

U.S. EPA REGION 8

WBWIRE NEWSLETTER



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U.S. EPA Region 8 Western Brownfields Wire – Spring 2023

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Region 8 Communities to Receive \$17.5 Million in Assessment and Cleanup Funds

EPA is excited to announce our largest investment ever in Brownfield Communities of \$315 million in grants and funding including \$215 million to be awarded to 267 grants nationwide through EPA's Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and Cleanup grant competition. In Region 8, a total of \$15.28 million in Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup grants will be provided to 20 communities.

Additionally, \$2.25 million in RLF supplemental funding will go to an existing Brownfields RLF recipient in Region 8. Congratulations to the successful Region 8 communities! For more information read EPA's [press release](#), [grant awardee information](#), and click the recipient's name in the right column for a link to more information about the recipient's proposed project.



Region 8 Brownfields Grant Selections

Cleanup Grant

- [Fargo Housing and Redevelopment Authority](#), North Dakota: \$2,000,000 for the Lashkowitz Highrise
- [Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians](#): \$1,000,000 for the Main Hospital at San Haven
- [Sun Valley Zuni LLC](#), Colorado: \$1,049,300 for the Former Zuni Tank Farm
- [Keating School](#), Colorado: \$1,000,000 for the Former Keating Junior High School
- [Mt. Carmel Wellness and Community Center](#), Colorado: \$998,770 for Holy Trinity Convent and School
- [Watershed NP Inc.](#), Colorado: \$979,222 for McGinnis Gymnasium
- [Salt Lake City Corporation](#), Utah: \$495,200 for the Former Schovaers Electronic Site

Revolving Loan Fund for Cleanups

- [Big Sky Economic Development Authority](#), Montana: \$1,000,000
- [Sweetgrass Development Corporation](#), Montana: \$1,000,000
- [Great Northern Development Corporation](#), Montana: \$2,250,000 in supplemental funding

Multipurpose Grant

- [Silverton](#), Colorado: \$800,000

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians will receive a \$1 million Brownfields Cleanup Grant funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The EPA funds will be used to clean up the main hospital (pictured above) of the former San Haven Sanitarium.



