



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

EPA Brownfields Grant Proposal Writing Strategies

Omaha, NE
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Presented By:

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

EPA Brownfield Program Mission

Empower local communities, States, and other stakeholders in EJ and economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to inventory, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields, thus mitigating the unintended consequences of Superfund.

Benefits of Brownfield Reuse

- Encourage reuse of property in an environmentally sound manner
 - Reduce negative environmental impacts to EJ communities
 - Manage Environmental Liability
 - Increases local tax base & facilitates new job growth
 - Utilizes existing infrastructure and minimize sprawl
 - Reduce development pressure on undeveloped land
- Many other environmental, public health and social welfare benefits



The Brownfields Process



Community Engagement



- **Identify** Properties
- **Assess** Environmental Conditions
 - Phase I assessment
 - Site visit, interviews, records search
 - Phase II assessment
 - Site sampling
- **Cleanup**
- **Sustainable Redevelopment**



EPA Investment in Brownfields Grants

- *Since 1995*, EPA has awarded 3,138 brownfields grants totaling more than \$923.8M. This has helped:
 - Assess more than 18,000 properties.
 - Leverage more than \$18.3 billion in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment funding from the private and public sectors.
 - Generated more than 75,500 jobs



Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup (ARC) Grants

- **A**ssessment
- **R**evolving Loan Fund (RLF)
- **C**leanup
- ❖ Grant types listed above commonly referred to as **ARC** Grants!
- Also referred to as:
 - 104(k) grants
 - Competitive brownfields grants
 - Pilots: out-of-date terminology



Brownfields Competitive Grant Program

EPA Brownfields ARC grants are very competitive. Applicants should be prepared to put time and effort into writing a winning proposal!





Brownfield Funding Eligibility

Who is Eligible to Apply for Brownfields Competitive Funding?

- **Assessment Grants** - States, Tribes, Local Governments, Land Clearance Authorities, Regional Councils, Redevelopment Agencies and Other Quasi – Governmental Entities
- **Revolving Loan Funds** - Same as Assessment
- **Cleanup Grants**– Same as Assessment + **Non-Profits**
- **Job Training Grants** – Same as Assessment + **Non-Profits, Colleges, Universities, and Job Training Organizations**



Brownfields ARC Grants – Getting Started

FY2014 Proposal Guidelines for ARC Grants will be at:

www.epa.gov/brownfields

or at:

www.grants.gov

- ❖ This training is ***NO SUBSTITUTE*** for reading and closely following the detailed Guidelines!

Proposals may be submitted via www.grants.gov or hard copy (see guidance). If using grants.gov, a hard copy must also be sent to the regional BF coordinator.



Targeted Brownfield Assessments (TBAs)

- Environmental Assessments
 - Generally ASTM Phase 1&2
 - aka Targeted Brownfield Assessments (BTA)
- Provides services not funding
- Conducted by State or EPA on behalf of a public or non-profit entity
- Easy to apply



Workforce Development and Environmental Job Training

- Up to \$200K to prepare trainees for employment in the environmental field – for example
 - health and safety
 - handle and remove hazardous substances
 - manage facilities with hazardous substances/petroleum
 - cleanup technologies/methods (asbestos, lead, petroleum, etc.)
 - leak prevention and removal of underground storage tanks
 - wastewater treatment facility operations
 - stormwater treatment and management
 - alternative energy installation



Assessment Grant Program

Community-wide Assessments (multiple properties)

- Up to \$200,000 for hazardous substance (including asbestos, lead paint, other environmental hazards), or up to \$200,000 for petroleum
- Applicant can apply in ONE community-wide assessment proposal for \$200K Hazardous Substance and \$200K Petroleum, for a combined total of \$400K.

Site-specific Assessments (single property)

- Up to \$200,000 for petroleum or hazardous substances (or comingled):
 - Up to \$350K per property with approved waiver
 - No more than 1 proposal per eligible entity
 - Site eligibility and property ownership threshold requirement



Assessment Grant Program (con't)

Assessment Coalitions

- **TBD – changes are expected to this funding amount**

FY14: up to \$600,000 for hazardous substance and/or petroleum (e.g. \$300K hazardous, \$300K petroleum):

- Requires 3 or more eligible entities
- Must assess a minimum of 5 sites
- 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.



