

FY 2026 Brownfields Grant Guidelines

Overview of the Submission, Application Information Sheet & Threshold Requirements

Assessment Grants

Recorded Training



Welcome!

The purpose of this training is to assist applicants with understanding the general application submission, Application Information Sheet, and Threshold requirements for:

- ❖ Community-wide Assessment Grants
- ❖ Assessment Coalition Grants
- ❖ Community-wide Assessment Grants for States & Tribes

For questions, please reach out to your Regional Brownfields Contact listed at the end of this presentation (also in Section 1.E. of the Guidelines).

The Guidelines supersede any information provided in this presentation or by the presenter.

Applying for an Assessment Grant or a Multipurpose Grant?

Join the live Narrative Criteria webinar on December 3, 2025, at 12 PM ET via Zoom at <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1604721613>

Applying for a Cleanup Grant?

Join the live Narrative Criteria webinar on December 4, 2025, at 1 PM ET via Zoom at <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1617087652>

Narrative Criteria webinar Zoom link and recordings will be posted on EPA's [MARC Grant Application Resources](#) page.



Today's Agenda

For questions, please reach out to your Regional Brownfields Contact listed at the end of this presentation (also in Section 1.E. of the Guidelines).



This presentation:

- ☒ **NEXT: General Overview & Application Submission**
- ☐ Overview of the Application Information Sheet
- ☐ Overview of Threshold Criteria
- ☐ Wrap-up & Contact Information

Covered in live Narrative Criteria training on 12/03/25:

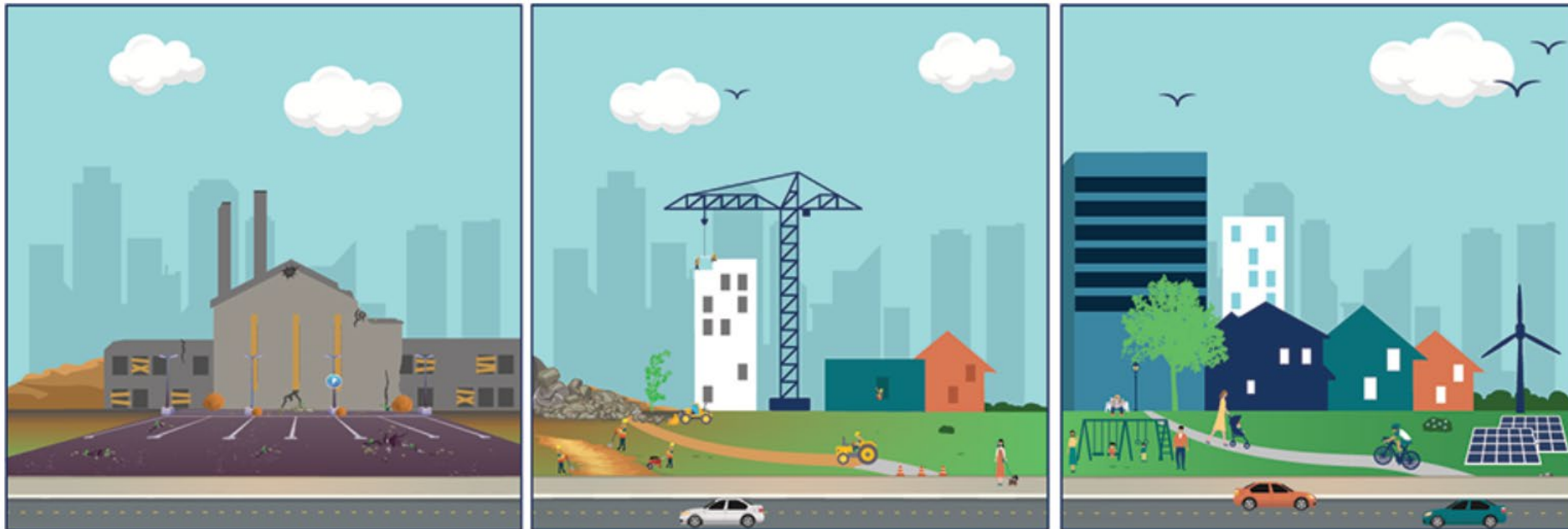
- ☐ Overview of Narrative Criteria
 - ☐ Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization
 - ☐ Community Need & Community Engagement
 - ☐ Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, & Measuring Progress
 - ☐ Programmatic Capability & Past Performance



