

Local Infrastructure Hub: Brownfields

Updated: January 2026

How to Use This Presentation

This presentation is designed to help cities successfully navigate the **EPA's Brownfields Program**, including Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grants. You'll find practical steps, examples, and tools to help your team plan, apply, and manage Brownfields projects that safely clean up and revitalize contaminated sites, supporting environmental restoration, economic development, and community wellbeing.

What You'll Learn

(Click a topic to go to that section)

1. **Grant Overview:** Start with the fundamentals of the Brownfields Program, including its purpose, eligible applicants, and key definitions related to site contamination and redevelopment.
1. **Managing Partnerships and Engaging the Community:** Discover how to build strong partnerships and explore effective ways to engage residents and stakeholders, ensuring community priorities shape project goals and outcomes.
2. **Incorporating Data:** Learn how to use environmental data, maps, and impact metrics to create persuasive, evidence-based grant narratives.
3. **Demystifying Capital Stacks & Budgeting:** Find strategies to align budgets with eligible activities, identify matching funds, and leverage complementary grant and financing opportunities.
4. **Writing and Packaging a Strong Grant:** Get tips on crafting a clear, well-structured application that highlights readiness, impact, and alignment with EPA priorities.
5. **Tools & Resources:** Access templates, data tools, and example materials to support each step of your Brownfields grant application process.

The Local Infrastructure Hub was a US-focused, nationwide program that helped city leaders connect with resources and expert advice to access and implement federal infrastructure funding from July 2022 to March 2026. This resource was created in January 2026 and is intended to be used as a general guide to the Brownfields grant program; consult each Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific guidance.

1. Grant Overview

A video recording of this section is available [here](#)

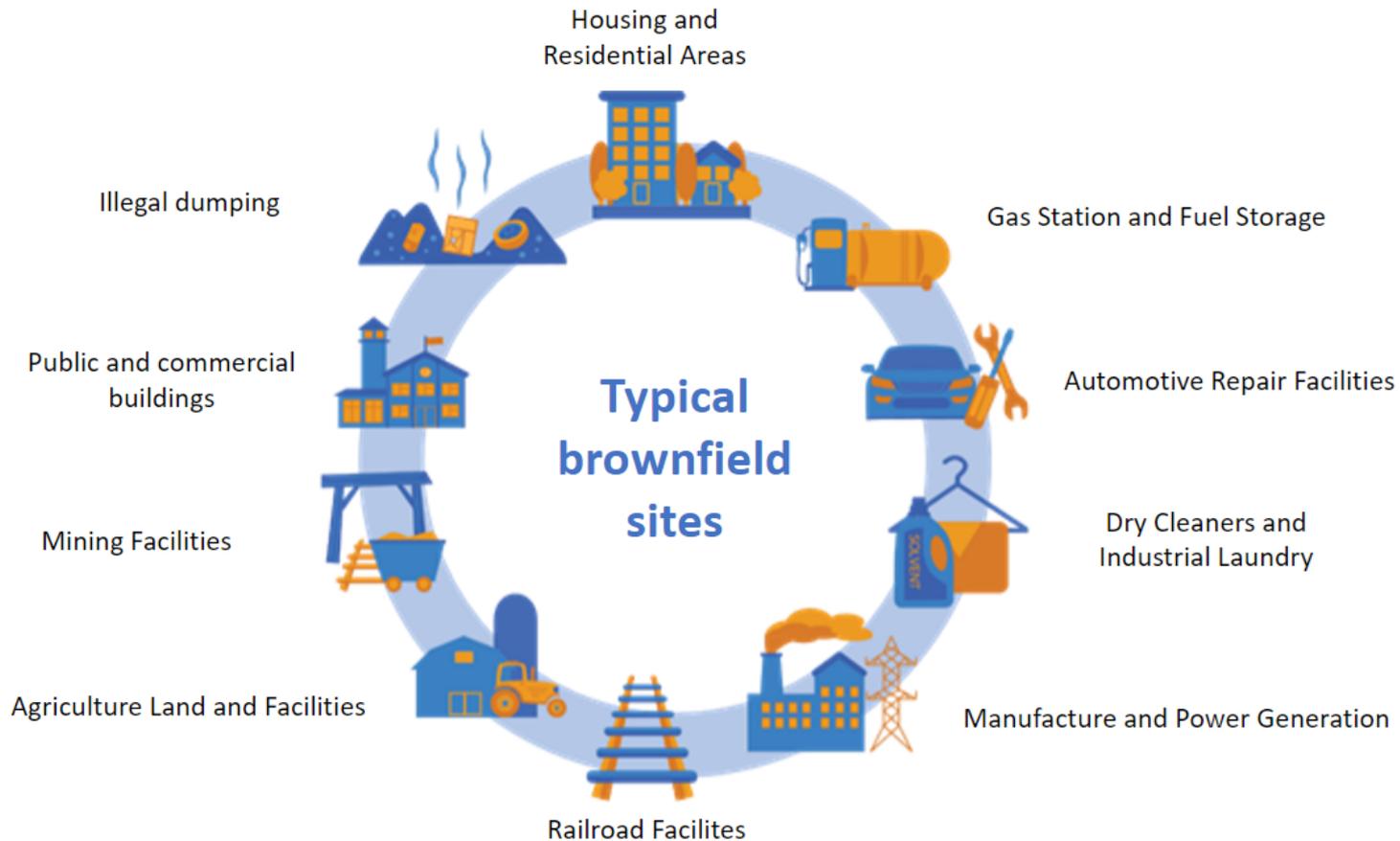
What is a Brownfield?

Properties where the current or future use is affected by **real or perceived contamination**, which poses a threat to the environment and human health.

Typically, brownfields properties were used for **commercial, industrial, or residential activities in the past**. Properties may be vacant, abandoned or occupied.



A disproportionate burden of brownfields fall on sensitive, low-income communities.



A site does *not* need to be contaminated to be a brownfield + access brownfield funds.

Brownfields Result From...

Public/Commercial land uses



Gas stations, manufacturing, schools, auto repair, dry cleaners.

Which may leave behind:

Asbestos, petroleum, pesticides, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and more.

Industry, resource extraction, and agriculture



Fuel terminals, metal and salvage recycling, mines, and disasters

Which may leave behind:

Petroleum/fuels, VOCs, metals, herbicides/pesticides, and more.

Vacancy/Abandonment



Former factories, former railroads, illegal dump sites, drug labs.

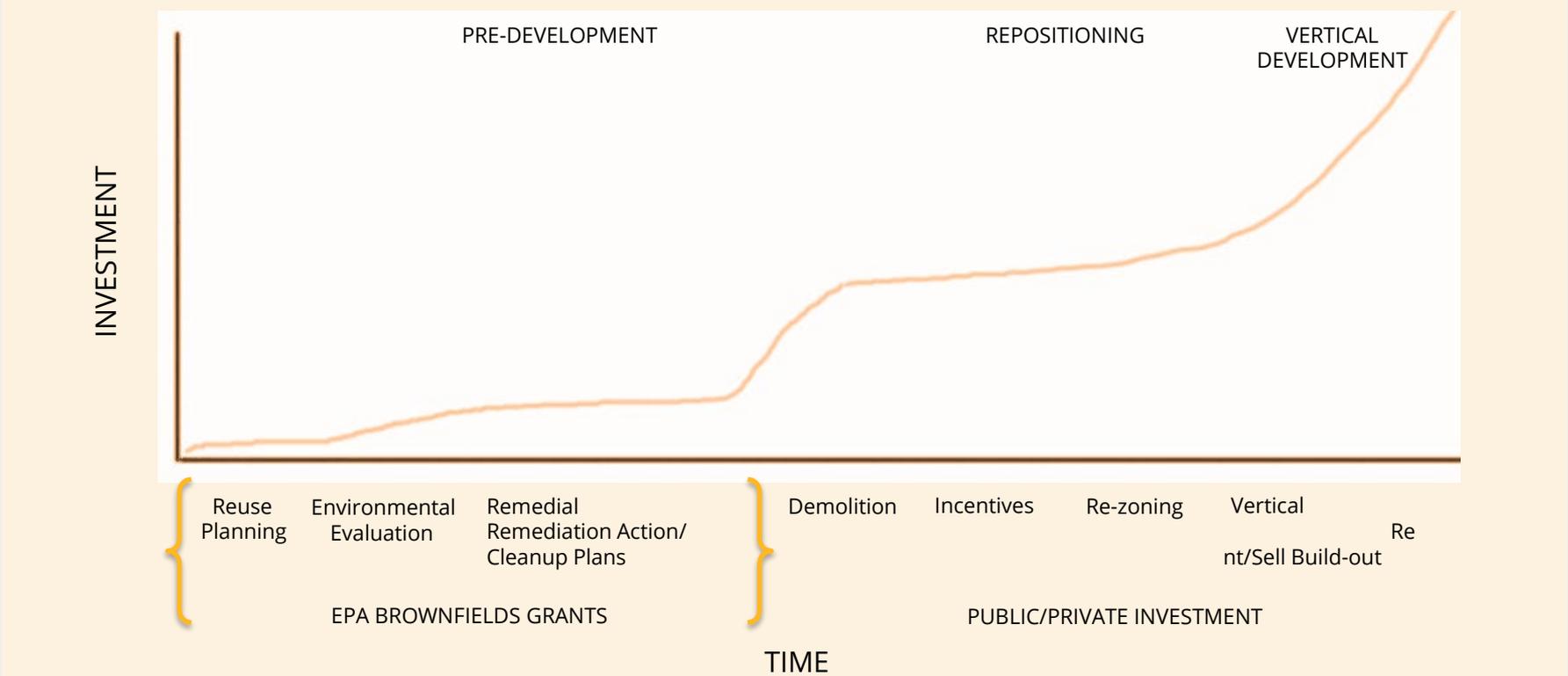
Which may leave behind:

Lead-based paint, asbestos, petroleum, PCBs, solvents, pesticides and more.

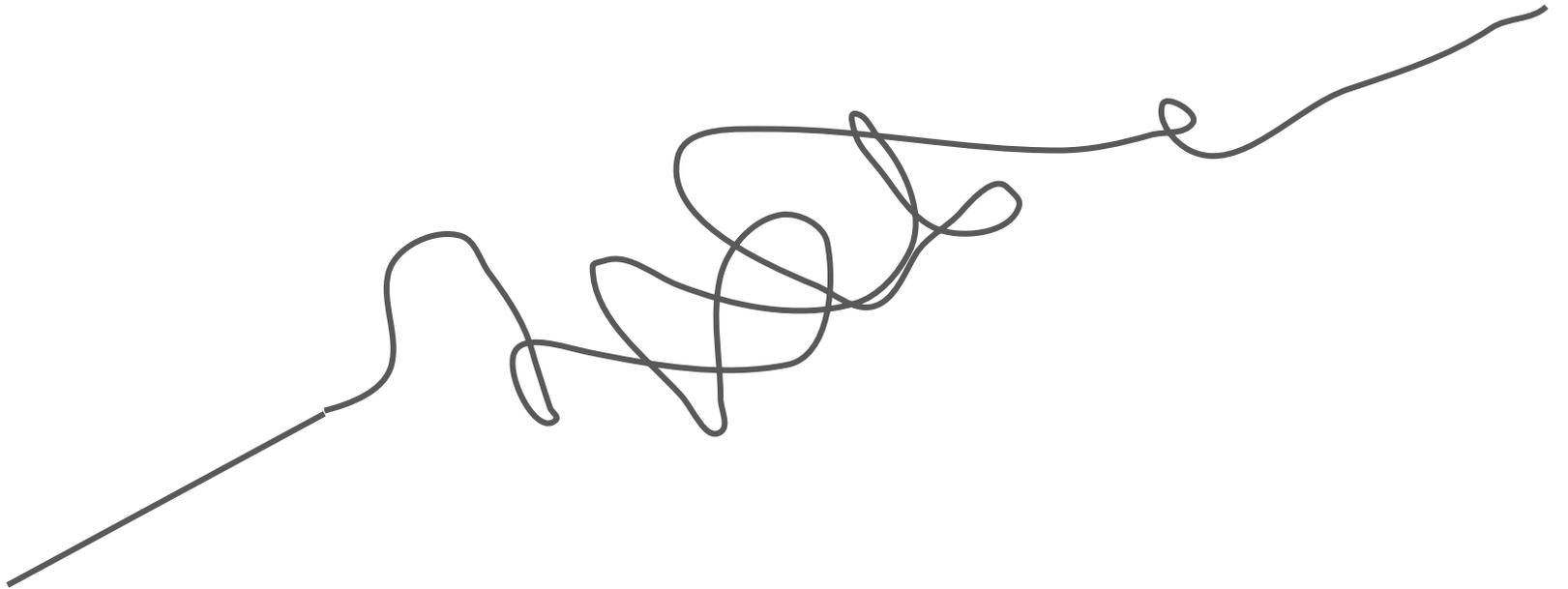
Idle Brownfields Can Lead to...



