

## Notice of Funding Opportunity

Applications Due: **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**



**Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization**

# FY26 GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANTS (**COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANTS FOR STATES AND TRIBES**)

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-25-06



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# 1. Basic Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR)**

## **FY26 GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANTS (COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANTS FOR STATES AND TRIBES)**

[Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup \(MARC\) Grant Application Resources](#)

### **A. Executive Summary**

Assessment Grants provide funding for developing inventories of brownfield sites, prioritizing sites, conducting community involvement activities, conducting planning, conducting site assessments,<sup>1</sup> developing site-specific cleanup plans, and developing reuse plans related to brownfield sites. A portion of the Assessment Grant funding must be used to conduct site assessments. Assessment Grant funds may not be used to conduct cleanup activities.

Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes are available to:

- States (i.e., State agencies that are subject to the direct control of the governor or other elected executive officials such as environmental agencies, transportation agencies, health departments, parks and recreation departments, and departments of commerce); and
- Tribes<sup>2</sup> (i.e., federally recognized Indian Tribes other than in Alaska; Intertribal Consortia comprised of eligible Indian Tribes)
- Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Alaska Native Village Corporations as those terms are defined in the [Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act \(43 U.S.C. 1601\)](#) and following) and the Metlakatla Indian Community.

### **B. Key Information**

**Opportunity Number:**

EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-25-06

**Assistance Listing:**

66.818

**Announcement Type:**

Initial

**Funding Available:**

\$35,000,000

**Number of Awards:**

Approximately 18

Note, State and Tribal universities and colleges are not eligible for Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes but may apply for other types of Assessment Grants if they are otherwise eligible (e.g., are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC)).

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental site assessments must be performed in accordance with EPA's All Appropriate Inquiries Final Rule ([40 CFR Part 312](#)).

<sup>2</sup> There are currently 574 federally recognized Tribes, and there are many names that these sovereign nations use to describe their culture, history, and geography, including Tribe, Village, Nation, Band, and Pueblo. For the purpose of these guidelines, the EPA Brownfields Program uses "Tribe" and "Tribal Nation" as all-encompassing terms.

Applicants may request funding up to \$2,000,000 to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances<sup>3</sup> (i.e., sites with potential contamination of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants) and/or petroleum<sup>4</sup> (i.e., sites with potential petroleum contamination). Recipients will be required to assess sites (a minimum of 10) throughout their geographic boundary(ies). To be eligible for Brownfield Grant funding, sites must meet the definition of a brownfield site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 101(39) as described in the [Information on Sites Eligible for Brownfields Funding under CERCLA § 104\(k\)](#). Consistent with the direction on site limits in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, activities carried out at each approved, eligible site may exceed \$200,000. EPA will determine site eligibility after the award of the grant throughout the project period.

**Applications must meet all Threshold Criteria in [Section 2.B.](#) to be considered eligible to receive a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes.**

Please carefully review [Section 4.D.](#) of these guidelines, Section IV of [EPA NOFO Clauses](#), and Section D. in the FY26 [Brownfields Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) to ensure that contractors (including individual consultants) are procured in compliance with the fair and open competition requirements.

A checklist of required application forms and documents is in [Section 4.A.](#)

For the purposes of these guidelines, the term “grant” refers to the cooperative agreement that EPA will award to a successful applicant.

## C. Key Dates

December 3, 2025 12:00 pm ET	<a href="#">National Outreach Webinar</a>
January 28, 2026 11:59 pm ET	Application Submission Deadline
June 2026	Anticipated Notification of Selection
September 2026	Anticipated Award Notification

## D. Funding Details

It is anticipated that up to **18 awards** will be made under this announcement. The amount of funding is expected to be **\$35,000,000**, depending on Agency funding levels, the quality of applications received, agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. Awards funded under this opportunity are expected to have a **5-year** project period. Applicants may apply for up to \$2,000,000 of EPA funds. (Note, applicants may also request an amount that is less than \$2,000,000.)

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this competition, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than

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<sup>3</sup> Hazardous substance sites eligible for funding are those sites with the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, sites that are contaminated with controlled substances, or that are mine-scarred lands. For more information, please refer to the FY26 [Brownfields Frequently Asked Questions](#).

<sup>4</sup> Petroleum sites eligible for funding are those sites that meet the definition set forth in CERCLA § 101(39)(D)(ii)(II), as further described in Section 1.3.2. in the [Information on Sites Eligible for Brownfields Funding under CERCLA § 104\(k\)](#).

six (6) months from the date of the original selection decision. EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement or make fewer awards than anticipated.

In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. To maintain the integrity of the competition and selection process, EPA, if it decides to partially fund an application, will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award.

Awards may be fully or incrementally funded, as appropriate, based on funding availability, satisfactory performance, and other applicable considerations.

## E. Agency Contact Information

Further information, if needed, may be obtained from the EPA contact(s) indicated below.

Technical Contact:	<b>Elyse Salinas, 202-564-2858, <a href="mailto:brownfields@epa.gov">brownfields@epa.gov</a></b>
Eligibility Contact:	<b>See Regional Contacts below</b>
Electronic Submissions Contact:	<b>Grants.gov, 1-800-518-4726, <a href="mailto:support@grants.gov">support@grants.gov</a></b>
Regional Contact(s):	<b>EPA Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) Meena Mortazavi, <a href="mailto:Mortazavi.Meena@epa.gov">Mortazavi.Meena@epa.gov</a>, (617) 918-1488</b> <b>EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI) Esmeralda Vargas, <a href="mailto:Vargas.Esmeralda@epa.gov">Vargas.Esmeralda@epa.gov</a>, (212) 637-4391</b> <b>EPA Region 3 (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV) Anthony Geiger, <a href="mailto:Geiger.Anthony@epa.gov">Geiger.Anthony@epa.gov</a>, (215) 814-3367</b> <b>EPA Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) Aditi Chakravarty, <a href="mailto:Chakravarty.Aditi@epa.gov">Chakravarty.Aditi@epa.gov</a>, (404) 562-9515</b> <b>EPA Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI) Riley Jenkins, <a href="mailto:Jenkins.Riley@epa.gov">Jenkins.Riley@epa.gov</a>, (312) 886-7178</b> <b>EPA Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX) Marsha Lay, <a href="mailto:Lay.Marsha@epa.gov">Lay.Marsha@epa.gov</a>, (214) 665-7562</b> <b>EPA Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE) Tarah Vaughn, <a href="mailto:R7_Brownfields@epa.gov">R7_Brownfields@epa.gov</a>, (913) 551-7059</b> <b>EPA Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) Melisa Devincenzi, <a href="mailto:Devincenzi.Melisa@epa.gov">Devincenzi.Melisa@epa.gov</a>, (303) 312-6377</b> <b>EPA Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, Pacific Island Territories) Jennifer Tung, <a href="mailto:Tung.Jennifer@epa.gov">Tung.Jennifer@epa.gov</a>, (415) 972-3698</b> <b>EPA Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA) Meredith Lightbody, <a href="mailto:Lightbody.Meredith@epa.gov">Lightbody.Meredith@epa.gov</a>, (206) 553-6910</b>

## 2. Eligibility

### A. Eligible Applicants

Only these types of organizations may apply for a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes. Organization types are consistent with definitions at Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 104(k)(1) and [2 CFR § 200.1](#):

- State.<sup>5</sup>
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe other than in Alaska. (The exclusion of Tribes from Alaska, with the exception of the Metlakatla Indian Community as noted below, from Brownfields Grant eligibility is statutory at CERCLA § 104(k)(1). Intertribal Consortia, comprised of eligible Indian Tribes, are eligible for funding in accordance with EPA's policy for funding intertribal consortia published in the *Federal Register* on November 4, 2002, at 67 Fed. Reg. 67181. This policy also may be obtained from your Regional Brownfields Contact listed in [Section 1.E.](#))
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation and Alaska Native Village Corporation as those terms are defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 and following) and the Metlakatla Indian Community. For more information, please refer to the FY26 [FAQs](#).

Note, individuals, for-profit organizations, and nonprofit organizations that are **not** tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) are ineligible to receive Brownfields Assessment Grants.

## B. Threshold Criteria

Applications must meet the following threshold criteria to be considered eligible to receive a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes. Threshold criteria are pass/fail and are based on certain requests for information identified below. The information you submit will be used by EPA solely to make eligibility determinations for Brownfield Grants and is not legally binding for other purposes, including federal, State, or Tribal enforcement actions. Only those applications that pass all the threshold criteria will be evaluated against the review criteria in [Section 6.B.](#) of this announcement.

EPA will only accept one application per eligible State agency and one application per Tribal Nation. If EPA receives more than one application per State (regardless of if the applications are submitted by different eligible State agencies), EPA will only select the highest-ranking application that qualifies for selection.

Entities that are applying for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes may not apply for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant, an FY26 Assessment Coalition Grant (or be a non-lead coalition member), or an FY26 Multipurpose Grant.

If a Tribe's reservation is included in an application submitted by an intertribal consortium, that Tribal Nation may not also submit an application for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant or an FY26 Assessment Coalition Grant.

Applicants may not submit multiple applications (i.e., submit applications for different projects) under this funding opportunity. EPA considers departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the same State or Tribal governments to be the same applicant if they are directly supervised or controlled by the same elected/appointed executive (even if they have different unique entity identifier numbers). These eligibility determinations are made on a case-by-case basis since State and Tribal laws vary.

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<sup>5</sup> As defined in CERCLA § 101(27), the definition of State for purposes of the Brownfields Program "include[s] the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction."

Applicants that exceed the number and type of applications allowable will be contacted, prior to review of any of the applications by EPA, to determine which application(s) the applicant will withdraw from the competition.

If an application is submitted that includes any ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding.

EPA staff will respond to questions regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about this announcement. For purposes of the threshold eligibility review, an EPA Brownfields Program representative, if necessary, may seek clarification of applicant information that is included in the application and/or consider information from other sources, including EPA files. Such communications shall not be used to correct application deficiencies or material omissions, materially alter the application or project proposed, or discuss changes to the applicant's responses to any review or selection criteria.

