

Butler County Board of Commissioners

Economic Development and Planning

124 West Diamond Street, PO Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003-1208
Phone 724.284.5300 Fax 724.284.5315 TDD 724.284.5473

R03-24-A-021

Commissioners

Leslie A. Osche, **Chairman**
Kimberly D. Geyer, **Vice Chairman**
Kevin E. Boozel, M.S., **Secretary**



**Chief of Economic
Development and Planning**
Mark S. Gordon

November 9, 2023

Anthony Geiger

EPA Region 3

Geiger.Anthony@epa.gov

Mail Code 3LD50

Philadelphia, PA. 19103

Dear Mr. Geiger:

This is to serve as the cover letter to our application for funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Community Wide Assessment Grant.

- 1) Applicant Identification: Butler County, PA.
- 2) Funding Requested:
 - a. Assessment Grant Type: Assessment Coalition
 - b. Federal Funds Requested: \$850,000
- 3) Location:
 - Lead Coalition Member and Applicant: Butler County, PA.
 - Non-lead Coalition Members:
 - Butler City, PA.
 - Allegheny Township, Butler County, PA.
 - Slippery Rock Township, PA.
 - Cranberry Community Chest
- 4) Coalition Member's Target Area and Priority Site Information
 - Non-Lead Coalition Members:*
 - Butler City, PA. – covering the geographic area of Butler City
 - Priority Site #1:** Bantam Ave., Butler, PA. 16001
 - Priority Site #2:** 315 Bantam Ave., Butler, PA. 16001
 - Priority Site #3:** 331 Negley Ave., Butler, PA. 16001
 - Priority Site #4:** Virginia Ave and Chestnut St., Butler, PA. 16001
 - All located in Census Tract:42019902300.

- Allegheny Township, Butler County, PA. – covering the geographic area of Allegheny Township.

No Site #6: Allegheny Valley Business Park, Oneida Valley Rd.

Allegheny Township, PA. Located in Census Tract: 42019919100.

- Slippery Rock Township, PA. – covering the geographic area of Slippery Rock Township.
Priority Site #7: 623 New Castle Rd., Slippery Rock Township, PA., located in Census Tract 42019910302.

Cranberry Community Chest – covering the geographic area of Cranberry Township, Butler County, PA.

Priority Site #8: 9600 Goehring Rd., Cranberry Township, PA, located in Census Tract: 42019912303.

Lead Coalition Member: Butler County has 57 municipalities including the four above. Butler County’s geographic area includes the remaining 53 municipalities in the County, and specifically Franklin Township.

Priority Site #4: 858 New Castle Rd., Franklin Township, PA., located in Census Tract 42019902900.

5) **Contacts:**

a. **Project Director:**

Mark Gordon
Chief, Economic Development and Planning
Butler County
124 West Diamond St.
PO Box 1208
Butler, PA 16003-1208
mgordon@co.butler.pa.us
724-284-5300

b. **Highest Ranking Elected Official:**

County Commissioner Leslie A. Osche
Butler County
124 West Diamond St.
PO Box 1208
Butler, PA 16003-1208
losche@co.butler.pa.us
724-284-5100

6) **Population:**

Butler County, PA.	197,300
Butler City, PA.	13,176
Allegheny Township, PA.	555
Slippery Rock Township, PA.	6,719
Cranberry Township, PA.	33,087
Franklin Township, PA.	2,620

- 7) Other Factors Checklist:
- Community population is 10,000 or less --- see above.
 - The priority brownfield site is impacted by mine-scarred land **Site #6** Page 1 &2.
 - The priority sites are adjacent to a body of water – Connoquenessing River – **Sites #1,2,4** – Page 1&2.
 - The priority sites are in a federally designated floodplain – **Sites #4**– Page 1&2..
 - The reuse of the priority sites will incorporate renewable energy–**Site #1**. Page 4.
 - The proposed project will incorporate energy efficient measures–All **Sites**-Page 4.
 - The proposed project will improve climate mitigation and resilience – **Site #8**. Page 1&2.
- 8) Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority – Attached.
- 9) Releasing copies of Applications

Not Applicable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Butler County



Mark S. Gordon
Chief of Economic Development and Planning



November 7, 2023

Mr. Mark Gordon, Chief
Economic Development and Planning
Butler County
P.O. BOX 1208
Butler, PA 16003-1208

RE: U.S. EPA Brownfields Grant Proposal | State Letter of Acknowledgement
Butler County Economic Development and Planning
Butler County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Gordon:

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is pleased to support your efforts to redevelop brownfield properties in your regional area. Returning environmentally challenged and underutilized land and buildings to productive use improves our environment, safeguards our residents, and helps boost Pennsylvania's economy.

The DEP supports the Butler County Economic Development and Planning's application for a US EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant in the amount of \$850,000 to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments, as well as develop reuse plans on selected County sites, particularly among the participating Coalition members including Butler City, Cranberry Township Community Chest, Slippery Rock Township and Allegheny Township in Butler County.

The coalition's efforts to examine the redevelopment potential of aggregated, underutilized sites to create renewed neighborhoods and business districts in Pennsylvania is a worthwhile endeavor.

Both Central Office and Regional Office Staff in the Land Recycling Program look forward to supporting Butler County Economic Development and Planning and U.S. EPA Region 3 on this project.

If you have any questions, please contact John Gross by email at johngross@pa.gov or by telephone at 717-783-7502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Maddigan".

Michael Maddigan
Land Recycling Program Manager
Bureau Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields

1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

1a. Targeted Area and Brownfields

1(a)(i) Coalition Members

The central and northern portions of Butler County, PA. have not fared well, suffering from plant closures, declining population, and higher unemployment compared to the southern tier of the County. To address these inequities, Butler County, the lead-Coalition Member, has brought together:

- Butler City - population 13,176, in the center of the County and the County seat
- Allegheny Township – population 555, in the northeast tier of the County
- Slippery Rock Township – population 6,719, in the northwest tier of the County.
- Cranberry Community Chest – a volunteer non-profit community-based organization seeking to develop a unique public amenity for the County.

