

Acadiana FY24 Brownfield Assessment Coalition

IV.D.1. Applicant Identification

Acadiana Planning Commission, 101 Jefferson St STE 201, Lafayette, LA 70501

IV.D.1 Applicant Identification

IV.D.2. Funding requested

IV.D.2.a Assessment Grant Type

Assessment Coalition

IV.D.2.b. Federal Funds Requested

Funding Amount Requested: \$1,500,000.00

IV.D.3. Location

The Jurisdiction and geographic limitation for the Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) and this application are the seven core parishes (counties) of the Acadiana Region in South Louisiana. These include the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion. While coalition members NUNU Arts & Culture Collective and Nehemiah Projects of Acadiana Incorporated (NPAI) are regional organizations, their focus is on St. Landry Parishes and St. Martin Parish (NUNU), and Vermilion Parish (NPAI). Below is a list of the target areas for this application.

Municipality	Parish (County)	State
Church Point Town	Acadia Parish	Louisiana
Rayne City	Acadia Parish	Louisiana
Mamou Town	Evangeline Parish	Louisiana
Ville Platte City	Evangeline Parish	Louisiana
New Iberia City	Iberia Parish	Louisiana
Opelousas City	St. Landry Parish	Louisiana
Washington Town	St. Landry Parish	Louisiana
Arnaudville Town	St. Martin Parish	Louisiana
Breaux Bridge City	St. Martin Parish	Louisiana
St. Martinville City	St. Martin Parish	Louisiana
Abbeville City	Vermilion Parish	Louisiana
Kaplan City	Vermilion Parish	Louisiana

IV.D.4. Coalition Members' Target Areas and Priority Site Information

Table 1: Priority Brownfield Sites in Targeted Brownfield Assessment Areas			
Target Area	Parish	Coalition Member	Priority Sites
Town of Church Point	Acadia Parish	APC	232 North Main Street and 301 North Main Street (early 20 th century retail)

City of Rayne	Acadia Parish	APC	200 E Texas Avenue (former Joy Theatre/storage for oil and gas service company)
Town of Mamou	Evangeline Parish	APC	301 South Street (former gas station site)
City of Ville Platte	Evangeline Parish	APC	110 High School Drive (auto repair shop) and 131 and 135 West Main Street (early 20 th century retail)
City of New Iberia	Iberia Parish	APC	129 Burke Street (Baits Motel) and 119 W Main Street (early 20 th century retail)
City of Opelousas	St. Landry Parish	NUNU	128 S Court Street and 109-113 Court Street (early 20 th century retail)
Town of Washington	St. Landry Parish	NUNU	505 N Main Street (auto repair shop) and 418 LA 182 (SLEMCO electric Washington Service Center)
Town of Arnaudville	St. Martin Parish	NUNU	225 Guidroz Steet (St. Luc French Immersion Center/Formal Hospital), 398 Main Street (Butch's Convenient Store/gas station), 477 Meche Rd (abandoned retail property)
City of Breaux Bridge	St. Martin Parish	NUNU	115-135 North Main Street (H&R Block/former gas station) and 111 South Main Street (early 20 th century retail), 1012 Cecilia Bridge Hwy (former gas station)
City of St. Martinville	St. Martin Parish	NUNU	916 Main Highway (auto repair) and 817 Main Highway (former dry cleaner)
City of Abbeville	Vermilion Parish	NPAI	101 N State Street (Abbeville/former hotel with dry cleaner) and 405 S. Washington Street (former Riviana Rice Mill)
City of Kaplan	Vermilion Parish	NPAI	917 E. Veterans Memorial Drive (former gas station) and 704 E. Veterans Memorial Drive (former gas station)

IV.D.5. Contacts

IV.D.5.a. Project Director

Chad LaComb, Senior Project Specialist/Economic Development Planner II, Acadiana Planning Commission, 337-806-9370, clacomb@planacadiana.org, 101 Jefferson St STE 201, Lafayette, LA 70501

IV.D.5.b. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official

Sara Fawcett-Gary, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Acadiana Planning Commission - LA Planning District 4, 337-806-9375, sgary@planacadiana.org, 101 Jefferson St STE 201, Lafayette, LA 70501

IV.D.6. Population

Municipality	Parish (County)	Population
Church Point Town	Acadia Parish	4,252
Rayne City	Acadia Parish	7,332
Mamou Town	Evangeline Parish	2,979
Ville Platte City	Evangeline Parish	6,488
New Iberia City	Iberia Parish	28,844
Opelousas City	St. Landry Parish	15,884
Washington Town	St. Landry Parish	828
Arnaudville Town	St. Martin Parish	1,729
Breaux Bridge City	St. Martin Parish	7,711
St. Martinville City	St. Martin Parish	5,602

Abbeville City	Vermilion Parish	11,313
Kaplan City	Vermilion Parish	4,384
TOTAL POPULATION		97,346

IV.D.7. Other Factors

Note: This checklist is not an additional attachment but **must** be incorporated into the Narrative Information Sheet.

Sample Format for Providing Information on the Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 10,000 or less.	5
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	n/a
The priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	n/a
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	1
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	1
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	3
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	3
The proposed project will improve local climate adaptation/mitigation capacity and resilience to protect residents and community investments.	3
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section I.B., for priority site(s) within the target area(s).	10
The target area(s) is located within a community which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2013 or later) or is closing.	n/a

IV.D.8. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority

Please find attached a letter dated November 6, 2023 from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Office of Environmental Assessment acknowledging our intent to apply for FY24 grant funds and conduct assessment activities.

IV.D.9. Releasing Copies of Applications

not applicable



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Nov. 6, 2023

Sara Fawcett-Gary, Interim CEO
Acadiana Planning Commission
101 Jefferson St. STE 201
Lafayette, LA 70501

RE: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality acknowledgement of Acadiana Planning Commission's FY24 Community-Wide Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant Application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Ms. Fawcett-Gary:

Thank you for your efforts to enhance Louisiana's environment, economy, and quality of life by addressing environmental concerns at vacant and underutilized sites in your community through the Brownfields Program. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) acknowledges Acadiana Planning Commission's application for a Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant to address sites under the federal Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act and the Brownfields Utilization, Investment and Local Development Act, along with your coalition partners, Nehemiah Projects of Acadiana (NPIA) for Vermilion Parish communities, and the NUNU Arts & Culture Collective for St. Landry and St. Martin Parish communities, and recognizes that the Acadiana Planning Commission will be conducting assessment activities in LDEQ's jurisdiction. In addition to providing regulatory oversight of your projects, LDEQ will also continue to provide technical assistance to your Brownfield Program as resources permit.

