

Brownfields Funding U. S EPA, Region 5

*Deborah Orr
November 2011*



**Laidlaw Facility,
IL**

Brownfields Definition

“.....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.”



Subtitle A. Brownfields Revitalization Funding provides \$200 million a year*

- Authorizes grants of up to \$350K per site for *assessment*, inventory and health assessments.
- Authorizes grants of up to \$200K per site for eligible entities, including not-for-profits, to *clean up* brownfields*.
- Authorizes grants of up to \$200K for *job training* to eligible entities.
- Authorizes grants for up to \$1M for *revolving loan fund* (RLF) program*.
- Authorizes targeted brownfields assessments.

**20% cost share required

*25% of the budget has to address petroleum

Subtitle B. Brownfields Liability Clarifications

- **Contiguous Property Owner.** Superfund liability relief for innocent persons who own property that is contaminated solely due to a release from a neighboring property, so long as the person did not cause or contribute to the release.
- **Innocent Landowners.** Provides Superfund Liability relief for landowners who had no reason to know of contamination at the time of purchase.
- **Prospective Purchasers and Windfall Liens.** Provides Superfund liability relief for future buyers of facilities who are not responsible for contamination.

Subtitle C. State and Tribal Response Programs

- Bars Federal enforcement action for sites in State/Tribal cleanup programs in some circumstances.
- Federal re-openers to ensure safety net (State/Tribal requests, endangerment, new information).
- States/Tribes maintain of sites in response program.
- Provides for progress toward attaining program elements.
- Provides NPL deferral of site in State/Tribal Programs.
- States/Tribes are provided up to \$50 million a year to support brownfields programs.

East St. Louis Farmers Market



Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA)

- (EPA) provides is assessment of urban sites.
- The targeted brownfields assessment (TBA) service includes a historical site use search, site visit and soil testing for hazardous substances and an all appropriate inquiry compliant.
- The work is carried out by an environmental professional and is provided free of charge, on a first come first serve basis, and for a simple site the work can generally be completed in six weeks.
- Go to:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/urbanag/steps.htm>

All Appropriate Inquiries

- BF law requires EPA to establish the AAI rule.
- AAI effective date is November 1, 2006
- Property buyers who want CERCLA liability protection and eligible entities that use EPA BF funds are affected by AAI.
- More information on AAI can be found at:

www.epa.gov.brownfields

The total funding in the FY2010 competition was 92.9M. EPA anticipated awarding approximately 343 nationally.

