EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Ottawa was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Ottawa (population 18,307) is located about 80 miles southwest of Chicago. The city's economic well-being is largely tied to an industrial sector that has experienced a downturn in recent years. The city is seeking to diversify its economy, and brownfields redevelopment is a crucial component of this effort. More than 300 brownfields, encompassing 18 percent of the city's land area, have been identified. Assessments made through these grants will focus on sites within a target area in Ottawa's downtown and industrial corridor. In this target area, 26.9 percent of residents live below the poverty level, and 23.4 percent are minorities. These assessments are a first step toward the eventual cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields.

Assessment Grants

$200,000 for hazardous substances

$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Ottawa for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct seven Phase I and between three and seven Phase II environmental site assessments, health monitoring, and community involvement activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
(312) 886-7576
EPA Region 5 Brownfields Web site
(http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields)

Grant Recipient: City of Ottawa, IL
(815) 433-0161

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.