The first three Non-lead Members are local governments which all lack capacity to address brownfields in their community. For example, the City of Butler’s development staff consists of a contracted engineer and a zoning/code enforcement officer. Allegheny Township only has a part-time manager; Slippery Rock Township has two employees. The Cranberry Community Chest (“CCC”) has no staff and relies on volunteers or other donated time. Butler County together with its partnering organizations have both experience with brownfield redevelopment and with the EPA’s Brownfield Assessment Grant. We are pleased to serve these four Non-lead Members as well as the County at large with this hopeful 2024 Assessment Coalition Grant.

1(a)(ii) Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Targeted Areas

The City of Butler historically was dependent on manufacturing and these jobs accounted for approximately 20% of employment compared to 9.7% for State and 8.8% for the U.S. Due to the decades long decline in the steel industry, Butler lost 15% of its population between 2000 and 2020, leaving a legacy of older brownfield sites in the City. These sites include former mill sites, production shops, former dry-cleaners, and abandoned houses (**Priority Sites #1-4** below) and are located in census tracts identified as disadvantaged by the EPA Community Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). See also Section 2. In addition to Butler City, we will also focus on at least one brownfield site in each of other Non-lead Members:

- Allegheny Township – Allegheny Clarion Valley Business Park – **Priority Site #6**. This is an existing industrial Park just off Exit 42 of Interstate 80. There are 8 current companies in the Park, creating a total of 332 jobs. It is the major employment generator for northeast Butler County. There are an additional forty-six acres available for development, and in need of environmental assessment, as there are previous mining operations nearby that have since been abandoned.
- Slippery Rock Township – **Priority Site # 7**. This is a 150-acre former stone quarry and processing operation. Machinery from crushing operations may have contaminated soil & groundwater. The site has convenient access to Interstate 79 and can become another major job generator in our northern tier.
- CCC – **Priority Site #8** - 71-acre former Powell Farm. The farm is now vacant, and the local Township has purchased the site with plans to operate a working/teaching farm for the benefit of the community and the County. The farm will provide food for charitable organizations such as food banks. It will also provide space for local community farmers and provide classes and programs on sustainability for local schools and institutions. Before this plan can proceed, the farm has a number of known underground storage tanks to investigate.

There are a total of fifty-seven municipalities in Butler County, so the County would cover the other fifty-three municipalities. In particular, a former 78-acre cement plant along Route 422 in Franklin Township is **Priority Site #5**. We started a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (“ESA”) with the existing 2021 Assessment

Grant, but will not have funds to complete the Phase II ESA without this new Assessment Coalition Grant. This site also has the potential to become a major job generator in central Butler County.

Our efforts will build on the County’s current strengths in manufacturing which include: specialty steel, with Cleveland Cliffs (formerly AK Steel) employing 1,500 at its production facility in Butler City, specialty materials including Coherent producing raw materials for semiconductors, and plastics spurred by the new Shell cracker plant in adjacent Beaver County. The City of Butler also has strengths in medicine and education, with the Independence Health System (formerly Butler Health) and the Butler County Community College. Butler County seeks to continue the work started in 2018 with our first EPA Assessment Grant. That is, we will build on these strengths to create ready sites for business expansion, eliminate blight in the City of Butler and other neighborhoods, and add to the character and amenities of Butler City and the County. The goal is to attract both local business expansion and new relocations to Butler City and the County.

1(a)(iii) Description of Priority Brownfield Sites.

The first three priority sites are continuations from our 2021 Assessment Grant. They are in distressed portions of Butler City, present immediate environmental threats to the adjacent community, yet offer reuse potential. **Sites #1&2** have transformative potential for Butler City as job generators. **Site #1** borders a Creek, presenting potential contamination from groundwater runoff; **Site #2**, the Bantam Jeep building, is laden with asbestos and in dangerous condition. **Site #3** is a former dry-cleaners that is surrounded by **Site #4** and other residential properties. **Site#4** is an aggregation of twenty scattered residential properties, all with possible asbestos issues. **Site #5**, located on SR422, offers potential as an industrial park, and is a former cement plant in need of environmental assessment. **Site #6** is an industrial park in the rural northeast tier of the County, and is the major source of employment in that area. **Site #7** is a former stone quarry, **Site #8** is a unique future amenity for the County, an operating farm repurposed for public and charitable purpose. **Sites #9-15** provide opportunities for industrial reuse.

Priority Sites		Size	Location	Past/Current Land Use	Site Conditions	Potential Environ. Issues
1	AK Steel Site	35	Butler City	steel production	demolished / vacant	groundwater into Creek
2	Bantam Jeep Site	2	Butler City	jeep production	vacant-adj. residential	Asbestos
3	331 Negley Ave.	3	Butler City	dry cleaners	Residential	PCE in groundwater
4	20 Blighted Residential	5	Butler City	lower income housing	adjacent AK Steel site	soil exposure / asbestos
5	Rt. 422 Former Cement Plant	78	Franklin Twp.	cement production	Vacant	groundwater
6	Allegheny Valley Bus. Park	45	Allegheny T..	Industrial Park	occupied & vacant lots	groundwater migration
7	Stone Quarry Site	150	Slippery Rock T	axle production	vacant	off-site migration
8	Powell Farm	71	Cranberry T.	Farm	vacant-T.to purchase	USTs
Other Sites		Size	Location	Past/Current Land Use	Site Conditions	Environ. Issues
9	Magnetics	20	East Butler	Manufact/distribution	vacant industrial	near floodplain
10	Carter Lumber	10	East Butler	Manufact/distribution	vacant industrial	near floodplain
11	R&D Logistics	20	Slippery Rock T	Manufact/distribution	vacant industrial	near floodplain
12	Saxonburg Ceramics	10	Saxonburg	ceramics manufacturing	Vacant-adj residential	Asbestos
13	Industrial Sites-Progress Av	15	Cranberry T.	fabrication/production	Underutilized	soil & groundwater
14	Corner of Franklin&Rt.228	4	Cranberry T.	gas station/car repair	Underutilized	petro-soil&groundwater
15	Salvage Yards	6	Cranberry T.	industrial salvage	Underutilized	soil & groundwater
TOTAL		474				

1.a.(iv) Identifying Additional Sites.