We look forward to partnering with you to facilitate the redevelopment of Brownfield sites in Louisiana! Please contact me at (504) 736-7069 or Rebecca.Otte@LA.gov if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Otte".

Rebecca Otte
Brownfields Coordinator
Remediation Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

cc: Imaging Operations - IAS AI 178641

Narrative/Ranking Criteria (and Evaluation Criteria) for Coalition Assessment Grants

IV.E.1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

IV.E.1.a. Coalition Members, Target Areas and Brownfields

IV.E.1.a.i. Coalition Members: The proposed non-lead members for the Acadiana Brownfields Assessment Coalition application are the NUNU Arts and Culture Collective (NUNU) and the Nehemiah Projects of Acadiana Incorporated (NPAI). NUNU Arts and Culture Collective, an educational organization in St. Landry and St. Martin Parishes, fosters artistic development and cultural growth by connecting artists, businesses, and organizations. NPAI, a Vermilion Parish 501(c)(3) nonprofit, focuses on revitalizing underserved Acadiana communities. While each non-lead member operates regionally, they lack the capacity to apply for and manage a Brownfields Grant across the entire Acadiana Region. NUNU will oversee activities in St. Landry and St. Martin Parishes, concentrating on community engagement, education, and providing facilities as an in-kind contribution in Arnaudville, Breaux Bridge, Opelousas, St. Martinville, and Washington. NPAI will oversee activities in Vermilion Parish, with a focus on community engagement and workforce development in Abbeville and Kaplan. APC, as the lead coalition member, will oversee activities in Church Point, Rayne, Mamou, New Iberia, and Ville Platte, leveraging its regional capacity as a council of government.

IV.E.1.a.ii. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas: The Acadiana region, comprising Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion parishes, faces shared challenges in declining population, increasing crime, blight, and persisting poverty, exacerbated by the 2018 oil and gas downturn, severe flooding in 2016 (many rivers and waterways, particularly the Amite and Comite Rivers, reached record levels, and rainfall exceeded 20 inches in multiple parishes), and the economic impacts of COVID-19. APC identified highly affected communities using EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, EJScreen. This proposal targets brownfield assessment activities in underserved communities across Acadiana. APC oversees activities in Church Point, Rayne, Mamou, Ville Platte, and New Iberia. NUNU Arts and Culture Collective oversees activities in Arnaudville, Breaux Bridge, St. Martinville, Opelousas, and Washington. NPAI oversees activities in Abbeville and Kaplan. These communities lack the capacity to address brownfields individually. The application aims to address potential brownfield sites hindering downtown revitalization and posing health risks to at-risk populations. The targeted communities, considered underserved, share characteristics outlined in Executive Order 13985. As per the 2020 census, the communities have a combined median poverty rate of 31.0%, compared to the national average of 12.8%, and a combined median household income of \$32,356, representing 27.8% of the national median property value of \$116,200. The proposed activities align with the goals of addressing environmental and demographic disparities in these communities.

IV.E.1.a.iii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites: By working with community partners, APC has identified targeted areas containing potential high-priority brownfields sites catalytic potential. These sites are either old gas stations, dry cleaning plants, or commercial structures older than 50 years with a high probability of containing ACM's, LBP, or mold. Several of the parishes are a federally designated flood plain. These sites were developed through a combination of community outreach and a DRA-funded retail real estate market analysis. By developing an

inventory of potential Brownfield sites through a series of community meetings, APC will work with community champions to identify other priority catalyst sites.

Table 2: Priority Brownfield Sites in Targeted Brownfield Assessment Areas					
Target Area	Parish	Coalition Member Area	Priority Sites	Potential Contaminants	Anticipated needs
Church Point	Acadia Parish	APC	232 North Main Street and 301 North Main Street (early 20 th century retail)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
Rayne	Acadia Parish	APC	200 E Texas Avenue (former Joy Theatre/storage for oil and gas service company)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold, petroleum	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
Mamou	Evangeline Parish	APC	301 South Street (former gas station site)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold, petroleum	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
Ville Platte	Evangeline Parish	APC	110 High School Drive (auto repair shop) and 131 and 135 West Main Street (early 20 th century retail)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold, petroleum	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
New Iberia	Iberia Parish	APC	129 Burke Street (Baits Motel) and 119 W Main Street (early 20 th century retail)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
Opelousas	St. Landry Parish	NUNU	128 S Court Street and 109-113 Court Street (early 20 th century retail)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
Washington	St. Landry Parish	NUNU	505 N Main Street (auto repair shop) and 418 LA 182 (SLEMCO electric Washington Service Center)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold, petroleum, PCB's, solvents (electric service center)	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
Arnaudville	St. Martin Parish	NUNU	225 Guidroz Steet (St. Luc French Immersion Center/Former Hospital), 398 Main Street (Butch's Convenient Store/gas station), 477 Meche Rd (abandoned retail property)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold, petroleum	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP; St. Luc French Immersion/former hospital – reuse planning
Breaux Bridge	St. Martin Parish	NUNU	115-135 North Main Street (H&R Block/former gas station) and 111 South Main Street (early 20 th century retail), 1012 Cecilia Bridge Hwy (former gas station)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold, petroleum	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
Martinville	St. Martin Parish	NUNU	916 Main Highway (auto repair) and 817 Main Highway (former dry cleaner)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold, petroleum	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP
Abbeville	Vermilion Parish	NPAI	101 N State Street (Abbeville/former hotel with dry cleaner) and 405 S. Washington Street (former Riviana Rice Mill)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP; Rice mill – reuse planning
Kaplan	Vermilion Parish	NPAI	917 E. Veterans Memorial Drive (former gas station) and 704 E. Veterans Memorial Drive (former gas station)	Lead based paint, asbestos, mold, petroleum	Phase I/II ESA, RBM Survey, ABCA/RAP

IV.E.1.a.iv. Identifying Additional Sites: APC will collaborate with the regional steering committee to develop a comprehensive project inventory encompassing potential brownfield assessment sites. This process will involve tracking Phase I and II assessments, identifying potential funding sources for remediation and reuse, and responding to the need for a thorough brownfields inventory within the target communities. Leveraging our in-house GIS expertise, APC will create and maintain a geodatabase of brownfield sites, integrating data from various sources such as the ACRES database, LaDEQ EDMS records, community outreach efforts, business inventories, and Sanborn maps. As part of this inventory, APC will collect and update data, including contributions to the ACRES database. Coordination with our consultant and LaDEQ staff will be integral to the development of Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)

reports, Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs), and reuse planning. This approach ensures a comprehensive and data-driven strategy for identifying and prioritizing additional sites.