Trajectory of a Brownfields Redevelopment Project



The REAL Trajectory...



The Basics Explained: Critical Land Reuse Elements



Establish a team

Engage stakeholders and community experts

Develop Inventory and Select Sites

Identify property that can meet community needs

Conduct Site Assessment and Due Diligence

Identify and evaluate features of a property

Conduct Reuse Planning and Visioning

Consider all analysis and develop reuse plan

Begin Implementation: Strategy, Cleanup, Reuse

Make the plan a reality with funding, cleanup, and reuse.

Brownfields and Your Community Goals

Step back, take an area-wide approach!

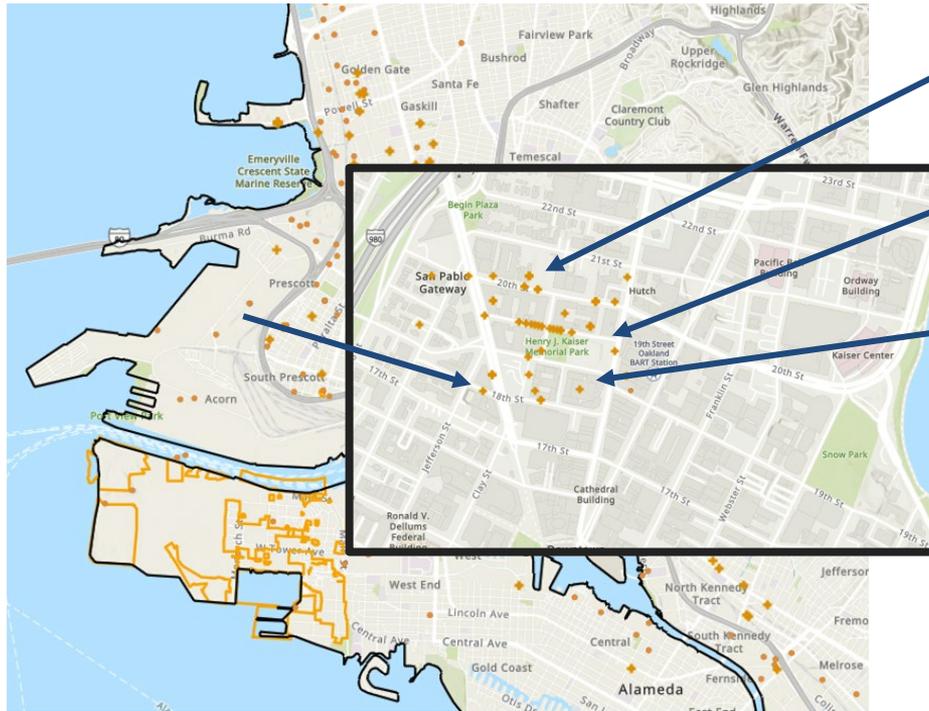
**What does your
community need?**



**Where are the
brownfields that can
meet those needs?**

**Where do *you* fit in?
Who can you *partner* with?**

Prioritize Brownfields to meet Community Goals



Future Park

Future Affordable housing

Future Community Health Clinic

Partner with:

- Site Owners
- City Council
- Economic Development Department
- Local Businesses
- CBOS

West Oakland, EPA's Cleanups in My Community

Inventory → Prioritization

Steps to Building a Site Inventory



Site Assessment: Who, What, When + Where?

Phase I (AAI)

- **Desktop research** to understand recognized environmental conditions (RECS), using:
 - Interviews
 - Historical document review
 - Regulatory database review
 - Site visit and observations
 - Photographs

Phase II

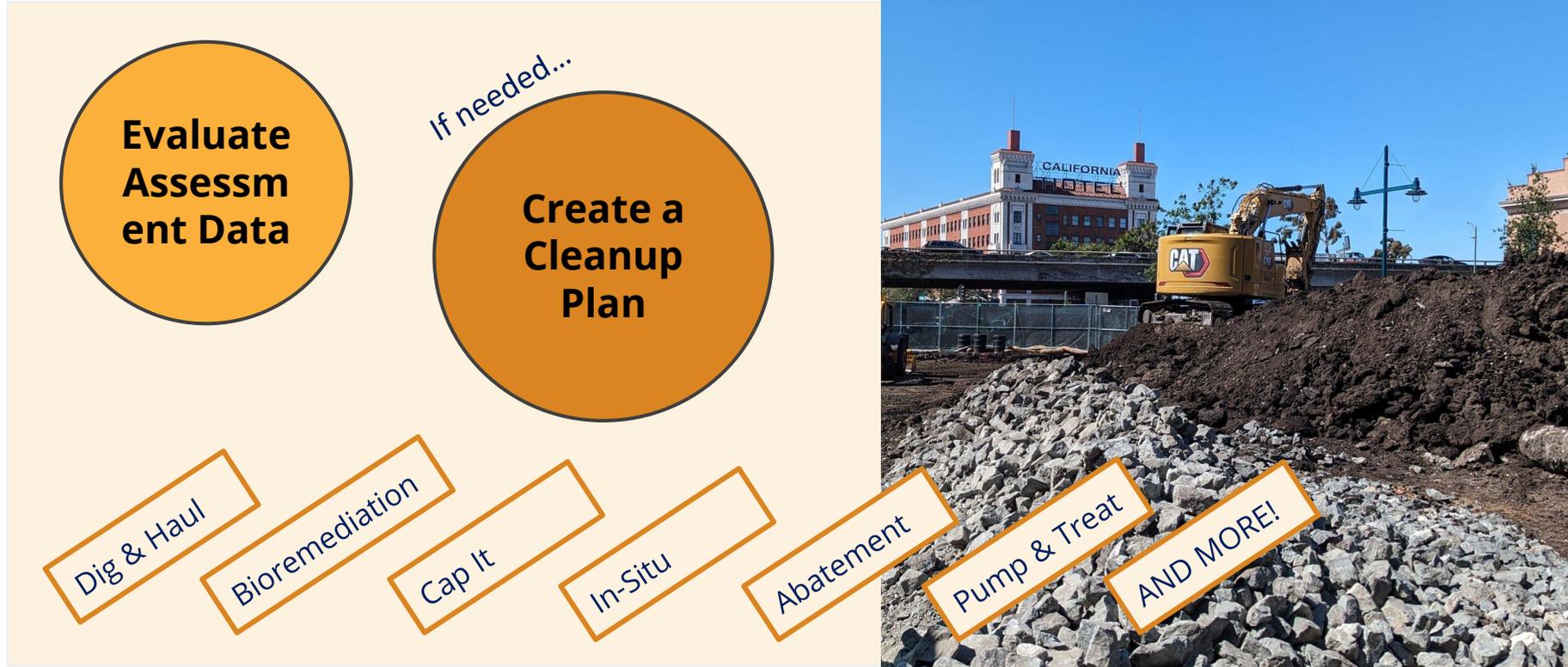
- **Physical sampling** guided by the conditions found in previous research OR a Phase 1
- Analyze:
 - Groundwater
 - Soil
 - Surface water
 - Indoor Air/soil vapor
- Analysis of **B**rownfield **C**leanup **A**lternatives

**FOUND RISK OF
CONTAMINATION?**



Test Pit
Sampling

Site Cleanup: What's Next?



Why Do We Have a Federal Program to Address Brownfield Sites?

The History of the EPA Brownfields Program: Stories of Renewal and Revitalization

Understanding Brownfields



EPA Supports Brownfields Revitalization

- Grants and technical assistance to promote:
 - Community-driven planning, assessment, clean up and reuse of brownfield sites
 - Training for brownfield jobs and workforce development
 - Building local capacity to manage brownfield projects and successfully revitalization targeted areas.
- Liability protections to encourage acquisition and investment in brownfield reuse
- Establishing and enhancing State and Tribal Response Programs



Brownfields Assessments

EPA provides **competitive grants** and **technical assistance** to assess known and potential site contamination.

Activities may include:

- **Inventory:** Compile a list of brownfields
- **Characterization:** Identify past uses
- **Assessment:** Determine existing contamination
- **Planning for Site Cleanup and Reuse:** Scope and plan process for site assessment, cleanup and reuse
- **Community Involvement:** Inform and engage stakeholders



Resources to support brownfields assessments

- Assessment Grants
- Multipurpose Grants
- EPA-led Targeted Brownfields Assessments



Brownfields Cleanups

EPA provides **competitive grants** for cleanup planning and contaminant abatement/remediation.

Depending on grant type, activities may include:

- **Scope and plan process** for site cleanup and reuse
- **Remediation** at one or more sites owned by the recipient
- **Provide loans and subgrants** for cleanup
- **Community involvement** to inform and engage stakeholders



Resources to support brownfields cleanups

- Cleanup Grants
- Multipurpose Grants
- Revolving Loan Fund Grants



Brownfield Job Training

EPA provides **competitive grants** to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of communities adversely impacted by the presence of brownfield sites

Training helps graduates develop wider skill sets that improve their ability to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field, including water quality improvement and chemical safety.



State & Tribal Response Programs

128(a)

EPA provides **non-competitive grants** annually to **states and Tribes** to conduct the following brownfields activities:

- inventory of sites on state or tribal land
- oversee brownfields resources and enforce state/tribal authority
- provide opportunities for local stakeholders' meaningful participation in brownfields decisions
- approve site cleanup plans, and verify/certify that cleanup goals are completed

- CERCLA



View of the Truckee River in Nevada, from parcels assessed for the Truckee River Flood Project



Roles & Responsibilities for Brownfield Activities



EPA

Awards grants, offers technical assistance and provides tools and guidance



States and Tribes

Set cleanup standards, develop environmental policy and oversee and approve site cleanup and reuse decisions



Brownfields Grantees

Use EPA grants, technical assistance and other federal, state and local funds



Recap: Competitive* Brownfield Grants

- Assessment
- Cleanup
- Multipurpose
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Job Training

**Communities can apply for these*



Communities apply to EPA during annual Brownfields Grant competitions

When will the next
Brownfields Grant
competition open?
[Join listserv](#)



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Additional funding beyond regular annual appropriations in FY22-FY26

Congress made more than \$1.5 billion available over 5 years to support communities in their efforts to assess, clean up and safely reuse brownfields.

- \$1.2 Billion to support brownfields projects via grants and technical assistance
- \$300 Million to State and Tribal Response Programs

*FY26 is FINAL
YEAR for extra
\$\$\$*

EPA is using these funds to provide a range of resources to help communities address the environmental, economic, and social challenges caused by brownfields.

environmental
challenges



economic
challenges



social
challenges



Quite Often, a Community Needs Technical Assistance Support - **NOT a Grant!**

Robust offering of technical assistance (TA)-

- TAB providers
- Topic-specific technical assistance
- Section 128(a) TA

Via grants

- Brownfields Job Training TA
- Targeted Brownfields Assessment
- Land Revitalization TA

Via contracts



Targeted Brownfields Assessment

A targeted brownfields assessment (TBA) is conducted by an EPA contractor on behalf of an eligible entity. Services include site assessments, cleanup options and cost estimates, and community outreach.

