

FY 2026 Brownfields Grant Guidelines

A Detailed Review of the Narrative Criteria
Multipurpose and Assessment Grant Guidelines

December 3, 2025



Welcome!

The purpose of this training webinar is to assist applicants with understanding the Narrative criteria for:

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

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

Application submission deadline for all grant types: January 28, 2026

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

For training on General Submission, Application Information Sheet, and Threshold Criteria, see the recordings on the **MARC Grant Application Resources – “Open Solicitations”** webpage www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources

Applying for a Cleanup Grant?

Join the live Narrative Criteria webinar on Oct 23, 2025, at 12 PM ET via Zoom at <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1617087652>



Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- EPA does not supply an AI-generated summary of this training.
- An AI-generated summary may not correctly capture the training topics.
- Any AI-generated summary you might receive via email is not from EPA.



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

Covered in recordings on [MARC Grant Application Resources page](#):

- ☐ Application Submission
- ☐ Overview of the Application Information Sheet
- ☐ Overview of Threshold Criteria



Meet the Presenters



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EPA Region 1



Esmeralda Vargas
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EPA Region 7



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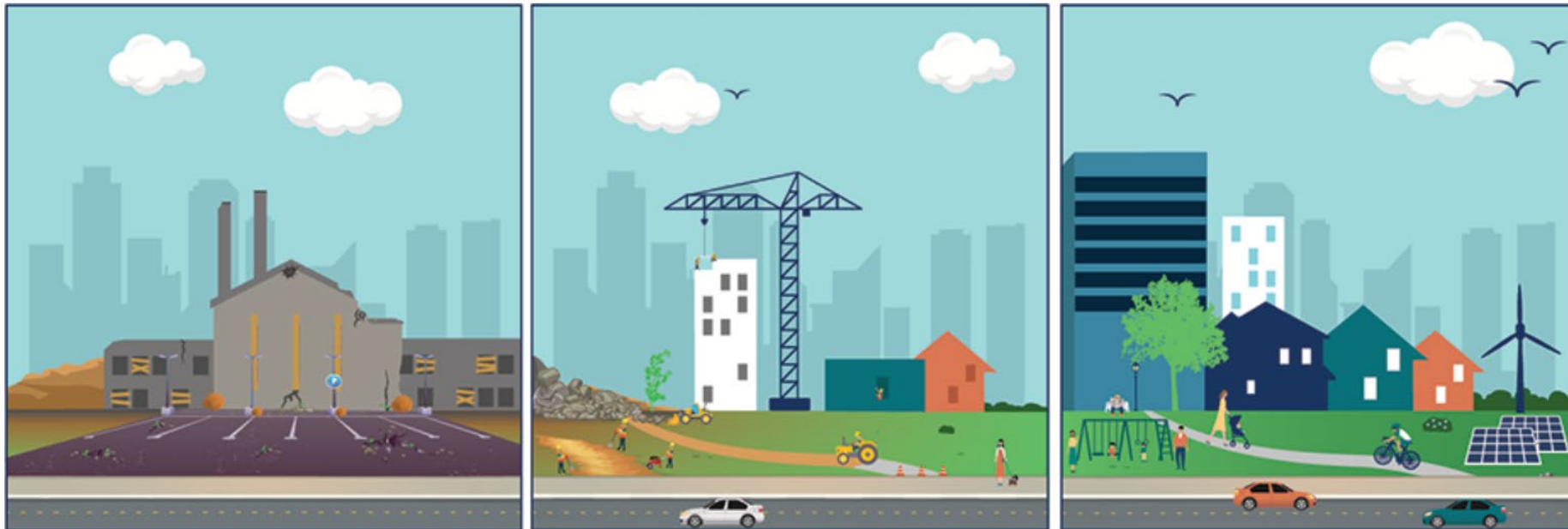
Christina Barnes & Elyse Salinas
*EPA HQ, Office of Brownfields
& Land Revitalization*



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](#).



FY26 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Offerings

Amounts are
subject to change

Grant Type	Maximum Project Period	Maximum Amount Per Grant	Estimated # of Awards	Total Per Grant Type	
				Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funds	Regular Appropriated Funds
Multipurpose	5 years	\$1,000,000	20	\$20,000,000	
Assessment (CW)	4 years	\$500,000	70	\$35,000,000	
Assessment Coalitions	4 years	\$1,500,000	39		\$58,700,000
Assessment (State/Tribal Level)	5 years	\$2,000,000	18	\$35,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$500,000	10	\$5,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$4,000,000	26	\$102,000,000	
			183	\$197,000,000	\$58,700,000
				\$255,700,000	

NO COST SHARE



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

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 may be used for hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, and provides a link to "Types of Brownfields Grant Funding" for an overview. It also includes a link to a PDF document titled "Tipos de financiación con subvenciones para terrenos baldíos de la EPA (pdf)" (57.56 KB).

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.