IV.E.1.b. Revitalization of the Target Areas

IV.E.1.b.i. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans: APC's reuse strategy aligns with the main street revitalization priority in the Acadiana Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Guided by key principles, Brownfield Target Areas were chosen to benefit a range of stakeholders, including underserved communities, residents, and various organizations. The selection focused on areas with potential brownfield sites, considering their compatibility with other redevelopment resources such as low-income housing tax credits, historic preservation tax credits, and new market tax credits. APC's thorough process, including retail real estate market analyses, identifies commercially viable sites and plans similar analyses for each target area. The strategy also considers neighborhood capacity for private capital absorption and necessary infrastructure. Acadiana's CEDS, shaped by elected leaders, economic developers, and community representatives, emphasizes community planning, capacity building, and downtown revitalization. Building government capacities in underserved cities is vital for successful economic development, aligned with the region's brownfield reuse strategy. Addressing potential brownfield sites within these areas is crucial for revitalization, promoting vibrant, healthy, and resilient communities and improving living standards for long-term regional resiliency.

IV.E.1.b.ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy: The grant focuses on rural underserved communities in the Acadiana Region, utilizing priority catalytic brownfield sites for economic development. Key strategies include leveraging state incentives such as cultural district benefits, historic preservation tax credits, opportunity zones, and rehabilitation tax abatement. Redevelopment aims to attract businesses and residents to downtowns, raising property values and expanding the tax base. This initiative supports long-term job growth, entrepreneurship, and community wealth building. Grant funds will identify additional brownfield sites, encouraging economic redevelopment along main streets. APC plans a systematic approach, involving community engagement and reuse planning. Expected outcomes include health benefits, property value increase, and main street revitalization. APC commits to a proactive, community-centered approach in case of displacement, prioritizing alternative housing, community engagement, and transparent communication to minimize adverse effects. Plans for reuse and redevelopment will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, geothermal energy, climate adaptation strategies, and energy efficient measures when the opportunity is present.

IV.E.1.c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources

IV.E.1.c.i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse: Acadiana's underserved communities face redevelopment challenges due to environmental contamination, addressed through the Opportunity Zones program. APC's involvement in the South Louisiana Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund offers low-interest loans. Additional support is expected from the Targeted Brownfield Assessment program and state historic preservation tax credit program, providing a 20% credit for qualified costs. Opportunity zones also enable eligibility for the Louisiana Rehabilitation Tax Abatement program, waiving property tax increases. APC plans collaboration with developers and, in 2020, secured a DRA grant for opportunity zone project development. A retail market analysis identified catalyst sites, informing prioritized assessments and reuse planning. This application extends prior work, incorporating additional communities for comprehensive redevelopment planning. Resources include: redevelopment challenges in Acadiana's underserved communities, use of the Opportunity Zones program as an economic tool, involvement in the South Louisiana

Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund, anticipation of support from the Targeted Brownfield Assessment program utilization of state historic preservation tax credit program for capital generation implementation of the Louisiana Rehabilitation Tax Abatement program for tax waivers, collaboration with developers for program implementation, 2020 DRA grant for opportunity zone project development, retail market analysis identifying catalyst sites for redevelopment, prioritization of sites for assessments and reuse planning based on market analysis and extension of market analysis to additional communities for comprehensive redevelopment planning.

IV.E.1.c.ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure: Infill redevelopment within our downtowns is of interest to the targeted area's communities. Local officials are realizing the substantial infrastructure costs alongside hidden subsidies of greenfield development are not sustainable. According to the EPA (EPA Brownfield Benefits Postcard October 2012), brownfield redevelopment, rather than greenfield development, results in a 32 to 57 percent reduction in vehicle miles traveled and a corresponding reduction in air pollution emissions. This benefit, coupled with improved walkability in the downtown areas within these underserved communities, has a direct positive impact on a community that lacks access to both private and public transportation to get to work. Convincing local developers to commit to infill and denser development has been a challenge in these smaller communities; however, the underserved communities that are the target of this grant are ideally situated to capitalize on these resources to build stronger, more resilient and healthier communities. These target areas within the Acadiana Region were specifically selected for their ability to tap into and utilize existing infrastructure such as: Roads, sidewalks, water, sewage, electric, and drainage while encouraging reuse and infill development. To address potential infrastructure needs or upgrades that may be key to the revitalization plans for the priority sites, the Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) has a proven track record of seeking funding resources through strategic partnerships with federal agencies. Specifically, APC collaborates closely with agencies such as the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to secure funding for necessary infrastructure improvements. This proactive approach ensures that identified needs are met with relevant and sustainable funding solutions, further enhancing the success and impact of the brownfield redevelopment projects in our target communities.

IV.E.2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

IV.E.2.a. Community Need

IV.E.2.a.i. The Community's Need for Funding: The rural communities of the Acadiana region face a set of challenges which are generally related to geographic isolation such as a lack of transportation accessibility, economic and financial disparities due to lower incomes, and fewer employment opportunities than urban areas, resulting in a prevalence of poverty. The combined median household income of the underserved communities targeted by this grant as of the release of the 2021 Census Bureau data is \$35,043, which is \$33,978 less than the national average of \$69,021. The average poverty rate is 29.2% as compared to the national average of 12.6%. These communities have low property values with a minimal tax base and small populations that result in low levels of resources and support. The median property values range from \$63,800 to \$155,200 with a combined median value of \$95,850 while the Louisiana Homestead Exemption exempts property tax payments on the first \$75,000, leaving a significantly low property tax base. This median home value of \$95,850 is less than half of national average of \$244,900. In addition to poor economic conditions and a general lack of resources, the rural communities are affected by natural disasters such as the 2016 Louisiana floods, Hurricane Harvey

in 2017, Hurricane Barry in 2019; Hurricanes Delta, Laura, and Zeta in 2020; and Hurricane Ida in 2021. Due to limited resources, low incomes, minimal tax bases, shortage of staff and personnel, and the frequency of natural disasters, the Acadiana region's rural underserved communities need assistance to conduct environmental assessment and remediation of their brownfield sites and lack the internal capacity to apply for and administer their own programs. Out of the twelve communities selected, all but two have a population of less than 10,000.

