

EPA Funding & Resources for Communities



Progress for a Stronger Future

Florida Brownfields Assn – EJ Webinar Series
July 16, 2020

Daphne Wilson and Brian Holtzclaw, U.S. EPA Region 4



Today's Agenda

- Environmental Justice – Funding and Tools (Daphne; 12 minutes)
- Brownfields Revitalization Approaches & Funding for Communities (Brian; 12 minutes)



Environmental Justice Resources and Funding



Daphne Wilson (EPA EJ Specialist Assigned to State of FL)
Wilson.daphne@epa.gov;
404-562-9098



Environmental Justice and Children's Health Staff

- Brian Holtzclaw – Section Chief
- Tami Thomas Burton – EJ Coordinator (AL, MS, GA)
- Sheryl Good – EJ Staff (TN, NC, KY)
- Daphne Wilson – EJ Staff (FL, SC)
- Lashon Blakely – Children's Health Coordinator
- Karen Smith – Administrative Assistant



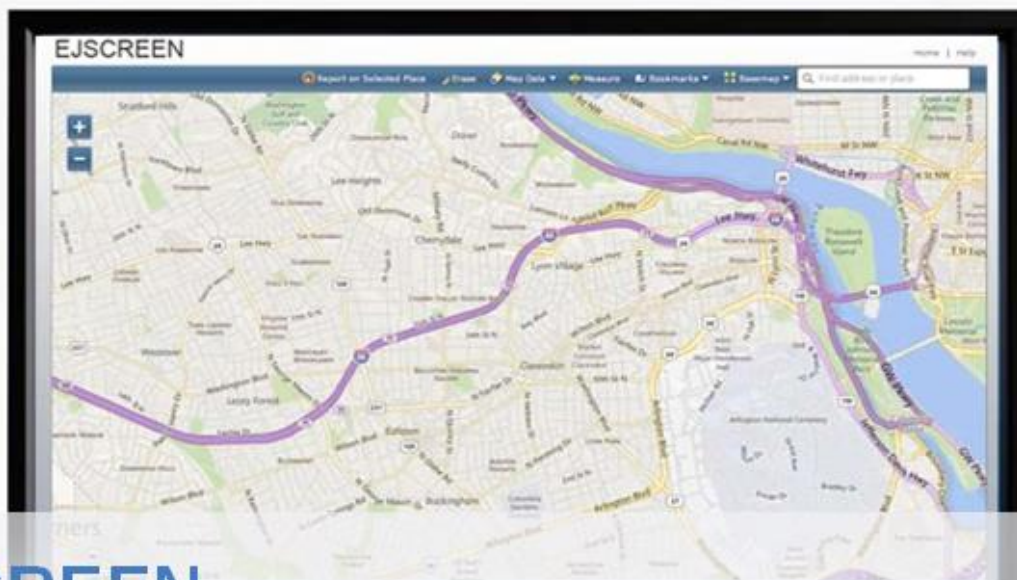
Efforts to Advance Environmental Justice (EJ)

EPA has made it a priority to protect human health and the environment in underserved and highly vulnerable communities.

The EPA Region 4's EJ program provides various types of support to communities working toward solutions to local environmental and public health issues. Here's a few examples of EJ tools and resources, our program offers:

- Technical Assistance
- Dispute Resolution
- Community Capacity Building and Training
- EJ Complaints
- EJ Assessment Tools
- EJ Grants

EPA's EJ website (<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>) is a great resource for more detailed information



EJSCREEN EPA's Environmental Justice Screening Tool

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>



Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Since 1994, the Small Grants program has awarded \$28M in funding to over 1,400 community-based, local, and tribal organizations that work with communities facing environmental justice issues.

- The goal of the Small Grants program is to help affected communities create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve environments.





- **Small Grant eligible applicants must be:**
 1. Located within the same state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe where the proposed project will be located; and
 2. Able to demonstrate that it has worked directly with the affected community.

- **Who Can Apply:**
 1. Incorporated, non-profit, community-based organizations. This includes environmental justice networks, faith-based organizations and those affiliated with religious institutions;
 2. Federally recognized tribal governments; OR
 3. Tribal organizations

- **Funding Amount:** \$30,000

- **Schedule:** Grants offered biennially (next available fall 2020).

- **More Info:** [Refer here](#), for ideas & info on previous grant project descriptions.



EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program

In 2003, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) launched the first solicitation for the EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program. Since the Program's inception, EPA has funded over 40 projects to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.

The EJCPS grant program provides financial assistance over a two-year period to enable community-based organizations to partner with stakeholders from across industry, government, and academia to develop and implement solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level.





- **EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Applicants:** Must be located within the same state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which the proposed project is located, and must demonstrate that they have worked directly with the affected community.
- **Who Can Apply:**
 - Nonprofit organization- including, but not limited to, EJ networks
 - Federally recognized tribal governments; or
 - Native American Organizations (includes Indian Groups, cooperatives, partnerships, and or associations).
- **Funding Amount:** \$120,000
- **Schedule:** Grants offered biennially (next available fall 2021).
- **More Info:** [Refer here](#), for ideas and more on previous project descriptions.