To maintain the integrity of the competition process, EPA staff cannot meet with individual applicants to discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft applications, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to narrative criteria. EPA's limitations on staff involvement with grant applicants are described in [EPA's Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements](#).

Applications must substantially comply with the submission instructions and requirements set forth in [Section 4](#) of this announcement or they will be rejected.

Responses to each item below are required and must be included as an attachment to the Narrative that is included in the application submitted to EPA. See [Section 4.A.](#) for a complete list of required documents that must be submitted.

**(1) Applicant Eligibility**

- a. From the list of eligible entities in [Section 2.A. Eligible Applicants](#), **indicate** your applicant type and **provide** information that demonstrates how you are an eligible entity for an Assessment Grant.
  - For entities that are States, Tribes, or eligible Tribal entities, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.
  - For Intertribal consortia, attach documentation that meets the requirements in [40 CFR § 35.504\(a\) and \(c\)](#). All members of the Intertribal consortium must authorize the submission of an application.

**(2) Community Involvement**

**Provide** information that demonstrates how you intend to inform and involve the community and other stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and other brownfield assessment activities described in your application.



### (3) Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

**Indicate** if the applicant has an open<sup>6</sup> EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes.

Current EPA Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes recipients must demonstrate that payment has been received from EPA (also known as “drawn down”), and drawn down funds have been disbursed for at least 60.00% of the funding for the Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes cooperative agreement they have with EPA by **October 1, 2025**, in order to apply for Assessment Grant funding under this funding opportunity.

To demonstrate this, applicants must **attach** a copy of a financial record displaying the amount of cooperative agreement funds drawn down and corresponding dates (e.g., a report from the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) or general ledger entries documenting receipts for funds drawn down from ASAP or the required State financial system). If necessary, applicants may contact the assigned EPA Project Officer for the cooperative agreement(s) or Elyse Salinas ([brownfields@epa.gov](mailto:brownfields@epa.gov)) to obtain draw down information from EPA’s grant financial database (Compass Data Warehouse). Disbursements of drawn down funds must comply with requirements in [EPA’s General Terms and Conditions](#) for timely disbursement of EPA funds (i.e., recipients other than States must substantially disburse all of the funds within 5 business days of draw down).

### (4) Target Areas and Priority Sites

Applicants must propose at least three target areas and at least five priority sites, including at least one priority site in each target area, in the Narrative. **Provide** a response to [Section 4.B.\(5\)](#) in the Application Information Sheet to address this threshold criterion. On the Application Information Sheet, **list** each target area and the address of each priority site.

Note, if the application is selected for funding, recipients must assess a minimum of 10 sites; therefore, additional sites may be selected throughout the period of performance.

### (5) Contractors and Named Subrecipients

Applicants using contractors and/or subrecipients should review [Section 4.D.](#) to ensure they comply with all applicable competitive procurement and/or subaward requirements.

- **Contractors.**

All applicants must **disclose** whether they have already selected a contractor that will be compensated with EPA funds made available under this NOFO and the procurement procedures that were followed to hire the contractor(s). If a contractor(s) has been selected prior to submitting the application to EPA (including when a contractor(s) has been selected under a “dual procurement process” for both grant proposal writing and grant

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<sup>6</sup> For the purposes of this requirement, the term “open” refers to a grant period of performance that has not ended.

implementation services), applicants (other than State, territory,<sup>7</sup> Tribal, or eligible Tribal entity applicants)<sup>8</sup> must **describe**:

- information on **where and when** the Request for Proposals/Request for Qualifications was posted;
- the length of time the RFP/RFQ was advertised;
- the number of firms solicited and the number of offers received and considered; and
- the name(s) of the firm(s) the applicant entered into contract(s) with.

**Provide** a copy of (or link to) the solicitation document(s) and the signed executed contract(s).

Alternatively, **state** 'n/a' or 'not applicable' if a contractor has not been procured at the time of application submission.

- **Named Subrecipients.**

All applicants, **describe** how the named subrecipient is eligible for a subaward (e.g., is a nonprofit organization or unit of government). Alternatively, **state** 'n/a' or 'not applicable' if a subrecipient is not named at the time of application submission.

**Failure to provide the requested information will result in rejection of the application.** EPA staff may contact the applicant to clarify issues or obtain additional information before making a final eligibility determination. If EPA determines that the process you completed to select a contractor was not compliant with the federal regulations in [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 1500](#) and [40 CFR Part 33](#), and your application is selected for funding, you may need to prepare and issue a new RFP/RFQ that is compliant with federal procurement regulations. Additionally, EPA may review the new RFP/RFQ and selection process to ensure compliance with fair and open competition requirements. Please see [Section 4.D.](#) and Section D. in the FY26 [FAQs](#) for additional guidance.

Please see [Section 6](#) for additional information on threshold review.

## **C. Cost Sharing**

Consistent with CERCLA § 104(k)(7), cost sharing and matching funds are not required under this competition. As provided in [2 CFR § 200.1](#), voluntary committed cost sharing is when an applicant voluntarily proposes to legally commit to provide costs or contributions to support the project when a cost share is not required. **Voluntary cost share will not be accepted under this competition.**

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<sup>7</sup> As defined in CERCLA § 101(27), the definition of State for purposes of the Brownfields Program "include[s] the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction."

<sup>8</sup> Consistent with [2 CFR § 200.317](#), State and Tribal applicants (including eligible Tribal entities) must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements with non-federal funds. If such policies and procedures do not exist, then the federal procurement standards at [2 CFR §§ 200.318 through 200.327](#) apply and must be followed.

### 3. Program Description

#### A. Purpose, Priorities, and Activities

##### (1) Purpose

EPA's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower States, Tribal Nations, communities, and nonprofit organizations to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites.

A **brownfield site is defined** in CERCLA § 101(39) as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, contaminant, controlled substance, petroleum, or petroleum product, or is mine-scarred land.<sup>9</sup>

A critical part of EPA's Brownfields Program is to ensure that residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and environmental contamination have an opportunity to benefit from brownfields redevelopment. EPA's Brownfields Program is committed to helping communities revitalize brownfield properties, mitigate potential health risks, and restore economic vitality.

As described in [Section 6](#) of this announcement, applications will be evaluated based on the extent to which the applicant demonstrates: a vision for the reuse and redevelopment of brownfield sites and a strategy for leveraging resources to help accomplish the vision; the environmental, social, health, and economic needs and benefits of the target areas; strong community engagement; reasonable costs, eligible tasks, and appropriate use of grant funding; the capacity for managing and successfully implementing the cooperative agreement; and other factors.

##### (2) Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

Assessment Grant funds can be used for the direct costs associated with the inventory, site prioritization, community involvement, site reuse planning, assessment, and cleanup planning for brownfield sites. For examples of grant project accomplishments across the country, please see the EPA [Brownfield Grant Recipients Success Stories](#).

##### *Conducting Brownfields Planning & Developing Site Reuse Plans*

Successful brownfields reuse and redevelopment often depend on early consideration of the range of potential future uses for each brownfield site. Local community priorities, market conditions, infrastructure availability, environmental contamination, public health issues, and local ordinances shape brownfield site reuse opportunities. Having a site reuse plan grounded in these local conditions will directly influence how that site is characterized, assessed, and cleaned up.

Where multiple sites are connected through location, infrastructure, economic, social, and environmental conditions, EPA encourages communities to take an area-wide approach to planning for the assessment, cleanup, and reuse of these brownfield sites. This focus on multiple brownfield sites will result in more coordinated strategies for cleanup and area revitalization versus a site-by-site focus. For more information on site reuse plans and examples of eligible planning activities, please refer to the FY26 [FAQs](#) and [Planning Program Fact Sheets](#).

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<sup>9</sup> The *Understanding Brownfields Fact Sheet Series* is available at [www.epa.gov/brownfields/understanding-brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/understanding-brownfields).

### Participant Support Costs

Participant support costs, as defined in [2 CFR § 200.1](#), are allowable under Assessment Grants. Examples of potentially allowable participant support costs include stipends for attendees at community meetings, attendee travel to community meetings, or childcare expenses to encourage attendance at community meetings. Please refer to the FY26 [FAQs](#) for additional details on the use of participant support costs.

A community liaison can serve as a key resource to help ensure the community members' goals and interests are reflected in the planned reuse of individual brownfield sites as well as the revitalization of the areas in which they live, work, play, learn, and pray. In addition to the eligible uses of participant support costs described above, recipients may use a portion of the Assessment Grant for eligible participant support costs associated with a community liaison(s) who is not an employee of the grant recipient. This may include reasonable stipends to compensate an individual community member's time and travel costs for participating in project-related meetings (e.g., meetings with the community, meetings held by a brownfields advisory board, etc.) and time associated with other specific tasks that are directly tied to related community engagement efforts. Note that stipends may only be paid for actual time spent working on tasks associated with the project and must not duplicate support provided through other Federal, State, Tribal, or local programs.

In their project descriptions, applicants should describe the process they will follow for determining the amounts of allowable stipends, procedures for accounting for participant support cost payments (including receipts), and procedures for documenting that the costs are allowable and do not duplicate other support for the individual(s). Additional information on participant support costs is available in [EPA's Guidance on Participant Support Costs](#).

In addition to direct costs associated with the inventory, site prioritization, community involvement, site reuse planning, assessment, and cleanup planning for brownfield sites, Assessment Grant funds may be used for:

1. Direct costs associated with programmatic management of the grant, such as required performance reporting and environmental oversight.

All costs charged to Assessment Grants must be consistent with the requirements at [2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E](#).

2. A local government (as defined in [2 CFR § 200.1](#), *Local Government*, and summarized in [Section 2.A](#) of these guidelines and the [Health Monitoring Fact Sheet](#)) may use up to 10% of its grant funds for the following activities:
  - a. health monitoring of populations exposed to hazardous substances from a brownfield site; and
  - b. monitoring and enforcement of any institutional control used to prevent human exposure to any hazardous substance from a brownfield site.
3. A portion of the Brownfields Grant may be used to purchase environmental insurance. (See the FY26 [FAQs](#) for additional information on purchasing environmental insurance.)