Eligible Entities for Multipurpose and 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 non-lead 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

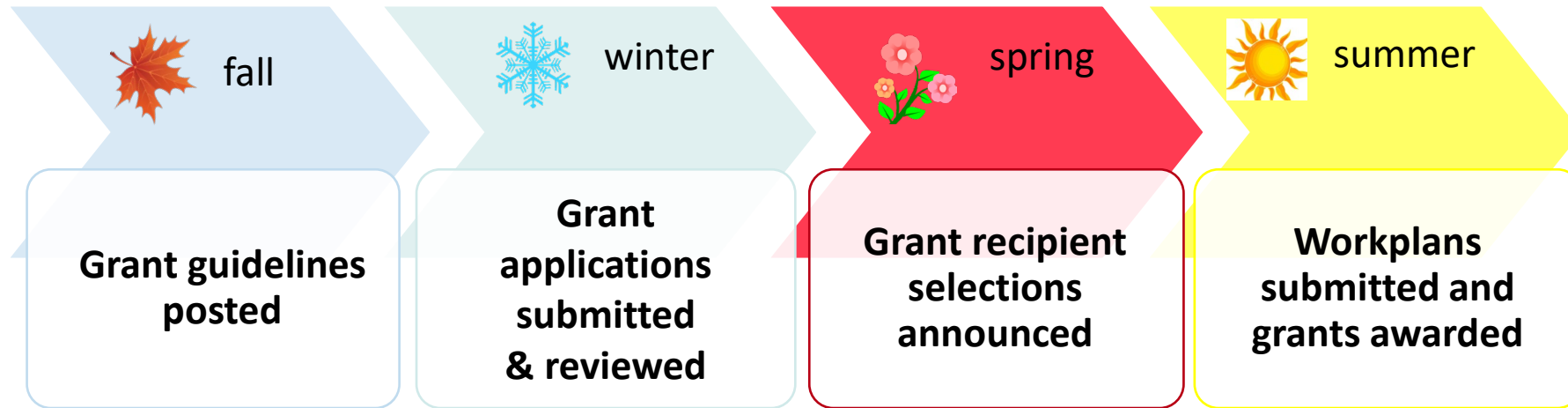
Key Features

- 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



-
- PROPOSED**
- DATE:** 2014.05 ACRES
REWORKING: 100 UNITS
- 100 UNITS - MIXED MIDDLE HOUSING
 - COMMERCIAL
 - RETAIL
 - 1000 SQ FT (1000 SQ FT)
 - 1000 SQ FT
 - 100 UNITS - AFFORDABLE FLATS
 - 1000 SQ FT
 - 1000 SQ FT
 - 1000 SQ FT
 - 100 UNITS - CONDOMINIUM BLOCK
 - 1000 SQ FT
 - 1000 SQ FT
 - 1000 SQ FT
- OPEN SPACE:** 5.3 ACRES
DENSITY: 18.5 UNITS/ACRE

Anticipated FY26 Competition Timeline



- ❖ **January 28, 2026: Application submission deadline**
- ❖ June 2026: Selections announced
- ❖ June – September 2026: Workplans and grant paperwork finalized
- ❖ September – October 2026: Grants awarded/funds become available

The submission due date will not change, however, other dates listed above are subject to change.



Overview of What to Prepare

- **Application Information Sheet (Section 4.B.)**

- 3 pages, single-spaced.
- Do **NOT** include a summary or overview of your narrative/project.
- Place information on your organization's letterhead.

Excess information will be removed/redacted and not reviewed.

Covered in recordings available at MARC Grant Application Resources – “Open Solicitations”
www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources

- **Required Attachments (Section 2.B. Threshold)**

- Limit attachments to required/relevant documents (i.e., threshold criteria).

- **Narrative (Section 4.C.)**

- 12 pages, single-spaced for **Multipurpose Grant** applications.
- 10 pages, single-spaced for **Community-wide Assessment Grant** applications.
- 12 pages, single-spaced for **Coalitions Grant** applications.
- 12 pages, single-spaced for **Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes** applications.

Excess pages will be removed/redacted and not reviewed.

Refer to the Application Submission Checklist in Section 4.A. of the Guidelines
(also available at MARC Grant Application Resources page linked above)



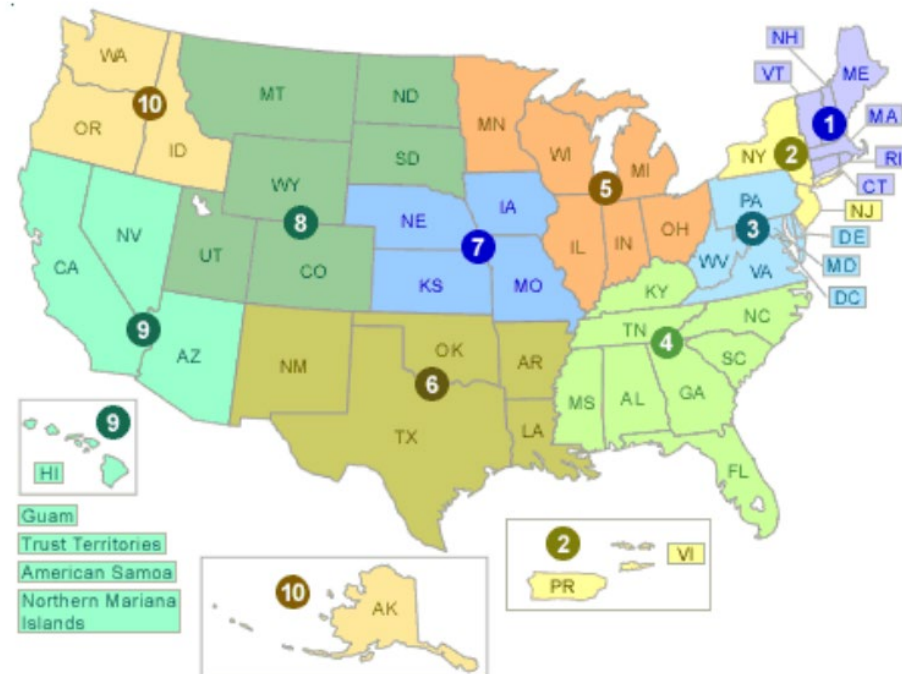
Tips for Writing the Narrative

- Read the entire Guidelines for the grant type for which you're applying.
- Write as though the reader knows **NOTHING** about your community.
- Avoid using acronyms and technical/organizational jargon.
- Respond to the criterion where asked.
- Number pages and enumerate/identify the criterion.
- **Address ALL criteria in Section 4.C. If a criterion, or part of a criterion, doesn't apply, state that and explain why.**
- The **quality** of the response is extremely important (see Review Criteria in Section 6.C.).
- Organize attachments, for example:
 - Attachment A: Threshold Criteria
 - Attachment B: Documentation of Eligibility
- Use the Application Checklist in Section 4.A. Interactive checklist also available on the [MARC Application Resources webpage](#). *Do not submit the checklist with your application*
- Readability is important! Advise 1" margins; 12 pts font; Times New Roman/Arial/Calibri font.

