

1. Applicant Identification	Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development, Inc. On Behalf of Southeast Council of Governments 112 West Elm Street Lamar, CO 81052
2. Funding Request: a. Assessment Grant Type b. Federal Funds Requested:	Assessment Coalition \$1,500,000
3. Location: a. City: b. County: c. State:	Holly & Wiley; Springfield & Walsh Prowers County; Baca County Colorado
4. Target Area and Priority Site/Property Information: a. Target Area b. Census Tracts c. Priority Sites	1) Holly Business District and Residential Sites 2) Wiley Business District 3) Springfield Business District and Residential Sites 4) Walsh Business District 1) Prowers County includes Holly: 08099000600 2) Prowers County includes Wiley: 08099000100 3) Baca County includes Springfield: 08009964700 4) Baca County includes Walsh: 08009964600 1) Holly (2 Business Sites & 14 Residential Sites) a) 309 E Cheyenne St. & 205 S 5 th St. b) Additional sites identified but not prioritized – 412 W Santa Fe & 118-120 S Main St. c) Residential: 218 Duncan Pl., 222 Duncan Pl., 209 S 5 th St., 126 S 6 th St., 304 N 9 th St., 350 N 10 th St., 800 Vaughn St., 823 W Vaughn St., 800-802 W Cheyenne St., 816 W Cheyenne St., 824 W Cheyenne St., 731 W Cliff St., 817-821 W Cliff St., 200 S Johnson St. 2) Wiley (2 Business Sites) a) 33499 Hwy 287 & 217, 219 & 221 Main St. b) Additional sites identified but not prioritized - 500 Main St. & 213 Main St. 3) Springfield (2 Business Sites & 8 Residential Sites) a) 916 Main St. & 1049 Main St., b) Additional sites identified but not prioritized -679 Main St., 856 Main St., 1220 Main St., 1277 Main St. c) Residential: 848 Santa Fe St., 864 Santa Fe St., 516 E 8 th St., 9 th & Santa Fe., 1201 Santa Fe St., 1233 Santa Fe St., 1164 College St., 665 Hill St. 4) Walsh (1 Business Site) a) 200 S Colorado St. b) Additional sites identified but not prioritized-411 N Kansas St. & 240 N Colorado St.

5. Contacts:	
a. Project Director	Morgan Alba 112 W Elm St. Lamar, CO morgan.alba@seced.net Phone: 719-336-3850
a. Chief Executive Director	Stephanie Gonzales, Executive Director 112 W Elm St. Lamar, CO 81052 seced@seced.net Phone: 719-336-3850
6. Population (2021 Colorado Demography Office)	(1) Census Tract: 08099000600 (Prowers includes Holly) 1406 (2) Census Tract: 08099000100 (Prowers includes Wiley) 1425 (3) Census Tract: 08009964700 (Baca includes Springfield) 1588 (4) Census Tract: 08009964600 (Baca includes Walsh) 1918
7. Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 10,000 or less.	3
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).	N/A
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	N/A
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	N/A
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	4
The proposed project will improve local climate adaptation/mitigation capacity and resilience to protect residents and community investments.	4
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).	4
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

8. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority

Please find attached a letter dated November 9, 2023 from Kathleen Knox, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, acknowledging our intent to apply for FY24 grant funds and conduct assessment activities.

9. Releasing Copies of Applications

1. N/A as the application does not have confidential, privilege or sensitive information.



November 9, 2023

Jennifer Benz
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8 Brownfield's Program
1595 Wynkoop Street (EPR-B)
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

Via email - Benz.Jennifer@epa.gov

RE: Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development Inc. (SECED) - FY24 Assessment Coalition Grant Proposal

Dear Ms. Benz:

I am writing to express our support of the Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant proposal for Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development Inc. (SECED). The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the state regulatory authority for hazardous and solid waste, has previously supported SECED in their efforts to clean-up and redevelop contaminated sites in Southeast Colorado. We support this proposal as part of SECED's continuing efforts to identify and address environmental concerns in order to facilitate community development and revitalization.

The proposed assessment project will support EPA's current efforts in economic development and environmental cleanup by helping SECED prepare a number of catalyst sites for reuse and redevelopment. If additional resources are necessary to complete or supplement activities outlined in this proposal, CDPHE has the ability to provide funding for Brownfields cleanup through the Colorado Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund and the State of Colorado Brownfields (H.B. 1306) program. The State of Colorado also offers a State Income Tax Credit for Remediation of Contaminated Land that can provide additional resources for cleanup activities. CDPHE has informed SECED of the availability of these resources and can assist with the application process if requested.

In summary, we feel the proposed project is a vital component of SECED's efforts to identify and address potential environmental hazards that currently impede redevelopment of properties in Southeast Colorado and are prepared to provide any necessary assistance pending a successful proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Knox".

Kathleen Knox
Superfund/Brownfields Project Manager
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division

cc: Stephanie Gonzales, SECED



NARRATIVE - Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization

1.a.i. Coalition Members, Target Areas and Brownfields

The SECED is an economic development organization that serves six counties in Southeast Colorado. SECED will submit on behalf of the Southeast Council of Governments (SECOG) a special district and regional council formed through Intergovernmental Agreement under CRS 29-1-201 and operates under the umbrella of SECED. SECED and SECOG's have the same membership and serve the same areas. Both are regional organizations with SECED being the recognized 501(c)(3). SECED is the lead coalition member for this Coalition Assessment Grant and will oversee the grant functions and processes. The SECED is joined by two economic development organizations: Prowers Economic Prosperity (PEP) and Baca County Economic Development Commission (BCEDC), both 501(c)(3) organizations that are community-based organizations. The three coalition members are collectively referred to as "the Coalition" throughout this grant proposal. The Coalition understands that Brownfield redevelopment is important to the betterment of communities, counties, and the region, and recognizes that individual target area communities do not have the staffing capacity to fully undertake a Brownfields program on their own. The Coalition members were chosen specifically for this project due to their ongoing support and leadership for improving economic conditions, addressing housing shortages, and building communities. Through this Coalition these organizations have agreed to work together for the betterment of the region with SECED spearheading Brownfield efforts. Previous efforts exist through Technical Assistance of Brownfields (TAB), redevelopment planning, and striving to grow the economy through revitalization. This grant will be a valuable tool in helping SECED move projects forward by quantifying unknown environmental conditions and helping fund activities to create shovel-ready sites, remove blight, and give these communities a foot forward to attract project partners for redevelopment. The geographic boundary for this grant covers two counties (Baca and Prowers) with a total population of 6,905. The impact of this grant would be tremendous as it will help promote community revitalization for main streets and redevelopment of blighted properties. As sites are assessed and abatement and/or rehabilitation plans are developed, the Coalition intends to incorporate energy efficiency measures that will align with current standards and codes. In addition, the future design plans will include measures that will ensure local climate adaptation/mitigation capacity and resilience to protect residents and community investments. The project plan is slated to include at least 30% of the overall project budget on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section I.B., for priority sites within the target areas.

