EPA'S BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

What is a Brownfield?

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

Are you frustrated with the blighted commercial or industrial properties? Is reuse stalled due to concern of contamination? Are nearby residents potentially impacted by a property? The EPA's Brownfields Program helps communities with assistance to characterize and revitalize brownfield sites.

Your community can apply for environmental site assessment, contamination cleanup, reuse planning and environmental job training grants. Eligible recipients include local governments, states, state-chartered units of government, tribes, and 501(c)(3) non-profits. Requests for Proposals (RfP) for most Brownfields grants are announced in early fall. Grants are nationally competed and usually require proposal submittal within 60 days of the RfP.

Targeted Brownfields Assessments

EPA's technical assistance is provided by EPA contractors under the Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program. Typically, this assistance consists of EPA contractors conducting environmental assessments in lieu of a community consultant.

The TBA program is intended to help communities that do not have brownfield assessment grants. Applications are accepted year-round and reviewed by the Regional office. Phase I or Phase II environmental site assessments can be completed but not cleanups. This is a relatively small program with very limited funding.

Types of Financial Assistance

Assessment Grants

Assessment grants can be used to develop a brownfields inventory, conduct environmental site assessments, prepare cleanup and reuse plans, and conduct community outreach. Single eligible entities receive up to \$300,000 and coalitions can receive up to \$600,000 to assess hazardous substances and petroleum contaminants at eligible sites over a three-year grant period. No cost share.

Cleanup Grants

Cleanup grants provide funds to conduct environmental cleanups at a brownfields site owned at the time of application by an eligible applicant. Recipients must contribute a 20% matching share in the form of money, labor, materials or services. Recipients receive up to \$500,000 per brownfields site. The grant project period is three years.

Revolving Loan Fund Grants (RLF)

RLF grants provide funding to capitalize revolving loans and to provide subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. Eligible recipients can receive up to \$1,000,000 over a five-year period. Recipients must contribute a 20% matching share in the form of money, labor, materials or services that would be eligible and allowable costs under the grant.

Job Training Grants

An Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant is used to recruit, train and place under-employed and unemployed residents in the environmental field. Training programs may focus on hazardous and solid waste management, wastewater treatment, cleanup technologies and environmental health and safety. Eligible recipients can receive up to \$200,000 to conduct training over a two-year period.

Multipurpose Grants

Multipurpose grants provide for both assessment and cleanup type work at brownfield sites. Assessment and cleanup do not have to be for the same site. Eligible recipients receive up to \$800,000 to conduct these activities over a five-year grant period. Recipients must contribute \$40,000 in match share in the form of money, labor, materials or services. EPA awards a relatively small number of these grants compared to the assessment grants.



Brownfields Revitalization Act

The Small Business Liability Relief and the Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002 allows EPA to provide funds for:

- ✓ Assessing and cleaning up brownfields
- Providing technical assistance and training
- Supporting state and tribal response programs

and exempt certain property owners from environmental liability.

EPA Brownfields: A collaborative approach to environmental protection and cleanup, blight reduction, greenspace preservation, leveraged resources and job creation.

What is EPA's Brownfields Program?

EPA's Brownfields Program is Built on four pillars:

- ✓ Protecting the Environment
- ✓ Promoting Partnerships
- Strengthening the Marketplace
- ✓ Sustaining Reuse

For more information, please visit the EPA's Brownfields website at: <u>www.epa.gov/brownfields</u> or <u>https://www.epa.gov/brownfi</u> <u>elds/region4</u> or contact us at (404) 562-8729.

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Investing in Brownfields for the Next Generation

Alabama ~ Florida ~ Georgia Kentucky ~ Mississippi North Carolina ~ South Carolina Tennessee And Six Federally Recognized Tribes



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