Available: rolling basis; contact [region](#)



Land Revitalization

Technical assistance (TA) that helps communities sustainably reuse properties

[Guides, tools, trainings and best practices](#)

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (5105T)
EPA 560-F-19-012 | June 2019

ANATOMY OF BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
2025 Brownfields Federal Programs Guide

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
Community Actions That Drive Brownfield Revitalization

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
Setting the Stage for Leveraging Resources for Brownfields Revitalization

REVITALIZATION-READY GUIDE

Land Revitalization TOOLKIT

EPA BROWNFIELDS AND LAND REVITALIZATION

Land Revitalization TA

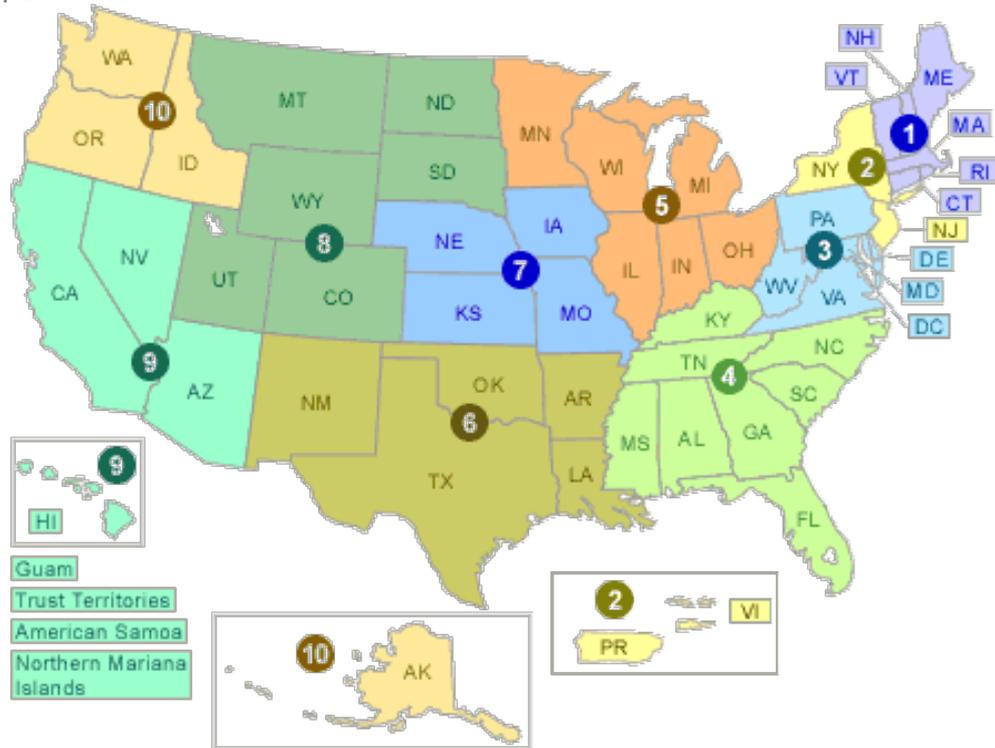
Site planning and research

Help communities identify practical, safe reuse options and approaches that support local goals through access to site planning, design and finance experts.



Figure 5: Community Upgrades and

EPA Brownfields & Land Revitalization Regional Staff



EPA has 10 regional offices, each of which works directly with several states, tribal nations and/or territories.

You may contact an [**EPA regional representative**](#) to learn more about applicable laws, regulations, policies, and technical assistance.



EPA Brownfields Grants – “MAC”



Grant Cycle:

Late Fall:
Release of NOFO

60 Days Later:
Applications Due

Spring of the following
year: Awards

Fall of fiscal year:
Grants Begin

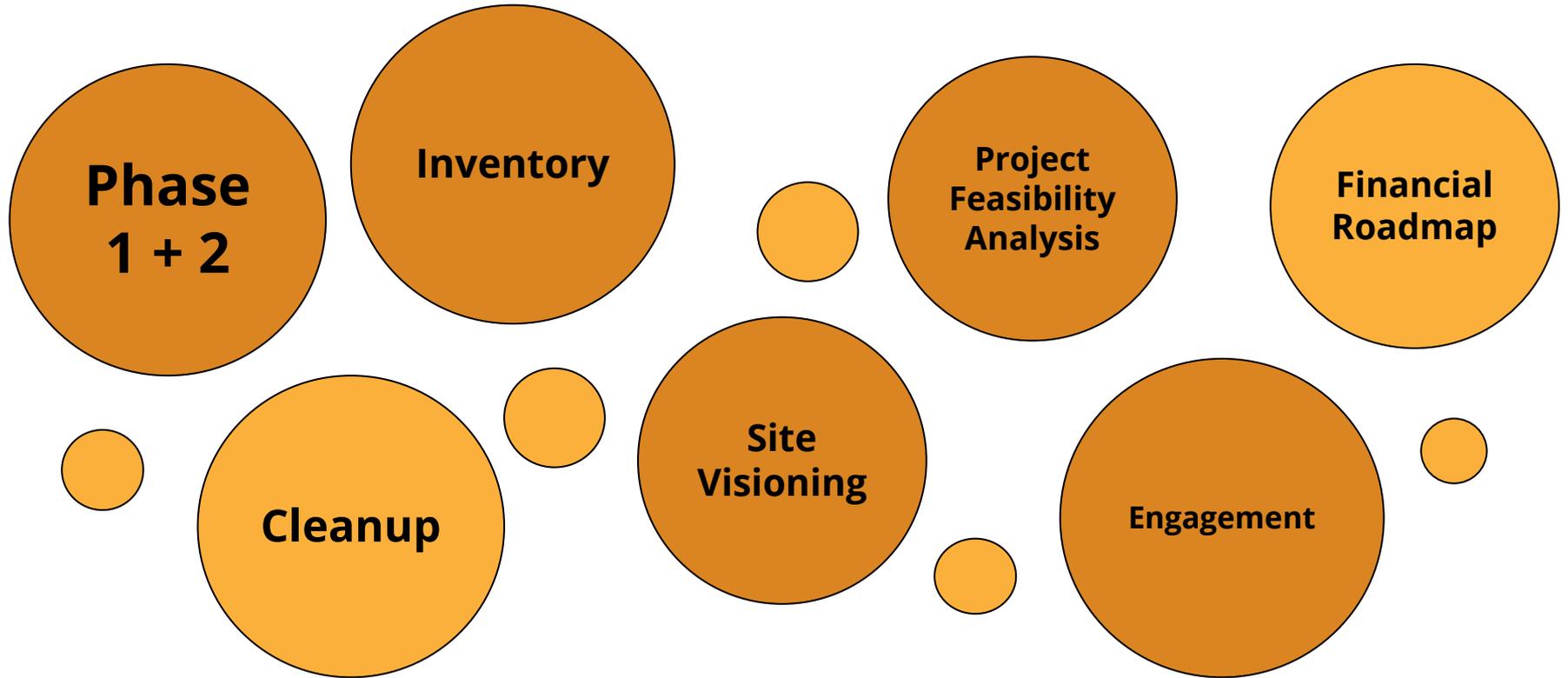
For FY26, applications opened in November 2025 and closed on January 28, 2026

MAC Must Do's

- START EARLY!!!!
- PLANNING – Know Your WHY
- Confirm Eligibility & Threshold
- Adequate Preparation
- Understand the Big Picture
- Establish relationships
- Communication channels
- [Unique Entity ID](#) (DUNS NOT USED)
- **Review EPA Guidelines** for applicable grant
- **Must have a Grants.gov login**
- Account Setup & Authorizations
- Submit early – server maintenance

ASK FOR FREE HELP!!

EPA Brownfields Grants: What Can They Cover?



EPA Brownfields Grants – Assessment



3 Types of Assessment Grants:

- Community-wide Assessment Grants
- Assessment Coalition Grants
- Community-wide Assessment Grants for States & Tribes

Funding/Length:

- Community-Wide - Up to \$500k / 4yrs
- Coalition - Up to \$1.5M / 4 yrs
- States/Tribal - Up to \$2M / 5 yrs

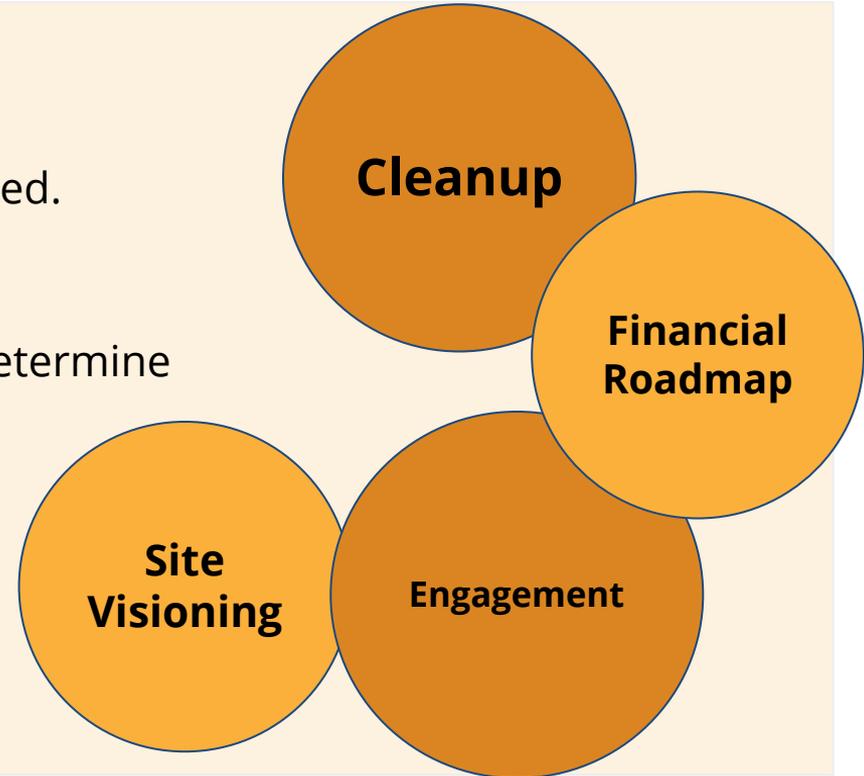
EPA Brownfields Grants – Cleanup

Double Check Your Eligibility:

- Applicant must own site(s) at the time of application. Site must be fully characterized.
- Community notification requirements
- Reach out to your Regional contacts to determine eligibility

Funding/Length: Two “Buckets” / 4 yrs

- Up to \$500,000
- Up to \$4M



EPA Brownfields Grants – Multipurpose

BOTH Assessment & Cleanup Activities

Including:

- Reuse planning
- Visioning
- Community engagement

Funding/Length: Up to \$1M / 5 years



Planning Ahead - What is Your Reuse?