1.a.ii. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas

The geographic boundary of this grant application comprises Prowers County and Baca County in southeast Colorado. Located along the Arkansas River and composed of mostly agricultural and farming industries, the area has a rich history. Unlike the robust tourism the State of Colorado is known for – ski resorts and snowy mountain caps – the Southeast boasts a more humble atmosphere. Commonly known for attractions such as Bent's Fort, Camp Amache, and The Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Sites, the Southeast region possesses a feel for the wild West in a state known for snow sports and beautiful mountains. Disinvestment in this region, Prowers County in particular, began in 2005 with the closing of one of its leading industry businesses, Neoplan. With the closure of this bus manufacturing company, more than 300 workers were laid off and the economy of the region was crippled. This Coalition is in urgent need of Brownfield Coalition Assessment funding to assess environmental conditions in four target areas (described below) where contamination not only poses a serious risk to sensitive populations but also hinders economic prosperity. Over the last two years, SECED has made advancements by developing an 83-door housing project in a region suffering from a housing crisis. Known for underdevelopment in Colorado, the Southeast region has suffered from a lack of resources for decades yet can boast about their knack for getting things accomplished. The effort has ignited a spark in the region to collaborate on projects. Through the efforts of SECED, economic development organizations, counties and municipalities, we have been able to address some of the housing needs of the region, utilizing economies of scale and now pursuing the formation of a Regional Housing Authority (RHA) to continue those efforts. The RHA will represent the communities in the region who otherwise lack this vital strategic tool, have limited capacity

and limited resources to address workforce housing needs. Workforce housing is a top priority in planning documents and strategies for every community in the region. There is a very dire need for housing to meet the needs of current and prospective employers throughout the region. To encourage continued economic growth, we must address all aspects of housing needs, which includes addressing current stock and new development. These will not only serve workforce needs but can help to serve underserved or threatened populations.

Through this formation of the RHA and continued collaboration with regional partners, the work to identify potential brownfield sites adds a valuable tool to our toolbox for future development, to include reuse and the remediation of blight and possible contaminants. The Area Median Income for locations in the target areas is \$70,720 at 80% AMI and \$90,900 at 100% AMI as compared to AMIs of other rural areas statewide of metro AMI of \$114,500

Over the past two years, members of the Coalition have been working with K-State Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to identify areas of priority and community capacity to handle these projects. More than 50 potential projects were identified; however, four target areas have been prioritized for this grant purpose.

Target Area 1: Town of Holly – (Census tract 08099000600) - Prowers County: The town of Holly is in Prowers County and is considered a Justice 40 (CEJST) disadvantaged community. With agriculture being one of the top employers in the area, drought has caused an outmigration of community members and businesses; funding to address dilapidated buildings is scarce. The area is plagued by vacant and underutilized buildings, residences, and structures. Approximately 18 properties have been identified as candidates for assessment. The town, which was a small rural hub, unfortunately suffered a devastating tornado in 2007 that struck without warning and tore a path through the town. Thirty-five homes were destroyed and 32 more were damaged. Eleven people were injured and there were three fatalities. Devastation crippled this community as well as hindered all future growth, development and the economy. Prioritizing the need for rejuvenation and revitalization in this small community will spark redevelopment efforts that will help to provide pleasant places to work, live and play for this town. This target area will benefit from environmental site assessments, cleanup planning, and reuse planning.

Target Area 2: Town of Wiley – (Census tract 08099000100) - Prowers County: The town of Wiley is located north of Lamar. There are approximately 4 properties (commercial) that are vacant or underutilized, showcasing the town's desperate need for redevelopment. Prioritizing environmental site assessments on these sites and developing a reuse/marketing plan to eliminate the blight caused by these structures is essential to the growth of this community.

Target Area 3: Springfield – (Census tract 08009964700) - Baca County: Springfield, the county seat for Baca County, is considered a Justice 40 (CEJST) disadvantaged community. There are approximately 14 properties (both commercial and residential) located in Springfield that are vacant or underutilized, showcasing the town's desperate need for redevelopment. Prioritizing environmental site assessments on these sites and developing a reuse/marketing plan to eliminate the blight caused by these structures is essential to the growth of this community.

Target Area 4: Walsh – (Census tract 08009964600) - Baca County: Also located in Baca County is the town of Walsh. Just 23 minutes southeast of Springfield, towards the Kansas Border. This rural town has identified and prioritized two residential properties and one commercial property as candidates for assessment, which would encourage future development of the structures.

1.a.iii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites

The Coalition has selected sites within each target area that are of grave concern as they do not contribute to the economy or wellbeing of the community. Blight and decay have continued to take over this region and commercial and residential sites either sit empty, are used as storage, or are neglected and in disrepair, making them unavailable for the purpose for which they were intended. An urgency to revitalize downtowns has resulted in this effort to assess commercial buildings, develop a plan, and pursue funding to abate them and make them ready to be occupied by new or existing businesses. It is imperative that housing development

efforts continue with a focus now on addressing the region’s dilapidated housing stock to make it accessible as workforce housing. It is the primary goal of all communities to assess and abate blighted housing, then in the future utilize the regional programs to renovate where it is not feasible to have new development. The Coalition has developed a list of approximately 40 brownfield sites in the four communities that are identified as ready for reuse if funding becomes available to address known or perceived environmental issues. Below are the sites which have been prioritized based on the assessment/abatement need and their potential to advance community development plans and serve urgent needs in each target area. Note that PEP is the lead for sites within incorporated areas of Prowers County, BCEDC is the lead for sites within incorporated areas of Baca County, and the SECED is the lead for sites within unincorporated areas of both Prowers and Baca Counties.

