

# 2015 Brownfields Federal Programs Guide





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# Introduction

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2015, it is a good time to reflect on some of the factors that contribute to successful brownfields efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. This guide focuses on one factor in particular: partnerships.

Building partnerships is an important part of the Brownfields Program. The importance of partnerships began with EPA's early efforts to join with other federal agencies to leverage available resources and coordinate the federal government's efforts to assist communities in addressing brownfields and economic development challenges. Maintaining healthy federal partnerships is as important today as it was in the early years of the program. In July 1996, EPA created both the Interagency Working Group on Brownfields and the Interagency Steering Committee to provide a forum for federal agencies to exchange information and develop a coordinated national strategy for brownfields. The strategy focused on environmental and economic development issues. In May 1997, the Brownfield National Partnership Action Agenda was announced. More than 20 federal agencies participated in the partnership initiative, which found many ways to better coordinate federal brownfield resources and activities.

One of the major actions under the federal partnership initiative was the Brownfields Showcase Communities project. In fiscal year 1998, the Working Group selected 16 pilot communities to showcase how coordinated federal support can lead to successful brownfields cleanup and redevelopment efforts. The Showcase Communities initiative produced model programs that demonstrated the benefits of focused attention and provided a pattern for future cooperative efforts on brownfields.

The "Portfields" initiative was another product of the Brownfield National Partnership. This federal interagency project, led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, focused on the redevelopment of brownfields in port and harbor areas, with emphasis on development of environmentally sound port facilities. The Portfields initiative presented an opportunity for federal agencies to partner with port communities to help redevelop brownfields and revitalize waterfront areas, improve marine transportation systems, and protect and restore coastal resources.

Other cooperative efforts on the federal level soon followed. Federal agencies partnered on the Mine-Scarred Lands Initiative, the Urban Waters Initiative, and most recently, the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which is an interagency effort between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation, and EPA. Under the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, the three agencies are leveraging resources and removing barriers to help communities provide more housing choices, make transportation systems more efficient and reliable, and create vibrant neighborhoods that attract business development and jobs while protecting the environment.

Partnerships are essential because brownfields redevelopment and community revitalization, spurred by brownfields cleanup and reuse, most often succeed when communities are able to leverage financial support, technical assistance, and other resources from a variety of public and private sources. While EPA brownfields grants are important catalysts for environmental cleanup and community revitalization, communities usually have to find additional resources to successfully address other redevelopment challenges such as infrastructure improvements, construction, and workforce training. EPA brownfields grants provide essential funding for assessment and seed money for cleanup of contaminated sites, but usually can provide only a small portion of the total investment needed to clean up and revitalize sites. Nevertheless, brownfields grants often are critical to attracting additional investments from other sources that are necessary for successful revitalization projects.

Through fiscal year 2014, each dollar of federal brownfields funding leveraged \$17.79 in additional investment. EPA's brownfields investments leveraged more than \$21.3 billion in cleanup and redevelopment funding from a variety of public and private sources. Local grantees also report that through fiscal year 2014, brownfields investments resulted in the creation of approximately 97,500 jobs. These national-level statistics are reflective of local, community-based efforts. Successful local brownfields and land revitalization projects often are built by assembling packages of funding and support from many sources.

The revitalization of brownfields is supported by other federal agencies involved in improving economic development, infrastructure, housing, transportation, and sustainability efforts: The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for economic development and manufacturing expansion; HUD for community development and affordable housing in brownfields-impacted communities, and for economic resilience projects; the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for the deployment of renewable energy on brownfields; the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for upgrading infrastructure for more connected and mobile communities; the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for urban forestry, urban agriculture, and community facilities in small and rural communities; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for waterfront brownfields redevelopment; the Small Business Administration (SBA) for small business development on vacant and blighted sites; the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for creative placemaking on brownfield properties; and others in the federal family that have a stake in the betterment of communities.

For the most effective and efficient remediation of brownfields, efforts between federal, state, local, and private organizations must be coordinated. The role of the local city government and surrounding community is especially important, since local governments are in the best position to prioritize sites most in need of revitalization, encourage private sector participation, and serve as a champion for other stakeholders. Local financing tools can include loans, loan guarantees, revolving loan funds, bond financing, tax abatements/credits, tax increment financing (TIFs), grants, and the provision or improvement of public infrastructure. Still, the often complex package of resources that must be assembled to support brownfields redevelopment often begins with identifying and mobilizing resources offered to local governments through the federal government, either directly or through the states.

### *The 2015 Edition of the Brownfields Federal Programs Guide*

This guide is intended to help local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other entities involved in brownfields redevelopment navigate the web of financial and technical assistance available from the federal government. The *2015 Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* is a compendium of the technical assistance and financial resources available from federal agencies for brownfields and land revitalization projects. It also includes information about assistance available through federal tax incentives and encourages communities to explore state tax credits, loans, loan guarantees, and other incentives.

The *2015 Brownfields Federal Programs Guide* updates the 2013 edition. There were relatively few significant changes to programs listed in the previous version of the guide, but a few new programs were added and a few were eliminated. Here are some of the highlights:

- **The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** awarded a third round of Area-Wide Planning grants in FY 2015. These grants encourage communities to put together a redevelopment plan and implementation strategy to address an area or neighborhood with several brownfields by engaging members of the community, assessing infrastructure, conducting market studies, and creating a plan for phased development of the entire area. EPA plans to continue awarding AWP grants in the coming years.

EPA plans to award the next round of Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grants in FY 2016. The Agency currently awards RLF grants every two years, while continuing to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup grants every year.

Information on grants and technical assistance resources available through EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities is a new addition to this edition of the guide. The Office of Sustainable Communities works with local, state and national experts to promote development strategies that protect human health and the environment, foster economic opportunities, and provide attractive and affordable neighborhoods for people of all income levels.

This 2015 version of the guide also includes information on financial assistance offered through the EPA Office of Water's Urban Waters Small Grants program. The goal of this program is to fund research, investigations, experiments, training, surveys, studies, and demonstrations that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities.

- **The U.S. Department of Agriculture** has a new Rural Business Development Grant program that promotes sustainable economic development in rural areas with exceptional needs. USDA's new Strategic Economic and Community Development program will reserve up to 10 percent of the funds appropriated to certain rural development programs each fiscal year to fund projects that support implementation of strategic economic and community development plans across multi-jurisdictional areas.

- **The Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration** renewed its commitment to strengthening American innovation with the Regional Innovation Strategies program. This program aims to spur innovation and capacity-building activities in communities across the nation by helping them develop regional innovation strategies, create and expand science and research parks, and launch new businesses. It is the latest of several EDA grant-based programs aimed at spurring private capital investment and long-term job creation in economically distressed areas, particularly small towns and rural areas.
- **The Department of Housing and Urban Development** created the Office of Economic Resilience. This office replaces the former Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, and currently oversees HUD’s sustainable communities programs, including the HUD/DOT/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities Initiative. Creation of this new office underscores HUD’s increased emphasis on job creation and strong economies as the driving force behind sustainable communities.
- **Federal Tax Incentives:** There were several changes to federal tax incentives since the 2013 edition of the guide. The Brownfields Expensing Tax Incentive lapsed in December 2011, but this guide includes basic information about the incentive for your information. Congress did not include an extension of the provision in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, so it was not eligible for extension in the Tax Increase Prevention Act that passed in December 2014. Thus, this incentive no longer is in effect. Prospects for an independent reauthorization of the brownfields expensing tax incentive are remote at this time. Also, two tax provisions that were offered to encourage energy conservation and renewable energy were allowed to expire. The Residential Energy Conservation Subsidy Exclusion is

no longer available, and the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy tax credits were renewed only through 2014.

## USING THIS GUIDE

The entry for each federal agency or organization describes its mission and its connection to brownfields and lists the programs that provide technical or financial assistance relevant to brownfields. Descriptions of eligibility requirements, availability, and uses and applications, as well as restrictions on use or eligibility, are included where applicable. “Snapshots” illustrate brownfields projects that successfully leveraged funding from these programs and are included to show how resources from federal programs stimulate brownfields cleanup and redevelopment throughout the country. The section on “Federal Tax Incentives and Credits” describes options for using federal tax incentives for brownfields cleanup and revitalization.

In addition to the federal resources discussed in this guide, communities are encouraged to build state and local partnerships and explore opportunities to work with local, regional, and national philanthropic organizations on brownfields-related projects. Tapping into these additional sources of funding and expertise often can provide the additional resources that a brownfields project needs to succeed. EPA encourages stakeholders to think broadly about brownfields projects and take advantage of the numerous sources of support available for technical and financial assistance. For additional information and assistance, contact your EPA Regional Brownfields Coordinator (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/contacts.htm>) or your EPA Regional Land Revitalization Coordinator (<http://www.epa.gov/landrevitalization/contactus.htm>).

# Overview of Brownfields Federal Programs

FEDERAL AGENCY	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Appalachian Regional Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants through state programs for economic development and brownfields redevelopment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance to address brownfields, including mine-scarred lands, in the 13 Appalachian states.</li> </ul>
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Loan guarantees for rural businesses.</li> <li>▪ Loans for small businesses.</li> <li>▪ Rural business development grants.</li> <li>▪ Grants for strategic planning and visioning and multi-jurisdictional planning.</li> <li>▪ Grants to accelerate job creation in rural communities.</li> <li>▪ Grants and loans to develop community facilities.</li> <li>▪ Grants and loans to develop water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.</li> <li>▪ Renewable energy grants.</li> <li>▪ Grants to promote local food and farmers markets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance for rural businesses.</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance for strategic planning and community visioning for economic development.</li> </ul>
Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Financial assistance to plant and maintain trees for beautification or remediation of brownfields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance for planting trees on mine-scarred lands and for phytoremediation.</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance for planting trees for open space, parks, and land conservation projects.</li> <li>▪ Assistance to rural and urban communities applying for USDA grants.</li> </ul>
Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants for infrastructure and facilities in distressed areas.</li> <li>▪ Grants for regional economic development planning.</li> <li>▪ Grants to support innovation-centric economic sectors that support commercialization and entrepreneurship, and cluster development.</li> <li>▪ Economic adjustment grants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assistance with economic development planning.</li> <li>▪ Promote innovative approaches to economic development.</li> <li>▪ Strengthen linkage between economic development and environmental quality.</li> </ul>
Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Matching funds to state/local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assistance with the restoration of contaminated coastal sites.</li> <li>▪ Special projects relating to coastal resource management.</li> </ul>



FEDERAL AGENCY	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Congressionally mandated water resource civic works.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reimbursable water- and land-related engineering technical assistance.</li> <li>▪ Watershed and ecosystem planning support for states.</li> <li>▪ Centers of expertise.</li> </ul>
Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants for planning for the redevelopment of closed military facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assistance with planning for the redevelopment of closed military facilities.</li> </ul>
Department of Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.</li> <li>▪ Loans for the development of advanced technology, energy-efficient vehicles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research to reduce building energy use.</li> <li>▪ Facilitating the beneficial reuse of former brownfields into energy parks and facilities that design and produce renewable energy technologies.</li> <li>▪ Feasibility studies for renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>
Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants to assess health issues associated with redevelopment plans.</li> <li>▪ Limited health pilot awards for brownfield and reuse sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance to public health agencies.</li> <li>▪ Assistance to review and assess environmental sampling data and other site data.</li> <li>▪ Health-related information sharing in reviewing environmental assessment data.</li> <li>▪ Tools to help make health part of the land renewal process.</li> </ul>
Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants to develop health and safety training programs.</li> <li>▪ Research grants to seek solutions to health and environmental issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training workers for hazardous materials handling and disaster preparedness.</li> <li>▪ Advanced technology training program.</li> <li>▪ Training for minority workers in environmental restoration.</li> </ul>
Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Job training program grants.</li> <li>▪ Grants to small communities for training and technical assistance for rural water facilities.</li> <li>▪ Assistance to community development corporations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance for rural water facilities.</li> </ul>
Department of Housing and Urban Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nationwide block grants for community development.</li> <li>▪ Loan guarantees for community development.</li> <li>▪ Affordable housing block grants.</li> <li>▪ Lead-based paint abatement grants.</li> <li>▪ Grants to integrate housing and transportation components into environmentally friendly developments.</li> </ul>	

FEDERAL AGENCY	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Department of the Interior, National Park Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transfer of surplus federal land to state and local governments for park creation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance for conservation and recreation projects.</li> </ul>
Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants to reclaim streams affected by acid mine drainage.</li> <li>▪ Grants to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned mine lands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance and capacity-building for watershed development.</li> <li>▪ Watershed remediation internships.</li> </ul>
Department of Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Job training grants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance to states, localities and community organizations on workforce development.</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance to states on readiness for brownfields redevelopment job needs.</li> </ul>
Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants for transportation projects and planning.</li> <li>▪ Grants for air quality improvement and congestion mitigation.</li> <li>▪ Grants for transportation enhancements and alternatives, such as bicycle and pedestrian paths.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance for long-range transportation planning.</li> </ul>
Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants for public transportation capital projects in urban and rural areas.</li> <li>▪ Grants for new and expanded rail, bus, and ferry systems and facilities.</li> <li>▪ Grants to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related facilities.</li> <li>▪ Grants for repairing and upgrading the nation's rail transit systems and high-intensity motor bus systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance to transit agencies working with other state and local governmental agencies on transit projects involving brownfields.</li> </ul>
Department of Transportation, Office of the Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants for major transportation projects that will enhance economic competitiveness and livability.</li> </ul>	
Environmental Protection Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants for brownfields assessment and cleanup, and for capitalizing revolving loan funds for brownfields cleanup.</li> <li>▪ Grants for area-wide planning.</li> <li>▪ Grants for environmental workforce development and job training.</li> <li>▪ Grants to states and tribes to enhance response and brownfields programs.</li> <li>▪ Targeted brownfields assessments.</li> <li>▪ Loans for water quality improvement projects, including drinking water.</li> <li>▪ Grants for projects to restore local urban water quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brownfields and Land Revitalization Technology Support Center.</li> <li>▪ Information dissemination on use of innovative technologies.</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance to brownfields communities.</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance targeted for capacity-building to implement sustainable strategies.</li> <li>▪ Support for development and implementation of action plans to promote local food and downtown revitalization.</li> <li>▪ Technical assistance for smart growth implementation.</li> </ul>

FEDERAL AGENCY	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Federal Housing Finance Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Loans for housing and economic development that benefit low- and moderate-income families.</li> <li>▪ Loans and grants for affordable housing.</li> </ul>	
General Services Administration		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assistance to match underused federal properties and surplus federally owned brownfields with local revitalization objectives.</li> </ul>
Small Business Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Loans to small businesses to invest in major fixed assets, such as land and buildings.</li> <li>▪ Loans to small businesses for general business purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical assistance for small business development.</li> </ul>

# Federal Programs

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This section outlines the key programs and incentives offered by the federal government that can be used to support brownfield projects. Organized by agency, each entry provides a general description of the agency's overall mission and identifies the resources (financial assistance and technical assistance) that are available. Contact information is provided for each.

When considering potential sources of assistance for brownfield efforts, keep in mind that many

federal programs may not specifically use the term "brownfields." Nevertheless, they still may offer resources applicable for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

Brownfield-related resources are outlined for the following federal agencies:

- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Department of Agriculture—Rural Development Mission Area
- Department of Agriculture—United States Forest Service
- Department of Commerce—Economic Development Administration
- Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Department of Defense—U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Defense—Office of Economic Adjustment
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services—Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- Department of Health and Human Services—National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Community Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior—National Park Service
- Department of the Interior—Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- Department of Labor
- Department of Transportation—Federal Highway Administration
- Department of Transportation—Federal Transit Administration
- Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Housing Finance Agency
- General Services Administration
- Small Business Administration

# Appalachian Regional Commission

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

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### Mission

The Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) mission is to be a strategic partner and advocate for sustainable economic and community development in Appalachia. ARC's membership comprises the governors of the 13 Appalachian Mountain states and a federal co-chair appointed by the president. Each year, the governors elect one of their members to serve as state co-chair. Grassroots participation is provided through local development districts, multi-county agencies with boards composed of elected officials, business people, and other local leaders. Congress appropriates funds annually, which ARC allocates among its member states.

### Brownfields Connections

ARC's strategic plan seeks to raise awareness of and leverage support for the reclamation and reuse of brownfields. Brownfields are a key element of ARC's Asset-Based Development initiative. ARC has awarded numerous grants for brownfields-related projects since 1965, including 2013 grants in Lenoir City, Tennessee, and Anderson County, South Carolina. The former grant is funding relocation of a water line to allow for brownfield remediation and redevelopment. Lenoir City used 2014 EPA brownfields assessment grant funds to assess the site and develop a concept plan. The latter grant, co-funded with local resources, an EPA 2008 brownfields assessment grant, and a 2010 cleanup grant, is accelerating redevelopment of the Toxaway Street Mill site in Anderson County. The project will remove 2,000 tons of debris, thus clearing the way for the 14-acre brownfield site to be capped with 16,500 cubic yards of fill dirt.

ARC also participated in the Brownfields Federal Partnership and Mine-Scarred Lands (MSL) Working Group. Although this working group has been dormant since 2005, ARC anticipates renewing joint activities with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

In addition, ARC supports the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, which since 2004 has encouraged the restoration of high-quality forests on reclaimed surface coal mines in Appalachia. ARC

is participating in the most recent phase of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP), an Administration-wide initiative to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and help communities cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in cities across the country. The Northwest Georgia region and the Tennessee Valley are two of the 12 designated manufacturing communities.

## RESOURCES

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### Financial Assistance

#### *Area Development Program*

The Area Development Program promotes a diversified regional economy through strategies that help communities create and retain businesses and jobs; develop an educated, skilled workforce; create access to affordable, quality health care; and support the development and improvement of infrastructure, including water and sewer services and Internet access. Grants are awarded to projects that further the four goals in ARC's strategic plan:

- Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation.
- Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy.
- Develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the region economically competitive.
- Build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

Most ARC grants originate at the state level. Potential applicants should contact their state ARC program manager to request a pre-application package. The local development district serving the county in which the project is located also may provide guidance on a project's eligibility for funding and assistance in preparing a grant application.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Typically, ARC grants are awarded to state and local agencies and governmental entities (e.g., economic development authorities), local governing boards (e.g., county councils), and nonprofit organizations (e.g., schools and organizations that build low-cost housing).

## SNAPSHOT – WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF ENERGY

The West Virginia Division of Energy (WVDOE) received a \$250,000 ARC grant to supplement \$250,000 in local funding to support development of new uses for former surface-mined lands. Potential uses include the production of wind and solar energy and establishment of biomass (trees and other crops). Three competitively funded cost-share grants of up to \$75,000 each will support project development on surface-mined lands, and three studies will provide information to advance commercial wind development. In addition, data will be collected and analyzed for the development of six plans for reuse of former and existing surface mine land properties in West Virginia. WVDOE is using a competitive selection process to select projects for participation in the cost-share grants.

**Limitations:** ARC funding is limited to projects in 420 designated counties in the 13 Appalachian states.

ARC focuses resources on distressed counties and designated distressed areas. Because individual states may limit ARC funding to specific areas, applicants should consult ARC program managers for information on their state's ARC funding priorities. ARC expects grantees to contribute matching resources to projects to the extent they are able to do so, and to seek additional non-ARC funding assistance in a diligent manner. ARC has specific requirements for matching funds; individual states may have additional requirements. State ARC program managers or local development districts can provide information about state matching requirements.

**Availability:** All applicants considering brownfields redevelopment activities should contact their ARC State Program Manager to request pre-application information.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Planning and technical assistance to address brownfields problems.
- Infrastructure needed to convert brownfields to new economic uses.
- Conversion of obsolete industrial sites to public purposes.

### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### *Mine-Scarred Lands Working Group*

ARC participated in the MSL Working Group, which was established in 2003 as a component of the

Brownfields Federal Partnership. To learn about mine-scarred lands challenges and how federal, state, and local entities can work together, the MSL Working Group identified six demonstration projects, including three in Appalachian coal communities: Hazleton, Pennsylvania; Lee County, Virginia; and Kanawha County, West Virginia. Details on these pilot projects are provided in *Mine-Scarred Lands Revitalization: Models through Partnerships* (Publication Number: EPA-560-R-05-003, September/October 2005).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Molly Theobald

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202-884-7767  
[mtheobald@arc.gov](mailto:mtheobald@arc.gov)

### Main Site

<http://www.arc.gov>

### ARC State Program Managers

<http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=13>

### Local Development District Contacts

<http://www.arc.gov/index.do?nodeId=20>

### ARC-Designated Distressed Counties

<http://www.arc.gov/funding/ARCDistressedCounties-Grants.asp>

# Department of Agriculture— Rural Development Mission Area

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Mission Area is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America by providing financial programs to support essential public and private facilities and services such as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities, and electric and telephone service. Rural Development promotes economic development by providing loans to businesses through banks and community-managed lending pools, while also helping communities participate in community empowerment programs.

USDA is in a key position to support activities that are critical to community brownfields revitalization efforts. USDA's Rural Development Office operates a variety of programs that rural communities can find useful when undertaking redevelopment projects, and nearly all of the following programs can contribute to brownfields projects: (1) Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program; (2) housing programs; (3) community facilities programs; (4) business programs; (5) Cooperative programs; (6) electric programs; (7) telecommunication programs; (8) water and environment programs; (9) community development programs; and (10) utilities programs.

The USDA Rural Development programs are administered on a state-by-state basis and through districts within each state. Identifying a State Director's Office and local contact will facilitate access and help in applying for grants and loans from the various Rural Development programs. (See <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/StateOfficeAddresses.html> to find individual State Director's Office websites and contact information.)

### Brownfields Connections

- Grants, loans, and loan guarantee assistance for a variety of business, commercial, and industrial brownfields redevelopment projects in small towns and rural areas.
- Support for the installation and improvement of critical infrastructure needed to support economic development in brownfields-impacted communities.
- Financing for the construction of key public facilities.

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

*Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program (Rural Development's Rural Business-Cooperative Service)*

The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program provides financial backing for rural businesses. The program guarantees up to 80 percent of a loan made by commercial lenders to businesses located in rural areas. The program is administered at the state level by USDA Rural Development state offices.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include cooperatives, corporations, partnerships, trusts and other for-profit or nonprofit entities; Indian tribes; and municipalities, counties, and other local governments. The loans are normally available in rural areas, which include all areas other than cities or towns of more than 50,000 people and the contiguous and adjacent urbanized area of these cities or towns.

**Availability:** The maximum loan guarantee is \$25 million. Repayment schedules for real estate loans are not to exceed 30 years. Equipment loans are not to exceed 15 years. Working capital is not to exceed seven years.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Pollution control and abatement.
- Construction of businesses, real estate development, conversion, repair, modernization, enlargement, etc.
- Purchase of machinery, equipment, supplies, working capital, land, easements, rights-of-way, etc.
- Debt refinancing.

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-industry-loan-guarantees>

*Intermediary Relending Program (Rural Development's Rural Business-Cooperative Service)*

The purpose of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) is to alleviate poverty and increase economic activity and employment in rural communities through loans made to intermediaries that establish programs for providing loans to ultimate recipients for business and community developments in a rural area.



The IRP capitalizes locally managed revolving loan funds for small businesses unable to secure adequate bank financing on their own. Similar to the B&I program, resources from the IRP can be used for real estate and equipment purposes.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Intermediaries may be private nonprofit corporations, public agencies, Indian tribes, or cooperatives with at least 51 percent rural membership. The loans are normally available in rural areas, which include all areas other than cities or towns of more than 50,000 people and the contiguous and adjacent urbanized area of these cities or towns.

**Availability:** An intermediary may receive up to \$1 million under its first financing and up to \$1 million at a time thereafter, with total indebtedness not to exceed \$15 million. Loans to intermediaries are scheduled for repayment over a period of 30 years. The interest rate on loans for intermediaries is one percent per year.

**Uses/Applications Include (all apply to loans from intermediaries to ultimate recipients):**

- Pollution control and abatement.
- Establishment of new businesses or expansion of existing business, purchase of land, equipment, leasehold improvements, and machinery, etc.
- Working capital, feasibility studies, debt refinancing, reasonable fees and charges.
- Development of educational institutions, hotels, motels, and tourist recreation facilities.
- Creation of employment opportunities or preservation of jobs.
- Support of community development projects.

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/intermediary-relending-program>

*The Rural Business Development Grant Program (Rural Development's Rural Business-Cooperative Service)*

The Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) program promotes sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs. Grants can be made for the identification and analysis of business opportunities; the establishment of support centers to assist with the creation of new rural businesses; regional, community, and local economic development planning; and other related training, planning, and coordination efforts. RBDG is a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging

private businesses (with fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues) in rural areas. Programmatic activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grant activities.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include rural public (governmental) entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes. Rural public entities include, but are not limited to:

- Towns.
- Communities.
- State agencies.
- Authorities.
- Nonprofit corporations.
- Institutions of higher education.
- Federally recognized tribes.
- Rural cooperatives.

**Availability:** There is no maximum grant amount for enterprise-type grants; however, smaller requests are given higher priority. Generally, grants range from \$10,000 up to \$500,000. There is no cost sharing requirement. Opportunity-type grant funding is limited to a maximum award of \$50,000 for unreserved funds. Total opportunity-type grant funding is limited statutorily to up to 10 percent of the total RBDG annual funding.

**Uses/Applications Include:** Enterprise-type grant funds must be used on projects to benefit small and emerging businesses in rural areas as specified in the grant application. Uses may include:

- Pollution control and abatement.
- Training and technical assistance, such as project planning, business counseling/training, market research, feasibility studies, professional/technical reports, or product/service improvements.
- Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, or renovation of buildings, plants, machinery, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, or utilities.
- Capitalization of revolving loan funds, including funds that will make loans for startups and working capital.
- Distance adult learning for job training and advancement.
- Rural transportation improvement.
- Community economic development.
- Technology-based economic development.
- Feasibility studies and business plans.

- Leadership and entrepreneur training.
- Rural business incubators.
- Long-term business strategic planning.