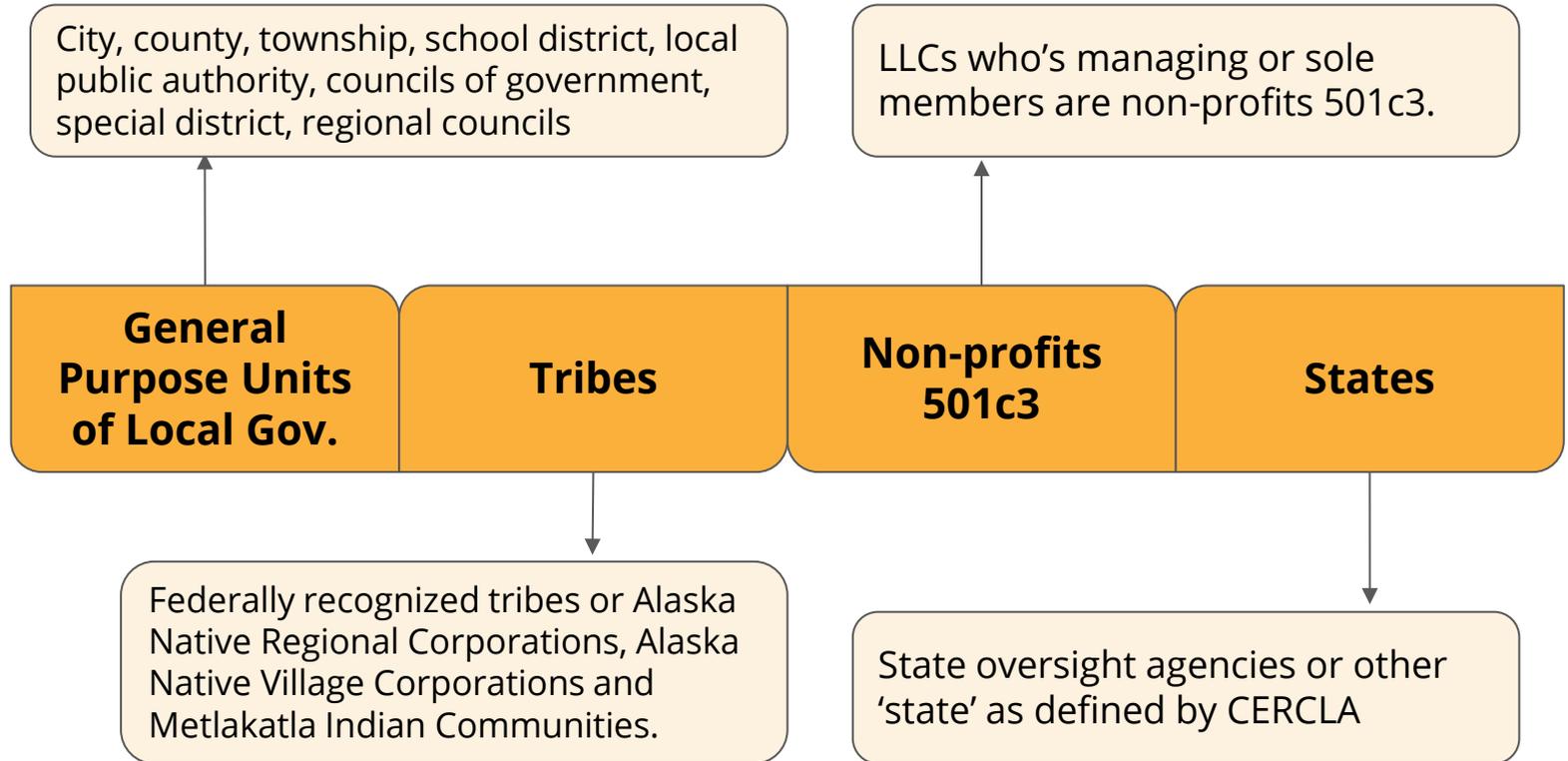
EPA Brownfields funds address **pre-development**...but you need to know your **site reuse!**

- What is the benefit to your community?
- What are the *outcomes* and *outputs* you expect?
- This will help you build your Workplan after award

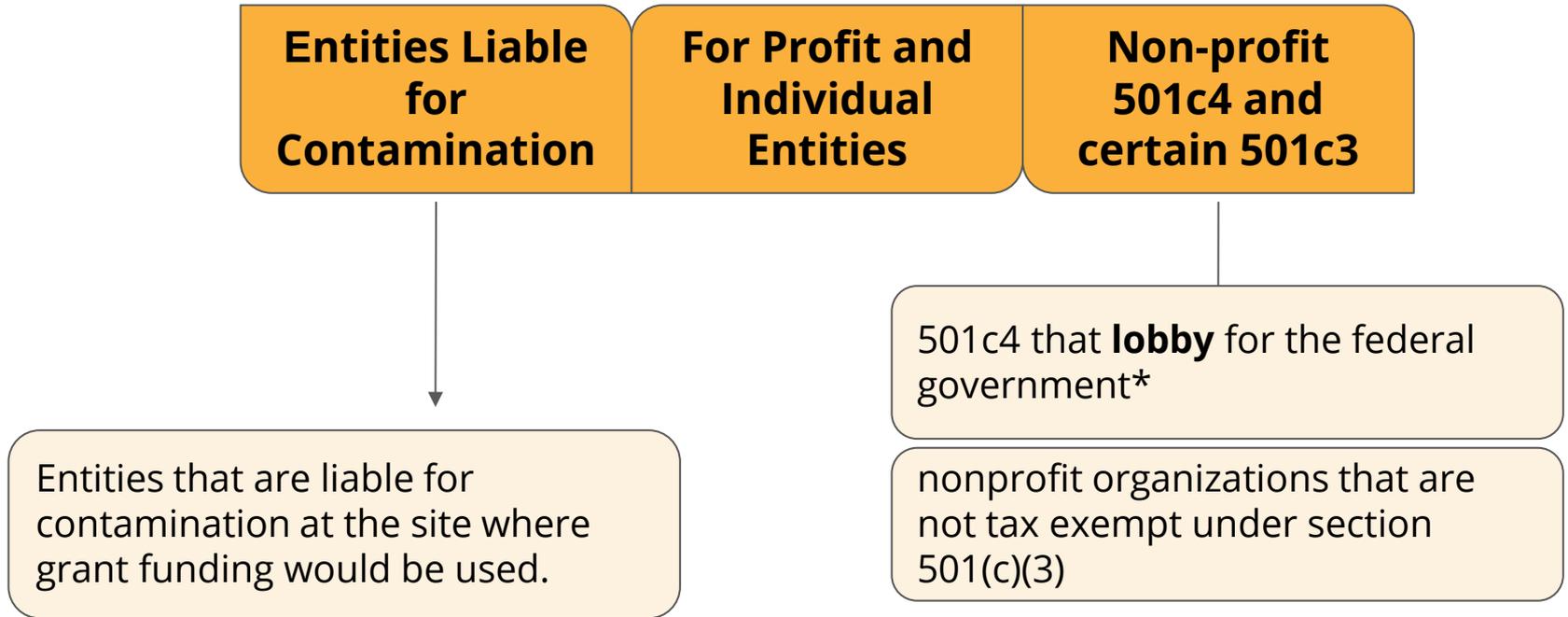


Kauai, HI

Applicant Eligibility

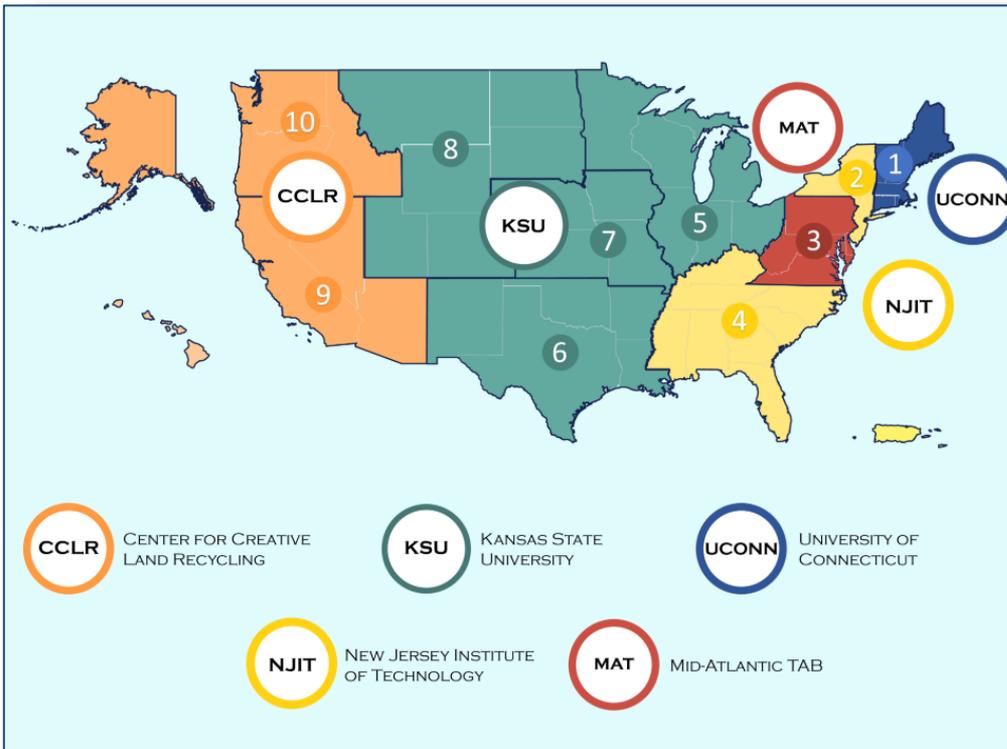


Applicant **Ineligibility**



* If your entity is a non-profit 501c4 that does NOT lobby, speak with your regional brownfields coordinator to determine eligibility

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Providers



Each TAB provider assists for FREE with technical assistance related to many brownfields issues such as:

- Reviewing grant applications
- Community engagement
- Assisting/creating site inventories
- Navigating grant management
- Reviewing procurement documents
- Reporting and ACRES training
- Interpreting environmental documents
- Environmental due diligence
- Overall brownfields redevelopment process

2. Managing Partnerships and Engaging the Community

A video recording of this section is available [here](#)

Partnership Advantages

- More competitive application
- Federal agencies (**incl. EPA**) see a greater benefit to community
- Agency/applicant has **limited resources** on its own
- Expands organization(s) **capacity**
- **Resource sharing** – specific skill sets and technical expertise
- Expands the **scope and effectiveness** of the project



Real - World Partnerships That Made the

Mountain Line – Flagstaff, AZ

- **Challenge:** Limited internal capacity for redevelopment.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborated w/City of Flagstaff, NACOG, N. AZ University, & private developers.
- **Result:** Secured an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant ~ assess sites in Downtown Connection Center

Dubuque, IA

- **Challenge:** Underused industrial corridors w/contamination and blight limited redevelopment.
- **Partnership:** City, EPA, East Central Intergovernmental Association, nonprofits, and developers built regional coalition and phased reuse strategy.
- **Result:** Secured \$800K Multipurpose Grant and leveraged \$500M+ in investment to revitalize central districts.

Enhancing Your Application with Partnerships

Qualified and representative range of partners

- Clear definition of each partner's role, responsibilities, contributions

Commitment and involvement

- Letters of support
- Formal Agreement

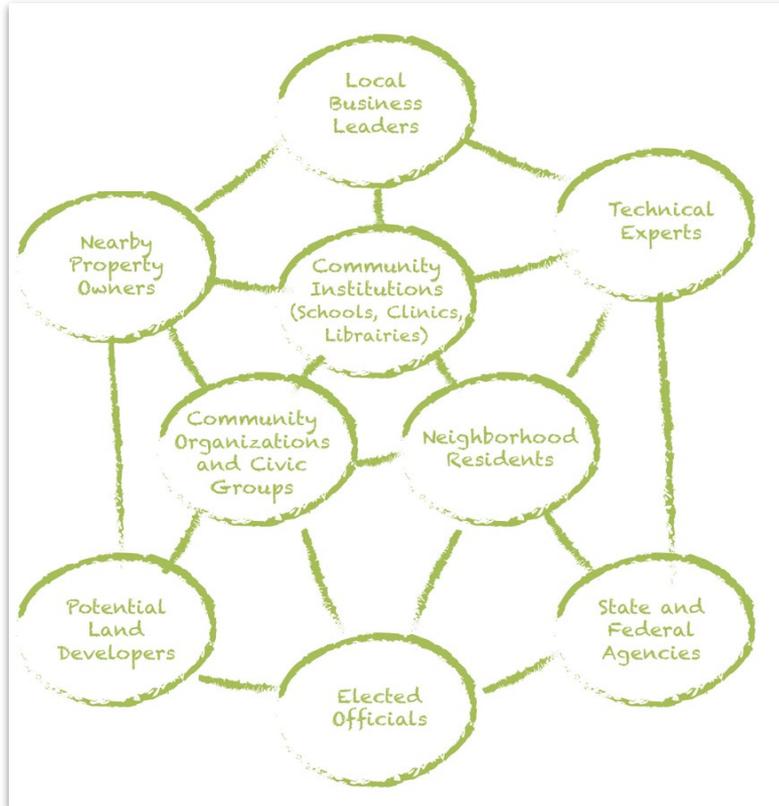
Collaboration & Coordination

- Integration with existing plans – local, regional, initiatives, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)
- Communication/Coordination – how applicant will maintain regular communication with partners

IDENTIFY PARTNERS



ENLIST THEIR INVOLVEMENT



- Research – common goals & past partnerships, mutual benefit
- Contact – make a call, be clear
- Follow Up Meeting 1:1
- Partner Meetings – All partners
- Define roles & responsibilities

Gather your team early!