Butler County together with its Partners and Coalition Non-lead Members have a network of contacts with the business, educational, government, and non-profit service community. We also hold monthly public meetings for neighborhood residents. Through these networks, we have identified the properties listed in this inventory and will identify others throughout the life of this prospective grant period. As with previous Assessment Grants, we gather input from these various stakeholders – site owners, public officials, concerned citizens and others. This includes attendance at public meetings. It also includes one-on-one meetings with site owners. We weigh such factors as whether the owner or buyer is cooperative, the reuse potential of the site, access to transportation and infrastructure, and environmental threats. *We will also prioritize sites within our distressed areas - Butler City and the northern tier of the County.* From our experience with two previous Assessment Grants, the cooperation of the owner is critical to both the completion of the environmental assessment, and the reuse of the site. Consequently, we only proceed where we can develop a cooperative relationship with the owner/buyer. This cooperation requires trust among both parties. Since this is a voluntary program, the owner must come to trust us that through the Assessment Grant, we can resolve environmental issues, not just identify them. In turn, we must develop trust in the owner, that they are looking to improve their property and create value for the community in terms of investment and job creation or other public benefits.

1. (b) Revitalization of the Target Area.

(b) (i) Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalizations Plans

Using the proceeds of our 2021 Assessment Grant, we completed a Reuse Plan for **Site #1**, and for the Butler Middle School, which we assessed with the 2018 Grant. In addition to these site-specific plans, Butler County recently updated its comprehensive plan that reestablishes two major goals:

- **Goal #1:** economic development to create prosperity, and
- **Goal #2:** preservation of our small town and rural quality of life.

The redevelopment of the brownfield sites in our inventory advances both of these County goals. We bring job creating uses to these sites, many with existing infrastructure and avoid suburban/rural sprawl.

Goal #1: Sites #1&2 are a top priority for Butler City and the County. Our Reuse Plan lays out options for job creating industrial/offices on the south end and possible housing on the north end. This Reuse Plan recently won a first-place award from the Urban Land Institute for its vision. The site can accommodate over 300,000 sq ft. of new development, and we are busy recruiting companies to this site. Similarly, our Reuse Plan for the Butler Middle School outlines a comprehensive initiative to attract tenants that will train students in health care, food preparation, and human services. This project will provide trained employees to local employers such as Independence Health System and the Watson Institute. Similarly, **Sites #3, 5, 6, &7** offers space for business expansion and relocation into the County, with sites ranging from three acres to 150 acres. On all these sites, by identifying and addressing environmental concerns, they become candidates to attract potential employers. We anticipate funding a Reuse Plan for either or both **Sites 5 & 7**, working with our Members.

Goal #2: Quality of life goals include safe, affordable housing, a walkable street grid, a thriving commercial business district, and recreational opportunities. **Site #4** is a priority site where we plan to advance a quality of-life agenda. First, we anticipate funding a Reuse Plan for this neighborhood, which is across the Connoquenessing Creek from **Sites #1&2**. The Creek actually surrounds this area, and the neighborhood is named the “Island”. It is a lower income residential area with pockets of blight and dated roads, sidewalks and lacking greenspace. Among our goals for the Island is making the Creek accessible to residents, developing workforce housing for future employees at **Sites #1&2**, and making better pedestrian connections to **Sites #1&2** and to the adjacent commercial business district. With our 2018 Grant, we completed a Reuse Plan for

the Main St. Corridor in Butler. As part of the Plan's recommendations, we focused on two key projects which have both advanced: first, the Butler County Economic Development Corporation ("BEDC") opened a One-Stop Center for all County economic development and workforce activities; second, together with Pittsburgh Gateways Corporation, we are completing a more detailed Reuse Plan for the Butler Middle School which also sits along this Corridor. Both these projects will increase foot traffic and activity along the Main St. Corridor.

1. (b)(ii) Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

The combination of environmental assessment, reuse planning, cleanup where needed, and reinvestment will accelerate reuse of our priority sites. The following outlines the benefits and outcomes of our Reuse Strategy.

Goal #1. As brownfield professionals, we know projects can take many years for the timing to align. **Sites #1&2** are a case in point, as we have been working with the owners for several years. This includes guiding them through the reuse planning, attracting new infrastructure investment, marketing, and conducting environmental assessments and cleanup if needed. This is a flagship project for the City of Butler and would have a transformative impact with over three hundred well-paying production and professional positions. In addition, according to the Economic Policy Institute, these jobs would generate a high employment multiplier in the range of 5 to 1. Consequently these three hundred jobs will generate an additional 1,500 jobs among suppliers and when the employees spend their paychecks locally. The project would generate over \$50 million of investment.

Sites **#5&7** offer 230 acres for industrial expansion. Again, these are longer term projects requiring environmental assessment, cleanup if necessary, reuse planning, and infrastructure investment. It then yields sites for industry expansion or relocation. Again, the Assessment Grant funding accelerates this process. Based on our experience – 10 industrial park acres yields 30,000 sq.ft. of new construction. Consequently, we can generate approximately 700,000 sq.ft. of development on these sites without ever losing farmland or forest. Over the next 10 years, we project half of that capacity or 350,000 sq.ft. and approximately 300 jobs at an investment of \$35 million.

Goal #2. The outcomes and benefits with **Site #4** are more organic and incremental than our industrial sites. Our goal is to encourage both reinvestment by existing homeowners and landlords, and new residential construction on available land parcels, along with infrastructure improvements including connections to the Creek. The success of this effort is also linked to the success of the redevelopment of **Sites #1&2**. Approximately nine hundred residents live in this targeted area with 250 residences. Our goal is to incentivize property owners to improve approximately one-third of these units, which would stabilize the neighborhood. We are also working closely with the Housing Authority of Butler County ("Authority") to provide incentives to property owners including grants and loans. The revitalization of the Island will have a positive impact on the nearby Central Business District, as new Island residents will generate more spending in the District.

With all projects, we will incorporate or encourage energy efficient design by selecting insulation and windows that reduce the transfer of heat such as using R-20 insulation on exterior walls and up to R-30 for the ceiling and using double or triple pane windows with a low E-factor to further conserve energy. This also includes positioning buildings to maximize solar exposure, and choosing construction professionals with LEED certification. We also encourage energy efficient heating and cooling systems and renewable energy. *For example, on **Site #1** we will work with the prospective companies to install solar panels as part of the roof system on the larger industrial/flex and office buildings.*

1.(c) Strategy for Leveraging Resources. 1(c) (i). Resources Needed for Site Reuse

Goal #1. For our job creating **Priority Sites**, we will pursue all available public funding for environmental assessment, cleanup, infrastructure, and business location. This includes the State Industrial Site Reuse Program (“ISRP”), U.S. EPA Cleanup Grant, U.S. EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance, U.S.D.A Rural Business Opportunity Grant, US. Appalachian Regional Commission, the State Business in Our Sites Program, the State Multi-Modal Transportation Program, among others. Our Partner, the BEDC has leveraged over \$10 million of these sources for development of the Pullman Business Park in Butler City, and we will apply that same tenacity to leverage funds for all our job creating **Priority Sites**. For example, the BEDC recently applied for \$2.5 million of funding from the State Multi-Modal program for roads and infrastructure on **Sites #1 & 2**. As part of our marketing to private companies to locate on these Sites, we can incentivize them with State programs available through our PA. Department of Community and Economic Development (“DCED”) such as the Small Business First Program, and Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) loans.