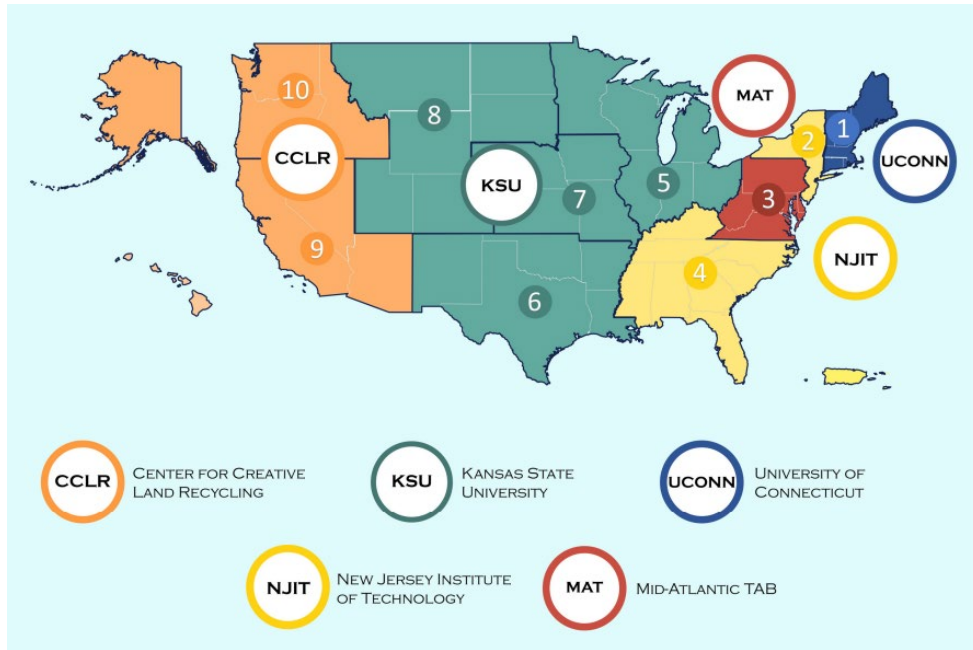


Application Writing Resources

- **Office of Brownfields & Land Revitalization Website**
 - [FY26 Summary of Brownfields Guidelines Changes](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Brownfields Program Factsheets](#)
 - ❑ Area-wide Planning and other eligible planning activities (for Assessment & Multipurpose Grants)
 - ❑ Health monitoring activities
 - ❑ Social distance engagement ideas
 - ❑ Renewable energy & energy efficient approaches in brownfields redevelopment
- **[Contact](#) your Regional EPA Reps for Upcoming Events**



Free Application Writing Resources: Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Providers



Assist specific regions with technical assistance and training to communities and other stakeholders on brownfield issues, such as:

- preparing grant applications;
- performing site inventories;
- reviewing historical information;
- design of investigation/sampling/field analysis; and
- cleanup and redevelopment planning.

Upcoming TAB Webinars on EPA Brownfield Grants

UConn: [Fall Webinar Series](#)

NJIT: [News and events page](#)

MAT: State-specific webinars on FY26 Brownfields Grants

DE: [12/11/25 @ 2 pm ET](#) | MD: [12/16/25 @ 1 pm ET](#) | VA & DC:

[12/17/25 @ 10 am ET](#) | WV: [12/18/25 @ 10 am ET](#) | PA:

[12/18/25 @ 1 pm ET](#)

KSU: [Upcoming KSU TAB grant writing webinars](#)

[FY26 MAC Application Webinar 12/17/25 @ 1:30 pm CT](#)

CCLR: [Navigating FY26 Brownfield Grants 12/11/25 @ 11 am PT](#)

Learn More [HERE](#)

Free Application Writing Resources: Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Providers

University of Connecticut

Serves EPA Region 1

Uconn-tab@uconn.edu

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Serves EPA Region 2 & Region 4

Tab@njit.edu

Mid-Atlantic TAB

Serves EPA Region 3

vvutab@mail.wvu.edu

Kansas State University (KSU)

Serves EPA Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8

Scott Nightingale

Scottnight@ksu.edu



Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR)

Serves EPA Regions 9 and 10

Devyn Rainwater

Devyn.rainwater@cclr.org



Reminders for Submitting Your Application Package

Covered in detail in recordings available at MARC Grant Application Resources – “Open Solicitations”
www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources

- ❖ EPA encourages applicants to **submit the application package early** in Grants.gov.
- ❖ You **MUST** have an active www.sam.gov AND www.grants.gov account and associated Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) to apply. **Register or make sure accounts are active NOW!**
- ❖ In addition to the **Narrative responses**, the application package includes **required Federal Forms**, your **Application Information Sheet**, and required attachments with your **Threshold responses**. Refer to the **Application Submission Checklist in Section 4.A. of the Guidelines** and **on the MARC Grant Application Resources webpage**.
- ❖ **Contact the www.grants.gov Help Desk at 1-800-518-4726** for assistance. Make sure to get a case number.