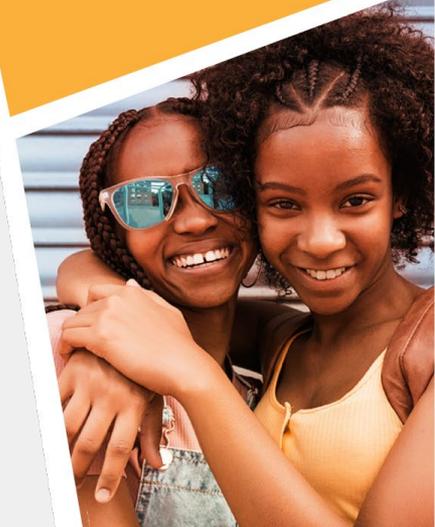
Project Champion(s)

- ❑ Key point individual(s)

Internal advocates or **external influencers** who build momentum.

- ❑ Committed to move the project forward
- ❑ Drives vision & purpose of project
- ❑ Have elevator speech

Community Engagement: What to Know & Where to Start



What is Community Engagement?

Outreach

Reach the community where they're at.



Engagement

Engage and collaborate with the community.

Principles of Effective Engagement

- Share Leadership & Decision-Making Power
- Learn & Acknowledge Community History
- Recognize & Value Local Knowledge
- Meet People Where They Are
- Build Intentional Partnerships

Community Engagement Strengthens Your Project!

- Fosters community buy-in & trust
- Increases project sustainability
- Saves on long term costs and keeps up project momentum
- Improves your grant narrative & score
- Protects residents & businesses from site risks



But is it required?



YES!

Cleanup Grants:

Assessment Grants:

- Description of engagement plan + progress updates planned throughout grant timeline
- Include partners and stakeholders
- Community notification of application - 14 days
- Share a clear draft ABCA and allow public comment + changes
- Host accessible public meeting
- Publish administrative record

If you have questions about what is required for MAC grants, contact your TAB provider and/or your EPA regional brownfields team! And read the guidelines closely!

Effective Engagement is Strategic

Be strategic in your engagement plan, your partnership development, and how you talk about them in your application.

Consider:

- Who do you *need* to reach?
- When do you *need* to conduct engagement?
- What does success look like?

Mimic the language of the guidelines!



Mayor Mila Besich, Superior, AZ

Strategic Engagement - Participant Support Costs

Direct costs that support participants and their involvement

- Encourage community involvement and compensate participants
- **Include in your budget!**

[EPA Guidance \(2024\)](#)

[EPA Presentation \(2024\)](#)



Strategic Engagement

- Additional Outreach

Tools

Newsletters/ Newspapers

- Can be paper or digital
- Video/Pictures

Social Media

- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- Instagram

Utility Bills

- Include information about your plans in a utility bill so that more residents are informed

Flyers at Schools

- Provide flyers to teachers and ask them to include them in students' homework folders

Be creative & do what works best for your community!

Plan Your Engagement Early



Identify your target audience using your site inventory!

You won't have to start from scratch later!

- Strategize engagement
- Incorporate partner skills + networks
- Designate milestone meetings and feedback loops



3. Incorporating Data

A video recording of this section is available [here](#)

Understanding the Brownfields Review Criteria

Based on the FY26 guidelines for Brownfield Cleanup Grants:

Topic	Criteria	Points
Project Area Description/Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of Brownfield Challenges & Description of Target Area(s) and proposed Brownfield Site(s)• Revitalization of the Target Area• Strategy for Leveraging Resources	55 points
Community Need & Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Community's Need for Funding (Define Population/Income)• Community Engagement	35 points
Task Descriptions, Cost Estimate, & Measuring Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed Cleanup Plan• Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs• Cost Estimates & Schedule• Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results	55 points
Programmatic Capability & Past Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programmatic Capability• Past Performances & Compliance	30 points
		175 total

Understanding the Brownfields Other Evaluation Factors

Based on the FY26 guidelines for Brownfield Cleanup Grants:

Topic	Criteria
Other Factors & Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community population/size is 15,000 or less?• Is applicant or site associated with federally recognized Indian tribe/territory?• Is project assisting a tribe or territory?• Is the Site(s) adjacent to a body of water/wetland?• Whether the proposed brownfield site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.• Whether the applicant's jurisdiction is located within, or includes, a county experiencing "persistent poverty"

Applicants claiming one or more of the other factors must provide a summary in the Narrative on the applicable other factor(s)

Data Tools for Section 1

Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

*EPA recommended Resource



Overview of Brownfield Challenges & Description of Target Area(s)

*Purpose: Identify the **geographic boundaries** & **brownfield impacts** on surrounding communities*

- American Community Survey ([ACS](#)) Census*
- EPA [Cleanups in My Community](#)
- FEMA National Risk Index ([NRI](#))
- Bureau of Labor Statistics: [Unemployment](#)*
- Social Vulnerability Index ([SVI](#))
- ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) [National Overview](#)

Geographic statistics should include descriptions like poverty, unemployment, crime rate, blighted properties, etc. and **compare** these #'s to other key areas

Description of **priority site(s) & target area(s)** should include current conditions, environmental issues, existing structure, & reuse potential

Supplement the data above with state/local documents such as: local government blight reports, code enforcements, state & tribal environmental databases, state/local plans/documents or policies

Data Tools for Section 2

Community Need & Engagement



Threat to Sensitive Populations Data

*Purpose: Identify sensitive populations in the area and describe how the brownfield has **disproportionately** impacted their wellbeing*

Health or Welfare

Environmental Justice

Incidence of Disease or Adverse
Health Conditions

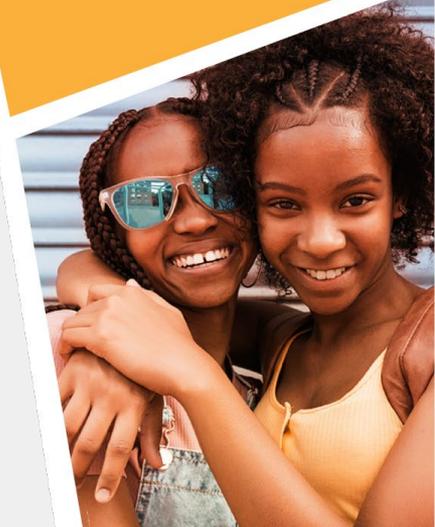
Other

- CDC Places, Census*
- IPCC Data Distribution Center ([DDC](#))
- National Cancer Institute [Statistics](#)*
- ASTDR [Portal](#)*
- CDC National Vital Statistics System ([NVSS](#))*
- City-Health [Dashboard](#)

- Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) [Data Warehouse](#)*
- National Institute of Diabetes (NIDDK) [Statistics](#)*
- Office of Minority Health [SVI](#)*
- Radon Zone [Map](#)*

Supplement national data sources above with state- & county- level data

Useful Data Tools



Examples of State & Local Resources

Region 9 Resources



ARIZONA

- ■ **ARIZONA ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING — QUICK REPORTS:**
Arizona Department of Health Services
 Sourced from various local, state, and federal sources, including the U.S. Census.
- **ARIZONA PROGRESS METERS:**
The Center for the Future of Arizona
 Sourced from various local, state, and federal sources, including the U.S. Census, and various additional publicly available data.



CALIFORNIA

- ■ **HEALTHY PLACES INDEX 3.0 MAPPING TOOL:**
Public Health Alliance of Southern California
 Sourced from various local, state, & federal datasets, including US EPA, US Department of Housing & Urban Development, CalEPA, National Land Cover Database.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD DATA FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (NDSC):**
USC Lusk Center for Real Estate
 Sourced from original data from the Lusk Center and various local, state and federal datasets, including the U.S. Census.
- **CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCREENING TOOL (CALENVIROSCREEN4.0):**
California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) under CalEPA
 Sourced from various local, state and federal datasets, including the U.S. Census, and various publicly available data.



HAWAII

- ■ **UHERO DATA and ANALYTICS DASHBOARD:**
The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawaii (UHERO)
 Sourced from original UHERO data, aggregated publicly available online data, and various local, state and federal datasets.
- ■ **OAHU SOCIOECONOMIC VULNERABILITY INDEX AND RELATED MAPS:**
The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency
 Sourced from original data from The O'ahu Resilience organization and various state and federal datasets, including the U.S. Census and CDC's Social Vulnerability Indexes.



NEVADA

- **LINCY INSTITUTE AND BROOKINGS MOUNTAIN WEST DATA HUB:**
Brookings Mountain West and the Lincy Institute
 Sourced from original UNLV data and various local, state and federal datasets, including U.S. Census.

- PUBLIC HEALTH
- SOCIAL CONDITIONS
- ECONOMY
- PUBLIC POLICY

PACIFIC ISLANDS

- **Refer to National Data Sources**

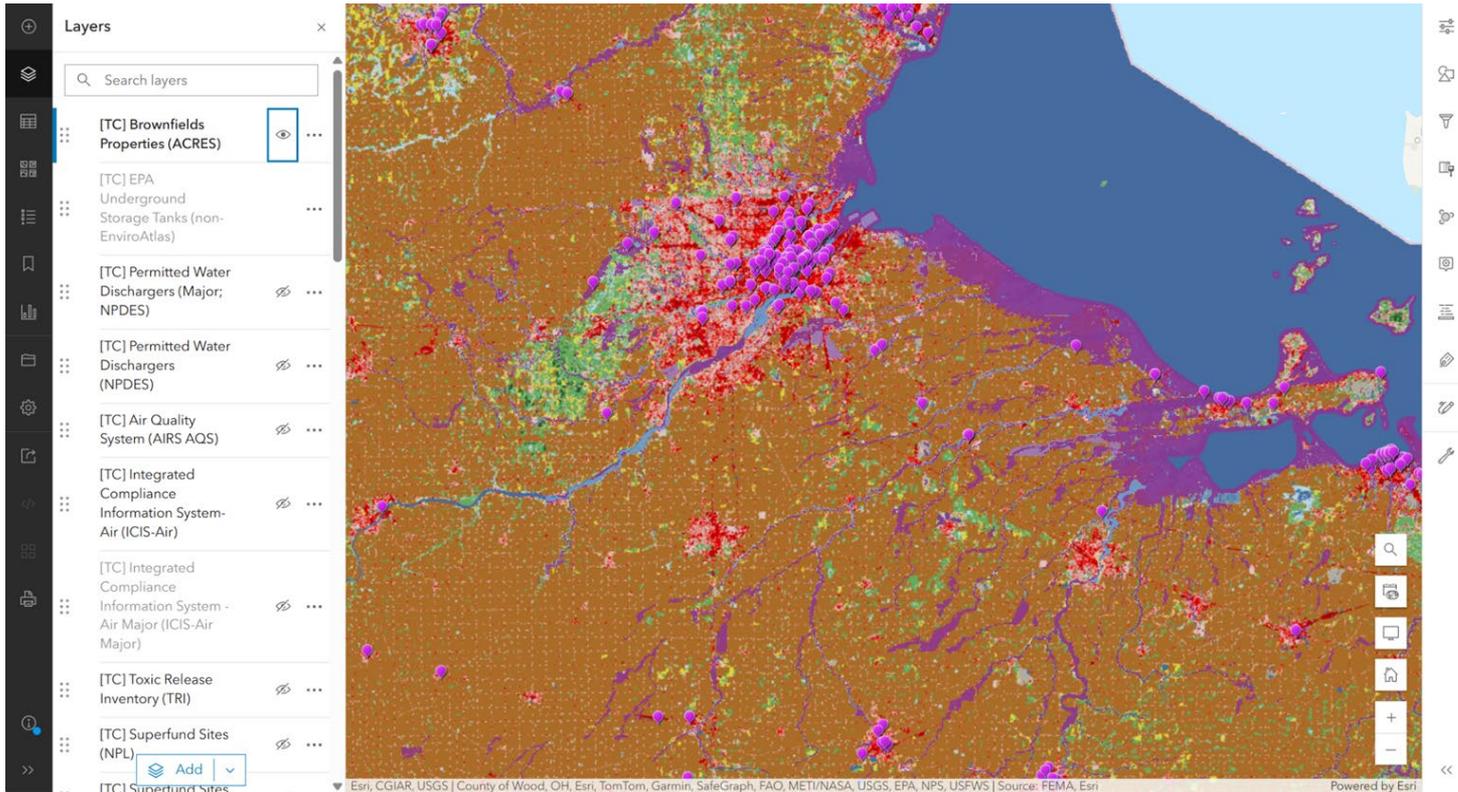
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CENTER FOR CREATIVE
LAND RECYCLING
RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

6

EnviroAtlas



Multitude of layers mapping ecosystem services such as carbon storage and energy potential; pollution sources and impacts; population and built environment; and dozens of demographic variables detailing communities in mapped areas.