### **(3) Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds**

Grant funds cannot be used for the payment of:

1. Direct costs for proposal preparation;
2. a penalty or fine;
3. a federal cost share requirement consistent with [2 CFR § 200.306\(b\)\(5\)](#) (i.e., a cost share required by other federal funds unless there is authority in another Federal statute to use Federal funds for cost share);
4. administrative costs, including all indirect costs and direct costs for grant administration, in excess of five (5) percent of the total amount of EPA grant funding, with the exception of financial and performance reporting costs (which are considered allowable programmatic costs and not subject to the 5% limitation);
5. a response cost at a brownfield site for which the recipient of the grant or a subaward is potentially liable under CERCLA § 107;
6. a cost of compliance with any federal law, excluding the cost of compliance with laws applicable to the cleanup; or
7. unallowable costs (e.g., lobbying) under [2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E](#).

See the FY26 [FAQs](#) for additional information on ineligible grant activities and unallowable costs.

### **(4) Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes**

EPA requires that applicants adequately describe environmental outputs (performance measures) and outcomes to be achieved under assistance agreements.<sup>10</sup> Applicants must include specific statements describing the environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined outputs and, to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes that will demonstrate how the project will contribute to EPA's goals and objectives described below in [Section 3.B](#).

Applicants are required to describe how funding will help EPA achieve environmental outputs and outcomes in their responses to the narrative criteria in [Section 4.C](#). Outputs and outcomes specific to each project will be identified as deliverables in the negotiated workplan if the application is selected for award. Recipients will be expected to report progress toward the attainment of expected project outputs and outcomes during the project performance period. Outputs and outcomes are defined as follows:

#### **1. Outputs**

The term “outputs” refers to an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product(s) related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the project period. The expected outputs for the grants awarded under these guidelines may include but

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<sup>10</sup> EPA Order 5700.7, *EPA's Policy for Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements* is available at [www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements](http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements).

are not limited to the number of brownfield sites identified in inventories, development of an area-wide plan, number of Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, number of community meetings held, and number of Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) completed.

## 2. Outcomes

The term “outcomes” refers to the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out the activities under the grant. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic; must be qualitative or quantitative, and may not necessarily be achievable during the project period. Expected outcomes of Brownfield Grants include the number of jobs created and funding leveraged through the economic reuse of sites; the number of acres made ready for reuse; acres of greenspace created for communities; and the minimized exposure to hazardous substances and petroleum contamination.

### (5) **Leveraging**

Leveraging is generally when an applicant commits to contributing additional funds or resources, either from its own assets or from third-party sources, such as private organizations or other federal grants, to support or complement the project they are seeking to fund. This contribution goes above and beyond the financial support provided by the EPA grant funds awarded and is intended to amplify the project’s impact. Leveraging demonstrates the applicant’s ability to secure and utilize supplementary resources to achieve greater outcomes. These resources are different from legally binding voluntary committed cost sharing as defined in [2 CFR § 200.1](#). Leveraged resources may materialize during the grant period of performance or after the grant has ended. Any leveraged funds/resources and their source must be identified in the Narrative. However, the leveraged funds/resources should not be included in the budget. Costs paid with leveraged funds/resources do not need to be eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement as would be the case for voluntary committed cost sharing, which is not allowed under this funding opportunity.

- **Leveraging that will materialize during the grant:** Leveraging that typically materializes during a Brownfields Grant Period of performance includes resources that are needed to support or complement the grant.<sup>11</sup> Examples include additional public or private funds or in-kind resources for assessment, remediation, and/or subsequent reuse of the site. If applicants describe leveraged funds/resources, EPA expects applicants to make the effort to secure the leveraged resources described in their Narrative. If the proposed leveraging does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and/or take other appropriate action as authorized by CERCLA § 104(k)(8)(C) and [2 CFR Parts 200](#) and [1500](#). The grant workplan must include a statement indicating that the applicant is expected to produce the proposed leveraging consistent with the terms of the announcement and the applicant's Narrative.
- **Leveraging that will materialize after the Brownfields Grant has ended:** Examples of leveraging that typically materialize after the Brownfields Grant has ended include resources for remediation, infrastructure updates, and reuse.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> If an applicant proposes to contribute leveraged resources to support or complement the grant, EPA will evaluate responses to the *3.a. Project Implementation* criterion.

<sup>12</sup> EPA will evaluate an applicant’s responses to the *1.f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse* and *1.g. Use of Existing Infrastructure* criteria.

## B. Program Goals and Objectives

The activities to be funded under this funding announcement support Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American and Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership of [EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" initiative](#).

The goal of the Brownfields Program is to provide grants to communities, states, Tribes, and others to assess and clean up contaminated properties with the aim of facilitating their sustainable reuse.

## C. Statutory Authority

CERCLA was amended by the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act in 2002 to include Section 104(k), which provides federal financial assistance authorities for brownfields revitalization, including grants for assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan funds. The Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development (BUILD) Act (Public Law 115-141) enacted in 2018 reauthorized EPA's Brownfields Program and made additional amendments to CERCLA that affect EPA's brownfield grant authorities, and ownership and liability provisions. (Note: References to CERCLA in this funding opportunity refer to CERCLA as amended by the 2002 Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act and the 2018 BUILD Act.)

The statutory authority for assistance agreements expected to be awarded by EPA under this announcement is CERCLA § 104(k)(2). This program is being funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58).

## D. Funding Type

It is anticipated that cooperative agreements will be funded under this funding opportunity. Cooperative agreements provide for substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicant(s) in the performance of the work supported. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial federal involvement for these projects may include, but is not limited to:

- Close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant.
- Collaboration during performance of the scope of work, including participation in project activities, to the extent permissible under EPA policies. Examples of collaboration include:
  - Consultation between EPA staff and the recipients on effective methods of carrying out the scope of work provided the recipient makes the final decision on how to perform authorized activities.
  - Advice from EPA staff on how to access publicly available information on EPA or other federal agency websites.
  - With the consent of the recipient, EPA staff may provide technical advice to recipient contractors or subrecipients provided the recipient approves any expenditures of funds necessary to follow advice from EPA staff. (The recipient remains accountable for performing contract and subaward management as specified in [2 CFR §§ 200.317, 200.318, and 200.332](#), as well as the terms of the EPA cooperative agreement.)
  - EPA staff participation in meetings, webinars, and similar events upon the request of the recipient or in connection with a co-sponsorship agreement.



- Reviewing and approving Quality Assurance Project Plans and related documents or verifying that appropriate Quality Assurance requirements have been met where quality assurance activities are being conducted pursuant to an EPA-approved Quality Assurance Management Plan.
- In accordance with [2 CFR § 200.325](#), review of proposed procurements, as well as the substantive terms of proposed contracts or subawards as appropriate. This may include reviewing requests for proposals, invitations for bids, scopes of work, and/or plans and specifications for contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold prior to advertising for bids.
- Approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA does not have the authority to and will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient).
- Review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).
- Reviewing and approving that the Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), or equivalent State Brownfields program document, meets the Brownfields Program's requirements for an ABCA.
- Verifying sites meet applicable site eligibility criteria and ensuring that sites are consistent with the selection criteria outlined in the workplan.
- Participation in periodic telephone conference calls to share ideas, project successes and challenges, etc., with EPA.

## 4. Application Contents and Format

### A. Application Forms (Submission Checklist)

The following forms and documents are required under this announcement:

#### ***Mandatory Documents:***

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report [Guidance on how to complete this form is available at [www.epa.gov/grants/tips-completing-epa-form-4700-4](http://www.epa.gov/grants/tips-completing-epa-form-4700-4).]
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form: use this to submit the following as one file, if possible
  - **Application Information Sheet** (3-page limit, single-spaced)
  - **Application Information Sheet Attachment:** Letter from the State or Tribal environmental authority (see [Section 4.B.\(9\).](#))
  - **Narrative**, which includes responses to the narrative criteria (12-page limit, single-spaced)
  - **Threshold Criteria Responses** (as an attachment(s)):
    - A statement of applicant eligibility if a State, Tribe, Intertribal Consortium, or eligible Tribal entity (see [Section 2.B.\(1\).](#))
    - Description of community involvement (see [Section 2.B.\(2\).](#))
    - Documentation of the available balance on the open Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes; or an affirmative statement that the applicant does not have an open Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes (see [Section 2.B.\(3\).](#))
    - A statement on the number of target areas and priority sites (see [Section 2.B.\(4\).](#) and [Section 4.B.\(5\).](#))



- Discussion on contractors and named subrecipients as applicable; or an affirmative statement that a contractor has not been procured and a subrecipient has not been named (see [Section 2.B.\(5\).](#))
- A copy of (or link to) the solicitation documents and the signed executed contract as applicable (see [Section 2.B.\(5\).](#))

***Optional Documents:***

6. Grants.gov Lobbying Form – To be submitted by applicants requesting **more than** \$100,000 of EPA grant funding.
7. Negotiated/Proposed Indirect Cost Rate Agreement – To be submitted using the Project Narrative Attachment Form by applicants proposing to charge indirect costs to the EPA grant. Please note that applicants may budget for indirect costs pending approval of their Indirect Cost Rate Agreement by the cognizant Federal agency or an exception granted by EPA under section 6.3 or 6.4 of [EPA’s Indirect Cost Policy for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements](#). However, recipients may not draw down indirect costs until their rate is approved or EPA grants an exception.

The application must stand on its own merits based on the responses to the relevant narrative criteria in [Section 4.C.](#)

All application materials must be in English. The Application Information Sheet and the Narrative must be typed, single-spaced, on letter-sized (8.5 x 11-inch) paper, and should **use standard Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri fonts with a 12-point font size**. The Application Submission Checklist above outlines the documents to include in the application. Extraneous materials, including photos, graphics, and attachments not listed, will not be considered.