EPA Supports Community Efforts to Revitalize Brownfields

EPA's [Brownfields Program](#) provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, Tribal Nations and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties.

To learn about EPA's broader efforts to put previously contaminated properties back into productive use, read about our [Land Revitalization Program](#).



Application Guidelines & Guidance Resources



MARC Grant Application Resources – “Open Solicitations”

www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources

A screenshot of the EPA website's "Brownfields Grants and Funding" page. The left sidebar shows a navigation menu with "Brownfields" selected, and sub-menu items including "About", "Grants and Funding" (which is highlighted), "Types of Funding", "Brownfields Job Training Grants", "Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants", and "MARC Grant Application Resources". The main content area is titled "Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup (MARC) Grant Application Resources" and lists several links: "FY26 Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Competitions", "General Program Resources", "Open Solicitations" (highlighted in yellow), and "Closed Solicitations". Below the links, a paragraph states that grants are for sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, and directs users to the "Types of Brownfields Grant Funding" page for more information. A link to a PDF document titled "Tipos de financiación con subvenciones para terrenos baldíos de la EPA (pdf)" (57.56 KB) is also provided.

Applicants interested in **applying for more than one grant type in FY 2026**, review the [FY26 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications](#) to determine which other grants are available to you.

If you currently have an EPA Brownfields Grant and are interested in applying for an FY 2026 grant, review the [FY26 Eligibility Chart for Existing Grant Recipients](#) (p.2 of PDF) to determine which other grants are available to you.



Commonly Used Acronyms

AAI	All Appropriate Inquiry	ILO	Innocent Landowner
ABCA	Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives	IR	Intergovernmental Review
ACRES	Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System	MARC	Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup
AOR	Authorized Organization Representative	MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
ASAP	Automated Standard Application for Payments	NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
BABA	Build America, Buy America Act	NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
BFPP	Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser	NPL	National Priority List
CAR	Cooperative Agreement Recipient	OBLR	Office of Brownfields & Land Revitalization
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	PO	Project Officer (or Project Manager)
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	POC	Point of Contact
CIP	Community Involvement Plan	PRP	Potential Responsible Parties
COA	Closeout Agreement (for RLF Grants)	QEP	Qualified Environmental Professional
CWAGST	Community-wide Assessment Grants for States & Tribes	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
DBA	Davis-Bacon Act	RFA	Request for Application
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System	RLF	Revolving Loan Fund
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	SAM	System for Award Management
FAQ	Frequently Asked Question	STRP	State and Tribal Response Program
FON	Funding Opportunity Number	TAB	Technical Assistance to Brownfields
FY	Fiscal Year	UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
IC	Institutional Control	USC	United States Code
IJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	UST	Underground Storage Tank
		VCP	Voluntary Cleanup Program

Eligible Entities for Assessment Grants

(Vary by Grant Type)

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government.
- Quasi Governmental Entities.
- Regional Council established under governmental authority.
- Group of General Purpose Units of Local Government established under Federal, State or local law (e.g., councils of governments) to function as a single legal entity with authority to enter into binding agreements with the Federal Government.
- Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state.
- State.*
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe other than in Alaska.
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and the Metlakatla Indian Community.
- Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

See the full list
of eligible
entities in
Section 2.A.

*Includes D.C, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Marianas, and any other U.S. Territory

Individuals, for-profit organizations, and nonprofit organizations that are **not** tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) are ineligible to receive Brownfields Assessment Grants. Section 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations may be eligible if they also qualify as an eligible entity type listed in Section 2.A. and demonstrate that they do not lobby the Federal government.



