



Getting Ready for Your EPA Brownfield Grant Application

June 15, 2023

EPA Brownfield Grants

GET A JUMP ON THE COMPETITION!



EPA Brownfield Grants

- **Brownfields Multipurpose Grant** – provide funding to conduct a range of eligible planning, assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites in target area(s).
- **Brownfield Assessment Grants** – provide funding for brownfields inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.
- **Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants** – provide funding to capitalize loans that are used to cleanup brownfields.
- **Brownfield Cleanup Grants** – provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites by the applicant.

*Available to State, County, Local, and Tribal Governments as well as Non-profits

Typical EPA Solicitation Cycle

- Request for Applications (RFA) – Fall
- Submission Date Approximately 6 weeks after RFA
- Announcement of Successful Grant Applicants – Spring
- Funding become available to grantees – Late Summer



Approximately 1 Year



Why Starting Early is Important?

- Only six weeks from RFA to submission date
- Builds a solid planning foundation or continues existing planning efforts
- Provides time to address EPA application emphasis areas
- Allows for more involved technical assistance



Narrative Ranking Criteria

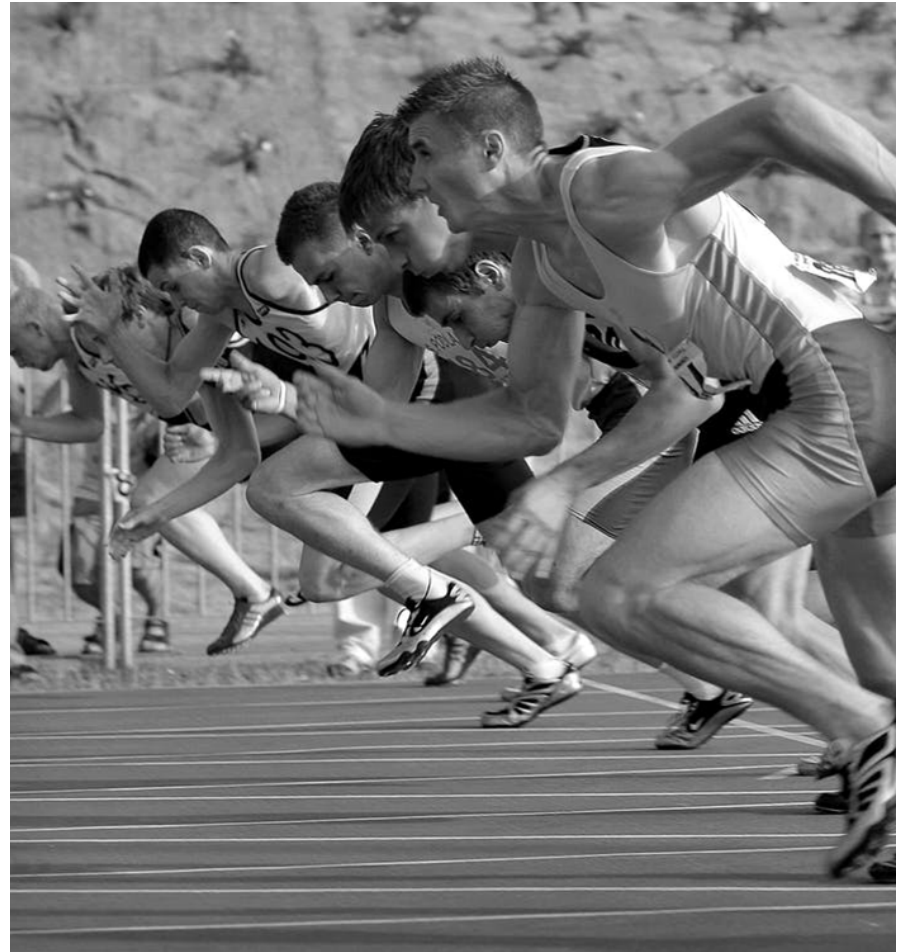
- I. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION
- II. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- III. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS
- IV. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

The Brownfield Redevelopment Process



What You Should Start Now

- **Community Engagement**
- **Demographic & Health Data Collection**
- **Identification of Relevant Planning Efforts & Documentation**
- **Geographic & Target Area Identification**
- **Brownfields Identification and Prioritization**



Community Engagement

- Begin community/stakeholder outreach
- Identify project goals
- Identify completed outreach activities



Community Engagement

Identifying stakeholders/partners

Typical partners include:

- government agencies: federal, state, and local
- real estate development professionals
- colleges and universities
- banks/lenders
- chamber of commerce/business owners
- neighborhood associations and other community groups
- non-profits
- environmental consultants
- environmental justice organizations

Also go beyond the 'usual suspects':

- faith based organizations
- arts and culture community
- medical community



Demographic & Health Data Collection

Community Need Data

Why is data critical for a competitive application?

