

## EPA Brownfields Grant Proposal Writing Strategies Workshop Outline

### 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.

### Brownfield Definition

*“...real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land.”*

### Brownfield Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grants

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

### FY2012 Proposal Guidelines for ARC Grants

will be at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields) or at: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

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

### Community-wide Assessments Grants (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 Grants (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 Grants

- 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)

### Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants

- To make loans and sub grants to carryout cleanup activities at brownfields properties.
- Up to \$1M per eligible entity
- (Minimum) 50% loans/(Maximum) 50%-cleanup sub grants
- Cost share requirement of 20%

September 8, 2011  
Susan Klein  
913-551-7786

## **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

## **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.
- Providing #of RCRA and LUST sites within target are not enough.
- Connect health effect to the chemicals to be addressed at BF site.
- Connect all impacts(health, welfare and environment) to the to the BF site(s).
- Use most recent Census data available.
- 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.
- 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.

September 8, 2011  
Susan Klein  
913-551-7786