State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement (SEJCA) Program

EPA is making \$1 million in grant funding to states, local governments, tribes and U.S. territories to work collaboratively with environmental justice communities to understand, promote and integrate approaches to provide meaningful and measurable improvements to public health and the environment.

These grants are part of EPA's effort to actively fight the COVID-19 pandemic that is having a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities.

The funding will be used to support public education, training, and emergency planning for communities impacted by COVID-19. Projects should include sharing information related to EPA-approved disinfectants to combat COVID-19; addressing increased exposure of residents to in-home pollutants and healthy housing issues; and training community health workers.



State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Applicants:

- **Purpose:** Must assist local environmental justice communities in addressing COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income and minority communities.
- **Who Can Apply:** States, local governments, tribes and U.S. territories
- **Funding Amount:** \$200,000
- **Schedule:** Proposals were due on or before June 30, 2020
- **More Info:** [Refer here](#) for helpful information, such as requirements and previous project descriptions



Brownfields (BF) Revitalization Approaches and Funding for Communities



For More Information:

Cindy Nolan, Brownfields Manager
nolan.cindy@epa.gov; 404-562-8425



Acknowledgement

- Many thanks to countless communities, environmental justice advocates, non-profits, local/regional/state and federal government agencies advocating for change (1980 to 2002) – to help make the EPA's Brownfields pilot grant program and subsequent Brownfields Law possible.
- Communities have greatly benefited from EPA's BF program:
 - 31,516 properties assessed; 92,047 acres (143 sq. miles) avail. for reuse; 160,306 jobs leveraged; \$31.16B dollars leveraged (\$17.45/One BF grant dollar)



EXAMPLE OF SUCCESS STORY:

Lacoochee Community Center/Health Care Center – Pasco County, FL *Brownfields to Public Health Success*



• Challenges

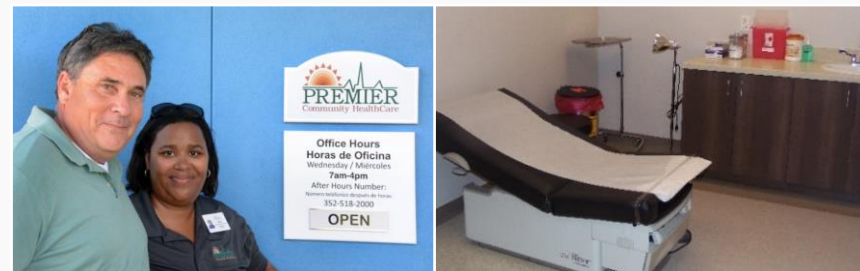
- No access to healthcare
- Former borrow pit/sinkhole geology and former dump area
- Metals and petroleum contamination
- Environmental justice – highest concentration of Hispanic and African-American population

• Tools

- Community partnership
- Withlacoochee Regional Electric Cooperative
- Nearly \$2M in State appropriations and private funding
- Pasco County Brownfields Assessment Grant
 - Phase I & II ESAs, geotechnical reports
 - \$200,000 EPA Clean Up Grant
- Health Impact Assessment – demonstrating need

• Results

- 12,800 sq. ft. building
- Premier Healthcare FQHC
- Nutrition and Job Training Programs
- Gymnasium & Boys & Girls Club
- Officer-friendly program in the center / violence prevention
- Public Housing Authority involvement





What are Brownfields?

*“A brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which **may be** complicated by the presence or **potential presence** of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”*

- EPA Definition under CERCLA 101(39); Note States vary in definitions

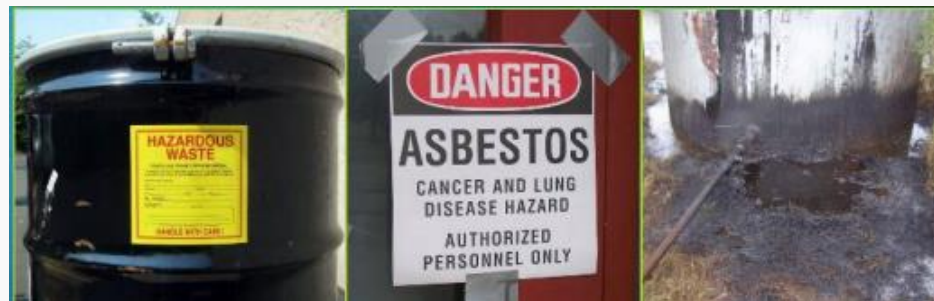
Hazardous Substances

Petroleum Contamination

Controlled Substances (e.g. meth labs)

Mine-scarred lands

Other environmental contaminants





Potentially Contaminated Sites



What Else Are Brownfields?



A Diamond in the Rough

- a public gathering spot
- a community gateway
- an economic engine
- a future health center
- a needed grocery/retail center
- a jobs engine



To develop your community's revitalization strategy, here's some types of questions you need to answer:

Basic Steps Towards Community Revitalization

- Identify your existing partners – who is already on your team? And who are the key partners that should be added to your team?
- What is your catalyst site(s) ?
- Do you know what are the community's needs of the targeted community?
- What types of funding/resources are available?