Priority Sites

<p>Holly Business District 2 Sites Identified below</p>	<p>Target Area 1 CT: 08099000600</p>	<p>PEP Priority Sites</p>
<p>Former Holly Turf Tack: 309 E Cheyenne: Built in 1900, located 1 block east of main street, a 4,000 sq ft commercial building formerly used to make equine tack. Current use: Vacant. Known environmental issues: Unknown. Potential environmental issues: Asbestos, lead paint, infrastructure, and chemical contamination. Determination: Plan is to renovate the building after assessment/abatement, but this will take place in the future via other funding sources to make available for new business.</p>		
<p>Former Odd Fellows Hall: 205 S 5th St: Built in 1949, located 1 block west of main street, a 2,560 sq ft commercial building. Current use: formerly an Appliance & Furniture Store. Known environmental issues: Unknown. Potential environmental issues: Asbestos, lead paint, infrastructure issues and chemical contamination. Determination: Plan is to renovate the building after assessment/abatement, but this will take place in the future via other funding sources to make available for new business.</p>		
<p>Holly Residential Sites 14 Sites Identified</p>	<p>Target Area 1 CT: 08099000600</p>	<p>SECED Priority Sites</p>
<p>Residential Sites: In addition to priority sites 309 E Cheyenne and 205 S 5th, there are over a dozen residential sites within the Town of Holly/Prowers County that are in varying states of dilapidation and are currently uninhabitable. We intend to use assessment grant funding to identify environmental constraints to leverage outside funding to assist with the rehabilitation or demolition and redevelopment of these properties. Environmental assessment of these properties will allow them to be returned to productive use, thereby reducing housing shortages and providing safe, affordable housing for employees, allowing local businesses to expand and grow.</p>		
<p>Wiley Business District 2 Sites Identified below</p>	<p>Target Area 2 CT: 08099000100</p>	<p>PEP Priority Sites</p>
<p>Former P&M & Sons: 33499 Hwy 287: A, 12,600 sq. foot structure built in 1947 originally for use as an Alfalfa Mill then most recently used as a diesel mechanic repair shop. Located outside Wiley City limits. Current use: Vacant. Environmental Issues: Unknown. Potential environmental issues: As a diesel mechanic repair shop, the potential for chemical contamination exists, to include the handling of auto shop fluids, including but not limited to anti-freeze, Heavy oil distillates (e.g., motor oil, hydraulic fluid), blended oils and glycol solutions (constitute transmission and brake fluids), and Heavy metals. Determination: Plan is to assess and abate potential issues then make it available for a manufacturing or agricultural business.</p>		
<p>Former Main Street Shops: 217, 219, 221 Main St: Three adjacent buildings located in the middle of Main Street Business District, all which have housed different types of retail stores since 1910. Lack of attention and upkeep, as well as the age of the buildings have yielded issues with structural integrity. Current use: Vacant. Environmental Issues: Unknown. Potential environmental issues: asbestos, lead paint. Determination: Plan is to renovate the building after assessment/abatement, but this will take place in the future via other funding sources to make available for new business.</p>		

Springfield Business District 2 Sites Identified below	Target Area 3 CT: 08009964700	BCEDC Priority Sites
<p>Formerly Ford Motor Company: 916 Main St: Located on a corner lot in the middle of the Main Street Business District the structure’s original use was a garage and showroom for Ford Motor Company. Current use: Storage for private individual household items, vehicles and equipment. Environmental Issues: Unknown. Potential Environmental Issues: asbestos, lead paint, and oil/gas spills. In addition, there is structural deterioration of walls and windows and a partial collapse of the roof. Determination: Plan is to assess and abate any environmental issues and after determination, either renovate the structure via other funding sources to make available for new business or consider the viability of removing the structure and reuse of the site as a public gathering place (park) and/or parking lot.</p>		
<p>Former Hardware Store: 1049 Main St: Located at the North end of Mainstreet Business District, the structure has 3 levels. The structure’s original use was for building material storage for a hardware store. It was later used as a motorcycle repair shop. Current use: Vacant. Environmental Issues: Unknown. Potential Environmental Issues: asbestos,lead paint, and oil/gas spills. The top level has issues with deterioration with partial collapse of roof and walls. Deterioration of other levels has occurred due to damage to the upper level. Determination: Plan is to renovate the building after assessment/abatement, but this will take place in the future via other funding sources to make available for new business.</p>		
Springfield Residential District 8 Sites Identified	Target Area 3: Baca County CT: 08009964700	SECED Priority Sites
<p>Residential Sites: In addition to priority sites 916 Main St. and 1049 Main St., there are eight residential sites within the Town of Holly/Prowers County that are in varying states of dilapidation and are currently uninhabitable. We intend to use assessment grant funding to identify environmental constraints to leverage outside funding to assist with the rehabilitation or demolition and redevelopment of these properties. Environmental assessment of these properties will allow them to be returned to productive use, thereby reducing housing shortages and providing safe, affordable housing for employees, allowing local businesses to expand and grow.</p>		
Walsh Business District 1 Site Identified below	Target Area 4 CT: 08009964600	BCEDC Priority Sites
<p>Former American Legion Hall: 200 S Colorado St: Structure’s original use was an American Legion Hall. It is owned by the Town of Walsh and located on the South edge of the municipal boundary. Current use: Vacant. Environmental Issues: Unknown. Potential Environmental Issues: asbestos and lead paint, and the structure has no integrity due to the deterioration of the whole building. Determination: Plan is to renovate the building after assessment/abatement, but this will take place in the future via other funding sources to make available for new business. Determining a different use for the land may have to be considered, following the assessment to determine whether abatement is an option. The plan is to make it available for reuse, however circumstances may be such that the land may have to be repurposed. A water blending station is slated for the property as part of a major water system project. The water from the water well on property will be used in the mixing process. The land and water well are intricate parts to providing safe drinking water to the community.</p>		

1.a.iv. Identifying Additional Sites

All the identified sites are in underserved communities as well as disadvantaged census tracts. The properties chosen are shovel ready projects with the most potential to positively impact those communities. Through this process, if any property drops out of the assessment due to circumstances that we are not able to control, we will refer to the list of 40+ properties we have developed in preparation for this grant application. If the need to identify additional sites arises, the Coalition will revive its initial efforts where we contacted local officials and community members to identify structures that are non-performing sites, pose health and safety hazards, and have the most potential to be assessed and remediated. The Coalition will remain flexible to identify additional sites if awarded.