Opportunity-type grant funding must be used for projects in rural areas, such as:

- Community economic development.
- Technology-based economic development.
- Feasibility studies and business plans.
- Leadership and entrepreneur training.
- Rural business incubators.
- Long-term business strategic planning.

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>

#### *The Strategic Economic and Community Development Program (Rural Development)*

Through the Strategic Economic and Community Development Program (SECD) program, USDA enables communities to realize their long-term goals through provision of technical assistance and grants that support strategic planning and community visioning to provide a foundation for economic development. Through this program, USDA will reserve up to 10 percent of the funds appropriated to certain Rural Development programs each fiscal year to fund projects that support the implementation of strategic economic and community development plans across multi-jurisdictional areas. The programs from which funds will be reserved are:

- Community Facility Loans.
- Fire and Rescue and Other Small Community Facilities Projects.
- Community Facilities Grant Program.
- Community Programs Guaranteed Loans.
- Water and Waste Disposal Programs Guaranteed Loans.
- Water and Waste Loans and Grants.
- Business and Industry Guaranteed Loanmaking and Servicing.
- Rural Business Development Grants.

**Eligibility Requirements:** To be eligible for the reserved funds, projects must first be eligible for funding under the programs from which the funds are reserved.

Link pending but see: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/community-economic-development>

#### *The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (Rural Development's Rural Business-Cooperative Service)*

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program provides funding to rural projects through local utility organizations. Under the loan program, intermediaries that have or have had a borrowing relationship with Rural Development's Rural Utility Service can receive zero-interest loans that are passed through to rural small businesses to assist business and create new jobs or retain existing jobs. The grant program provides grant funds to intermediaries to establish revolving loan funds for use in making loans to rural small businesses for the creation and retention of viable jobs in rural areas.

**Eligibility Requirements:** To receive funding (which is forwarded to selected eligible projects) under the REDLG program, an entity must:

- Have borrowed and repaid or pre-paid an insured, direct, or guaranteed loan received under the Rural Electrification Act.
- Be a not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive assistance from the Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Program.
- Be a current Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Program borrower.

**Availability:** The maximum funding for a loan is \$2,000,000. The maximum funding for a grant to establish a revolving loan fund is \$300,000. During FY 2014, approximately \$91 million was available for loans and \$10 million for grants.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Community development, purchase of real estate/buildings, facilities and equipment for education/training/rural medical care.
- Industrial development parks.
- Business incubators or expansion.
- Revolving loan funds.

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>

#### *Community Facilities Program: Guaranteed Loans, Direct Loans, and Grants (Rural Development's Rural Housing Service)*

USDA provides grants and loan guarantees for commercial lending that will develop essential community facilities, including public safety and hospital facilities, for communities with populations of up to 20,000 people. The direct loan program does

the same thing, except that USDA functions as the lender. In either case, the loans can run for up to 40 years or for the useful life of the facility (if less than 40 years). In the case of distressed rural communities that cannot qualify for a private or USDA loan for essential community facilities, USDA Rural Development can make grants.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Community Facilities Programs can make and guarantee loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to nonprofit corporations and tribal governments. Grants also are available to public entities, special-purpose districts, and nonprofit corporations and tribal governments.

**Availability:** The amount of grant assistance for project costs depends upon the median household income, the population in the community where the project is located, and the availability of grant funds. In most instances, projects that receive grant assistance have a high priority and are highly leveraged with other loan and grant awards. Grant assistance may be available for up to 75 percent of project costs. Grant funding limitations are based on population and income, economic feasibility, and availability of funds.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Constructing, enlarging, or improving community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services.

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-guaranteed-loan-program>

*Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loans, Loan Guarantees, and Grants (Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service)*

USDA Rural Development offers several programs aimed at developing, repairing, or improving water and waste disposal systems in rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less. These programs can be used to support industrial activities. The loans can run up to 40 years with interest dependent upon the median household income of the borrower.

**Eligibility:** Funds are available to public bodies, nonprofit corporations and Indian tribes.

**Availability:** Rural Development made \$1,000,000 available for competitive grants in FY 2014. The maximum amount of financing to eligible entities is \$100,000, which must be repaid within 10 years.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Construction and improvement of water and waste facilities.
- Land acquisition.
- Legal fees and engineering fees.
- Equipment and initial operation and maintenance costs.

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>

#### **Guaranteed Loans and Grants**

*Rural Energy for America Program (Rural Development's Rural Business-Cooperative Service)*

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) has loan guarantees and competitive grant funds available to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements for agricultural producers and rural small businesses to reduce energy costs and consumption.

**Eligibility:** For energy audits and renewable energy development assistance, state, tribal, and local governments; land grant colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher learning; rural electric cooperatives and public power entities; and the National Resources Defense Council and other councils are eligible to receive assistance under conservation programs administered by USDA. Guaranteed loan and grant eligibility is limited to rural small businesses and agricultural producers. An agricultural producer is an individual or entity directly engaged in the production of agricultural products (crops, livestock, forestry products, hydroponics, nursery, and aquaculture) whereby 50 percent or greater of their gross income is derived from the operations.

**Availability:** REAP includes grants of up to \$500,000 for renewable energy systems and grants of up to \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements. Loans for renewable energy systems have a maximum of \$25 million. Repayment terms for the loans for real estate must not exceed 30 years, and loans for machinery and equipment must not exceed 15 years.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Renewable energy systems.
- Energy efficiency improvements.
- Renewable energy development assistance.
- Energy audits.

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-energy-audit-renewable-energy-development-assistance>

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>

## Other USDA Programs

### *The Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (Agricultural Marketing Service)*

According to USDA, approximately 2,686 farmers markets operated in the U.S. in 2014, more than double the number 10 years ago. Throughout the country, communities are responding to this trend by transforming contaminated properties into locations where communities can grow and buy food locally. The Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program includes two competitive grant programs: the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP). The goals of FMPP grants are to increase domestic consumption of and access to locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets by developing, improving, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to, or assisting in the development, improvement, and expansion of, domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.

**Eligibility Requirements:** All applicants must be domestic entities owned, operated, and located within the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Eligible entities include agricultural businesses and cooperatives, community-supported agriculture networks and associations, economic development corporations, local governments, nonprofit corporations, producer networks, producer associations,

public benefit corporations, regional farmers market authorities, and tribal governments.

**Availability:** The maximum award for an FMPP grant is \$100,000.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Bring local farm products into federal nutrition programs with electronic benefits transfer technology at direct-market outlets.
- Raise customer awareness of local foods through promotion and outreach.
- Educate farmers and growers in marketing, business planning, and similar topics.
- Increase market awareness through advertising and branding efforts.
- Purchase equipment, such as refrigerated trucks, or equipment for a commercial kitchen for value-added products.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMsv1.0/fmpp>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs> for a list of all USDA Rural Development Programs, many of which may be applicable to brownfields development.

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### State Contacts

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/StateOfficeAddresses.html>

## SNAPSHOT – OGDEN, IOWA

Ogden, Iowa, opened a new medical center in early 2014. Built on three centrally located brown-field properties in the downtown commercial district, the new building housing the medical center became the cornerstone of Ogden's Main Street revitalization. Financing for the \$850,000 development came from a variety of sources, including a USDA Rural Economic Development Loan Grant for up to \$300,000 and a \$500,000 grant from a local philanthropy. The project spawned reuse of the buildings around it, which include a bank, nurse practitioner's office, flower shop, photography studio, and other businesses.

# Department of Agriculture— United States Forest Service

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

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### Mission

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service manages a system of 154 National Forests and 20 National Grasslands for the public good (totalling 193 million acres); provides technical and financial assistance to state and local agencies, tribes, communities, and private landowners; conducts research and delivers knowledge and technology on all aspects of forestry, rangeland management, and forest resource utilization; and provides international assistance for the protection and management of the world's forest resources.

Forest Service Cooperative Forestry programs, delivered through state forestry agencies, provide information and assistance to communities involved in brownfield projects. These programs help communities manage natural resources to enhance forest health and ecosystem services and to promote community resilience and economic development. Forest Service research provides information on brownfields remediation and ecological rehabilitation.

### Brownfields Connections

- Technical and financial assistance for integrating natural infrastructure into redevelopment and brownfields reuse projects in 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and affiliated Pacific Island Nations through the state forestry agencies.
- Technical assistance for afforestation and ecological restoration associated with redeveloping brownfields located in rural and urban communities, or near mine-scarred lands.
- Technical, financial, and educational assistance for communities that want to convert existing brownfields into natural open space, parks, or tree-covered parks, or to conduct other land conservation projects to increase access to nature.

- Assistance to rural and urban brownfields communities in applying for USDA grants and loans.

## RESOURCES

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### Financial and Technical Assistance

#### *Urban and Community Forestry Program*

The Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) is a cooperative program of the U.S. Forest Service that focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources. UCF responds to the needs of urban areas by maintaining, restoring, and improving forest ecosystems on more than 130 million acres of urban land. Through these efforts, the program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments across the nation. Urban forests, which include urban parks, street trees, landscaped boulevards, public gardens, river and coastal promenades, greenways, river corridors, wetlands, nature preserves, natural areas, shelter belts of trees and working trees at industrial brownfield sites, are dynamic ecosystems that provide environmental services such as clean air and water. Trees cool cities and save energy, improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, strengthen local economies, improve social connections that create restorative commons to improve health and well-being, and complement smart growth principles. UCF provides financial and technical assistance to plan, protect, establish, and manage and utilize trees, forests, and related resources.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Local governments, nonprofit organizations, community groups, educational institutions, and tribal governments are eligible for assistance. The program is delivered through the state forestry agencies in the states, District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and affiliated Pacific Island Nations.

**Availability:** Funding depends upon annual congressional appropriations.

## SNAPSHOT – RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

The 90-acre Barton Bench brownfield was mined for coal in the 1970s and is part of over 40,000 acres acquired by the USFS in the 1980s. The ecological restoration of Barton Bench kicked off when The West-Mon-Ty Resource Conservation and Development Project Inc. and the Monongahela National Forest received \$17,000 in grants through the West Virginia Brownfields program to address barriers to revitalization and plan for marketing implementation. The goal of ecological restoration was total naturalization leading to a healthy watershed and native red spruce-northern hardwood ecosystem.

The USFS partnered with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to decompact soil and prepare the site for planting. This effort led to additional partnerships with the Arbor Day Foundation to fund the purchase of native tree species and with AmeriCorps to provide planting labor. An agreement with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection helped fund vernal pool creation and wetland redesign. Ecological restoration of Barton Bench kick-started restoration efforts in other areas. The USFS has since prepared and planted over 100 additional acres, and prepared another 145 acres in 2014. Canaan Valley Institute constructed a stream channel and over 130 wetlands on the recently prepared land, and plans to install more than 62,000 native plants. Successful restoration at Barton Bench contributes to a larger effort to restore red spruce-northern hardwood ecosystems across hundreds of thousands of acres in Central Appalachia.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Revitalizing city centers, older suburbs, and exurban areas through green infrastructure planning.
- Planting, caring for, and using trees as part of brownfields reuse.
- Restoring degraded rivers or other ecological restoration activities.
- Planting trees for phytoremediation at brownfield sites.
- Providing service learning for youth working in the environment through partner programs.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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# Department of Commerce— Economic Development Administration

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides grant-based investments to units of state and local government and nonprofits in communities and regions suffering from economic distress. EDA assistance is available to rural and urban areas experiencing chronic high unemployment or underemployment, low per capita income, or a severe disruption to the economic base of the community or region. EDA's investments are intended to be catalytic, spurring private capital investment and long-term job creation by helping to build the regional capacity to support bottom-up, regionally driven economic development priorities. Traditionally, over half of all EDA resources go to small towns and rural areas.

EDA encourages brownfields redevelopment through its existing investment programs—often focused on the “back-end” or redevelopment aspects of brownfield projects. EDA's projects range from upfront economic development planning efforts to multimillion-dollar infrastructure improvements. Key brownfield activities include physical infrastructure upgrades/demolition; reuse of publicly owned buildings; redevelopment plans; site-specific market feasibility studies; and the capitalization of revolving loan funds (RLFs).

Between FY 2001 and FY 2014, EDA invested approximately \$298 million in over 270 brownfield redevelopment projects (with an average investment of roughly \$1.1 million).

### Brownfields Connections

- Funding for public works and infrastructure enhancements relating to brownfields redevelopment.
- Funding for economic development planning to economically distressed states, regions, and communities impacted by brownfields.
- Funding for local technical assistance to help public and nonprofit leaders with their economic development decision-making.
- Funding to capitalize revolving loan funds for state and local implementation of strategies to attract private sector investment.

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

#### *Public Works Program*

EDA's Public Works (PW) funding enables communities to construct or rehabilitate public infrastructure and facilities that are essential to job creation and economic development. Grants can be provided to support business incubators, industrial parks, and utility infrastructure needed for a private development, among other uses. Grants generally require a 50 percent local cost share.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants in communities experiencing economic decline and distress include Indian tribes or a consortium of tribes; states, cities, or other political subdivisions of a state; nonprofit organizations acting in cooperation with a political subdivision; and institutions of higher education.

**Limitations:** Individuals or for-profit private entities are not eligible.

**Availability:** EDA allocated approximately \$99 million for the Public Works and Economic Development Facilities program in FY 2015. EDA has quarterly rounds of funding for PW. See the EDA website at <http://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/> for specific requirements.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Support for the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain private sector jobs and investments.

#### *Economic Adjustment Assistance Program*

EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) funding flexibly supports the design and/or implementation of strategies (e.g., strategy development, infrastructure construction, RLF capitalization/recapitalization) to assist communities or regions that experienced or are under threat of serious damage to their underlying economic base. Grants generally require a 50 percent local cost share.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants in communities experiencing economic decline and distress include Indian tribes or a consortium of tribes; states, cities, or other political subdivisions of

a state; nonprofit organizations acting in cooperation with a political subdivision; and institutions of higher education.

**Limitations:** Individuals or for-profit private entities are not eligible.

**Availability:** EDA allocated approximately \$45 million for the EAA program in FY 2015. EDA has quarterly rounds of funding for EAA. See the EDA website at <http://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/> for specific requirements.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Provides construction and nonconstruction assistance (including public works, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and RLF projects) in regions experiencing severe economic dislocations that occur suddenly or over time.

#### *Planning Program*

Planning program grants help regional organizations (Economic Development Districts, Indian tribes, and other eligible areas) develop, implement, revise, or replace comprehensive economic development strategies (CEDs). A CEDs is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development, a result of a “regionally owned” planning process designed to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. An EDA-approved CEDs is a prerequisite for requesting an EDA-funded PW or EAA investment (see above). EDA also provides limited planning-grant assistance for short-term planning activities. Grants generally require a 50 percent local cost share.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants in communities experiencing economic decline and distress include Indian tribes or a consortium of tribes; states, cities, or other political subdivisions of a state; nonprofit organizations acting in cooperation with a political subdivision; and institutions of higher education.

**Limitations:** Individuals or for-profit private entities are not eligible.

**Availability:** EDA allocated approximately \$30 million for the Planning program in FY 2015. EDA accepts applications on a rolling basis for short-term planning. For other planning activities, please contact the appropriate EDA regional office. See the EDA website at <http://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/> for specific requirements.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Develop, maintain, and implement CEDs and related short-term planning activities.
- Integrate brownfields redevelopment into a CEDs.

#### *Local Technical Assistance Program*

The Local Technical Assistance program is designed to provide focused assistance to public and nonprofit leaders to help in economic development decision-making (e.g., impact analyses, feasibility studies). Grants generally require a 50 percent local cost share.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants in communities experiencing economic decline and distress include Indian tribes or a consortium of tribes; states, cities, or other political subdivisions of a state; nonprofit organizations acting in cooperation with a political subdivision; and institutions of higher education.

**Limitations:** Individuals or for-profit private entities are not eligible.

**Availability:** EDA allocated approximately \$11 million to the Technical Assistance Program (which includes National Technical Assistance) in FY 2015. EDA accepts applications on a rolling basis for local technical assistance. See the EDA website at <http://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/> for specific requirements.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Help communities inform their economic development decision-making, including the feasibility/ impact of brownfields-related projects.

#### *Regional Innovation Grants*

Under the Regional Innovation grant program, EDA provides funding under three separate competitions:

1. i6 Challenge
2. Science and Research Park Development Grants
3. Cluster Grants for Seed Capital Funds.

The Regional Innovation grant program supports EDA’s commitment to helping foster connected, innovation-centric economic sectors that support commercialization and entrepreneurship. Funding provided through these three competitions support capacity-building activities that include Proof of Concept Centers and Commercialization Centers as well as scaling of existing commercialization programs and centers; feasibility studies for the creation and expansion of facilities such as science and research parks; and opportunities to close the funding gap for early-stage companies.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants include states; Indian tribes; cities or other political subdivisions of a state; nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, public-private partnerships, science or research parks, federal laboratories, or economic development organizations or similar entities that are



## SNAPSHOT – MANCHESTER BIDWELL, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

EDA provided a \$1,132,800 grant to the Manchester-Bidwell Corporation and the Business & Industry Development Corporation to help redevelop a Pittsburgh-area brownfield into the 63,000-square-foot Harbor Gardens Park office building and adjacent 40,000-square-foot Drew Mathieson Center greenhouse facility. This project transformed an underutilized property into a horticultural science education center and greenhouse that provide educational and job training opportunities to the unemployed youth of inner city Pittsburgh.

The Harbor Gardens office building and Drew Mathieson Center for Horticultural and Agricultural Technology initially concentrated on orchid production, but over the last decade, evolved to offer programs in fields ranging from horticulture to medical information technology records management. Today, the Manchester Bidwell Corporation is a nationally accredited and state-licensed adult career training institution. A number of individuals who were trained in horticultural science at the facility now work in commercial greenhouses.

supported by a state or a political subdivision of a state; or a consortium of any of the entities described above.

**Limitations:** Individuals are not eligible.

**Availability:** In FY 2014, EDA allocated approximately \$8 million for the i6 Challenge, \$5 million for Science and Research Park Development Grants, and \$2 million for Cluster Grants for Seed Funds. Awards ranged from \$250,000 to \$500,000 per applicant. See the EDA website at <http://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities> for specific requirements.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- *i6 Challenge Grants:* Support the creation of centers for innovation and entrepreneurship that increase the commercialization of innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research into viable companies.
- *Science and Research Park Development Grants:* Support the entire lifecycle of commercialization, from idea generation to business creation, through startup and growth of a science or research park, thereby significantly bolstering the health of the regional economy.
- *Cluster Grants for Seed funds:* Support feasibility, planning, formation, or launch of cluster-based seed capital funds to be deployed in support of innovation-based startups with a potential for high growth.

### Other

EDA regularly uses a portion of its funding to support multi-agency funding opportunities (e.g., Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge). These interagency

challenges provide strategic, catalytic funding for competitive, high-potential regional partnerships that accelerate cluster-based innovation and strengthen capacity in a variety of areas (e.g., manufacturing, commercialization). These initiatives leverage existing financial and technical resources from EDA and other federal agencies, allowing applicants to seek multiple sources of federal funding from a single combined federal funding opportunity. See <http://www.eda.gov/about/multi-agency-initiatives.htm> for more information.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Main Site

<http://www.eda.gov>

# Department of Commerce— National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

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### Mission

The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) works to balance environmental and economic needs in coastal communities.

### Brownfields Connections

- Technical assistance to coastal state, territorial, and local governments for coastal resource protection and management relating to brownfields.
- Expertise to improve brownfields cleanup and redevelopment and expedite decision-making.
- Programs that benefit local economies and improve quality of life in coastal communities by applying sustainable economic development programs.
- Local workshops sponsored by NOAA that focus on brownfields revitalization efforts to help communities gather input from all parties involved in the revitalization process, creating strong partnerships for more efficient action.
- Strong partnerships with state coastal zone management programs that help rebuild community waterfronts and redevelop brownfields.
- Use of advanced marine transportation tools and services to revitalize port areas.
- Partnerships with local communities and other agencies to improve quality of life, the environment, and regional economies.
- Training, guidance, and decision-making tools for specific watersheds, ports, and harbors to assist coastal communities with the assessment, cleanup, and restoration of contaminated coastal sites (including brownfields).

## RESOURCES

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### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### *National Ocean Service's Office of Response and Restoration*

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) provides science-based solutions through collaborative partnerships to address evolving economic, environmental, and social pressures on our oceans and coasts. NOS delivers the tools and services needed to understand and respond to challenges along 95,000 miles of shoreline and 3.5 million square miles of U.S. coastal, Great Lakes, and deep-ocean waters. Thousands of brownfields that once were thriving industrial facilities are located along coastal waterfronts. With a coastal focus and experience in solving environmental challenges, several NOS programs provide resources and technical assistance to coastal communities that assist with brownfields cleanup and reuse. The Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) provides scientific support to the U.S. Coast Guard for spills and coordinates with other agencies for hazardous material releases to ensure protection and restoration of its trust resources. OR&R also coordinates with federal, state, and tribal natural resource trustees to assess and restore degraded coastal resources and the services they provide. Among its specialized skill areas, OR&R forecasts the movement and behavior of spilled oil and chemicals, evaluates risk to resources, and recommends protective cleanup actions.

OR&R Assessment and Restoration Division (ARD) also works with co-trustees and the EPA at federal Superfund, state-lead cleanup sites, and brownfield sites in various roles. ARD provides technical support in contaminated site assessments, including contaminated sediment sites, ecological risk assessment, site remediation, and natural resource restoration. Through the NOAA Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program, natural resource damage assessments are conducted to achieve compensation for lost services and restoration of coastal and estuarine habitats. OR&R also coordinates NOAA's

## SNAPSHOT – DELAWARE RIVER URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

NOAA is a co-lead federal agency for the Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership site. This includes the cities of Camden, N.J., Philadelphia, Pa., Chester, Pa., and Wilmington, Del. NOAA co-leads the Brownfield Community of Practice, which focuses on brownfields revitalization efforts and practices at these locations. Several brownfields redevelopment projects in this area have restored tidal and non-tidal wetlands, shorelines, public access, stormwater functions, water quality, and other services directly beneficial to these coastal communities as well as the larger Delaware Estuary. The Harrison Island landfill (Camden, N.J.) estuarine habitat restoration project and the South Wilmington Wetlands (Wilmington, Del.) project, which significantly reduced flooding impacts to the South Wilmington community, are sites where NOAA had specific roles. The Community of Practice is discussing and evaluating ways to include an assessment/evaluation of brownfields revitalization at a regional scale, looking at ecological and human connections between the sites, and incorporating regional Delaware Estuary restoration goals into the planning. NOAA is providing technical assistance for specific brownfields restoration sites and projects and facilitating regional collaboration of brownfields efforts relative to the goals of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

participation in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, which is active in several urban coastal communities, by promoting restoration of urban waters and coastal resiliency.

**Eligibility Requirements:** OR&R coordinates with federal and state trustee agencies.

**Limitations:** Assistance is limited based on agency priorities.

**Availability:** Limited to sites that impact trust resources.

<http://www.response.restoration.noaa.gov>

**Uses/Applications Include:** Projects are selected based on OR&R's strategic priorities and available funds.

### *Office for Coastal Management*

The Office for Coastal Management was established in 2014 when NOAA combined two offices: the Coastal Services Center and the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. This new office works closely with the private sector, nonprofit organizations, the scientific community, and state, local, and federal governments on a wide range of issues and initiatives designed to protect coastal and estuarine resources and communities.

One key component of the Office for Coastal Management is the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). CELCP provides matching funds to state and local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements. To be considered, the land must be important ecologically or possess other coastal conservation values, such as historic features, scenic views, or recreational opportunities. Since

2002, CELCP has protected more than 100,000 acres. Many CELCP projects also protect critical habitat for species under NOAA's jurisdiction under the Coral Reef Conservation Act, Endangered Species Act, and Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Coastal states with approved coastal zone management plans or National Estuarine Research Reserves are eligible to participate in the CELCP. State participation is voluntary, and states may choose to participate by developing a Coastal and Estuarine Conservation Plan for approval by NOAA.

**Limitations:** Projects are selected based on CELCP's national priorities.

**Availability:** Assistance is limited based on agency priorities and availability of funds.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Smart Growth initiatives.
- Brownfields information outreach.

<http://coast.noaa.gov>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **Main Site**

<http://www.response.restoration.noaa.gov>

# Department of Defense— U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides assistance for the development and management of the nation's water resources in an environmentally sustainable, economic, and technically sound manner. USACE provides comprehensive planning, design, construction, engineering management, and technical support to the Army and to the nation. In addition, USACE responds to engineering-related brownfields questions and project inquiries from any community within the U.S. and its territories for major water resource-related endeavors. USACE will guide communities to appropriate congressional contacts for authorization and appropriation support for individual projects.

### Brownfields Connections

- Reimbursable technical services are provided to other federal agencies engaged in brownfields activities targeted to local governments. Such services align water resources development and management efforts with community brownfields objectives.
- Implementation of civil works water resource projects emphasizes integrated and sustainable systems-based solutions for ecosystem restoration, inland and coastal navigation, and flood and storm damage reduction—targeted to state and local governments.

## RESOURCES

### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### *Reimbursable Support*

USACE may perform technical oversight and management of engineering, environmental, and construction contracts, including technical assistance for brownfields-related activities, non-Department of Defense federal agencies, and states on a reimbursable basis. The work is fully funded by the partner (e.g., local government).

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Technical and project management capabilities for most water- and land-related natural resources activities.
- Engineering, facility design, construction management, and other technical services.
- Environmental restoration.

#### *Planning Assistance to States (Section 22<sup>1</sup>)*

USACE provides technical assistance to states to support preparation of comprehensive water and related land resources development plans, including watershed and ecosystem planning. USACE assists in conducting individual studies supporting the state plan. Assistance is given on the basis of state requests and availability of USACE expertise rather than through congressional authorization procedures. Section 22 cannot be used to supplement other ongoing or pending USACE efforts, or to offset required state contributions to federal grant programs.

**Eligibility Requirements:** There is general authority for USACE to cooperate with states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and federally recognized Indian tribes. Reimbursable support from USACE is not available to private entities.