Building your Community Team of Partners

- ✓ Your team might consist of at least 3-5 Partners
- ✓ Every community is different, so your community's need for partners is specific. Examples of potential Partners might include:
 - Neighborhood groups, non-profits, church groups
 - Community Leaders
 - City/County's Planning or Economic Development staff
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Regional Planning or Development Authority
 - Local Businesses and Developers
 - Local elected officials (Mayor, County Commissioner, Councilman, Alderman)
 - Colleges and Universities





One of the most important question is, What is your **catalyst site/corridor?**

*A **catalyst site/corridor** is a project that is likely to spur future redevelopment due to its close proximity (location) to transit, major highways/travel routes, & employment centers; these projects can become an anchor in promoting future job creation, sales and property tax revenue, and further redevelopment.*

- ▶ Is there already existing infrastructure?
- ▶ Is the site accessible to roads, transit?
- ▶ Are there other draws nearby that will attract development?



Assessing the Community's Needs

- Ensure to connect with the target community and listen to the community's needs.
 - ❖ Does the community have an accepted redevelopment plan that is less than 5 years old?
 - ❖ Such as a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) or Masterplans or Neighborhood Framework plans
 - ❖ Gauge the community through public meetings, or charrettes, or listening sessions
- Redevelopment should be tied to the needs of the community. What does the community desire and visualize?
 - Services/jobs/industry
 - Retail (e.g. grocery stores, etc.)
 - Housing
 - Green space
 - Walking/biking trails/parks





Consider EPA Brownfields Grants * (and Other Federal Agency Funding)

- **Multi-Purpose**
 - **Assessment**
 - **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**
 - **Cleanup**
- ❖ *Grant types listed above commonly referred to as **MARC Grants***

* Note: The next 60-day BF grant announcement will be in late August to September 2020 (earlier than usual)



Eyes Wide Open

- **Competition.** EPA BF grants are extremely competitive, only 1 in 5 get funded. Success is dependent upon grant-writing expertise and community-based collaboration.
- **Get Started Early!** Research past successful grant proposals. Invest in sweat equity with a rudimentary BF inventory and a community inventory of EJ issues. Communities to consider partnering with an eligible entity.
- **Level of Effort.** Remember, a well-written grant proposal may take 100 to +300 hours of writing, must closely follow strict grant guidelines/criteria and fit within 10-pages.
- **Be Positive.** If not successful first time – do NOT give up, try again !



Multi-Purpose Grants – 5 year grant

- Combines assessment and cleanup grants in one
 - Up to \$800,000
 - 70% must be spent on site-specific activities
 - At least \$200,000 must be spent on cleanup activities
 - \$40,000 cost share
 - 5 years

Assessment Applicant Options – 3 year grant

An applicant applying for an assessment grant can do the following options for assessing sites: phase I (All Appropriate Inquiry); phase II (site sampling); and/or site specific redevelopment planning – including some area wide planning tasks such as market options development. NO COST SHARE.

Community Wide	Site Specific	Coalitions
Up to 300,000 for hazardous substances <i>and/or</i> for petroleum sites.	Up to \$200,000 for petroleum <i>or</i> hazardous substances	Up to \$600,000 per coalition.
	May request a waiver for up to \$350,000	Minimum of 3 partners & 5 sites
May also apply for a site-specific grant; may not apply as a coalition member	May also apply for Community Wide; may not apply as a coalition member	May not apply for the other assessment grants.



Cleanup Grant Program – 3 year grant

- To carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites
- Up to \$500,000 per property
- Hazardous substances or petroleum contamination; one site or multiple sites
- Cost share requirement of 20%
- Community Notification (Threshold Criteria Only) & phase II data and draft ABCA required
- *Must have FEE SIMPLE TITLE* by date of application



Revolving Loan Fund – max 15 year grant

- Provides fund to capitalize a revolving loan and to make loans and subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at Brownfield sites. Up to \$1,000,000
 - Makes loans or subgrants
 - Cleanup grant limitations generally apply
 - 40/60 or 50/50 grants to loans
 - 5- 15 years, plus tracking until all funds used up
 - High performing funds can request supplemental funds annually.

Other EPA Brownfields Programs

Brownfields Job Training Grant Program

- www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm

Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program*

- www.epa.gov/brownfields/tba.htm



**non-grant program that provides direct EPA assessment assistance to communities*



Questions About Today's Talk?

- For the EPA Region 4 Environmental Justice Program, reach out to Daphne Wilson (Grants Coordinator); 404-562-9098 or wilson.daphne@epa.gov, or Brian Holtzclaw (Manager); 404-821-0697, or holtzclaw.brian@epa.gov
- Contact the EPA Region 4 Brownfields Program, Cindy Nolan; 404-562-8425, or nolan.cindyj@epa.gov
- For the EJ website, [refer here](#). For the Brownfields website, [refer here](#). For the Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities, [refer here](#).