Goal #2. For **Site #4**, the Authority, will pursue Federal Home Loan Programs and State PA. Housing Finance Programs with the potential to add Community Development Brock Grant funding. The Authority will offer incentive packages for both new housing construction and renovation of properties on the “Island”. Recently, the Authority was awarded a \$650,000 Grant from the State for blight remediation. For the Connoquenessing waterfront, we will pursue funding through our State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and regional foundations. **For Site #8**, we will assist the CCC with U.S.D.A funding and from local foundations.

In addition, Butler County financed a \$35 million bond issue for infrastructure development, using proceeds of the Marcellus Shale impact fees. The County or individual municipalities borrow under the County credit rating, with very low interest rates. All of our priority **Sites** are good candidates for infrastructure improvements using these bond proceeds.

(c) (ii). Use of Existing Infrastructure. Almost all our inventoried brownfield sites are infill sites with existing infrastructure to the site. This includes roads, water, sewer, stormwater, electric, and gas. These sites can use the existing infrastructure main lines; these lines are intact and have capacity to absorb the new development. This will lower development costs in comparison to a greenfield development and also avoid costly and time-consuming permits for such items as earth disturbance and storm water retention. It gives our brownfield sites a significant advantage over new “greenfield” development. It also preserves the farmland and greenspace that gives our County its rural character and advances **Goal#2** of our County Comprehensive Plan.

For **Sites #1,2,5,7** involving new construction of business parks and extension of existing infrastructure, funding is available through the Infrastructure Bank described above. Subdivision plans will be developed for each Park, and roads and main lines will eventually need to be extended to each development parcel. This includes water, sewer, electric and gas. In addition to proceeds from the Infrastructure Bank, the BEDC can also seek funding from the U.S.EDA for the roads and publicly owned infrastructure. For the private laterals to each site, Butler County and BEDC can assist the owner in accessing programs through the State DCED.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.(a) Community Need.

2. (a) (i) The Community’s Need for Funding

	Butler City	Butler County	PA	US
--	-------------	---------------	----	----

Population Change 2010-20 *	-6.9%	2.2%	2.4%	7.4%
Unemployment Rate **	8.3%	3.3%	3.5%	3.8%
Poverty Rate *	23.8%	8.5%	11.8%	11.5%
Median Household Income *	\$36,750	\$77,065	\$67,587	\$69,021

* - Data are from the U.S.Census American Community Survey available at www.factfinder 2.census.gov/

** - State/Cty. Data from the PA. Ctr. Workforce Info. at www.dli.state.pa.us/. Butler data from the CEJST data base.

As indicated above, median household income in Butler City is half the national average and poverty is twice the national average. The City does not have resources or the expertise to redevelop these brownfields, because of this poverty combined with its small size (13,176) and declining population. A similar situation exists in Allegheny Township – population 555 (**Site #6**) and Slippery Rock Township – population 6,719 (**Site #7**). These small towns lack the resources and expertise to address brownfield redevelopment. In addition to the lack of staff, there are no local or County financial resources to fund environmental assessments or reuse planning. The State’s ISRP can fund 75% of the cost of environmental assessments, but it is not currently funded. This 2024 Grant will serve these small communities that lack resources to address brownfields. There is no other available source of funds.

2. (a)(ii). Threats to Sensitive Populations. (1) Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations Priority Sites #1-4 in Butler City are all located in census tracts, identified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) for purposes of Justice40. Over 90% of the residents are low income according to the EJScreen. As described, **Sites #1&2** are adjacent to the “Island” residential area (i.e. **Site #4**). These residents not only face potential exposure to asbestos and lead due to the old housing stock, but also potential heavy metal exposure and groundwater impacts from **Sites #1&2**. These exposures can have permanent impacts on lungs, brains, and nervous systems among other things, particularly on the young and the old. In fact, 20% of Butler City residents are under eighteen, with another 20% over 65. Not surprisingly, Butler City suffers disproportional health impacts as described below. These **Sites**, particularly in Butler City, also contribute to the blight in these neighborhoods and impacts the welfare of these communities. With a declining population and blighted properties, property values in Butler City decline along with the tax base. This in turn has a detrimental impact on the housing market and net worth of homeowners, particularly among the elderly. This blight robs these senior homeowners of a retirement income, i.e. equity when they sell their home. Consequently, these residents retire in poverty. With this Grant, we can assess the environmental threats on targeted **Sites**, particularly in Butler City, clean them up where needed, and plan and execute redevelopment projects both large and small. This will reduce the threats to the health and welfare of the old and young in Butler City and throughout Butler County.

(2) Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions

As described above, our targeted sites in Butler City and several other sites in Butler County are immediately adjacent to residential neighborhoods. School age children, as well as the elderly are sensitive and vulnerable populations. Combine these adjacencies with the economic disadvantage discussed above, and the health of the residents suffer. According to the EJScreen Tool, residents of Butler City:

- experience low life expectancy in the 95-100 percentile
- suffer asthma in the 90-95 percentile
- suffer heart disease in the 95-100 percentile
- suffer disabilities in the 95-100 percentile
- suffer rates of cancer in the 95-100 percentile, and are joined by several other surrounding census tracts outside of Butler City.

Idleness, unemployment, and blight also contribute to other adverse health conditions such as drug addiction and opioid use. In 2023 in Butler County, twenty-three individuals have died from drug overdose. The unemployment rate of 8.3% in the City of Butler is nearing three times the County and State average.

Again, with the Grant, we will identify environmental threats on targeted sites, eliminate these threats through remediation, and redevelop them. For example, redeveloping **Site #1** will add over three hundred direct jobs and over 1,500 indirect jobs in and around Butler City, and positively impact these health conditions by creating employment and reducing the stress of idleness, unemployment and drug use.