**Limitations:** The Planning Assistance to States program is funded annually by Congress. Federal allotments for each state or tribe from the nationwide appropriation are limited to \$2,000,000 annually, but typically are much less. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per state or tribe per year, are cost-shared on a 50 percent federal–50 percent non-federal basis. The sponsor has the option of providing its required 50 percent of study costs as cash or through work-in-kind.

**Availability:** The availability of planning assistance depends on annual congressional appropriations to the program.

<sup>1</sup> Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1974, as amended, provides authority for USACE to assist the states, local governments, Native American tribes, and other non-federal entities, in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development and conservation of water and related land resources.

### *Centers of Expertise (CX)*

USACE Centers of Expertise, whose specialized capabilities can be helpful in solving specific brownfields challenges, include the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collection Center, the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EMCX), the Photogrammetric Mapping Center, the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures Center, the Rapid Response Corps of Engineers Center of Expertise, and the Sustainable Design and Development Center. Assistance from these centers is generally available on a reimbursable basis.

**Eligibility Requirements:** There is general authority for USACE to cooperate with states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and federally recognized Indian tribes. Reimbursable support from USACE is not available to private entities.

**Availability:** Priority is given to requests for support that have national significance.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Preserving historic buildings and structures.
- Rapid response to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste incidents.
- Coordinating acid mine drainage cleanup with other infrastructure issues (e.g., wastewater systems).

### *Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections Center of Expertise*

The Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for the Curation and Management of Archeological Collections (CMAC) is a group of skilled professionals established by USACE and located at the St. Louis District (CEMVS). MCX-CMAC maintains state-of-the-art technical expertise in the curation of archaeological collections, collections management (including historic properties database and website development), special purpose designs and construction requirements of curation facilities, mass graves investigations, mass disaster fatalities recovery (in support of FEMA), forensic support to United States government agencies, and archival/historic cartographic investigations to assist military and intelligence agencies. MCX-CMAC provides USACE Headquarters and USACE Commands with program guidance, technology transfer, and interagency coordination for the curation of archaeological collections. MCX-CMAC manages all USACE curation-needs assessments and design services for the curation of archeological collections. When MCX-CMAC staff and services are available, CEMVS will, on a reimbursable

basis, assist other Major Army Commands (MACOMs), Department of Defense (DoD) services and agencies, and other federal, state, and local government agencies.

### *Photogrammetric Mapping Center*

CEMVS is the Center of Expertise (CX) for Photogrammetric Mapping in USACE's Directory of Expertise. The mission of the CX is to provide rapid response, full-service photogrammetric mapping support and maintain technical capability and proficiency in all aspects of photogrammetry, including:

- Project planning and specialization.
- Photogrammetric map compilation.
- Architect-engineer contracting.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) development.
- Photo interpretation.

### *Center of Expertise for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures*

The Technical Center of Expertise (TCX) for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures serves the USACE community, federal agencies, and DoD facilities in need of assistance for the treatment and management of historic structures. As a center for best practices, the program offers technical excellence and outstanding staffing credentials to guide resource personnel and property managers in making good decisions for a wide range of historic properties, including buildings, objects, vessels, landscapes, and civil works projects. Housed within Environmental and Cultural Resources Branch, the TCX works collaboratively with the Cultural Resources Section.

The Center also provides liaison assistance between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, and other various preservation organizations, along with state and local governments.

### *Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise*

In 1990, USACE Headquarters established the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, as the Ordnance and Explosives Center of Expertise and Design Center. In 2007, the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EMCX) was established, merging the former OE CX (also called the Military Munitions CX) and the Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Center of Expertise (HTRW CX). The former MM CX is now the Military Munitions Division of the EMCX. The EMCX was established to assist USACE organizational elements in performing their activities and maintaining state-of-the-art technical expertise for all aspects of response activities. The EMCX does not execute response actions for programs or projects

## SNAPSHOT – SELMA TO MONTGOMERY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, ALABAMA

The federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities is helping communities along Alabama’s 54-mile Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail grow and develop while celebrating its history and creating new opportunities for residents. Designated in 1996 by Congress, the trail commemorates the 1965 Voting Rights March along U.S. Highway 80, beginning in the small town of Selma and ending in the historic Peacock neighborhood in Montgomery. To build on this unique federal, state, and local collaboration, partners used the upcoming commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the march to catalyze the process.

The Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail Petroleum Brownfields Revitalization Initiative is a forum for public and private parties to organize their coordination, resource leveraging, and planning efforts to assess, clean up, and reuse petroleum sites along this historic corridor. The Initiative will raise visibility for ongoing brownfields revitalization efforts underway in Alabama and across the nation. The targeted corridor runs for 54 miles along U.S. 80 from Selma through Benton and Mt. Sinai to Montgomery. By focusing attention on a targeted corridor, the partners hope to identify and expand practices that will help other stakeholders gain a better understanding of opportunities associated with the revitalization of petroleum brownfield sites. Lessons learned here and across the state will be compiled and shared with many others nationwide.

Revitalization began with 18 brownfield site assessments conducted by the State of Alabama and EPA to determine the best sites for redevelopment in the rural and underserved communities along the trail. Nine community visioning sessions supported by EPA, USACE, and the National Park Service helped draft plans to connect historic points of interest. Funding and assistance from USACE and other federal agencies was used for community visioning, stormwater infrastructure, construction of a greenway and a community park, streetscape improvements, affordable homes for police and teachers, and repairs to the historic Mount Zion Church, where the march concluded.

but assists USACE at all levels in their performance. The EMCX supports the USACE Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) and other munitions-related operations in reducing the human health and environmental risk associated with munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC). They maintain state-of-the-art technical expertise for all aspects of environmental remediation and munitions response activities. They also manage and provide oversight of the USACE Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) MMRP Site Inspection Program.

EMCX provides remediation services for properties contaminated with hazardous waste, radioactive materials, and/or ordnance in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The Center’s projects strive for sustainability while meeting current and future land and water use needs, safeguarding human health and safety, improving quality of life, and enhancing the natural environment. USACE supports military and civil agencies nationwide in environmental and munitions responses.

### *Rapid Response Center of Expertise*

The Rapid Response Center of Expertise (RRCX) provides quick-response environmental services. RRCX is capable of providing the following special functions:

- Time critical remediation/removal project execution.
- Rapid response site “start up” and transition to traditional District for final execution.
- USACE Headquarters “Tiger Team” support.
- Cost reimbursable contract management training.
- Cost reimbursement contract oversight assistance.
- Site support to USACE teams.
- Site support to other federal agencies.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **Main Site**

<http://www.usace.army.mil>

# Department of Defense— Office of Economic Adjustment

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

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### Mission

The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) is the Department of Defense's (DoD) primary source for assisting communities that are adversely impacted by defense program changes, including base closures and realignments. OEA provides economic adjustment planning assistance to eligible communities affected by the closure or realignment of a military installation. Within OEA, the primary resource for DoD's economic adjustment projects is the Defense Economic Adjustment program for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Since 1961, OEA worked with communities impacted by downsizing and base closures to address issues such as unemployment, economic development, and land use planning. Since 1988, five independent BRAC commissions recommended closing 451 installations. Although no future rounds of closures are approved by Congress, the 2005 Commission recommended that Congress authorize another BRAC round in 2015.

### Brownfields Connection

- Assistance and information on planning for the redevelopment of brownfields on closed or realigned military facilities.

## RESOURCES

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### Technical and Financial Assistance

*Community Economic Adjustment Planning Assistance*

OEA helps communities and states plan and carry out local economic adjustment programs, including but not limited to base redevelopment plans, business

and operational plans, infrastructure assessments, feasibility studies, staff and operational assistance, and other activities necessary to respond to these defense actions. OEA encourages and helps communities to understand existing environmental conditions and integrate cleanup measures with redevelopment plans. When responding to BRAC actions, affected communities focus on economic development goals, and when appropriate, adapt the concepts and techniques of brownfield redevelopment within their program.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include states, cities, counties, other political subdivisions of a state, special purpose units of state or local government, and tribal nations affected by a base closure or realignment that will impose a direct and significant adverse consequence. Applicants interested in this assistance should contact OEA to determine eligibility for assistance under this program.

**Availability:** Annual noncompetitive grant awards range from \$50,000 to \$2 million.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Prepare redevelopment plans and related studies/ assistance to support the reuse of surplus military installation property.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Main Site

<http://www.oea.gov>

## SNAPSHOT – NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT, INDIANA

The Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) is a 7,130-acre former Army Materiel Command facility located approximately 35 miles north of Terre Haute in west-central Indiana. It was established in 1941 as an explosive and chemical production plant and later operated as a chemical agent destruction facility for the munitions that had been stockpiled at the site. DoD recommended the closure of the NECD under 2005 BRAC actions. At the time, the depot was the largest employer in Vermillion County. By June 2010, all activities required for closure of the NECD were completed. In addition, the county established the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority (NeCDRA) to guide its efforts to respond to the closure of the facility.

NeCDRA completed a reuse master plan for the site that includes a variety of future uses, including parks and restored prairie habitat, as well as business, technology, and manufacturing centers. In collaboration with local utilities, EPA, and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NeCDRA is investigating the feasibility of installing a utility-scale wind energy project on a portion of the site. The results of the November 2013 feasibility study, which was conducted under EPA's RE-Powering America's Land initiative, will be incorporated into the overall master redevelopment plan for the site. Changes in national energy usage and production, technology, industry, transportation, and logistics, as well as a focus on sustainability of the natural and built environments, will shape the depot's redevelopment over the course of the next few decades. The Phase 1 parcel (6,652 acres) was transferred to NeCDRA in September 2011, and the Phase 2 parcel (483 acres) was transferred in September 2012.



# Department of Energy

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

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### Mission

The mission of the Department of Energy (DOE) is to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; and to ensure the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex. DOE continues to be caretaker and manager of the facilities that manufactured nuclear weapons and the property on which the weapons are located. DOE supports brownfields reuse by providing technical assistance in the fields of energy use and environmental remediation and in the *Los Alamos National Laboratory Sustainable Design Guide*.

### Brownfields Connections

- Technical assistance in the field of environmental cleanup and stabilization.
- Financial assistance to transfer property for a public purpose.
- Green Energy Parks at DOE facilities.
- Evaluations of brownfields as sites for renewable energy technologies.

DOE's Office of Legacy Management (LM) continues to take significant steps to ensure that DOE's environmental and human legacy responsibilities are properly managed for current and future generations. LM accomplishes this mission by:

- Protecting human health and the environment through effective and efficient long-term surveillance and maintenance.
- Preserving and protecting legacy records and information, and effectively communicating with the public.
- Sustaining the continuity of workers' pension and medical benefits.
- Managing legacy land and assets and emphasizing safety, reuse, and disposition.

## RESOURCES

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### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### *Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) works with business, industry, universities, national laboratories, and others to increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. One way EERE encourages the growth of these technologies is by offering financial assistance opportunities for their research and development. EERE evaluates projects that may include brownfields as proposed sites for renewable energy technologies.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Financial assistance is available for businesses, industries, universities, and others.

**Availability:** Competitive grants are the most common type of financial assistance awarded by EERE. Cooperative agreements also are competitive. Like most federal government funding, funding for EERE financial assistance awards is authorized by an appropriation approved by Congress. Congress determines the overall budget for DOE activities, and this amount determines how much money will be available for EERE financial assistance awards.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development.
- Transfer of money, property, or services.

<http://www.eere.energy.gov>

#### *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is EERE's principal research laboratory and the nation's primary laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. Its mission and strategy are focused on advancing DOE's and the nation's energy goals. NREL's research and development capabilities advance national energy goals by developing innovations to change the way we power homes and businesses and fuel cars.

As part of EPA's RE-Powering America's Land Initiative, EPA and NREL collaborated on a project in FY 2011 to evaluate the feasibility of siting renewable energy production on potentially contaminated sites. This effort paired EPA's expertise on contaminated sites with NREL's expertise in renewable energy. The feasibility studies provide site owners and communities with a realistic and achievable plan for putting renewable energy on a given site. In FY 2011, 26 potentially contaminated sites with potential for wind, solar, biopower, or geothermal production were selected for this program.

<http://www.nrel.gov>

RE-Powering America's Lands website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/oswercpa/index.htm>

### *Office of Environmental Management*

The mission of the Office of Environmental Management (EM) is to complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from five decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research. The Cold War left a legacy of 1.5 million cubic meters of solid waste, 88 million gallons of highly radioactive liquid waste, 2,400 metric tons of used nuclear fuel, special nuclear material, more than 100 square miles of contaminated soil and groundwater, and thousands of excess nuclear facilities. The EM program makes significant progress in treating and disposing of the waste, stabilizing the nuclear fuel and materials, and remediating the soil, groundwater, and facilities. EM continues this cleanup mission with a focus on constructing and operating complex treatment facilities to solidify the liquid waste into a safer form for ultimate disposal. EM's work has taken place in 35 states and on properties that cover two million acres.

In partnership with community reuse organizations and others interested in establishing energy parks, EM transfers properties for commercial reindustrialization, notably in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. These reuse efforts are part of the broader Asset Revitalization Initiative to leverage assets and create opportunities to enable local development and economic diversification. Projects are dependent on what the community wants, what suits the land and climate, and what can be offered by DOE. DOE supports the partnership through technology and technical assistance for remediation and property reuse efforts.

**Limitations:** EM program activities are focused on contaminated nuclear weapons production and nuclear energy research testing sites across the United States.

### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Reducing risk and environmental liability at nuclear production and nuclear energy research sites.
- Constructing and operating facilities to treat radioactive liquid tank waste.
- Securing and storing nuclear materials in a stable, safe configuration in secure locations.
- Transporting and disposing of transuranic and low-level wastes in a safe and cost-effective manner.
- Cleaning up soil and groundwater at EM sites.
- Facilitating revitalization projects at DOE facilities.

<http://www.em.doe.gov/pages/emhome.aspx>

### *DOE's Asset Revitalization Initiative*

The Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI) is a DOE-wide effort to advance the beneficial reuse of its unique and diverse mix of assets, including land, facilities, infrastructure, equipment, technologies, natural resources, and a highly skilled workforce. By 2020, DOE plans to conduct the following activities at each of the field sites in the DOE Complex:

- Seek to conduct operations sustainably, incorporating clean energy technologies wherever possible.
- Develop modern, adaptable, and efficient site infrastructures and closely coordinate multi-agency efforts at the sites.
- Promote public-private partnerships and commercial opportunities.
- Engage local communities and stakeholders in the development and asset revitalization process.

Although the initiative was launched in 2011, several sites in the DOE Complex had already been working toward achieving some of the initiative's goals. For example, over the last ten years, DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, which has over 1,300 acres of clean land that is ready for beneficial reuse, executed over 90 leases with private businesses, transferred 19 properties, and leased 330 acres of DOE-owned property. By transferring responsibility for facility demolition and maintenance to private businesses, Oak Ridge realized millions of dollars in savings, thereby demonstrating the benefits of ARI.

### *Office of Legacy Management*

The mission of the Office of Legacy Management (LM) is to fulfill DOE's post-closure responsibilities and ensure the future protection of human health and the environment. LM has control and custody of legacy

land, structures, and facilities and is responsible for maintaining them at levels consistent with DOE's long-term plans. The goals of LM are to:

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Preserve, protect, and share legacy records and information.
- Meet commitments to the contractor workforce.
- Optimize the use of land assets.
- Sustain management excellence.

With more than 100 sites, DOE activities and those of its predecessor agencies left a legacy of environmental contamination that can impact human health and the environment. LM was formally established in 2003 to manage long-term surveillance and maintenance (LTS&M) activities and ensure the future protection of human health and the environment.

LM currently conducts routine LTS&M activities at 89 sites and will continue to receive sites as they are cleaned up and closed. LM is expected to be responsible for 128 sites by 2020. As LM conducts LTS&M activities for these sites, there is a focus on beneficial reuse of the land. LM currently has 11 sites that are being reused, totaling over 4,000 acres. This represents nearly one-third of the federally owned sites under LM custody and control. Site reuse includes agriculture (e.g., hay production, livestock grazing); habitat preservation; community use (e.g., visitor or interpretive centers); and leasing to local utility companies.

#### *Los Alamos National Laboratory*

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is a premier national security research institution, delivering scientific and engineering solutions for the nation's most crucial and complex problems. Its work also advances earth and environmental sciences. LANL produced the *LANL Sustainable Design Guide*, which recommends selecting properties with opportunities for minimal environmental impacts, including brownfields, for development.

<http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/eng/engstandards/esm/architectural/Sustainable.pdf>

#### *Support for Environmental Justice Communities*

DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration, LM, and EM's Dr. Samuel P. Massie Chairs of Excellence Program provide technical and grant-writing assistance to environmental justice communities located near DOE sites. These organizations provide assistance in developing brownfields strategies, drafting initial concepts, writing portions of proposals,

and conducting research to support project needs. (NOTE: The Massie Chairs support is conducted as part of the DOE Environmental Justice Program).

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Loan Programs Office

DOE's Loan Programs Office provides direct loans to vehicle manufacturers and component manufacturers to support the development of advanced technology vehicles (ATVs). Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) loans support the development of ATVs and associated components in the United States. Applications for this loan financing from qualified businesses are accepted on a rolling basis until funding is expended.

**Eligibility Requirements:** To be eligible for an ATVM loan, an applicant must be either: (1) an automotive manufacturer satisfying specified fuel economy requirements; or (2) a manufacturer of qualifying components. In addition, an applicant must be financially viable without the receipt of additional federal funding for the proposed project.

**Limitations:** All passenger automobiles or light-duty trucks that meet 125 percent of the 2005 Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards qualify as ATVs, as do ultra-efficient vehicles.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Re-equipping, expanding, or establishing manufacturing facilities in the United States to produce ATVs or qualifying components.
- Engineering integration of ATVs or qualifying components performed in the United States.

<http://energy.gov/lpo/loan-programs-office>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **Main Site**

<http://www.energy.gov>

## SNAPSHOT – AURORA, COLORADO

EPA and DOE's NREL conducted a study on the potential for solar power generation on the 146.4-acre Tower Road site in Aurora, Colorado. The feasibility study evaluated the technical and economic opportunities and challenges at the site. The Tower Road site contains areas contaminated with petroleum, solvents, and other contaminants, which originated from historic activities at nearby Buckley Air Force Base. The property is zoned for industrial uses, and adjacent land is owned by the city and maintained as parks, recreational land, and open space. Because the property is located within Buckley Air Force Base's Accident Potential Zone, it is subject to strict land use restrictions, including height, line-of-sight, and radio-frequency restrictions. These restrictions significantly reduce redevelopment options for the property.

The City of Aurora's 2009 Comprehensive Plan emphasizes strategies to increase the number of renewable energy projects on city property, incentivize renewable energy projects, and reduce the city's greenhouse emissions. The Tower Road site has the potential to host up to an 18-MW solar energy system based on available acreage. However, this large area does not need to be developed all at once and can be developed in phases. Multiple characteristics of the site and local energy market—the high cost of energy, the dropping cost of PV, and the existence of an adequate solar resource and incentives—made the Tower Road site a viable candidate for a community solar project. In November 2013, the City of Aurora celebrated the opening of the 498 kW, 1,684-panel solar garden array. The project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 621 metric tons per year, the equivalent of burning 1,440 barrels of oil or 70,000 gallons of gasoline.

# Department of Health and Human Services—Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is directed by congressional mandate to perform specific functions concerning the effect on public health of hazardous substances in the environment. These functions include public health assessments of waste sites, health consultations concerning specific hazardous substances, health surveillance and registries, response to emergency releases of hazardous substances, applied research in support of public health assessments, information development and dissemination, and education and training concerning hazardous substances.

The 2002 Brownfields Amendments to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) provide a public health focus on the impacts of brownfields, particularly in disadvantaged communities and among sensitive populations. One facet of this public health focus urges local governments to monitor the health of populations exposed to hazardous substances from brownfields and to enforce institutional controls that prevent human exposure to those substances.

## ATSDR NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS/LAND REUSE HEALTH INITIATIVE

ATSDR's mission is to serve the public through responsive public health actions that promote healthy and safe environments and prevent harmful exposures to environmental contaminants. Sites such as brownfield/land reuse sites may be the source of potentially harmful exposures because of contamination from previous property uses. Addressing public health concerns and issues related to the restoration of contaminated properties is essential.

Community health considerations are important parts of ATSDR's land revitalization activities. As such, through its Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Initiative, ATSDR works to conduct the following activities:

- Promote a well-rounded approach to redevelopment.
- Include health as an important part of redevelopment.
- Grow community resources to promote health.
- Measure changes in community health.
- Encourage early community involvement in decision-making.
- Restore and revitalize communities in a way that is fair to all community groups.
- Promote relationships among agencies, partners, and communities.
- Improve ways to talk about health and environmental risks.

## RESOURCES

ATSDR provides financial and technical assistance to identify and evaluate environmental health issues associated with brownfield land reuse sites. These resources enable state and local health departments to further investigate environmental health concerns and educate communities.

### Financial Assistance

#### *Community Health Projects Related to Brownfield/Land Reuse*

Brownfields and land reuse sites may be the source of potentially harmful exposures because of contamination from previous property uses. Addressing public health concerns and issues related to the restoration of contaminated properties is essential. ATSDR is funding these community health projects to ensure that public health is an integral part of the land reuse process.

These projects identify, address, and improve public health to ensure that redevelopment of brownfield/land reuse sites includes identifying and addressing health issues before redevelopment and assessing

changes in community health associated with reuse plans and redevelopment. These community health projects also address impacts of contamination at brownfield/land reuse sites and further ATSDR's public health mission.

For more information about eligibility, limitations, and funding availability, see: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/grants.html>.

## Outreach/Technical Assistance

### *Review and Assess Environmental Sampling Data*

Through ATSDR's cooperative partnerships, the agency can review and assess environmental sampling data and other site-related information.

### *Health-Related Information Sharing*

ATSDR can provide health-related information on specific hazardous substances, coordinate a response to a real or perceived elevated incidence of disease near a site, and help individual workers or community members find experienced, private medical attention for significant hazardous substance exposure.

### *ATSDR Action Model*

The ATSDR Brownfields/Land Reuse Action Model helps the diverse members of the development community – officials, developers, community supporters, and residents – find ways to make health part of the renewal process. Communities can use the action model to identify common goals and incorporate these goals in strategic planning.

### *Community Health and Site Inventory Tools*

ATSDR offers the following tools to help local officials with land reuse decisions and help them to provide timely responses:

**ATSDR Site Tool** – Helps environmental and health professionals identify and catalog contaminants and health concerns associated with former and current uses of a property. [Download for free!](#)

**ATSDR Dose Calculator** – Helps users estimate the amount of a toxic substance people could be exposed to (dose) from air, soil, water, and fish consumption. [Download for free!](#)

### **Environmental Public Health Resources**

**Compendium** – A searchable database of public health assessment reports about brownfield and land reuse sites. Users can search by contaminant, public health categories, site name, and location.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **Main Site**

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

### **ATSDR Brownfield/Land Reuse Initiative**

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/index.html>

## SNAPSHOT – BARABOO, WISCONSIN

Nestled in the heart of the Wisconsin Dells, the Baraboo, Wisconsin, waterfront was once pristine. However, more than a century of uncontrolled heavy industrial and commercial activity contaminated both soil and groundwater up to five feet deep and littered the landscape with debris. When a group of Baraboo residents vowed in the late 1990s to reclaim their tarnished landscape, they turned to the ATSDR for help.

In early 2008, ATSDR implemented its Action Model, a framework created to help communities that, like Baraboo, are looking to revitalize a potentially contaminated area. As a first step toward this goal, community members established a partnership with several government agencies, creating the Baraboo Development Community (BDC). Using ATSDR's Action Model, community members identified 15 different public health challenges. They then considered redevelopment options and evaluated their potential economic, social and health impacts on the community. Finally, after a series of meetings, BDC was able to create 33 ways to measure, or gather indicators of, the public health impact and success of the actions they were about to take.

The project is an example of the opportunities available through ATSDR's Brownfield/Land Reuse program to turn these sites into economically sustainable, safe, and healthy places for everyone to enjoy.

# Department of Health and Human Services—National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

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### Mission

The mission of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives. The vision of NIEHS is to provide global leadership for innovative research that improves public health by preventing disease and disability. NIEHS contributes to scientific knowledge of human health and the environment and to the health and well-being of people everywhere.

NIEHS's Worker Training Program (WTP) supports the training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation, and emergency response. The NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP), formerly the Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP), positively changes lives and communities by reaching out to deliver comprehensive training to disadvantaged adults to prepare them for employment in the fields of environmental restoration and hazardous materials/waste handling, construction, and emergency response.

### Brownfields Connections

- Conducts the ECWTP to assist communities by addressing the need for a more comprehensive training program to foster economic and environmental restoration of brownfields.
- Conducts the ECWTP to increase the recruitment and training of under-represented minorities in the fields of hazardous waste remediation, emergency response, construction, and green jobs. Individuals living near hazardous waste sites or in a community at risk of exposure to contaminated properties are targeted, with the specific focus on training them to be safe while working in the environmental and construction fields to clean up their communities.

- Conducts a hazardous waste worker training program for training and educating workers engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal, containment, and emergency response.
- Provides grants to small businesses under the Advanced Training Technology (ATT) or E-Learning program to develop products for the health and safety training of hazardous materials workers, emergency responders, and skilled support personnel. This program is also called the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) E-Learning Program.
- In coordination with EPA, conducts the Superfund Research Program (SRP)—a network of university grants that are designed to seek solutions to complex health and environmental issues associated with the nation's hazardous waste sites.

## RESOURCES

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### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### *NIEHS Worker Training Program*

The NIEHS WTP supports the training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation, and emergency response. Its mission is to fund nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated track record of providing occupational safety and health education in developing and delivering high-quality training to workers in handling hazardous waste or in responding to emergency releases of hazardous materials. Among the program areas are the Hazardous Waste Worker Training, Environmental Career Worker Training, HAZMAT Disaster Preparedness Training, DOE Nuclear Worker Training, and ATT programs. A list of organizations funded through July/August 2015 can be found at:

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/awardees/index.cfm>

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/index.cfm>



### *Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program*

Hazardous material and waste workers include workers engaged in active and inactive waste treatment, storage and disposal; hazardous waste generation, cleanup and remedial action; and emergency response, as well as workers engaged in hazardous materials transportation, including safe loading, unloading, handling, and storage. Target populations for this training include those covered by requirements of Federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 29, Part 1910) and Environmental Protection Agency (CFR, Title 40, Part 311) standards for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, regulations governing the NIEHS Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (CFR, Title 42, Part 65), as well as hazardous materials transportation workers regulated by the Department of Transportation (49 CFR 171-177).