Assessment Grants

Grant funds can be used for a variety of activities:

- **Inventory:** Compile a list of brownfield sites
- **Characterization:** Identify past uses
- **Assessment:** Determine existing contamination
- **Site-specific Cleanup Planning, Area-Wide and Revitalization Planning:** Scope and plan process for site assessment, cleanup and reuse
- **Community Involvement:** Inform and engage stakeholders



Community-wide Assessment Grants

- Is appropriate for communities that are beginning to address their brownfield challenges, as well as for communities that have ongoing efforts to bring sites into productive reuse.
- **Funding:** up to \$500,000
- **Project Period:** up to 4 years



Assessment Coalition Grants



- Coalitions are designed for one “lead” eligible entity to partner with eligible entities.
- The list of eligible entities is the same for both lead and non-lead coalition members.
- There must be at least **two**, but not more than **four**, eligible entities.
 - Must include at least one member that has never been awarded a Brownfields MARC Grant.
 - Entities with an open Brownfields Multipurpose Grant or Assessment Grant that can demonstrate they have drawn down 70.00% of the funding for each open grant are eligible to be a coalition member.
 - Members of the coalition **may not be an agency or instrumentality of themselves** (for example, a county and the redevelopment authority of the same county); except for coalitions in which the State is the lead and one of the members is a regional council or regional commission that is created by a State legislature through a charter or another official action.



Assessment Coalition Grants

Key Features

- Partnership with non-lead members that do not have the capacity to apply for and manage their own EPA cooperative agreement and otherwise would not have access to Brownfields Grant resources.
- Must identify a target area for each member in the coalition. Target areas may not overlap, and they must be in at least three distinct municipalities or jurisdictions (e.g., town, city, or Tribe).
- Recipients must assess a minimum of 2 sites in each member's geographic boundary throughout the project period.
- **Funding:** up to \$1.5 million
- **Project Period:** up to 4 years



NEW



Community-wide Assessment Grants for States & Tribes

Who Can Apply?

- States.
- Indian tribe other than in Alaska; including Intertribal Consortia, comprised of eligible Indian tribes.
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and the Metlakatla Indian Community.

Current CWAGST recipients are not eligible for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant, FY26 Assessment Coalition Grant, or FY26 Multipurpose Grant

Key Features

- Identify at least 3 target areas and at least 5 priority sites in the application (at least 1 priority site in each target area).
- Target areas of higher and lower population densities.
- Recipients must assess a minimum of 10 sites throughout the project period.
- **Funding:** up to \$2 million
- **Project Period:** up to 5 years



Submitting Your Application Package

[Tips for Submitting Brownfields Grant Applications Through \[www.grants.gov\]\(http://www.grants.gov\)](#)

Applications are due **January 28, 2026**, via Grants.gov

Grants.gov scheduled maintenance → **EPA encourages applicants to apply before January 28**

December 20-22, 2025	Maintenance	Scheduled Maintenance Outage: Production System will go Offline Saturday December 20, 2025 at 12:01 AM ET. Production System will go Online Monday December 22, 2025 at 6:00 AM ET.
January 17-19, 2026	Maintenance	Scheduled Maintenance Outage: Production System will go Offline Saturday January 17, 2026 at 12:01 AM ET. Production System will go Online Monday January 19, 2026 at 6:00 AM ET.

Grants.gov Resources for Applicants

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov homepage. At the top is the logo with the tagline 'FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.' and navigation links for Help, Register, and Login. A search bar is also present. The main navigation bar includes Home, Learn Grants, Search Grants, Applicants (highlighted), Grantors, System-To-System, Forms, Connect, and Support. The 'Applicants' dropdown menu is open, showing 'Grant Applications' (with links to 'How to Apply for Grants' and 'Track My Application') and 'Applicant Resources' (with links to 'Workspace Overview', 'Applicant Eligibility', 'Applicant Registration', 'Applicant Training', 'Applicant FAQs', and 'Adobe Software Compatibility'). A banner for 'Your Team. Your Workspace' is visible, stating 'Applying for a funding opportunity is easier when your team collaborates. Grants.gov makes it possible.' and includes a button 'Apply for a Grant Using Workspace'. The background of the banner features a smiling woman.



