NJIT
New Jersey's Science &
Technology University

EPA Brownfields Redevelopment Grant Application/Proposal Assistance to Five New England Communities

Overview:

The NJIT TAB team provided one-on-one technical mentoring to five communities in the New England Region in an effort to strengthen their USEPA Grant applications. NJIT TAB reviewed each communities draft grant application and then conducted one-on-one consultative meetings in locations convenient to each community. Each community was provided a walk-through discussion of its application followed by detailed recommendations on how to strengthen the application. Some transferrable recommendations provided to the communities included the following:

- Carefully follow proposal outline provided by the EPA proposal preparation guidance. Be concise and specific, do not include unnecessary information.
- Style and flow are important. Create an interesting story around the Brownfield site(s). Construct a "story" around the Brownfield project, including the site history, redevelopment planning and visioning.
- Provide demographic census track information and other details, including local redevelopment plans, regarding the neighborhood surrounding the Brownfield site.
- Clearly define project benefits in terms of job creation, additional tax revenue, removal of "eye sore" and other improvements to community from Brownfield redevelopment.
- Build a strong case for community health impacts from existing Brownfield sites and how redevelopment will improve neighborhood quality of life.
- Identify specific contaminant types present on the Brownfield site and the health risk implications if left un-remediated.
- Identify sources of additional state and local Brownfield funding that can be leveraged through the EPA grant activities.
- When preparing the budget section, keep funding request simple. Follow the format provided in the EPA guidance.
- "Toot your horn". Make a strong case for your current Brownfield project successes and how this qualifies your organization to receive and manage additional grant funds.