Target Area	Parish	Population	Median Household Income	Median Poverty Rate	Median Home (Property) Value
Church Point Town	Acadia Parish	4,252	\$ 38,442.00	24.6%	\$ 95,300.00
Rayne City	Acadia Parish	7,332	\$ 36,813.00	27.1%	\$ 134,600.00
Mamou Town	Evangeline Parish	2,979	\$ 21,389.00	54.9%	\$ 71,900.00
Ville Platte City	Evangeline Parish	6,488	\$ 21,818.00	41.5%	\$ 63,800.00
New Iberia City	Iberia Parish	28,844	\$ 43,734.00	27.8%	\$ 123,700.00
Opelousas City	St. Landry Parish	15,884	\$ 33,272.00	37.2%	\$ 105,700.00
Washington Town	St. Landry Parish	828	\$ 25,441.00	42.1%	\$ 128,100.00
Arnaudville Town	St. Martin Parish	1,729	\$ 23,750.00	48.7%	\$ 82,600.00
Breaux Bridge City	St. Martin Parish	7,711	\$ 44,155.00	26.0%	\$ 155,200.00
St. Martinville City	St. Martin Parish	5,602	\$ 30,565.00	24.5%	\$ 96,400.00
Abbeville City	Vermilion Parish	11,313	\$ 36,912.00	30.6%	\$ 88,200.00
Kaplan City	Vermilion Parish	4,384	\$ 52,783.00	22.6%	\$ 90,600.00
TOTAL MEDIAN VALUES		97,346	\$ 35,042.50	29.2%	\$ 95,850.00

IV.E.2.a.ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations

IV.E.2.a.ii.1 Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations: Sensitive populations in the targeted areas experience disparities related to environmental justice inequities. For example, Louisiana has the fifth highest infant mortality rate in the US. Conditions originating in the perinatal period are closely related to maternal health before conception, and nearly half of infant deaths are due to these conditions which include low birth weight and prematurity. Louisiana has the second highest rate of post-neonatal mortality in the US. Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths are considered preventable by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors. Some of these risk factors, including low birth weight or preterm infants and maternal smoking, trace back to maternal health. Louisiana has the 4th highest child mortality rate in the US. Half (49%) of childhood deaths are due to a medical cause.

Municipality	Parish	Population	Women	Age under 18	Age over 65	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Less than high school diploma	not currently in the labor force
Church Point	Acadia Parish	4,252	57.5%	22.1%	16.9%	32.3%	11.3%	33.2%	41.5%
Rayne	Acadia Parish	7,332	49.7%	28.2%	16.3%	44.0%	1.0%	20.9%	43.5%
Mamou	Evangeline Parish	2,979	47.1%	39.3%	10.5%	51.1%	0.5%	23.7%	43.0%
Ville Platte	Evangeline Parish	6,488	48.2%	22.2%	16.5%	65.7%	0.1%	40.6%	42.8%
New Iberia	Iberia Parish	28,844	50.4%	28.1%	14.5%	43.6%	4.3%	17.3%	45.5%
Opelousas	St. Landry Parish	15,884	52.6%	29.1%	14.4%	76.1%	2.1%	22.9%	48.9%
Washington	St. Landry Parish	828	58.8%	31.0%	15.9%	63.2%	2.7%	26.3%	53.3%
Arnaudville	St. Martin Parish	1,729	50.2%	22.3%	11.6%	13.4%	0.0%	29.7%	53.7%
Breaux Bridge	St. Martin Parish	7,711	51.9%	25.3%	17.3%	40.3%	1.8%	14.2%	41.3%

St. Martinville	St. Martin Parish	5,602	49.9%	18.3%	24.1%	59.9%	0.4%	20.6%	48.1%
Abbeville	Vermilion Parish	11,313	56.6%	225.0%	19.1%	42.5%	3.1%	22.8%	43.2%
Kaplan	Vermilion Parish	4,384	47.7%	22.8%	20.1%	8.8%	0.0%	15.9%	54.1%
TOTAL MEDIAN VALUES		6,045	50.3%	28.1%	28.1%	44.0%	1.0%	22.8%	45.5%

IV.E.2.a.ii.2 Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions: The Acadiana Region's rural communities face severe environmental and public health challenges, reflected in Louisiana's high infant mortality rate and childhood mortality rate, often linked to factors like low birth weight, prematurity, and maternal health. The region also reports a significant number of adults with asthma caused or worsened by work-related exposure. The planned brownfield reuse strategy by the Acadiana Planning Commission will specifically target underserved communities with higher incidences of adverse health conditions. The focus is on assessing brownfields contributing to these health threats, addressing cumulative public health risks, and mitigating environmental factors linked to asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and low life expectancy. The strategy aims to reduce exposure to hazardous materials, contributing to overall community well-being and health improvement.

Table 5: CEJST Health Indicators in Targeted Areas

Municipality	Asthma percentile	Diabetes percentile	Heart Disease percentile	Low Life Expectancy percentile	Low Income percentile
Church Point	80th	86th	88th	95 th (above 90 th)	84 th (above 65 th percentile)
Rayne	88th	92 nd (above 90 th)	89th	88th	85 th (above 65 th percentile)
Mamou	80th	89th	93 rd (above 90 th)	95 th (above 90 th)	92 nd (above 65 th percentile)
Ville Platte	96 th (above 90 th)	98 th (above 90 th)	99 th (above 90 th)	90th	98 th (above 65 th percentile)
New Iberia	77th	87th	89th	94 th (above 90 th)	90th (above 65 th percentile)
Opelousas	97 th (above 90 th)	97 th (above 90 th)	95 th (above 90 th)	95 th (above 90 th)	98 th (above 65 th percentile)
Washington	73rd	90th	92 nd (above 90 th)	54th	83rd (above 65 th percentile)
Arnaudville	54th	67th	80th	85th	67th (above 65 th percentile)
Breaux Bridge	65th	74th	78th	68th	67th (above 65 th percentile)
St. Martinville	75th	89th	79th	84th	77th (above 65 th percentile)
Abbeville	91 st (above 90 th)	93 rd (above 90 th)	91 st (above 90 th)	85th	96 th (above 65 th percentile)
Kaplan	63rd	77th	90th	93 rd (above 90 th)	77th (above 65 th percentile)

IV.E.2.a.ii.3. Environmental Justice

2.a.ii.(3)(a) Identification of Environmental Justice Issues: Utilizing EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (EJScreen), APC identified communities throughout the region that experience a combination of environmental and demographic disparities such as contaminants and pollution sources that are greater than the U.S. average. Across the state of Louisiana, variables contributing to pollution were above the U.S. average in particulate matter 2.5, air toxics cancer risk (lifetime risk per million), and air toxics respiratory HI. In addition to those variables, APC identified communities throughout the region which experience above U.S. average levels due to diesel particulate matter, traffic proximity, pre-1960's lead paint, risk management plan (RMP) facility proximity, hazardous waste proximity, and underground storage tanks. Using EPA Grant funding and regional collaboration, the Acadiana Brownfields Coalition and steering committee can begin to clearly identify contamination sources and work to address those issues at the source.