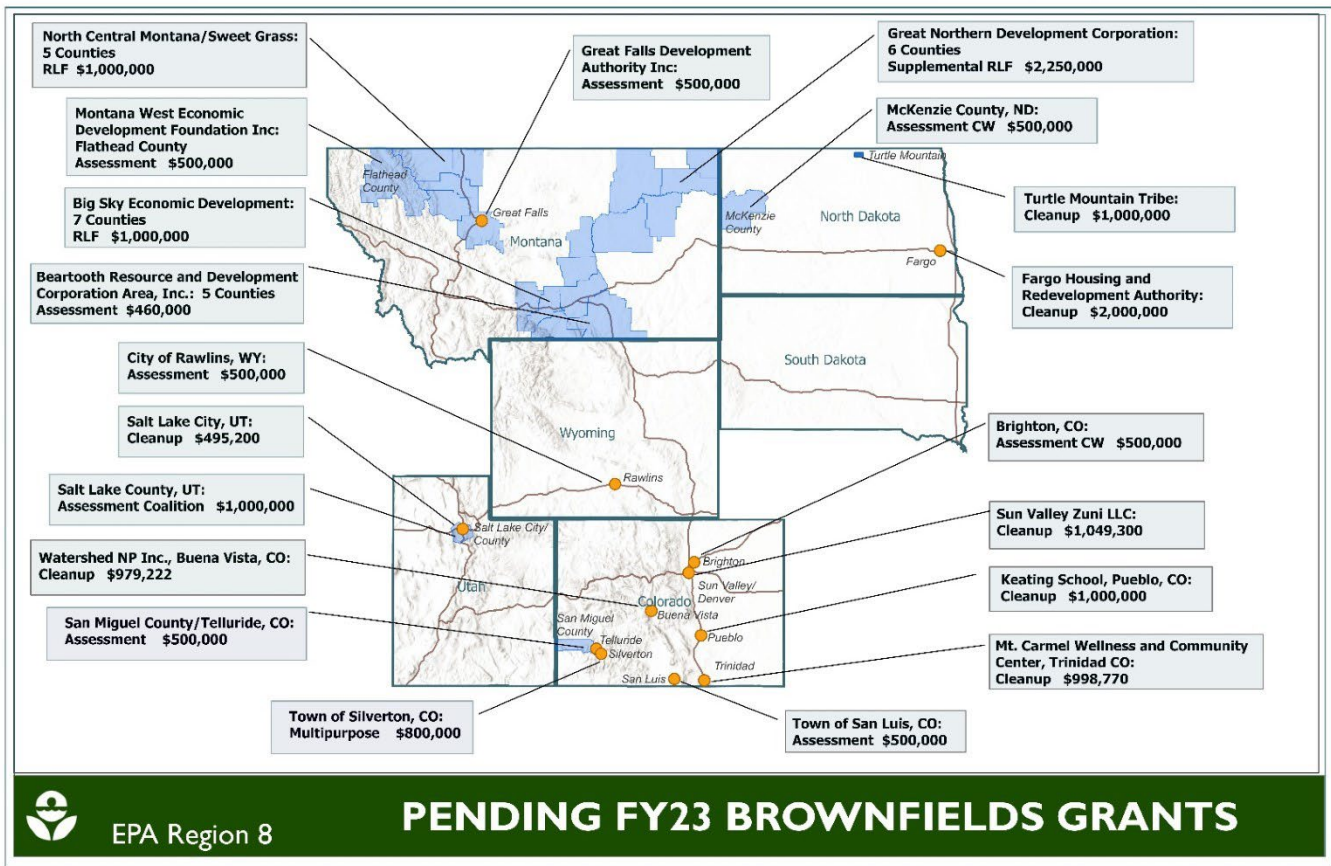
The McGinnis Gym in Buena Vista, Colorado, (pictured above left) adjoining the courthouse building in 1958 and pictured recently (above right) will be cleaned up using a \$979,222 grant funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Pictures courtesy of Watershed, Inc.

Community-wide Coalition Assessment Grant

- [Salt Lake County](#), Utah: \$1,000,000

Community-wide Assessment Grant

- [Rawlins](#), Wyoming: \$500,000
- [McKenzie County](#), North Dakota: \$500,000
- [San Miguel County](#), Colorado: \$500,000
- [San Luis](#), Colorado: \$500,000
- [Brighton](#), Colorado: \$500,000
- [Montana West Economic Development Foundation](#), Montana: \$500,000
- [Great Falls Development Authority](#), Montana: \$500,000
- [Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.](#), Montana: \$460,000



EPA Region 8

PENDING FY23 BROWNFIELDS GRANTS

Watch [KTVQ Billings' interview](#) with EPA Region 8's Greg Davis and Big Sky Economic Development Authority's Dianne Lehm discussing Big Sky Economic Development Authority's Brownfields Program and how they plan to use the RLF grant.

Brownfields Job Training Grant Funding Opportunity

The Brownfields Job Training (JT) grant solicitation [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-23-08](#) is open and will close **August 2, 2023!** Eligible entities, including nonprofits, local governments, and other organizations, may apply for up to \$500,000 to deliver Brownfields Job Training (JT) programs to recruit, train, and place local, unemployed, and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites in secure, full-time employment in the environmental field. EPA will host an **outreach webinar for prospective applicants** on **Wednesday June 14, 2023, from 11:00 – 1:30 pm MT**. Click [here](#) to join the webinar at the time of the event. No registration is required. A recording of the webinar will be available.