Common Brownfield Assessment CA Activities

- **Inventory:** e.g., surveying sites, monitoring community health, creating lists or databases & GIS layers for brownfield properties, establishing prioritization criteria, etc.
- **Assessment:** ASTM Transaction Screens, **Phase 1 & 2**, Asbestos or Lead Paint Inspection/Surveys, etc.
- **Site Characterization** (e.g., nature and extent of contamination);
- **Cleanup and Redevelopment Planning** (e.g., developing an Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), enrollment in and activities (up to but not including cleanup) required by State Voluntary Cleanup Programs (VCPs)
- **Site-specific and non-site specific Public Participation & Partnership** (e.g. community involvement plans, advisory councils, townhall meetings, press releases, webpages, open houses, etc.)
- **Program Management** (not “administrative”) e.g. meetings, training, contracting and reporting.
- Activities necessary to comply with National Historic Preservation Act (**NHPA**) or Endangered Species Act (**ESA**) and other applicable local, federal & State law

Petroleum-only Clarification:

- Underground storage tank removal, if necessary to perform the assessment of a petroleum brownfield
- Assessment of hazardous substances if incidental to the petroleum assessment



Assessment Success Story

Omaha, Nebraska

Assessment Grant

- Abandoned industrial riverfront properties
- Bringing community “Back to the River”
- Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge
- Carl T. Curtis Midwest Regional Headquarters National Park Service





Cleanup Grant Program

- Must own site at the time of proposal submission
- To carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites
- Up to \$200K per property
- Hazardous substances or petroleum contamination
- May apply for up to 3 properties: Separate proposals for each property
- Applicant applying for both hazardous substance and petroleum cleanup grant funding at the same site must submit **ONE** proposal, which cannot exceed \$200,000
- Non-profits may apply
- Cost share requirement of 20%
- Community Notification (Threshold Criteria Only)
- Draft Assessment of Brownfield Cleanup Alternative (ABCA)



Cleanup Success Story

Wellston, Missouri

Cleanup

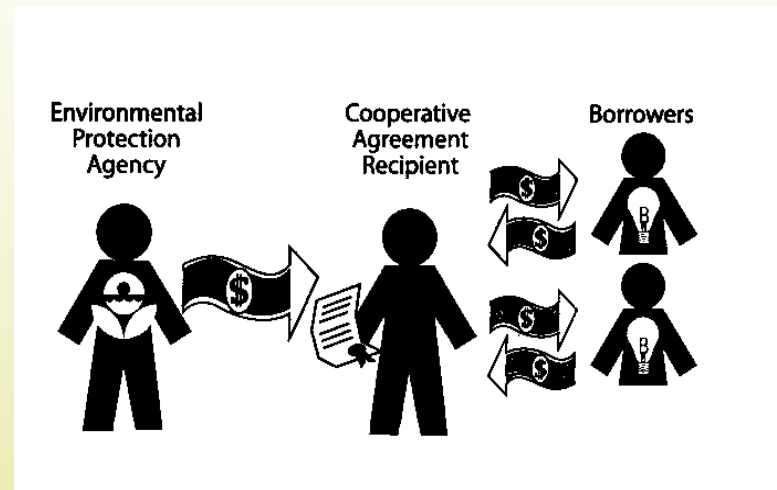
- Former industrial corridor to St. Louis, Mo
- Stagnant brownfields as industries left Wellston in the 1980s
- Excavation and off-site disposal of 4,113 tons of contaminated soil
- Redeveloped into Wellston Enterprise Center (business incubator)





Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program

- Only applicants who do not have an existing RLF may apply in 2014
- To make loans and sub grants to carryout cleanup activities at brownfields properties.
- Up to \$1M per eligible entity
- Coalitions may apply
- (Minimum) 50% loans
- (Maximum) 50%-cleanup sub grants
- Cost share requirement of 20%
- Nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply.
- May request waiver of sub grant limitation on a case by case basis once the grant is awarded





Revolving Loan Fund Success Story

St. Louis, Missouri

Revolving Loan Fund

- Sub grant by St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC) to Habitat for Humanity
- Five New Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Homes





FY2014 Proposal Timeline

- Mid to late August 2013 – ARC Requests for Proposals (RFP)
- Summer 2013 – Grant Writing Workshops
- Fall 2013 – EPA FY2014 Guideline Webinars
- October 2013 – Proposal Submission Deadline
- April 2014 – Approx. \$68 million to be awarded nationwide
- Awardees should have funds available around Oct. 1, 2014



Getting the Brownfields Process Started

- Establish Partnerships
 - State Government
 - Local Government
 - Community Based Organizations
 - Local/Job Training Hiring
- Property Ownership (Cleanup)
- Community Notification (Cleanup)
- Draft Assessment of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (Cleanup)



Other EPA Brownfields Programs

U.S. EPA Region 7 Brownfields Job Training Grant Program:

- http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/brownfields/job_training.htm

Region 7 TBA Program*

- http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/brownfields/targeted_assessment.htm

**non-grant program that provides direct
EPA assessment assistance to communities*



State Brownfield Contacts in Region 7

U.S. EPA Region 7 Contacts:

- *Region 7 Brownfield Coordinator:*
 - **Susan Klein**; 913-551-7786; klein.susan@epa.gov
- *Region 7 Targeted Brownfield Assessment Coordinator:*
 - **Todd Davis**; 913-551-7749; davis.todd@epa.gov
- *Region 7 Brownfields Job Training Coordinator:*
 - **Ina Square**; 913-551-7357; square.ina@epa.gov

