



# EPA Brownfields Assessment Grants: Interested in Applying for Funding?

*Here's what you need to know...*

## What Is EPA's Brownfields Program?



Salt Lake City, Utah (before)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work

together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. EPA provides technical and financial assistance for brownfields activities through an approach based on four main goals: protecting human health and the environment, sustaining reuse, promoting partnerships, and strengthening the marketplace. Brownfields grants serve as the foundation of the Brownfields Program and support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, cleanup, and environmental workforce and job training activities. Thousands of properties have been assessed and cleaned up through the Brownfields Program, clearing the way for their reuse.



Salt Lake City, Utah (after)

A brownfield is defined as: real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The Brownfields Law further defines the term to include a site that is: "contaminated by a controlled substance; contaminated by petroleum or a petroleum product excluded from the definition of 'hazardous substance'; or mine-scarred land."

## What Are Assessment Grants?

Assessment Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to:

- ✓ **Inventory Sites:** Compile a listing
- ✓ **Characterize Sites:** Identify past uses
- ✓ **Assess Sites:** Determine existing contamination
- ✓ **Conduct Planning Around One or More Brownfield:** Initiate site revitalization and prepare for site redevelopment
- ✓ **Conduct Site-specific Cleanup and Redevelopment Planning:** Scope and plan process
- ✓ **Conduct Community Involvement:** Inform and engage community

## What Types Of Assessment Grants Are Available?

### Community-Wide Grants:

- ✓ Applicants may apply for a Community-wide Assessment Grant if a specific site has not been identified or if the assessment will address more than one site within the community.
- ✓ Applicants may request up to \$300,000 to address hazardous substances and/or petroleum contamination.

### Site-Specific Grants:

- ✓ A Site-specific Assessment Grant must be applied for if the assessment is limited to one, and only one, site.
- ✓ Applicants may request up to \$200,000, or up to \$350,000 with a waiver request, to address hazardous substances and/or petroleum contamination.
- ✓ Applicants will not be allowed to substitute another site where the subject site is determined to be ineligible.

### Assessment Coalition Grants:

- ✓ An Assessment Coalition is comprised of one lead member and two or more partners.
- ✓ Coalition members are not eligible to apply for individual Community-wide or Site-specific Assessment Grants in the year they apply as part of a coalition.
- ✓ The coalition may request up to \$600,000 to work on a minimum of five hazardous substances and/or petroleum sites.

## Who Is Eligible To Apply For An Assessment Grant?

Eligible entities include:

- ✓ General Purpose Unit of Local Government.
- ✓ Land Clearance Authority or another quasi-governmental entity that operates under the supervision and control of, or as an agent of, a general purpose unit of local government.
- ✓ Government Entity Created by State Legislature.
- ✓ Regional Council or group of General Purpose Units of Local Government.
- ✓ Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state.
- ✓ State.
- ✓ Indian tribe other than in Alaska.
- ✓ Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community.
- ✓ Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ✓ Limited liability corporation/partnership in which all managing members/general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.
- ✓ Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

## How Long Is The Assessment Grant Period?

The performance period for an Assessment Grant is three years.

## Where Do I Find The Application Guidelines?

Copies of the Application Guidelines can be obtained from EPA's Brownfields Program website at [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields) or from [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

## How Do I Apply For An Assessment Grant?

Applicants submit an application through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Applications should be concise and well organized, and must provide the information requested in the guidelines. Applicants must demonstrate that they meet threshold criteria requirements and must respond to ranking criteria. Factual information about the proposed project and community must be provided.

## What Is The Evaluation/Selection Process?

Responses to threshold criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If the application does not meet the threshold criteria, the application will not be evaluated. In limited circumstances, EPA may seek to clarify information.

Brownfields Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Evaluation panels consisting of EPA staff and other federal agency representatives assess how well the applications meet the threshold and ranking criteria outlined in the Application Guidelines. The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization will provide to the Selection Official a ranking list of applicants to select based on the application's final score, availability of funds, and as appropriate, the other factors described in the Application Guidelines.

## Is Pre-Application Assistance Available?

If resources permit, EPA Regions may conduct open meetings with potential applicants. Check with your regional office for date and location information. Your regional Brownfields Program contacts can be found at [www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-contacts-epa-regional-offices](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-contacts-epa-regional-offices).

EPA can respond to questions from applicants about threshold criteria, including site eligibility and ownership. EPA staff cannot meet with applicants to discuss draft applications or provide assistance in responding to ranking criteria.