



# **LINCOLN CHAFEE**

## **U.S. SENATOR**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CHAFEE APPLAUDS EPA SELECTION OF GROUNDWORK PROVIDENCE FOR \$150,000 BROWNFIELDS JOB TRAINING GRANT**

**PROVIDENCE, RI** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today praised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) announcement of a \$150,000 Brownfields Job Training Grant to Groundwork Providence. This funding will enable Groundwork Providence to develop a brownfields environmental job training and employment program in Pawtucket; similar to the program it successfully runs in Providence.

On February 14, 2003, Senator Chafee wrote to Ms. LaKisha Odom, in EPA’s Office of Brownfields and Redevelopment, in support of Groundwork Providence’s grant application. In his letter, Chafee noted, “Groundwork Providence will coordinate its efforts on this project with a number of partners, including the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, the Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation, the City of Pawtucket’s Department of Planning and Development, and Jobs for Progress. This is a strong team, lead by an experienced grantee.”

The Brownfields Job Training Grant program was established by the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002, authored by Senator Chafee. The goal of the program is to help residents take advantage of jobs created by the assessment and cleanup of brownfields. The grant to Groundwork Providence is one of 16 being awarded nationally, totaling \$2.47 million.

Groundwork Providence will use its grant to facilitate the cleanup of contaminated brownfields sites by training 75 unemployed or underemployed Pawtucket residents who live in neighborhoods affected by the polluted sites. The students will gain classroom, laboratory, and hands-on experience in hazardous waste and safety training, lead and asbestos abatement, confined space entry, and environmental chemistry and safety.