1.b.i. Revitalization of the Target Areas-Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

The Southern Colorado Economic Development District (SCEDD) Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDs) for both Baca County and Prowers County guides economic growth for the State's economic development planning area (Region 6). The CEDs document contains the goals and priorities to develop a stronger regional economy as well as community revitalization. This plan also promotes healthy business environments, improves community wellness and increases housing options for this area. The assessment of these priority sites will further these goals by identifying possible environmental hazards and bringing the community together to plan for abatement. Economic development needs that have been identified in the CEDs include public infrastructure improvements, business development, and housing. To further support SECED's current and planned housing development projects, it is essential to continue to identify potential properties and/or vacant lots for development. The driving force for the CEDs is to strengthen businesses in the region and to assist and support these businesses for further expansion and retention. Housing has been identified as the #1 limiting factor for business growth in these areas. The lack of housing and the condition of existing housing stock is limiting business growth and relocation to southeast Colorado. Reusing or cleaning up these priority sites will establish a clean slate for new housing developments to be built, as well as businesses to have a plan for the abatement of these properties. In the long term these projects will strengthen the health of these communities, their citizens and improve their quality of life.

IV.E.1.b.ii. Revitalization of the Target Areas-Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

The Coalition will utilize brownfields funding to (1) update and expand the brownfields inventory, (2) further prioritize sites for the program (3) conduct community input and engagement activities, and (4) assess and plan for the remediation and reuse of brownfield sites and their buildings within the identified target areas to aid in their redevelopment. Our target areas have many distressed, blighted, and otherwise underutilized properties. The assessment and eventual remediation of these sites will also impact nearby properties that have been affected by the sites' deterioration and will also minimize risk of exposure to contamination both at the site and adjacent properties. Additional expected outcomes will be property tax increases to the counties, an increase in property values, new investment, and job creation. SECED will utilize energy efficiency measures whenever possible for the reuse/marketing plans and leaders will be encouraged to utilize renewable and energy efficient measures whenever possible.

1.c.i. Revitalization of the Target Areas-Strategy for Leveraging Resources-Resources Needed for Site Reuse

The SECED expects to leverage numerous other resources to successfully put these sites back into use. These sources include, but are not limited to:

1. Southeast Colorado Regional Housing Authority (RHA) – The RHA will be a vital tool in creating an avenue for reuse for the properties that will be assessed under this grant. Their contribution is expected to include but is not limited to: Determining whether housing conditions are unsafe, unsanitary, or substandard and investigate methods for improving such conditions; Studying and making recommendations on plans addressing the clearing, re-planning, or reconstruction where unsafe, unsanitary, or substandard conditions exist; Provide housing accommodations for low-income persons in cooperation with the local jurisdiction, prepare, implement, and operate projects including the construction, reconstruction, improvement, alteration, or repair of any project; Act as an agent for the federal government in connection with the acquisition, construction, operation, or management of a project; Arrange with the city or with a government for the furnishing, planning, re-planning, opening, or closing of streets, roads, roadways, alleys, property options, property rights, or for the furnishing of property services in connection with a project; Lease or rent dwellings, accommodations, lands, buildings, structures, or facilities included in any project, and establish and revise associated rents or charges; Access buildings or property to conduct investigations or to make surveys; Sell, exchange, transfer, assign, or pledge property to any person, firm, corporation, the city or county, or government for affordable housing projects. The RHA will be best for addressing the residential sites that have been identified. It has a pool of funding to the tune of \$450,000 that is available regionwide to address those properties that require infrastructure.

2. **Proposition 123** – Twenty-one of our thirty-one member governments of the SECED have opted in to Prop 123, which has enabled them to apply for the following: Grants and forgivable loans to acquire and preserve land for affordable housing development; Equity investment to support the creation or preservation of low- and middle-income multifamily rental development; Loans to support the creation and preservation of affordable rental housing; Loans to support the creation or preservation of modular and factory build manufacturers.

Funding amounts will be contingent upon the size of the project. There is up to \$128.1 million available each year and will be available through 2027.

4. **Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)**– The option to apply to (DOLA) as a resource to counties, municipalities and the SECED for infrastructure funding to help with redevelopment of main street projects that encourage the reuse of buildings that provide community benefit through improvement to publicly owned infrastructure and streetscape improvements: water, sewer, stormwater, publicly owned utility infrastructure, sidewalks, and streetscape or placemaking improvements, including high efficiency street lights, accessibility improvements, public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, and bike or other multimodal improvements. Each year, DOLA Tier I and Tier II applications are made available to the Region. Grant limits per applicant in Tier I is up to \$200,000 and Tier II is \$750,000.

5. **History Colorado** – The option to utilize History Colorado to apply for grants that work for the business structures in each location if they are eligible. These funds available are for data collection and analysis. Emergency grants can provide funding to address structures that are in imminent danger of being lost, demolished, or seriously damaged, especially when the threat is sudden and unexpected, such as a fire, flood, hailstorm, or other act of nature. Historic Structure Assessment (HSA) grants for the sole purpose of preparing a report on the physical condition of historic buildings. This may encompass any project type which could be applied for as a competitive grant but offers more flexible application timing for smaller-scale projects. These funds can help compliment the work and scope of the Brownfields grants. Funds available are up to \$250,000.

6. **Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Main Street Revitalization** – The option to apply for CDOT grants to help address infrastructure, such as sidewalks, curb and gutter, and beautification efforts, that enhance the aesthetics of downtowns to encourage businesses to locate to communities, which in turn can promote economic growth and health of communities. Funds vary by availability but historically have been up to \$500,000 per project.

