



# EPA Brownfields Assessment Grants: Interested in Applying for Funding?

*Here's what you need to know...*

## What Is EPA's Brownfields Program?



Salt Lake City, Utah (before)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program](#) provides funds to empower states, Tribal Nations, communities, and other stakeholders to

work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield sites. EPA provides financial and technical assistance for brownfields activities protect human health and the environment, encourage sustainable reuse, promote partnerships, strengthen local economies, and create jobs. By providing funds and technical assistance to assess, cleanup, and plan for site reuse, EPA enables communities to overcome the environmental, legal, and fiscal challenges associated with brownfield properties.

EPA's investments in communities across the country help local leaders eliminate uncertainties, clean up contaminated properties, and transform brownfield sites into community assets.



Salt Lake City, Utah (after)

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 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 Assessment Grants?

Assessment Grants provide funding for a recipient to:

- ✓ **Inventory Sites:** Compile a listing
- ✓ **Characterize Sites:** Identify past uses
- ✓ **Assess Sites:** Determine existing contamination of hazardous substances and/or petroleum contamination
- ✓ **Conduct Planning Around One or More Brownfield:** Initiate site revitalization and prepare for site redevelopment
- ✓ **Conduct Site-specific Cleanup and Redevelopment Planning:** Scope and plan process
- ✓ **Conduct Community Involvement:** Inform and engage community

## What Types Of Assessment Grants Are Available?

### Community-Wide Grants

- ✓ A Community-wide Assessment Grant is appropriate for communities that are beginning to address their brownfield challenges, as well as for communities that have ongoing efforts to bring sites into productive reuse.
- ✓ Applicants may request up to \$500,000 to carry out eligible activities.

### Assessment Coalition Grants

- ✓ An assessment coalition is comprised of one lead member and at least two, but not more than four, partners.
- ✓ Applicants may request up to \$1 million to carry out eligible activities. Recipients will be required to assess a minimum of two sites in each member's geographic area.
- ✓ Applicants will not be allowed to substitute another site where the subject site is determined to be ineligible.

### Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes

- ✓ Funding is available to states, tribal nations, and eligible native corporations in Alaska.
- ✓ Applicants should target work in disadvantaged communities and work with communities that do not have capacity to apply for and manager their own Brownfields Grant.
- ✓ Applicants may request up to \$2 million to carry out eligible activities. Recipients will be required to assess a minimum of 10 brownfield sites.

## Who Is Eligible To Apply For A ... Community-wide Assessment Grant?

- ✓ General Purpose Unit of Local Government.
- ✓ Land Clearance Authority or another quasi-governmental entity that operates under the supervision and control of, or as an agent of, a general purpose unit of local government.
- ✓ Government Entity Created by State Legislature.
- ✓ Regional Council or group of General Purpose Units of Local Government.
- ✓ Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state.
- ✓ State.
- ✓ Indian tribe other than in Alaska.
- ✓ Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community.
- ✓ Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ✓ Limited liability corporation/partnership in which all managing members/general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.
- ✓ Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

## ... An Assessment Coalition Grant?

- ✓ State.
- ✓ County government.
- ✓ Regional Council established under governmental authority (e.g., regional planning commissions).
- ✓ Group of General Purpose Units of Local Government (e.g., councils of governments).
- ✓ Indian tribe other than in Alaska.
- ✓ Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community.

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## How Long Is The Assessment Grant Period?

The performance period for a Community-wide and Coalition Assessment Grant is four years, and a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes is five years.

## How Do I Apply For An Assessment Grant?

Copies of the Application Guidelines can be obtained from EPA's Brownfields Program website at [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields) or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Applicants submit an application through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Applications 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 ranking criteria. Factual information about your proposed project and community must be provided.

## What Is The Evaluation/Selection Process?

Responses to threshold criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If the application does not meet the threshold criteria, the application will not be evaluated. In limited circumstances, EPA may seek additional information.

Brownfields Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Evaluation panels consisting of EPA staff and other federal agency representatives assess how well the applications meet the threshold and ranking criteria outlined in the Application Guidelines. The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization will provide to the Selection Official a ranking list of applicants to select based on the application's final score, availability of funds, and as appropriate, the other factors described in the Application Guidelines.

## 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 [www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-contacts-epa-regional-offices](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-contacts-epa-regional-offices).

EPA can respond to questions from applicants about threshold criteria, including site eligibility and ownership. EPA staff cannot meet with applicants to discuss draft applications or provide assistance in responding to ranking criteria.