

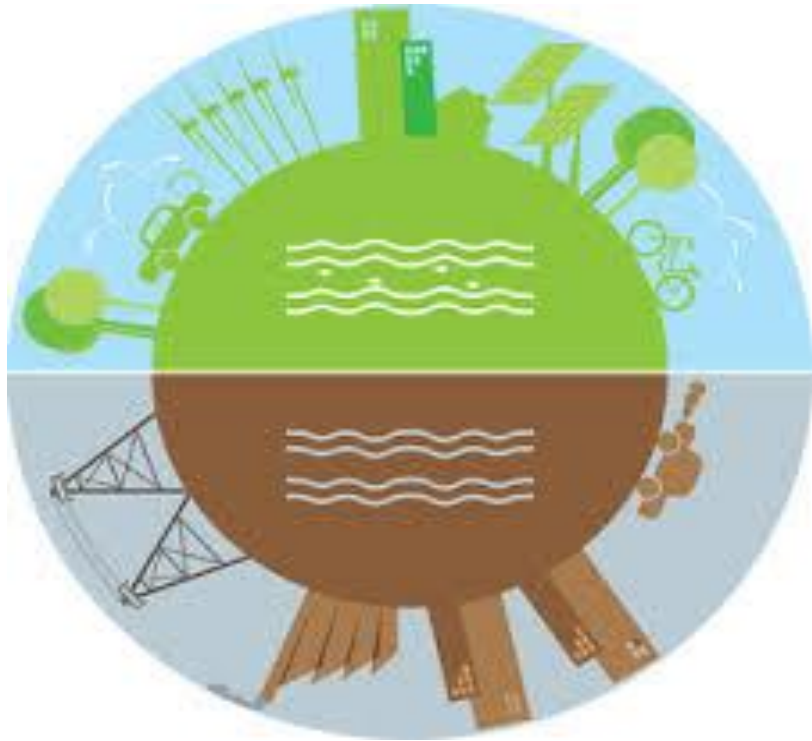


# EPA Brownfields ARC Grant Funds

2018 Meadville, PA Brownfield 101

Meadville, PA  
Stephanie Branche  
US EPA Region III  
10 July 2018

# Brownfields Grant Types







# EPA Brownfields Funding

## Types of Funding

- ▶ **Assessment**
- ▶ **Revolving Loan Fund**
- ▶ **Cleanup**
- ▶ **Multi-purpose**
  
- ▶ **Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training-**  
Jeff Barnett, 215-814-3246, [Barnett.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:Barnett.jeff@epa.gov)
  - ▶ Funding to recruit, train, and place residents in the environmental field
  - ▶ Annual competition similar to ARC



# Build ACT - Changes

## Key Changes from BUILD Act

For all Brownfields grantees (including states that apply for competitive grants)



### Bigger cleanup grants

Now up to \$500,000.



**Non-profits** can now apply for assessment and RLF grants, as well as LLCs and community development entities that are non-profit.



**Administrative costs** can be funded by up to 5% of the grant award.



### Multi-purpose grants

(assessment and cleanup combination) up to \$1M can be offered.



### Authorized new grant program

available to states to provide training, technical assistance or research for small communities (population  $\leq 15,000$ ). Maximum of \$20,000 per community.



**Publicly owned sites** acquired prior to Jan 11, 2002 can apply as long as the entity is not responsible for the contamination.



**New ranking criteria focusing on renewable energy** or energy efficiency projects and waterfront developments.



**More certainty of liability protection** for local or state governments that take control of contaminated sites. No longer has to be "involuntary" acquisition.



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# Funding

- **\$250 million annually authorized** – \$200M for EPA brownfields program; \$50M annually for State brownfields programs (must still be appropriated by Congress)
- **Bigger cleanup grants** – Law allows (but does not require)
- ▶ **Increase Brownfields Cleanup Grants** from \$200,000 to \$500,000 (or even \$650,000 based on anticipated level of contamination, size of site, and ownership status)
- **Multipurpose grants** –created to allow inventory, assessment, planning and cleanup activities under one grant, which may be up to \$1 million





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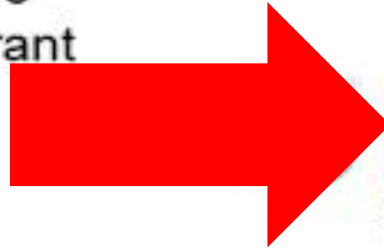
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# Liability protections