Grantees can tailor their training curriculum to the job market needs of their Brownfields community with training in:

- ✓ Brownfields hazardous waste training
- ✓ “Green Remediation” technologies
- ✓ Green infrastructure and stormwater management
- ✓ Emergency planning, preparedness, and response training for emergencies leading to contamination on brownfield sites
- ✓ Enhanced environmental health and safety related to site remediation
- ✓ Energy efficiency and alternative energy technologies
- ✓ Training in assessment, inventory, analysis, and remediation of brownfield sites
- ✓ Use of techniques and methods for cleanup of hazardous substances
- ✓ Awareness training in Environmental Stewardship and Environmental Justice
- ✓ Training in climate change mitigation and adaption
- ✓ Training must include OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 40-hour HAZWOPER.

To learn more, please visit [EPA’s Brownfields job training webpage, the grant solicitation, and KSU TAB’s website \(for examples of previous successful applications\)](#). Another great resource for getting started with a Brownfields Job Training program is the [Brownfields-toolbox](#) provided by EPA’s job training technical assistance provider, Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) of the Eastern Iowa







Community Colleges (EICC). For additional information, contact the EPA Region 8 Brownfields Job Training Grant Coordinator [Christine Michaud-Tilly](#).



Pictured left: Region 8's Job Training contacts [Phylcia Allen](#) and [Christine Michaud-Tilly](#) attending job training all grantee meeting in Alexandria Virginia. Pictured right: Photo from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Brownfields job training graduation in Pueblo, Colorado on May 19, 2023.

Brownfields Accomplishments

The Brownfields accomplishments in Region 8 during fiscal year 2022 were remarkable! Thank you to all partners who contributed to these results.

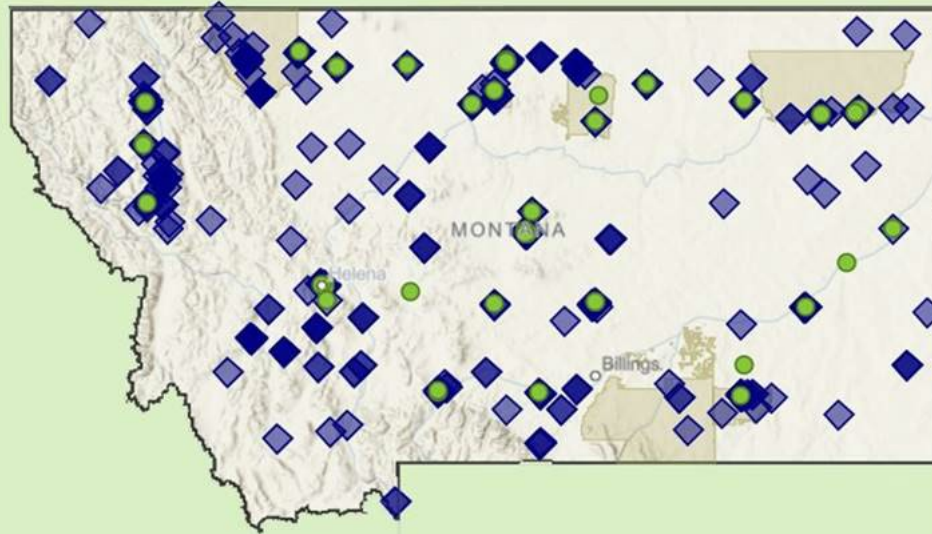
					
202	31	548	92	1,108	\$242 M
Assessments Completed	Cleanups Completed	Acres Ready for Reuse	Properties Made Ready for Reuse	Jobs Leveraged	Dollars Leveraged

Around the Region

Our recommendation for a good read: The impact of EPA Brownfield grants and technical assistance on small towns in Colorado was the topic of an in-depth article in [The Colorado Sun](#) that featured **Cañon City, Colorado**.

