

EPA Brownfields Grant Proposal Writing Strategies Workshop

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.

- Assessment
- Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)
- Cleanup

*Grant types listed above commonly referred to as **ARC** Grants!

FY2012 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!

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

Cleanup

- 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)

General Lessons Learned from FY2011 Competition

- 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
- Budget ceiling debate may impact schedule
- 2011 budget cut by 30% translates to fewer grants
- Point distribution may change

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Community Needs:

- 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.
- 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?

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.

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

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.