- **Local government acquisition** – New clarity on local government sovereign acquisition of sites by seizure, law enforcement tax foreclosure, abandonment, bankruptcy, or other local functions – takes out “involuntary”
- **Publicly-owned sites acquired before 2002** – Localities can receive EPA grants for sites acquired before 2002, even if BFPP status for brownfield site ownership is not shown, as long as locality did not “cause or contribute” to a pollution release
- **Liability protections for leaseholders**
- **Protection for Alaskan Natives** – Removes liability for Alaskan villages or corporations who received a contaminated site from U.S. government



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# Grants for non-profits

- Definition of “eligible entity” to allow 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations to receive brownfield assessment, cleanup, RLF or multipurpose grants



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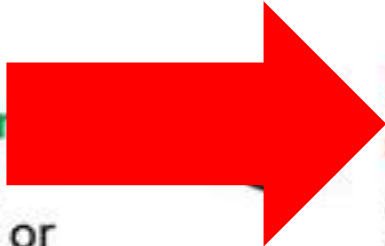
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# Petroleum brownfields

- Drops requirement that EPA or the State determine that the petroleum site be “of relatively low risk, as compared with other petroleum-only sites in the State,” and slightly clarifies the requirement that the petroleum-only site have no viable PRP and will be addressed by a non-PRP





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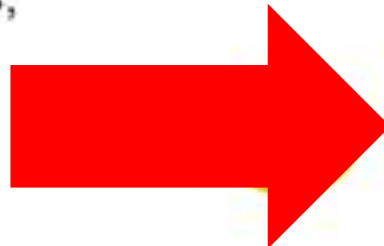
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# Sustainable Communities

- **Small, Rural & Disadvantaged Communities:**
  - Allows U.S. EPA to provide up to \$1.5 million annually for grants, up to \$20,000, to brownfields
  - Provide support to small, rural and disadvantaged communities
  - Allows States & Tribes to use their EPA funding to assist small, rural and disadvantaged communities
  - “Small” = Less than 15,000 population; “Disadvantaged” = Annual median household income <80% of statewide median household income
- **Waterfront Brownfields & Clean Energy Projects:** Directs EPA to add criteria for evaluating grant applications to support brownfield projects on waterfronts and in floodplains, and to support brownfield projects involving renewable energy, energy efficiency, district energy, and combined heat and power projects

# Implementation

- **Mandatory statutory provisions:**

- Implementation of provisions on government acquisition
- Alaska Native acquisition
- Petroleum Brownfields definition
- Lease prospective purchaser provisions
- Expanded eligibility for non-profit organizations
- Treatment of certain publicly-owned brownfield sites
- New grant criteria for waterfront & energy brownfields
- Administrative costs for brownfield grantees
- Establishment of Multipurpose Brownfields grant program



# Implementation, cont.

- **EPA Discretion:**

- How large Cleanup grants will be up to limits of \$500,000 or \$650,000 with waiver
- How large Multipurpose grants will be up to \$1 million
- How to establish & fund the technical assistance program for small/rural/disadvantaged communities (also States have discretion on whether to use their EPA funding to support assistance for such communities)

- **Gathering Public Input on Program**

# FY2019 Implementation & Grants

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect. The text is positioned in the upper left quadrant against a plain white background.

# How we will notify you

- BUILD email blast (look for logo)
- BF Project Manager will keep you informed
- Monthly brownfields email will include regular updates on BUILD Act



# Statistics

## ▶ Feeling Lucky?

- ▶ 486 proposals evaluated in FY 16-17
  - ▶ 279 were selected for awards (57%)
  - ▶ 208 Assessments (43%)
  - ▶ 71 Cleanups (15%)
- ▶ There was no RLF competition in FY16, the next round happened in 2017, will be awarded in 2018
- ▶ Approximately \$56.8 Million awarded in FY17
  - ▶ Similar funding anticipated for FY18



# Brownfields Grant Application Process

- ▶ FY19 Guidelines Will be Released Fall 2018
- ▶ Grant Proposals Due 60 days after release
- ▶ EPA Reviews
  - ▶ Threshold Eligibility (Dec-Jan)
  - ▶ If pass then move on to Ranking Criteria (Feb - Mar)
  - ▶ Notification of Award (May-Jun 2019)
  - ▶ Submit Cooperative Agreement application (Summer 2019)
  - ▶ Cooperative Agreement Awarded (Sep - Oct 2019)



# To Do List

- ▶ Reach out to EPA Now!
  - ▶ If reapplying for a failed proposal, get a debrief
  - ▶ Participate in Region 3 Guidelines webinars
  - ▶ For current grantees: cleanup your outstanding reporting requirements
  - ▶ For site specific applications: vet site eligibility



Good Luck! Please call us  
if you need help.