## **B. Application Information Sheet**

The Application Information Sheet should address the information below and shall not exceed three single-spaced pages. Do not include a summary or overview of your narrative/project. Any pages submitted over the page limit or information beyond what is requested below will not be considered and may be redacted. EPA does not consider information in the Application Information Sheet to be responses to the narrative criteria. Provide the Application Information Sheet on the applicant’s official letterhead. You will not be penalized if you provide this information to EPA in a different format.

- (1) Applicant Identification Provide the name and full address of the entity applying for funds. This is the agency or organization that will receive the grant and be accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.
- (2) Website URL Provide the website URL of your organization. If selected for funding, EPA will include the link to your website on the [Brownfields Grant Factsheet Tool](#).
- (3) Funding Requested
  - a. Assessment Grant Type Indicate “Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes.”
  - b. Federal Funds Requested  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Include the amount being requested from EPA; must not exceed \$2,000,000.)

(4) Location Provide the a) city, b) county, and c) State or reservation, Tribally owned lands, Tribal fee lands, etc., of the community(ies) that you propose to serve.

(5) Target Area and Priority Site Information

- List the target areas and the priority sites discussed in the Narrative (at least three target areas and at least five priority sites, with at least one priority site in each target area).
- Provide the addresses of the priority sites proposed in the Narrative.
- (Optional) As a separate one-page attachment, you may include a map to visually depict the target areas and/or priority sites. Do not include any additional information or data on the map. Maps will not be evaluated and will not count against the 3-page limit. Applicants that do not include a map will not be penalized.

(6) Contacts

- a. Project Director Provide the name, phone number, email address, and mailing address of the Project Director assigned to this proposed project. This person should be the main point of contact for the project and should be the person responsible for the project's day-to-day operations. The Project Director may be contacted if other information is needed.
- b. Chief Executive/Highest-Ranking Elected Official Provide the name, phone number, email address, and mailing address of the applicant's Chief Executive or highest-ranking elected official. For example, if your organization is a municipal form of government, provide this information for the Mayor or County Commissioner. Otherwise, provide this information for your organization's Executive Director or President. These individuals may be contacted if other information is needed.

(7) Population

- If you are a State or territory organization that covers a geographic area with more than one city/town, provide the population of the city(ies)/town(s) in which each priority site/target area is located.
- If you are a Tribe, provide the number of Tribal/non-tribal members affected.

Population data can be found at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

(8) Other Factors Applicants claiming one or more of the other factors below must provide a summary in the Narrative on the applicable other factor(s). Please identify which of the below items apply to your community/proposed project by noting the corresponding Narrative page number. **If none of the Other Factors apply to your community/proposed project, please provide a statement to that effect.** EPA may verify this information prior to selection.

Sample Format for Providing Information on the Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less.	
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	
The priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.	
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in <a href="#">Section 3.A.(2)</a> , for priority sites within the target areas.	
The target area(s) is impacted by a coal-fired power plant that has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.	

(9) Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority (not included in the three-page limit)

For an applicant other than a State or Tribal environmental authority, attach a current letter from the appropriate State or Tribal environmental authority (or equivalent State or Tribal regulatory oversight authority) acknowledging that the applicant plans to conduct assessment activities and is planning to apply for FY26 federal Brownfields Grant funds. Letters regarding applications from prior years will not be accepted.

If you are applying for multiple types of grants, you only need to receive one letter from your State or Tribal environmental authority acknowledging the relevant grant activities. However, you must provide a copy of this letter, as an attachment, with each of your applications. Please note that general correspondence and documents evidencing State involvement with the project (i.e., State enforcement orders or State notice letters) will not be accepted. Coordinate early with your State or Tribal environmental authority in order to allow adequate time for you to obtain the acknowledgment letter and include it in your application.

(10) Releasing Copies of Applications

In concert with EPA's commitment to conducting business in an open and transparent manner, copies of applications submitted under this funding opportunity may be made publicly available on [EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization](#) website or other public website for approximately 3 months after the selected applications are announced. EPA recommends that applications not include confidential business information (CBI) or trade secrets. Applicants must not include information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy (e.g., an individual's salary, personal email addresses, etc.).

**All CBI claims must be asserted at the time the application is submitted to EPA. Applicants must clearly indicate CBI claims by including them on the application or attaching a cover sheet,**

stamped or typed legend, or another appropriate notice. CBI claims should employ language such as “trade secret,” “proprietary,” or “confidential” as per [40 CFR § 2.203\(b\)](#). Indicate which portion(s) of the application you claim has CBI. If the application does not include CBI, state ‘n/a’ or ‘not applicable.’

Confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified and may be submitted separately to facilitate identification and handling by EPA. If confidential treatment is only requested until a certain date or until the occurrence of a certain event, the notice should identify the date or event. Information covered by a CBI claim will be treated in accordance with, and disclosed only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in [40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B](#). If no CBI accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the submitter. See [40 CFR § 2.203\(a\)\(2\)](#), 41 Fed. Reg. 36,907.

## C. Narrative Criteria

The Narrative (including citations) shall not exceed 12 single-spaced pages. Pages submitted over the page limit will not be evaluated.

The Narrative must provide clear, concise, and factual responses to all narrative criteria and sub-criteria below, with sufficient detail to allow for an evaluation of the application’s merits. **A response to a criterion/sub-criterion that is included in a different section of the Narrative may not be scored as favorably.** If a criterion does not apply, clearly state this. **Any criterion left unanswered may result in zero points given for that criterion.** Responses should include the criteria number and title but need not restate the entire text of the criteria.

If selected for funding, the information in your Narrative will be incorporated into the workplan, subject to any adjustments to clarify issues with carrying out the project’s scope of work made during the post-selection negotiation process. The workplan is a legally binding document. Therefore, applicants should carefully consider and accurately respond to the criteria, including the identification of the geographic boundary(ies) (which will become the boundary(ies) in which work can be performed), target areas, criteria used to select additional sites, use of grant funds, and leveraged resources committed to the project that will materialize during the period of performance. EPA may not permit material changes to the workplan.

This section includes sample format tables that applicants may use to present all or a portion of their response. Applicants that do not use the sample format tables will not be penalized.

## (1) PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

### Target Areas and Brownfields

- a. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas  
Identify the geographic boundary(ies)<sup>13</sup> for the proposed grant activities and discuss the brownfield challenges and their impacts. Briefly explain how this grant may help address these challenges and impacts.

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<sup>13</sup> The geographic boundary may be the jurisdiction of a unit of government.

Within the geographic boundary(ies), identify and describe at least three target areas for the focused grant activities, such as a neighborhood, district, corridor, or census tract.

- ***State/Puerto Rico applicants only (i.e., does not apply to Tribes or eligible Tribal entities)*** – Indicate which target areas are in metropolitan statistical areas versus non-metropolitan statistical areas. *(To determine if the target is in a metropolitan statistical area or non-metropolitan statistical area for the purposes of this criterion, go to [www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/geotools.html](http://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/geotools.html).)*

*State/territory applicants from American Samoa, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Guam, Massachusetts, New Jersey, the Northern Mariana Islands, Rhode Island, and the U.S. Virgin Islands:* Include a statement that the State/territory only has a metropolitan statistical area(s) or does not have a metropolitan statistical area. Indicate which target areas have higher versus lower population densities. *(See FY26 [FAQ J.16](#) for additional information.)*

b. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites

Provide an overview of the brownfield sites in the target areas with information such as the number of sites, size, and environmental concerns. Highlight at least five priority sites, including at least one site in each target area, and discuss why they are prioritized for assessment and reuse. Include information such as past and current land uses, current site conditions (including structures), and potentially related environmental issues.

c. Identifying Additional Sites

Describe the process you will use to identify additional sites for eligible activities within the geographic boundary(ies) identified in 1.a. *Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas* if grant funds remain after addressing the target areas/priority sites. Identify the criteria for prioritizing additional sites, including criteria that consider new communities that have not previously benefited from Brownfields Grant Resources.

- ***State and Puerto Rico applicants only (i.e., does not apply to Tribes, or eligible Tribal entities)*** – Additionally, describe how the prioritization criteria consider whether a site is located in metropolitan and non-metropolitan statistical areas.

*State applicants from Delaware, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and territory applicants (other than Puerto Rico):* Describe how the prioritization criteria consider whether a site is located in areas with higher and lower population densities.

### **Revitalization of the Target Areas**

d. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

Describe the reuse strategy, or projected reuse, for the priority sites and discuss how it aligns with and advances the local government's land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities.

e. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

Describe how the proposed project or revitalization plans may stimulate economic development in the target areas post-cleanup of the priority sites, and/or may facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes in the target areas.

Describe how the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.<sup>14</sup>

If applicable, describe how the reuse of the priority sites will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; or will incorporate energy efficiency measures. *(For more information on energy efficiency measures, please refer to the FY26 [FAQs](#) and [Renewable Energy or Energy-Efficient Approaches in Brownfields Redevelopment Fact Sheet](#).)*

**Strategy for Leveraging Resources**

f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

Describe your eligibility for and likelihood to obtain funding from other resources (e.g., any other EPA Brownfields resources or public or private resources) and how the grant will stimulate the availability of additional funds to support the completion of the environmental site assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse strategy at the priority sites. *(Do not duplicate sources discussed in 3.a.-3.d under Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs.)*

g. Use of Existing Infrastructure

Describe how this grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure (e.g., utilities, roads, buildings, etc.) at the priority sites and/or within the target areas.

If additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are key to the reuse of the priority sites, describe these needs/upgrades and funding resources that will be sought to implement that work.

**(2) COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**Community Need**

Applicants are encouraged to use geospatial mapping tools to better understand the communities that may be adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental or human health harms and risks. Applicants can include data in the Narrative to help characterize and describe the target areas and its community(ies). Data from other sources (e.g., studies, census, and third-party reports) can also be included to give a more complete picture of the impacted communities and populations.

a. The Community's Need for Funding

Describe how this grant will meet the needs of the communities within the geographic boundary(ies) that have an inability to draw on other sources of funding to carry out

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<sup>14</sup> For more information on the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters, please refer to the FY26 [FAQs](#).

environmental assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse in the target areas **because of the small population and/or low-income of the community.**

b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

Identify sensitive populations<sup>15</sup> in the target areas and describe their health or welfare issues.<sup>16</sup> Discuss how this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address these issues and/or help identify and reduce related threats.

c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions

Describe how this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, threats to populations in the target areas with a greater-than-normal<sup>17</sup> incidence of diseases or conditions (including cancer, asthma, or birth defects) that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum.

d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations

Describe how this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, related threats to populations in the target areas that are economically impoverished and/or disproportionately share the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and/or commercial operations or policies.