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

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



Questions & Progress Check



This presentation:

- ☐ General Overview
- ☒ **NEXT: Overview of Narrative Criteria**
 - ☒ **Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization**
 - ☐ Community Need & Community Engagement
 - ☐ Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, & Measuring Progress
 - ☐ Programmatic Capability & Past Performance
- ☐ Wrap-up & Contact Information

Covered in recordings on [MARC Grant Application Resources page](#) :

- ☐ Application Submission
- ☐ Overview of the Application Information Sheet
- ☐ Overview of Threshold Criteria



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 11/20/25)

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.



Narrative Criteria

Your application will be ranked
ONLY IF YOU PASS THRESHOLD

	Assessment Community- wide	Assessment Coalition	CWAGST	MP
Project Area Description and Plans For Revitalization	40 pts	45 pts	40 pts	45
Community Need and Community Engagement	35 pts	35 pts	35 pts	40
Task Description, Cost Estimates, & Measuring Success	45 pts	45 pts	45 pts	45
Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	35 pts	35 pts	35 pts	35
Total	155 pts	160 pts	155 pts	165

- ❖ Criteria are further made up of sub-criteria.
- ❖ **A response to a criterion/sub-criterion that is included in a different section of the Narrative may not be scored as favorably.**
- ❖ Provide the sub-criteria # in your application and follow it with a detailed response.
- ❖ Sub-criteria language and points may differ between grant types.

**Review your responses to the Narrative Criteria in
Section 4.C. against the Review Criteria in Section 6.B.**



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization – Overview

Here is:

- my geographic area and the target area;
- the brownfield issues and their impacts on the community;
- my plan to identify additional sites if grant funds remain
- how this grant fits into the community's revitalization plan;
- the anticipated outcomes and how the target area will benefit from revitalizing the brownfield sites; and
- the strategy to leverage resources to reuse the brownfield sites.



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

+Coalitions

Coalition Members, Target Area, and Brownfields

1.a. Coalition Members

- Identify the non-lead coalition members and state what kind of organization each member is.
- Describe the non-lead members' lack of capacity to apply for and manage their own grant and their lack of access to Brownfields Grant resources to address sites.



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Target Area and Brownfields

1.a./1.b. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area

- Identify the geographic boundary (or target area for **Multipurpose**) for the proposed grant activities.
- **Multipurpose**: Only identify ONE target area.
- Discuss the brownfield challenges and their impacts.
- Briefly explain how this grant may help address those challenges.
- All Assessment Types: Within the geographic boundary, describe the target area (or areas) for the focused grant activities.

+Coalitions: Identify at least one target area for each coalition member (i.e., the lead and non-lead members).

+States/Tribes: Identify at least 3 target areas. State/territory applicants only (i.e., not Tribes/Tribal entities): Indicate which target areas are in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) versus non-metropolitan statistical areas. To determine if the target is in an MSA or non-MSA, visit www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/geotools.html.



Depending on the scope and design of your Assessment project, one or more target areas may be presented.

Clarity of the target area description will be scored.



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Target Area and Brownfields (cont'd)

1.b./1.c. Description of the Priority Brownfield Site(s)

- Provide an overview of the brownfield sites in the target area.
- All Assessment Types: Identify and describe the priority site(s); describe why it is a priority for assessment and reuse.

+Coalitions: Identify at least one priority site in the lead member and each non-lead members' target area.

+States/Tribes: Identify at least five priority sites, including at least one priority site in each target area.

- **Multipurpose**: Describe the priority site(s) and discuss why the site is prioritized for assessment, cleanup and/or reuse.

Multipurpose Grant recipients may only use grant funds for site remediation if they own the site and are not responsible for the contamination.



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Target Area and Brownfields (cont'd)

1.c./1.d. Identifying Additional Sites

- Describe the process you will use to identify additional sites for eligible activities within your geographic boundary (or target area for **Multipurpose**) if grant funds remain.
- Identify the criteria for prioritizing additional sites.

+States/Tribes:

- Include criteria that consider new communities that have not previously benefited from Brownfields Grant Resources.
- (State and territory applicants only, i.e., not Tribes or Tribal entities): Also identify criteria that consider sites in metropolitan and non-metropolitan statistical areas.

To determine if the target is in a metropolitan statistical area or non-metropolitan statistical area for the purposes of this criterion, go to www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/geotools.html.



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Revitalization of the Target Area

All Assessment Types: *1.d./1.e. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans*

- Describe:
 - The reuse strategy or projected reuse for the priority site(s).
 - How it aligns with and advances local government's land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities.



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Revitalization of the Target Area

Multipurpose: *1.d. Overall Plan for Revitalization*

Option 1: If an overall plan for revitalization already exists:

- Identify the overall plan for revitalization.
- Indicate if a feasible site reuse strategy already exists for at least one of the priority sites.
- Discuss how the proposed grant activities align with that plan.
- Discuss how the plan aligns with and advances the local government's broader land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities.

Option 2: If an overall plan for revitalization does not exist, describe:

- How the activities performed will result in an overall plan for revitalization of brownfield sites, including a feasible site reuse strategy for a priority site(s).
- How the plan will align with and advances the local government's broader land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities.

Plans that do not include a clear vision for the use of revitalized properties will be evaluated less favorably.



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Revitalization of the Target Area (cont'd)

1.e./1.f. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy/1.e. Overall Plan for Revitalization

- Describe how the project or revitalization plans may stimulate economic development and/or facilitate non-economic benefits (e.g., creation of a park or recreational property).
- Describe how the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.