Since 1987, the Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (HWWTP) has supported 20 primary awardees per award cycle. These represent over 100 different institutions that trained more than 2.7 million workers across the country. Each year approximately 130,000 to 175,000 workers receive critical safety and health training under these programs, which account for more than 30 million contact hours of actual training. For 2013, approximately 8,607 courses were offered for 142,141 workers with 1,407,102 contact hours. More information about the awardees and descriptions of all NIEHS WTP programs can be found at: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/>.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The following organizations and institutions are eligible to apply: public/state-controlled institutions of higher education; private institutions of higher education; Hispanic-serving institutions; historically black colleges and universities; tribally controlled colleges and universities; Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions; Asian American/Native American/Pacific Islander-serving institutions and nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (other than institutions of higher education).

**Limitations:** A request for applications is released every five years for a five-year funding period. The current grant cycle is 2010-2014. The next grant cycle will be 2015-2019 with a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) that was released on July 28, 2014 and due date of application on November 6, 2014. For more about the FOA, go to <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-14-008.html>.

**Availability:** For the period of 2014-2015, approximately \$20.6 million was allocated to this program.

### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Train and educate workers engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal, containment, and emergency response.
- Conduct special training for workers who may be exposed to unique or special hazards.

[https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about\\_wetp/hwwt/index.cfm](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about_wetp/hwwt/index.cfm)

### *Environmental Careers Worker Training Program*

It has been suggested that disadvantaged communities face greater likelihood of exposure to ambient hazards, and that differential “vulnerability” may modify the effects of toxicants on biological systems. The Environmental Careers Worker Training Program (ECWTP) seeks to address the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged communities by increasing the emphasis of the training to promote a sustainable environmental career path for workers in the fields of hazardous materials handling, waste, construction, and other emerging industries. The MWTP, now the ECWTP, was established in 1995 to provide a series of national pilot programs to test a range of strategies for the recruitment and training of young persons from vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. These are individuals who live near hazardous waste sites or in a community at risk of exposure from contaminated properties who wish to work in the environmental field. The program represents a broad geographic distribution and reaches numerous populations in high-risk contaminated areas across the United States. Over the years the program evolved to focus on delivering comprehensive training to increase the number of disadvantaged and underrepresented minority workers in many areas, such as environmental restoration, construction, and hazardous materials/waste handling, as well as emergency response.

These programs promote long-lasting and effective partnerships in minority and underserved communities that help reinforce occupational health and worker education, and mitigate health disparities at the community level. The different programs provide pre-employment job training, including literacy, life skills, environmental preparation, green jobs, and other related courses; construction skills training; environmental worker training, including hazardous waste, asbestos and lead abatement training; and safety and health training. Some training also includes enrollment in apprenticeship programs for construc-

tion and environmental remediation worker training. In addition, particular focus is placed on establishing a program of mentoring. This program helps to enhance the participants' problem-solving skills, understanding of individual self-esteem, and team work in the application of technical knowledge to environmental and related problems. The ECWTP promotes partnerships or subagreements with academic and other institutions, with a particular focus on minority-serving institutions, and public schools and community-based organizations located in or near the impacted area to provide pre-math, science, or other related education to program participants prior to or concurrent with entry into the training program. For FY 2013, ECWTP trained 367 individuals, with 279 employed for an outstanding job placement rate of 76 percent.

There are important guidance documents that describe the successes of the NIEHS Worker Training Program. The *Minority Worker Training Program: Guidance on How to Achieve Successes and Best Practices* report provides a detailed assessment of the development of the program, key findings, best practices for implementation and success, short- and long-term recommendations, and numerous case studies from the program. Since the inception of this program, approximately 10,000 people were trained in more than 30 communities across 20 states and the District of Columbia, with a job placement rate of roughly 70 percent including the Brownfields Minority Worker Training that ended in 2007. By helping to increase sustainable employment opportunities, promote economic development, address health disparities, and advance environmental justice, the program transformed the lives of trainees, families, and communities traditionally overburdened by economic distress and exposure to hazardous environmental conditions. This model is designed to effectively address the significant impediments to training and employment that challenge underserved and disadvantaged people. The program makes significant contributions to environmental justice by providing training and increasing job opportunities to people from underserved and disadvantaged communities. The program enables these people to participate in addressing the needs of their communities in a more meaningful way. The full report can be found at [http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl\\_get\\_blob.cfm?ID=10040](http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl_get_blob.cfm?ID=10040).

**Eligibility Requirements:** The following organizations and institutions are eligible: public/state-controlled institutions of higher education; private institutions of higher education; Hispanic-serving institutions; historically black colleges and universities;

tribally controlled colleges and universities; Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions; Asian American/Native American/Pacific Islander-serving institutions and nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (other than institutions of higher education).

**Limitations:** A request for applications is released every five years for a five-year funding period. The current grant cycle is 2010-2014. The next grant cycle will be 2015-2019. The funding opportunity announcement was released July 28, 2014, with applications due November 6, 2014. For more about the FOA, go to <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-14-008.html>.

**Availability:** For the period of 2014-2015, approximately \$3.5 million was allocated to this program.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Recruitment of under-represented minority residents who live in urban areas near hazardous waste sites or in communities at risk of exposure to contaminated properties for work in the environmental field.
- Pre-employment job training, including literacy, life skills, environmental preparation, green jobs, and other related courses for construction skills training.
- Safety and health training in areas such as hazardous waste remediation and asbestos and lead abatement.

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about/wetp/ecwtp/index.cfm>

#### *HAZMAT Disaster Preparedness Training Program*

NIEHS developed a HAZMAT Disaster Preparedness Training Program (HDPTP) in response to the experiences and lessons learned in recent national disasters, including terrorist attacks. This program enhances the safety and health training of current hazardous materials workers and chemical responders to create materials and deliver training to workers responding to a disaster. HDPTP, through its Emergency Support Activation Plan, aims to augment prevention preparedness efforts in a wide variety of high-risk settings, and to ensure responders are aware of site-specific hazards and mitigation techniques prior to and during response activities. This initiative is intended to foster the development of disaster-specific training programs as an extension of the HWWTP for the purpose of preparing a cadre of experienced workers for prevention and response to future terrorist incidents in a wide variety of facilities and high-risk operations. The purpose of the NIEHS HDPTP is to complement the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) various preparedness

training programs by enhancing the safety and health training capacity of HAZMAT workers and emergency responders to prevent, deter, or respond to terrorist incidents involving weapons of mass destruction as well as natural disasters. Since the program started in 2005, awardees responded and trained workers after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Sandy; the 2007 California wildfires; and the Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill, with approximately 5,473 courses offered for 79,288 workers, representing 801,977 contact hours of training. In 2013, approximately 825 courses were offered for 12,465 workers representing 112,668 contact hours of training.

Training developed under this program should complement the National Incident Management System (NIMS) standardized incident management processes, protocols, and procedures that all responders—federal, state, tribal, and local—will use to coordinate and conduct response actions.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The following organizations and institutions are eligible to apply: public and state-controlled institutions of higher education; private institutions of higher education; Hispanic-serving institutions; historically black colleges and universities; tribally controlled colleges and universities; Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions; Asian American/Native American/Pacific Islander-serving institutions and nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (other than institutions of higher education).

**Limitations:** A request for applications is released every five years for a five-year funding period. The current grant cycle is 2010-2014. The next grant cycle will be 2015-2019. The funding opportunity announcement was released on July 28, 2014, with a due date of November 6, 2014. For more about the FOA, go to <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-14-008.html>.

**Availability:** For the period of 2014-2015, approximately \$2.2 million was allocated to this program.

#### Uses/Applications Include:

- Enhanced training on chemical-intensive operations for current hazardous materials workers and chemical responders who protect the nation's infrastructure from potential terrorist attacks as a continuing high-priority national need.
- Training for skilled response personnel to ensure appropriate response and remediation actions. Bio-terrorist attacks using weaponized microbials is a high-priority area for training program response. The OSHA designation of anthrax response

coverage by 1910.120 regulations identifies a clear target training population.

<http://www.osha.gov/dep/anthrax/hasp/index.html>

- Development of a nationwide cadre of well-trained environmental response workers and emergency responders to ensure that the nation is prepared to respond to future disasters of national significance. This training is patterned after the successful Hazardous Waste Worker Training (HWWT) Program, which provides worker certification.

[https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about\\_wetp/hdpt/index.cfm](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about_wetp/hdpt/index.cfm)

#### *Advanced Technology Training Program*

The Advanced Technology Training Program (ATT) program solicits SBIR grant applications from small business concerns that propose to further the development of advanced technology training products for the health and safety training of hazardous materials workers, emergency responders, and skilled support personnel. These products complement the goals and objectives of the WETP, which is to prevent work-related harm by assisting in training workers to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials. ATT addresses the need to ensure that learning and training technologies are further developed, field-tested, and applied to real-world situations. The financial support for this initiative comes directly from NIEHS Worker Education and Training Branch SBIR funds.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities are U.S. small business concerns.

**Availability:** Funding is available every year. For this funding opportunity, budgets up to \$100,000 total cost per year and time periods of up to one year for Phase I may be requested. Budgets up to \$200,000 total cost per year and time periods of up to two years may be requested for Phase II. Future-year amounts will depend on annual appropriations.

#### Uses/Applications Include:

- SBIR grants support the development of emerging technologies to improve worker preparedness through training and education enhancements and methodologies (such as e-collaboration, e-teaching, and e-learning) in safety and health training for workers engaged in hazardous materials response.

[https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about\\_wetp/att/index.cfm](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about_wetp/att/index.cfm)

### *Superfund Research Program*

The Superfund Research Program (SRP) is a network of university grants that are designed to seek solutions to the complex health and environmental issues associated with the nation's hazardous waste sites. One goal of the program is to improve public health by supporting integrated research that is multidisciplinary and is capable of identifying, assessing, and evaluating the potential health effects of exposure to hazardous substances. Another goal is to develop innovative chemical, physical, and biological technologies for reducing potential exposure to hazardous substances. The research conducted is coordinated with EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include accredited domestic institutions of higher education.

**Availability:** Funding is available almost every year. The SRP offers several grant opportunities, including the following:

**Multiproject Center Grants (P42)** – These grants made under the SRP are for coordinated, multiproject, multi- and interdisciplinary centers. The objective is to establish and maintain a unique center that links and integrates biomedical research with related engineering, hydrogeologic, and ecologic components. Grant awards are made in response to requests for applications (RFA). The current FOA was released on June 12, 2014. The Letter of Intent due date was August 3, 2014, and the application due date was September 3, 2014.

**Small Business Innovation Research & Small Business Technology Transfer Grants (SBIR/STTR, R41, R42, R43, R44)** – SRP's Hazardous Substances Detection and Remediation Program supports Small Business Innovation Research & Small Business Technology Transfer Grants to foster the commercialization of technologies, products, and devices for detection and remediation of hazardous substances in the environment. The SRP is specifically interested in proposals applying new engineering, bioengineering, and biotechnology approaches to develop novel strategies to characterize, monitor, and remediate hazardous substances at contaminated sites. Application receipt dates are April 5, August 5, and December 5. If interested in applying, please contact Heather Henry at [henryh@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:henryh@niehs.nih.gov) or (919) 541-5330. Please see the SBIR/STTR webpage (<https://sbir.nih.gov/>) for application information, as well as other SBIR/STTR opportunities within NIEHS.

**Superfund Research Program Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings (R13)** – The NIEHS Conference grant program is considered an integral part of the overall mission of the Institute; thus, it is critical that all conference grant applications have a direct relationship to advancing the mission of NIEHS. In order to be responsive, all conference grant proposals must focus on or clearly indicate relevance to advancing our understanding of the role of environment and/or gene-environment interactions in disease/dysfunction. This includes environmental science and engineering proposals, such as the following: methodologies to detect hazardous substances in the environment; and basic biological, chemical, and physical methods to reduce the amount and toxicity of hazardous substances.

NIEHS will accept applications under the following budget guidelines: The maximum amount of support that may be requested is \$25,000. Please contact the R13 Conference Coordinator for approval to submit an application in an amount greater than \$25,000. Also, please note that an average award from NIEHS is \$8,000. NIEHS actively participates in co-funding with other NIH institutes. A letter requesting permission to submit a conference application is required and must be received via email no later than six weeks prior to the selected receipt date. The application receipt dates for conference grants are April 12, August 12, and December 12. If interested in applying, please contact Heather Henry at [henryh@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:henryh@niehs.nih.gov) or (919) 541-5330. For more information, see <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/funding/grants/mechanisms/r13u13/index.cfm>.

**Occupational and Safety Training Education Programs on Emerging Technologies (R25)** – The overarching goal of the SRP Occupational and Safety Education Programs on Emerging Technologies is to support educational activities that complement or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs. To accomplish the stated goal, this funding opportunity will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on courses for skill development and curriculum or methods development. The intent is to provide higher education institutions the opportunity to develop continuing education and academic curricula on the occupational health and safety management practices in the areas of emerging technologies (e.g., emerging hazardous waste products, green chemistry, sustainable remediation, and detection technologies) to industrial hygienists

## SNAPSHOT – ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY

NIEHS's Worker Training Program (WTP) is an asset for training and conducting outreach to underserved and rural communities, especially Native American/American Indian first responders, including tribal employees of natural resources, law enforcement, emergency medical, fire service, public works agencies and other hazardous materials and transportation workers. In 2014, the WTP trained nearly 1,200 Native Americans. Specifically, the Alabama Fire College (AFC) trained nearly 700 American Indians representing 14 tribes to protect themselves and their communities from hazardous materials encountered in workplaces and during emergency response operations through their partnership with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS). Key training occurred at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in central Oregon and at three tribal locations in Albuquerque, New Mexico – the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc., and the Pueblo of Sandia Tribe. AFC offered two eight-hour hazardous awareness trainings at the NAFWS National and Pacific Northwest Regional Conferences in Pendleton, Oregon.

and graduate students involved in the research, evaluation, management, and handling of hazardous substances. The SRP also expects that such programs will provide a unique educational opportunity to those professionals involved in the training of other personnel for careers in these new industries. These programs are also meant to expand and complement existing educational programs in occupational and safety and health and industrial hygiene. The deadline for application submission is October 20, 2015. For more information, see <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-15-014.html>.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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#### **Main Sites**

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/index.cfm>

# Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Community Services

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The Office of Community Services (OCS) works in partnership with states, communities, and other agencies to address the economic and social services needs of the urban and rural poor at the local level by providing grant monies and technical assistance to these organizations. The goal of the programs administered by OCS is to increase the capacity of individuals and families to become self-sufficient and to revitalize communities.

### Brownfields Connection

- Provides grants to community development corporations and community action agencies for brownfields redevelopment and job creation projects.

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

#### *Community Economic Development Program*

The Community Economic Development (CED) Program provides funds to create employment and business development opportunities for low-income residents. This program offers two different types of grants:

- *CED Multi-Purpose grants* can be used to create or expand businesses in a variety of industries, including technology, manufacturing, retail, hospitality, and more.
- *CED-Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) grants* can be used to create or expand a variety of healthy food-oriented businesses, such as grocery stores, farmers markets, and food-distribution businesses, in an effort to improve access to healthy, affordable foods, particularly within food desert areas. CED-HFFI seeks to fund projects that implement strategies to increase healthy food access, foster self-sufficiency for low-income families, and create sustained employment opportunities in low-income communities.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Startup or expansion of businesses' physical or commercial activities.
- Capital expenditures such as the purchase of equipment or real property.
- Allowable operating expenses.
- Loans or equity investments.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants include private, nonprofit organizations that are community development corporations, including faith-based, charitable, tribal, and Alaskan-native organizations.

### Available Funds:

- FY 2015, \$29.83 million.
- FY 2014, \$29.59 million.

CED awarded 40 total grants in FY 2014 (26 CED Multi-purpose grants and 14 CED-HFFI grants), which are expected to support the creation of over 1,500 jobs. Award amounts varied from \$150,000 to \$800,000.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ced/index.html>

#### *Community Services Block Grant Program*

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. These grants are available to:

- States.
- District of Columbia.
- Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- U.S. Territories.
- Federally and state-recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations.
- Community Action Agencies.
- Migrant and seasonal farm workers.
- Other organizations specifically designated by the states.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Grants are sub-awarded to local community-based organizations generally called Community Action Agencies.

**Availability:** Grants are determined by a statutory formula. Approximately \$663 million in CSBG funds were allocated for FY 2015.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Employment services.
- Education and training.
- Income management assistance.
- Emergency services.
- Housing assistance.
- Nutrition services.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/csbg>

### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### *Rural Community Development Program*

Rural Community Development (RCD) is a federal grant program that works with regional and tribal organizations to manage safe water systems in small rural communities. RCD-funded projects are designed to:

- Provide low-income individuals access to safe and affordable drinking water in their homes.
- Strengthen economic conditions and opportunities in small, rural communities through water supply and wastewater disposal training and technical assistance.
- Construct, improve, and preserve water supply and disposal systems in a cost-effective manner.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Provide safety and security training and technical assistance.
- Improve coordination among federal, state, and local agencies in water waste management.
- Improve capacity of small rural and very small water systems to better prepare for emergencies.
- Develop emergency preparedness plans for small water systems.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include multistate, regional, private, nonprofit (501(c)(3)) tax-exempt organizations.

**Available Funds:**

- FY 2015, \$6.5 million.
- FY 2014, \$5.9 million.

RCD awarded eight grants, including two to tribal entities in 2014. Award amounts ranged from \$190,712 to \$857,895. Projects have five years to complete implementation and achieve proposed goals.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/rcd>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
Office of Community Services  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

**Main Site**

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/>

# Department of Housing and Urban Development\*

## DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

### Mission

The overall mission of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD has several brownfield-applicable programs:

- Community Development Block Grant Program (includes the Entitlement Communities Program and several non-entitlement communities programs).
- Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program.
- Sustainable Communities Initiative.
- Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program.

### Brownfields Connections

- Block grants and competitive awards to state and local governments for revitalizing communities.
- Federally guaranteed loans to state and local governments for large economic development and revitalization projects in communities.
- Grants to communities for integrating brownfields redevelopment planning with transportation and housing planning.
- Block grants to state and local governments for meeting safe and affordable housing needs in developed areas.

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

#### *Community Development Block Grant Program*

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in the Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. The CDBG program began in 1974 and is

one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to over 1,200 general units of local government and to states and U.S. territories.

The CDBG program allocates annual grants to entitlement communities and states with the principal statutory objective of developing viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons with low or moderate incomes. Eligible entitlement community grantees are principal cities of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000, and qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities). The states allocate and administer funds for non-entitlement communities.

HUD allocates CDBG funds to entitlement communities on a statutory dual-formula basis that uses several objective measures of community needs, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population-growth lag in relation to other metropolitan areas. HUD allocates CDBG funds to the states based on a statutory formula that takes into account population, poverty, incidence of overcrowded housing, and age of housing. Neither HUD nor states distribute funds directly to citizens or private organizations. The states distribute all funds (other than administration and the technical assistance set-aside funds) to units of general local government. The entitlement grantee or state must ensure that at least 70 percent of its CDBG grant funds are used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons over a one-, two-, or three-year time period selected by the state. This general objective is achieved by granting “maximum feasible priority” to activities that benefit low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.

Grantees have broad discretion in selecting activities to pursue with CDBG funds. For example, the states of Texas, Arizona, California, and New Mexico

\* Note: Although EPA made an effort to ensure that the information contained in this section is as accurate as possible, HUD did not review this section in its entirety. Please check with your local HUD office for the most up-to-date information about these programs.



allocate up to ten percent of their CDBG funds to assist communities on the U.S.-Mexican border (*colonias*) in maintaining sanitary housing, water, and sewage systems. Additionally, CDBG plays a vital role in many local brownfields reuse strategies.

Brownfields contribute to eroding economic conditions, creation of blight, and reduction of economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. CDBG funds may be used in smaller neighborhood-based projects as well as larger projects to aid in demolition, site cleanup, and remediation of environmental issues such as lead-based paint and asbestos. Therefore, the use of CDBG funds to revitalize brownfields often meets the program's mission to help low- and moderate-income people by driving economic development or eliminating blight.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entitlement communities are cities with populations of at least 50,000 and qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000. HUD awards funding on a formula basis. Eligible non-entitlement communities are cities with populations less than 50,000 and qualified urban counties with populations less than 200,000. States award funding based on state priorities and selection criteria.

**Limitations:** Expenses for general government operations or the acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for government operations are not eligible. CDBG-funded activities must meet one of the program's three national objectives: (1) principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons; (2) prevent or eliminate slums or blight; or (3) meet other urgent community development needs. Entitlement communities must submit to HUD a Consolidated Plan, which is a jurisdiction's comprehensive planning document and application for funding under the following CPD formula grant programs: CDBG, HOME Investment Partnerships, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG).

**Availability:** Congress appropriated \$3.0 billion for the CDBG program in FY 2015, including set-asides. HUD distributes 70 percent of the CDBG formula appropriations to entitlement communities, and the remaining 30 percent of the formula funds go to the states for distribution to non-entitlement small cities and counties.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Prepare plans for redevelopment or revitalization of brownfields.
- Acquire real property.
- Conduct environmental site assessments.
- Clean up contamination.
- Clear sites and demolish and remove buildings.
- Rehabilitate public and private buildings.
- Construct public works, including water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes.
- Conduct activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources.
- Provide assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities.

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs)

### *Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program*

Section 108 provides communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and large-scale physical development projects. Section 108 is the loan guarantee provision of the CDBG program. Local governments borrowing funds guaranteed by Section 108 must pledge their current and future CDBG allocations to cover the loan amount as security for the loan. Section 108 allows communities to capitalize large revitalization projects that can renew entire neighborhoods. Such public investment often is needed to encourage private economic investment in distressed areas. Several cities made the 108 program a focal point of their local brownfields strategies.

Eligible applicants include the following public entities:

- Metropolitan cities and urban counties that are CDBG entitlement recipients.
- Non-entitlement communities that are assisted in the submission of applications by states administering the CDBG program.
- Non-entitlement communities eligible to receive CDBG funds under the HUD-administered Small Cities CDBG program (Hawaii and Insular Areas). The public entity may be the borrower or it may designate a public agency as the borrower.

Section 108 obligations are financed through underwritten public offerings. Financing between public offerings is provided through an interim lending facility established by HUD. To date, there has been no default under Section 108 resulting in a repayment by HUD. In the event of default requiring a payment, HUD would continue to make payments on the loan in accordance with its terms.

**Eligibility Requirements:** To determine eligible uses of funds, CDBG rules and requirements apply. As with the CDBG program, all projects and activities must either principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid in the elimination or prevention of slums and blight, or meet urgent needs of the community.

**Limitations:** CDBG entitlement community recipients and states may borrow an amount equal to five times the recipients' latest CDBG entitlement grant. The maximum repayment period for a Section 108 loan is 20 years.

**Availability:** HUD has \$500 million in guarantee authority available for FY 2015.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Economic development activities and housing rehabilitation eligible under CDBG.
- Acquisition of real property (including brownfields).
- Rehabilitation of publicly owned real property (including brownfields).
- Construction, reconstruction, or installation of public facilities (including street, sidewalk, and other site improvements).
- Related relocation, clearance, and site improvements.
- Payment of interest on the guaranteed loan and issuance costs of public offerings.
- Debt service reserves.
- Public works and site improvements in *colonias*.
- Housing construction in limited circumstances.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/section-108/>

#### *Sustainable Communities Initiative*

The Office of Economic Resilience (OER), previously known as the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, administers the Sustainable Communities Initiative to stimulate more integrated and sophisticated regional planning to guide state, metropolitan,

and local investments in land use, transportation, and housing, as well as to challenge localities to undertake zoning and land-use reforms. This initiative has four main tasks:

- Partner with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and EPA in the Partnership for Sustainable Communities to catalyze a new generation of integrated metropolitan transportation, housing, land-use, and energy planning, using state-of-the-art data, analytic tools, and geographic information systems.
- Fund Community Challenge Grants to enable local and regional planning to establish policies, codes, tools, and critical capital investments needed to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.
- Support capacity-building and a clearinghouse designed to support grant recipients and other communities interested in implementing sustainable community strategies.
- Provide funding for a joint HUD-DOT-EPA research effort designed to advance transportation and housing linkages on a number of levels.

OER is the lead office within HUD for the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which was launched in 2009 as an interagency partnership involving HUD, DOT, and EPA. United around six livability principles, the agencies are working together to align federal policies, improve access to affordable housing, enhance economic competitiveness, increase the number of available transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. This interagency collaboration is reflected in the grant-making processes of the participating agencies. HUD, DOT, and EPA officials work together to draft grant solicitations, review grant applications, and coordinate investments. HUD streamlined sustainability across many of its grant programs by awarding "Preferred Sustainability Status" to a number of communities and regions that receive bonus points on competitive grant applications for projects that complement their sustainability goals.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Applicants eligible for Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants are consortia of units of government, regional planning agencies, and nonprofit organizations. If a Metropolitan Planning Organization exists within a region, it must be a part of the consortium. Applicants eligible for Community Challenge Planning Grants are state, local, and tribal governments.

**Limitations:** Applicants for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant or a Community Challenge Planning Grant must provide a match equal to 20 percent of the requested funding amount in the form of cash, verified in-kind contributions, or a combination of these sources.

**Availability:** Although not funded since 2011, funding for this program could be restored in future years.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Provide more transportation choices.
- Promote equitable, affordable housing.
- Enhance economic competitiveness.
- Support existing communities and neighborhoods.
- Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment.