A great example of networking: The 2022 [Brownfields and Beyond Workshop](#), hosted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Brownfields Program in collaboration with the Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields (KSU TAB) program, was held November 16-17 in Great Falls, MT. About 50 in-person and virtual participants attended the two-day workshop, which brought together city and county officials, economic development nonprofit organizations, environmental remediation and response companies, engineering/surveying firms, and at least one real estate developer. MDEQ highlighted Brownfields resources directly available from MDEQ. We encourage you to contact your [State Brownfields Program](#) about additional Brownfields resources that may be a good fit for your community.

For the Workshop, EPA Region 8 delivered three presentations on brownfield funding opportunities: assessments and cleanup of contaminated properties, technical assistance for infrastructure redevelopment, and grant funding for job training programs to directly benefit communities impacted by Brownfields sites. Contact a [Region 8 EPA Brownfields Project Manager](#) if you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities.



Map above shows Brownfields assessments (purple diamonds) and cleanups (green circles) completed in Montana in towns of less than 35,000 population, from 2006 through 2022. The darker diamonds indicate multiple properties.

Starting off the New Year right: The city of **Missoula, Montana** started 2023 off with a flurry of exciting Brownfields projects. Brownfields Assessments at the former Clark Fork Inn property paved the way for a nonprofit, [The Poverello Center](#), to move forward with the redevelopment of a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans. On the northeastern portion of the Scott Street Property, a Supplemental Assessment characterized soil for a Construction Soil Management Plan that is allowing excavation to begin for redevelopment of 70 permanently affordable community land trust homes and 240 market rate apartments. At the Zip Beverage property, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Supplemental Assessments are underway to assist the City with due diligence prior to potentially purchasing the property for redevelopment as consolidated offices for the City's Public Works and Mobility Department. A hazardous building materials Assessment is underway to help inform future renovations at the [Federal Building](#) that will soon provide a single central hub for public services for both the City of Missoula and Missoula County. Asbestos has been

abated at the Wooden Images property, cleanup completed at the Sleepy Inn property and a Voluntary Cleanup Plan Remediation Proposal is being developed for the MRL Triangle to delist it as a State Superfund Site. This activity wouldn't be possible without the City and County utilizing multiple EPA brownfield funding sources including Assessment Grant Funds, Cleanup Grant Funds, Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) and program income from a closed RLF grant. At the end of 2022, Missoula's Brownfields Program received media coverage in [The Missoulian](#) and [Missoula Current](#), and more recently, the Missoula Current highlighted the [Scott Street District](#).

Continuing Success: The former Poplar Airport, located within the **Fort Peck Reservation**, stood vacant for years due to contamination associated with petroleum and pesticides from former crop-dusting operations. Targeted Brownfields Assessments (TBAs) were conducted in 2004 and 2010, paving the way for a 2013 Brownfields cleanup grant awarded to the Fort Peck Tribes. After remediation was completed, new sustainable housing was developed on the site.



The success story continues! In April of 2022, a 51,000 square foot \$23 Million health clinic and recreation center (wellness center) opened on the former Poplar Airport Site. Designed to promote health through every stage of life and focused on increasing life expectancy for tribal members, the wellness center provides critical medical, dental, and therapy services and includes a gym, pool, childcare center, and space for cultural programs. The new center is expected to create 70 new jobs. View the beautiful new [Wellness Center](#) and read about the [Brownfields component of the project](#).

Brownfield Resources and Trainings

New Grantee Resources:



Congratulations to all the new grant recipients! Stay tuned for an email from an EPA Region 8 Brownfields Project Officer with next steps. If you are new to Brownfields grants, you may be wondering what some of these terms mean, or how to navigate the Brownfields grants process. Help is on the way!

Last October, the Region 8 Brownfields team held a two-hour virtual New Brownfields Grantee Workshop. Covering the basics and more, and with breakout sessions for different topics, the workshop demystified Brownfields grant requirements and procedures. New

recipients should be on the lookout for an invitation to new grantees for a workshop this fall.