Table 6: EJScreen Tool Index Results in Targeted Areas

	Particulate Matter 2.5 (µg/m3)	Diesel Particulate Matter* (µg/m3)	Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	Underground Storage Tanks (count/km2)
U.S. Average	8.67	0.294	28	0.36	760	0.27	0.77	2.2	3.9
Abbeville	8.99	n/a	30	0.4	n/a	0.74	1.4	2.6	14
Arnaudville	8.2	0.107	30	0.3	1200	0.18	0.073	0.1	1.6
Breaux Bridge	9.39	n/a	30	0.4	n/a	n/a	2.8	n/a	n/a

Church Point	9.08	n/a	30	0.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kaplan	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
Mamou	9.03	n/a	30	0.4	n/a	0.71	n/a	n/a	14
New Iberia	9.14	n/a	30	0.4	n/a	0.79	3	n/a	21
St. Martinville	9.3	n/a	30	0.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.3
Opelousas	9.12	0.31	30	0.4	1300	0.55	2.7	3.7	9.11
Ville Platte	9.01	n/a	30	0.4	n/a	0.42	n/a	n/a	6.7
Washington	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

2.a.ii.(3)(b) Advancing Environmental Justice: The Acadiana Brownfields Coalition, supported by EPA grant funding and regional collaboration, is committed to advancing environmental justice and minimizing displacement in underserved communities within the target areas. The Acadiana Brownfields Coalition’s grant and reuse strategy aim to address environmental justice concerns and prevent displacement by utilizing EPA grant funding to identify and assess contamination sources. APC, through its coalition and steering committee, will engage in regional collaboration to comprehensively address contamination issues, focusing on environmental justice and minimizing the impact on underserved communities. The steering committee, comprising elected officials and community representatives, will ensure that the redevelopment and reuse strategies prioritize the well-being of residents and businesses, minimizing displacement. The identification of contamination sources will enable targeted remediation efforts, addressing environmental disparities and fostering environmental justice in the target areas.

IV.E.2.b. Community Engagement

IV.E.2.b.i. Project Involvement: In addition to APC as the lead coalition member and to the non-lead coalition members, local economic development organizations and chambers of commerce of the respective parishes will actively contribute to the economic aspects of site selection and reuse planning. These organizations' focus on visioning and business engagement will play a pivotal role in identifying opportunities for business development within the selected sites, ensuring that economic considerations are integrated into the decision-making process, aligning with the broader economic development goals of the region. The mayors of the target area communities will participate in actively engaging in community-driven site selection and reuse planning, ensuring that the local government's perspective is effectively represented, and decisions align with the community's development objectives. APC’s board consists of parish and police jury presidents, higher education institution leaders, ensuring comprehensive regional collaboration. Local legislators are often engaged for support. APC partners with LDEQ’s Brownfield Program Officer for cleanup activities, remediation programs, and technical assistance coordination. APC is committed to fostering robust community engagement and collaboration throughout the grant project, and we recognize the importance of involving new and existing local organizations at the ground level.

IV.E.2.b.ii. Project Roles: To ensure a diverse and impactful network of community involvement, APC will actively engage with the non-lead coalition community-based organizations, which play crucial roles in representing and supporting residents directly affected by the project work in the target areas. These community organizations’ participation will be sought at various stages of the project, including planning, implementation, and assessment. Through regular meetings, workshops, and collaborative sessions, APC aims to establish a dynamic partnership that amplifies the voices and contributions of these organizations, fostering a sense of shared ownership and community-driven success.

Table 7: Project Roles

Name of organization/ entity/ group	Point of contact (name, email & phone)	Specific involvement in the program or assistance provided	Role in Site Selection and Reuse Planning
Acadiana Planning Commission	Chad LaComb, clacomb@planacadiana.org ,	Lead Coalition Member	APC will play a central role in coordinating site selection and reuse planning activities, leveraging its regional planning expertise to guide decision-making processes. APC will facilitate collaborative discussions, ensuring that each step aligns with the overall project goals and community needs.
Nehemiah Projects of Acadiana	Lauren Trahan, L.trahan@thenpai.org	Non-lead Coalition Member	NPAI will actively participate in site selection and reuse planning discussions, offering valuable insights based on their community development experience. Their role includes advocating for the specific needs and aspirations of residents directly affected by the project, ensuring that redevelopment plans are inclusive and community-driven. One of NPAI's areas of expertise is workforce development , which the coalition will utilize as a valuable asset. NPAI is a key partner in community development, and their involvement will bring a wealth of experience in addressing housing and community revitalization challenges .
NUNU Art and Culture Collective	Peg Ramier, ramierarchitects@gmail.com .	Non-lead Coalition Member	NUNU will contribute to site selection and reuse planning by providing a unique perspective on the cultural aspects of the target areas , especially regarding the French heritage that is prevalent in Acadiana. Their involvement will focus on engaging the community to address issues at the grass roots level. One of NUNU's assets is a community center that is ideal for hosting public engagement meetings and will serve as in-kind contribution. Their involvement will contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the target areas and ensure that the project aligns with the artistic and cultural aspirations of the local community.
LaDEQ	Rebecca Otte, rebecca.otte@la.gov , (504) 736-7069	Remediation Program Coordination	LaDEQ will play a crucial role in site selection and reuse planning through its expertise in environmental remediation . As the Remediation Program Coordinator, LaDEQ's involvement includes coordinating and overseeing cleanup activities, providing technical assistance, and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. Rebecca Otte's leadership ensures that environmental considerations are integrated into the decision-making process, supporting the overall success and sustainability of brownfield redevelopment projects.

IV.E.2.b.iii. Incorporating Community Input: APC will establish the Acadiana Brownfield Assessment Steering Committee, including elected officials, APC staff, and community members, to lead community involvement. The committee will adapt to varying circumstances, considering alternatives to in-person meetings and virtual options, ensuring continuous communication and community engagement. Meetings, whether in person or virtual, will comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, with public notices and agendas posted on APC's website. Virtual platforms will facilitate public participation, providing opportunities for virtual public comment. Meeting minutes will be published on the website, which will serve as a repository for materials, work products, and a medium for comments and questions. Community Workshops in each target area, organized by the Steering Committee, will adopt a hybrid approach, combining in-person and virtual sessions. The workshops aim to gather resident input, envision brownfield reuse, and provide education. Virtual platforms will be used for follow-up meetings to update the public on project progress and assessment results, ensuring flexibility and accessibility. APC strives for effective community engagement, considering alternative and virtual options to address challenges posed by external circumstances. The strategy includes: establishment of Acadiana Brownfield Assessment Steering Committee, inclusion of elected officials, APC staff, and community members, adaptation to varying circumstances, considering alternatives and virtual options, compliance with Louisiana Open Meetings Law for both in-person and virtual meetings, use of virtual platforms for public participation and comments publication of meeting minutes and project information on APC's website, organization of hybrid Community Workshops in each target area by the Steering Committee, combination of in-person and virtual sessions for workshops and follow-up meetings, a website as a repository for materials, work products, comments, and questions, a striving for effective community engagement despite external challenges through alternative and virtual options.

