

# Grants

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:  
Jacqueline Johnson/202-586-5806



Wednesday, May 28, 2003

## Paducah-Area Community Reuse Organization To Receive \$300,000 Block Grant

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will award \$300,000 to the Paducah-Area Community Reuse Organization (PACRO) to create jobs and expand economic opportunities that will ensure a future for the community. PACRO currently is working to develop a regional industrial park that would have the potential to recruit new industry.

A community reuse organization (CRO) is an organization recognized by the Energy Department that can apply for funding for programs that can modify the impacts or workforce restructuring at its facilities and reduce community dependence on the department's activities.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "We will continue to work with the Paducah-Area Community Reuse Organization and other community reuse organizations around the country to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

PACRO was formed in August 1997 by regional community representatives from western Kentucky and southern Illinois in an effort to mitigate potential downsizing and restructuring of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant workforce as a result of the end of the Cold War and changing Department of Energy priorities.

The Energy Department and PACRO have created or retained 423 new economy jobs, and estimate that 739 jobs will be created or retained by 2005.

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