Requirements to Submit an Application

REQUIREMENT	ACCEPT 	REJECT 
Active www.sam.gov account through January 28, 2026	The account is active and matches the applying entity's info	- Inactive/expired account - Account is being updated, but is in "processing" status
Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) generated in www.sam.gov	The same UEI must be used on future applications	Another organization's/ department's UEI is listed on the Standard Form 424
Active www.grants.gov account	Associated with same, correct UEI number	Application is not submitted through Grants.gov solely due to an incomplete registration/inactive account
Submission by the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)	- Designated in Grants.gov by the E-business POC (listed in sam.gov) - Has a Grants.gov account - Submits the application in Grants.gov	Someone other than the designated AOR submits the application

[How to Register to Apply for Grants](#)

Advisors from APEX Accelerators can also help with SAM.gov enrollment:
www.apexaccelerators.us



Your www.grants.gov Application Package

REQUIRED FORMS

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424 A)
3. Preaward Compliance Review Report (EPA Form 4700-4)
4. EPA Key Contacts (Form 5700-54)
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form, as one file (if possible) include:
 - ✓ Application Information Sheet
 - ✓ Threshold Responses (and related attachments)
 - ✓ Narrative (responses to Narrative/Review criteria)

OPTIONAL FORMS

6. Grants.gov Lobbying Form – To be submitted by applicants requesting more than \$100,000 of EPA grant funding.
7. Negotiated/Proposed Indirect Cost Rate Agreement – submit using the Project Narrative Attachment Form.

- A workplan is not required at time of submission. Applicants that are selected for funding will negotiate a workplan with EPA before the cooperative agreement is awarded.
- Sample forms and submission checklist are available on the [MARC Grant Application Resources](#) webpage.



Refer to the Application Submission Checklist in Section 4.A. of the Guidelines

Exception to Applying through Grants.gov

Limited or No Access to Internet

- Must request a waiver at least 15 calendar days before the deadline
- EPA must approve the request
- See procedures in Section 5.E. of Guidelines

There's no guarantee EPA will approve the request.

**Every effort must be made to complete all prerequisites
in order to apply through www.grants.gov.**





**KEEP
CALM
AND
CALL THE
GRANTS.GOV
HELP DESK!!**

The Application Has Been Submitted – Now What?

- After signing and successfully submitting the application package, within 24 to 48 hours the AOR should receive a series of notification emails from www.grants.gov.
- If the AOR did not receive notification emails or the application package did not transmit successfully, immediately **contact the www.grants.gov Help Desk** (open 24/7; except federal holidays) at 1-800-518-4726. **Make sure to get a case number.**
- Applications that are not successfully submitted **and ‘validated’** by the deadline will be considered late and will be rejected.



Progress Check

For questions, please reach out to your Regional Brownfields Contact listed at the end of this presentation (also in Section 1.E. of the Guidelines).



This presentation:

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- ☒ **NEXT: Overview of the Application Information Sheet**
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- ☐ Wrap-up & Contact Information

Covered in live Narrative Criteria training on 12/03/25:

- ☐ Overview of Narrative Criteria
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Changes to the Guidelines

NEW

In this presentation, **text in magenta** denotes information that is new/revised.

For a complete list of changes, please review the

“Summary of FY26 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines Changes”

available at

www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources

FY26 Summary of the Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grant Guidelines Changes (as of 11/18/25)

EPA prepared this Summary of Changes document to assist prospective applicants with preparing Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant applications. **Please review the FY26 Application Guidelines** (also referred to as Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or the solicitation) **when preparing your application**. If the information in the Summary of Changes differs from information in the statute, regulation, or the Guidelines, then the statute, regulation, or the Guidelines will take precedence.