See [FAQs](#) S.5., S.6., and T.3. for details

- If applicable, describe how the reuse of the priority site will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; or will incorporate energy efficiency measures.

[Click here](#) for a factsheet on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Approaches in Brownfield Redevelopment



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.f./1.g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

- Describe:
 - Your eligibility and likelihood to obtain funding from other resources (e.g., any other EPA Brownfields resources or public or private resources).
 - How the grant will stimulate availability of additional funds to support the completion of the site assessment or remediation, **and** reuse strategy at the priority site(s).

Do not duplicate sources discussed in 3.a-3.d under *Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs*



1. Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.g./1.h. Use of Existing Infrastructure

- Describe how this grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure at the priority site and/or within the target area.
- If additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are key to the reuse of the priority site(s), describe these needs/upgrades and funding resources that will be sought to implement that work.

Infrastructure includes buildings, roads, and power supplies, transportation lines, etc.



Questions & Progress Check



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- ☒ **NEXT: Community Need & Community Engagement**
- ☒ **Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, & Measuring Progress**
- ☒ **Programmatic Capability & Past Performance**
- ☒ **Wrap-up & Contact Information**

Covered in recordings on [MARC Grant Application Resources page](#) :

- ☐ Application Submission
- ☐ Overview of the Application Information Sheet
- ☐ Overview of Threshold Criteria



2. Community Need & Engagement – Overview

- The extent to which the grant will meet the needs of communities that are unable to secure other funding.
- How this grant will help populations that have a high incidence of adverse health conditions and greater-than-normal incidence of disease in the target area.
- How this grant will help populations that are economically impoverished in the target area.
- Types of roles and involvement of community groups.
- The plan for communicating project progress based upon public input.



2. Community Need & Engagement

Community Need

Applicants are encouraged to include data in the Narrative to help characterize and describe the target area(s) and their community(ies). Data can come from geospatial mapping tools and other sources (e.g., studies, census, and third-party reports).

See [FAQ C.13.](#) for more information on available tools to find demographic information about your community.

2.a. The Community's Need for Funding

- Describe why the community is unable to secure funding for brownfield activities because the population is small and/or low-income.
- Describe how this grant will meet the needs of the small and/or low-income community.

If the inability to draw on other sources of funding is not because the community has a small population or is low-income, then the response may only earn up to 2 points.



2. Community Need & Engagement

Community Need (cont'd)

2.b. Health of Welfare of Sensitive Populations

- Identify **sensitive populations** in the target area(s) and describe their health or welfare issues.
- Discuss how this grant and reuse strategy/site reuse(s) will address those issues and/or help identify and reduce related threats.

See the [FAQs](#) for more information on welfare, sensitive populations, and health or welfare issues that may result from extreme weather impacts.

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

- Describe how this grant and reuse strategy/site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, threats to populations with a **greater-than-normal incidence of diseases or conditions (including cancer, asthma, or birth defects)** that may be associated with the brownfield sites.

If populations in the target area(s) do not suffer from a greater-than-normal incidence of cancer, asthma, or birth defects, then the response may only earn up to 2 points.



2. Community Need & Engagement

Community Need (cont'd)

2.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations

- Describe how the grant and reuse strategy/projected reuse(s)/revitalization plan(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, threats to populations that are economically impoverished and/or disproportionately share the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and/or commercial operations or policies.



2. Community Need & Engagement

Community Engagement

+Multipurpose: 2.e. Prior/Ongoing Community Involvement

- Discuss how the community has been meaningfully involved in efforts to address brownfield sites in the target area, including the priority site(s).

2.e./2.f. Project Involvement

- Identify the local organizations/entities/groups (i.e., project partners) that will assist with the project.

2.f./2.g. Project Roles

- Discuss the role each identified partner will play in the project.
- Discuss how partners will be meaningfully involved in decision-making for site selection, cleanup, and future reuse of the brownfield sites.

+Coalitions: Discuss how each non-lead member will be engaged and informed.

Name of organization/entity/group	Entity’s Mission	Point of contact (name & email)	Specific involvement in the project/assistance provided
Add rows as needed			

Local project partners may include community-based organizations (e.g., neighborhood groups, citizen groups, business organizations, etc.), community liaisons, property owners, lenders, developers, and the general public.

Involve different types of partners

Involve partners that are relevant to your project plans

Do NOT include letters of support





**EPA BROWNFIELDS AND
LAND REVITALIZATION**

[illegible]

Questions & Progress Check



This presentation:

- ☐ General Overview
- ☐ Overview of Narrative Criteria
 - ☐ Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization
 - ☐ Community Need & Community Engagement
 - ☒ **NEXT: Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, & Measuring Progress**
 - ☐ Programmatic Capability & Past Performance
- ☒ **Wrap-up & Contact Information**

Covered in recordings on [MARC Grant Application Resources page](#) :

- ☐ Application Submission
- ☐ Overview of the Application Information Sheet
- ☐ Overview of Threshold Criteria



3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress – Overview

Present your step-by-step plan for implementing the brownfield project in the target area.

- What tasks need to be accomplished and when.
- Who's involved and who's the lead in implementing those tasks.
- How funding will be budgeted to pay for those tasks, and how we came up with those numbers.
- How we will track and measure the project progress and results.



3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

- **Community-wide, Coalitions, & Multipurpose** *Local government applicants* may use up to 10% of the total grant award for health monitoring activities.
- **All Grant Types** Administrative costs (direct costs and indirect costs) **may not** exceed 5% of the total award amount.

If EPA awards \$500,000 to an applicant, the 5% cap for administrative costs is \$25,000.