(3) Environmental Justice (a) Identification of Environmental Justice Issues (b) Advancing Environmental Justice. Another disproportional impact facing Butler City is an old housing stock. According to the recent American Community Survey, 93% of the houses were built prior to 1979 and 52% prior to 1939. According to the EJ Screen, Butler City is in the 95-100% for lead exposure, which can cause health issues ranging from hampered brain development to kidney disease. These properties also pose the potential of asbestos exposure, which can permanently damage the lungs and metastasize into fatal cancer. As noted above, Butler City suffers from a 24% poverty rate and over 8% unemployment rate. The lack of economic opportunity serves as a breeding ground for illegal activities such as drug use and dealing. Neglected properties, such as our brownfield sites, can also become a haven for drug dealers. According to an activist fighting drug use in another city, “you take away their hiding places, you force them onto the street, then if the cops are looking for them, they can find them.” Some of our inventoried sites in Butler provide hiding places.

With Grant funds, we will advance environmental justice, including both the immediate health and safety impacts and long-term economic health of the community. By demolishing or rehabbing blighted properties, we take away the hiding places for illegal activity. We also abate these properties of asbestos and lead, and eliminate these health threats to the community. In so doing, we leverage many of the other Federal and State sources mentioned above. The redevelopment of our priority sites also creates well-paying jobs within walking distance of these disadvantaged communities, reducing unemployment and poverty. This also enhances a wide range of health outcomes by eliminating the stress of poverty and unemployment.

2 (b) Community Engagement

2(b)(i) Project Involvement (ii) Project Partner Roles

Partners	Contact-phone and e-mail	Specific Role in the Project
Butler County Chamber of Commerce	Jordan Grady, Director, 724-283-2222 jordan@butlercountychamber.com	Outreach to members, identify sites, identify tenants, provide input at public meetings.
Butler Downtown	John Smith, Ex.Dir.724-282-0831 info@butlerdowntown.org	Liaison with its members on Main St. Corridor and Sites #1,2,3,4.
Housing Authority of Butler County	Ed Mauk, Ex.Dir. 724-287-6797 Ed@HousingAuthority.com	Site identification and redeveloper of properties included within Site #4.
Butler Economic Development Corporation (BEDC)	Joe Saeler, Ex.Dir. 724-991-1421 jsaeler@butlercountycdc.com	Outreach to property owners and assist with project management of Sites #1,5,7.
Butler County Community College (“BCCC”)	Dr. Nicholas Neupauer, 724-287-8711 Nicholas.Neupauer@bc3.edu	Work to set up training programs for companies that expand/locate on Sites.
International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers	James Saeler, President, 724-607-1030 jim@ibew5.org	Work with County & BCCC on training and placement of workers on industrial Sites.
United Auto Workers	Dan Green, President, 724-602-0203 dgreen@uawlocal3303.org	Work with County & BCCC on training and placement of workers on industrial Sites.
Allegheny Aquatics		Work for planning of waterfront on Site #1. Also organize River cleanup days.

As part of this proposal, Butler County led the Coalition Members in a process that identified the listed sites. Currently, Butler County communicates regularly with Coalition Members. That communication will continue regarding the management of this Grant. In addition, Butler County meets regularly with Coalition Members to gather input, review progress, and make decisions.

2(b)(iii) Incorporating Community Input

Butler County Office of Economic Development and Planning holds a public meeting every month. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend as well as our Partners and Coalition Members. The meetings are designed to solicit public input on all economic development and planning activities, including our previous Assessment Grants and this hopeful Assessment Grant. At this meeting, we also update the Butler County Commissioners on progress with our Assessment Grant. Our Office and the County Commissioners respond to any public comments. Also at these meetings, we have signup sheets, and obtain contact information for all attendees. All public comments are recorded as part of the meeting minutes. Butler County considers and responds to all comments at the meeting. We also organize conference calls or meetings with our Partners to consider and develop a written response to public comments or input. We also incorporate these comments, as appropriate, into our site selection and reuse plans. In addition, we utilize the local daily newspaper, the Butler Eagle, for an initial Grant announcement seeking public comment, and issue press releases with any project updates or public meetings. For our **Sites #1-4** in residential areas, we will also post notification of public meetings on telephone poles within the vicinity of the respective brownfield sites. We did meet virtually during the COVID pandemic, and are prepared to do so again, should the need arise.

For our Reuse Plans, we will hold a series of public meetings. This includes an initial meeting to explain the planning process and gain community input, an interim meeting to describe progress and explain how previous comments were incorporated into the Draft plan, and a third meeting to present the final plan, including an explanation of how public comments were incorporated into the final Plan.

3 TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

3. (a) Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs (i) Project Implementation.

Discussion of EPA-funded activities for both priority sites and other sites:

TASK 1 - Program Management - Cooperative Agreement Oversight and Consultant Selection. Butler County will continue its monthly meetings of its Steering Committee consisting of our Chief of Economic Development & Planning (“Chief”), the BEDC, and our selected consulting team. The Committee provides oversight of the Cooperative Agreement and management of the Grant. As an initial Task, we will publicly solicit Qualifications, rank responses according to those Qualifications, and select consultants with the highest rankings. The team will consist of a Qualified Program Manager (“QPM”) to assist with reporting and site selection, Qualified Environmental Professionals (“QEPs”) and Qualified Reuse Planners (“QRPs”).

TASK 2 -Community Engagement/Site Selection. Our Steering Committee will seek input from our many stakeholders – our Coalition Members, our Partners listed above, site owners, public officials, and others. This will include public meetings discussed above. It will also include one-on-one meetings with site owners. Our Steering Committee will weigh such factors as reuse potential, access to transportation, environmental threats, and a cooperative owner or buyer. As mentioned, we prioritize sites in our distressed areas, particularly Butler City. Our inventoried sites are privately owned, and we will proceed where we can develop a cooperative relationship with the owner/buyer or gain site control. The current inventory was selected by Butler County through input from Coalition Members and our Partners. *Please NOTE: Butler County will assess a minimum of five sites and at least one site from each Non-lead Coalition Member community.*

TASK 2(a) - Obtaining and Securing Site Access. For our priority Sites, our Partners, particularly the BEDC will consider securing site control by acquisition if necessary. Butler County will reach out and

maintain relations with private property owners, including those currently listed in our inventory and other sites that may emerge. Developing strong working relationships with these owners is critical to success. As government resources are limited, we can convince owners/buyers that now is the time to act. Our team will not just identify a potential problem, but help resolve it, if needed, through Pennsylvania’s Land Recycling Act (“Act 2”) voluntary program. The owner will execute site access agreements with the QEPs before proceeding with the Phase II ESA.