If you are interested in **applying for more than one grant type in FY26**, review the [FY26 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications](#) (see p.1) to determine which other grants are available to you.

If you currently have an EPA Brownfields Grant and are interested in applying for an FY26 grant, review the [FY26 Eligibility Chart for Existing Grant Recipients](#) (see p.2) to determine which other grants are available to you.

A solicitation for new Revolving Loan Fund Grants will not be issued in FY26.

[Changes to All Grant Types](#)

[Changes to the Multipurpose Grant Guidelines](#)

[Changes to the Community-wide Assessment Grant Guidelines](#)

[Changes to the Assessment Coalition Grant Guidelines](#)

[Changes to the Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes Guidelines](#)

[Changes to the Cleanup Grant Guidelines](#)

CHANGES TO THE MULTIPURPOSE, ASSESSMENT, AND CLEANUP GRANT GUIDELINES		
Topic	Most Recent Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines	FY26 Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines
General Information		
New NOFO Template		EPA is now using the streamlined NOFO template, in line with the 2024 Uniform Grants Guidance updates. Information has been rearranged into different sections. The new sections for applicant eligibility, the submission checklist, the Applicant Information Sheet, threshold criteria, narrative criteria, review criteria, and submission requirements are identified below. Please review the FY26 guidelines for details.

1



Application Information Sheet

- ❖ Applicant Name and Address
- ❖ Applicant Website URL
- ❖ Amount of Funding Requested
- ❖ Project Location
- ❖ Target Area and Priority Site Information
- ❖ Project Contacts
- ❖ Population Data
- ❖ Other Factors
- ❖ Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority
- ❖ EPA's Plan to Release Copies of Applications

- ✓ **Provide on official letterhead**
- ✓ **3-page limit**
- ✓ **Do not include a project summary/overview**



Target Area and Priority Site

- List the **target area(s)** discussed in the Narrative.
 - **Coalitions:** List the coalition members and each member's associated target area.
 - **States/Tribes:** Must have at least three target areas and at least five priority sites, with at least one priority site in each target area.
- Provide the **address(es) of the priority site(s)** proposed in the Narrative.
- OPTIONAL: As a separate one-page attachment, may include a map to depict the target area(s) and/or priority site(s). Do not include any additional information on the map. Maps will not be evaluated and will not count against the Application Information Sheet page limit.

See [FAQ C.26](#) for more information on the optional map.

Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority

- Include a current letter acknowledging your specific application and your plans to apply for a grant to conduct/oversee assessment activities.
- State and Tribal environmental authorities do not need to provide a letter for themselves.

This request applies to Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Alaska Native Village Corporations.

Do not substitute a letter from local or county oversight agencies.

Do not substitute an enforcement letter from the State regarding a specific site action.

Do not use last year's letter.

Attach letter to the Application Information Sheet.

Does not count toward 3-page limit.



Certifying Confidential/Privileged Information

- EPA intends to post submitted applications on our website after the selections are announced in the spring 2026.
- EPA recommends that applications not include confidential business information (CBI) or trade secrets. Applicants must not include information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy (e.g., an individual's salary, personal email addresses, etc.).
- On the Application Information Sheet... **"All CBI claims must be asserted at the time the application is submitted to EPA. Applicants must clearly indicate CBI claims by including them on the application or attaching a cover sheet, stamped or typed legend, or another appropriate notice. CBI claims should employ language such as "trade secret," "proprietary," or "confidential" as per [40 CFR § 2.203\(b\)](#). Indicate which portion(s) of the application you claim has CBI. If the application does not include CBI, state 'n/a' or 'not applicable.'"**
- Information that is claimed as confidential will be redacted before release.