3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

3.a. Project Implementation

- Discuss major tasks/activities that will take place under this grant.
- If you plan to issue a subaward, indicate what tasks/activities or services will be provided.
- If you plan to include participant support costs to pay for a community liaison, describe your process for determining the stipend amount, accounting, and documenting allowable costs.
- If applicable, identify tasks/activities that will be funded from other sources; such as leveraged resources or funding contributed by your organization.

- a. **Project Implementation**
- b. Anticipated Project Schedule
- c. Task/Activity Lead
- d. Outputs

Responses will be evaluated less favorably if:

- Ineligible activities are included.
- **Coalitions** & **States/Tribes**: The project proposes to subaward aspects of the programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements of the grant.

Group logically into 4-5 major tasks (that will coincide with the project tasks in the budget table).

Develop a list of the EPA-funded tasks/activities to implement the project.

Do not duplicate sources listed in 1.f./1.g. *Resources Needed for Site Reuse.*

3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs (cont'd)

3.a. Project Implementation (cont'd)

Typical eligible tasks/activities may include:

- Program Management – procuring a Qualified Environmental Professional, EPA reporting, financial and records management, internal progress meetings, etc.
- Assessment Related – inventory work, community engagement (including participant support costs for up to one community liaison per target area), site selection, securing site access, Phase I and Phase II investigations, cleanup and reuse planning for a specific site, coordinated planning around multiple brownfield sites, etc.
- Planning Tasks/Activities – develop an area wide plan, conduct a market feasibility study, evaluate infrastructure needs, etc.
- Health Monitoring – coordination with the local health agency on health monitoring activities.
- Additional Multipurpose Activities – remediation, site enrollment in State's Voluntary Response Program, certifying cleanup complete, etc.

Relate to target area/priority sites. Establish time frame in schedule.

3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs (cont'd)

3.b. Anticipated Project Schedule

- Discuss the anticipated schedule milestones and timeline for the EPA-funded activities during the grant period.

Applicants may include pre-award costs incurred up to 90 days before award. See [FAQ G.8.](#) for more on pre-award costs.

- a. Project Implementation
- b. **Anticipated Project Schedule**
- c. Task/Activity Lead
- d. Outputs

3.c. Task/Activity Lead

- Identify the lead entity overseeing each task.
- If not the applicant, explain why the lead entity(ies) is appropriate.

- a. Project Implementation
- b. Anticipated Project Schedule
- c. **Task/Activity Lead**
- d. Outputs

Community-wide Coalitions & Multipurpose: Remember, the local health agency must be involved in health monitoring activities.

See review EPA's [Health Monitoring Fact Sheet](#) for more information.



3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs (cont'd)

3.d. Outputs

- Identify and quantify the anticipated outputs/deliverables for each task/activity.

- a. Project Implementation

b. Anticipated Project Schedule

c. Task/Activity Lead

d. Outputs

Outputs may include, but are not limited to quarterly reports, site inventories, environmental site assessment reports, site cleanup plans, planning activity deliverables, number of community meetings, community involvement plans, cleanup plans, and final ABCAs.

Optional: Use table to present responses

Task/Activity:
a. Project Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">EPA-funded tasks/activitiesNon-EPA grant resources needed to carry out task/activities, if applicable:
b. Anticipated Project Schedule:
c. Task/Activity Lead:
d. Outputs:



3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

3.e. Cost Estimates

- You may use the sample table format to develop and present a budget for the tasks/activities previously described.
 - **Only include EPA grant funds** → Leveraged resources should not be included in the budget table.
- Describe how cost estimates for each task were developed per budget category.
 - Present costs per unit where appropriate.
 - Breakout indirect and/or direct administrative costs, if applicable.

Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance

Cost estimates may come from a Phase II report.



3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

3.e. Cost Estimates (cont'd)

EPA will evaluate:

- The degree of clarity on how each cost estimate was developed and the extent to which costs per unit are presented in detail.
- The extent to which each proposed cost estimate is reasonable, realistic, and correlated to the proposed project/grant and tasks/activities.

Take note of the Review Criteria in
Section 6.B. of the Guidelines

Responses will be evaluated less favorably if:

- Administrative costs exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds.
- Cost estimates are not reasonable or realistic to implement the project/grant.

Responses will be evaluated more favorably if:

Community-wide allocate at *least 40% funds* /

Coalition and **States/Tribes** allocate at *least 60% funds*

- to tasks directly associated with site-specific work (i.e., Phase I and II site assessments and site-specific cleanup planning).

Multipurpose allocate at *least: 70% funds*

- to tasks directly associated with site-specific work (i.e., site assessments, remediation, and associated tasks (with at least 25% for tasks directly associated with site remediation).

Cost Estimates – EXAMPLES

- **Prog. Mgmt/Personnel:** \$24,000 - 480 hrs. Planner/Finance avg rate - \$50/hr (per quarter est: 10-hrs EPA reporting/records management, 10-hrs. Monthly progress meetings, and 20-hrs site-specific and community engagement work). Additional hours required will not be charged to the grant.
- **Travel:** 2 people to attend National Brownfield Conference: \$3,600 (per person: \$500 airfare, 4 nights hotel \$800, 4 days per diem and incidentals \$500).
- **Phase I & II Environmental Site Assessments:** \$359,700 (\$5,000 for personnel for overseeing assessments [100 hours @ \$50/hour]; \$200 for supplies [copies, toner, postage]; and \$354,500 contractual for QEP to conduct Phase I ESAs [8 @ \$4,500/each = \$36,000] and Phase II ESAs [10 @ \$31,850/each = \$318,500]).
- **Site-Specific Cleanup Planning:** \$10,000 (finalize ABCA \$1,000; prepare Remedial Action Plan \$5,000; stormwater management design plans \$3,000; State fee for entering VCP \$1,000).
- **Direct and Indirect Administrative Costs (not to exceed 5% total grant award):** \$4,200 (30 hrs Project Manager @\$50/hr for Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting and preparation of amendments such as no-cost time extensions; 45 hrs Planner/Finance avg rate of \$60/hr for preparing ASAP payment requests and annual and final federal financial reports [SF 425's]).