National Mine Map Repository



U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and
Enforcement



National Mine Map Repository
Web Map

[NMMR Home](#)

[Basic Database](#)

Web Map

[Help & About](#)

[Feedback](#)

NMMR: ENGLEVILLE #1 - 427044

Zoom to

Mine Information

Company Name(s):	Colorado Fuel & Iron Co
Mine Name(s):	Engleville #1
MSHA ID:	
Commodity Mined:	Seam Mined:
Coal Bituminous	

Geolocated Point Description

Point Type:	Public Land Survey System Data
Location Assurance:	High Confidence
Coordinates:	37.150527000000004, -104.486896

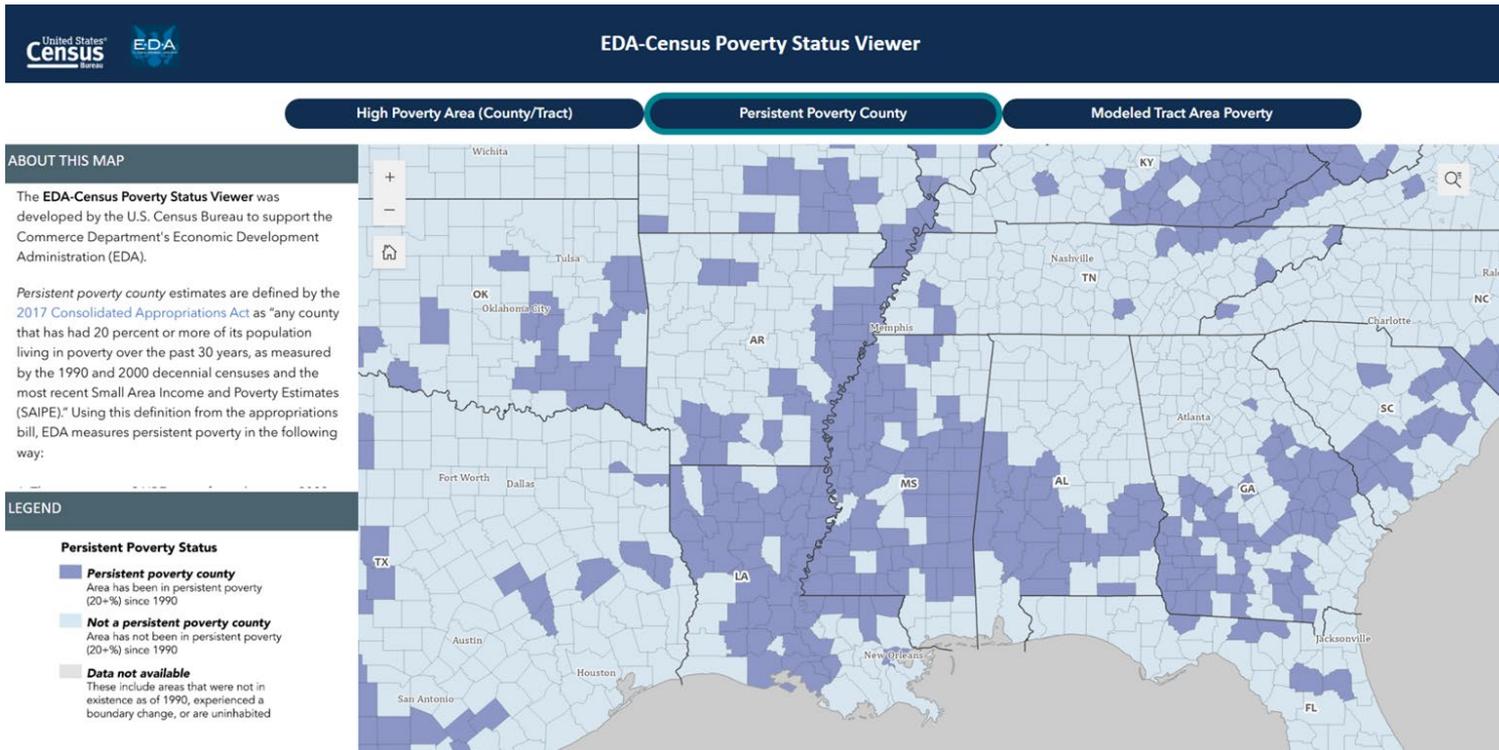
▼ **Remarks:** (Click to show or hide)
WORKINGS AND MENTION OF RED COAL. LEGACY GEO POINT DESC:
POINT WHERE SECTIONS 19, 20, 29, 30 JOIN.

[Map Image\(s\)](#)

42704400

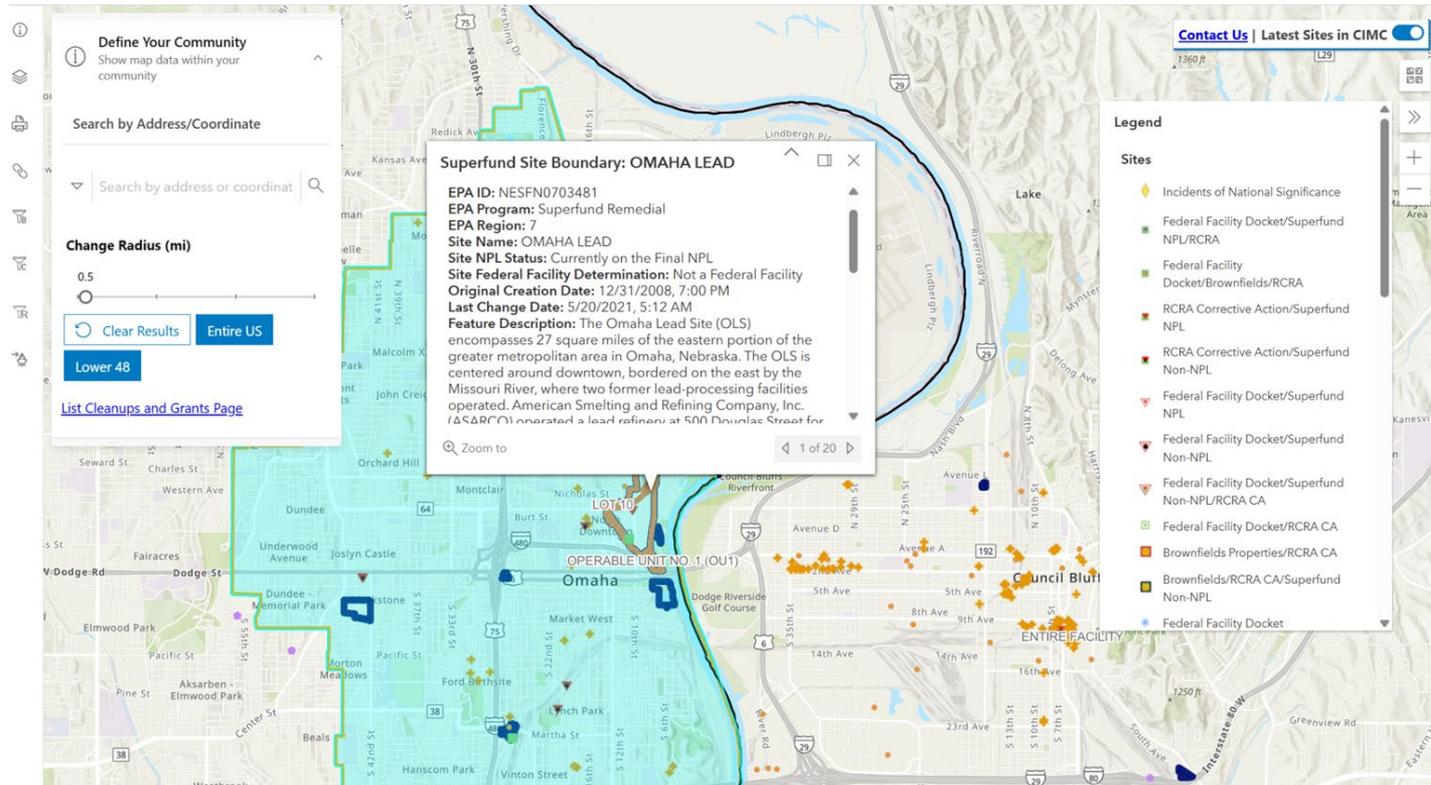
Identify maps and information on more than 275,000 mines from throughout the United States. The mines in this inventory have been either closed or abandoned and may be surface or underground mining operations.

Areas of Persistent Poverty - EDA Census Poverty Viewer



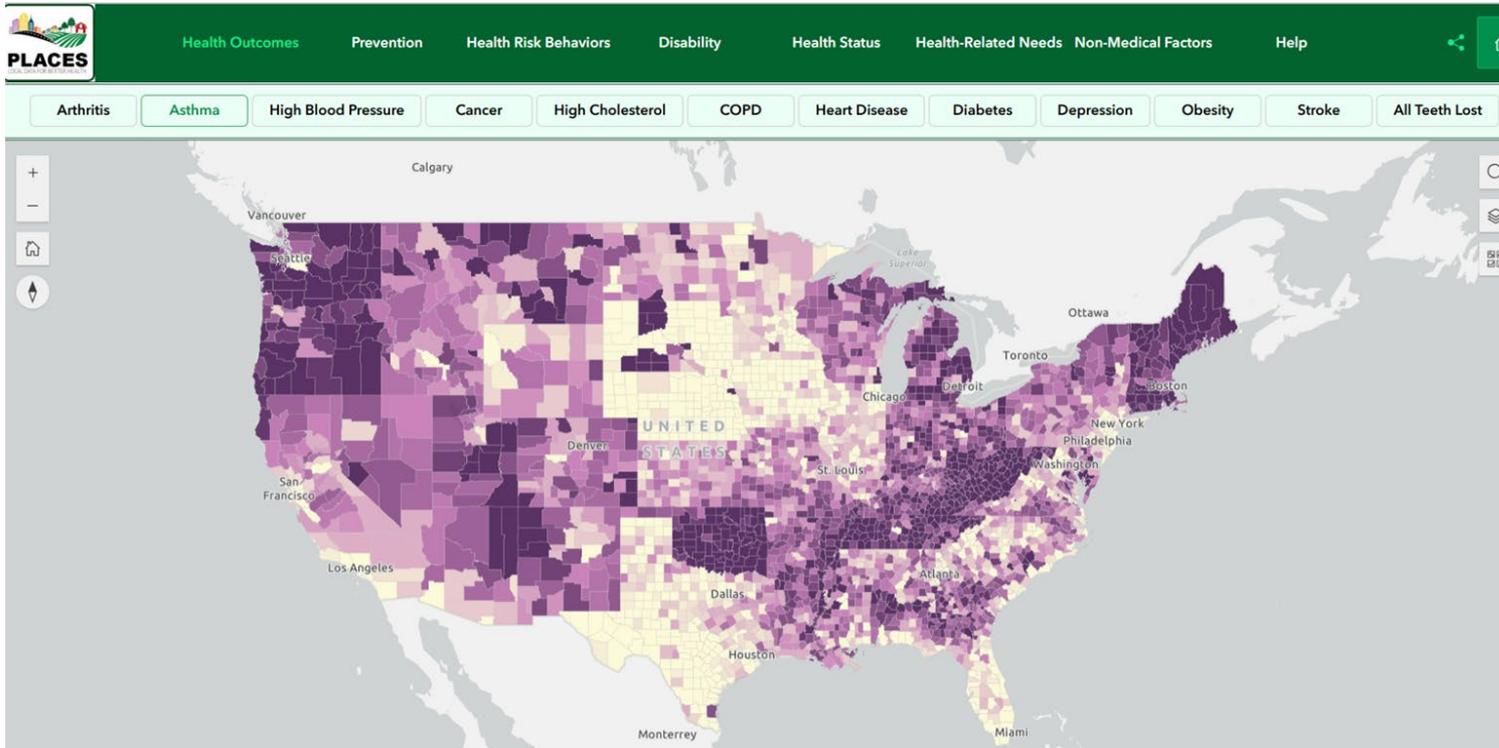
Area of Persistent Poverty is defined as “any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE).”

