



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

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

## What Is EPA's Brownfields Program?



Lakewood, Colorado

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program](#) provides funds to empower states, Tribal Nations,

communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfield sites. EPA provides financial and technical assistance for brownfields activities protect human health and the environment, encourage sustainable reuse, promote partnerships, strengthen local economies, and create jobs. By providing funds and technical assistance to assess, cleanup, and plan for site reuse, EPA enables communities to overcome the environmental, legal, and fiscal challenges associated with brownfield properties. EPA's investments in communities across the country help local leaders eliminate uncertainties, clean up contaminated properties, and transform brownfield sites into community assets.



Lakewood, Colorado

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 Cleanup Grants?

Brownfields Cleanup Grants provide funding for a recipient to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the applicant.

Funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and/or hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum).

## How Much Funding Is Available?

- ✓ An applicant may request funding to address either a single brownfield site or multiple brownfield sites within the same application.
- ✓ An applicant may request up to \$500,000, or up to \$1 million, or up to \$2 million.
- ✓ Grants require a 20 percent cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services, and must be for eligible and allowable costs. [Consistent with the direction on cost sharing in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, cost sharing and matching funds are not required under the FY 2023 Cleanup Grant competition.]

## Who Is Eligible To Apply For A Cleanup Grant?

In order to receive a Cleanup Grant, the applicant must be the sole owner of the property that is the subject of its cleanup grant application by the time of application submission. For the purposes of eligibility determinations in the guidelines only, the term "own" generally means fee simple title. A written American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or equivalent Phase II environmental site assessment must be underway or completed prior to application submission.

## Who Is Eligible To Apply For A Cleanup 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; including, but not limited to, organizations 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 Cleanup Grant Period?

The performance period for a Cleanup Grant is four 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). discuss draft applications or provide assistance in responding to ranking criteria.

## How Do I Apply For An Cleanup 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 your 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 additional 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.