Successful proposals in Region 5 totaled 47

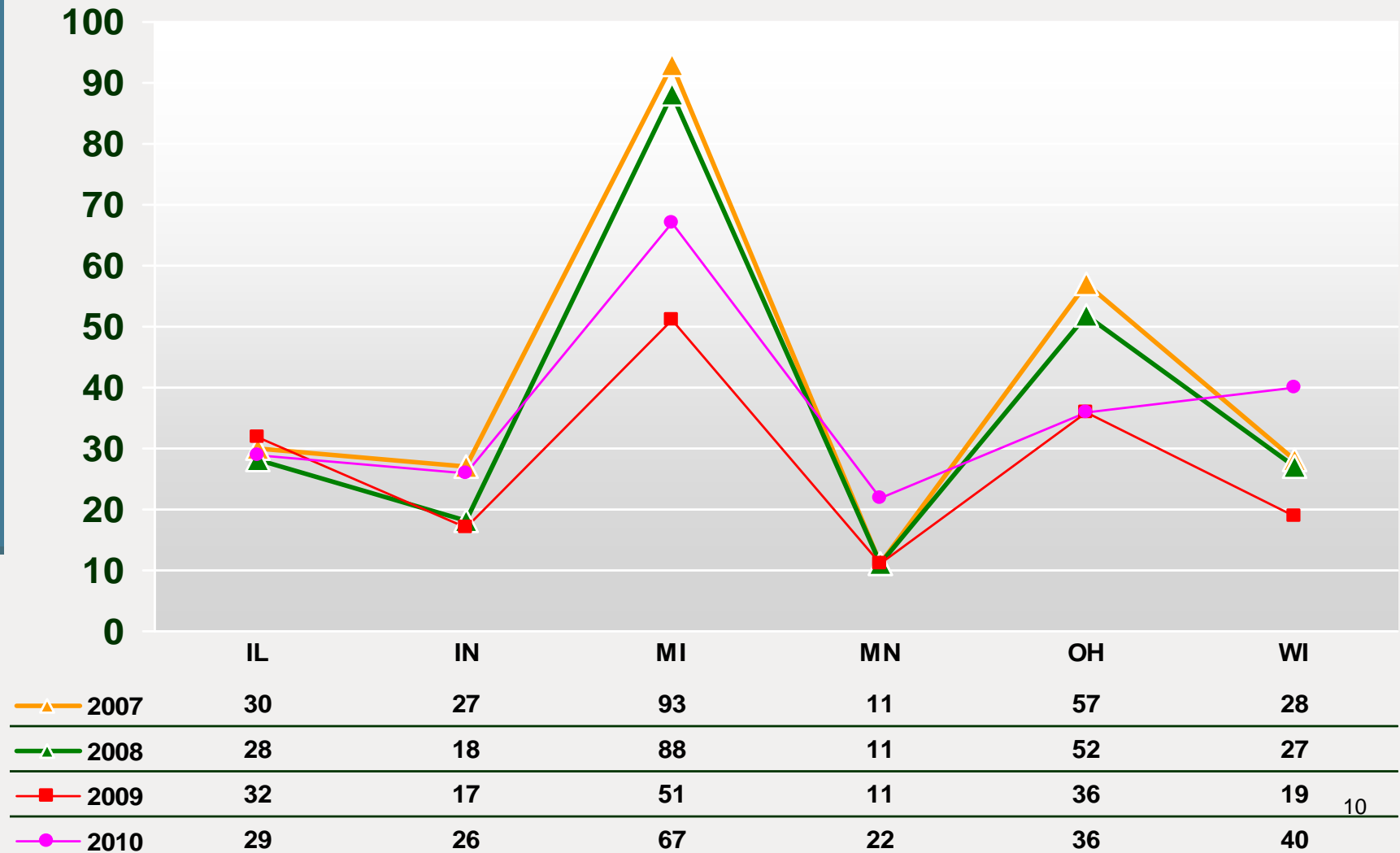
State

- IL - 11
- IN - 12
- MI - 18
- MN - 13
- OH - 15
- WI - 6
- Tribal -17
- State - 6

Grant Type

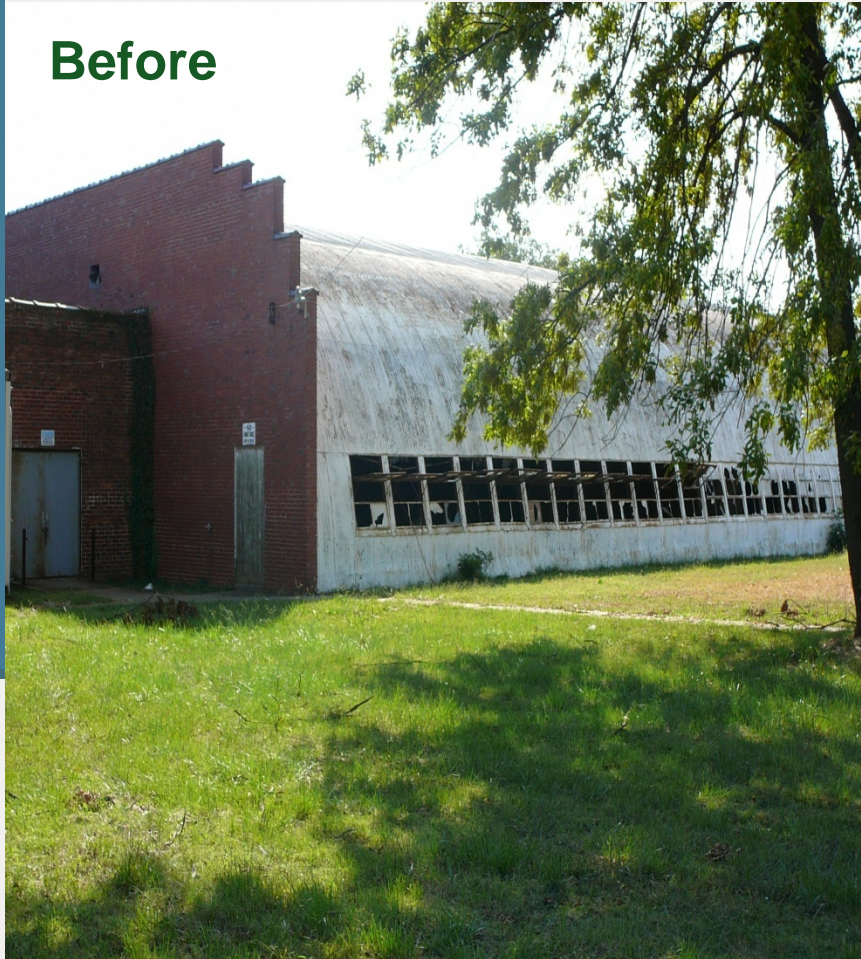
- Assessment - 23
- Cleanup - 20
- RLF - 4
- Job training - 3
- 128(a) - 23