Community-wide

Coalition

States/Tribes

Assessment Grant Application

BUDGET EXAMPLE

Includes up to
5% for
administrative
costs

Budget Categories	Project Tasks						Total
	Program Management	Community Outreach	Phase I	Phase II	Cleanup Planning	Administrative Costs	
Personnel	\$38,000	\$5,000				\$8,000	\$51,000
Fringe Benefits	\$5,000						\$5,000
Travel	\$7,000						\$7,000
Equipment							
Supplies		\$2,000					\$2,000
Contractual		\$13,000	\$100,000	\$245,000	\$35,000		\$393,000
Construction							
Other (subaward)		\$20,000					\$20,000
Other (participant support costs)		\$8,900					\$8,900
Other (conference registration fee)	\$1,100						\$1,100
Total Direct	\$51,100	\$48,900	\$100,000	\$245,000	\$35,000	\$8,000	\$488,000
Total Indirect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000
Total Federal (Direct + Indirect)	\$51,100	\$48,900	\$100,000	\$245,000	\$35,000	\$20,000	\$500,000

Subawards and participant support costs belong on separate lines in Other category

Must match SF-424 and SF-424A

Can charge up to 5% of the total award amount for administrative costs (direct costs for grant administration + indirect costs). Costs must be classified as direct or indirect consistently and may not classify the same cost in both categories.

3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

- **+Multipurpose:**

- To determine costs for the “Construction” budget line, apply the “principal purpose of the contract” test:
 - If 50% or more of the estimated costs of the contract are for construction services, then the cost for the entire contract belongs on the “Construction” budget line.
 - A contract on the construction budget line may still include costs (<50%) for non-construction services (e.g., confirmatory sampling, researching site history, etc.).
- Remediation activities that are construction services may include abatement of asbestos and lead-based paint, installation of concrete caps or other designed to limit migration of contamination, and excavation and removal of contaminated soils.

If the cleanup site(s) is unknown at the time of application, place the estimated remediation costs on the ‘Other’ budget line. If awarded, the recipient will work with EPA’s Project Officer and Grant Specialist to amend the budget lines as needed.

See [FAQs C.18.](#) – [C.25.](#) for more information on construction costs.

Multipurpose Cleanup Cost Estimates – EXAMPLES

- **Site-Specific Cleanup Planning (belongs on Contractual line in budget):**
 - \$10,000 (finalize ABCA \$1,000; prepare Remedial Action Plan \$5,000; stormwater management design plans \$3,000; State fee for entering VCP \$1,000).
- **Cleanup Sites and related costs are unknown (example 1) (i.e., belongs on Other line in budget:)**
 - **\$450,000:** Estimated cost to cleanup up to 3 priority sites at \$150,000 per site.
- **Cleanup Costs for known cleanup site (example 2):**
 - **Remediation Contractor for Site (known site) (i.e., belongs on Construction line in budget):**
\$479,800 (excavate/transport/disposal [\$404,600 = 1,700 tons @ ~\$238/ton avg]; dust/erosion controls [\$16,100]; air monitoring [\$21,000]; temporary fencing [\$1,600]; decontamination [\$13,000]; clean backfill [\$23,500 = 855cy x \$27.50/cy]).

Multipurpose Grant Application BUDGET EXAMPLE 1

Budget Categories	Project Tasks		Separate assessment, cleanup and planning activities		Administrative Costs	Total
	Program Management	Community Outreach	Assessment	Cleanup		
Personnel	\$35,000	\$3,000			\$15,000	\$53,000
Fringe Benefits			If 50% or more of the estimated contract costs are for construction, then the cost for the entire contract belongs on the "Construction" budget line.			
Travel						
Equipment						
Supplies	\$10,000					\$10,000
Contractual		\$5,000	\$195,200			\$200,200
Construction (Cleanup contract)				\$479,800		\$479,800
Other (Cleanup budget)						
Other (subaward)		\$15,900				\$15,900
Other (participant support costs)		\$15,000				\$15,000
Other (conference registration fees)	\$1,100					\$1,100
Total Direct	\$46,100	\$38,900	\$195,200	\$479,800	\$15,000	\$775,000
Total Indirect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total Federal (Direct + Indirect)	\$46,100	\$38,900	\$195,200	\$479,800	\$40,000	\$800,000

EXAMPLE 1:
Estimated Cleanup Costs for KNOWN Cleanup Site(s)

No cost share requirement!

Multipurpose Grant Application BUDGET EXAMPLE 2

Budget Categories	Project Tasks		Separate assessment, cleanup and planning activities		Administrative Costs	Total
	Program Management	Community Outreach	Assessment	Cleanup		
Personnel	\$35,000	\$3,000			\$15,000	\$53,000
Fringe Benefits						
Travel						
Equipment						
Supplies	\$10,000					\$10,000
Contractual		\$5,000	\$195,200			\$200,200
Construction (Cleanup contract)						
Other (Cleanup budget)				\$479,800		\$479,000
Other (subaward)		\$15,900				\$15,900
Other (participant support costs)		\$15,000				\$15,000
Other (conference registration fees)	\$1,100					\$1,100
Total Direct	\$46,100	\$38,900	\$195,200	\$479,800	\$15,000	\$775,000
Total Indirect	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total Federal (Direct + Indirect)	\$46,100	\$38,900	\$195,200	\$479,800	\$40,000	\$800,000

If the cleanup site(s) is unknown, place the estimated remediation costs on the 'Other' budget line. If awarded, the recipient will work with EPA's Project Officer and Grant Specialist to amend the budget lines.