7. **Enterprise Zone** – The whole region is in the Rural Enterprise Zone which is described as a geographic area that has been granted special tax breaks, regulatory exemptions, or other public assistance to encourage private economic development and job creation. They are used most often to promote the revitalization of a city neighborhood that are identified as distressed locations. The option for a taxpayer to apply for the Vacant Commercial Building Rehabilitation Tax Credit will be a vital tool in addressing buildings that are at least 20 years old and have been vacant for at least two years. This 25% tax credit encourages the revitalization of dilapidated buildings and blighted areas, bringing new businesses and employees to the community (up to \$50,000 in credits on \$200,000 or more in costs)

8. **Business Loan Fund (BLF)** – SECED, Inc. provides a Business Loan Funding program that allows entrepreneurs to apply for low interest loans. It is anticipated that once buildings have been assessed and further abated, they will be made available to the public, for rent or sale. The business loan fund program offers them the opportunity to apply for funding to work towards their goal of locating their business in downtown areas. It is anticipated that the coalition assessment grant will strengthen assessment/abatement of properties and when completed, will offer entrepreneurs who choose to come to SECED for funding, the confidence that the properties are safe, viable properties. \$1.1M is available to entrepreneurs to access for businesses in the region.

9. **Regional Broadband** – Planning partner, SCEDD, the economic development district for our area has a regional broadband program that proposes to have available funding to address broadband needs in the region. Funding availability is forthcoming.

1.c.ii. Revitalization of the Target Areas-Use of Existing Infrastructure

The intent of this project will be to use existing infrastructure on main streets or in business districts for the goal of abating them and then repurposing to make them available for entrepreneurs to locate their businesses to

those properties. Where needed, the Coalition will work with communities to improve service to provide utility services. In the case of the priority site being considered for a water blending station, the treatment capacity will be made sufficient for new development spurred by this grant.

Residential properties will be assessed to determine whether they can be rehabbed through existing programs and/or whether they need to be demolished and the lots made available as a buildable lot for the RHA projects.

2.a.i. Community Need and Community Engagement- The Community's Need for Funding

Southeast Colorado has been presented with economic development challenges since its inception due to the rural nature of the Region. Residents often suffer poverty with median household incomes ranging to nearly \$40,000 less than the state of Colorado’s median household income. Many of the Region’s most economically distressed residents live within the neighborhoods of the target areas. The composition of those residents includes persons who are low-income, non-native english speaking populations who lack access to services, including but not limited to internet access. All the counties and municipalities in southeast Colorado are designated non-entitlement areas; the total population for the SECED’s 6-county region is under 50,000. The populations of the four target areas are very small with totals being collectively less than 3,100 people – 784 (Holly), 435 (Wiley), 1318 (Springfield), and 543 (Walsh). The identified municipalities are hard pressed to find additional money to address the dilapidated structures in their communities. While the resources are available to them through state and federal programs, oftentimes, they come with a match component that becomes an added stress to already challenged budgets. The need for funding exists in every identified community and county. In each community, there is a need for funding for redevelopment of structures to make them available as future business locations and new housing, to revitalize communities that have a great need for workforce housing and to help with blight and/or unsafe structures within those communities.

2.a.ii.1. Threats to Sensitive Populations-Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

The health and welfare of the residents in the four target areas are of great concern. In Prowers County, according to 2021 data, 18.8% of Holly’s and 5.2% of Wiley’s population live in poverty. The median household income is \$39,602 and \$51,000 respectively, as compared to Colorado and National average median incomes of \$89,302 and \$74,755. While the Town of Wiley’s statistics do not appear to be as impacted, the makeup of the surrounding areas show that it is far more impacted than the data provides. In Baca County, 20.1% of Springfield and 20.8% of Walsh’s populations live in poverty and the median household income is \$41,522 and \$37,222, respectively. Housing affordability is vital to the welfare of these communities. Addressing health and safety issues, such as asbestos and lead based paint within the current stock of available housing is an integral part of the plan to provide safe, efficient living environments as currently the existing infrastructure is not sufficient.

Target Area	1	2	3	4		
Census Tracts	08099000600	08099000100	08009964600	08009964700	State	US
Unemployment Rate	0.0%	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%	5.0%	6.0%
Low Income	42.0%	20.0%	53.0%	49.0%	25.0%	31.0%
Hispanics	38.0%	24.0%	12.0%	12.0%	21.9%	21.9%
Poverty Rate (all ages)	18.8%	5.2%	20.1%	20.8%	9.6%	6.1%
Median HH Income	\$39,602	\$51,000	\$41,522	\$37,222	\$89,302	\$74,755
Home Value	\$81,100	\$167,500	\$106,500	\$121,300	\$531,100	\$320,900
< High School Diploma	24.0%	5.0%	13.0%	16.0%	8.0%	12.0%
Persons with Disabilities	26.8%	13.0%	22.5%	16.0%	11.4%	13.4%
No Internet	26.0%	13.0%	25.0%	18.0%	10.0%	14.0%

Sources: EJ Screening Mapping Data; ACS Yr 2021 Data; CEJEST Screening Tool

2.a.ii.2. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions

Lead based paint, as you will see in the table under 2.a.ii.3 Environmental Justice, is the largest threat in the region. The age, condition, and presence of lead paint, in not only current housing stock but business structures, may be contributing to disease and adverse health conditions as demonstrated in the table below, especially in children under 5. Assessment is necessary to identify and plan for abatement.

Target Area	1	2	3	4	State	US
Census Tracts	08099000600	08099000100	08009964600	08009964700		
Heart Disease	8.7%	5.6%	9.1%	9.6%	4.8%	6.1%
Asthma	11.0%	10.0%	10.5%	10.9%	9.9%	10.0%
Cancer	7.8%	6.9%	8.9%	9.1%	5.9%	6.1%
Low Life Expectancy	18.0%	15.0%	22.0%	14.0%	11.4%	13.4%

Sources: EJ Screening Mapping Data; ACS Yr 2021 Data; CEJST Screening Tool

2.a.ii.Environmental Justice (3)(a)Advancing Environmental & 3(b)Identification of Environmental Justice Issues

Environmental justice issues that have been identified are access to healthy food, adequate transportation, and unsafe homes, all of which contribute to poorer health outcomes and lower quality of life. Southeast Colorado counties and municipalities are continually working towards systems that provide equal access to goods and services for all its residents, regardless of age, race, color, national origin or income. We try to develop, implement, and enforce environmental laws, regulations, and policies that provide access and equality among all residents. Our goals will be achieved when we have the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and equal access by all to the processes that ensure healthy living, learning and work environments. Our communities involve their residents by having open meetings through their municipal councils, county commissioner meetings as well as economic and community development organizations. Members of the community are invited monthly to provide information about issues they are facing at any/all these meetings. The communities have access to programs that are funded at different levels, from county and municipal governments to non-profit organizations, that help address food access, transit and mobility, and programs that address unsafe homes.

