



FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR MISSISSIPPI TO ASSESS AND CLEAN UP CONTAMINATED LANDS: EPA BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM



EPA has recently announced over \$72 million in funding available for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grants to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize brownfields. Please visit EPA's Brownfields Web site to obtain proposal guidance: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

- This year's grant deadline is December 8, 2006 -

EPA Region 4 will be hosting an interactive online grant writing workshop on November 7, 2006

What is EPA's Brownfields Program?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Brownfields grants serve as the foundation of the Brownfields Program and support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, and cleanup. Thousands of properties have been assessed and cleaned up through the Brownfields Program, clearing the way for their reuse.

Who is Eligible to Apply for an EPA Brownfields Grant?

Eligible entities include: state, local, and tribal governments, general purpose units of local government, land clearance authorities, or other quasi-governmental entities; regional council or redevelopment agencies; or states or legislatures. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for cleanup grants.

How Do I Apply for an EPA Brownfields Grant?

Applicants submit a proposal for each grant type that they are applying for. Each proposal must address the selection criteria outlined in the guidelines. Electronic copies of the Proposal Guidelines can be obtained from the EPA Brownfields Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

When is the Grant Proposal Deadline?

The proposal due date for 2007 assessment, revolving loan fund and cleanup grant proposals is December 8, 2006. Please visit EPA's Brownfields Web site for proposal application and announcement information: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>

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 2002 Brownfields Law expanded the definition to include sites contaminated by petroleum and mine-scarred lands.



The Farish Street Historic District police substation is adjacent to **Jackson, Mississippi's** downtown business corridor. Farish Street was once one of the largest African-American economic and cultural districts in the country. Since the early 1970s, this once thriving community transformed into one overflowing with decayed housing and boarded up businesses. In 1998, an EPA Brownfields Assessment grant enabled the city to address contamination at the former Sim's Dry Cleaners. With a combination of federal, state and local funding, the blighted property has transformed into a police substation that now serves the local community. The transformation of this and other properties in the area has encouraged the investment of more than \$400 million in public and private funding into the Farish Street Historic District.

More detailed information on brownfields success stories in EPA Region 4 can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/sslocat.htm#reg4>

What Types of Grants Does EPA Provide?

Assessment Grants:

- EPA provides funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.
- An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 to assess a specific site or conduct a community-wide assessment that includes more than one site within the community. Applicants may also request up to \$350,000 based on the anticipated level of contamination at a single site.
- The performance period for assessment grants is three years.

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants:

- EPA provides funding to capitalize a revolving loan fund that provides sub-grants to carry out assessment and/or cleanup activities at brownfields. RLF grants are community-wide and not site specific.
- An eligible entity may apply for up to \$1,000,000. The applicant can be a single recipient or a coalition of eligible entities. RLF grants require a 20 percent cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services that are allowable costs.
- The performance period for RLF grants is five years.

Cleanup Grants:

- EPA provides funding for a grant recipient to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites.
- An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000 per site. Cleanup grants require a 20 percent cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services that are allowable costs. A cleanup grant applicant may request a waiver of the 20 percent cost share requirement based on hardship.
- An applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding at time of application or demonstrate the ability to acquire title.
- The performance period for cleanup grants is three years.

Need Help Writing a Grant?

EPA Region 4 can respond to questions from applicants about threshold criteria, including site eligibility and ownership, but can not meet with applicants to discuss draft proposals or provide assistance in responding to ranking criteria. EPA Region 4 will be conducting an online interactive grant writing workshop on November 7, 2006 at 10 am. Please visit <http://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/r4bfgrantwriting/> for more information. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, your Planning and Development District, and the Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) program can also provide more specific support, including grant writing assistance, in developing your proposal. For assistance, please contact:

Contact Information:

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Mississippi Planning and Development Districts

http://www.mississippi.org/Toolkit/mda/MS_PDDs.htm

Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (TAB) Program

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What is the Evaluation/Selection Process?

Brownfields grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Evaluation panels consisting of EPA staff and other federal agency representatives assess how well the proposals meet the threshold and ranking criteria outlined in the Proposal Guidelines. Final selections are made by EPA senior management after considering the ranking of proposals by the evaluation panels. Responses to threshold criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If the proposal does not meet the threshold criteria, the proposal will not be evaluated. In some circumstances, EPA may seek additional information.