We encourage all Brownfields cooperative agreement recipients (new and experienced) to attend the National Brownfields Training Conference in Detroit, Michigan, August 8-11, 2023 ([details below](#)). New recipients can work with their project officer to include the conference cost as a pre-award cost.

Tips for Unsuccessful Grant Applicants:

If your grant application was unsuccessful this round, an EPA Brownfields Project Manager will be reaching out to schedule a debrief to discuss your proposal. We also recommend utilizing EPA's technical assistance provider, KSU TAB, as a resource to help with your brownfield grant applications and to attend their grant writing trainings including **KSU TAB's 2023 Brownfield Grant Writing Training Webinar Series** ([details below](#)). Additionally, EPA currently posted all the grant applications online [here](#) and it could be helpful to review a few successful applications. In the meantime, stay tuned for news on our next round of assessment and cleanup

grants (anticipated fall 2023) and follow the tips below for how to get started on a Brownfields project without a grant.

Tips for Getting Started on a Brownfields Project Without a Grant

We encourage you to reach out to your [state brownfields contact](#) and ask about resources they have available for your brownfield assessment and cleanup needs. Additionally, EPA provides Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments free of charge to communities through our Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) program. Our TBA applications are short and can be submitted anytime throughout the year. Click here and get started with a [TBA application](#).

Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Communities with Brownfields

Congratulations to Kansas State University! EPA selected Kansas State University to receive \$23 million to provide technical assistance to communities with Brownfields through a program known as [KSU TAB](#). Click [here](#) to read the press release about the selection.

Support to Region 8 communities is free of charge and KSU TAB provides a variety of technical assistance, resources and trainings including a grant-writing training webinar series and review of draft proposals. Join KSU TAB for the [2023 Brownfield Grant-writing Training Webinar Series: It's Never Too Early to Start!](#) designed to determine your readiness for an EPA Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, or Cleanup (MARC) Grant. Learn from seasoned grant writers and subject matter experts how to tell your story effectively and craft a successful application! This six-part series kicked off on April 20th, 2023 and continued through May 25th, 2023. Each webinar is roughly two hours, including questions and answers. If you missed these webinars, recordings of all webinars will be available on the event series webpage [here](#). For more information on TAB resources that may be a good fit for your community contact Maggie Belanger via email: maggiejessie@ksu.edu or phone: 785-230-6825.



The 2023 National Brownfields Training Conference will be in Detroit, Michigan on August 8-11, 2023. It is the largest event in the nation focused on environmental revitalization and economic development. Registration is open and hotel

blocks are available at <https://brownfields2023.org/>. Educational sessions are posted. Consider stopping by the Region 8 booth and open house as well as attending sessions highlighting Region 8 projects.

- [Revolving Loan Fund Workshop: Solve to Revolve – Answering all your RLF Questions](#) will include Lillian Sunwall with Great Falls Development Authority as a speaker and EPA Region 8's RLF lead, Curt Jefferies on Tuesday, August 8th from 8:30 am – 11:30 am.
- [Region 8 Open House](#) is an opportunity to meet up with colleagues in our Region and EPA Region 8 brownfields staff and on Tuesday, August 8th from 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm.
- [Displacing Displacement: Sustainable Communities that Sustain the People Who Already Live There](#) will include Cindy Chang with Groundwork Denver as a presenter on Wednesday, August 9th from 10:30 am – 11:30 am.
- [LUST Never Sleeps! Maximizing Redevelopment Opportunities at Abandoned Gas Stations](#) speaker will include Jason Seyler with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality on Wednesday, August 9th from 2:40 – 2:55 pm.
- [Tribal Technical Assistance: Design Workshops to Advance Revitalization Goals on Challenging Sites](#) speakers include Mary Rose Morigeau with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe, Ray Reed with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and EPA Region 8's Tribal Brownfields lead, Ted Lanzano on Thursday, August 10th from 10:30 am – 11:30 am.