### **Community Engagement**

*To conserve space, you may present information for 2.e. – 2.f. in the same response and/or use the suggested table format below.*

e. Project Involvement

Identify the local organizations/entities/groups that will assist with this project.

Project involvement may be provided by a broad variety of entities including, but not limited to, community-based organizations (e.g., neighborhood groups, citizen groups, business organizations, etc.), community liaisons representing residents directly affected by the project work, property owners, lenders, developers, cities/towns within a regional organization's target areas, entities that are a part of a formal partnership agreement (e.g., through an MOA), and the general public.

*(See [Section 3.A.\(2\)](#) for additional information on community liaisons, which may be supported by the grant through participant support costs.)*

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<sup>15</sup> Sensitive populations are those populations that are likely to experience elevated health risks from pollution, including populations based on age (young children and the elderly), pregnant women, and serious disease burden (such as, high rates of cancer, asthma, chronic respiratory disease, coronary heart disease, low birth weights, etc.), as well as low-income populations. See CERCLA § 104(k)(6)(C)(x). The Brownfields Program will implement this provision in accordance with all applicable law.

<sup>16</sup> For more information on health and welfare issues, please refer to the FY26 [FAQs](#).

<sup>17</sup> For the purposes of this criterion, “greater-than-normal” refers to when the incidence of disease or an adverse health condition exceeds what is typically expected or considered average. Applicants should provide information or data to establish a baseline for what is considered average and demonstrate how the incidence of disease or adverse health condition(s) among the populations in the target areas is greater.

f. Project Roles

Describe each identified local organization/entity/group's role in the project, including how they will be meaningfully involved in decision-making for site selection, cleanup, and future reuse of the brownfield sites, including the priority sites.

**Sample Format for List of Organizations/Entities/Groups & Roles**

Name of organization/entity/group	Entity's mission	Point of contact (name & email)	Specific involvement in the project or assistance provided
<i>Add rows as needed</i>			

g. Incorporating Community Input

Discuss your plan to communicate project progress to the local community, including residents directly affected by the project work, and the involved organizations/entities/groups. Include the frequency and method(s) you will use (including an alternative to in-person engagement) and how you will meaningfully solicit, consider, and respond to community input.

**(3) TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS**

Cooperative agreements with successful applicants under this funding opportunity will be subject to the administrative cost limitation described at CERCLA § 104(k)(5)(E). Successful applicants may only use up to 5% of the total amount of EPA funds for their own administrative costs (direct costs for grant administration and indirect costs). For example, if EPA awards \$2,000,000 to an applicant, the 5% cap for administrative costs equals \$100,000. Costs must be classified as direct or indirect consistently and applicants may not classify the same cost in both categories. The limitation on administrative costs does not apply to otherwise allowable programmatic costs (including indirect costs) charged by procurement contractors. Note that EPA considers costs for performance and financial reporting to be allowable programmatic costs that are not subject to the 5% limitation.

For applications that include indirect costs in the budget and are selected for funding, an EPA Grants Specialist or Grants Management Officer may request a copy of the indirect cost rate agreement that was negotiated with the cognizant agency before the cooperative agreement is awarded.

Cooperative agreements with successful Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes applicants under this funding opportunity will require the recipient to assess a minimum of 10 sites throughout their geographic boundary(ies).

Do not include activities that are ineligible uses of EPA Assessment Grant funds (e.g., land acquisition; building demolition that is not necessary to assess contamination at the site; building construction, site preparation, or remediation).

Please refer to the FY26 [FAQs](#) for additional examples of eligible and ineligible uses of funds (including administrative costs). For questions not covered by the FY26 [FAQs](#), contact your Regional Brownfields Contact listed in [Section 1.E](#).



## Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

Provide a list and description of the tasks/activities required to implement the proposed project. You may respond to this criterion using the sample format for each task/activity.

### Sample Format for Tasks/Activities

<b>Task/Activity:</b>
a. Project Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ EPA-funded tasks/activities:</li><li>▪ Non-EPA grant resources needed to carry out tasks/activities, if applicable:</li></ul>
b. Anticipated Project Schedule:
c. Task/Activity Lead:
d. Outputs:

#### a. Project Implementation

- Discuss the proposed EPA-funded tasks/activities under this grant.

If you plan to issue a subaward(s), indicate what tasks/activities or services will be provided.

If you plan to include participant support costs in your project to pay for activities associated with a community liaison(s), describe the process you will follow for determining the allowable stipend(s) amounts, procedures for accounting for participant support cost payments (including receipts), and documenting that the costs are allowable. Do not duplicate other support provided through other Federal, State, Tribal, or local programs.

Typical eligible tasks/activities may include cooperative agreement oversight, procuring a Qualified Environmental Professional, inventory work, community engagement (including using participant support costs (see [Section 3.A.\(2\)](#) for details)), site selection, securing site access, Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, cleanup planning at a specific site (including developing an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)), and coordination with the local health agency on health monitoring activities. Planning tasks/activities<sup>18</sup> may include reuse planning, the development of an area-wide plan, conducting market feasibility studies, evaluating infrastructure needs, etc.

- If applicable, identify tasks/activities needed to support or complement the grant that will be contributed by sources other than the EPA grant, such as leveraged resources or funding contributed by your organization. (For example, the applicant does not charge the EPA grant for salary dollars and therefore contributes its own resources to carry out programmatic oversight activities or grant administration.) *(Do not duplicate sources listed in 1.f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse.)*

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<sup>18</sup> For more information on eligible planning activities, review the *Planning Program Fact Sheets* at [www.epa.gov/brownfields/information-eligible-planning-activities](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/information-eligible-planning-activities).

b. Anticipated Project Schedule

Discuss the anticipated schedule milestones and timeline for the EPA-funded activities outlined in *3.a. Project Implementation* during the 5-year period of performance.

EPA may reimburse successful applicants for eligible programmatic pre-award costs incurred up to 90 days prior to award. Applicants may include pre-award costs for eligible activities in their proposed project. Travel expenses associated with brownfields-related training, such as the National Brownfields Training Conference, are eligible expenses. The budget/project period start date must be before the date that any proposed pre-award costs are incurred. For more information on pre-award costs, please see the FY26 [FAQs](#).

c. Task/Activity Lead

Identify the lead entity(ies) overseeing each task/activity (i.e., the applicant, qualified environmental professional, or other identified entity). If not the applicant, explain why the lead entity(ies) is appropriate.

d. Outputs

Identify and quantify the anticipated outputs/deliverables for each task/activity.

Outputs may include, but are not limited to, quarterly reports, site inventories, Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessment reports, site cleanup plans, final Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) documents, an area-wide plan, or community meetings. (Refer to [Section 3.A.\(4\)](#) for an explanation of outputs.)

e. Cost Estimates

Describe how cost estimates for each task were developed per budget category, including direct and indirect administrative costs (if applicable). Present costs per unit where appropriate. (Note, the total amount of direct and indirect administrative costs cannot exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds.)

For information on best practices for preparing budgets for EPA grant applications, refer to the [Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance](#).

You may use the sample table format below to present how you plan to allocate grant funds for tasks/activities described in [Section 4.C.\(3\)](#) by budget category. Replace the task number heading in the sample table with the actual title of the task.

**Only include costs to be covered by EPA grant funds in this table.** Leveraged resources should not be included in the budget table.

Examples of costs per unit may include:

***Task 2, Phase I Environmental Site Assessments***

- *Personnel Costs*: 20 hours at an average rate of \$50/hr = \$1,000
- *Contractual Costs*: 5 Phase I site assessments at an average cost of \$3,500 = \$17,500

**Sample Format for Budget (do not change Budget Categories)**

Budget Categories		Project Tasks (\$)				Total
		(Task 1)	(Task 2)	(Task 3)	Administrative Costs	
Direct Costs	Personnel					
	Fringe Benefits					
	Travel <sup>1</sup>					
	Equipment <sup>2</sup>					
	Supplies					
	Contractual					
	Construction <sup>3</sup>					
	Other (include subawards, conference registration fees, and specific participant support costs such as stipends) (specify type) _____					
Total Direct Costs <sup>4</sup>						
Indirect Costs <sup>4</sup>						
<b>Total Budget</b> (Total Direct Costs + Indirect Costs)						
<sup>1</sup> Travel to brownfields-related training conferences is an acceptable use of these grant funds. <sup>2</sup> EPA defines equipment as items that cost \$10,000 or more with a useful life of more than one year unless the applicant has a lower threshold for equipment costs. Items costing less than \$10,000 (e.g., laptop computers) are considered supplies. Generally, equipment is not required for Brownfield Grants. <sup>3</sup> Costs must be placed on the Construction budget line when at least 50% of the estimated amount of the contract(s) will be for the remediation of contamination at the brownfield site. Construction costs do not typically apply to assessment activities. See the FY26 <a href="#">FAQs</a> for more information. <sup>4</sup> Administrative costs (direct and/or indirect) for the Assessment Grant applicant itself cannot exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds.						