Target Area Census Tracts	1	2	3	4	State	US
	08099000600	08099000100	08009964600	08009964700		
Flood Risk	46.0%	16.0%	7.0%	8.0%	5.0%	12.0%
Wildfire Risk	19.0%	16.0%	57.0%	94.0%	33.0%	14.0%
Lead Based Paint	48.0%	36.0%	44.0%	39.0%	20.0%	30.0%
RMP Facility Proximity	0.03	0.84	0.07	0.1	0.35	0.43
Transportation Access	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Food Desert	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		

Sources: EJ Screening Mapping Data; ACS Yr 2021 Data; CESJT Screening Tool

2.b.i. and 2.b.ii Community Engagement-Project Involvement and Project Roles

Community organizations who will be valuable partners, providing data and feedback will include/but not be limited to the following stakeholders. They are vital as they are the boots on the ground for each area they serve and they have methods in place for providing outreach.

Name of organization/entity/group	Point of contact (name, & email)	Specific involvement in the program or assistance provided
Prowers County Public Health & Environment	Delaine Dunning ddunning@prowerscounty.net	Will provide data through program(s) analysis and contribute to community engagement & outreach
Town of Holly	Cynthia Humrich clerk@townofholly.com	Town will be instrumental in providing housing/business info and contribute to community engagement & outreach

Town of Wiley	Grace Hayes 719-688-1339	Town will be instrumental in providing business info and contribute to community engagement & outreach
Town of Walsh	Sheila Emick 719-523-4521	Town will be instrumental in providing business info and contribute to community engagement & outreach
Town of Springfield	Sheila Emick 719-523-4521	Town will be instrumental in providing housing/business info and contribute to community engagement & outreach
Southeast Colorado Regional Housing Authority	Stephanie Gonzales seced@seced.net	Regional Housing Authority will participate

2.b.iii. Community Engagement-Incorporating Community Input

SECED believes that incorporating community input is the cornerstone of success. Communicating with not only stakeholders but residents of each community is essential to identifying needs and wants and breaking the barriers that oftentimes prohibit the inclusion of underserved populations. Many of our residents have no access to services such as transit or the internet. Outreach to underserved populations such as non-English speaking residents, youth and elderly, as well as homeless populations through hand delivered forms that target them specifically will enable us to include residents whose voices are not traditionally heard. Providing an environment of inclusivity that welcomes community members within the target area, as well as the surrounding area, is vital to gathering feedback and assessing impact to the proposed revitalization plans for both the commercial and residential properties. Our intent will be to strategically provide methods to engage community members utilizing methods including and not limited to in person public meetings with social media, radio and written press release invitations, fact sheet distribution in both English and Spanish, virtual meetings for those with limited ability to attend in person, onsite translation services, social media live presentations, and finally paper and online feedback forms that can provide the opportunity to present opinions, thoughts and ideas.

Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress and Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

3.a.i.-3.a.v. Project Implementation, Identifying Additional Sites, Anticipated Project Schedule, Task, Activity Lead/Outputs

SECED is requesting \$1,500,000 of EPA Coalition Assessment funding to complete the assessment and plan development for the cleanup/reuse of our identified priority sites.

Task/Activity 1: Cooperative Agreement Management & Reporting
i. Project Implementation: SECED will manage all aspects of the project, including coordination with the EPA and the qualified environmental professional (QEP) procurement. SECED will be responsible for quarterly reports, ACRES updates and annual reports, as well Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) reports, Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) and a Final Performance Report documenting accomplishments, outputs, outcomes, and success stories. SECED plans to procure a QEP in accordance with (2) CFR 200,317-326 requirements and will oversee the consultant and any additional contractors. Two SECED staff will also attend state workshops/conference(s). Any proposed changes to this Task will be discussed with and approved by the EPA.
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Throughout the 4-year implementation period, SECED will oversee management & reporting. Attending State/Regional Workshop/Conference(s) are anticipated in 2025-2026.
iii. Task/Activity Lead: SECED will lead this task including financial management, execution, and compliance with the terms and scope of the grant. The QEP will assist with reporting activities.
iv. Outputs: Timely quarterly reports (16); DBE/FFR reports (4); ACRES Updates (ongoing); 1 Final Performance Report; and 2 Brownfield Workshops/Conferences attended by 2 SECED staff.

Task/Activity 2: Inventory and Site Prioritization

i. Project Implementation: SECED will work with the QEP along with the Brownfield Advisory Committee (BAC) to continue the development of the site inventory and to prioritize sites. Environmental database information will be utilized as well as information from town records, tax delinquencies, and building code violations. The inventory will be developed in a GIS format with each site cataloged using the parcel tax ID number(s) such that it can be a future resource for SECED and the counties and cities of the Region. As part of the site selection process, SECED will continually survey the BAC, local developers, real estate brokers, and other stakeholders for information on potential sites and conduct desktop studies and windshield surveys to verify existing site conditions. SECED will work with the QEP and BAC to establish criteria to prioritize sites that offer the greatest socioeconomic benefits for underserved and vulnerable residents to inform the site selection process. Under this task SECED will continue adding to the site inventory and prioritization of the list which at the time of this grant submission contains numerous brownfield sites throughout the Region, including those in the Target Areas defined in this grant application. In the event grant funds remain after addressing the Target Areas/priority sites SECED, QEP, and BAC will evaluate the redevelopment potential of additional sites based on rankings in four categories from 1-3 with 1 being least likely to 3 being very likely. The categories include redevelopment feasibility, community goals, environmental and EPA Priorities. Each will continue to evaluate contamination, ability to leverage additional funding, promotes equitable affordable housing, potential for green infrastructure, promotes business development/retention) to be evaluated and to rank the sites in the most underserved areas of the Region.

ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: BAC Meetings: quarterly meetings throughout the lifecycle of the grant; Initial Brownfield Inventory/Site Prioritization: Q1-2025 through Q1-2028 will continue throughout the life cycle of the grant; GIS Data Mapping: Q3-2025–Q3-2027.

iii. Task/Activity Lead: SECED will lead this task including financial management, execution, and compliance with the terms and scope of the grant. The qualified environmental consultant will assist with reporting activities.

iv. Outputs: SECED, the QEP, and BAC will continue developing a brownfield inventory including prioritization and selection of sites for ESAs and planning.