Number Of R5 BF Proposal By State 2007 - 2010



Cleanup Success Story: Metropolis, IL Former Laidlaw Facility - 2009

Before



After

Brownfields Recognition

Award

presented to

City of Metropolis, Illinois

Quick and efficient cleanup of the Former Laidlaw Facility

In recognition of leadership and commitment

This 17th day of November 2009

Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator
Region 5, U. S. EPA

Anatomy of a Success

- Metropolis recognized they had to do something to stop population decline.
- Hired experts.
- Planning was inclusive.
- First step to assist in day to day decisions made on issues concerning tourism development and future growth.



Lessons Gleaned from Successful Work

- Every change needs a champion
- Cast a wide net
- Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning*
- Coordinate activities to leverage resources
- Look for low hanging fruit
- Planning is an endless loop

*Thomas Alva Edison

Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

General

- Answer all the questions
- Obey the page limitations and think about the reviewer when formatting
- Budget ceiling debate may impact schedule
- 2011 budget cut by 30% translates to fewer grants
- Point distribution may change

Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Community Needs: 40 pts

- Identify “target sites”. This useful strategy helps the applicant identify contaminants that impact a specific population in a community
- Provide information on all coalitions partners even those that do not have target sites identified and explain why the coalition fits
- Impacts to be addressed can either be health or “social” and/or economic
- Connect health effect to the chemicals to be addressed at BF site

Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Community Need: 40 points (cont'd)

- Always provide comparative statistics for the demographic information provided. Explain or interpret the stats for the reviewer, connect the dots
- Impacts to be described include health or “social” and economic. Connect economic impact to the before and after at BF site
- Speak to the lowest common denominator: assume the reviewer knows nothing

Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Project Descriptions: 100 points

- Skin in the game: 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
- Beware of giving out too much information in the budget
- If it says use the table, use the table
- Treat the state program like a black box
- Panel reviewers do not score programmatic capability questions in “Project Description and Feasibility of Success” ranking criteria

Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Community Engagement: 30 points

- What part of community based organization don't you understand?
- 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.
- Tell us about tried and true methods of connecting with the public

Lessons Gleaned from R5 Unsuccessful Proposal Debriefings

Project Benefits: 30 points

- Simply stating the redevelopment has benefits does not make it so. Define what will be measured
- 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

Application Schedule for FY2013 (draft)

- Request for Proposal -- August
- Job Training Grant proposals due mid October
- Assessment, Revolving Loan, Cleanup Fund (ARC) proposals -- mid October
- Spring 2013 – Award Announcements
- Fund available before October 1

USEPA Region 5 Brownfields Contacts

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