



CURRENT CURRENTS: EPA BROWNFIELD TRENDS AND INSIGHTS

Photo courtesy of Mr. Street

Florida's FY24 Brownfields Awardees

Florida			
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Assessment	Community-wide	\$1,500,000
Hillsborough County, FL	Assessment	Community-wide	\$1,500,000
Homestead, FL	Cleanup	Multi-Site: Three Triangle Properties and Five Krome Parcels	\$783,400 *
Sanford, FL	Cleanup	Former Rosemond Property	\$604,310 *
South Florida Regional Planning Council, FL	RLF Supplemental	Community-Wide	\$3,500,000 *+
Wimauma Community Development Corporation, Wimauma, FL	Assessment	Community-wide	\$500,000

Grant Type	FL Submittals	Selected	Amount
CWAGST	0	0	0
CWA	7	1	\$500,000
Coalition	3	2	\$3,000,000
MP	1	0	0
Cleanup (total)	2	2	\$1,387,710
Total	13	5	\$4,887,710

EPA Region 4 FY24 Brownfield Grant Application Results

Grant Type	Submittals	Funded	Percent
CWAGST	1	1	100%
CWA	39	7	18%
Coalition	15	11	73%
MP	7	4	57%
Cleanup (total)	14	11	79%
Cleanup 500K	3	1	33%
Cleanup 2M	7	6	86%
Cleanup 5M	4	3	75%
Total	76	34	45%

State	# of Submittals	# Selected	% Selected
AL	11	8	73%
FL	13	5	38%
GA	9	4	44%
KY	9	4	44%
MS	5	2	40%
NC	18	7	39%
SC	7	2	29%
TN	4	2	50%
Total	76	34	45%

Invest Your Time Wisely

Grant Type	Project Period	Maximum Amount Per Grant	FY 23 Estimated # of Awards	FY23 Proposals Received	FY 23 Awards	FY 24 Estimated # of Awards	FY24 Proposals Received	FY24 Proposals Funded
Multipurpose	5 yrs	\$1,000,000	17	23	18	20	39	20
Assessment (State/Tribal)	5 yrs	\$2,000,000	17	14	11	25	5	5
Assessment Coalitions	4 yrs	\$1,500,000	20	21	19	26	47	31
Assessment (CW) - New	4 yrs	\$500,000	36	277	108	30	206	64
Assessment (CW) - Existing	4 yrs	\$500,000	25			30		
RLF (New)	5 yrs	\$1,000,000	10	23	18	NA	NA	NA
Cleanup	4 yrs	≤\$500,000	40	39	31	40	24	15
Cleanup	4 yrs	≤\$2,000,000	25	41	34	17	47	34
Cleanup	4 yrs	≤\$5,000,000	8	33	26	8	24	18

FY25 ARC Competiton Updates

Coalitions max is now \$1.2M (previously \$1.5M)

More CW assessments to both existing grantees and new applicants

No Multi-purpose for FY25

New RLFs to be awarded for FY25

Grant Type	Maximum Project Period	Maximum Amount per Grant	Estimated Awards	Total Per Grant Type - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds	Total Per Grant Type - Regular Appropriated Funds
Community-wide Assessment Grants for State and Tribes	5 years	\$2,000,000	18	\$36,000,000	
Assessment Coalitions	4 years	\$1,200,000	29		\$35,000,000
Community-wide Assessment – New*	4 years	\$500,000	40		\$20,000,000
Community-wide Assessment – Existing**	4 years	\$500,000	52		\$26,000,000
RLF***	5 years	\$1,000,000	15	\$15,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$500,000	30	\$15,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$2,000,000	23	\$45,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$4,000,000	10	\$40,000,000	

*Community-wide Assessment – New = Entities that have never received an EPA Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, or Cleanup Grant, or that were awarded a Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, or Cleanup Grant that closed in 2016 or earlier.

Think Strategically

- ▶ Think about the **trends** over the last cycles in MARC awards.
- ▶ When the number of selected proposals does not meet the budget, that **funding can be shifted** into other grant types.
 - ▶ Surplus BIL funds from one grant type can be shifted to fund more of another BIL funded grant type.
 - ▶ The same is true with grants funded with annual appropriations.
 - ▶ Annual Appropriations and BIL funds can not be mixed by EPA in awarding grant types.
 - ▶ This is why such a large number of CWA grants was funded in FY23 compared to the estimated number.
- ▶ Look at the **FY25 anticipated funding categories** and what has historically received high numbers of proposals vs lower numbers. **Then read the NOFOs.** Think about what is BIL funded and what is annual appropriations.