**Review Section 4.B.(10).
for more information**



Progress Check

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Threshold Criteria Overview

Every application must clear the
Threshold Requirements



You MUST Attach Responses to Your Application and Responses MUST be Separate from the Narrative



Threshold Criteria		
Community-Wide	Coalitions	CWAGST
Applicant Eligibility (includes Non-Lead Coalition Members)		
Community Involvement		
Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds (includes Non-Lead Coalition Members)		
Contractors and Named Subrecipients		
	Target Areas	
	Non-lead Member(s) that Never Received MARC Grant	
	Legal Authority to Expend Grant Funds on Behalf of Non-Lead Members	
	Coalition Agreement	
		Target Areas and Priority Sites

Applicant Eligibility

Describe how you are an eligible entity (complete list in Section 2.A.)

Community-wide Assessment:

- For entities that are cities, counties, Tribes, or states, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.
- For entities other than cities, counties, Tribes, or states, attach documentation of your eligibility (e.g., resolutions, statutes, etc.).
- For Intertribal consortia, attach documentation that meets the requirements in [40 CFR 35.504\(a\) and \(c\)](#). All members of the Intertribal consortium must authorize submission of an application.
- For nonprofit organizations and qualified community development entities, attach documentation certifying the organization's status.
- All applicants, **indicate** if your organization is exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - If yes, **indicate** if your organization lobbies the Federal government. *Note, if the organization lobbies the Federal government, the organization is ineligible for an EPA Brownfields Grant.*
 - If yes, but your organization does not lobby the Federal government, **attach** a legal opinion that states that the organization does not engage in lobbying activities. *Note, organizations with 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status that do not lobby the Federal government must also qualify as an entity type listed in Section 2.A. to be eligible for an Assessment Grant.*

Eligibility of Lead and Non-Lead Coalition Members

Describe how you and each of the non-lead members are an eligible entity (complete list in Section 2.A.). The coalition must have **at least two**, but **not more than four**, non-lead members.

- For entities that are cities, counties, Tribes, or states, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.
- For entities other than cities, counties, Tribes, or states, attach documentation of your eligibility (e.g., resolutions, statutes, etc.).
- For Intertribal consortia, attach documentation that meets the requirements in [40 CFR 35.504\(a\) and \(c\)](#). All members of the Intertribal consortium must authorize submission of an application.
- For nonprofit organizations and qualified community development entities, attach documentation certifying the organization's status.
- All applicants, **indicate** if the lead member's organization **or any of the non-lead members' organizations** is exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - If yes, **indicate** if the organization(s) lobbies the Federal government. *Note, if the organization lobbies the Federal government, the organization is ineligible for an EPA Brownfields Grant.*
 - If yes, but the organization(s) does not lobby the Federal government, **attach** a legal opinion that states that the organization does not engage in lobbying activities. *Note, organizations with 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status that do not lobby the Federal government must also qualify as an entity type listed in Section 2.A. to be eligible for an Assessment Grant.*



Applicant Eligibility (continued)

Coalitions:

- Note, non-lead members must be **separate legal entities**. They may not be an agency or instrumentality of or affiliated with **the lead member** or **another non-lead member**.

EPA considers departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the same state, tribal, or city governments to be the same applicant if they are supervised or controlled by the same elected/appointed executive (even if they have different unique entity identifiers).

States/Tribes:

Describe how you are an eligible entity (complete list in Section 2.A.)

- For entities that are Tribes or states, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.
- For Intertribal consortia, attach documentation that meets the requirements in 40 CFR 35.504(a) and (c). All members of the Intertribal consortium must authorize submission of an application.



Community Involvement

- Applicants must **identify** how you will “inform and involve the community and other stakeholders.”
- Tie this to your response to Narrative criteria 2.e-2.g. under Community Engagement.
- Community involvement efforts can be implemented using existing meetings.
- If you are applying for **Assessment Grant** and **Cleanup Grant** funding, the Assessment Community Involvement threshold criterion can be satisfied by using the Cleanup Grant Community Notification process.



Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

Community-wide Assessment & Coalitions

- **Indicate** if you (or any of the non-lead coalition members) have an open EPA Brownfields Assessment or Multipurpose Grant.
- Current EPA Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients must draw down, and disburse, at least **70.00%** of each Multipurpose and Assessment cooperative agreement by **October 1, 2025**, before applying for funding.
- **Attach** a copy of a financial record displaying the amount of funds drawn down and corresponding dates (e.g., a report from the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) or general ledger entries documenting receipts for funds drawn down from ASAP or the required State financial system).

States and Tribes:

- **Indicate** if you have an open EPA CWAGST Grant.
- Current EPA CWAGST Grant recipients must draw down, and disburse, at least **60.00%** of their CWAGST cooperative agreement by **October 1, 2025**, before applying for funding for a FY26 CWAGST Grant.
- **Attach** a copy of a financial record displaying the amount of funds drawn down and corresponding dates (e.g., a report from the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) or general ledger entries documenting receipts for funds drawn down from ASAP or the required State financial system).

Section 4.D. Applicants Using Contractors and/or Subrecipients

Contractors.

Applicants (other than States, territories, Tribes, and eligible Tribal entities) that have procured a contractor(s) where the amount of the contract will be more than the micro-purchase threshold in [2 CFR § 200.320\(a\)\(1\)](#) must demonstrate how the contractor (including consultants) was selected in compliance with **the fair and open competition requirements** in [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 1500](#).

- All applicants must conduct procurement in accordance with the six good faith efforts discussed in 40 CFR Part 33, Subpart C (EPA's Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises regulations).
- **EPA will not accept sole source justifications** for procurement contracts for services such as environmental consulting, engineering, and remediation that are available in the commercial marketplace.
- Firms or individual consultants that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals **must be excluded** from competing for such procurements as provided in [2 CFR § 200.319\(b\)](#). EPA interprets this regulation to preclude applicants from directly receiving **any assistance** from prospective contractors in developing RFPs if the prospective contractor will be allowed to compete for the work covered by the RFP.
- Consistent with [2 CFR § 200.320\(b\)\(2\)\(iii\)](#), when the value of a procurement transaction exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, **price must be an evaluation factor** in the review of proposals or quotes.

EPA provides guidance on complying with the competition requirements in the [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#) and the [Brownfields Grants: Guidance on Competitively Procuring a Contractor](#).

Contractors and Named Subrecipients

States & Tribes
(including eligible Tribal entities): Consistent with 2 CFR § 200.317, follow the same competitive policies and procedures used for procurements from non-Federal funds.

- **Contractors**

Applicants must disclose whether they have already selected a contractor that will be compensated with EPA funds made available under the grant.

- **Disclose** whether you have already selected a contractor that will be compensated with EPA funds made available under this NOFO and the procurement procedures followed to hire the contractor(s).
- If a contractor(s) has been selected prior to submitting the application to EPA, **describe/include**:
 - **where and when** the Request for Proposals (RFP)/Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was posted;
 - the length of time the RFP/RFQ was advertised;
 - the number of firms solicited and the number of offers received and considered; and
 - the name(s) of the firm(s) the applicant entered into contract(s) with.
- **Provide** a copy of (or link to) the solicitation document(s) and the signed executed contract(s).
- Alternatively, **state** 'n/a' or 'not applicable' if a contractor has not been procured at the time of application submission.

Failure to provide the requested information will result in the rejection of the application/award.

See Section D. of the [FAQs](#)

Contractors and Named Subrecipients (continued)

From Section 4.D. *Applicants Using Contractors and/or Subrecipients*

All applicants, including states, territories, and Tribes, that name a specific subrecipient in this application must demonstrate that the subrecipient is eligible for a subaward in compliance with [Appendix A of EPA's Subaward Policy for EPA Assistance Agreement Recipients](#). This policy provides, among other things, that transactions between recipients and for-profit firms and individual consultants are procurement contracts rather than subawards when the transaction involves the acquisition of services from the firm or individual.