Partnership for Sustainable Communities:  
<http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov>

OER: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/economic\\_resilience](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/economic_resilience)

*Lead-Based Paint Grant Programs*

The Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC) was established to eliminate lead-based paint hazards in privately owned and low-income housing, and to lead the nation in addressing other housing-related health hazards that threaten vulnerable residents. HUD's lead-based paint program was established in 1993 to reduce young children's exposure to lead paint hazards in homes.

Several grant programs provide funding to identify and control lead-based paint hazards:

- Lead-based Paint Hazard Control (LHC) grant program.
- Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration (LHRD) grant program.
- Lead Elimination Action Program grants.

Two additional grant programs provide funding for outreach and technical assistance. These grants assist states, tribes, cities, counties/parishes, and other units of local government in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately owned rental or owner-occupied housing. Funds made available under this

program are awarded competitively on an annual basis through a selection process conducted by HUD.

**Eligibility Requirements:** LHRD grants must be used to address housing privately owned and occupied by, or rented to, low-income families. LHRD grant recipients must provide a 25 percent match. LHC grant recipients must provide a 10 percent match.

**Availability:** In FY 2015 OHHLHC made available \$48 million for LHC grants and \$45 million for LHRD grants.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Lead-based paint inspections and risk assessments.
- Community awareness or education programs on lead hazard control and lead poisoning prevention.
- Blood testing of children prior to lead hazard control work.
- Lead hazard control work (this includes cleaning, interim controls, and hazard abatement).
- Temporary relocation of families during hazard control activities.
- Training for workers and supervisors.
- Training on lead-safe maintenance practices for residents and others working in low-income housing.

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/healthy\\_homes](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/healthy_homes)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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## SNAPSHOT – GARY, INDIANA

The City of Gary, with the assistance of a HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, developed a plan to establish priorities for brownfields redevelopment and sustainability in four distressed neighborhoods. City officials and federal government officials worked together to identify focus areas for redevelopment, which led to the development of the “Gary Northside Redevelopment” plan. The plan focused on four key areas and helped catalyze a coordinated and focused redevelopment effort into which the city could direct regional, state, and federal resources, and establish priorities for redevelopment. Gary assembled a package of \$1.8 million from EPA, HUD, the Northwest Indiana Redevelopment Agency, and the city for the demolition of the long-abandoned Sheraton hotel, and leveraged \$155,000 in HUD CDBG funds for targeted demolition of homes, \$1.5 million for the rehabilitation of the Hudson-Campbell fitness center, and a \$150,000 transportation-oriented development planning grant from the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission. These funds helped the city establish capacity and rebuild local areas to move the plan forward. The momentum created by this project was a key contributing factor for the city’s designation as a Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative participant in 2014.

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### **Main Site**

<http://www.hud.gov>

# Department of the Interior— National Park Service

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves natural and cultural resources and manages the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The NPS cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

### Brownfields Connections

- Assistance provided to state and local governments, as well as community-based organizations, to assist community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation initiatives, including those in urban areas.
- Assistance to states and local governments in the acquisition of surplus federal lands.
- Assistance for community revitalization.

## RESOURCES

### Outreach Assistance

#### *Federal Lands to Parks Program*

The NPS's Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program helps communities create new parks and recreation areas by transferring surplus federal land to state and local governments. This program helps ensure public access to park lands and promotes good stewardship of natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

**Eligibility Requirements:** States, counties, municipalities, and similar government entities may acquire surplus federal land for parks and recreational areas. Private and nonprofit organizations, religious institutions, and individuals are not eligible to acquire surplus federal land for recreation through the program. However, these entities may act as advocates for the acquisition of federal lands by state and local governments.

**Limitations:** Land or buildings obtained through this program must be used for public parks and recreational activities in perpetuity. The FLP Program

periodically monitors property use and development to make sure that parks obtained under the program are managed according to the terms and conditions of the deed and approved use plan.

**Availability:** More than 1,590 properties, representing approximately 178,470 acres, were transferred to state and local governments for parks and recreation areas since the program's inception in 1949. When federal land becomes available for reuse, the General Services Administration (or the military agency in cases of base closures, or at times another federal "disposing" agency) will notify other federal and state agencies. FLP Program staff review notices of available property for park and recreation opportunities and notify relevant state, regional, and local park agencies. Notices often are posted on military or General Services Administration websites.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Creating or expanding public parks and recreation areas.
- Providing or expanding park and recreational amenities to camp, hike, play sports, improve quality of life, help revitalization efforts, and attract businesses.
- Protecting open spaces, extending hiking trails, and opening boating and fishing access.
- Preserving historical and natural resources, such as forts, lighthouses, shorelines, and wildlife habitat.
- Converting abandoned military bases into widely used, productive recreational assets.
- Renewing a sense of community through community gardens, senior and cultural centers, and other gathering places.

<http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/flp>

#### *Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program*

The NPS's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program provides assistance to communities so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. NPS staff help build partnerships to achieve community-defined goals by assessing resources, developing concept plans, engaging public participation, and identifying potential

sources of funding for conservation and outdoor recreation projects. Some of the assistance is targeted to urban areas. As such, the program can complement brownfields redevelopment efforts.

Four NPS project areas support conservation efforts: urban area projects, trails and greenway projects, rails-trails projects, and river projects. A redevelopment project may use any or all of these project areas at the same time. The Groundwork USA Initiative is a pilot program of NPS in cooperation with EPA's Brownfields Program, through which NPS provides technical assistance to successful pilot community applicants. EPA provides NPS with the funds for this program under an interagency agreement. NPS awards financial assistance to successful applicants and administers the assistance agreements. The Groundwork USA Initiative builds the capacity of communities impacted by brownfields and abandoned lands. The Groundwork USA Initiative improves a community's environment for conservation, recreation, and economic development by supporting the establishment of locally organized and controlled Groundwork Trusts. Each of the trusts is an independent, not-for-profit environmental business. The trusts partner with government agencies and the private sector to engage residents in the remediation of brownfields to build consensus on reusing these sites for community benefit and facilitating their transformation.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible project partners include nonprofit organizations, community groups, tribes or tribal governments, and local, state, or federal government agencies. Federal agencies may be the lead partner only in collaboration with a nonfederal partner. Projects are locally requested and led and should include significant public involvement. Projects should also include the commitment, cooperation, and cost-sharing of all partners.

**Limitations:** Generally the NPS involvement in these partnerships lasts two years.

**Availability:** Assistance is provided for one year and may be renewed for a second year, if warranted.

#### Uses/Applications Include:

- Assisting in the development of conservation partnerships.
- Providing resource assessment and identifying potential sources of funding.
- Designing public outreach and participation strategies.
- Helping communities achieve on-the-ground conservation successes for their projects.
- Offering assistance in greenway efforts ranging from urban promenades, to trails along abandoned railroad rights of way, to wildlife corridors.
- Promoting river conservation through downtown riverfronts, regional water trails, and stream restoration.

<http://www.nps.gov/rzca>

<http://www.groundworkusa.org/>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Main Site

<http://www.nps.gov>

## SNAPSHOT – HUDSON RIVER, NEW YORK

In 2012, NPS's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program provided assistance to local communities, state agencies, and community groups in New York to designate the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail as a National Water Trail. The 256-mile water trail, which extends from the Adirondack Park and Lake Champlain in northern New York to New York City, provides at least one access point every 10 miles or less along both shores of the river, with 96 designated public access sites. The Water Trail is part of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Program. The trail will be administered by NPS and become part of a new National Water Trails System, which was established to protect and restore America's rivers, shorelines, and waterways; conserve natural areas along waterways; and increase access to outdoor recreation on shorelines and waterways.

# Department of the Interior— Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The mission of the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is to carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act in cooperation with states and tribes. The primary objectives are to ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and the effects of past mining are mitigated by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

### Brownfields Connections

- Provides grants to states and tribes to reclaim land and waters damaged by coal mining operations.
- Through its OSMRE/VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Program, supports community efforts to promote environmental and economic improvements. This assistance is targeted to watershed groups and other entities eligible to apply for grants to support brownfields redevelopment.
- Supports local governments in the assessment, reclamation, and redevelopment of abandoned mine lands as brownfields.

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

#### *Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program*

The Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program makes funds available for reclamation projects to clean streams affected by acid mine drainage.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include nonprofit organizations, especially small local watershed organizations.

**Availability:** Applicants normally receive up to \$100,000 for each reclamation project, primarily

for project construction. Watershed Cooperative Agreements have a two-year performance period. Between 1999 and 2013, OSMRE awarded 279 Watershed Cooperative Agreements and amendments to existing agreements totaling more than \$23 million.

**Limitations:** Matching funds are required.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Project construction.
- Administrative costs.

### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### *Abandoned Mine Lands Program*

The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program addresses threats to public health, safety, and general welfare through the reclamation of environmental hazards caused by past mining practices. In 2006, the program was extended to 2021.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include watershed groups working on properties mined prior to August 3, 1977, and limited sites mined after that date.

**Limitations:** Each state must have an approved Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act regulatory (Title V) program and a reclamation (Title IV) program before it is eligible to receive reclamation grant funding. Tribes are allowed access to AML funds derived from reclamation fees if they have an approved reclamation program.

[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Abandoned\\_Mine\\_Lands.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Abandoned_Mine_Lands.html)

#### *OSM/VISTA Teams*

OSMRE and the AmeriCorps VISTA program assist watershed groups in poverty alleviation, environmental improvements, and capacity-building to revitalize their communities. The OSMRE/VISTA initiative can provide a watershed group or other community improvement group with a full-time, college graduate VISTA Volunteer to support economic redevelopment, environmental stewardship, project implementation, and community outreach and education.

## SNAPSHOT – DURANGO, COLORADO

An OSMRE/VISTA Volunteer has been working with the Animas Watershed Partnership (AWP), located in Durango, Colorado, to empower community members to improve the health of their environment and sustain and improve the economic productivity of their land and livelihoods. The volunteer has been working with the AWP to develop the Animas and Florida River Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project, which focuses on implementing agricultural best management practices (BMPs) recommended in the Animas Watershed Based Plan. The targeted BMPs will address top sources of contamination identified in a major tributary, the Florida River, ranked as a priority inflow for nutrient and sediment loading to the Animas River. The project incorporates riparian fencing and irrigation efficiency improvement BMPs, monitoring and evaluation of project results, and strategic outreach to key audiences. The primary goal of the project is to improve the water quality and aquatic habitat of the lower Florida River and the Animas River by reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus contributed to the Florida River and ultimately to the Animas River. In addition, the project aims to sustain and advance the mission and collaboration of the AWP and to educate key audiences about water quality.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The sponsoring watershed organization must demonstrate its capacity for effective supervision and support of the OSMRE/VISTA Volunteer, adherence to the core goals for OSMRE/VISTA, and community support.

**Limitations:** There is a small cost-share requirement for all OSMRE/VISTA projects.

**Availability:** Applicants must complete an application that documents the poverty of the watershed, the support of local agencies, and a work plan. The position is in place for three years, although most OSMRE/VISTAs serve a single year.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Building capacity in the sponsoring organization by preparing grant documents, organizing volunteers, and assisting with other activities.
- Organizing the water-quality monitoring critical to future funding.
- Reaching out to youth and adults in the community to create awareness about watershed issues.

- Engaging in economic revitalization efforts.
- Finding funding for the revitalization efforts.

<http://www.coalcountryteam.org> and  
<http://www.hardrockteam.org>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Appalachian Coal Country Team

<http://www.coalcountryteam.org>

### Western Hardrock Watershed Team

<http://www.hardrockteam.org>

### Main Site

<http://www.osmre.gov>



# Department of Labor

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) fosters, promotes, and develops the welfare of wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improves working conditions; advances opportunities for profitable employment; and assures work-related benefits and rights. In carrying out this mission, DOL administers a variety of federal labor laws, including those that guarantee workers' rights to safe and healthful working conditions, a minimum hourly wage and overtime pay, and freedom from employment discrimination.

DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) works in partnership with states, localities, and community organizations to assist adults and youth in transitioning to good jobs. The agency accomplishes this mission by administering effective, value-added programs that expand opportunities for employment, continuous learning, business competitiveness, and community prosperity.

With its state and local partners and grantees, ETA is currently implementing the provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which was passed into law in July 2014. Future regulations and policy information related to this Act and the various activities undertaken by state and local governments to prepare can be found online.

<http://www.doleta.gov/wioa>

<https://wioa.workforce3one.org/index.aspx>

### Brownfields Connection

- While DOL/ETA does not execute a specific brownfields initiative, its mission and discretionary grant investments often complement and support local redevelopment efforts that require workers who are trained and skilled to handle environmental cleanup and sustainable redevelopment of brownfields.

## RESOURCES

### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### Job Training

ETA administers programs that provided training and employment assistance to over 16 million adult workers and youth during Program Year 2013.

Services for job seekers and employers are offered through approximately 2,500 One-Stop Career Centers. Many of these centers are located in brownfields communities and provide job seekers with job vacancies and labor market information, job search and placement assistance, assessment and career counseling, and access to training. The centers also provide services to employers to find skilled workers. Information about these centers and the business-led local Workforce Boards that provide overall strategic direction can be found at America's Service Locator.

<http://www.servicelocator.org>

In August 2003, ETA issued a Training and Employment Notice to the public workforce system on potential collaboration with EPA on brownfields economic development.

ETA also routinely posts information related to EPA brownfields and other environmental investments on its website ([www.doleta.gov/usworkforce](http://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce)). ETA highlights its future discretionary grant opportunities that may be of interest at [http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find\\_grants.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm).

The brownfields community also should note that ETA announced a major update to its CareerOneStop website (<http://www.careeronestop.org>) in March 2013. A March 2015 Training and Employment Notice to the public workforce system summarizes the most recent changes to the suite of online career tools for jobseekers, students, workforce professionals, and businesses.

[http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/TEN\\_25-14\\_Acc.pdf](http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/TEN_25-14_Acc.pdf)

**Eligibility:** Technical assistance linked to job training and workforce development is available to brownfields communities. State or local governments interested in this support are encouraged to contact one of ETA's regional offices.

<http://www.doleta.gov/regions/regoffices>

**Availability:** Each state and local workforce area has a Workforce Investment Board that oversees the One-Stop Career Center system in each state/local area, develops strategic direction, and sets investment priorities. These business-led Boards are currently reviewing the WIOA statute to prepare for new governance and operational responsibilities.

## SNAPSHOT – STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In June 2011, the Employment and Training Administration awarded a \$5.8 million Green Jobs Initiative Fund grant to the Connecticut Department of Labor to help workers receive job training in green industry sectors and occupations, and access green career pathways. The Connecticut Green Jobs Funnel Initiative will promote career pathways in the green construction industry for 975 unemployed and underemployed workers in seven Connecticut communities with high poverty and unemployment rates. The grant targets providing unemployed and underemployed workers with training and credentials to obtain employment in green construction and related industries, such as brownfields remediation, deconstruction, retrofitting, weatherization and energy management, and construction skilled trades that require green skills. (Other information related to the Green Jobs Initiative Fund can be found at <http://www.doleta.gov/brg/GreenJobs/>.)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **Division of Strategic Investments**

Office of Workforce Investment  
Employment and Training Administration  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave., NW, RM C-4518  
Washington, DC 20210  
202-693-3949  
[DSI@dol.gov](mailto:DSI@dol.gov)

### **Main Site**

<http://www.dol.gov>

# Department of Transportation— Federal Highway Administration

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) works to ensure that America's roads and highways continue to be safe and technologically up to date. It provides financial and technical support to state, local, and tribal governments for constructing, improving, and preserving America's highway system. Its budget is primarily divided between two programs: federal-aid funding to state and local governments, and Federal Lands Highways funding for national parks, national forests, Indian lands, and other land under federal stewardship. The FHWA is committed to protecting and preserving the environment through stewardship and timely reviews.

### Brownfields Connections

- Encourages the appropriate consideration of brownfields in transportation planning, FHWA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and state-related project development process.
- Encourages state and local transportation agencies to develop their improvement programs in concert with brownfield site remediation and redevelopment efforts.
- Encourages transportation agency sponsors to consider brownfield properties when siting projects as part of redevelopment efforts.
- Develops working partnerships with a broad range of environmental, state, local, and private sector partners interested in supporting the redevelopment of brownfields.
- Provides technical assistance as needed to communities considering brownfields redevelopment programs on how to use federal-aid highway funds to meet program goals.
- Seeks cooperative partnerships between transportation, permit, and resource agencies in effective utilization and or redevelopment of brownfields, as well as opportunities to share innovative financing and other project responsibilities with other governmental agencies and the private sector.
- Explores issues concerning liability and the level of cleanup necessary to make brownfields reusable.

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

#### *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program*

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) is continued by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 (MAP-21) to provide a flexible funding source to state and local governments for transportation projects and programs to help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Funding is available to reduce congestion and improve air quality for areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter (non-attainment areas) and for former non-attainment areas that are now in compliance (maintenance areas). Funding surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years 2013 and 2014, MAP-21 is the first long-term highway authorization enacted since 2005.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants include state departments of transportation and local governments.

**Limitations:** Funds must be spent in non-attainment or maintenance areas. Projects must reduce the pollutant for which the area is designated as non-attainment or maintenance. No funds may be used to add capacity except for high-occupancy vehicle facilities that are available to single-occupant vehicles only at off-peak times.

**Availability:** CMAQ funds require a state or local match. The typical split is 80 percent federal and 20 percent state and/or local.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Supporting transit and public transportation programs specifically through service or system expansion, provision of new transit service, and financial incentives to use existing transit services.
- Traffic flow improvements.
- Travel demand management strategies.
- Ride-sharing programs
- Pedestrian and bicycle programs.

- Alternative clean fuels.
- Public/private partnerships.
- Workforce development, training, and education activities.

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/cmaq/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/)

### *Transportation Alternatives Program*

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program is a new program that was authorized by MAP-21. The TA Program combines programs that were authorized under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, including Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and Recreational Trails. It also includes funding for some road uses.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants include states.

**Limitations:** States must suballocate 50 percent of their TA funds to Metropolitan Planning Organizations and communities for local project grants. States can use the remaining 50 percent for TA projects or spend these dollars on other transportation priorities, such as air quality improvement projects.

**Availability:** The combined funding for the TA Program for all uses is approximately \$820 million for 2014.

### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Safe routes for nondrivers projects and systems.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- Vegetation management practices in rights of way and other activities under Section 319 (similar to landscaping and beautification).
- Historic preservation, rehabilitation, and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures and facilities.
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors for public uses, including pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- Inventory, control, and removal of outdoor advertising.

- Archeological activities related to transportation projects.
- Any environmental mitigation, including existing uses.

## Outreach/Technical Assistance

### *Transportation Planning*

FHWA has programs related to transportation planning for local, rural, metropolitan, state, tribal, federal, and citizen partners. These programs may apply to brownfields planning and redevelopment.

### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Climate change and planning.
- Land use and transportation.
- Economic development.
- Public involvement.
- Smart growth and communities.
- Tools for planning.

**Eligibility Requirements:** FHWA's planning programs provide planning assistance to local, rural, metropolitan, state, tribal, and other federal partners. Information is available online according to issue and program. State and metropolitan transportation planning processes are governed by federal law and applicable state and local laws if federal highway or transit funds are used for transportation investment.

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **Constance Hill Galloway, Ph.D.**

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
Office of Natural Environment  
Sustainable Transport and Climate Change Team  
(HEPN-40)  
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### **Main Site**

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov>

# Department of Transportation— Federal Transit Administration

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides financial and technical assistance for locally planned, constructed, and operated public transportation systems throughout the United States, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, monorail, passenger ferryboats, trolleys, inclined railways, paratransit for the elderly and disabled, and people movers.

Because many brownfields are located in urbanized areas where transit is a viable transportation option, FTA programs can play a role in local efforts to find an economically productive use for a brownfield site. FTA funds are specifically designated for transit projects, but funds also may be used to assess or clean up any part of a brownfield site that is proposed for use as part of a transit project. FTA shares best practices and offers technical assistance to transit agencies working with other state and local government agencies on transit projects involving brownfield sites.

### Brownfields Connections

- Financially assists metropolitan planning organizations in planning transportation investment decisions in metropolitan areas impacted by brownfields.
- Provides grants to public transit agencies in urban and non-urban areas for transit capital projects.
- As part of project development for a transit capital investment, assists the transit agency in assessing the associated environmental impacts and benefits of the proposed project, such as locating it on a brownfield site.

## RESOURCES

As this information may change before this document is updated, please visit the FTA website for the most current information.

<http://www.fta.dot.gov>

### Financial Assistance

#### *Urbanized Area Formula Program (Section 5307)*

The Urbanized Area Formula Program makes federal funding available to designated transit agencies in urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more. It may be used for transit planning and transit capital projects, such as bus purchases. Funding also is available for transit operating assistance in urbanized areas with a population under 200,000, and limited in urbanized areas over \$200,000.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Designated recipients must be public entities with the legal authority to receive and dispense federal transit funds.

**Limitations:** In most instances, the federal share of the transit project is not to exceed 80 percent of the net project cost. The federal share of a transit operating assistance project may not exceed 50 percent of the net project cost.

**Availability:** Congress authorized over \$4.4 billion for these grants in FY 2014.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Transit planning, engineering design, and evaluation of transit projects and other technical transportation-related studies.
- Capital investments in bus and bus-related activities, such as replacement, overhaul, or rebuilding of buses; crime prevention and security equipment; and construction of bus maintenance and passenger facilities.
- Capital investments in new and existing fixed guideway systems, including rolling stock, overhaul and rebuilding of vehicles, tracks, signals, communications, and computer hardware and software.

[http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/FINAL\\_FTA\\_circular9030.1E.pdf](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/FINAL_FTA_circular9030.1E.pdf)

#### *Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311)*

Formula Grants for Rural Areas is a formula-based transit program that provides funds to states and tribes for the purpose of supporting public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000.

The goal of the program is to enhance the access in rural areas to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services, and recreation; assist in the maintenance, development, improvement, and use of public transportation systems in rural areas; encourage and facilitate the most efficient use of all transportation funds used to provide passenger transportation in rural areas through the coordination of programs and services; provide financial assistance to help carry out national goals related to mobility for all, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals; increase availability of transportation options through investments in intercity bus services; assist in the development and support of intercity bus transportation; encourage mobility management, employment-related transportation alternatives, joint development practices, and transit-oriented development; and provide for the participation of private transportation providers in rural public transportation.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Grants are awarded to states and Indian tribes. The state often allocates the funds to subrecipients of the program, which include local governmental authorities, such as counties, nonprofit organizations, or other operators of public transportation in the rural area.

**Limitations:** The federal share of the capital transit project may not exceed 80 percent of the net project cost. The federal share of transit operating assistance may not exceed 50 percent of the net project cost.

**Availability:** Congress authorized over \$600 million for this program in FY 2014.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Planning, capital, job access, and reverse commute projects, and the acquisition of public transportation services.

[http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_-\\_Formula\\_Grants\\_for\\_Rural\\_Areas.pdf](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21_Fact_Sheet_-_Formula_Grants_for_Rural_Areas.pdf)

*Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants ("New Starts" and "Core Capacity") (Section 5309)*

The Fixed Guideway Transit Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program is a discretionary grant program that provides capital assistance for new and expanded heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcar, bus rapid transit, and ferry systems. The program provides funds for construction of new fixed guideway systems or extensions to existing systems, corridor-based bus rapid transit systems that may not contain a fixed

guideway but represent a substantial investment in the corridor, and capacity expansion projects on fixed guideway systems that are at capacity today or will be within five years. A fixed guideway refers to any transit service that operates on a separate right of way exclusively for the use of public transportation, or that includes a rail or a catenary system.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants under the CIG program are public bodies and agencies (transit authorities and other state and local public bodies and agencies), including states, municipalities, other political subdivisions of states; public agencies and instrumentalities of one or more states; and certain public corporations, boards, and commissions established under state law. To be eligible for funds, projects must proceed through a multiyear, multistep process specified in law and receive at least a "Medium" overall rating from FTA when evaluated against the criteria specified in law (49 USC § 5309).

**Limitations:** The maximum CIG share allowed under the program's authorizing legislation for a proposed CIG project is 80 percent, with a 20 percent required local match. However, appropriations law directs FTA to limit the CIG share for New Starts and Core Capacity projects to 60 percent or less.

**Availability:** Congress authorized approximately \$1.9 billion for this program in FY 2014.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- New fixed guideway projects or extensions consisting of heavy rail, light rail, commuter rail, streetcar, ferries, or bus rapid transit.
- Corridor-based bus rapid transit systems.
- Core capacity projects, which expand capacity by at least 10 percent in existing fixed guideway transit corridors that are already at or above capacity today, or are expected to be at or above capacity within five years.

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/12304.html>

*Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339)*

The Bus and Bus Facilities program provides capital funding to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Designated recipients under Section 5307 and states that operate or allocate funding to fixed-route bus operators are eligible. Eligible subrecipients would include public agencies

or private nonprofit organizations engaged in public transportation, including those providing services open to a segment of the general public, as defined by age, disability, or low income.

**Limitations:** The federal share is 80 percent of the total project cost, with a 20 percent required local match.

**Availability:** Congress authorized over \$427 million for this program in FY 2014.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses, vans, and related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities.

[http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_-\\_Bus\\_and\\_Bus\\_Facilities.pdf](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21_Fact_Sheet_-_Bus_and_Bus_Facilities.pdf)

*State of Good Repair Formula Grants (Section 5337)*

The formula-based State of Good Repair program is dedicated to repairing and upgrading the nation's rail transit systems, along with high-intensity motor bus systems that use high-occupancy vehicle lanes, including bus rapid transit.

**Eligibility Requirements:** State and local government authorities in urbanized areas with fixed guideway public transportation facilities operating for at least seven years are eligible.

**Limitations:** The federal share is 80 percent of the total project cost, with a 20 percent match.

**Availability:** Congress authorized over \$2.1 billion for this program in FY 2014.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Capital projects to maintain a system in a state of good repair, including projects to replace and rehabilitate rolling stock, track, line equipment and structures, signals and communications, power equipment and substations, passenger stations and terminals, security equipment and systems, maintenance facilities and equipment, and operational support equipment, including computer hardware and software.
- Transit Asset Management Plan development and implementation.

