



## **Brownfields 2007 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet** **Muncie, IN**

### **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 Muncie was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in east-central Indiana, Muncie (population 67,430) has a long history of industrial operations, including iron and steel mills, and automotive parts and glass manufacturing. The shift away from heavy industry and the associated closing and relocation of several major manufacturing plants have negatively affected the city's economy. The loss of job opportunities has resulted in a steady population decline over the past 15 years. The unemployment rate in Muncie is over 11 percent, and over 24 percent of the population lives below the poverty level. An estimated one third of the city's former industrial properties are now brownfields. Many of these sites are unsecured and present health and safety risks to the community. The sites also negatively impact property values and deter new investment in the area. Brownfields assessment will allow the city to leverage cleanup and redevelopment investment that will reduce public health threats, facilitate reuse of abandoned or underused sites, and improve job opportunities for residents.

### **Assessment Grant**

*\$200,000 for hazardous substances*

EPA has selected the City of Muncie for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to inventory and prioritize brownfield sites for assessment, conduct up to eight Phase I and four Phase II environmental site assessments, and support community outreach activities.

### **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 Muncie, IN  
(765) 747-4825

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.