TASK 2(b) - Reuse Planning. For selected priority sites such as **Sites #4, 5,&7**, we will develop appropriate Reuse Plans. Working with our consultants, we will develop Site Assessments, Market Analysis, a Reuse Vision, Resource Roadmap, and Revitalization Plans for selected sites. Through these Revitalizations Plans, we will generate renderings and plans that create vision and aggressively recruit leveraged resources, including those identified in Section 1.c.

TASK 3 - Phase Is. On our selected sites, Our QEPs will conduct Phase I Environmental Assessments (“ESAs”) according to the All-Appropriate Inquiry Final Rule at 40 CFR Part 312. In addition, our QEPs will conduct all appropriate inquiries in compliance with ASTM Standards to obtain protections from liability under CERCLA.

TASK 4. - Phase IIs & Cleanup Plans. When our QEPs find Recognized Environmental Conditions as part of the Phase I ESA, our Steering Committee will consider Phase II Assessments. On selected sites, our QEPs will then conduct Phase II ESAs according to ASTM E1903-19. Moreover, on selected sites, we will proceed with Cleanup Plans and where appropriate guide the project to obtain the PA. Act 2 Liability Release. Together with our consulting team, we will coordinate Cleanup Plans with appropriate Reuse Plans. In so doing, we will work with appropriate EPA, PA Department of Environmental Protection & PA. Health Department staff.

3(a)(ii) Anticipated Project Schedule (a)(iii) Task/Activity Lead

Key Project Activities	Schedule	Responsibility
TASK 1 – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT		
Completion of Work Plan & MOUs	Pre – Award	Butler County (“BC”)
Public Ad & select QPM & QEPs	3 Month of Award	BC & Coalition Members
ACRES & Quarterly Reports	Ongoing	BC & QPM
Close-Out Report	36 months by September 2027	BC & QPM
TASK2 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, SITE SELECTION, AND REUSE PLANS	Ongoing	BC & Coalition Members & Partners
Outreach & Public Input	Ongoing	BC & Coalition Members & Partners
Site Selections	4 months of Award & Ongoing	Steering Committee
Reuse Plans – site selections	6 months of Award	Steering Committee
Reuse Plans – select QRPs	8 months of Award	BC & Coalition Members & QPM
Complete Reuse Plans	9-24 months of Award	Steering Committee & QRPs
TASK 3 – PHASE I ESAs	4 months of Award & ongoing	QEPs
Access to sites for Phase II	6 months of Award	Steering Committee & QEPs
TASK 4– PHASE II ESAs/Cleanup Plans	8 months of Award & ongoing	QEPs

3(a)(iv) Outputs

Our outputs will follow in somewhat chronological order as we proceed through grant implementation:

- *Program Management:* 12 Quarterly Reports, ACRES Reporting and updates, Close-out report.
- *Community Participation:* 36 Steering Committee Meetings, 36 Public Meetings.
- *Site Selection/Reuse Planning:* complete site inventory, select fifteen sites, complete 3 Reuse Plans.
- *Phase I Assessments:* complete 10 Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (“ESAs”).
- *Phase II ESAs and Cleanup Plans:* complete 6 Phase II ESAs, 9 asbestos surveys, 4 Cleanup Plans.

3(b) Cost Estimates. Note: Butler County is forgoing the 5% administration fee, and only charging for billable hours to the Grant.

Butler Coalition Budget Categories	Task 1 Program Management	Task 2 Site Selection & Reuse Planning	Task 3 Phase I Assessment	Task 4 Phase II & Cl.-Up Plans	TOTAL
Personnel	\$22,162	\$15,829			\$37,992
Fringe	\$9,973	\$7,123			\$17,096
Travel	\$2,000				\$2,000
Equipment					\$0
Supplies					\$0
Contractual	\$39,412	\$220,000	\$50,000	\$458,500	\$767,912
Other		\$25,000			\$25,000
TOTAL Direct	\$73,547	\$267,952	\$50,000	\$458,500	\$850,000
Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget	\$73,547	\$267,952	\$50,000	\$458,500	\$850,000

Task 1. Program Management and Reporting. Our Chief has the primary management and reporting responsibilities for the Assessment Grant, and he is assisted by our Grants Specialist (“GS”). Their average billable rate for the Grant period \$43.97/hour (plus fringe benefits of 45%), and we have budgeted an average of 4 and 10 hours/month respectively for 36 months to this Task. Because our assigned staff of two has many other responsibilities, we have also budgeted consulting time of \$39,412 to assist with this Task. We also budgeted \$2,000 for travel for a EPA Brownfield Conference ((1 attendees * (\$500 airfare + \$1,500 for 3 days lodging, food, etc.)). We understand the existing 2022 Quality Assurance Program Plan (QUAPrP) will qualify for five years, so we have not budgeted for an updated QUAPrP.

Task 2. Community Participation/Site Selection/Reuse Planning. Our Chief will have primary staff responsibility for Community Participation, Site Selection and Reuse Planning with assistance by the GS. We have budgeted 8 and 2 hour/month respectively for 36 months to this Task. This includes our monthly team meetings, our outreach to our Members and Partners, and meeting one-on-one with site owners. We do not directly control any sites in the inventory, so developing working relations with the buyers/owners is critical. We have budgeted \$40,000 of consulting time to assist with this Task and managing the reuse planning. **We budgeted \$180,000 for reuse planning on three selected sites/areas. This will include developing Revitalization Plans and related documents such as the Market Study, Site Reuse Vision, and Resource Roadmap.** We also budgeted \$25,000 in the “Other” Budget Category for the BEDC. This is for BEDC assistance with initial outreach and communication with several sites owners.

Task 3. Phase I Assessments: We anticipate selecting ten sites for Phase I ESAs at an average cost of \$5,000 per assessment. Our Chief and our Coalition Members will review these Phase Is., and their time will be donated as an in-kind contribution.