IV.E.3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

IV.E.3.a. Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

IV.E.3.a.i. Project Implementation: APC presents a comprehensive plan for EPA-funded tasks, aligning with project goals to address priority sites in target areas. This plan covers the entire brownfield redevelopment process, from site identification to cleanup planning and community engagement. APC commits resources for effective oversight, including project coordination, reporting, and compliance. Funds will be directed to procure a Qualified Environmental Professional for thorough environmental assessments. Comprehensive inventory work, utilizing GIS expertise, will identify and assess potential brownfield sites. Substantial funds will support community engagement, including a community liaison in each area. Strategic site selection, ABCA reports, and collaboration with health agencies are prioritized. APC plans transparent procedures for stipends, meticulous record-keeping, and adherence to EPA guidelines. Committing in-kind resources and organizational funding, APC ensures successful grant completion, distinct from Section IV.E.1.c.i. resources. Through prudent management and leveraging, APC aims for a robust, efficient brownfield assessment and revitalization program aligning with outlined goals. Th plain includes: implementation of a comprehensive plan for EPA-funded tasks, allocation of resources for effective oversight, coordination, reporting, and compliance, procurement of a Qualified Environmental Professional for thorough environmental assessments, comprehensive inventory work to identify and assess potential brownfield sites substantial funds directed to community engagement, including a community liaison in each area, strategic site selection, ABCA reports, and collaboration with health agencies prioritized, transparent procedures for stipends, meticulous record-keeping, and adherence to EPA guidelines, and commitment of in-kind resources and organizational funding for successful grant completion

IV.E.3.a.ii. Anticipated Project Schedule:

Table 8: Anticipated Project Schedule			
Project Task	Responsible Party	Start Time	Completion Date
Contractor Procurement			
Prepare Request for Qualifications	APC Staff	11/1/2024	02/1/2025
Disseminate and Publish Public Notice of RFQ	APC Staff	11/1/2024	02/1/2025
Review and Scoring of Proposals	APC Staff	11/1/2024	02/1/2025
Final Consultant Selection	APC Management	11/1/2024	02/1/2025
Contract Development with Consultant	APC Staff	02/15/25	04/1/2025
Community Involvement			
Community Outreach Meetings	Steering Committee & APC Staff	11/1/2024	09/30/2027
Assessment of Potential Brownfields Sites			
Obtain Site Access	APC Staff	02/1/2025	12/1/2027
Conduct Phase I Survey(s)	Consultant	02/1/2025	10/1/2027
Conduct Phase II Survey(s)	Consultant	04/1/2025	12/1/2027
Community-based Brownfield Site Reuse Planning and Visioning			
Reuse Planning	Community Champions, APC Staff, local elected officials	11/1/2024	9/30/2027
ABCA Development	Consultant	11/1/2024	9/30/2027
QAPP Development	Consultant	11/1/2024	9/30/2027
Clean-up Plan Development	Consultant	11/1/2024	9/30/2027
Identifying other Potential Brownfields Sites			

Identify and map the location of potential Brownfield sites in the target areas	APC Staff	11/01/2024	09/30/2025
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IV.E.3.a.iii. Task/Activity Lead: APC will lead contractor procurement, managing RFQ preparation, dissemination (including Public Notice), proposal review, scoring, consultant selection, and contract development. Once selected, APC will identify and map Brownfield sites in target areas, coordinating site access for the consultant. Reuse planning, guided by APC staff in collaboration with community champions and elected officials, respects local zoning restrictions. APC's unique mission and extensive experience in community, economic, and transportation development position it as the project guide. The selected consultant will conduct phase I and phase II surveys, collaborating with APC and LaDEQ to develop the QAPP and ABCA for clean-up and reuse planning. The consultant selection process relies on a proven weighted scoring system.

IV.E.3.a.iv. Outputs: In addition to standard grant compliance documentation such as quarterly reporting, APC will coordinate with its consultant and LaDEQ staff to develop a project inventory, Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) reports, Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP's), and reuse planning for assessed sites as part of the clean-up and reuse planning process.

IV.E.3.b. Cost Estimates: Approximately 75% of grant funding will be allocated for the Priority Sites within the Target Areas, described in Section 1.a.ii. The other 25% of funding will address brownfield sites throughout the region. The table below provides a breakdown of estimated costs by task. The coalition members will contribute their own resources as in-kind services to support the activities described herein.

	Site-Specific Environmental Assessments	Site-Specific Re-Use Planning	Site-Specific Clean-up Planning	Public Outreach and Engagement	Administrative Expense (Indirect)	Grant Reporting & Compliance (Direct)	Conference & Trainings	Total Budget Summary
Personnel	\$50,600	\$47,925	\$38,340	\$50,505	\$22,250	\$22,250	\$-	\$231,870
Fringe	\$28,150	\$29,565	\$24,390	\$31,860	\$13,750	\$13,750	\$-	\$141,465
Travel	\$1,450	\$508	\$508	\$509	\$-	\$-	\$12,500	\$15,475
Equipment	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Supplies	\$-	\$1,710	\$710	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$-	\$7,420
Contractual	\$678,000	\$369,792	\$46,778	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$1,094,570
Other	\$7,700	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$9,200
Total Direct	\$766,375	\$450,000	\$111,226	\$85,374	\$37,500	\$37,500	\$12,500	\$1,500,000
Breakdown of Site-Specific Environmental Phase I and Phase II Activities								
Total Budget	\$1,500,000							
Environmental Assessments	\$978,420		Phase I (Total)		\$232,000	Phase II & LBP, Mold, Asbestos		\$534,375
			Site Unit Cost \$\$		\$4,000	Site Unit Cost \$\$		\$28,125
Personnel	\$50,600	Personnel		\$250	Personnel		\$1,900	
Fringe	\$28,150	Fringe		\$125	Fringe		\$1,100	
Travel	\$1,450	Travel		\$25.00	Travel		\$25.00	
Contractual	\$678,000	Contractual		\$3,500	Contractual		\$25,000	
Other	\$7,700	Other		\$100	Other		\$100	
		Total # of Sites		58	Total # of Sites		19	

IV.E.3.c. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results: APC staff have obtained ACRES training as part of its previous grant and are well-versed on the requirements to update and maintain records associated with this project. Additionally, APC anticipates utilizing the Brownfields Inventory Tool provided by KSU TAB to build its inventory of known and potential Brownfields sites in each targeted area. APC will track the number of sites and the total acreage assessed and successfully remediated and then redeveloped. APC has identified the following objectives and environmental and economic performance measures.