State Brownfield Contacts:

- *Iowa Department of Natural Resources*
 - **Mel Pins**; 515-281-8489; mel.pins@dnr.iowa.gov
- *Kansas Department of Health and Environment*
 - **Maggie Weiser**; 785-296-5519; mweiser@kdheks.gov
- *Missouri Department of Natural Resources*
 - **Catherine Jones**; 573-526-4725; catherine.jones@dnr.mo.gov
- *Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality*
 - **Charlene Sundermann**; 402-471-6411; charlene.sundermann@nebraska.gov



Web-Based Resources

- **FY13 ARC Proposal Guidelines:**
<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm>
- **Fact sheet on Brownfield Assessment Coalitions:**
http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant_info/assess/acfs_062408.pdf
- **EPA Land Revitalization Projects and Construction and Demolition (C&D) Recycling:**
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/debris-new/factsheet.htm>
- **Regional Information on-line:**
<http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/brownfields/index.htm>
- **Headquarters Information on-line:** www.epa.gov/brownfields
- **Kansas State Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities:**
<http://www.engg.ksu.edu/chsr/outreach/tab/>



QUESTIONS?



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

U.S. EPA Brownfields FY2013 Funding Results Region 7

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FY2013 ARC Competition National Results

Total # of Proposals Reviewed	683
# Assessments Reviewed	455
# Cleanups Reviewed	187
# RLFs Reviewed	41
Total # Proposals Awarded	240
# Assessments Awarded	160
# Cleanups Awarded	72
# RLFs Awarded	13



FY2012 ARC Competition Region 7 Results

Recipient	Funding Amount
<u>St. Louis Development Corporation, MO</u> <i>(Community Wide Assessment)</i>	<u>\$400,000</u>
<i>Petroleum</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>
<i>Hazardous Substance</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>



FY2013 ARC Competition Region 7 Results 28

Recipient	Funding Amount
City of Coralville, IA	\$400,000
City of Dubuque, IA	\$400,000
City of Fort Dodge, IA	\$400,000
City of Kansas City, MO	\$400,000
KDHE (Assessment Coalition)	\$600,000
MDNR (Assessment Coalition)	\$600,000
City of Ottumwa, IA	\$400,000
City of Springfield, MO	\$400,000
City of Howardville, MO (Cleanup)	\$200,000
Lincoln West Haymarket (Cleanup)	\$200,000
Lincoln West Haymarket (Cleanup)	\$200,000



EPA Process for Evaluation

- Proposals are evaluated per the EPA guidelines and requirements.
- Eligibility determinations or Threshold Review were reviewed by Region 7 staff, which is pass/fail.
- Those that passed the “threshold review” were forwarded to the national panels for review of the ranking criteria. Proposals were reviewed by a 3 member panel which included at least one home region reviewer.
- Region 7 gave input with regards to Programmatic Capability for existing grant recipients.



Lessons Learned from R7 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

General

- Answer all the questions/criteria line by line (if it doesn't apply state just that)
- Make sure your proposal follows the **current** guidelines
- Obey the page limitations
- Be specific where possible!



Lessons Learned from R7 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Community Need

- Identify contaminants associated with BF sites that impact a specific population in a community.
- Provide specific examples of Brownfield sites that are to be/might be addressed under this proposal.
- Connect health effect to the chemicals to be addressed at BF site.
- Use most recent Census data available.
- Providing #of RCRA and LUST sites within target are not enough.



Lessons Learned from R7 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Community Need (continued)

- Always provide comparative statistics for the demographic information provided. Explain or interpret the stats for the reviewer, show how these tie back to the BF Sites to be addressed.
- Connect all impacts(health, welfare and environment) to the to the BF site(s).
- Include information about the fiscal condition of the local governments.
- Why are other funding sources not available?



Lessons Learned from R7 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Project Descriptions

- Show commitment: Quantify in-kind support for the work, even if it is not required.
- Document competence at leveraging resources, generic info does not help.
- The connection to jobs must be made.
- If it says use the table, use the table.
- Provide justification for **all** expenses within budget table.
- Make sure you clearly justify the amount of funding you are requesting.



Lessons Learned from R7 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Community Engagement

- Make sure you understand what a community based organization is!
- Support letter should provide an outline of org, what **specific** activities the org will do to support project and it should be consistent with what is contained in the proposal. **NOT FORM LETTERS!**
- Tell us about tried and true methods of connecting with the public
- Clearly describe how State BF Program is involved



Lessons Learned from R7 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Project Benefits

- Simply stating the redevelopment has benefits does not make it so. Define what will be measured.
- Describe all benefits associated with **redevelopment** quantitatively.
- Mention quarterly reports and the ACRES database but also mention what you will measure for success.
- Circle back to the community needs section and make sure all are accounted for.
- Use specific examples for defined sites/projects



Lessons Learned from R7 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

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Questions????