**f. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results**

Discuss your plan and system to track, measure, and evaluate progress in achieving expected project outputs, overall results, and eventual outcomes. (*Definitions of outputs and outcomes are provided in [Section 3.A.\(4\).](#)*)

**(4) PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE**

**Provide responses for the organization that is applying for funding.**

## Programmatic Capability

*To conserve space, you may present information for 4.a. – 4.c. in the same response.*

- a. Organizational Capacity  
Discuss the applicant's organizational capacity to oversee grant tasks/activities and carry out and manage the grant's programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements.
- b. Organizational Structure  
Describe the organizational structure you will utilize to ensure the timely and successful expenditure of funds and completion of the grant's technical, administrative, and financial requirements.
- c. Description of Key Staff  
Briefly describe the key staff who will successfully administer the grant, including their roles, expertise, qualifications, and experience.
- d. Acquiring Additional Resources  
Describe your system(s) and/or procedure(s) to appropriately acquire additional expertise and resources (e.g., contractors or subrecipients) required to complete the project. *(Refer to Section IV of [EPA NOFO Clauses](#) regarding the difference between contractors and subrecipients.)*

## Past Performance and Accomplishments

If you have ever received an EPA Brownfields Multipurpose Grant, Assessment Grant, Revolving Loan Fund Grant, Cleanup (MARC) Grant, and/or 128(a) Grant, please respond to **item e.** below. (Do not include information on Targeted Brownfields Assessments, Area-Wide Planning Grants, Job Training Grants, and subawards from another Brownfields Grant recipient.)

If you have never received an EPA Brownfields MARC or 128(a) Grant but have received other federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements (including only receiving an Area-Wide Planning Grant or Job Training Grant), please respond to **item f.** below.

If you have never received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement, or if you have recently received a financial assistance agreement (including a Brownfields Grant) but have not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements, please indicate this in response to **item g.** below.

- e. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant  
Identify and provide information regarding each of your current and/or most recent EPA Brownfields Grants. Demonstrate how you successfully managed the grant(s) and performed all phases of work by providing information on the items listed below.
  - (1) Accomplishments  
Describe the accomplishments (including specific outputs and outcomes) achieved under the current/most recent grant(s) (no more than three), including at a minimum, the number of sites assessed and/or cleaned up. Discuss whether these outputs and

outcomes were accurately reflected in the Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) at the time of this application submission; if not, explain why.

(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements

Discuss your compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent grant(s) (no more than three), including your history of timely and acceptable quarterly performance, grant deliverables, and ongoing ACRES reporting. Include whether you have made and have reported progress towards achieving the expected results of the grant in a timely manner. If not, discuss what corrective measures you took and how the corrective measures were effective, documented, and communicated.

For all open EPA Brownfields Grants, indicate the grant period (start and end date), if funds remain, and the plan to expend the funds on eligible activities by the end of the *Period of performance* as defined in [2 CFR § 200.1](#).

For all closed EPA Brownfields Grants, indicate if there were funds remaining, the amount of remaining funds, and a brief explanation for why any remaining funds were not expended within the *Period of Performance*. Note that EPA will not penalize the applicant for closure of a Revolving Loan Fund cooperative agreement per the [FY23 RLF Policy Memo](#).

– OR –

f. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements

Identify and describe each of your current and/or most recent federally and non-federally funded financial assistance agreements (no more than three) *that are most similar in scope and relevance in terms of structure, community engagement, and/or deliverables to the proposed project*. Demonstrate how you successfully managed the agreement(s), and performed all phases of work by providing the following information.

(1) Purpose and Accomplishments

Describe the awarding agency/organization, funding amount, and purpose of your current/most recent assistance agreement(s).

Discuss the project accomplishments (including specific outputs, outcomes, and measures of success) achieved under the current/most recent assistance agreement(s).

(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements

Describe your compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent financial assistance agreement(s), including your history of timely and acceptable reporting, as required by the awarding agency/organization.

Include whether you have made and have reported progress towards achieving the expected results of the agreement in a timely manner. If not, discuss what corrective measures you took and how the corrective measures were effective, documented, and communicated.

– OR –

- g. Never Received Any Type of Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements  
Affirm that your organization has never received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement (grant or cooperative agreement). Or, affirm that your organization has recently received a financial assistance agreement, but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements. *(Applicants that indicate that they do not have a history of performing financial assistance agreements will receive a “neutral” 8-point score for this factor. However, failure to indicate anything in response to this sub-criterion may result in zero points.)*

## D. Applicants Using Contractors and/or Subrecipients

### Contractors

EPA does not require or encourage applicants to procure contractors (including consultants) before the EPA cooperative agreement is awarded, but applicants may choose to do so.

Applicants, other than State (which includes territories)<sup>19</sup> or Tribal applicants,<sup>20</sup> that have procured a contractor(s) where the amount of the contract will be more than the micro-purchase threshold in [2 CFR § 200.320\(a\)\(1\)](#) must demonstrate how the contractor (including consultants) was selected in compliance with the fair and open competition requirements in [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 1500](#). Additionally, **all** applicants (including State, territory, and Tribal), regardless of the amount of the contract, must conduct their procurements in accordance with the six good faith efforts discussed in [40 CFR Part 33 Subpart C](#) (EPA’s Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises regulations). EPA provides guidance on complying with the competition requirements in the [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#) and the [Brownfields Grants: Guidance on Competitively Procuring a Contractor](#). For example:

- EPA will not accept sole source justifications for procurement contracts for services such as environmental consulting, engineering, and remediation that are available in the commercial marketplace.
- Firms or individual consultants that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements as provided in [2 CFR § 200.319\(b\)](#).
- Consistent with [2 CFR § 200.320\(b\)\(2\)\(iii\)](#), when the value of a procurement transaction exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, price must be an evaluation factor in the review of proposals or quotes.

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<sup>19</sup> As defined in CERCLA § 101(27), the definition of State for purposes of the Brownfields Program “include[s] the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction.”

<sup>20</sup> Consistent with [2 CFR § 200.317](#), State and Tribal applicants (including eligible Tribal entities) must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements with non-federal funds. If such policies and procedures do not exist, then the federal procurement standards at [2 CFR §§ 200.318 through 200.327](#) apply and must be followed.

Note, regardless of whether the solicitation is issued as a Request for Proposals or a Request for Qualifications, price reasonableness for the grant implementation work must be a selection factor in the evaluation of proposals or quotes for Brownfields Assessment Grants. See the [Brownfields Grants: Guidance on Competitively Procuring a Contractor](#) for additional guidance.

Successful applicants that procure a contractor(s) after being advised by EPA of selection, but prior to award, must describe how they complied with the procurement procedures described above when submitting the final workplan for the award.

Recipients of EPA funding that select a contractor(s) after award must fully comply with the procurement standards at [2 CFR Part 200](#), [2 CFR Part 1500](#), and [40 CFR Part 33](#).

### **Subrecipients**

EPA does not require or encourage applicants to name a specific subrecipient(s) in the application for Brownfields Grant funding. However, if an applicant chooses to identify a specific subrecipient(s) to conduct work proposed in this application, the applicant must comply with the following requirements even if the entity is referred to as a “partner” in the application.

Successful applicants that do not name a specific subrecipient(s) in their application but identify a subrecipient(s) after being advised of selection, must also comply with the requirements described below.

All applicants, including states, territories, and Tribes, that name a specific subrecipient in this application must demonstrate that the subrecipient is eligible for a subaward in compliance with [Appendix A](#) of [EPA's Subaward Policy for EPA Assistance Agreement Recipients](#). This policy provides, among other things, that transactions between recipients and for-profit firms and individual consultants are procurement contracts rather than subawards when the transaction involves the acquisition of services from the firm or individual. For additional guidance, applicants should review [EPA's Subaward Policy Frequent Questions](#).

Refer to [EPA's Contracts and Subawards NOFO Clause](#) for additional guidance on these requirements which must be met for all contractors (except for micro-purchases as described above) and/or subrecipients specifically named in the application.

## **5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines**

### **A. Submission Dates and Times**

**January 28, 2026 11:59 pm ET**                      Application Submission Deadline

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept the last on-time submission.

## B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

### SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. SAM.gov will provide a UEI for your organization, which is required to apply for grants using Grants.gov. To register, go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and click Get Started. From the same page, you can also click on the [Entity Registration Checklist](#) for the information you will need to register. Make sure you are current with SAM.gov and UEI requirements before applying for the award.

SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. [Begin that process today.](#)

### Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Please visit [How to Register to Apply for Grants](#) for additional information.

## C. Submission Instructions

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. See Section 5.B. above for information on getting registered. The registration process for all the above items **may take a month or more to complete.**

Important tips:

- To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to Grants.gov and click the red “Apply” button at the top of the view grant opportunity page associated with this opportunity.
- See the Quick Start Guide for Applicants for instructions on how to submit.
- Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks.
- Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files.
- Your application must be submitted by an official representative of your organization who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal financial assistance.
- If you receive an error or the button is grayed out, it may be because you do not have the appropriate role to submit in your organization. Contact your organization’s EBiz point of contact or contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).
- See Grants.gov Errors for information on other Grants.gov errors.
- The UEI listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

## D. Technical Issues with Submission

If applicants experience technical issues during the submission of an application that they are unable to resolve, follow these procedures **before** the application deadline date:

- Contact Grants.gov Support Center before the application deadline date.
- Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
- Send an email with Funding Opportunity Number (FON): EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-25-06 in the subject line to [brownfields@epa.gov](mailto:brownfields@epa.gov) before the application deadline time and date and must include the following:



- Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
- Description of the issue
- The entire application package<sup>21</sup> in PDF format.

Without this information, EPA may not be able to consider applications submitted outside of Grants.gov. Any application submitted after the application deadline time and date deadline will be deemed ineligible and **not** be considered.

Please note that successful submission through Grants.gov or email does not necessarily mean your application is eligible for award.

EPA will make decisions concerning acceptance of each application submitted outside of Grants.gov on a case-by-case basis. EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to submit through Grants.gov due to Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with Internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit prior to the application submission deadline time and date because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of an application outside of Grants.gov.

## **E. Requirements to Submit Through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures**

Applicants must apply electronically through Grants.gov under this funding opportunity based on the Grants.gov instructions in this announcement. If your organization has no access to the Internet or access is very limited, you may request an exception for the remainder of this calendar year by following the procedures outlined at [www.epa.gov/grants/exceptions-grantsgov-submission-requirement](http://www.epa.gov/grants/exceptions-grantsgov-submission-requirement). Please note that your request must be received at least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods. Issues with submissions with respect to this opportunity only are addressed in Section D. *Technical Issues with Submission* above.

