

# **EPA Brownfields Revitalization Assessment and Cleanup Grant Funding**

What Makes a Winning  
Proposal

October 2004

# Presentation Overview

- Types of funding available and eligibility issues
- Competitive criteria for funding
- RCRA sites – specific criteria

# *Authorized Brownfields Funding*

**\$200 Million\***  
**Communities**

**\$50 Million**  
**States & Tribes**

**\*25% For Petroleum**

**ASSESSMENT GRANTS**

**CLEANUP Revolving Loan  
Fund GRANTS**

**Direct CLEANUP GRANTS**

**JOB-TRAINING GRANTS**

**Brownfields Targeted  
Assessments**

**STATE & TRIBAL  
RESPONSE PROGRAM  
GRANTS**

# State and Tribal Response Programs

The Brownfields Law authorizes \$50 million for States and Tribes

Funds can be used to:

- Establish or enhance response programs (***any response programs including RCRA, UST, VCPs***)
- Capitalize revolving loan funds
- Develop environmental insurance mechanisms
- Conduct site-specific oversight
- Develop institutional controls

# The Competitive Grant Program

*These grants are very competitive. Be prepared to put time and effort into constructing a winning proposal.*

# Who Can Apply for Grant Funds:

*Funding for assessment and cleanup of sites is awarded through an annual, national competition.*

- State, Tribal and local governments
- Quasi-government entities (e.g., regional councils, redevelopment authorities, economic development agencies)
- Non-profits for direct cleanup grants only

# What kind of funding is available?

- Assessment grants – community wide or site specific for inventories, site assessment and remediation planning
- Capitalization grant to establish a revolving loan and subgrant fund (RLF) to pay for cleanup – 20% cost share required
- Site specific Cleanup grants – 20% cost share required
- Cleanup grants and RLF subgrants – **the applicant MUST OWN the site.**

# Legislative Ranking Criteria

- Potential to leverage other funds
- Potential to stimulate economic development
- Impact on human health and the environment
- Use/reuse of existing infrastructure
- Greenspace or other public use
- Meet needs of community unable to draw on other funds (small population or low income)
- Eligibility for other funding
- Fair distribution between urban & rural areas
- Community involvement in clean-up & reuse plans
- Impact on sensitive populations

# General Grant Criteria

- Site Eligibility
- Community Need
- Improve Human Health and Environment
- Partnerships & Leveraged Resources
- Community Involvement
- Economic Development
- Sustainability, Greenspace/Open space, public use, public benefit
- Project Viability
- Other Criteria

# Site Eligibility

- For assessment, communities can apply on behalf of sites.
- For cleanup grants/subgrants, property ownership must be in the hands of a public or non-profit entity. Owners must apply directly for funds.
- Private property owners cannot apply directly for grant funds. Private property owners can apply for loans from an RLF for cleanup.
- Hazardous sites - applicant must not be liable for contamination on the property under CERCLA.
- Petroleum sites –
  - must be relatively low risk,
  - Have no viable responsible party
  - Sites with RCRA 9003(h) corrective action order are not eligible

# Community Need

- Needy communities fare better in competition
- High unemployment rates, high poverty rates, loss of jobs/population, minority or other sensitive populations. Include demographic statistics.
- Mention any unusually high health concerns in the area. Can any of these be tied to the site(s)?
- Present the environmental, economic, social and health impacts of brownfields on the community
- Environmental Justice concerns
- ***Focus on the environmental and health impacts of your project.***

# Human Health & Environment

- Provide sensitive population statistics specific to the area (children, elderly, pregnant women).
- Explain suspected exposure pathway of concern.
- Describe contaminants of concern and impact both to health and/or natural resources.
- Describe how you have been and will continue to coordinate with local and state environmental and public health agencies on site specific projects.

# Identify Key Partners and Leveraged Resources

- Partnerships - leveraged resources, support, or assistance from stakeholders
- Technical, financial or regulatory support
- Local, state, federal, private, volunteer efforts.  
**The more diversity among partners the better.  
We particularly look for local commitments.**
- Realistic goals for the project
- Letters of support may be included.
- ***Talk to your State's environmental authority.***  
**Need letter of support for the proposal - mandatory.**

# Community Support

- Evidence of community involvement and support. Discuss how the community ***Has Been and Will Be*** involved. Provide documentation – names and phone numbers. Describe how groups or individuals are involved and the function of each.
- Community must be involved in the development of the grant proposal/ application. Opportunity for public comment.
- Did the community help select and prioritize the sites?
- Cleanup projects require the development of a formal community involvement plan.