Task/Activity 3: Site Work include but not limited to Phase I & II ESAs

i. Project Implementation: Grant funds will be used for site specific environmental work under this task. The percentage that will be used will be approximately 88%. Under the direction of SECED, the QEP will complete Eligibility Determination (ED) request forms to be submitted to EPA (hazardous substances) and/or Division of Oil and Public Safety (petroleum). Upon confirmation of eligibility, Phase I ESAs will be completed in accordance with 40 CFR Part 312, the All-Appropriate Inquiries Final Rule, and the standards set forth in the ASTM E1527-21 Phase I ESA process. All reports will be provided electronically (e.g., Adobe Acrobat) to SECED by the QEP. Reports will also be linked to SECED's GIS database. The QEP under the direction of SECED will perform Phase II ESAs, supplemental assessment activities, RBM surveys, and/or RAPs on priority sites that meet eligibility requirements. A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be prepared and approved by EPA as part of this grant award prior to conducting any Phase II ESAs or other sampling activities. Prior to initiating any Phase II ESA field work, Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) and Health and Safety Plans (HASPs) will be prepared for each site and submitted to EPA. Phase II ESAs will follow standards set forth in the ASTM E190319 Phase II ESA process.

ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Throughout the 4-year implementation period, SECED will oversee management & reporting. Attending State/Regional Workshop/Conference(s) are anticipated in 2025-2028.

iii. Task/Activity Lead: SECED will lead this task including financial management, execution, and compliance with the terms and scope of the grant. The qualified environmental consultant will assist with reporting activities.

iv. Outputs: identify and quantify, as appropriate, the anticipated outputs/deliverable for each task/activity

Task/Activity 4: Target Area Reuse Planning and Site Identification

i. Project Implementation: SECED with support of the QEP will perform a comprehensive community outreach program that will include options for traditional, targeted, innovative, and virtual options for engagement in the event of COVID-19 social distancing or other restrictions. Including but not limited to meetings and forums, development and distribution of marketing and informational materials, and joint outreach and education efforts with community-based organizations. ETCOG staff with assistance from the QEP will be made available to meet with local representatives (and if appropriate, host public meetings) for any owners that express a need and interest in participating in the project and will ensure that there is the opportunity for citizens and stakeholders to participate in decision making through the public participation process. Care will be taken to invite and involve neighbors and potentially affected citizens in the decision-making process, as well as to keep local government and community based organizations informed. Community involvement on individual sites will be developed on an as needed case-by-case basis.

Two reuse planning studies will be completed within Target Areas where the potential for substantial redevelopment is present.

ii. Identifying Additional Sites: Identification of additional sites will be completed throughout the life cycle of the project.

iii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Throughout the 4-year implementation period, SECED will oversee management & reporting. Attending State/Regional Workshop/Conference(s) are anticipated in 2025-2028.

iv. Task/Activity Lead: SECED will lead this task including financial management, execution, and compliance with the terms and scope of the grant. The qualified environmental consultant will assist with reporting activities.

v. Outputs: identify and quantify, as appropriate, the anticipated outputs/deliverable for each task/activity

3.b. Cost Estimates: The majority of the grant funding will be allocated for assessment and reuse planning for sites within the Target Areas, described in Section 1.a.ii. The other remaining funding will enable us to continue to address brownfield sites throughout the Region. With unemployment rates, minority population, vacant home numbers, and economic challenges, the Coalition will leverage this funding with proven strategies to engage communities in a dynamic process to revitalize priority sites that will help address environmental justice issues. The table below provides a breakdown of estimated costs by task. An average rate of \$125/hour is used for contractual services and \$60/hour is used for SECED personnel/fringe (\$45/hour for personnel + \$15/hour for fringe) to administer the grant. Due to the number of sites that were prioritized (29), and the potential for 10 additional sites, we estimated that the inventory, planning and assessments would require the full funding request of \$1,500,000. In addition, the sites are located within an area that is approximately 1,740 sq. miles which will require a tremendous amount of travel for the QEP as well as Coalition lead. The non-Coalition members will contribute their own resources as in-kind services to support the activities described herein.

3.c. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results

Line #	Budget Categories	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Total
		Cooperative Agreement (CA) Management, Reporting, & Other Eligible Activities	Brownfield Inventory & Site Prioritization/Selection	Phase I & II ESAs; RAPs; & RBM Surveys	Reuse Planning & Community Outreach	
1	Personnel	\$14,780	\$23,609	\$12,295	\$14,780	\$65,400
2	Fringe	\$4,926	\$7,869	\$4,098	\$4,926	\$21,798
3	Travel	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
4	Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000
5	Contractual	\$38,535	\$34,549	\$1,024,506	\$231,212	\$1,328,802
Direct Costs		\$63,242	\$66,027	\$1,040,900	\$254,918	\$1,425,000
Indirect Costs^{3*}		\$4,500	\$7,500	\$33,000	\$30,000	\$75,000
Total Budget		\$67,742	\$73,527	\$1,073,900	\$284,918	\$1,500,000

4.a. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance-Programmatic Capability

SECED has operated programs since 1986. We have demonstrated that where there's a will there's a way. We successfully completed the 83-door development, with 10 communities and 6 counties collaborating to bring \$13M of housing investment to the region to advance housing in the region. We have worked with DOLA, DOH, CDOT and OEDIT since 1993, successfully managing and reporting on the programs we manage.

4.a.i. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance-Organizational Capacity

Over the past eighteen months, SECED has added five employees, to build organizational capacity. These employees are motivated individuals with a good work ethic and bring experience and knowledge to the table to help accomplish the goals of SECED. Each program of SECED requires progress reporting, quarterly and annual reporting and a fiduciary reporting responsibility to the members of the region. SECED has in its organization the required financial operating systems in place to manage grants and reporting.

4.a.ii. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance-Organizational Structure

SECED is fortunate to have 18 very involved individuals who serve on the board that are involved in their communities, either as elected officials or residents. There is longevity on the board so knowledge is plentiful and feedback and support is abundant.