## **F. Intergovernmental Review**

Applicants may need to submit application information for [Intergovernmental Review](#). Some States have adopted Single Points of Contact (SPOC) for coordinating the review.

See the FY26 [FAQs](#) for more information.

This requirement does not apply to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes or Tribal organizations.

# **6. Application Review Information**

## **A. Responsiveness Review**

Applications must meet the eligibility requirements described in [Section 2](#) to be evaluated. Applicants not meeting these requirements will be deemed ineligible and will be notified within 15 calendar days of the determination.

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<sup>21</sup> Note, for the purposes of this competition, the “application package” includes the required federal forms available at Grants.gov, as well as responses to the threshold criteria, the Application Information Sheet, the Narrative, and associated attachments.

- Applications must adhere to the page limit requirements. Any pages over the limit(s) in [Section 4](#) will not be reviewed.
- Initial applications must be submitted *on or before* the application deadline through Grants.gov or through limited circumstances as expressed in [Section 5](#). EPA will not evaluate applications that are not submitted on time.
- *Technical difficulties applying:* Applicants having technical difficulties applying must contact the Grants.gov hotline at 1-800-518-4726 *and* then must email a PDF of the full application to the EPA contact listed in [Section 1](#). The submission must be received prior to the application deadline for consideration.

## B. Review Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they demonstrate that they have the capability to successfully perform the project as described in [Section 3](#) of this funding opportunity.

Only eligible entities whose applications meet the threshold criteria in [Section 2](#) of this announcement will be evaluated. **Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their application package submittal in the project narrative.** Each application will be rated using a point system. Applications will be evaluated based on a total of 155 possible points.

### **1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION**

#### **40 Points**

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

#### **Target Areas and Brownfields**

##### **1.a. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas (5 points)**

The extent to which the geographic boundary(ies) for the proposed grant activities is clearly identified. The extent to which the brownfield challenges are clearly discussed and the degree to which these challenges impact the areas in the geographic boundary(ies). The extent to which this grant may help address these challenges and impacts.

The extent to which the applicant clearly identifies and describes at least three target areas within the geographic boundary(ies) for the focused grant activities.

- ***Applications from a State entity/Puerto Rico (i.e., not from a Tribe or eligible Tribal entity)*** will be evaluated on the extent to which at least one target area is in a metropolitan statistical area and at least one target area is in a non-metropolitan statistical area. *(Note, a response will be evaluated less favorably if all of the target areas are in metropolitan statistical areas or if all of the target areas are in non-metropolitan statistical areas.)*

State entity/territory applications from American Samoa, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Guam, Massachusetts, New Jersey, the Northern Mariana Islands, Rhode Island, and the U.S. Virgin Islands will be evaluated on the extent to which at least one target area is in an area with a higher population density and at least one target area with a lower population density. *(Note,*

*a response may not earn full points if all of the target areas are in areas with higher population densities or if all of the target areas are in areas with lower population densities.)*

**1.b. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites (10 points)**

The extent to which the response provides a clear overview of the brownfield sites in the target areas. The degree to which at least five priority sites are highlighted and clearly described, including at least one site in each target area. The degree to which it is clear why the priority sites have been selected (for assessment and reuse). *(Note, a response that does not discuss at least five priority sites and at least one priority site in each target area will be evaluated less favorably.)*

**1.c. Identifying Additional Sites (5 points)**

The extent to which the process to identify additional sites for eligible activities within the geographic boundary(ies) is clearly described, and the degree to which the criteria for prioritizing additional sites are identified and consider new communities that have not previously benefited from Brownfields Grant Resources.

- Further, ***applications from a State entity or Puerto Rico (i.e., not from a Tribe, eligible Tribal entity, or territory)*** will also be evaluated on the extent to which the prioritization criteria consider whether a site is located in metropolitan and non-metropolitan statistical areas.

State applications from Delaware, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and applications from territories (other than Puerto Rico) will be evaluated on the extent to which the prioritization criteria consider whether a site is located in areas with higher and lower population densities.

**Revitalization of the Target Areas**

**1.d. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans (5 points)**

The extent to which a reuse strategy, or projected reuse, for the priority sites is clearly described, and the extent to which it clearly aligns with and advances the local government's land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities.

**1.e. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy (5 points)**

Given the type of community being served (e.g., urban, rural, Tribal, etc.), the degree to which the proposed project or revitalization plans may stimulate economic development in the target areas post-cleanup of the priority sites and/or may facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes in the target areas. The degree to which these outcomes clearly correlate with the applicant's reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s).

The extent to which the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.

When applicable, the extent to which the reuse of the priority sites will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy, or will incorporate energy efficiency measures.

**Strategy for Leveraging Resources**

1.f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse (5 points)

The extent to which the applicant is eligible for and likely to obtain funding from other resources (e.g., any other EPA Brownfields resources or public or private resources), and the extent to which the grant will stimulate the availability of additional funds to support the completion of the environmental site assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse strategy at the priority sites. *(Note, a response may not earn full points if the applicant duplicates sources that are listed in 3.a.-3.d under Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs.)*

1.g. Use of Existing Infrastructure (5 points)

The extent to which this grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure at the priority sites and/or within the target areas.

When additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are key to the reuse of the priority sites, the extent to which the applicant provides a clear description of these needs/upgrades and the extent to which the identified funding resources that will be sought to implement the work are relevant to the project.

**2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**35 Points**

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

**Community Need**

2.a. The Community's Need for Funding (5 points)

The extent to which this grant will meet the needs of the communities within the geographic boundary(ies) that have an inability to draw on other sources of funding to carry out environmental assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse in the target areas **because the community has a small population and/or is low-income**. *(Note, if the inability to draw on other sources of funding is not because the community has a small population or is low-income, then the response may only earn up to 2 points.)*

2.b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations (5 points)

The degree to which the sensitive populations in the target areas and the severity of their health or welfare issues are clearly identified. The extent to which this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address these issues and/or help identify and reduce related threats.

2.c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions (5 points)

The extent to which this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, threats to populations in the target areas with a greater-than-normal incidence of diseases or conditions (including cancer, asthma, or birth defects) that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum. *(Note, if populations in the target areas do not suffer from a greater-than-normal incidence of cancer, asthma, or birth defects, then the response may only earn up to 2 points.)*

2.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations (5 points)

The degree to which populations in the target areas are economically impoverished and/or disproportionately share the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial,

governmental, and/or commercial operations or policies. The extent to which this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address these issues and/or help identify and reduce related threats.

### **Community Engagement**

*Per the narrative criterion in [Section 4.C.\(2\)](#), applicants may consolidate information for 2.e – 2.f. into one response. Reviewers must evaluate the response against the sub-criteria outlined below.*

#### 2.e. Project Involvement (5 points)

The degree to which the applicant involves a variety of local organizations/entities/groups that are relevant to the proposed project.

#### 2.f. Project Roles (5 points)

The degree to which each identified local organization/entity/group will have a meaningful role in the project and the extent to which they will be involved in decision-making for site selection, cleanup, and future reuse of the brownfield sites, including the priority sites.

#### 2.g. Incorporating Community Input (5 points)

The extent to which the plan to communicate project progress to the local community, including residents directly affected by the project work, and the involved organizations/entities/groups will be effective and appropriate, and offer an alternative to in-person engagement. The extent to which the applicant will meaningfully solicit, consider, and respond to community input.

### **3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS**

#### **45 Points**

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

#### **Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs**

##### 3.a. Project Implementation (10 points)

The degree to which the proposed EPA-funded tasks/activities under this grant are eligible, specific, and appropriate to the goals of the project, and the degree to which the response demonstrates a sound plan to address the priority sites in the target areas.

When the project includes a subaward(s), the extent to which the tasks/activities or services to be provided by the subawardee(s) are clearly identified.

When the project includes participant support costs to pay for activities associated with a community liaison(s), the extent to which the applicant describes a sound process and procedures for determining the amounts of the allowable stipend(s), accounting for participant support cost payments (including receipts), and documenting that the costs do not duplicate support provided through other Federal, State, Tribal, or local programs.

*(Notes:*

- A response that includes ineligible tasks/activities will be evaluated less favorably.*
- A response that includes a plan to subaward any aspects of the programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements of the grant will be reviewed less favorably.)*

When applicable, the extent to which the tasks/activities that are needed to support or complement the grant that will be contributed by sources other than the EPA grant (e.g., leveraged resources) will help bring the grant to successful completion. *(Note, a response may not earn full points if the applicant duplicates sources that are listed in 1.f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse.)*

**3.b. Anticipated Project Schedule (5 points)**

The extent to which the anticipated project schedule milestones are achievable and the likelihood that the activities will be completed within the 5-year period of performance.

**3.c. Task/Activity Lead (5 points)**

The extent to which the lead entity(ies) for each task/activity is clearly identified and appropriate.

When applicable, the degree to which the local health agency is involved in health monitoring activities.

**3.d. Outputs (5 points)**

The extent to which the anticipated outputs/deliverables for each task/activity are identified, quantified, and clearly correlate with the proposed project.

**3.e. Cost Estimates (15 points)**

The degree of clarity on how each cost estimate was developed (including direct and/or indirect administrative costs, when applicable) and the extent to which costs per unit are presented in detail. The extent to which each proposed cost estimate is reasonable, realistic, and correlated to the proposed project/grant and tasks/activities.

*(Notes:*

- Projects that allocate at least 60% of the funds to tasks directly associated with site-specific work (i.e., Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and site-specific cleanup planning) will be evaluated more favorably.*
- Administrative costs that exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds will be evaluated less favorably.*
- A response that includes cost estimates that are not reasonable or realistic to implement the project/grant will be evaluated less favorably. For example, applicants that request more funding than is reasonably justified in the Narrative to complete the proposed project/grant.)*

**3.f. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results (5 points)**

The extent to which the plan and system to track, measure, and evaluate progress in achieving expected project outputs, overall results, and eventual outcomes are reasonable, appropriate, and clearly correlate with information previously presented in the Narrative.