[http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_-\\_State\\_of\\_Good\\_Repair\\_Grants.pdf](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21_Fact_Sheet_-_State_of_Good_Repair_Grants.pdf)

*Metropolitan and Statewide Planning Programs (Sections 5303, 5304, 5305)*

These programs provide funding and procedural requirements for multimodal transportation planning in metropolitan areas and states that is cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive, resulting in long-range plans and short-range programs of transportation investment priorities. The planning programs are jointly administered by FTA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which provides additional funding.

**Eligibility Requirements:** State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are eligible. Federal planning funds are first apportioned to state DOTs, which then allocate planning funding to MPOs.

**Limitations:** The federal share is not to exceed 80 percent of the cost of the projects funded, with a required 20 percent nonfederal match.

**Availability:** Funds are apportioned to states by a formula that includes each state's urbanized area population in proportion to the total urbanized area population for the nation, as well as other factors. States can receive no less than 0.5 percent of the amount apportioned. These funds in turn are suballocated by states to MPOs by a formula that considers each MPO's urbanized area population, its individual planning needs, and a minimum distribution. Congress authorized approximately \$129 million for the program in FY 2014.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Supporting the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- Increasing the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users.
- Increasing the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users.
- Increasing the accessibility and mobility of people and freight.
- Protecting and enhancing the environment, promoting energy conservation, improving the quality of life, and promoting consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns.

## SNAPSHOT – ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

On June 14, 2014, the Twin Cities' Metro Transit system began light rail service along its new Green Line, successfully completing the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project. This \$957 million dollar project received a 50 percent contribution from the FTA to construct 18 new stations and integrate five existing Blue Line stations along an 11-mile route connecting downtown St. Paul to downtown Minneapolis. Prior to redevelopment, the City of St. Paul identified 19 separate brownfields comprising 77.5 acres along this corridor. With the addition of the I-94 expressway in the 1970s and only limited bus services along University Avenue, the corridor became underused, and portions of the area included abandoned commercial properties. The historical use of the area also resulted in underlying soil and groundwater contamination, thereby restricting investment and redevelopment efforts. During this project, most of the contamination was capped by pavement or covered under more than four feet of clean soil.

The construction of the light rail tracks required relocation of public and private underground utilities within the utility-dense University Avenue corridor, thus making this the largest utility project in Minnesota history. In addition to the new line, 47 light rail vehicles were purchased. By 2030 the daily ridership is projected to reach 40,000, and an estimated \$2.5 billion dollars in redevelopment of the corridor is planned or underway. The successful cleanup of the Metro Green Line not only created a new light rail transit line, but also created the opportunity to strengthen the regional economy and to make the adjacent neighborhoods safer and more livable.

- Enhancing the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- Promoting efficient system management and operation.
- Emphasizing the preservation of the existing transportation system.

[http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_-\\_Metropolitan\\_and\\_Statewide\\_and\\_Nonmetropolitan\\_Transportation\\_Planning.pdf](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/MAP-21_Fact_Sheet_-_Metropolitan_and_Statewide_and_Nonmetropolitan_Transportation_Planning.pdf)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### **Ms. Antoinette Quagliata, LEED AP**

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#### **Main Site**

<http://www.fta.dot.gov>



# Department of Transportation— Office of the Secretary

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Office of the Secretary (OST) oversees the formulation of national transportation policy and promotes intermodal transportation. Other responsibilities include negotiating and implementing international transportation agreements, assuring the fitness of U.S. airlines, enforcing airline consumer protection regulations, issuing regulations to prevent alcohol and illegal drug misuse in transportation systems, and preparing transportation legislation.

DOT encourages state and local transportation agencies to address community brownfields redevelopment in transportation planning and other project development processes. Transportation agencies may spend federal transportation funds on the assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites, provided that the activity is part of an "eligible transportation project" and makes "transportation sense."

### Brownfields Connection

- Provides grants to invest in innovative road, rail, transit, and port projects that incorporate livability and sustainability principles. These principles improve economic competitiveness by expanding transportation connections and choices for communities across the nation that are impacted by brownfields.

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

#### *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants*

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for DOT to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. Congress has dedicated more than \$4.1 billion to the program, including \$1.5 billion for TIGER I grants and \$600 million for TIGER II grants. Annual appropriations include \$526,944 million for the FY 2013, and \$600 million for the FY 2014 rounds of TIGER grants to

fund projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or a metropolitan area. For 2014, the department received 797 eligible applications from 49 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia, an increase from the 585 applications received in 2013. Out of those, 72 TIGER grants were awarded, including 30 planning grants. As with previous rounds of TIGER, funds for the TIGER program were awarded on a competitive basis for projects that demonstrated a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Overall, the 2014 applications totaled \$9 billion. The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, signed December 16, 2014, includes \$500 million for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER Discretionary Grants).

Funding available for TIGER and the growing number of projects supported would nearly double if Congress passes the Administration's proposed GROW AMERICA Act. The GROW AMERICA Act also will help focus transportation planning on providing jobs and economic opportunity. Ten communities will take part in a \$70 million pilot program to develop better practices to connect neighborhoods to jobs, education, and other opportunities.

**Eligibility Requirements:** TIGER grants are offered on a competitive basis directly to state, local, and tribal governments, including U.S. territories, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), other political subdivisions of state or local governments, and multistate or multijurisdictional groups applying through a single lead applicant (for multijurisdictional groups, each member of the group, including the lead applicant, must be eligible for capital projects that will enhance economic competitiveness, safety, state of good repair, environmental sustainability, and livability. The TIGER 2014 program gave additional consideration to projects that sought to strengthen community connections to centers of employment, education, and services, consistent with the Ladders of Opportunity Initiative.

**Limitations:** Congress required a 20 percent cost share for past projects in urbanized areas. For the past three rounds of TIGER grants, the minimum grant, by law, was \$10 million for projects in urban

areas and \$1 million for capital projects in rural areas. While the statutory maximum for any TIGER grant is \$200 million, awards average about \$10 million per grant. Funding was provided for project and regional planning grants in FY 2010 and FY 2014, and planning grant awards totaling \$31 million were made in 2014. However, it is uncertain if future rounds of the grant competition will allow use of TIGER funds for planning projects.

#### Uses/Applications Include:

- Conducting planning, design, and environmental work needed for a project to proceed to construction (but only when construction costs also are included in the project).
- Acquiring rights of way needed for a project.
- Constructing transportation infrastructure improvements, including but not limited to:
  - Highway and bridge improvements (widening, new construction, high occupancy toll lanes, bridge repair and replacement, and grade separations).
  - Bus and light rail infrastructure.
  - Creating transit centers.
  - Establishing electric vehicle networks.
  - Streetcars.
  - Bicycle and pedestrian trail networks.

- Passenger and freight rail enhancements.
- Port infrastructure.

**Availability:** In April 2015, DOT announced that \$500 million will be made available under the seventh round of TIGER grants. Pre-applications were due on May 4, 2015, and final applications were due on June 5, 2015.

<http://www.dot.gov/tiger/>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Camille Mittelholtz

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### Main Site

<http://www.dot.gov>

### Partnership for Sustainable Communities

DOT, EPA, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development work together to help communities improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment.

<http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov>

## SNAPSHOT – HOUSTON, TEXAS

DOT awarded a \$10 million TIGER grant to the City of Houston in an effort to improve the existing arterial management system's performance and operation, thereby improving the mobility and safety of motorists, transit providers/passengers, and pedestrians among 150 arterial corridors. Upon completion, this project will allow for greater traffic flow, improve vehicular flow (saving up to 2 million gallons of fuel and cutting up to 17,500 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, plus enhancing incident management through provision of real-time information), reduce travel delays and emissions, and improve capacity and accessibility to the community. It will also reduce first responder response time and clearance of incidents by up to 20 percent, and enhance timing and signal adjustments based on current conditions and planned events.

# Environmental Protection Agency

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and the environment. EPA's purpose is to ensure that:

- All Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn, and work.
- National efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information.
- Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively.
- Environmental protection is an integral consideration in U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy.
- All parts of society – communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments – have access to accurate information sufficient to participate effectively in managing human health and environmental risks.
- Environmental protection contributes to making our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable, and economically productive.
- The United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.

### Brownfields Connections

- Grants to assess site contamination.
- Grants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields.
- Capital to establish revolving loan funds (RLFs).
- Funds to develop environmental job training for residents of brownfields-impacted communities.
- Grants to conduct area-wide planning activities.
- Grants to establish and enhance state and tribal response programs.
- Grants to capitalize RLFs to correct or prevent water quality problems.

- Outreach and technical assistance to brownfields communities.
- Grants to advance the restoration of urban waters.
- Grants and technical assistance to promote Smart Growth principles.

## OFFICE OF BROWNFIELDS AND LAND REVITALIZATION

EPA actively promotes the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields through the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR). EPA's Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The EPA Brownfields Program encourages the redevelopment of America's abandoned and contaminated brownfields through its annual grant program, as well as its many outreach and technical assistance programs.

Since the inception of EPA's Brownfields Program in 1995, cumulative brownfield program investments have leveraged more than \$22 billion from a variety of public and private sources for cleanup and redevelopment activities. This equates to an average of \$17.79 leveraged per EPA brownfield dollar expended. These investments have resulted in approximately 105,942 jobs nationwide. For a brief overview of the economic benefits of brownfields redevelopment, see: [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/overview/OBLR\\_Brownfield%20postcard%202014\\_v4\\_web.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/overview/OBLR_Brownfield%20postcard%202014_v4_web.pdf).

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

EPA's Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, planning, cleanup, and RLF capitalization. To facilitate the leveraging of public resources, the program collaborates with other EPA programs, federal partners, and state agencies to identify and make available resources that can be used for brownfields and community revitalization activities. EPA also provides technical assistance to brownfields communities and information on brownfields financing opportunities. EPA provides funding for the following grants:

### Assessment Grants

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include state and local governments; land clearance authorities and other quasi-governmental entities; government entities created by state legislature; regional councils and groups of local governments; redevelopment agencies; Indian tribes other than in Alaska; and Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations, and the Metlakatla Indian Community.

**Limitations:** An applicant may apply annually for one community-wide hazardous substances assessment grant and one community-wide petroleum assessment grant. Applicants applying for community-wide assessment grants for both hazardous substances and petroleum may also apply for one site-specific assessment grant each year. No single entity may apply for more than \$750,000 in assessment funding per year. Coalitions of three or more eligible entities may apply for a single community-wide assessment grant of up to \$600,000. Coalition members may not apply for any other assessment grants in the same year.

[http://epa.gov/brownfields/assessment\\_grants.htm](http://epa.gov/brownfields/assessment_grants.htm)

**Availability:** Applicants may request grants of up to \$200,000 for assessing sites contaminated with hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum), and up to \$200,000 for assessing sites contaminated with petroleum. Coalitions of three or more eligible parties may submit one assessment grant proposal for up to \$600,000 under the name of the lead coalition member. EPA awarded 179 brownfields assessment grants totalling \$41.9 million in FY 2015.

Site-specific assessment grant proposals are appropriate when the applicant identifies a specific site and plans to spend grant funds to address conditions only at that one site. For a site-specific brownfields assessment grant proposal, applicants may seek a waiver of the \$200,000 limit and request up to \$350,000 for a single site. Such waivers must be based on the anticipated level of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum) or petroleum at the site. The performance period is up to three years.

An applicant may submit a community-wide assessment grant proposal when the requested assessment grant is not targeted to a specific site or if the applicant plans to spend grant funds on more than one brownfield in the community.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Inventory sites.
- Characterize and prioritize sites.
- Assess sites.
- Conduct community involvement activities related to brownfields.
- Conduct area-wide planning for brownfields redevelopment.
- Conduct cleanup planning.
- Conduct redevelopment planning.
- Conduct health monitoring (local governments only).
- Monitor and enforce institutional controls (local governments only).
- Develop and implement assessment program (local governments only).
- Purchase environmental insurance.

### Cleanup Grants

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include state and local governments; land clearance authorities and other quasi-governmental entities; government entities created by the state legislature; regional councils and groups of local governments; redevelopment agencies; nonprofit organizations; Indian tribes other than in Alaska; and Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations, and the Metlakatla Indian Community. An applicant must own the site that is the subject of the grant proposal or obtain sole ownership by a deadline specified in proposal guidelines.

**Limitations:** Each year, eligible applicants may apply for up to three site-specific cleanup grants of up to \$200,000 each. Cleanup grants require a 20 percent cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services, and must be for eligible and allowable costs. An applicant may request that EPA waive the 20 percent cost-share requirement based on hardship. Prior to submitting proposals, applicants must complete a Phase II site assessment using the ASTM E1903-97 standard or equivalent assessment.

[http://epa.gov/brownfields/cleanup\\_grants.htm](http://epa.gov/brownfields/cleanup_grants.htm)

Additional information is available regarding climate change considerations in cleanups.

[http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/sustain\\_plts/factsheets/EPA\\_OBLR\\_Climate\\_Adaptation\\_Checklist.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/sustain_plts/factsheets/EPA_OBLR_Climate_Adaptation_Checklist.pdf)

**Availability:** Applicants may submit proposals for grants of up to \$200,000 to carry out cleanup activities at a brownfield site contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum), and up to \$200,000 for a brownfield site contaminated by petroleum. The performance period is up to three years. EPA awarded 64 brownfields cleanup grants totalling approximately \$12.4 million in FY 2015.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Carry out cleanup activities.
- Oversee cleanup construction activities.
- Conduct environmental monitoring of cleanup work.
- Conduct health monitoring.
- Monitor and enforce institutional controls.
- Conduct program development and implementation activities.
- Purchase environmental insurance.
- Consider climate change and site vulnerabilities in cleanup and reuse planning.

*Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants*

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include state and local governments; land clearance authorities and other quasi-governmental entities; government entities created by state legislature; regional councils and groups of local governments; redevelopment agencies; Indian tribes other than in Alaska; and Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations, and the Metlakatla Indian Community. Coalitions and single applicants are eligible to submit a proposal for an RLF grant.

**Limitations:** RLF grants provide funding to capitalize an RLF, make low-interest or no-interest loans for brownfields cleanups, and provide subgrants to eligible entities to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. At least 50 percent of the awarded funds must be used to capitalize and implement an RLF for loans. RLF grants require applicants to provide a 20 percent cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services, and must be for eligible and allowable costs. Applicants may request a waiver of the 20 percent cost share requirement based on hardship.

<http://epa.gov/brownfields/rlflst.htm>

**Availability:** An applicant may request up to \$1 million to capitalize an RLF. Coalitions of eligible entities may apply together as one applicant for up to

\$1 million per eligible entity. The performance period is five years. A solicitation for new RLF grants will not be issued in FY 2015. EPA expects to solicit requests from existing, high-performing RLF grantees through a Federal Register notice for supplemental RLF funding in 2015.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Capitalize an RLF and provide low-interest or no-interest loans and subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites.
- Award subgrants to clean up sites contaminated with petroleum and/or hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum).
- Conduct programmatic management of the grant.
- Perform health monitoring activities at brownfield sites.
- Monitor and enforce institutional controls.
- Conduct program development and implementation activities.
- Purchase environmental insurance.

*Area-Wide Planning Grants*

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include local governments; land clearance authorities and other quasi-governmental entities; regional councils and groups of local governments; government entities created by state legislature; redevelopment agencies; states that are serving in a fiscal and administrative capacity on behalf of a local community; Indian tribes other than in Alaska; Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations, and the Metlakatla Indian Community; and nonprofit organizations, including institutions of higher education. Coalitions and single applicants are eligible to submit a proposal for an area-wide planning grant.

**Limitations:** Area-wide planning grants are designed to assist predominantly underserved and economically disadvantaged communities. This may include low-income, minority, and/or economically distressed residents living in areas that face a disproportionate level of environmental degradation, social inequities, historic under-representation, economic stagnation, and/or recent economic disruption (e.g., closure of assembly or manufacturing plants, resulting in recent and significant local job loss). Eligible uses of EPA assistance under the area-wide planning grant competition include direct costs necessary to provide research, training, and technical assistance and to facilitate community involvement in area-wide planning

to develop plans and implementation strategies to facilitate brownfields assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse. Each project must result in a final report accompanying the area-wide plan and identification of next steps and resources needed for implementation. Project periods of up to 24 months are allowed. Individuals, profit-making firms, and the FY 2010 and FY 2013 EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program recipients are not eligible to apply.

[http://epa.gov/brownfields/areawide\\_grants.htm](http://epa.gov/brownfields/areawide_grants.htm)

Information is available regarding climate change considerations in area-wide planning.

[http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pdfs/EPA\\_OBLR\\_2014\\_AWP\\_Grantee\\_Checklist\\_Layout\\_v5.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pdfs/EPA_OBLR_2014_AWP_Grantee_Checklist_Layout_v5.pdf)

Proposal guidelines for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loan fund, and area-wide planning grants can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>.

**Availability:** An applicant may request up to \$200,000 in EPA assistance for area-wide planning within a specific brownfields-impacted area, such as a neighborhood, district, city block, or corridor. For the purposes of this assistance, a brownfields-impacted area is an area that is affected by a single large brownfield or multiple brownfields, and where revitalization of the area surrounding the brownfield(s) is critical to the successful reuse of the property (or properties). EPA awarded approximately \$4 million in area-wide planning grants to 20 communities in FY 2015.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Identifying community priorities related to near- and long-term brownfields cleanup, reuse, and area revitalization.
- Evaluating existing conditions of the project area, such as local brownfields market potential, needed infrastructure improvements, existing environmental data and health risks.
- Researching other applicable community or regional plans for coordination purposes.
- Developing strategies for brownfields assessment, cleanup, reuse, and related improvements and consolidating them into an area-wide plan.
- Considering climate change and area vulnerability as part of area-wide planning grant funded activities.
- Identifying resources or leveraging opportunities as implementation strategies, and incorporating them into the brownfields area-wide plan.

- Building the capacity of local communities to be effectively involved in the development of the brownfields area-wide plan.

#### *Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants Program*

EPA provides funds to eligible entities to deliver environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment, and cleanup associated employment activities. Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) grants are provided to recruit, train, and place residents of communities impacted by blighted properties, contaminated sites, and waste management facilities in environmental jobs that cleanup contractors from outside the affected community might otherwise fill.

A critical part of EPA's EWDJT grant program is to ensure that residents living in communities historically affected by brownfields, economic disinvestment, health disparities, and environmental contamination are provided an opportunity to reap the benefits of jobs created during revitalization efforts in these areas. Training programs must target unemployed and underemployed individuals. EPA is committed to integrating principles of environmental justice by helping communities revitalize contaminated properties, mitigate potential health risks, and restore economic vitality. Through FY 2014, EPA funded 239 job training grants totaling over \$49 million through the former Brownfields Job Training program and Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program. As of April 2015, more than 13,800 individuals completed the training, and of those, more than 10,000 obtained employment in the environmental field, with an average starting hourly wage of \$14.18. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 72 percent since the program was created in 1998.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include state and local governments; land clearance authorities and other quasi-governmental entities; government entities created by state legislature; regional councils or groups of local governments; redevelopment agencies; nonprofit organizations; Indian tribes other than in Alaska; and Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations, and the Metlakatla Indian Community. Workforce Investment Boards and organized labor unions that meet the criteria may be eligible nonprofit organizations. Public and nonprofit private educational institutions are eligible to apply.

**Limitations:** Applicants who received an EWDJT grant from EPA in FY 2014 were not eligible to apply in FY 2015, unless they proposed to serve a different city or target area.

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm>

**Availability:** An eligible entity may apply for up to \$200,000. The performance period is three years. EPA awarded approximately \$3.6 million in EWDJT grants to 19 communities in FY 2015.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Recruit job training participants from communities impacted by hazardous and/or solid waste facilities and contaminated properties.
- Conduct job development outreach activities directed toward engaging prospective employers to become involved in the job training program and hire graduates.
- Train residents of impacted communities in the handling and removal of hazardous substances and petroleum, including health and safety certification training and training for jobs in environmental sampling, analysis, and site remediation.
- Train participants in the assessment, inventory, analysis, and remediation of sites or facilities at which hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, and petroleum are located, transported, or disposed of, including training for jobs in environmental sampling, demolition, underground storage tank removal, groundwater extraction, and site remediation associated with brownfields.
- Train participants in solid waste management or cleanup; Superfund site cleanup and innovative and alternative treatment technologies; wastewater treatment; emergency planning, preparedness, and response; enhanced environmental health and safety; and integrated pest management.
- Train participants in use of compost and soil amendments, plus associated sampling, testing, design considerations, and management techniques to support the assessment and cleanup of sites for urban agriculture and horticulture; planning and conducting ecological restoration of contaminated land; and reuse of biosolids and other industry residuals associated with remediation of contaminated lands or solid waste facilities.
- Train participants in the requirements and conduct of “all appropriate inquiries” and due diligence, which can be defined as the process of evaluating a

property for the potential presence of environmental contamination and assessing potential liability for any contamination present at the property.

- Provide skills in innovative technologies, green remediation techniques, recycling of demolition materials, installation of solar panels and other renewable energy systems, preparation of sites for water or stormwater management systems, low-impact development, and LEED certification and other relevant areas.

#### *State and Tribal Response Programs*

Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, authorizes a noncompetitive \$50 million grant program to establish and enhance state and tribal response programs. State and tribal response programs oversee assessment and cleanup activities at the majority of brownfield sites across the country. CERCLA 128(a) response program grants are funded with categorical State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) appropriations. Section 128(a) cooperative agreements are awarded and administered by EPA Regional offices.

The four required elements of a response program are: (1) timely survey and inventory of brownfield sites on state or tribal land; (2) oversight and enforcement authorities or other mechanisms and resources; (3) mechanisms and resources to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation; and (4) mechanisms for approval of a cleanup plan and verification and certification that cleanup is complete. State and tribal recipients may use the funding to start or enhance a new response program and to meet public record requirements established in the statute. States and tribes also may use funding to increase the number of sites at which response actions are conducted or perform activities that add or improve a response program. In addition, the funds can be used to oversee cleanups, conduct site-specific activities, purchase environmental insurance, or develop other insurance mechanisms to provide financing for cleanup activities.

**Eligibility Requirements:** To be eligible for funding, a state or tribe must: (1) demonstrate that its response program includes, or is taking reasonable steps to include, the four elements of a response program, or be a party to a voluntary response program memorandum of agreement with EPA; and (2) maintain and make available to the public a record of sites at which response actions were completed in the previous year and are planned to address in the coming year.

### Limitations:

- States and tribes cannot allocate more than \$200,000 per site for assessments, and no more than \$200,000 per site can be used for cleanups.
- A state or tribe may not use the awarded funds to assess and clean up sites that are owned or operated by the recipient or held in trust by the U.S. government for the recipient.
- In most cases, assessments and cleanups cannot be conducted at sites where the state or tribe is a potentially responsible party (see grant guidelines for exceptions).
- Subgrants cannot be awarded to entities that may be potentially responsible parties under CERCLA.

**Availability:** For FY 2015, EPA considered funding requests of up to \$1 million per state or tribe.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- Develop legislation, regulations, procedures, guidance, etc., to establish or enhance the administrative and legal structure of a response program.
- Establish and maintain the required public record.
- Capitalize an RLF for brownfields cleanup.
- Purchase environmental insurance or develop a risk-sharing pool, indemnity pool, or insurance mechanism to provide financing for response actions under a state or tribal response program.
- Conduct limited site-specific activities, such as assessment or cleanup, provided such activities establish and/or enhance the response program and are tied to the four elements.

[http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state\\_tribal](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state_tribal)

### Targeted Brownfields Assessment Program

EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program is designed to minimize the uncertainties of contamination often associated with brownfields. The program is tailored to entities that do not have EPA brownfields assessment grants. TBA is not a grant program, and EPA does not provide TBA funding directly to the entity requesting the services. The TBA program provides technical services through an EPA contractor to conduct environmental assessment activities. TBA assistance is available through two sources: directly from EPA through programs administered by EPA Regional brownfields offices, and from state or tribal voluntary response programs using funds provided by EPA.

**Eligibility Requirements:** TBA funds may be used only at properties eligible for EPA brownfields

funding. Property owners can include state, local, and tribal governments; general purpose units of local government; land clearance authorities and other quasi-governmental entities; regional councils and redevelopment agencies; states; and nonprofit organizations.

**Limitations:** Unless there is a clear means of recouping EPA expenditures, EPA generally will not fund TBAs at properties where the owner is responsible for the contamination. The TBA program does not provide resources to conduct cleanup or building demolition activities.

[http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant\\_info/tba.htm](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant_info/tba.htm)

**Availability:** The TBA selection process varies with each EPA Region and by each state and tribal voluntary response program. The selection process is guided by Regional and state criteria.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- An "all appropriate inquiries" Phase I environmental site assessment, including a historical investigation and a preliminary site inspection.
- A more in-depth (Phase II) environmental site assessment, including sampling activities to identify the types and concentrations of contaminants and the areas of contamination to be cleaned.
- Evaluation of cleanup options and/or cost estimates based on future uses and redevelopment plans.

### Outreach/Technical Assistance

#### *Brownfields and Land Revitalization Technology Support Center*

EPA created the Brownfields and Land Revitalization Technology Support Center (BTSC) in 1998 to help decision-makers evaluate strategies to streamline the site investigation and cleanup process, identify and review information about complex technology options, evaluate contractor capabilities and recommendations, and explain complex technologies to communities. BTSC helps eligible parties when traditional site assessment and cleanup approaches are too time-consuming and expensive to support the redevelopment of brownfield sites. Services are classified into two categories: direct support services and information requests.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Direct support is available to state and local governments, tribes, brownfields grantees, EPA Regional Coordinators, EPA Remedial Project Managers, EPA On-Scene Coordinators, and other EPA regional staff. Information about site investigation and cleanup activities is available to all brownfields stakeholders, including real estate professionals, financial institutions, and other private



redevelopment interests; engineers, consultants, and other private remediation professionals; potentially responsible parties; affected communities; and members of the public.