General Points to Consider for Brownfield Grant Applications

- Consider **broadening target areas** for coalitions and community-wide
- Have **diverse coalition members**; will need to assess at least one site in each coalition members geographic area
- Be sure to include diverse **community-based** organizations in the Community Need and Engagement Section
- Follow the **formatting**; only the **narrative** will be read by the reviewer; put responses to criteria where they are asked
- Pay close attention to changes made to **criteria language** and "recycling" previous years' applications
- Have a **clear plan for how this grant will directly impact/improve the EJ community(ies) you reference**; link to statements about what those community needs are

EPA's Brownfields Technical Assistance



EPA R4 - **ICMA** until September 30th:
Chris Harrell charrell@icma.org and
Clark Henry chenry@icma.org

- ▶ Work regionally to assist communities and other stakeholders on brownfield issues
 - ▶ preparing grant applications;
 - ▶ performing site inventories;
 - ▶ reviewing historical information;
 - ▶ cleanup and redevelopment planning.
 - ▶ Procurement guidance.

Additionally, **NJIT** is the new EPA R4 TAB Provider and can be contacted:
tab@njit.edu

Region 4's Top Ten



10. Tell a story
9. Be internally consistent
8. Don't be generic
7. Evaluation criteria
6. "If/when", "And/or"
5. Stick to the examples
4. Get local data
3. Don't be passive
2. Make it readable



Source: detailed description of risk



Pathway: Stories, not data. No generic answers.



Impact: HOW are people/environment interact with sites. Demographic data does not show risk.

Number 1

If you don't tell the EPA the story, the economic need **DOES NOT RESONATE.**

Ranking Criteria vs Evaluation Criteria

Ranking Criteria

- You are **not** scored based on this.
- Do **NOT** build a response based on this.

ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

Describe the potential of the proposed project or revitalization plans to stimulate economic development in the target area(s) upon completion of the cleanup of the priority site(s), and/or how the grant will facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes in the target area(s).

Describe how the proposed project will improve local climate adaptation/mitigation capacity and resilience to protect residents and community investments. (*Climate adaptation/mitigation is defined in [Section I.F.](#)*)

If applicable, describe how the reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; or will incorporate energy efficiency measures. (*For more information on energy efficiency measures, please refer to the [FY24 FAQs](#) and [Renewable Energy or Energy-Efficient Approaches in Brownfields Redevelopment Fact Sheet](#).²⁷*)

1.b.ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy (5 points)

Given the type of community being served (e.g., urban, rural, Tribal, etc.), the degree to which the proposed project or revitalization plans will potentially stimulate economic development in the target area(s) upon completion of the cleanup of the priority site(s) and/or the degree to which the grant will facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes in the target area(s). The degree to which these outcomes clearly correlate with the applicant's reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s).

The extent to which the proposed project will improve local climate adaptation/mitigation capacity and resilience to protect residents and community investments.

When applicable, the extent to which the reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy, or will incorporate energy efficiency measures.