4.a.iii. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance-Description of Key Staff

Key Staff includes **Stephanie Gonzales, Executive Director**, who has been with SECED since 1998 and has the knowledge, leadership and experience to execute the management and planning related to economic and community plans. **Morgan Alba, Grants Navigator and Project Assistant**, will help to manage the daily requirements of the planning and reporting that will be required for this grant.

4.a.iv. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance-Acquiring Additional Resources

SECED has access to substantial resources throughout its various departments. The 6 counties SECED serves, and the cities within those counties include additional technical and supporting roles to assist with grant implantation activities. SECED has proactive staff and capacity that eliminates project delays and ensures project staff have appropriate qualifications and experience. SECED routinely contracts with consultants and has established equal opportunity procurement procedures for ensuring a fair bidding process and adhering to 2 CFR 200.317-200.326. SECED will procure through a competitive RFQ process, a QEP firm to assist with grant implementation activities. SECED is also continuously tracking additional opportunities to pursue funding resources that align well with SECED's vision and the counties and communities they serve.

4.b. Past Performance and Accomplishments: 4.b.ii. Past Performance and Accomplishments

SECED has not received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has received other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements such as CDOT 5310 and 5311 Transportation Grants. SECED has received and managed millions of dollars in funding from numerous federal and state agencies. The list below depicts snippets of the \$1,702,000 in funding managed by SECED in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 that are most aligned in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project. SECED Does not currently have and has not previously received an EPA Brownfields Grant however, has managed and operated programs in excess of \$1,000,000 each year.

4.b.i.1 Past Performance and Accomplishments-Accomplishments

Successfully completed an 83-door project that yielded a \$13,000,000 investment for affordable and attainable housing as referenced before, in addition to the \$1,700,000 in our yearly programs.

4.b.i.2. Past Performance and Accomplishments- Compliance with Grant Requirements

Since 1993 has successfully complied with DOLA Tier I, Division of Housing Single-Family Housing Rehab Loan Program, CDOT Transportation Planning Grants, Office of Economic Development & International Trade Business Revolving Loan Fund requirements in acquiring and managing annual grants and funding opportunities.

Threshold Criteria for Coalition Assessment Grants

III.B.1. Applicant Eligibility

I affirm that my organization is a Regional Organization that manages the Southeast Council of Governments that serves the same membership of collective governments, and therefore, eligible to apply for this assessment grant. (See Attachment A)

III.B.1.a. Applicant Type

I affirm that SECED is a Regional Economic and Community Development organization, that also acts as a Regional Council through the Southeast Council of Governments with membership from six counties and twenty-five municipalities, and therefore, is eligible to apply for this assessment grant.

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

SECED is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. SECED does not engage in lobbying activities of the federal government. (Attachment B)

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

Non-Lead Coalition Members:

- Prowers Economic Prosperity (PEP), Lamar CO – Prowers Economic Prosperity is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt economic development non-profit organization which represents Prowers County that is eligible to be a non-coalition member.
- Baca County Economic Development Commission (BCEDC), Springfield, CO –BCEDC is a qualified economic development corporation that represents Baca County and is therefore eligible to be a non-lead coalition member.

III.B.3. Target Areas

- Town of Holly – Prowers County Tract #08099000600 (SECED for Residential & PEP for Business District)
- Town of Wiley – Prowers County Tract #08099000100 (PEP for Business District)
- Town of Springfield – Baca County Tract #08009964700 (SECED for Residential & BCEDC for Business)
- Town of Walsh – Baca County Tract #08009964600 (BCEDC for Business District)

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

Baca County Economic Development Commission and Prowers Economic Prosperity have not been recipients of an open cooperative agreement for MARC Grant funding or a MARC grant that closed in 2015 or later.

III.B.5. Coalition Agreement

Signed letters of support from lead coalition member:

Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development, Inc. (Attachment C)

Signed letters of support from each non-lead coalition member:

Prowers Economic Prosperity (Attachment D)

Baca County Economic Development Commission (Attachment E)

III.B.6. Community Involvement

SECED believes community engagement is imperative to the success of this project and understands the importance of effective communication strategies including breaking barriers with unique engagement to meet people where they are. Engaging the public, local project partners, the redevelopment community, local environmental groups, environmental justice populations, and the neighborhoods surrounding the Target Areas will be the target for incorporating community input into this project. The intent is to engage stakeholders with traditional, targeted, innovative, and online outreach tools and methods to reach a greater audience. Community

members will have the opportunity to learn about critical brownfield details and provide informed feedback to influence the next phase(s) of work.

SECED along with the BAC, and Qualified Environmental Professional Firm (QEP) will work to remove real/perceived barriers, to engage residents in meaningful dialogue, effectively use participants' time, and involve people who are traditionally underrepresented in redevelopment projects. It is our goal to make strategic use of traditional, targeted, innovative, and online outreach or a combination of these tools/methods to reach a broad and inclusive audience and use these same methods or a combination of in response to input from community members.

Traditional – Including conventional public meetings, done virtually or in-person meetings as health restrictions allow; press releases, fact sheets, and needed forms in both English and Spanish.

Targeted – This will involve outreach to specific groups that may not otherwise participate in a planning process. Notable groups include non-English speaking residents, the homeless population, youth, and the elderly. Examples of targeted outreach include listening sessions (virtual or in-person), piggybacking on other meetings or gatherings, and/or partnering with BAC organizations.

Innovative – These are creative and unconventional outreach methods to help gather information, increase awareness of the planning process, and boost participation. One example may include a brownfield site scavenger hunt, where participants help to identify blighted areas for repair. This project scope will help the community be included and provide the avenue for open communication and inclusivity.

Virtual/Social Media – Internet-based outreach can help increase awareness and participation while helping to reach people who may not otherwise participate. Virtual meetings can be used for public meetings in addition to Facebook Live. These tools provide participants the opportunity for comments/feedback. We will create virtual tools – such as google forms to provide online options for surveys and data gathering metrics. We will also create regular content for SECED's website which will include any press releases, facts, and needed forms as well as upcoming events.

III.B.7. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

I affirm that my organization does not have an active EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant.

III.B.8. Contractors and Named Subrecipients

At the time of this application, SECED has neither procured or named a qualified environmental professional or subrecipients.