Cleanups in My Community



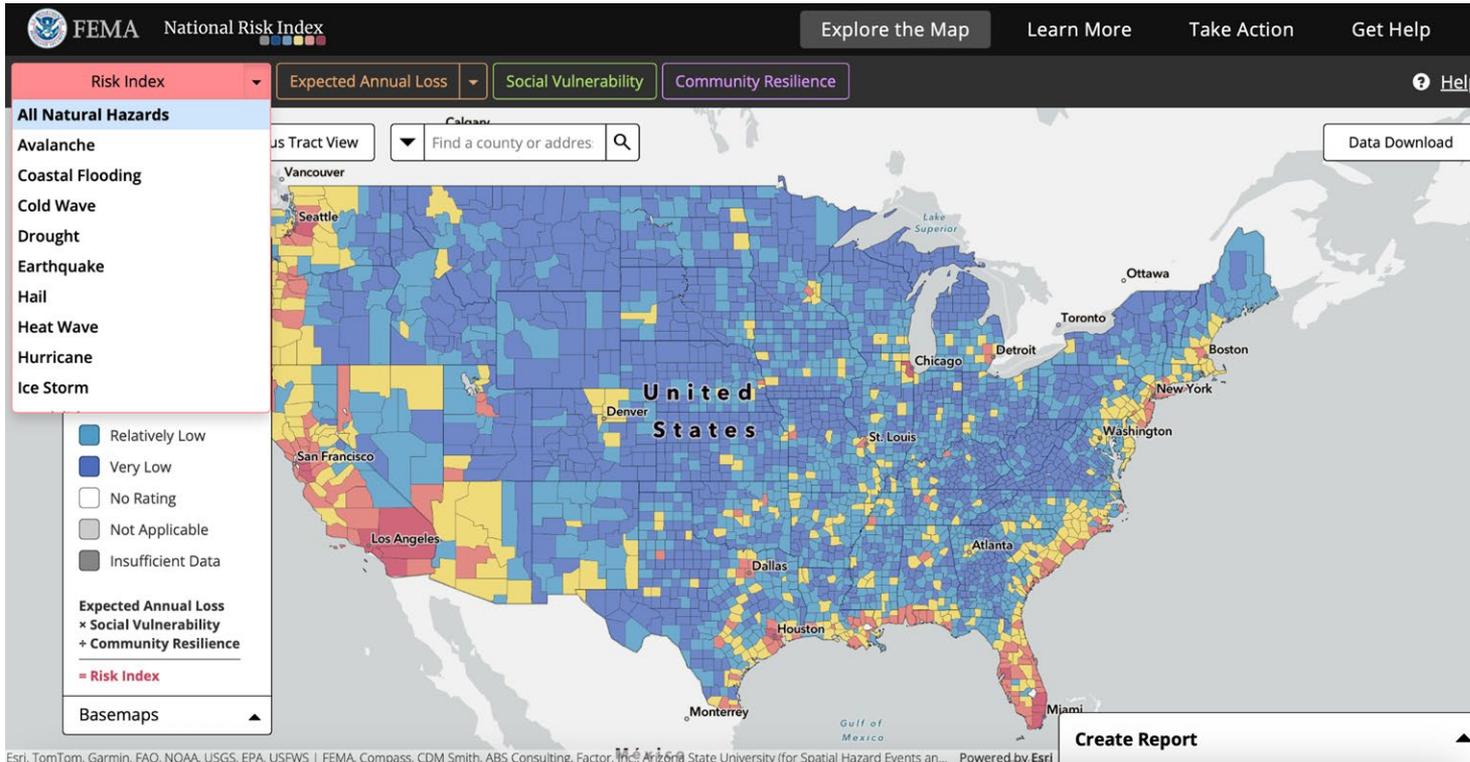
Identify hazardous waste cleanup locations and grant areas, and drill down to details about those cleanups and grant in your location of interest.

CDC Places - Health Outcomes, Needs, Demographics



View and analyze health outcomes, prevention measures, health risk behaviors, disabilities, health status, health-related needs, and a range of demographic information of communities at the county, place, census tract, and zip code tabulation area levels.

FEMA National Risk Index



Maps scale of risk exposure to a broad series of natural disasters. Also Provides community resiliency scores, as well as Social Vulnerability Index scores.

Tips for Writing an Effective Narrative

The NOFO requirements are paramount, **BUT** beyond going through the motions of meeting the NOFO application requirements and submission, ***why are you doing this?***

Key Questions

- What caused this project to come into existence?
 - Think deeper! (*Passion, community benefit, human elements, efforts*)
- How do you want your narrative to read? Cold **OR** Warm and Invested?
 - When you write grant application summaries, how you feel about the topic will come through the narrative.

Grant Writing Tips

- **Make it easy for reviewers to score you well**
 - Articulate your points **clear and concisely**
 - Follow the structure they provide and make sure you **cover all key points**
 - Know what the grant requires and wants to accomplish - **tell them how you will do it**
 - Remember they **do not** know your community or site, provide context
- **Use the language in the NOFO**
 - “Use their language back to them”
- **Have an external reviewer provide comments**
 - Ideally someone who does **not** know your community well and can highlight gaps
- **Learn from winning applications**

Activity - Using “Musts” and “Mays”

<p>What is the population of your town? Who lives there? Lots of kids? Aging population? What is the % of unemployed population?</p>	<p>Have there been documented cleanups in or near your community? How does that compare to neighboring areas?</p>	<p>Does the community in your project site/near your project site have considerable health problems? Which health issues stand out most?</p>	<p>Is your city/town in an area of persistent poverty? If so, expand on what that actually looks like (blight, dilapidated buildings, no new parks, etc.)</p>	<p>Bonus* - What is your “killer stat” that makes your story impossible to ignore?</p>
<p>Source:</p>	<p>Source:</p>	<p>Source:</p>	<p>Source:</p>	<p>Source:</p>

Housekeeping: Team, Organization, Review

- **Organize/Mobilize Your Writing Team**
 - Who is going to be the main writer?
 - Why? Skills/experience/reason
 - Who are the backup writers?
- **Prepare an Outline**
 - First, outline all the amazing aspects of your project and why you're applying
 - Then outline in accordance with the NOFO requirements
- **Review, Review, Review! (Then Review Again!)**
 - Give the document time to rest in between reviews/reviewers (i.e., allow yourself at least a few hours between draft editing to have a fresh perspective on reviews/errors/edits etc.)

Pre- Application Guidance from EPA

- **Review [Criteria](#)**
- **Develop a Grant Proposal Framework/Outline**
- **Identify the Needs of the Community**
 - Ensure you have the Data compiled necessary to tell the EPA about items such as demographics for the target area, your community, and state.
- **Describe the Project**
 - What problem are you trying to solve
 - How many and what types of sites
 - Use your budget!
- **Engage the Community**
 - Each applicant is required to incorporate community involvement into their grant and to notify the community that they are planning to apply for a brownfields grant. Start working with your community early and Establish Partnerships.
 - Identify Project Benefits
- **Demonstrate your Capacity**



4. Demystifying Capital Stacks & Budgeting

A video recording of this section is available [here](#)

Leveraging Brownfields Funding

Brownfield-Specific

EPA dollars (MAC)
State grants
Local grants

Federal Programs

Federal Agencies
Tax Credits & Incentives

Local Funding

Watch: [Funding 101 Workshop!](#)

State Programs

Private
Insurance
Investment
Responsible Party

Create a
Resource
Roadmap!

Budgets: Best Practices & Principles

- Accurate & Simple
- Balanced & Supports
- Too much/Too little?
- No ineligible activities
- Details Build Credibility
- Indirect Costs v. Direct
- Double & Triple Check Numbers



**Remember
Justifications!**

Project Costs

- Estimate costs for each phase
- Do this prior to identifying funding
- Estimates will change over time & circumstances
- Look within organization or to key partners for assistance

Clean & Simple Budget

Budget Categories	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Totals
	CA Management and Reporting	Community Engagement	Phase I/II ESAs and RBM Surveys	Remedial/Reuse Planning & AWP	
City Personnel	\$5,400	\$6,750	\$4,500	\$13,500	\$30,150
City Fringe	\$4,200	\$5,250	\$3,500	\$10,500	\$23,450
Travel	\$4,230	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,230
Contractual	\$16,800	\$14,000	\$281,370	\$128,800	\$440,970
Other	\$1,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,200
Total Direct Costs	\$31,830	\$26,000	\$289,370	\$152,800	\$500,000

Economy of Space - Tasks' Budget

Task 1 – CA Management and Reporting: Total Budget = \$31,830
Personnel + Fringe of \$9,600 (120 hrs @ \$80/hr) to lead reporting and project management. Travel Costs of \$4,230 are budgeted for two City personnel to attend one national and one regional brownfield conference (airfare to conferences [\$550/person = \$2,200]; lodging, meal, rental car and incidental costs (\$203 per day per person – 2.5 days per conference, 10 total days = \$2,030). Other Costs of \$300/conference for two staff to attend two conference (4 total conferences = \$1,200). Contractual Costs of \$16,800 are budgeted (120 hrs @ \$140/hr) for QEP to assist with reporting.
Task 2 – Community Engagement: Total Budget = \$26,000
Personnel + Fringe of \$12,000 (150 hrs @ \$80/hr) to lead community engagement. Contractual Costs of \$14,000 are budgeted (100 hrs @ \$140/hr) for QEP to assist with public outreach.
Task 3 – Phase I and II ESAs and RBM Surveys = \$289,370
Personnel + Fringe of \$8,000 are budgeted (100 hrs @ \$80/hr) to support assessment activities. Contractual Costs of \$281,370 including: 1) \$3,920 (28 hrs @ \$140/hr) for QAPP; 2) \$47,000 (30 hrs @ \$140/hr + \$500 expenses) for 10 Phase I ESAs/ED form/access agreement (\$4,700 each); 3) \$188,550 (80 hrs @ \$140/hr + 1,200 utility locate + \$4,500 drilling services + \$4,050 contract lab) for nine Phase II ESAs/SAPs/NHPA/ESAct (\$20,950 each); 4) \$41,900 (55 hrs @ \$140/hr + 2,775 contract lab) for four RBM Surveys (\$10,475 each).
Task 4 – Remedial/Reuse Planning and Area-Wide Planning
Personnel + Fringe of \$24,000 are budgeted (300 hrs @ \$80/hr) to lead/support planning activities. Contractual Costs of \$128,800 including: 1) \$22,400 (160 hrs @ \$140/hr) for two ABCAs (\$11,200 each); 2) \$22,400 (160 hrs @ \$140/hr) for two site-specific reuse plans (\$11,200 each); 3) \$84,000 (300 hrs @ \$140/hr) for two area-wide plans (\$42,000 each).

