

**Conference Report 103-311**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**SubCommittee of Appropriations for HUD, VA and Independent Agencies (pp. 61-62):**  
**Superfund Minority Worker Training Program**

\$3,000,000 added for a minority worker training program. The Committee recognizes that, as the demand for cleaning up the environment continues-- in order to prevent disease, dysfunction and premature death and to protect the country's natural resources--there is a parallel demand for workers to perform the multiple tasks necessary to achieve environmental improvements. Assuring an adequate workforce to perform these tasks will require an aggressive and coordinated program of recruitment, training, and service delivery. The nature of these jobs--including an understanding of the behavior of certain environmental pollutants and of remediation technology--is such that they require substantial level of training.

The Committee realizes that while efforts are underway to address these needs, there is growing consensus that these efforts are not adequate to meet current and projected needs for environmental workers. The scope of this need includes technicians, as well as doctoral-level physical and biological scientists. At the same time, the Committee is aware that there is a large population of males, ages 18-25, in urban communities impacted by environmental pollutants who are unemployed because they lack the skills and knowledge required for many of the available career opportunities.

The Committee urges the agency to establish a series of national pilot programs to test a range of strategies for the recruitment and training of young persons, who live near hazardous waste sites or in the community at risk of exposure to contaminated properties, for work in the environmental field. These environmental career-oriented projects should be developed within the context of other social and health needs of the community. The program should provide pre-employment job training, including literacy, life skills, environmental preparation and other related courses construction skills training; environmental worker training including hazardous waste, asbestos and lead abatement training; and safety and health training. Training may also include enrollment in apprenticeship programs for construction and environmental remediation worker training. Training may also include a program of mentoring. The Committee intends that these projects should enhance the participants problem solving skills, their understanding of self-esteem and team work in the application of technical knowledge to environmental and related problems, in this regard, the program should allow for partnerships or subagreements with academic and other institutions, with a particular focus on historically black colleges and universities, and public schools located in or nearby the impacted area to provide pre-math, science or other related education to program participants prior to or concurrent with entry into the training program.

The Committee urges EPA to evaluate the effectiveness of these pilot programs to determine the course of future funding priorities. This evaluation should give consideration to retention of participants in the training program, and longevity of post-training employment. None of the funds provided in this appropriation may go for supporting the post-training employment under this program. **This program should be administered by NIEHS.**