and RFIP
- Continue tool development
- November training for CARE Teams and Grantees