**Limitations:** Local and state government personnel, EPA personnel, tribes, and nonprofits with active EPA brownfields cleanup grants may request site-specific support for brownfields sites from the BTSC at no cost. Nongovernment organizations may submit only information requests.

<http://www.brownfieldstsc.org/>

**Availability:** The BTSC offers two services: direct support and response to information requests. Information about site investigation and cleanup activities is available to all brownfields stakeholders.

#### **Services provided by BTSC include:**

- Review and comment on project documents, such as requests for proposals, work plans, field sampling plans, and quality assurance plans.
- Facilitate the consideration and use of the Triad approach.
- Provide information about field-based technologies for site assessment and cleanup.
- Identify how dynamic work strategies and decision-support tools can be incorporated in site assessment activities.
- Evaluate remedial technologies and their advantages and limitations for site-specific features and needs.
- Share technical information with nontechnical audiences.
- Provide easy access to resources, tools, recent news, and lessons learned.
- Review literature and electronic resources.
- Support demonstration planning.

#### *Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Program*

Under the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Program, EPA awards grants to organizations that provide geographically based technical assistance and training on brownfields issues to communities and other stakeholders. The goal is to increase community understanding and involvement in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. Each TAB grantee serves as an independent source of information in assisting with community involvement activities and increasing understanding of the health impacts of brownfield sites; science and technology relating to brownfield site assessment, cleanup, and site prepara-

tion activities; brownfields finance questions; and integrated approaches to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

In FY 2014, EPA awarded TAB grants to three organizations to offer these services directly to communities in their respective geographic regions. TAB grantees are:

EPA Regions 1 and 3: The New Jersey Institute of Technology: <http://www.njit.edu/tab>

EPA Regions 2, 4, 9, and 10: Center for Creative Land Recycling: <http://www.cclr.org/technical-assistance>

EPA Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8: Kansas State University: <https://www.ksutab.org/>

**Eligibility Requirements:** Entities facing brownfields challenges can determine whether they can get technical assistance by contacting the TAB grantee that supports their geographic area. Eligible entities include state and local governments; land clearance authorities and other quasi-governmental entities; government entities created by state legislature; regional councils and groups of local governments; redevelopment agencies; nonprofit organizations; Indian tribes other than in Alaska; and Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaska Native Village Corporations, and the Metlakatla Indian Community.

**Availability:** Most TAB services are provided free of charge, but applicants should check with their specific TAB providers.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

TAB grantees can assist brownfields communities in the following areas:

- Reviewing and explaining brownfields-related technical reports.
- Providing information about basic science, environmental policy, and other technical matters related to brownfields sites.
- Explaining health risks associated with a brownfield property.
- Helping to identify financing options for brownfields projects.
- Explaining or interpreting scientific information or environmental policy.
- Providing information to help the community understand environmental issues and how they affect brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.
- Facilitating brownfields redevelopment efforts by supporting community and other stakeholder involvement activities.

- Sponsoring a workshop.
- Holding a webinar or providing other Web-based tools.
- Answering questions posted on a website, or providing information through a newsletter, resource center, or case studies.

[http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant\\_info/tab.htm](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/grant_info/tab.htm)

### *Training, Research and Technical Assistance Grants for Brownfields Communities*

EPA periodically requests proposals to support general training, research and technical assistance on issues of interest to brownfield communities as well as more targeted and focused grant awards as needs arise.

Examples of past projects as well as links to project fact sheets and grantees selected in 2014 can be found at [http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/trta\\_k6/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/trta_k6/index.htm).

## OFFICE OF WATER

EPA's Office of Water (OW) ensures drinking water is safe, and restores and maintains oceans, watersheds, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities, and provide healthy habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife.

OW is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; portions of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Ocean Dumping Ban Act; Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act; Shore Protection Act; Marine Plastics Pollution Research and Control Act; London Dumping Convention; the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; and several other statutes.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., OW works with the ten EPA Regional offices, other federal agencies, state and local governments, American Indian tribes, the regulated community, organized professional and interest groups, land owners and managers, and the public at large. OW provides guidance, specifies scientific methods and data collection requirements, performs oversight, and facilitates communication among those involved. OW helps the states and American Indian tribes to build capacity, and can delegate to them for implementation.

### Financial Assistance

#### *Clean Water State Revolving Fund*

Communities that have brownfields and suffer from water quality impairment may be able to access and use monies from the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRFs) to correct or prevent water quality

problems at such properties. Through the CWSRF program, each state and Puerto Rico maintain a revolving loan fund to provide an independent and permanent source of low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. Funds to establish or capitalize the CWSRF programs are provided through federal government grants and state matching funds (equal to 20 percent of federal government grants). Today, all 50 states and Puerto Rico are operating successful CWSRF programs. In recent years, the CWSRF programs provided, on average, more than \$5 billion annually to fund water quality protection projects for wastewater treatment, nonpoint source pollution control, and watershed and estuary management. Over the last two and half decades, the CWSRFs provided over \$100 billion, funding more than 33,320 low-interest loans.

CWSRF programs operate much the same as environmental infrastructure banks that are capitalized with federal and state contributions. CWSRF monies can be loaned to communities, and loan repayments are recycled back into the program to fund additional water quality protection projects. The revolving nature of these programs provides an ongoing funding source that will last indefinitely. States can design CWSRF programs to address their own priorities and may include a variety of assistance options, including loans, refinancing, purchasing, or guaranteeing local debt and purchasing bond insurance. States also can set specific loan terms, including interest rates (from zero percent to market rate) and repayment periods (up to 20 years). Nationally, interest rates for CWSRF loans average 1.7 percent, compared to market rates that average 3.7 percent. CWSRFs can fund 100 percent of the project cost and provide flexible repayment terms up to 20 years. States have the flexibility to target resources to their particular environmental needs, including brownfields remediation, treatment of contaminated runoff from urban and agricultural areas, wetlands restoration, estuary management, and wastewater treatment.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible loan recipients include large and small communities, homeowners, farmers, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Eligibility for funding varies by state. States also may customize loan terms to meet the needs of small and disadvantaged communities. In addition, some states provide specialized assistance for communities that are disadvantaged or experiencing financial hardship. These states might offer lower or no-interest loans to provide greater subsidies for disadvantaged communities.

**Limitations:** States set CWSRF funding priorities and project approvals.

## Uses/Applications Include:

- Excavate and dispose of underground storage tanks.
- Construct wetlands as a filtering mechanism.
- Cap wells.
- Excavate, remove, and dispose of contaminated soil or sediments.
- Safely abandon wells.
- Perform Phase I, II, and III environmental site assessments.

[http://water.epa.gov/grants\\_funding/cwsrf/cwsrf\\_index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/cwsrf/cwsrf_index.cfm)

### *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund*

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) was established by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments to provide loans to publicly and privately owned public water systems. The loans can be used for infrastructure improvements needed to protect public health and ensure compliance with the SDWA. The DWSRF is a state-run program that works like a bank, providing low- or no-interest loans to communities, public utilities, and private companies for drinking water projects that meet the program's criteria. Federal and state contributions capitalize the programs, which exist in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

In addition to providing loans, states may set aside up to 31 percent of their DWSRF grants to finance a variety of activities, such as encouraging improved water system management and performance and helping public water systems prevent contamination through source water protection measures.

Annually, DWSRF programs provide nearly \$2 billion in assistance to drinking water projects. Using the loan fund and set-asides, state DWSRF programs can provide financial assistance in a variety of ways to support the rehabilitation of brownfield sites across the country.

In response to a public health risk, state DWSRFs are able to loan money to water systems for the infrastructure costs needed to provide a brownfield site with safe drinking water, if certain conditions are met. States should consider the criteria described in the online resources below to determine whether a brownfield-related drinking water project is eligible for a DWSRF loan. Because exact project eligibility and available funding vary by state, water systems should contact their state DWSRF representative for more information.

[http://water.epa.gov/grants\\_funding/dwsrf](http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/dwsrf)

## DWSRF Factsheet:

<http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=2000ZZBI.txt>

### *Urban Waters Small Grants Program*

The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants program is to fund research, investigations, experiments, training, surveys, studies, and demonstrations that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities. As part of the urban waters movement, the program helps communities, especially underserved communities, connect to their waterways and engage in restoration to improve water quality and revitalize their neighborhoods. The Urban Waters Small Grants program strives to make a visible difference by working with a diversity of partners to support community-driven solutions that connect the intrinsic value of urban waters with improving the livability and economic health of the community. In 2014, EPA selected 37 organizations to receive grants of \$40,000 to \$60,000, totaling approximately \$2.1 million in support.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible applicants include states, local governments, the District of Columbia, Indian tribes, U.S. possessions and territories, public and private universities and colleges, public or private nonprofit institutions and organizations, intertribal consortia, and interstate agencies.

**Limitations:** To strengthen and diversify the work going on in the 18 Urban Waters Federal Partnership designated locations, the 2013/14 request for proposals (RFP) had a geographic focus and aligned with these locations. This competition also resulted in collaboration between OW and the Office of Children's Health Protection. Organizations were eligible to apply if they were within the eligible geographic areas.

**Availability:** The Urban Waters Small Grants are competed and awarded every two years. During the 2013/14 competition, EPA awarded \$2.1 million to 37 organizations in 17 states and Puerto Rico. Grant amounts ranged from \$40,000 to \$60,000 for projects taking place in areas that align with the 18 designated Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations.

## Uses/Applications Include:

In general, projects should meet the following four program objectives:

- Improve and restore local urban water quality.
- Engage, educate, and empower local residents and entities.

- Support community priorities.
- Involve underserved communities.

2013/14 awardees:

<http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants#awardees>

## OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Located within the Office of Policy, the Office of Sustainable Communities (OSC)—also known as EPA’s Smart Growth Program—collaborates with other EPA programs; federal agencies; regional, state, and local governments; and a broad array of nongovernmental partners to help communities become stronger, healthier, and more sustainable through smarter growth and green building. This work helps to address EPA’s priorities for improving water and air and cleaning up communities while furthering the Administration’s objectives with respect to environmental justice.

OSC helps communities improve their development practices and achieve the type of development they want. The program works with local, state, and national experts to create and encourage development strategies that protect human health and the environment, foster economic opportunities, and provide attractive and affordable neighborhoods for people of all income levels. OSC also coordinates EPA’s green building work.

OSC’s work includes:

- Working with tribes, states, regions, and communities through grants and technical assistance.
- Conducting research.
- Producing reports and other publications.
- Providing examples of outstanding smart growth communities and projects.
- Bringing together through partnerships diverse interests to encourage better growth and development.
- Providing education and outreach by supporting Smart Growth Online (<http://www.smartgrowth.org>) and the New Partners for Smart Growth conference (<http://newpartners.org>).

<http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth>

### Technical Assistance

#### *Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities*

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities provides quick, targeted technical assistance to selected communities using a variety of tools for demonstrated results and widespread application. The purpose

of delivering these tools is to stimulate a discussion about growth and development and strengthen local capacity to implement sustainable approaches. Technical assistance is delivered by EPA staff and EPA-hired consultant teams. Each technical assistance project includes:

- Public engagement through a one- to two-day workshop.
- Direct consultation with relevant decision-makers.
- A memo outlining specific steps the community could take to implement the ideas generated during the workshop.

In addition to the EPA-delivered Building Blocks assistance, EPA provides grants to nonprofit organizations to provide similar assistance to communities. These grantees have their own application requirements, application periods, and tools available.

<http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/building-blocks-sustainable-communities-assistance-grantees>

**Eligibility Requirements:** The assistance is for individual jurisdictions. In addition to local governments, examples of eligible applicants include community groups, neighborhood associations, universities, regional planning groups, and similar organizations representing broader community interests that can demonstrate that they have the support of the municipality or municipalities they represent. Applicants must be located in, and project activities must be conducted within, the United States, Puerto Rico, or a territory or possession of the United States.

**Limitations:** EPA provides direct assistance through a federal contract; therefore, no funds are transferred to the community. Selected communities receive assistance in the form of a one-day workshop.

**Availability:** Applications are accepted only for open solicitations, which will be announced on OSC’s website.

### Uses/Applications Include:

EPA offers a variety of tools through the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. Not every tool is offered in every round. Once EPA uses a tool in several communities, the tool is refined to create a product that any community can use with limited outside assistance. Recent tools offered include:

- Bikeshare Planning.
- Infill Development in Distressed Communities.
- Flood Resilience for Riverine and Coastal Communities.
- Sustainable Strategies for Small Cities and Rural Areas.

- Supporting Equitable Development.
- Creating a Green Streets Strategy.
- Land Use Strategies to Protect Water Quality.
- Neighborhood Planning for Healthy Aging.

<http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/building-blocks-sustainable-communities>

#### *Local Foods, Local Places*

Local Foods, Local Places is a program supported by EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority to help create more livable places by promoting local foods. Technical assistance is delivered by consultant teams.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Communities anywhere in the United States are eligible to apply. Particular consideration is given to communities in areas served by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Delta Regional Authority, federally designated Promise Zones, and USDA-designated StrikeForce counties.

**Limitations:** EPA provides direct assistance through a federal contract; no funds are transferred to the community. Selected communities receive assistance in the form of a site visit from a team of experts to help them develop and implement action plans promoting local food and downtown revitalization. Selected communities in Appalachia and the Delta region are eligible to receive financial assistance to help them implement those plans.

**Availability:** Applications are accepted only during open solicitation periods, which will be announced on OSC's website.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Boosting economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, and fostering entrepreneurship.
- Improving access to healthy local food, particularly among disadvantaged groups with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Revitalizing downtowns, main street districts, and traditional neighborhoods by supporting farmers markets, food hubs, community gardens, community kitchens, and other kinds of local food enterprises, and by providing people with affordable choices for accessing those amenities, such as walking, biking, or taking transit.

<http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/local-foods-local-places>

#### *Other Smart Growth Technical Assistance Programs*

OSC offers other technical assistance programs, including:

- **Governors' Institute on Community Design** – Technical assistance, delivered through a grantee, to help governors and their staffs make informed decisions about investments and policy decisions that influence the economic health and physical development of their states. States can apply at any time.

<http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/governors-institute-community-design>

- **Greening America's Capitals** – Technical assistance to help state capital cities envision and implement design strategies for more sustainable communities. Only state capital cities are eligible to apply, and mayors of eligible cities will be sent a letter inviting them to apply when a new application round opens.

<http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/greening-americas-capitals>

- **Smart Growth Implementation Assistance** – Technical assistance for public-sector entities that want to incorporate smart growth techniques into their development. Tribal, state, local, and regional governments and nonprofit organizations partnered with a governmental entity are eligible to apply. Applications are accepted only during open solicitation periods, which are announced on OSC's website.

<http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/smart-growth-implementation-assistance>

#### *HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities*

OSC is the lead EPA office for the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC), a joint effort among the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and EPA to help communities nationwide improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs. The three agencies work together to meet these goals while protecting the environment, promoting equitable development, and helping to address the challenges of climate change.

PSC coordinates federal housing, transportation, water, and other infrastructure investments to make neighborhoods more prosperous, allow people to live closer to jobs, save households time and money, and reduce pollution. The partnership agencies work together to align their funding and technical assistance programs and policies.

The PSC agencies periodically offer funding opportunities. When these grants are offered, they are announced on the PSC website and on Grants.gov.

## SNAPSHOT – TOLEDO, OHIO

In 2013, the City of Toledo was awarded an EPA brownfields area-wide planning (BF AWP) grant to help the city more holistically address the huge challenges associated with the multiple brownfield sites located within the Overland Industrial and Cherry Street Legacy neighborhoods, a 664-acre area just north of downtown Toledo. Some of these challenges include high poverty and unemployment rates, a high percentage of vacant parcels, limited access to food, and difficult transportation access due to an outdated street layout. This area serves as the key connection between the city's downtown core and its northern neighborhoods, which makes its successful revitalization crucially important to these adjacent areas.

Through their BF AWP process, community members were able to further organize together and build upon several previous efforts, including EPA-supported brownfields assessment and cleanup activities, urban agriculture development, sustainable communities technical assistance, and technical support from Global Green through EPA. In addition, new support was leveraged from the Toledo Community Foundation Partners for Places initiatives, Vista volunteers from the Corporation for National Service, and brownfield assessment support from the State of Ohio. Numerous stakeholder meetings, workshops, and open houses were held with key neighborhood partners and residents to gather data and share ideas for what types of redevelopment would be most appropriate for the project area, and a project website ([www.toledoawp.com](http://www.toledoawp.com)) was developed to widely disseminate updates and new information. Together, the stakeholders completed an approach that concentrates on strategies for the overall social, economic, and environmental revitalization of the project area. The community now envisions that the revitalized area will include a mix of industrial, commercial, and live/work spaces.

In addition, each agency maintains websites to track their own grant announcements. EPA offers grants to support activities that improve the quality of development and protect human health and the environment.

<http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov>

[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

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#### **Main Site**

<http://www.epa.gov>

#### **Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization**

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

#### **Office of Water**

<http://water.epa.gov/>

#### **Office of Sustainable Communities**

<http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth>

# Federal Housing Finance Agency

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

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### Mission

The Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) mission is to make sure the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) and the Federal Home Loan (FHL) Bank System, which includes 12 FHLBanks, and the Office of Finance, operate in a safe and sound manner so they serve as a reliable source of liquidity and funding for housing finance and community investment.

FHFA was created on July 30, 2008, when the President signed into law the Housing and Economic Recovery act of 2008. This law amended the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 to place regulation of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Bank System under a single regulator, enhance supervision of these regulated entities, and enhance FHFA's authorities as conservator or receiver. The FHFA now regulates the FHLBanks, which are government-chartered, member-owned corporations. The FHLBanks have more than 7,500 members, including commercial banks, thrifts, credit unions, and insurance companies. Each member is a shareholder in one of the FHLBanks.

The FHLBanks provide short-term and long-term loans (called "advances") to their members, who use the proceeds to make loans to individuals or entities in the community for residential mortgages and community economic development activities, including brownfields redevelopment projects. Only members and housing associates of FHLBanks receive advances from their respective FHLBank.

Lending programs include, but are not limited to, the Affordable Housing Program (AHP); the Community Investment Program (CIP), which has housing and community development components; and the Community Investment Cash Advances (CICA) program for community development. All the FHLBanks offer an AHP and CIP, and most offer one or more types of CICA programs. The CICA program provides financing for targeted economic development projects, including brownfields.

### Brownfields Connections

- FHLBanks finance their member institutions to provide a wide range of services for affordable housing projects, rental and owner-occupied properties, and single-family and multifamily units.
- FHLBanks encourage member institutions to engage in lending to meet community development needs, such as housing and economic development, that can take place on brownfield sites.
- FHLBanks use a variety of financing tools for redevelopment, such as the purchase of taxable and tax-exempt bonds and issuance of letters of credit backing the bonds.

## RESOURCES

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### Financial Assistance

#### *Community Investment Program*

Each FHLBank operates a CIP that offers below-market-rate loans to its member institutions for long-term financing of housing or for community economic development that benefits low-income families and neighborhoods. CIP is an advance or loan that a member financial institution borrows from its FHLBank to lend to a project. CIP loans support projects that create and preserve jobs and help build infrastructure to catalyze community growth. CIP loans may be combined with other housing or community development funds.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Projects funded by the member institutions of an FHLBank must meet several requirements, depending on the type of project. Projects may involve owner-occupied and rental housing; construction of roads, bridges, retail stores, sewage treatment plants, or other capital improvement projects; and small business loans to create or retain jobs.

**Limitations:** Advances are made only on a secured basis with collateral requirements consistent with those of all FHLBank credit programs. Advances to refinance debt are generally not allowed under the CIP.

**Availability:** Advances are available in various maturities, including long-term maturities of 20 years or more, on a continuous basis through FHLBanks member institutions.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Home purchases by families with incomes at or below 115 percent of the area median.
- Purchase or rehabilitation of rental housing for families with incomes at or below 115 percent of the area median.
- Commercial and economic development activities, including those relating to brownfields, that benefit low- and moderate-income families (those at or below 80 percent of median income) or activities that are located in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.
- Projects that include a combination of these activities.

*Community Investment Cash Advances Programs*

The Community Investment Cash Advances (CICA) Programs offer funding, often at below-market interest rates, for members to use to finance economic development projects to benefit targeted beneficiaries or defined geographic areas. Eligible uses include brownfields redevelopment; commercial, industrial, manufacturing, and social services projects; infrastructure; and public facilities and services. Notably, CICA includes two programs, a Rural Development Advance Program and an Urban Development Advance Program.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Only FHLBank members may borrow CICA funds. Eligibility requirements for project funding vary among FHLBanks.

**Limitations:** Before applying, each FHLBank must have a Community Lending Plan that describes its program objectives and funding availability.

**Uses/Applications Include:**

- Assistance to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment projects in areas eligible for a federal brownfields tax credit.
- Assistance to Champion Communities, Empowerment Zones, or Enterprise Communities.
- Assistance to housing, commercial, industrial, and other economic development activities.
- Assistance to areas affected by federal military base closings.

- Assistance to small businesses as defined by the Small Business Administration.
- Assistance to tribal homelands.

*Affordable Housing Program*

The Affordable Housing Program (AHP) subsidizes the cost of owner-occupied housing for individuals and families with incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income, and rental housing in which at least 20 percent of the units with affordable rents are reserved for households with incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income. The subsidy may be in the form of a grant or a below-cost subsidized interest rate on an advance.

FHLBanks contribute 10 percent of their net income to affordable housing through the AHP. AHP funds are available primarily through a competitive application program at each of the FHLBanks. This competitive grant program is the largest source of private-sector grants for housing and community development in the country.

In addition to the funds awarded in the competitive program, AHP funds are awarded through the homeownership set-aside program. An FHLBank may set aside an amount up to the greater of \$4.5 million or 35 percent of its AHP funds each year to assist low- and moderate-income households in purchasing homes. In the set-aside program, members provide grants directly to households for down payment and closing costs, and in some cases, counseling and rehabilitation costs. Each member sets its own maximum grant amount, which may not exceed \$15,000 per household. Between 1990 and 2013, the FHLBanks contributed AHP subsidies to assist 724,000 households, including 428,000 very low-income households.

An FHLBank may elect to give application scoring preference to AHP projects that promote empowerment or community stability, including those that are part of a neighborhood stabilization plan

**Eligibility Requirements:** Only member financial institutions of an FHLBank can apply for AHP funds. To be considered eligible for AHP funding, housing projects must meet eight requirements, including those related to occupancy, feasibility, need, timing, retention of owner-occupied or rental units, and project sponsor qualifications.

**Limitations:** Projects using AHP funds are subject to retention requirements. The retention period is five years for home ownership projects. Rental projects



## SNAPSHOT – OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

The Tassafaronga apartment complex in Oakland, California, originally consisted of an 87-unit public housing development built by the government in 1945 and a pasta factory built in 1947. In the following decades, some of the original housing unit structures were demolished, and the northern half of the pasta factory parcel was leased to an auto repair business and a gasoline station. Subsequent environmental assessments determined that there was some contamination within the soil near the housing complex. The Oakland Housing Authority applied for and received an EPA Brownfields Cleanup grant to remediate the site. Site cleanup, performed in conjunction with California's Voluntary Cleanup Program, was completed in October 2008 with funds from the cleanup grant. The Federal Home Loan Bank's Affordable Housing Program helped move this project forward by providing a \$200,000 subsidy, which was used for construction. Construction of the Tassafaronga Village began shortly thereafter and was completed in May 2010. The new housing complex is a green neighborhood of 157 units designed to bring a diversity of affordable housing to an underserved area of Oakland. The complex, which currently is home to more than 500 residents, includes affordable family rental apartments, affordable rental townhouses, and an on-site medical clinic.

must maintain household income and rental payment restrictions during a 15-year retention period.

**Availability:** Each FHLBank has at least one AHP funding round each year in which members submit applications on behalf of sponsors and developers of affordable housing projects.

### Uses/Applications Include:

Over the years, the AHP provided assistance to:

- Low- and moderate-income homeowners and first-time homebuyers.
- Very-low-income residents of rental housing.
- Special-needs households, including the elderly, disabled, homeless, or victims of domestic violence who need supportive services.

- Residents in rural communities.
- Residents in urban areas.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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# General Services Administration

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The General Services Administration (GSA) leverages the buying power of the federal government to acquire best value for taxpayers and its federal customers. With thousands of federal properties throughout the country, GSA partners with other federal agencies, state regulatory agencies, and local communities to recycle surplus federal properties. GSA expedites the cleanup and reuse of contaminated federal real estate by leveraging its real estate expertise, meaningful stakeholder input, and all available real property and environmental authorities.

### Brownfields Connections

GSA works with federal landholding agencies to review and identify surplus federally owned brownfields. GSA seeks to redeploy these brownfields in close coordination with local community planning objectives. GSA serves as the “honest broker” in returning these properties to productive use. To carry out this role, GSA:

- Coordinates with state and federal representatives to ensure that the identification of underutilized federal properties incorporates the latest state and federal revitalization initiatives.
- Executes a process that brings stakeholders together on issues related to contaminated properties.
- Provides local communities, community stakeholders, and the private sector with information on the federal real property disposal process.
- Educates states and communities engaged in brownfields revitalization about innovative disposal methods and options for remediation privatization.

## RESOURCES

### Technical Assistance

#### *Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative*

When a property is determined to be surplus to the needs of the federal government, GSA works with state and local planners, economic development officials, and community groups to marry GSA's real

property authorities and local revitalization objectives effectively. GSA employs specific strategies in the redeployment of federal brownfields. Transactions are structured in ways that allow the federal government to realize the asset's embedded equity while expediting the completion of environmental remediation and property redevelopment.

**Eligibility Requirements:** GSA works with local officials, community stakeholders, and state and federal agencies in communities with surplus federal real property.

**Availability:** GSA works with all federal landholding agencies to develop real estate strategies that identify options for better management of underutilized assets. This process includes identifying potential federal brownfields through GSA's utilization studies, providing recommendations to federal landholding agencies for environmental characterization and additional due diligence, and developing real property strategies that expedite environmental regulatory closure.