1. Quantifies Community Needs and Challenges
2. Supports Community Story
3. Helps Identify Project Goals



Demographic & Health Data Collection

➤ Identify data sources

Sources for Information:

- Census Data
- Health Department Data
- County Health Rankings
- Center for Disease Control
- State records
- Census tract data
- Community Health Needs Assessments
- EPA EJSCREEN
- EPA Envirofacts
- CEJST
- Google Maps
- Recent local Comprehensive or Revitalization Plans
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or other Regional Plans
- Local Hospitals or Urgent Care Centers



Demographic & Health Data Collection

- Websites for Information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Environmental Health Tracking Network - <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/>
- County Health Rankings and Roadmaps - <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>
- City Health Dashboard - https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/?gclid=CjwKCAjwxuuCBhATEiwAIIlz0c0HYQ-Vq_NBiKjgRucUkJz267Syq8PiX3o4hdLT8EJ14FV_ac8MqhoCM18QAvD_BwE
- EPA Envirofacts - <https://enviro.epa.gov/>
- EJSCREEN - <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- CEJST - <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>
- Environmental Justice Index Mapping Tool (EJI Explorer Tool) - <https://onemap.cdc.gov/portal/apps/sites/#/eji-explorer>
- Poverty Statistics (USDA) - <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/rural-poverty-well-being/>
- HealthData.gov - <https://healthdata.gov/>
- National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System - <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/index.htm>
- HealthData.gov – <https://www.HealthData.gov>
- Kaiser Family Foundation - <https://www.kff.org/statedata/>
- United States Virgin Islands Community Health Assessment - https://doh.vi.gov/sites/default/files/USVI_CHA%202020_Final_06.02.20.pdf

Identification of Relevant Planning Efforts & Documentation

Plans to Consider:

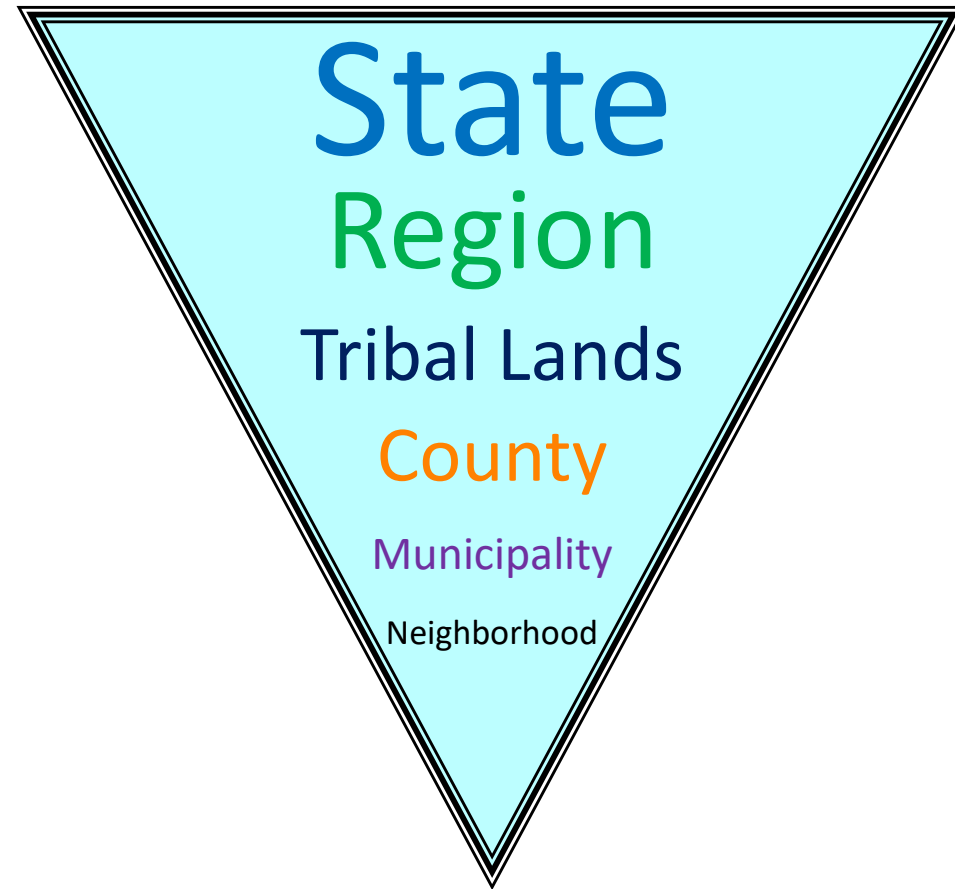
- Target Area Specific Redevelopment Plans
- Master Plans
- Zoning
- Transportation Plans
- Stakeholder/Community Engagement Findings



How do planning activities/documents relate to focus area(s) and priority brownfield(s)?

What is a Geographic Area?

- The area you are going to conduct eligible activities with your grant funds.
- Area suffers from brownfield challenges & impacts.
- Can include your entities jurisdictional or service area boundaries or a sub area of those boundaries.



Delineate Your Target Area



What is a target area?

- Downtown District
- Community Gateway
- Waterfront Area
- Industrial District
- Corridors

Why is it Important to Delineate a Target Area?

- Serves as the foundation for a comprehensive planning approach
- Helps identify priority brownfields
- Helps focus redevelopment scenarios
- Helps leverage funding



Brownfield Identification and Prioritization

Why is site identification & prioritization important for a competitive application?

- ✓ Shows a Comprehensive Approach
- ✓ Makes the Best Case for Application Story
- ✓ Focuses Project Goals



Things to consider:

- Existing Brownfield Inventory
- Site(s) Location
- Meets Brownfield Definition
- EPA Eligibility
- Associated Compelling Data
- Site(s) Potential to Meet Project Goals
 - Site(s) Size
 - Zoning
 - Access



All Things Considered

- Which came first - your priority brownfield sites or your target area?



Questions & Answers