Task 4. Phase II Assessments & Clean-Up Plans: We anticipate selecting fifteen sites for Phase II ESAs, including nine asbestos surveys at an average cost of approximately \$2,500, 6 Phase II ESAs at an average cost of \$70,000, and four cleanup plans at an average cost of \$4,000. Our Chief and our Coalition Members will review these Phase IIs, and their time will be an in-kind contribution. **Over 50% of this Coalition Grant will be spent on Phase I & Phase II Assessments.**

3.(c) Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results. As discussed, our Steering Committee meets monthly to efficiently track each project through milestones. Our Chief addresses any lack of progress by making assignments and requiring follow up reports and accountability at the next monthly meeting. Together with our consultants, we developed a spreadsheet that tracks Outputs: Phase I start, Phase I completion and submission to EPA for review, Field Sampling Plan (FSP), EPA approval, Phase II start, Phase II completion, remediation plan (if necessary), and Pennsylvania ACT 2 (Liability Release) Status, redevelopment start and completion. During and after the environmental assessment process, we also track the redevelopment effort and the “Outcome” data. We reach out to Coalition Members, Partners, owners, and others to track such Outcomes as site development status, private investment, public investment, jobs created, blight eliminated, housing units built, recreational space created, and reduction in public health threats. Using these tracking mechanisms, we will file timely Quarterly Reports and Property Reports using ACRES. Within the three-year grant period, we will generate the Close-Out Report and continue to track outcomes in ACRES after the closeout.

4. PROGRAMMATIC ABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

4.(a) Programmatic Capability 4.(a)(i). Organizational Capacity 4.(a)(ii) Organizational Structure

As with our previous Assessment Grants, Butler County will manage implementation including all reporting requirements. Butler County has managed Federal grants both large and small, including two BUILD Department of Transportation Grants of over \$20 million. With the Assessment Grant, we use a team approach working closely with our Partners and consulting team. In particular, the staff and Board of the BEDC has very strong relations with many of the property owners in our inventory. Consequently, the BEDC will continue to provide outreach assistance with a hopeful 2024 Grant. In addition, we will also look for a QPM that manages all reporting requirements and can also assist site owners with participation in the program. We will also hire several QEPs, as some QEPs are more appropriate for smaller sites and other QEPs for more complex sites. Together, our team meets monthly (Chief, BEDC, QPM) to review progress on selected sites, manage the budget, pursue leveraged resources, and coordinate decisions. As described above, the Chief also meets regularly with the County Commissioners and provides updates on progress with the Assessment Grant.

4.(a)(iii). Description of Key Staff. Mark Gordon has served as Chief since 2017 and as project manager for the Assessment Grants. Mark was a senior executive at AK Steel, with 35 years of experience. During his six years with Butler County, Mark has worked closely with public officials including the County Commissioners, Coalition Members, Partners, and others. Mark will continue to oversee all Assessment Grant activities, assisted by Sherry Sholes. Sherry handles fiscal and reporting functions with the Grant, and has over eight years of experience with fiscal management. The BEDC is led by Joseph Saeler, who has twenty plus years of experience working with public officials and private businesses throughout the County. He is also a licensed civil engineer. While we do not anticipate any turnover, we are prepared to fill any vacancies, and are active in organizations that are of value in recruiting candidates.

4.(a)(iv) Acquiring Additional Resources. As with past Grants, Butler County will publicly advertise for a QPM, QEPs, and QRPs. All public advertisements will include the criteria for the selection of these consultants, including cost structure. We will then rank the responses according to each criteria, and select the consultants with the highest ranking. We anticipate selecting one QPM, and several QEPs and QRPs. Together with our Coalition Members, we will assemble the best team of consultants in the region. We will also generate timely approvals by our County Commissioners and very rapid implementation of the Assessment Grant. As part of the consultant selection, Butler County will include as one of the criteria - minority business/women business (“MWBE”) status and report annually on MWBE participation.

4.(b) Past Performance and Accomplishments (b) (i) Currently Has Received an EPA Brownfields Grant. Butler County received a \$600,000 Community Wide Assessment Grant award, beginning October 1, 2018 through the Grant period ending September 30, 2021. Butler County also received a \$600,000 Community Wide Assessment Grant award, beginning October 1, 2021. As of November 3, 2023, there is \$167,005.82 remaining. Note: The sites noted below in ***Boldface Italics*** will absorb these remaining funds.

4.(b)(i)(1) Accomplishments. Butler County has completed implementation of the 2018 Grant and is nearing completion of the 2021 Assessment Grant. With both our environmental assessments and reuse planning, we have accomplished the following:

- RBW Property – a plastics recycling company now operates on this parcel that sat vacant for several years. We completed Phase I and Phase II ESAs which did not reveal soil or groundwater contamination in excess of State non-residential Medium Specific Concentrations under Act 2. Following these reports, the company completed acquisition of the Property, invested over \$1.5 million, and has created thirty jobs.
- Harmony Fire District - recently broke ground on a \$9 million new fire station on historic Main St. in Zelienople. The site was previously a vacant auto repair shop that we assessed with both 2018 and 2021 Grants, including the removal of several underground storage tanks to complete soil testing.
- Standard Bent Glass – We completed a Phase II ESA of this multi-parcel site finding TCE contamination in the groundwater. However, our QEPs found no pathways of exposure and no threat to workers or the public. The company was able to complete their expansion plans and create additional jobs.
- Main St. Corridor Reuse Plan – with our 2018 Assessment Grant, we completed an extensive Plan for the Main St. Corridor in Butler. The Plan inventoried all properties, highlighted key properties for the focus of redevelopment efforts, recommended infrastructure improvements, and pedestrian improvements.
- “One-Stop Center” along Main St. Corridor, Butler City. Following the recommendations of our Main St. Corridor Reuse Plan, the BEDC completed the renovation of a One -Stop Center on the Corridor. The Center combines the offices of the Chamber of Commerce, BEDC, and several workforce organizations.
- Middle School Reuse Plan – with our 2021 Assessment Grant, we are in the process of completing this Reuse Plan for the Middle School, which is in the Main St. Corridor. This Plan advances a workforce development center with anchor tenants that include the Independence Health System, Watson Institute (which teaches and trains the handicapped), and several other employers.
- ***331 Negley St, located on the Butler “Island”*** – we will soon begin a Phase II ESA on this site with extensive soil and groundwater testing required due to the possible presence of PCE contamination.
- ***Rt. 422 Former Cement Plant*** – we will soon begin a Phase II ESA on this 78-acre site, with extensive industrial operations throughout the site requiring thorough soil and groundwater testing.
- ***Stone Quarry Site*** – we will soon begin a Phase I ESA on this 150-acre site, with an extensive Phase II ESA anticipated due to the large crushing operation on site.
- AK Steel – We completed an award-winning Reuse Vision for the site. The owners are working with several tenant prospects, and we are planning an extensive Phase II for this site with a hopeful 2024 Coalition Grant.

