



EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grants: Interested in Applying for Funding? *Here's what you need to know to get started...*

What is EPA's Brownfields Program?



Lakewood, Colorado

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. EPA provides technical and financial assistance for brownfields activities through an approach based on four main goals: protecting human health and the environment, sustaining reuse, promoting partnerships, and strengthening the marketplace. Brownfields grants serve as the foundation of the Brownfields Program and support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, cleanup, and job training activities. Thousands of properties have been assessed and cleaned up through the Brownfields Program, clearing the way for their reuse.



Lakewood, Colorado

A brownfield is defined as: real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The 2002 Brownfields Law further defines the term to include a site that is: "contaminated by a controlled substance; contaminated by petroleum or a petroleum product excluded from the definition of 'hazardous substance'; or mine-scarred land."

What are the Four Grant Types?

- ✓ Assessment grants provide funding for brownfields inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.
- ✓ Revolving Loan Fund grants provide funding to capitalize a revolving loan fund that provides loans and subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields.

- ✓ **Cleanup grants** provide direct funding for cleanup activities at specific sites.
- ✓ Job Training grants provide environmental training for residents of brownfields communities.

What are Cleanup Grants?

Brownfields Cleanup grants provide funding for a grant recipient to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. Funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and/or hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances commingled with petroleum).

For the complete discussion of Brownfields Program grant funding, refer to the EPA Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grants at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

How Do I Apply for a Cleanup Grant?

Applicants submit a proposal for each grant type that they are applying for (i.e., assessment, revolving loan fund, and/or cleanup). Each proposal must address the selection criteria outlined in the guidelines.

Grant proposals should be concise and well organized, and must provide the information requested in the guidelines. Applicants must demonstrate that they meet threshold criteria requirements and must respond to evaluation criteria. Factual information about your proposed project and community must be provided.

Proposals must include:

- ✓ Cover letter describing project
- ✓ Applicant information
- ✓ Applicable mandatory attachments (e.g., state letter)
- ✓ Responses to evaluation criteria

All applicants must refer to the Proposal Guidelines published by EPA.

Who is Eligible to Apply for a Cleanup Grant?

Eligible entities include: state, local, and tribal governments, with the exception of certain Indian tribes in Alaska; general purpose units of local government, land clearance authorities, or other quasi-governmental entities; regional council or redevelopment agencies; states or legislatures; or nonprofit organizations.

Some properties are excluded from the definition of a brownfield unless EPA makes a site-specific funding determination that allows grant funds to be used at that site.

In order to receive a Cleanup grant, the applicant must be the sole owner of the property that is the subject of its cleanup grant proposal by time of proposal submission. For the purposes of eligibility determinations in the guidelines only, the term “own” means fee simple title. A written ASTM or equivalent Phase I report must be completed and a minimum of an ASTM or equivalent Phase II site assessment must be underway or completed prior to proposal submission.

How Much Cleanup Grant Funding is Available?

- ✓ Up to \$200,000 per site – no entity may apply for funding cleanup activities at more than five sites.
- ✓ Cleanup Grants require a 20 percent cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services, and must be for eligible and allowable costs.

How Long is the Cleanup Grant Period?

The performance period for a cleanup grant is three years.

Where Do I Find the Proposal Guidelines?

Electronic copies of the Proposal Guidelines can be obtained from the EPA brownfields Web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

Additional information on grant programs may be found at: www.grants.gov

Is Pre-Application Assistance Available?

If resources permit, EPA Regions may conduct open meetings with potential applicants. Check with your regional office for date and location information. Your regional Brownfields Program contacts can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/corcntct.htm>

EPA can respond to questions from applicants about threshold criteria, including site eligibility and ownership.

What is the Evaluation/Selection Process?

Brownfields grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Evaluation panels consisting of EPA staff and other federal agency representatives assess how well the proposals meet the threshold and ranking criteria outlined in the Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grants. Final selections are made by EPA senior management after considering the ranking of proposals by the evaluation panels. Responses to threshold criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If the proposal does not meet the threshold criteria, the proposal will not be evaluated. In some circumstances, EPA may seek additional information.