Getting Ready for Your EPA Brownfield Grant Application

June 15, 2023
GET A JUMP ON THE COMPETITION!

EPA Brownfield Grants
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- **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
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

1. Planning
2. Funding
3. Community Engagement
4. Assessment & Cleanup
5. Redevelopment
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
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
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
Websites for Information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Environmental Health Tracking Network - [https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/](https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/)
- County Health Rankings and Roadmaps - [https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/](https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/)
- City Health Dashboard - [https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/?gclid=CjwKCAjwxuuCBhATEiwAlllz0c0HYQ-Vq_NBikjgRucUkJz267Syq8PiX3o4hdLT8EJ14FV_ac8MqhoCM18QAvD_BwE](https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/?gclid=CjwKCAjwxuuCBhATEiwAlllz0c0HYQ-Vq_NBikjgRucUkJz267Syq8PiX3o4hdLT8EJ14FV_ac8MqhoCM18QAvD_BwE)
- EPA Envirofacts - [https://enviro.epa.gov/](https://enviro.epa.gov/)
- EJSCREEN - [https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen)
- CEJST - [https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5](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](https://onemap.cdc.gov/portal/apps/sites/#/eji-explorer)
- HealthData.gov - [https://healthdata.gov/](https://healthdata.gov/)
- Kaiser Family Foundation - [https://www.kff.org/statedata/](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](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
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
• Which came first - your priority brownfield sites or your target area?