**4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE**

**35 Points**

Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:

**Programmatic Capability**

*Per the narrative criterion in [Section 4.C.\(4\)](#), applicants may consolidate information for 4.a. – 4.c. into one response. Reviewers must evaluate the response against the sub-criteria outlined below.*

**4.a. Organizational Capacity (5 points)**

The degree to which the applicant's organization has the capacity to oversee grant tasks/activities and successfully carry out and manage the grant's programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements.

**4.b. Organizational Structure (5 points)**

The degree to which the organizational structure will lead to the timely and successful expenditure of funds and the completion of the grant's technical, administrative, and financial requirements.

**4.c. Description of Key Staff (5 points)**

The degree to which the key staff's expertise, qualifications, and experience will result in the successful administration of the grant.

**4.d. Acquiring Additional Resources (5 points)**

The degree to which the applicant's organization has a system(s) and/or procedure(s) to appropriately acquire additional expertise and resources (e.g., contractors or subrecipients) required to complete the project. *(Note, if an applicant has selected a contractor or subrecipient without complying with applicable requirements as described in [Section 2.B.\(5\)](#), the response will be evaluated less favorably.)*

**Past Performance and Accomplishments**

*In evaluating an applicant's response to this criterion, in addition to the information provided by the applicant, EPA may consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and/or from other federal or non-federal grantors to verify or supplement information provided by the applicant.*

**4.e. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant (15 points)**

The degree to which the applicant demonstrates its ability to successfully manage the grant and perform all phases of work under the grant based on current/past EPA Brownfields Grant(s) (i.e., Multipurpose Grant, Assessment Grant, Revolving Loan Fund Grant, Cleanup Grant, or 128(a) Grant).

**(1) Accomplishments (5 points)**

The extent to which meaningful accomplishments (including specific outputs and outcomes) were achieved under the current/most recent grant(s), including at a minimum, the number of sites assessed and/or cleaned up, and the extent to which outputs and outcomes were accurately reflected in ACRES at the time of this application submission. If outputs and outcomes were not accurately reflected in ACRES at the time of this application submission, the extent to which there is an adequate explanation.

**(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements (10 points)**

- The extent of compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent grant(s), and the extent to which there is a demonstrated history of timely and acceptable quarterly performance, grant deliverables, and ongoing ACRES reporting.

The degree to which progress was made (and reported) towards achieving the expected results of the grant(s) in a timely manner. If expected results were not achieved and reported, the extent to which the measures taken to correct the situation were reasonable

and appropriate or the extent to which there is an adequate explanation for lack of reporting. (5 points)

- The extent to which funds from any open EPA Brownfields Grants (i.e., Multipurpose Grants, Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants, and/or 128(a) Grants) are committed to eligible grant activities. The likelihood that all grant funds under the current grant(s) will be expended by the end of the *Period of performance* as defined in [2 CFR § 200.1](#).

For all closed EPA Brownfield Grants, if funds remained, the extent to which there is a reasonable explanation for why, and the degree to which the applicant made every effort to spend the remaining funds within the *Period of performance*. (Note that EPA will not penalize the applicant for closure of a Revolving Loan Fund cooperative agreement per the [FY23 RLF Policy Memo](#).) (5 points)

– OR –

4.f. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements (15 points)

The degree to which the applicant demonstrates its ability to successfully manage the grant and perform all phases of work under the grant based on current/most recent federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements.

(1) Purpose and Accomplishments (5 points)

The extent to which the current/most recent financial assistance agreement(s) is similar in terms of scope and relevance in terms of structure, community engagement, and/or deliverables to the proposed project.

The extent to which meaningful project accomplishments (including specific outputs, outcomes, and measures of success) were achieved under the current/most recent financial assistance agreement(s).

(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements (10 points)

The extent of compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent financial assistance agreement(s), and the extent to which there is a demonstrated history of timely and acceptable reporting, as required by the awarding agency/organization.

The degree to which progress was made (and reported) towards achieving the expected results of the agreement(s) in a timely manner. If expected results were not achieved, the extent to which the measures taken to correct the situation were reasonable and appropriate.

– OR –

4.g. Never Received Any Type of Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements (8 points)

The extent to which it is clearly affirmed that the organization has never received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement, or has recently received a financial assistance



agreement, but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements. *(These applicants will receive a “neutral” score of 8 points. Failure to indicate anything in response to this sub-criterion may result in zero points.)*

## C. Review and Selection Process

Timely submitted applications will initially be reviewed by the EPA Regional Office, which covers the location of the project, to determine compliance with the applicable threshold eligibility criteria for Assessment Grants ([Section 2.B.](#)). All applications that pass the threshold criteria review will be evaluated by national evaluation panels. The national evaluation panels will be comprised of EPA staff and potentially other federal agency representatives chosen for their expertise in the range of activities associated with the Brownfield Assessment Grants. Eligible applications will be evaluated based on the criteria described in [Section 6.B.](#), and a ranking list of applicants will be developed.

Note, if EPA receives more than one application per State (regardless of if the applications are submitted by different eligible State agencies), EPA will only select the highest-ranking application that qualifies for selection.

OBLR will provide the list to the Headquarters Selection Official, who is responsible for further consideration of the applications and final selection of grant recipients. Applications will be selected for award based on their evaluated point scores, the availability of funds, and, as appropriate, the other factors and considerations described in [Section 6.C.\(1\)](#) below.

### (1) Other Evaluation Factors

In making the final selections from among the most highly ranked applicants, EPA’s Headquarters Selection Official may consider the factors below as appropriate. Applicants should provide a summary in the Narrative on the applicable other factors and note the corresponding page number in the [Application Information Sheet](#). Other factors include:

- whether the community population is 15,000 or less;
- whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory or whether the project is assisting a Tribe or territory;
- whether the priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land;
- whether the priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them);
- whether the priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain;
- whether reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy;
- whether reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures;
- whether the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters;
- whether at least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in [Section 3.A.\(2\)](#), for priority sites within the target areas; and
- whether a target area(s) is impacted by a coal-fired power plant that has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.

Additionally, EPA's Headquarters Selection Official may take the following considerations into account when making final selections:

- distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas;
- whether the applicant's jurisdiction/geographic boundary(ies) is located within, or includes, a county experiencing "persistent poverty" where 20% or more of its population has lived in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates;
- the distribution of funds among EPA's ten Regions; and
- whether the applicant has not previously been awarded a Brownfield Assessment Grant.

## **D. Risk Review**

EPA will consider any comments by the applicant, along with information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov, when doing the risk review as required by [2 CFR § 200.206](#).

## **7. Award Notices**

EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made by Jerry Minor-Gordon-English, OBLR, Acting Deputy Director. The notification will be sent to the Project Director and Chief Executive/Highest-Ranking Elected Official listed in the Application Information Sheet in [Section 4.B](#). This notification is not an authorization to begin work. The applicants that are selected for award will work with an EPA Project Officer to finalize the required federal application package, the proposed budget, and to negotiate the cooperative agreement workplan. The official notification of an award will be made by the Regional Award Official (EPA Grants Officer) assigned to the cooperative agreement. Selection does not guarantee an award will be made. Statutory authorization, funding, or other issues during the award process may affect the ability of EPA to make an award. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The successful applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms, which must be approved by EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded. The time between notification of selection and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

## **8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration**

### **A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

The recipient and any sub-recipient must comply with the applicable [General Terms and Conditions](#). These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as part of the award, terms and conditions, and restrictions reflected on the official assistance award document.

Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity are subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 1500](#).

## B. Reporting

[EPA's General Terms and Conditions](#) in the Notice of Award will have information on performance and financial reports, including:

- How often you will report.
- Any required form or formatting.
- How to submit them.

## C. Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting

The Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires:

- Data entry at SAM.gov for all subawards and subcontracts issued for \$30,000 or more.
- Reporting executive compensation for both recipient and subaward organizations.

## D. Brownfield Programmatic Requirements

Approved cooperative agreements will include terms and conditions (including any applicable Davis-Bacon labor standards and prevailing wage requirements for construction) that will be binding on the recipient. Brownfield Grant recipients must comply with all applicable federal and State laws to ensure that the assessment and cleanup protect human health and the environment. Brownfield Grant recipients also must comply with the program's technical requirements, which may include, but are not limited to, requirements for: reporting of progress and site-specific accomplishments, Quality Assurance requirements, historic properties or threatened and endangered species, all appropriate inquiries, sufficient progress, collection of post-grant information, and protections of nearby and sensitive populations. The assistance agreement will include terms and conditions implementing these requirements. For additional information, please review the [Brownfield Programmatic Requirements](#).

## E. Build America, Buy America

Certain projects under this competition are subject to the Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#) (P.L. 117-58, §§ 70911-70917) when using funds for the purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States. The Buy America preference requirement applies to all of the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for an infrastructure project under an award identified in [EPA's financial assistance funding programs](#) subject to BABA report.

These sourcing requirements require that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in Federally funded infrastructure projects must be produced in the United States. The recipient must implement these requirements in its procurements, and this article must flow down to all subawards and contracts at any tier. For legal definitions and sourcing requirements, the recipient must consult the [EPA's Build America, Buy America website](#).

Please consider this information when preparing budget information. EPA has and will continue to provide further guidance on which projects are subject to BABA provisions and will work with grant recipients to support implementation as necessary.

When supported by rationale provided in IIJA § 70914, the recipient may submit a waiver request to EPA. The recipient should request guidance on the submission instructions of an EPA waiver request from the EPA Point of Contact listed in [Section 1.E](#). A list of approved EPA waivers is available on the [Build America, Buy America website](#).

In addition to BABA requirements, all procurements under grants may be subject to the domestic preference provisions of [2 CFR § 200.322](#).

See “Build America, Buy America” clause in [EPA NOFO Clauses](#).

## 9. Other Information

### A. Additional Provisions for Applicants

Additional provisions that apply to this funding opportunity and/or awards made under this funding opportunity can be found at [EPA NOFO Clauses](#). If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please contact the EPA point of contact to obtain the provisions.

**These provisions are important for applying to this funding opportunity and applicants must review them when preparing applications.**