The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum will be held August 14-17, 2023, in Syracuse, New York and available online. The forum provides an opportunity to meet, share knowledge, and learn from one another on how to improve management, protection, and restoration of Tribal lands. The [Registration](#) deadline is July 31, 2023.

It is recommended to reserve your hotel by July 11th for the best rate available [here](#). Since the call for proposals recently closed, stay tuned for an [updated session schedule](#).

The Colorado Brownfields Conference will be June 12th, 2023, in Lakewood, Colorado. The conference connects Brownfields Professionals across the state. **Register [here](#) by Friday June 2, 2023**, to learn about new funding and support opportunities, and hear about the latest and greatest in the Brownfields World!

Alert for Assessment Grantees: New Phase I American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) Standard and All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) Checklist

All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) is the process of evaluating a property's environmental conditions and assessing potential liability for any contamination. Every Phase I environmental site assessment conducted with EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant funds must be conducted in compliance with the AAI Final Rule at 40 CFR Part 312.

The AAI final rule amending the All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) regulation to recognize the updated ASTM "E1527-21 Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process" as compliant with AAI became effective on February 13, 2023. As a result, ASTM E 1527-21 Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process may be used to

conduct Phase I Environmental Site Assessments with EPA assessment grant funds. Learn more on our [Brownfields All Appropriate Inquires webpage](#).

The All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) checklist has been updated to include the ASTM E 1527-21 Standard. Assessment grant recipients need to complete and sign an AAI checklist for all Phase I Environmental Site Assessments conducted under an EPA Brownfields assessment grant. Contact your [Region 8 EPA Brownfields Project Manager](#) if you have questions.

Thriving Downtowns Playbook

“If you care about developing a rural downtown and wonder how to pay for it, then this playbook is for you.”

Released in 2022, the Thriving Downtowns Playbook breaks down the process for helping small towns attract investment. It includes practical approaches for how to get started and gain traction to initiate and sustain downtown redevelopment. While not specific to Region 8, the information is very relevant to efforts to help small and rural downtowns. The Playbook provides practical steps to organize a local team with the right mix of skill to reimagine, initiate, and attract investment back to rural downtowns. More information on the playbook is described [here](#) and there is also a Zoom

recording of a recent webinar.

Grant Opportunities and Technical Assistance

EPA Funding Announcements from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act

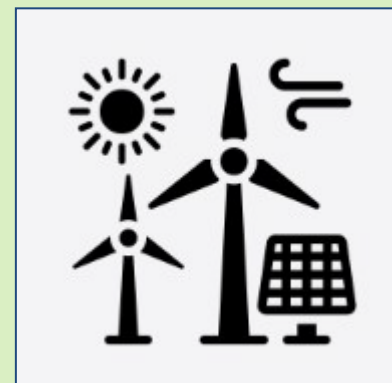
EPA has a [webpage](#) listing current and upcoming EPA funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. A few highlights include:

- [Brownfields Job Training Grant \(details above\)](#) solicitation closes August 2, 2023
- [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program](#) solicitation closes June 30, 2023.

- [Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice in Communities](#) solicitation closes June 6, 2023.
- [Pollution Prevention Grant: Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products](#) solicitation closes June 20, 2023.
- [Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants](#) anticipated solicitation fall 2023.

Clean Energy on Mine Land

The Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations is now offering no-cost technical assistance to inform decision making on topics related to developing clean energy projects on mine land. Technical assistance will vary based on specific project needs/requests and intends to support any phase of project development, including concept development, planning, design, or implementation. Technical assistance is available for state and local governments, tribes, nonprofit organizations, community groups, representatives from companies (private or public), and academic institutions. If you have questions on CEML technical assistance, please reach out to CEML.TA@nrel.gov.



Contact Us

For more information about U.S. EPA Region 8 Brownfields Program, please visit: [the Region 8 Brownfields Webpage](#), [Region 8 Brownfields contacts](#). Email [Erin Joyce](mailto:Erin.Joyce@epa.gov) to be added to the WBWire distribution list.