Yes, it needs to be THAT detailed

Budget Category	Task 1 Project Management & Reporting	Task 2 Public Involvement	Task 3 Site Inventory & Characterization	Task 4 Cleanup Planning	Task 5 Community-Wide Planning	Budget Category Totals
Personnel	12,790	\$14,470	\$4,732	\$0	\$14,470	\$46,462
Fringe Benefits	4,348	\$4,920	\$1,609	\$0	\$4,920	\$15,797
Travel	\$0	\$15,272	\$4,564	\$0	\$8036	\$27,872
Equipment	\$0	\$0	0	\$0		0
Supplies	\$0	\$250	\$632	\$0	\$250	\$1,132
Contractual	\$0	0	144,000	\$24,850	\$0	\$168,850
Other: Printing	\$0	\$700	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$900

- **Travel: \$15,272:** Travel cost covers two people to perform community outreach for two days during the second year to inform the community about the planned work. Travel per person per trip includes:

- Roundtrip \$1,150 x2 = \$ 2,300 x 4 villages = \$9,200
- Lodging \$160/night x 2 nights \$320 x2 = \$ 640 x 4 villages = \$2,560
- Per diem \$113/day x 3 days \$339 x2 = \$ 678 x 4 villages = \$2,712
- Surplus Luggage \$200/trip = \$200 x1 = \$ 200 x 4 villages = \$ 800

Other opportunities for **Free + Non-Competitive** Technical Assistance and Consulting from **EPA** and your **TAB!**

- Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA)
- Land Revitalization Technical Assistance (LRTA)
- Existing brownfields funding

Review EPA's [Brownfields Federal Funding Guide](#) to find federal dollars for brownfields in other departments!

Brownfields Without EPA Dollars

If you applied: Request a debrief & contact your TAB provider to brainstorm

If you didn't or couldn't apply:

- ❖ Identify a champion
- ❖ Start visioning
- ❖ Get community input
- ❖ Gather data/information
- ❖ Look for non-monetary incentives
- ❖ Review information/resources on TAB websites





5. Writing and Packaging a Strong Grant

A video recording of this section is available [here](#)

Want to Go For It?

- ❖ START EARLY
- ❖ First read through application - know threshold criteria
- ❖ Really answer the question
- ❖ Demonstrate a clear vision and back it up with data
- ❖ Show internal capacity & strong partnerships/stakeholders
- ❖ Define tasks, budget & leveraging
- ❖ Tell a compelling story/longevity – context of community, regional and other plans
- ❖ Ensure that you are ready and able to go if awarded!



Submit a Strong Grant

		Description	11/6	Date	
a.i. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area(s)	5	geographic boundary(ies) where you are proposing to conduct eligible activities	1		The extent to which the geographic boundary(ies) is clearly identified and brownfield challenges are clearly discussed and the degree to which the impact the area(s) in the geographic boundary(ies). The extent to which address those challenges and impacts. The extent to which the applicant clearly identifies and describes the geographic boundary(ies) where it plans to focus grant activities
		Overview of how this grant will potentially help address those challenges and impacts	2		
		Within these city(ies), town(s), or geographic area(s), identify and describe the specific target area(s) where you plan to perform assessment activities, such as a neighborhood, district, corridor, or census tract. Depending on the scope and design of your project, one or more target areas may be presented.	3		
a.ii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Site(s)	10	Provide an overview of the brownfield sites in the target area(s) with information such as number, size, and environmental concerns.	1		The extent to which the response provides a clear overview of the b The degree to which one or more sites are highlighted as a priority The degree to which the priority site(s) is clearly described. The degree to which it is clear why the site(s) identified as a priority been selected.
		Specifically highlight one or more sites that are a priority	1		
		Discuss why the site(s) is a priority for assessment and reuse	1		
		Include information such as past and current land uses, current site conditions (including structures), and potentially related environmental issues.	1		
Identifying additional Sites	5	Describe the plan to identify additional sites for eligible activities throughout the geographic boundary(ies) identified in 1.a.i. in the event that grant funds remain after addressing the target area(s)/priority site(s). Identify the criteria that will be used to prioritize additional sites for selection. All applicants except Tribes or eligible Tribal entities – Describe how your prioritization criteria will consider whether a site is located in an underserved community or disadvantaged census tract.	2		The extent to which there is a clear plan to identify additional sites for to which the prioritization criteria that will be used to select additional
Utilization of the Target Area	10				
Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans	5	Describe the reuse strategy, or projected reuse, for the priority brownfield site(s) to be assessed	2		The extent to which a reuse strategy/projected reuse is clearly identified site(s)
		Discuss how the reuse strategy/projected reuse aligns with the local government's land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities.	3		The extent to which the reuse strategy/projected reuse clearly aligns government's land use and revitalization plans or related community
Outcomes and Effects of Reuse Strategy	5	Describe the potential of the proposed project or revitalization plans to stimulate economic development upon completion of the cleanup of the priority sites; and/or how the grant will facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes	3		Given the type of community being served (e.g., urban, rural, Tribal) proposed project or revitalization plans will potentially stimulate economic area(s) upon completion of the cleanup of the priority site(s) and/or facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a green recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes
		If applicable, describe how the reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; or will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	3		The degree to which these outcomes clearly correlate with the applicable site reuse(s).
		If the proposed project or revitalization plans may potentially cause the displacement of residents and/or businesses, describe the strategies and/or policies that will be implemented to minimize displacement.	3		The extent to which the proposed project will improve local climate resilience to protect residents and community investments. When applicable, the extent to which the reuse of the priority site(s) from wind, solar or geothermal energy, or will incorporate energy
c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources	10				
c.i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse	5	Describe your access to monetary funding from other resources and how the grant will stimulate the availability of additional funds for environmental site assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse.	1		The extent to which the applicant has access to monetary funding from which the grant will stimulate the availability of additional funds for environmental site assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse. (Note, a response may not earn full points if the applicant duplicates Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs.)
c.ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure	5	Describe how work performed under this grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure at the priority site(s) / target area	1		The extent to which work performed under this grant will facilitate the priority site(s) and/or within the target area(s).
		If additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are key to the revitalization plans for the priority site(s), describe the infrastructure needs/upgrades, and describe the funding resources that will be sought to implement that work.	3		When additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are needed, the of the infrastructure needs/upgrades and the extent to which the id be sought to implement the work are relevant to the project

Get FREE reviews from your TAB! Each section counts.



7. Tools & Resources

Resources to help you understand and strengthen core components of your grant application

Tools & Resources (1/5)

- [Brownfields Fact Sheet and Guide 2026](#)
- [EPA Brownfields Program History](#)
Overview of the U.S. EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program, including milestones and success stories of community renewal
- [Understanding Brownfields](#)
Introduction to what qualifies as a Brownfield site, common challenges, and cleanup processes

EPA Communications & Support

- [Brownfields Listserv](#)
Subscription-based email list for updates, funding opportunities, and news from the EPA Brownfields program
- [EPA Technical Assistance](#)
Information on technical assistance providers and how they support communities in redeveloping contaminated sites.
- [EPA Regional Offices](#)
Directory of EPA regional Brownfields offices offering localized program support and contact information.
- [EPA Land Revitalization Toolkit](#)
A practical guide for communities to plan, fund, and execute land revitalization projects.
- [EPA Regional Contacts](#)
Contact list for EPA Brownfields regional representatives available to assist with grants and project guidance.
- [Unique Entity ID \(SAM.gov\)](#)
Official portal to register or locate your organization's Unique Entity ID, required for federal funding eligibility

Tools & Resources (2/5)

Partnerships & Community Engagement

- [EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs](#)
Federal guidelines explaining how participant support costs can be applied within grant budgets.
- [EPA Participant Support Costs Presentation](#)
Overview presentation outlining compliance requirements and budgeting examples.

Data Tools: Building a Compelling Narrative

- [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#)
Comprehensive demographic and socioeconomic data to support grant narratives and equity analyses.
- [EPA Cleanups in My Community](#)
Mapping tool to identify and track cleanup projects nationwide.
- [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\)](#)
Employment and economic data useful for establishing community need and workforce potential.
- [United for ALICE National Overview](#)
Data on households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed — valuable for equity framing

Data & Risk Analysis Tools

- [Center for Creative Land Recycling – Using Data to Make Your Brownfield Reuse Case](#)
Practical guide for leveraging data to support redevelopment and grant proposals.
- [FEMA National Risk Index](#)
Tool to visualize natural hazard risks and social vulnerability across U.S. counties.

Tools & Resources (3/5)

Expanded Data Tools & Health Indicators

- [IPCC Data Distribution Center](#)
Climate data repository for research and risk analysis
- [National Cancer Institute Statistics](#)
Health impact data for assessing environmental and demographic trends
- [ATSDR Portal](#)
Information on toxic substances and their health impacts.
- [CDC National Vital Statistics System](#)
Repository of U.S. health data on births, deaths, and life expectancy.
- [City Health Dashboard](#)
Local-level health data for more than 900 U.S. cities to inform project impact narratives.
- [HHS Data Warehouse](#)
Access to national and regional health resource data.
- [National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases](#)
Health statistics relevant to chronic disease prevalence.
- [Office of Minority Health SVI Data](#)
Resources and indices for analyzing health disparities in minority populations.
- [EPA Radon Zone Map](#)
Interactive map showing radon risk levels across U.S. regions.

Tools & Resources (4/5)

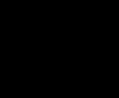
Grant Preparation & Funding Resources

- [EPA MARC Grant Application Resources](#)
Guidance on applying for Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan, and Cleanup (MARC) grants.
- [Funding 101 Workshop \(YouTube\)](#)
Recorded workshop explaining foundational federal funding concepts and strategies.
- [EPA Brownfields Federal Programs Guide](#)
Comprehensive guide to federal programs supporting Brownfields redevelopment.
- [EPA's Revitalization Ready Guide](#)
Step-by-step guide to help communities plan and implement successful land reuse and revitalization projects.
- [Advancing Equity in Land Reuse Planning and Visioning \(CCLR & Groundwork USA\)](#)
Guide focused on integrating equity and community engagement into land reuse planning
- [EPA's Directory of Land Revitalization Technical Assistance Programs](#)
List of organizations providing technical assistance for community revitalization and land reuse.
- [CCLR's Guide to Using Data to Make Your Case](#)
Toolkit on leveraging data to strengthen grant proposals and redevelopment plans.
- [CCLR's Navigating Brownfields FY26 Grants](#)
Presentation to help prepare to apply for funding to assess, clean up, and plan to redevelop brownfields.

Tools & Resources (5/5)

Local Infrastructure Hub Workshop Recordings

- [Grant Overview](#)
Start with the fundamentals of the Brownfields Program, including its purpose, eligible applicants, and key definitions related to site contamination and redevelopment.
- [Managing Partnerships and Engaging the Community](#)
Discover how to build strong partnerships and explore effective ways to engage residents and stakeholders, ensuring community priorities shape project goals and outcomes.
- [Incorporating Data](#)
Learn how to use environmental data, maps, and impact metrics to create persuasive, evidence-based grant narratives.
- [Demystifying Capital Stacks & Budgeting](#)
Find strategies to align budgets with eligible activities, identify matching funds, and leverage complementary grant and financing opportunities.
- [Writing and Packaging a Strong Grant](#)
Get tips on crafting a clear, well-structured application that highlights readiness, impact, and alignment with EPA priorities.



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