Evaluation Criteria

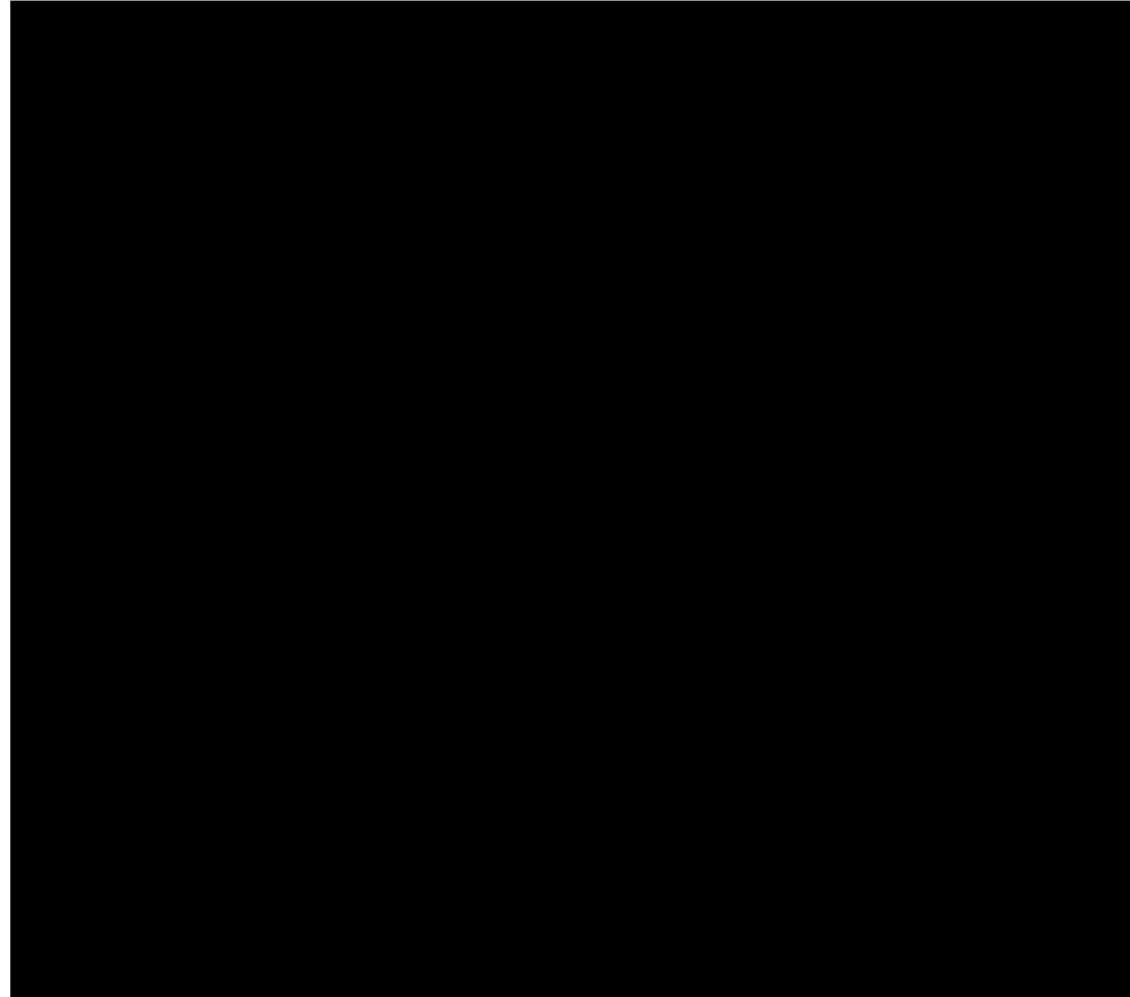
- You are scored based on this.
- Build a response based on this.

Programmatic Capability - What's missing?

Organizational Structure: “.... The City of Anytown will assume a hands-on role in ensuring the timely completion of activities necessary for a successful project. Ms. Jane Doe is our City Clerk and will serve as the local Project Officer. The City will be supported in the grant implementation process by Mr. Jon Doe who is the Executive Director of our Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Foundation. ...The City of Anytown has not been subject to adverse audit findings on state or federal programs managed through the City.”

Guess the Page

Regarding: RFP NO. EPA-OLEM-OBLR-21-06 – Application for EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the



Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization Issues

- Brownfield “challenges” are not clear from the very beginning of the proposal.
- The site conditions for the priority sites are unclear or not discussed in detail.
- Why are the selected sites considered “priority sites”.
- Redevelopment strategy/land use plans do not cover all the target area(s).
- No discussion of end uses of site(s) that align with plans.
- Leveraged resources not linked to the grant.
- How the grant stimulates the availability of additional funds for assessment or remediation AND reuse is not addressed.
 - How will EPA’s grant get you other funds such as other grants or private investment?

Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy:

Green Space	Non-Profit & Charitable
Parks	Affordable housing
Recreation areas	Community centers
Wetlands & open space	Local government uses

- ▶ Tangible direct outcomes.
- ▶ Little explanation needed to understand.

Economic Benefits

Increased employment

Expanded tax base

Increased property value

Reduction in vacancy

- ▶ These benefits are amorphous when not described.
- ▶ **Everyone** wants these but you must distinguish what they look like for you.
- ▶ Use projections or estimates.

Community Need & Community Engagement

- Common Issues:
 - Not explaining how being low income/small population limits the ability to fund the project.
 - For Threats to Sensitive Populations, in all three criteria, not tying back to the target area and explaining how the grant will reduce the threat.
 - Not adequately describing how community members are involved.
 - Not adequately explaining how community input will be gathered/sought and how it will be responded to in a meaningful way.

Questions?

Derek Street
Land Revitalization Coordinator
Street.Derek@epa.gov

David Champagne
Acting Brownfield & Redevelopment
Section Manager
Champagne.David@epa.gov

Nichole Rodgers
Brownfield Coordinator
Rodgers.Nichole@epa.gov

Alyssa Kuhn
Florida State Lead
Kuhn.Alyssa@epa.gov