

EPA'S BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM PLANS OVER \$70 MILLION AVAILABLE for BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT and CLEANUP



Don't Wait; Start Preparing For Your Proposals Now!

What is EPA's Brownfields Program?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program empowers communities, Tribes, States, and other stakeholders to work together in a timely manner to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The Brownfields Program provides grant support for revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessments, individual site cleanups, and community-based revolving loan funds for brownfields cleanup. Since the program began, thousands of properties nationwide have been assessed and cleaned up using federal brownfields grant funds, clearing the way for their revitalization.

Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund Grants:

Deadline for Proposals is in the November 2009 time frame.

EPA Region 4 will host three free interactive, on-line grant-writing workshops between August and October 2009; Dates to be announced.

What is a Brownfield?

A brownfield is defined as: 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. The 2002 Brownfields Law expanded the definition to include mine-scarred lands and sites contaminated by petroleum.

Who Can Apply for an EPA Brownfields Grant?

Eligible entities include: state, local, and tribal governments, general purpose units of local government, land clearance authorities, or other quasi-governmental entities; regional council or redevelopment agencies; or states or legislatures. This year, coalitions may apply for Assessment grants. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for Cleanup grants only.

How Do I Apply for an EPA Brownfields Grant?

Applicants submit a proposal for each grant type that they are applying for. Each proposal must address the selection criteria outlined in the guidelines. The new 2010 Proposal Guidelines have not been released yet, but they are not expected to deviate much from the 2009 version. Note that Electronic copies of the former 2009 Proposal Guidelines are available from the EPA

Brookside Mill Brownfields Site Knox County, Tennessee



The 19.4-acre vacant Brookside Mills site in **Knox County, Tennessee** was formerly used for fabric weaving, dyeing, sewing operations and as a department store, and during a portion of its history coal was used as an energy source. Knox County hopes to reuse this site for light industrial operation as part of its overall goal to increase economic development and improve neighborhood livability in the area. The county is focused on encouraging new and expanding businesses to locate near the urban core in economically-distressed areas, using incentives offered through EPA's Brownfield Program and other local and state programs. Phase I and II environmental assessments have been completed on the Brookside Mills site using funding from an EPA Brownfields Assessment grant.

Brownfields Web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields
Frequently asked questions can be found at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/publications/fy2009faqs.pdf>

Can EPA Help Me with My Grant Proposal?

EPA Region 4 can respond to questions from applicants about threshold criteria, including site eligibility and ownership, but cannot meet with applicants to discuss draft proposals or provide assistance in responding to ranking criteria.

However, EPA Region 4 Will be Conducting an On-Line Interactive Grant Writing Workshops between August and October, 2009:

✓ Stay tuned for announcements for dates and registration information.

Your attendance at our webinar-based "Tips & Tricks" Grant-Writing workshop will be invaluable and will help you write a competitive proposal. This grant process is nationally competitive and we greatly encourage you to participate. We will present specific tips on effective grant-writing for EPA brownfields grants. The proposal sections include: Community Need; Project Description; Community Engagement; and Project Benefits. Each proposal must carefully address each criterion and adhere to page requirements.

Can Other Organizations Help Me with My Grant Proposal?

Your state environmental protection office, regional planning districts, and the Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) program may be able to provide more specific support, including grant writing assistance or feedback, in developing your proposal. We encourage you to collaborate with previously successful EPA grantees, refer to: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/plocat.htm>

What Types of Grants Does EPA Provide?

1. Assessment Grants:

<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-08-07.pdf>

- EPA provides funding for a grant recipient to:
 - ✓ Inventory: Compile a list of brownfields sites
 - ✓ Characterize: Identify past uses of sites

✓ Assessment: Determine existing contamination on sites

✓ Conduct Planning for Cleanup and Redevelopment: Scope and plan process for specific sites

✓ Conduct Community Involvement: Inform and engage impacted community

- A single eligible entity may apply for up to \$400,000 for community-wide assessment activities. They may also apply for an assessment grant of up to \$200,000 for a specific site and may request a waiver for up to \$350,000 based on the anticipated level of contamination at a single site.
- A coalition of three or more eligible entities may apply up to \$1,000,000. Please refer to: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/publications/afcs_062408.pdf for more information on coalitions.
- The performance period for Assessment grants is three years. No cost-share or funding match is needed.

2. Cleanup Grants:

<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-08-08.pdf>

- EPA provides funding for a grant recipient to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites.
- An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 per site. Cleanup grants require a 20 percent cost-share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services that are allowable costs. A cleanup grant applicant may request a waiver of the 20 percent cost share requirement based on hardship.
- An applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding by June 30, 2009.
- The performance period for Cleanup grants is three years.

3. Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants:

<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-08-09.pdf>

- EPA provides funding to capitalize a revolving loan fund that provides sub-grants to carry out assessment and/or cleanup activities at brownfields. RLF grants are community-wide and not site specific.
- An eligible entity may apply for up to \$1,000,000. The applicant can be a single recipient or a coalition of eligible entities. RLF grants require a 20 percent cost-share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services that are allowable costs.
- The performance period for RLF grants is five years.