No cost share requirement!

EXAMPLE 2:
Estimated Cleanup Sites for UNKNOWN Cleanup Site(s)

3. Tasks, Costs, & Measuring Progress

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

- Discuss your plan and system to track, measure, and evaluate progress in achieving expected project outputs, overall results, and eventual outcomes.

Tracking tools to consider

- ACRES
- Software products
- Progress reporting
- Scheduled team progress meetings

Tracking your accomplishments – big picture

- Status on leveraging other critical funding
- Strides toward accomplishing redevelopment vision plans

Questions & Progress Check



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 - ☒ **NEXT: Programmatic Capability & Past Performance**
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4. Programmatic Capability & Past Performance – Overview

Applicants should:

- Demonstrate ability to successfully manage the grant and produce the measurable results discussed in the application.
- Describe the organizational structure and key staff.
- Highlight past performance on Brownfield Grants, federal or non-federal grants.

Adhere to the total page limits:

- ❖ 12 pages for **Multipurpose Grant** applications
- ❖ 10 pages for **Community-wide Assessment Grant** applications
- ❖ 12 pages for **Coalitions Grant** applications
- ❖ 12 pages for **Community-wide Assessment Grant for States/Tribes** applications



4. Programmatic Capability & Past Performance

Programmatic Capability

4.a. Organizational Capacity

- Explain your organization's capacity to oversee grant tasks/activities and carry out and manage the grant's programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements.
 - **+Coalitions**: Discuss the lead coalition member's capacity to do this on the coalition's behalf.

4.b. Organizational Structure

- Explain how your team will be structured to ensure the grant will be carried out successfully.
 - **+Coalitions**: Describe the proposed governance/decision-making structure among your coalition members and each member's meaningful involvement in determining how grant funds benefit their communities.

4.c. Description of Key Staff

- Discuss key staff that will work together to successfully administer the grant.

4.d. Acquiring Additional Resources

- Discuss your system(s) and/or procedure(s) to acquire additional expertise and resources.

If a contractor or subrecipient was selected without complying with applicable requirements in Section 2.B. *Contractors and Named Subrecipients*, the response to 4.d. will be evaluated less favorably.

4. Programmatic Capability & Past Performance

Past Performance & Accomplishments

Three categories from which to choose:

Applicants who **currently have/previously received a Brownfields Grant**

– OR –

Applicants who have not received a Brownfields Grant but have received **other federal/non-federal financial assistance agreements**

– OR –

Applicants who have **never received** federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements
(This category applies if your organization recently received a financial assistance agreement, but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with requirements.)



4. Programmatic Capability & Past Performance

4.e.(1). Accomplishments & 4.e.(2). Compliance with Grant Requirements

Past/present Brownfield Grant recipients:

BF Grants to Include	BF Grants/Resources to Exclude
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multipurpose Grants• Assessment Grants• RLF Grants• Cleanup Grants• 128(a)/STRP Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area-wide Planning Grants (for all Assessment types)• Job Training Grants• Activities conducted under a Targeted Brownfield Assessment• Subawards issued from a Brownfields Grant

- Describe (for your current/most recent but no more than three recent grants):
 - Accomplishments (specific outputs and outcomes)
 - Compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions
 - History of timely and acceptable reporting of deliverables, including **ACRES!!**
 - Corrective action for past grant management issues
- For all open EPA Brownfields Grants, describe your plans to expend remaining funds.
- For all closed EPA Brownfields Grants, indicate if any funds remained, how much, and briefly explain why.

4. Programmatic Capability & Past Performance

4.f.(1). Purpose and Accomplishments & 4.f.(2). Compliance with Grant Requirements

Applicants who are not past/present Brownfield Grant recipients, **but have received other federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements:**

- Describe (for your current/most recent but no more than three recent/relevant/similar grants in terms of structure, community engagement and/or deliverables):
 - The awarding agency/organization, amount, and purpose of funding
 - Project accomplishments (specific outputs and outcomes) and measures of success
 - Compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions
 - History of timely and acceptable reporting
 - Corrective action for past grant management issues



4. Programmatic Capability & Past Performance

4.g. Affirmative Statement of Not Receiving Financial Assistance Agreements

Applicants who have never received federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements:

- Affirm that your organization has never received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements
- Or -
- Affirm that your organization recently received a financial assistance agreement, but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with requirements.

Will receive a neutral score

Respond to the correct *Past Performance & Accomplishments* criterion



Questions & 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).



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- ☒ NEXT: Wrap-up & Contact Information

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- ☐ Application Submission
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- ☐ Overview of Threshold Criteria



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Thanks for Joining Us!!

- 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 **recording of the presentation** will be available in the coming weeks. Please check the [Brownfields MARC Grant Application Resources](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources) webpage for updates.

For training on General Submission, Application Information Sheet, and Threshold Criteria, see the recordings on the **MARC Grant Application Resources – “Open Solicitations”** webpage www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources

Applying for a Cleanup Grant?

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



**BROWNFIELDS AND
LAND REVITALIZATION**

Sign up to the Brownfields Listserv

When you sign up you will receive important updates and notifications from EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization.

* Email

* First Name

* Last Name

* Company

[Click Here to Join the
Brownfields Program Listserv](#)