Table 10: Performance-Based Outputs and Outcomes
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Task	Output Measurement (Compiled Quarterly)	Outcome (Compiled Annually)
Civic Engagement	# of Brownfield Team Meetings # of Public Meetings # of Neighborhood Coterie Meetings # of Public Informational Meetings # Public Announcements Printed/Aired # of Targeted Meetings Hosted	# of Attendees at Meetings # of Attendees at Meetings # of Attendees at Meetings # of Groups and Attendees # of Groups and Attendees # of Public Inquiries Received
Site Assessments	# of Phase 1 Assessments # of Phase 2 Assessments	# and Acres Property Assessed # and Acres Property Assessed
Clean-up and Reuse Planning	# of LaDEQ Clean Up Estimates # of Redevelopment Plans	Total \$ Amount Needed for Clean Up # of Properties with Redevelopment Plans Dollars Leveraged and/or Created # of Jobs Leveraged and/or Created Tax Impact of Redeveloped Properties
Site Inventory	# of potential Brownfields Sites in Inventory	# and acres of Potential Brownfields Sites Inventoried and Characterized through Site Inventories

IV.E.4 Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

IV.E.4.a. Programmatic Capability

IV.E.4.a.i. Organizational Capacity: The APC is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana and is like other Councils of Government (COGs) found throughout the US. APC staff have extensive experience managing and administering grants for state and federal agencies, including the USDA, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, and Louisiana Department Transportation and Development among many others. APC will follow both state and federal procurement law for any advertisement and solicitation of proposals for this project. APC has also an adopted internal procurement policy that aligns with both state and federal law and APC accounting and grant administration staff have undergone training in OMB policies and procedures.

IV.E.4.a.ii. Organizational Structure: The APC Brownfield Assessment Grant Team includes planners, project managers, grants coordinators, and GIS specialists with expertise in environmental compliance, economic and community development, grants administration, public outreach, and comprehensive planning. This team ensures programmatic depth and continuity. In case of replacements, task assignments can be temporarily redistributed. For project coordination, APC will establish the Acadiana Rural Brownfields Initiative Steering Committee, comprising elected officials, APC representatives, non-lead coalition members, community residents, and local business owners. The committee focuses on reviewing RFQs, selecting a consultant for Phase I and Phase II assessments, and promoting community involvement.

IV.E.4.a.iii. Description of Key Staff: The Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant Project Manager will be **Chad LaComb**. Mr. LaComb holds a Juris Doctorate and undergraduate degrees in anthropology and biology and graduate coursework in statistics, geosciences, and environmental biology. He is a Project Specialist and coordinated the I-49 Connector Plan for six years with specialized expertise in both blighted and tax-adjudicated property. **Rachel Godeaux**, Director of Community Planning and Economic Development at Acadiana Planning Commission will serve as the grant manager. She holds a Master of Public Administration and has extensive experience in budgeting and grant administration. Both Rachel Godeaux and Chad LaComb have completed EPA's QA/QC training. **Alicia Wiltz**, GIS Specialist, will provide mapping and technical guidance. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban Forestry and has extensive GIS and mapping knowledge. **Sean Reed**, Project Specialist, holds a Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resources and has experience in project management and GIS. **Kade Jones**, Regional Planner, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Landscape Architecture and has experience in

community engagement and grant compliance. Sean Reed and Kade Jones will serve as facilitators of community outreach and grant compliance.

IV.E.4.a.iv. Acquiring Additional Resources: APC will follow its adopted procurement policy as well as all relevant state and local laws to procure goods and services under this grant.

IV.E.4.b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

IV.E.4.b.i. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant

IV.E.4.b.i.1 Accomplishments: In 2017, APC secured a \$300,000 EPA Community-wide Assessment Grant for the University Ave Corridor and Four Corners Neighborhood in Lafayette, LA. In collaboration with the City of Lafayette, APC effectively utilized this grant to catalyze more than \$100 million in combined public and private investments. The revitalization effort addressed challenges such as the disproportionate impact of brownfields, historical industrial activities, and railroad tracks on the 2/3-square-mile region inhabited by 3,015 residents, where nearly a third of households lacked car access, relying on public transportation. Key accomplishments and outcomes include: **Leverage of Assessment Grant:** Generated over \$100 million in public and private investment and addressed environmental justice concerns in a targeted area; **Revitalization Efforts:** Developed a unique community wealth-building model through intergenerational resident feedback and democratic placemaking and partnered with Groundworks USA for community feedback and redevelopment plans; **Urban Systems Planning Grant (2017):** Secured a \$500,000 grant for a corridor study, enhancing safety and revitalizing University Ave; **Opportunity Zone Designation (2018):** Successfully nominated three census tracts along the University Corridor as Opportunity Zones, attracting additional investment, received recognition by Forbes Magazine (2019) as a national top 20 Opportunity Zone Catalyst and an International Economic Development Council Gold Award (2021) for innovation in Economic Development through the Acadiana Regional Opportunity Zone Initiative; and **Ongoing Grant Success:** Received various transportation, USDA, EDA, and DRA economic development planning and project grants, maintained financial compliance, managing and reporting grant activities without adverse findings, and regularly provided monthly narrative reports to granting agencies detailing project progress.

IV.E.4.b.i.2. Compliance with Grant Requirements: APC completed and closed out its prior EPA award in 2021. All grant activities were completed within the performance period of the assessment grant. As part of the grant requirements, APC completed 24 quarterly reports, maintained and updated ACRES records for sites receiving funding and completed a final closeout report. During the performance period, APC completed annual FFR and PPR reports annually. As part of the project APC updated and maintained a quality management plan (QMP) as well as QA / QC certification and training. In addition to the Community-Wide Assessment Grant for the Four Corners Community in Lafayette, APC has been awarded a variety of transportation, USDA, EDA and DRA economic development planning and project grants. APC accepts, appropriates, and manages these grants through an internal process which ensures financial compliance. APC has successfully managed, performed and reported grant activities and outcomes without any adverse findings to date. As part of these grants APC staff routinely prepares monthly narrative reports for the granting agencies detailing progress on their projects.