# Economic Development

- Show how the brownfields project will fit into your community's master plan/development plan/growth plan. Coordinate your brownfields projects with special economic zones, Main Street programs, industrial area plans, etc.
- Highlight regional approaches to brownfields revitalization or economic development. Show how your project complements the development goals of the surrounding area
- Market demand. Are developers already interested in site – provide evidence
- Provide Data on Jobs Created, Economic Development, Increase to Tax Base

# Greenspace, Open Space, Non-profit Uses

- Greenspace - parks, playgrounds, trails, gardens, habitat restoration, open space
- Either creation or preservation
- Tell us who will use the site and how. Present demand research.
- Demonstrate how the broader community will benefit from greenspace project.

# Sustainability & Infrastructure

- Sustainability - long term benefits. Address Area Wide Brownfields Prevention (e.g., local ordinance, plan)
- Provide details for all infrastructure in place and needed for redevelopment to occur.
- Incorporate creative or innovative reuse of infrastructure or reduced consumption of natural resources. Incorporate low impact design.
- Consider use of green buildings for project or historical preservation of buildings
- Estimate reduction in sprawl, smart growth, preservation of open space

# Project Viability


- Realistic expectation that the site can be redeveloped. Have a comprehensive plan for all steps of the redevelopment process.
- EPA grant resources are limited. Explain how full funding will be available to complete the project. Address funding gaps and contingencies.
- Funds committed should be targeted for environmental work, less for planning aspects.
- Understand public opposition that may exist for the site redevelopment.

# Other Criteria

- Provide a detailed *realistic* budget. Explain project tasks.
- Provide a project schedule.
- Evidence of ability to manage federal grants.
- For RLF, explain your business/financial plan a capability to manage a loan fund.

# **RCRA Specific Criteria**

**Property-Specific Funding  
Determinations for certain  
RCRA Sites**



# Property-Specific Funding Determinations for RCRA Sites

- Many RCRA sites are eligible for brownfields funding and can be included in grant proposals with no additional steps needed.
- Other RCRA facilities require approval from EPA to become eligible for brownfields funding. The process is called a **“Property Specific Funding Determination”**
- RCRA facilities that need property specific funding determinations include:
  - RCRA facilities with administrative or court orders or judicial consent decrees
  - RCRA permitted facilities
  - RCRA facilities under corrective action
  - Land disposal units under closure notification, closure plan or permit

# Property-Specific Funding Determinations for RCRA Sites

- Additional section of the funding proposal
- Describe the type of RCRA facility and why the site should be eligible for brownfields funding.
- Demonstrate that the applicant of the funding is not responsible for contamination at the site. Liability restrictions continue to apply.
- Discuss why other funding is not available to assess or cleanup the facility.
- Describe why federal funding should be used at this facility.

# Property-Specific Funding Determinations for RCRA Sites

- Describe how funding will
  - protect human health and the environment, and either
  - promote economic development
  - or enable the creation, preservation or addition to parks, greenways, undeveloped property, other recreational property, or non-profit purposes

# Property-Specific Funding Determinations for RCRA Sites

## ***Protect Human Health and Environment***

- Describe what kind of contamination will be addressed and what health and environmental improvements will result.
- Describe how the cleanup and redevelopment of the facility will be protective of human health and environment.

# Property-Specific Funding Determinations for RCRA Sites

## ***Promote Economic Development or Greenspace***

- Describe redevelopment planned for the site.
  - If economic development - # of jobs, increase in property values, tax base, description of business plans and community-wide redevelopment strategies.
  - If greenspace/public use – describe the public benefit, who will use the new site, how the site will be preserved/maintained over time,

# In Conclusion: Make Contacts Early

- Call your EPA Regional Brownfields staff to discuss eligibility
- Contact Your State/Tribal Environmental Agency for Assistance & State Letter
- Involve the community early in the process of developing your project and the funding proposal.
- **The FY-05 Proposal Guidelines are on EPA's website: [www/epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields). Proposals will be due November 12, 2004.**

# **EPA's Brownfields Program**

---

[www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)