(b)(i)(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements. Butler County has performed 2018 and 2021 Assessment grant activities in compliance with work plans, terms and conditions, expenditures, and reporting requirements. We file timely Quarterly Reports, ACRES Updates, and rigorously track the budget. As described throughout this Proposal, brownfield reuse and this Assessment Grant has become a cornerstone of our economic development strategy. A 2024 Assessment Grant will enable us to aggressively continue this strategy and grow the County without sacrificing farms or greenspace. Thank you for your consideration.

ELIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Applicant Eligibility and Targeted Areas.

The applicant, and Coalition Lead Member is Butler County, PA.. It is a County Government and as such qualifies as an eligible applicant under Section III.B.1 of the Request for Application (RFA).

The Coalition is comprised of four Non-lead Members:

- Butler City, a General Purpose Unit of Government and qualifies under Section III.A of the RFA, and its targeted area is the City of Butler, PA.
- Allegheny Township, a General Purpose Unit of Government and qualifies under Section III.A of the RFA, and its targeted area is Allegheny Township, located in Butler County, PA.
- Slippery Rock Township, a General Purpose Unit of Government and qualifies under Section III.A of the RFA, and its targeted area is Slippery Rock Township located in Butler County, PA.
- Cranberry Community Chest (CCC), a 501c(3) tax-exempt Nonprofit community-based organization and qualifies under Section III.A of the RFA, and its targeted area is Cranberry Township, located in Butler County, PA. A copy of its Articles of Incorporation and the tax-exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service are included in the attachments.

Letters joining this Coalition from each of the four Non-Lead Members above are included as an attachment.

Butler County is comprised of 57 local General-Purpose Units of Government, and Butler County’s targeted area may include one of the remaining 53 local General-Purpose Units of Government, not targeted above. More specifically, Butler County will target Franklin Township, the location of one of our priority sites as well as East Butler and Saxonburg, the location of several inventoried sites.

2. Community Involvement

2(i) Project Involvement (ii) Project Partner Roles

Partners	Contact-phone and e-mail	Specific Role in the Project
Butler County Chamber of Commerce	Jordan Grady, Director, 724-283-2222 jordan@butlercountychamber.com	Outreach to members, identify sites, identify tenants, provide input at public meetings.
Butler Downtown	John Smith, Ex.Dir. 724-282-0831 info@butlerdowntown.org	Liaison with its members on Main St. Corridor and Sites #1,2,3,4.
Housing Authority of Butler County	Ed Mauk, Ex.Dir. 724-287-6797 Ed@HousingAuthority.com	Site identification and redeveloper of properties included within Site #4.
Butler Economic Development Corporation (BEDC)	Joe Saeler, Ex.Dir. 724-991-1421 jsaeler@butlercountycdc.com	Outreach to property owners and assist with project management of Sites #1,5,7.
Butler County Community College (“BCCC”)	Dr. Nicholas Neupauer, 724-287-8711 Nicholas.Neupauer@bc3.edu	Work to set up training programs for companies that expand/locate on Sites.

International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers	James Saeler, President, 724-607-1030 jim@ibew5.org	Work with County & BCCC on training and placement of workers on industrial Sites.
United Auto Workers	Dan Green, President, 724-602-0203 dgreen@uawlocal3303.org	Work with County & BCCC on training and placement of workers on industrial Sites.
Allegheny Aquatics	Christina Hadley, Director, 724-391-0416 alleghenyaquaticalliance@hotmail.com	Work for planning of waterfront on Site #1. Also organize River cleanup days.

As part of this proposal, Butler County led the Coalition Members in a process that identified the listed sites. Currently, Butler County communicates regularly with Coalition Members. That communication will continue regarding the management of this Grant. In addition, Butler County meets regularly with Coalition Members to gather input, review progress, and make decisions.

(iii) Incorporating Community Input

Butler County Office of Economic Development and Planning holds a public meeting every month. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to attend as well as our Partners and Coalition Members. The meetings are designed to solicit public input on all economic development and planning activities, including our previous Assessment Grants and this hopeful Assessment Grant. At this meeting, we also update the Butler County Commissioners on progress with our Assessment Grant. Both our Office and the County Commissioners respond to any public comments. Also at these meetings, we have signup sheets, and obtain contact information for all attendees. All public comments are recorded as part of the meeting minutes. Butler County considers and responds to all comments at the meeting. We also organize conference calls or meetings with our Partners to consider and develop a written response to public comments or input. We also incorporate these comments, as appropriate, into our site selection and reuse plans. We also utilize the local daily newspaper, the Butler Eagle, for an initial Grant announcement seeking public comment, and issue press releases with any project updates or public meetings. For our Sites close to residential areas, we will also post notification of public meetings on telephone poles and community centers within the vicinity of the respective brownfield sites. We did meet virtually during the COVID pandemic, and are prepared to do so again, should the need arise.

For our Reuse Plans, we also will hold a series of public meetings. This includes an initial meeting to explain the planning process and gain community input, an interim meeting to describe progress and explain how previous comments were incorporated into the Draft plan, and a third meeting to present the final plan, including explanation of how public comments were incorporated.

3. Documentation of Available Balance on Lead Member’s Current Assessment Grant.

Butler County has a balance as of October 1, 2023 of \$179,262.65 on Assessment Grant, #BF963885-01. See attached print out. \$420,737.35 has been drawn down as of October 1, 2023, which represents more than 70% of the current Award of \$600,000.

4. Non-Lead Members Affirmation.

The four non-lead members do not have an open cooperative agreement for Brownfields MARC Grant funding nor were they awarded a MARC Grant that closed in 2016 or later.

5. Contractors and named subrecipients.

Not applicable. There are no contractors or subrecipients.