Threshold Criteria for Coalition Assessment Grants

III.B.1. Applicant Eligibility

I affirm that my organization is a Regional Council, and therefore, eligible to apply for this assessment grant. The Acadiana Planning Commission, Inc. (APC) satisfies the definition of local government as stated under 2 CFR 200.64 and functions as a Council of Governments (COG). It is a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana adapts member entities include Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion parishes. The APC was created by an Act of the Louisiana Legislature. The APC was first created in 1973 by Executive Order No. 27 of Governor E. Edwards, formally established in 1977 by State Act 472, codified in La RS 33:140.61 et. Seq. Additionally, APC was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the state of Louisiana under La RS 12:201 et. seq. The incorporators of the APC were the parish presidents, the highest elected official in each of the seven parishes covered by the APC who also serve as its board of commissioners. As such, APC qualifies under Section 3 A as council or group of general-purpose units of local government that was also created by the State Legislature. (See Appendix: APC Organizational Documents).

III.B.1.a. Applicant Type

I affirm that my organization is a Regional Council, and therefore, eligible to apply for this assessment grant. The Acadiana Planning Commission, Inc. (APC) satisfies the definition of local government as stated under 2 CFR 200.64 and functions as a Council of Governments (COG). It is a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana adapts member entities include Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion parishes. The APC was created by an Act of the Louisiana Legislature. The APC was first created in 1973 by Executive Order No. 27 of Governor E. Edwards, formally established in 1977 by State Act 472, codified in La RS 33:140.61 et. Seq. Additionally, APC was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the state of Louisiana under La RS 12:201 et. seq. The incorporators of the APC were the parish presidents, the highest elected official in each of the seven parishes covered by the APC who also serve as its board of commissioners. As such, APC qualifies under Section 3 A as council or group of general-purpose units of local government that was also created by the State Legislature. APC was determined as exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). (See Appendix: APC Organizational Documents).

III.B.1.b. Applicant 501(c)(4) Status

Not applicable.

III.B.2. Number and Eligibility of Non-lead Coalition Members

This coalition will be composed of the Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) as the lead coalition member with the NUNU Arts and Culture Collective (NUNU) and the Nehemiah Project of Acadiana Incorporated (NPAI) as coalition partners. NUNU designates the Town of Arnaudville, the City of Breaux Bridge, the City of Opelousas, the City of St. Martinville, and the City of Washington as target areas. NPAI designates the City of Abbeville and the Town of Kaplan as

target areas. APC designates the Town of Church Point, the Town of Mamou, the City of New Iberia, the City of Rayne, and the City of Ville Platte as target areas.

III.B.3. Target Areas

The proposed non-lead members for the Acadiana Brownfields Assessment Coalition application are the NUNU Arts and Culture Collective (NUNU) and the Nehemiah Projects of Acadiana Incorporated (NPAI). The NUNU Collective is an educational organization that works to encourage the development of artistic talents, skills, knowledge and business savvy by connecting artists with other artists, businesses, organizations and programs. It serves as a stage/platform/gallery for creative living by facilitating community, economic, and artistic/cultural development. The Nehemiah Projects of Acadiana Inc. (NPAI) is a community-based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed to revitalize and give hope to the underserved and underdeveloped communities in Acadiana. Organizational documents and IRS 501(c)(3) determination letters are included in the Appendices.

III.B.4. Existing Brownfields Grants to Non-lead Members

Neither non-lead coalition member is not the recipient of an open cooperative agreement for MARC Grant funding or a MARC Grant that closed in 2016 or later.

III.B.5. Coalition Agreement

APC has received letters of participation committing each coalition member to the coalition (See attached letters of participation in Appendices). Upon award, APC will commit these letters of participation into a formal cooperative endeavor agreement.

III.B.6. Community Involvement

APC will establish the Acadiana Brownfield Assessment Coalition Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the elected officials of each target area, local Economic Development Organization staff, community-based champions from each target area, and a representative from each coalition partner. The Steering committee will be facilitated by APC Staff. The focus of this steering committee will be to coordinate and manage community involvement and guide the selection of catalyst projects. While the composition of the steering committee represents one approach to integrating the involvement of various stakeholders, APC also plans to use several other methodologies to reach out and engage the larger community and region. These efforts will include:

a. Public Meetings of the Steering Committee: All meetings of this steering committee, including an agenda, will be posted in compliance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. Public Notices of the meetings and their agendas will be published in the journal of record for APC and on APC's website. The meetings will be held at a public building that is ADA accessible and open to members of the general public. Meetings will be staffed by an Acadiana Planning Commission staff member and minutes will be taken. An opportunity for public comment will be available at each meeting and public comment card will be available and collected at the end of each meeting. Meeting minutes will be published on APC's website. If necessary, Meetings may be conducted virtually via Zoom to accommodate for COVID-19 related restrictions.

b. Posting of information on the Acadiana Planning Commissions web site: Information on this initiative will be posted to APCs web site (<http://www.PlanAcadiana.org>). The goal is to create a publicly accessible repository for steering committee materials, related work products and to provide a medium for posting comments, asking questions via email, and keeping interested stakeholders informed. Public comment will be encouraged through both social media and a web-form on APC's website.

c. Community Workshops in each target area will be hosted by the Steering Committee. These workshops in each underserved community will be the first of several community outreach events scheduled throughout the brownfield assessment process. The purpose of this workshop is to allow residents to provide input and visioning for the potential reuse of potential catalyst brownfields sites within the designated target areas, identify previously unidentified brownfields sites within the targeted community, and promote general education about brownfields. Follow-up meetings will update the public on the progress of projects in their community and present the results of assessments conducted as part of the project. Community meetings and workshops will follow the same public notice procedure as detailed in (a)

III.B.7. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

APC was awarded an assessment grant in 2017. All prior grant funds were spent, and the grant was closed out in 2021. I affirm that my organization does not have an active EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. I affirm that each non-lead coalition member is not the recipient of an open cooperative agreement for MARC Grant funding or a MARC Grant that closed in 2015 or later. III.B.4. Existing Brownfields Grants to Non-lead Members.

I affirm that each non-lead coalition member is not the recipient of an open cooperative agreement for MARC Grant funding or a MARC Grant that closed in 2015 or later. III.B.4. Existing Brownfields Grants to Non-lead Members

III.B.8. Contractors and Named Subrecipients

n/a