- **Named Subrecipients.**

Describe how the named subrecipient is eligible for a subaward (e.g., is a nonprofit organization or unit of government). Alternatively, **state** 'n/a' or 'not applicable' if a subrecipient is not named at the time of application submission.

Refer to [EPA's Contracts and Subawards Solicitation Clause](#) for additional guidance.



Target Areas

**NEW**

The application must discuss a target area for each coalition member (i.e., the lead and non-lead members). The target areas may not overlap, and the target areas must be in at least three distinct municipalities or jurisdictions (e.g., town, city, or Tribe).

Address this threshold criterion by **providing** a response to Section 4.B.(5). on the Application Information Sheet:

- List each non-lead member
- Identify the lead member's target area; and
- Identify the target area of each non-lead member.

Non-lead Member(s) that Never Received an EPA MARC Grant

- **Indicate** which non-lead member has never been awarded a Brownfields MARC Grant.

Assessment Coalitions are designed for one “lead” eligible entity to partner with two to four eligible entities that do not have the capacity to apply for and manage their own EPA cooperative agreement and otherwise would not have access to Brownfields Grant resources.



Legal Authority to Expend Grant Funds on Behalf of Non-Lead Coalition Members

NEW

The lead member must have legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.

- a) **Attest** that the lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.
- b) For an entity (i.e., a city, town, etc.) with a geographic boundary that does not encompass the geographic boundaries of the non-lead members, **identify** the relevant law(s), ordinance(s), or other documentation to demonstrate the lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds outside of their geographic boundary.

Coalition Agreement

Attach a current *Memorandum of Agreement* or signed letters from all coalition members in which they agree to be part of the coalition.

Documentation that is not included with the application will render that non-lead member ineligible from participating in the coalition, and potentially render the entire application ineligible if there are fewer than two non-lead members.



[Click here for an example
MOA template](#)

Target Area and Priority Sites

- List the **target areas and the priority sites** discussed in the Narrative (at least three target areas and at least five priority sites, with at least one priority site in each target area).

For example,

- Target Area A has priority site 1
- Target Area B has priority site 2
- Target Area C has priority sites 3, 4, and 5

See Threshold
Criterion 2.B.4.

- **Provide** a response to Section 4.B.(5). in the Application Information Sheet to address this criterion: list each target area and the address of each priority site.

If selected for funding, recipients must assess a minimum of 10 sites.
Additional sites may be selected throughout the period of performance.



Progress Check

For questions, please reach out to your Regional Brownfields Contact listed at the end of this presentation (also in Section 1.E. of the Guidelines).



This presentation:

- ☐ General Overview & Application Submission
- ☐ NEXT: Overview of the Application Information Sheet
- ☐ Overview of Threshold Criteria
- ☒ **Wrap-up & Contact Information**

Covered in live Narrative Criteria training on 12/03/25:

- ☐ Overview of Narrative Criteria
 - ☐ Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization
 - ☐ Community Need & Community Engagement
 - ☐ Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, & Measuring Progress
 - ☐ Programmatic Capability & Past Performance



Regional Brownfield Contacts

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- A **copy of today's presentation** is available on the Brownfields MARC Grant Application Resources webpage at www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources.
- The **live overview of the Assessment and Multipurpose Narrative Criteria will be on 12/03/25** and the recording will be made available. Please check the [Brownfields MARC Grant Application Resources](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources) webpage (link above) for updates.



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Thanks for Listening!!

Applying for an Assessment or Multipurpose Grant?

Join the live Narrative Criteria webinar on December 3, 2025 at 12 PM ET via Zoom at <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1604721613>

Applying for a Cleanup Grant?

Join the live Narrative Criteria webinar on December 4, 2025 at 1 PM ET via Zoom at <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1617087652>