### Uses/Applications Include:

- GSA identifies federal brownfields, incorporates meaningful stakeholder input in matching available real property authorities with local revitalization objectives, and develops environmental and real property strategies for successful return to productive reuse.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Office of Real Property Utilization and Disposal

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## SNAPSHOT – ARDEN HILLS, MINNESOTA

GSA utilized its brownfields expertise to redeploy 543 acres of the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP). TCAAP was used for small arms ammunition production dating back to World War II. Due to extensive soil and groundwater contamination, the site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983. GSA worked with the U.S. Army to identify a portion of TCAAP as excess to the Army. Through close coordination with the City of Arden Hills and Ramsey County, Minnesota, GSA developed a real estate strategy for two parcels in line with community redevelopment objectives and property remediation needs. The first transfer of 116 acres created a public park and wildlife corridor. The second parcel comprised 427 acres. GSA structured a negotiated sale to Ramsey County to expedite site remediation and redevelopment. Ramsey County assumed responsibility for soil contamination while the Army retained responsibility for groundwater remediation. At the April 2013 closing, the county received 397 acres in fee and 30 acres under a lease. The second closing is planned for October 2015. At that closing, GSA will deed the remaining 30 acres to Ramsey County, if the county completes its remediation to regulatory satisfaction. Ramsey County will redevelop the property in partnership with the City of Arden Hills.

# Small Business Administration

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

### Mission

The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns; to preserve free competitive enterprise; and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the nation. SBA recognizes that small business is critical to the nation's economic recovery and strength, to building America's future, and to helping the United States compete in today's global marketplace. Although SBA evolved in the years since it was established, its bottom-line mission remains the same: The SBA helps Americans start, build, and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.

### Brownfields Connections

The SBA encourages the redevelopment of brownfields. SBA loan guarantees are available to small businesses interested in locating on revitalized brownfields. Typically, this occurs through utilization of one or more of the following factors: (1) indemnification; (2) completed remediation; (3) "No Further Action" letter obtained; (4) "minimal contamination" achieved; (5) cleanup funds approved; (6) escrow account available; (7) groundwater contamination originating from another site; (8) a pledge of additional or substitute collateral; or (9) other factors, such as the existence of adequate environmental insurance.

## RESOURCES

### Financial Assistance

The SBA provides financial assistance programs for small businesses, including the Certified Development Company/504 (CDC/504) Program and 7(a) loans.

#### *Certified Development Company/504 Program*

The CDC/504 loan program is a long-term financing tool for economic development within a community.

The 504 Program provides growing businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing for major fixed assets, such as land and buildings. A CDC is a private, nonprofit corporation set up to contribute to the economic development of its community. CDCs work with SBA and private-sector lenders to provide financing to small businesses.

Typically, a 504 project includes a loan secured from a private-sector lender, with a senior lien covering up to 50 percent of the project cost; a loan secured from a CDC (backed by a 100 percent SBA-guaranteed debenture), with a junior lien covering up to 40 percent of the total cost; and a contribution from the borrower of at least 10 percent equity.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Eligible entities include businesses that are operated for profit, do business in the United States or its possessions, fall within the size standards set by the SBA, use proceeds for an approved purpose, have no funds available from other sources, indicate ability to repay the loan on time, and possess relevant management expertise and a feasible business plan. Under the CDC/504 Program, a business qualifies as small if it has a tangible net worth of \$15 million or less and an average net income of less than \$5 million after taxes for the preceding two years. If business and personal financial resources are found to be excessive, the business will be required to use those resources in lieu of part or all of the requested loan proceeds.

**Limitations:** The CDC/504 Program cannot be used for working capital or inventory; consolidating, repaying, or refinancing debt; or speculation or investment in rental real estate.

**Availability:** The maximum SBA debenture is \$5 million for each small business concern for regular 504 loans or public policy projects. The eligible debenture amount may increase to \$5.5 million if the borrower is a small manufacturer, if the project reduces the borrower's energy consumption by at least 10 percent, or if the project generates at least 10 percent of the borrower's energy needs at the facility.

#### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Purchasing land, including existing buildings.
- Making improvements, including grading, streets, utilities, parking lots, and landscaping.

- Constructing new facilities or modernizing, renovating, or converting existing facilities.
- Purchasing long-term machinery and equipment.

<http://www.sba.gov/financialassistance/borrowers/guaranteed/CDC504lp/index.html>

### *Basic 7(a) Loan Program*

The 7(a) loan program is SBA's primary program to help startup and existing small businesses obtain financing, with financing guaranteed for a variety of general business purposes. SBA does not make loans itself, but rather guarantees loans made by participating lending institutions. The 7(a) name comes from section 7(a) of the Small Business Act. The 7(a) loans are the most basic and most used types of SBA loans.

**Eligibility Requirements:** To be considered for a 7(a) loan, applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements. These requirements are designed to be as broad as possible so the program can accommodate the most diverse variety of small business financing needs.

**Availability:** Borrowers must apply through a participating lender institution.

**Limitations:** SBA does not fully guarantee 7(a) loans. The lender and SBA share the risk that a borrower will not be able to repay the loan in full.

### **Uses/Applications Include:**

- Working capital.
- Purchase, renovation, and new construction of land or buildings.
- Acquisition of equipment, machinery, furniture, and fixtures.
- Establishment of a new business, or operation or expansion of an existing business.
- Debt refinancing (under special conditions).

<http://www.sba.gov/financialassistance/borrowers/guaranteed/7alp/index.html>

## Outreach/Technical Assistance

### *Office of Small Business Development Centers*

SBA administers the Small Business Development Centers program (SBDC), which provides management

assistance to current and prospective small business owners. SBDCs offer one-stop assistance to individuals and small businesses by providing a wide variety of information and guidance in central and easily accessible branch locations. The program is a cooperative effort of the private sector, the educational community, and federal, state, and local governments. It enhances economic development by providing small businesses with management and technical assistance.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Assistance from an SBDC is available to anyone who cannot afford the services of a private consultant and is interested in beginning a small business for the first time or improving or expanding an existing small business.

<https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/osbdc>

### *Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)*

SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow, and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. SCORE is a resource partner with the SBA. It has 320 chapters throughout the United States and its territories, with 11,000 volunteers nationwide. Both working and retired business owners and professionals donate time and expertise as business counselors.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Small business owners and entrepreneurs can receive assistance online or at local SCORE branches, which are listed online.

<http://www.score.org/index.html>

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## SNAPSHOT – VENTOWER INDUSTRIES, PORT OF MONROE, MICHIGAN

In early 2010, Ventower Industries opted to locate a state-of-the-art wind turbine tower manufacturing facility on a former industrial landfill located on Port of Monroe property in Monroe, Michigan. Ventower purchased the 38-acre parcel from the Port of Monroe as a bona fide prospective purchaser. In anticipation of a future expansion of its existing facility, Ventower also acquired an additional 10 acres for stockpiling excess contaminated soils generated from construction activities.

State and EPA brownfield assessment funds were used to conduct some of the environmental site assessment activities to facilitate these transactions. Approximately \$4.5 million in cleanup funds from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Downriver Community Conference Brownfield Coalition's Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant were used to prepare the site for redevelopment. SBA provided a Section 504 loan guarantee of approximately \$4 million for the construction of a LEED-inspired, 115,000-square-foot manufacturing facility with the capacity to build 250 wind turbine towers per year. A second-phase expansion is planned that will increase the size of the facility to 220,000 square feet and add 48 contiguous acres of tower staging and storage space. The initial phase of the project is expected to create 150 jobs, with an additional 150 new jobs following expansion.



# Federal Tax Incentives and Credits

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Often, the success of a brownfields redevelopment project depends on crafting a financing package that takes advantage of federal programs that offer tax incentives or credits for various components of the project. Since the Brownfields Law was enacted in 2002, emphasis increased on building partnerships among federal agencies offering targeted resources that can be used to support brownfields redevelopment projects.

Many states adopt their own financing programs and approaches to integrate traditional state development programs into the brownfields financing mix. Such programs include tax incentives and credits, targeted financial assistance, and direct brownfields financing. Effective brownfield redevelopment approaches increasingly involve linking federal and state incentive and assistance programs to help provide the financing needed to overcome brownfields challenges, from assessment to site preparation to redevelopment. Information on state incentive and assistance programs may be available through the states' brownfields programs. To locate these state programs, visit [http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/state\\_tribal/state\\_map.htm](http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/state_tribal/state_map.htm).

Creatively crafted and carefully targeted incentives and credits can help advance cleanup activities and prepare properties for reuse. This section provides an overview of federal tax incentives and credits that can be leveraged for brownfields cleanup, redevelopment, and reuse. The following topics are outlined:

- New Markets Tax Credits
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Brownfields Expensing Tax Incentive

The following information about these incentives reflects the most recent changes and extensions authorized by the Tax Increase Prevention Act, which Congress passed on December 16, 2014. Most provisions were extended for only one year, until the end of 2015, although the 114th Congress, seated in January 2015, plans to consider comprehensive tax legislation sometime during its term. Please refer to EPA's website (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>) for the latest information on rules or interpretations affecting their use.

# New Markets Tax Credit

The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program is designed to stimulate the economies of distressed urban and rural communities and create jobs in low-income communities by expanding the availability of credit, investment capital, and financial services. The NMTC program was created through the Community Renewal Act of 2000. The program is administered by the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund within the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Each year, tax credits are allocated through the CDFI Fund and distributed to qualified Community Development Entities (CDEs). CDEs include a range of for-profit and nonprofit organizations, such as community development corporations, CDFIs, organizations that administer community development venture capital funds or community loan funds, small business development corporations, specialized small business investment companies, and others. In the United States, there are nearly 6,000 organizations certified as CDEs, including subsidiaries (CDE partners), and approximately 1,000 certified CDFIs. Brownfields developers can approach existing CDEs to help fund their projects or, in certain circumstances, consider applying for CDE certification themselves.

Given their focus on distressed areas, many of which are characterized by blighted and abandoned buildings, NMTCs have significant potential to support brownfields projects. Since its inception, the NMTC program is credited with supporting construction of 22 million square feet of manufacturing space, nearly 72 million square feet of office space, and more than 55 million square feet of commercial space. Through 11 rounds as of June 2014, the CDFI Fund made 836 awards allocating a total of \$40 billion in tax credit authority to CDEs through a competitive application process. This \$40 billion includes \$3 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Awards and \$1 billion of special allocation authority to be used for the recovery and redevelopment of the Gulf Opportunity Zone. Under the most recent NMTC allocation authority in 2013, all 87 of the recipients indicated that they will invest at least 95 percent of equity investments into low-income communities, which exceeds the minimum required 85 percent. To date, every federal dollar put in the program leveraged over \$8 in private investments.

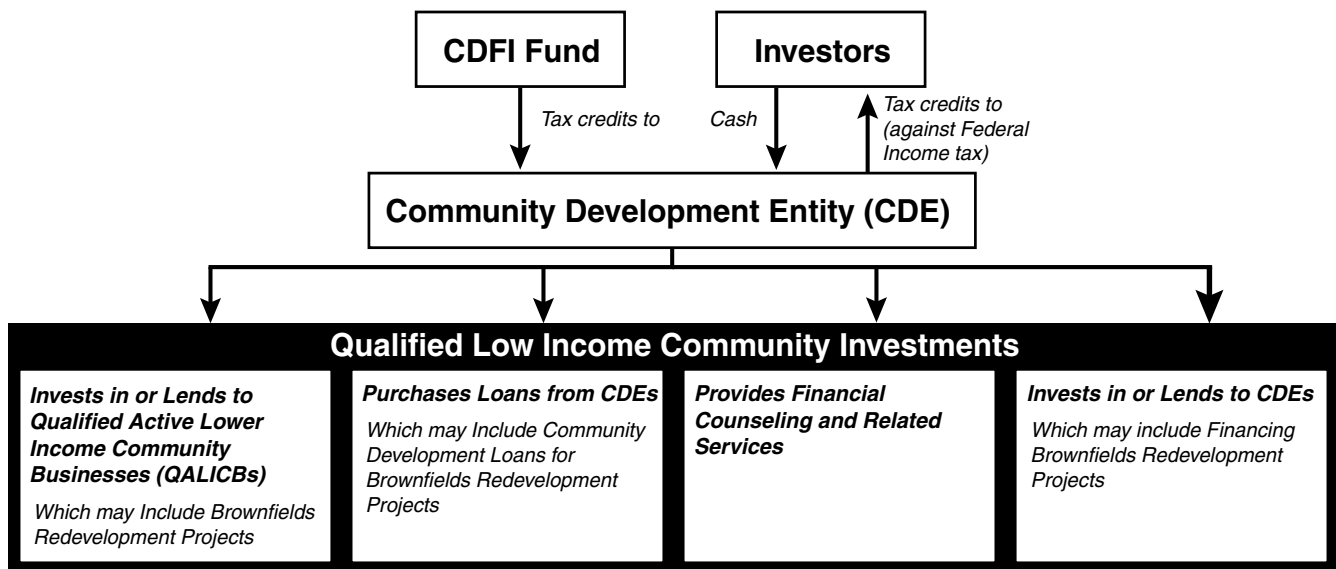
Demand for the tax credits remains high since the program's inception. In the 2013 round (awarded in June 2014), 310 applicants requesting a total of \$25.9

billion in NMTC allocation authority competed for \$3.5 billion in allocation authority. In the December 2014 tax act, Congress provided \$3.5 billion in new authority, which will likely be allocated in mid-2015. This unique funding mechanism is a viable option for many brownfields redevelopers, given the typical target investments that allocation recipients identify.

**How the Program Works:** The NMTC program allows certified CDEs to apply competitively for an allocation from the CDFI Fund tax credit pool. Once a CDE receives an allocation of tax credits, the CDE can offer the tax credits to private-sector investors, including banks, insurance companies, corporations, and individuals. Investors acquire (using cash only) stock or a capital interest in the CDE on which the investor can gain a potential return. The investor also receives a 39 percent tax credit on the amount of the investment (total purchase price of the stock or capital interest). The credit is claimed over a seven-year period. Investors receive a five percent credit annually during the first three years after purchase and a six percent credit during the final four years. Thus, for each hypothetical \$100,000 investment, an investor would realize \$39,000 in tax credits over seven years. Investors may not redeem their stock or capital interest in CDEs prior to the conclusion of the seven-year period. In short, the CDE secures investors through the sale of stock or issuance of an equity interest in exchange for tax credits, and then uses the resulting cash to make investments in low-income communities.

In return for providing the tax credit to the investor, the CDE receives cash. The CDE must invest "substantially all" of the cash proceeds into qualified low-income community investments (QLICs). Over half of all CDE investments are investments in real estate or businesses. Eligible QLICs include loans to, or investments in, businesses to be used for developing residential, commercial, industrial, and retail real estate projects. Examples of QLICs include:

- Direct investments in qualified low-income, community-based businesses.
- Purchases of loans made by a CDE to qualified low-income businesses that allow a return via a secondary market-type approach.
- Purchases of financial counseling and other technical services to qualified active low-income community businesses (QALICBs).



- Loans or investments in real estate projects that can include brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.

A CDE must be certified to be eligible to receive NMTCs. The Department of the Treasury’s CDFI Fund evaluates applications for CDE certification in four areas: business strategy, capitalization strategy, management capacity, and community impact. In addition, the CDE must demonstrate that it will maintain accountability to residents of low-income communities, which is typically done through representation on a governing or advisory board. Community entities applying to become a CDE may submit CDE certification applications at any time of the year to the CDFI Fund. Completing an application for CDE certification can be lengthy, but the process is straightforward, and the CDFI Fund makes decisions relatively quickly. Once an organization is certified, the designation lasts for the life of the organization. Both nonprofit and for-profit groups may apply for certification by the CDFI Fund.

While the CDE certification and the Department of Treasury allocation processes are complex, the actual operation of the NMTC program is relatively simple:

- An investor (taxpayer) decides to seek NMTCs.
- The investor identifies a CDE that received a NMTC allocation (listed on the Department of Treasury’s website) and is in the process of completing a redevelopment project, which could be on a brownfield property.
- In exchange for a cash investment in the CDE’s project, the investor receives 39 percent of the investment value in tax credits (\$39,000 in credits for each hypothetical \$100,000 investment), over the seven-year schedule noted above.

- The investor also receives stock or an equity interest in the CDE’s redevelopment project.

#### Advantages for Brownfields Site Redevelopers:

The NMTC program offers several advantages to developers seeking financing to clean up and reuse brownfields properties:

- CDEs may be willing to structure a more favorable deal than traditional lending institutions for brownfields projects, which can be a key consideration when financing is tight.
- CDEs can offer funding for a full range of redevelopment activities, including land acquisition, environmental remediation, demolition, site preparation, construction, renovation, and infrastructure improvements—making them a true “one-stop” financing source.
- CDEs involved in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment projects, especially nonprofit entities, can facilitate packaging of different public financing sources for one project. Financing sources can include state and local programs and credits, initiatives such as tax increment financing, federal programs such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grants, and EPA’s Brownfields Grants.
- Tax credits available to investors through CDEs can encourage investors to commit additional funds for qualifying projects or attract new investors who ordinarily might not consider investing in brownfields projects located in low-income communities.

Brownfields stakeholders interested in making the NMTC program part of their brownfields project financing strategies generally follow one of three approaches:

## SNAPSHOT – FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Founded in 1837, Borden & Remington is the oldest privately owned chemical distributor in the country. Many of its leaders have lived and worked in Fall River, Massachusetts, most of their lives, and are committed to ensuring that Fall River remains economically fit. In 2005, Borden & Remington purchased a 29-acre mill complex that contained 850,000 square feet of facility space in a census tract with a 23 percent poverty rate and an unemployment rate 1.64 times the national average. Their vision for the site was to transform it into a destination for innovative businesses looking to operate in the 21st century. In order to attract such firms, Borden & Remington officials looked to the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program to fund a redevelopment project that would revive the complex, attract new businesses to the city, and create much needed jobs for local workers. With a \$2.25 million NMTC loan from Rockland Trust Community Development, Borden & Remington revitalized an historic mill building in the complex for Arizona-based TPI Composites Inc., a wind turbine manufacturer and industry leader in sustainable energy solutions. In addition to the TPI project, eight unsalvageable buildings were demolished, which created nine acres of development-ready parcels for future business expansions. For TPI, Borden & Remington oversaw the renovation of a 70,000-square-foot building, a project that resulted in the creation of 75 temporary construction jobs as well as 25 full-time jobs. The NMTC loan from Rockland Trust not only attracted a major manufacturer of renewable energy products to the site, but also helped to brand the site as an ideal location for innovative business expansions, fueling Fall River's economic recovery.

- Contact existing CDEs for funding. Several recipients of tax credit allocations identified brownfields redevelopment as one of the goals for their economic development efforts, but any CDE potentially can invest in a brownfield project, which is the easiest and most common approach. Brownfields developers should consult the CDFI/Treasury website to identify CDEs operating in their state.
- Apply for and receive CDE certification, and then apply for an allocation of tax credits to offer to potential investors. Although this process is more complex, it is viable for stakeholders with sufficient staff, technical capacity, and commitment for large-scale or long-term brownfields efforts.
- Apply for and achieve CDE certification, and then apply to other CDEs that have their own tax credit allocations for equity financing. CDEs can invest in the projects of other CDEs, including brownfields projects, as long as these investments are made in low-income areas. However, little funding was made available through this channel in recent years. Less than one percent of the allocations announced in June 2014 are expected to be used this way.

The \$3.5 billion in credit allocations announced in June 2014 went to 87 private and nonprofit CDEs headquartered in 32 states and the District of Columbia, with investments anticipated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This year, 19 of the allocatees will focus on local markets in cities that

also have a tradition of successful brownfield revitalization – including Milwaukee, Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Kansas City. In addition, 12 allocatees were designated “rural” and plan to invest \$540 million in smaller communities.

**Limitations:** CDEs can be a vital source of capital for brownfields revitalization. Because of the underwriting effort and costs involved, the NMTC program tends to work best for mid-sized and larger projects. While there is no hard and fast rule, most NMTC projects are at least \$1 million in size. Although NMTCs can be used as part of the financing for numerous brownfields projects, many CDEs are unaware of the brownfields redevelopment process and potential leveraging advantages. Still others may be confused by the program's use of the term “designated brownfields” in its competitive criteria. Consequently, the first task facing local officials and community leaders may be to educate CDEs about the brownfields process and the role that state voluntary cleanup programs can play in bringing certainty and closure to environmental concerns at these properties.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund  
601 13th St., NW, Suite 200 South  
Washington, DC 20005  
NMTC Support Line: 202-622-8662  
<http://www.cdfifund.gov>

## SNAPSHOT – SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Founded in 1980, Artspace Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit developer that creates affordable living and work space for artists, cultural organizations, nonprofits, and small retail shops. It helped to develop Artspace Commons North, which is a green, mixed-use artist community in downtown Salt Lake City. Artspace Commons North is located in the Granary District, which is undergoing a transition from a warehouse and industrial use district to a district with more residential and commercial space. Artspace Commons North comprises a three-level commercial building with perimeter parking and an interior courtyard, and a four-story mixed-use building that houses commercial space on the ground floor and residences on the upper floors. It was built with a total of \$27.1 million in NMTC financing, including \$20 million from Enterprise's fifth-round NMTC allocation and \$7.1 million in allocation from Brownfield Revitalization LLC. The buildings were built to U.S. Green Building Council LEED Gold standards, and benefited from a \$50,000 grant from Enterprise's Green Communities initiative. Green features include solar heating, energy-efficient boilers and windows, Energy Star appliances, water-conserving plumbing fixtures, landscaping with native plants, and green berms. The development includes 102 affordable rent-to-own apartments for households earning up to 70 percent of area median income (AMI) and 53,000 square feet of commercial space for offices, art galleries, studios, and retail on the site of a former scrap metal recycling facility. At the end of the seven-year NMTC compliance period, the apartments will be sold as condominiums affordable to households earning up to 80 percent of AMI. Current residents will be given the opportunity to purchase their units before they are put on the open market.

The CDFI Fund website provides access to CDE application materials and workshops, legal review services for NMTC-related documents, and a map of qualified census tracts and counties under the NMTC program. It also contains lists of certified CDEs, recent NMTC recipients and their target states for investing, and profiles of CDE-supported community revitalization projects. In addition, the website includes the

NMTC Qualified Equity Investment (QEI) Issuance Report, which identifies, among other things, the amount of credits each CDE can allocate, how much credit authority they committed, and the amount remaining to be issued to investors. The QEI issuance report is updated monthly.

[http://www.cdfifund.gov/what\\_we\\_do/programs\\_id.asp?programID=5](http://www.cdfifund.gov/what_we_do/programs_id.asp?programID=5)

# Low Income Housing Tax Credits

Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) were created under the Tax Reform Act of 1986 to provide incentives for the use of private equity in the development of affordable housing for low-income Americans. The program is administered at the state level. Each state receives an allocation of federal tax credits determined by a formula based on its population. In 2014, each state's LIHTC ceiling was slightly increased to the greater of \$2.30 multiplied by the state population, or \$2,635,000. These credits are intended to ensure an attractive minimum rate of return on investments in low-income housing. Each state can issue LIHTC tax-exempt bonds up to its ceiling to attract investment capital for the development of low-income housing. LIHTCs may be used as part of a brownfields financing package if affordable rental housing is part of a project. The credits are used successfully in many states as part of mixed-income housing developments and as infill projects on brownfields sites.

LIHTCs are more attractive than tax deductions because tax credits provide investors of affordable housing developments with a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their federal taxes, while a tax deduction only reduces taxable income and therefore provides a lesser tax benefit. Development capital is raised by "syndicating" the credit to an investor or a group of investors by selling the rights to future tax credits in exchange for upfront cash. As these credits are syndicated, developers obtain the equity capital necessary to build or rehabilitate structures for low-income housing. The tax credit is paid to investors annually over a 10-year period. The funds generated through syndication vary from market to market and from year to year. A few years ago, turmoil in the financial market reduced demand for tax breaks. LIHTCs were bought for only about 65 to 75 cents per tax-credit dollar. However, market demand for the credits bounced back. In 2013, the most recent year for which data is available, LIHTCs generated about 90 to 100 cents per tax-credit dollar.

State housing agencies administer the LIHTC program by reviewing tax credit applications submitted by developers and then allocating the credits. This process allows each state to set its own priorities and address its specific housing goals. Some states consider infill, vacant property reclamation, and mixed use in their allocation plans, all of which are priorities that can

make brownfield sites more attractive to housing developers as they compete for LIHTC allocations.

As an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirement, projects that serve the lowest-income tenants and guarantee low-rent affordability for the longest time period are given priority. Owners must keep the rental units available to low-income tenants for at least 30 years after completion of the project.

Both for-profit and nonprofit brownfields developers can use LIHTCs to help finance low-income housing projects. The tax credit program can be used either to construct new buildings or to rehabilitate existing buildings. All activities associated with the development of housing, including cleanup and demolition, can be claimed as expenses associated with the development of low-income housing for the purposes of claiming the tax credit.

As part of their credit allocation plans, some states promote projects located in specific geographic areas or distressed rural or urban areas. To the extent that these policies dovetail with local brownfields priorities, they may encourage investment in brownfields revitalization. In addition, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) required states to include energy-efficient construction as an allocation priority. As a result, to the extent that brownfields housing projects include "green" technologies and sustainable development provisions, they may become more attractive to developers seeking LIHTCs. Over the past 20 years, states received significant levels of LIHTC allocations that supported the development of many housing units. Since beginning operation through 2011 (the most recent year for which aggregate data is available), the LIHTC program allocated over \$7.5 billion in federal tax credits to support 1.8 million low-income housing units. Almost all new affordable multifamily construction undertaken since 2000 received a subsidy under this program. Some of the projects were conducted on brownfield sites, but full potential for the development of low-income housing on brownfield sites is as yet unrealized.

**How the Program Works:** The LIHTC program enables funding for the development of affordable housing by allowing a taxpayer to claim federal tax credits for the costs incurred during development of affordable units in a rental housing project. The program authorizes state housing credit agencies to award nine percent tax credits for projects receiving

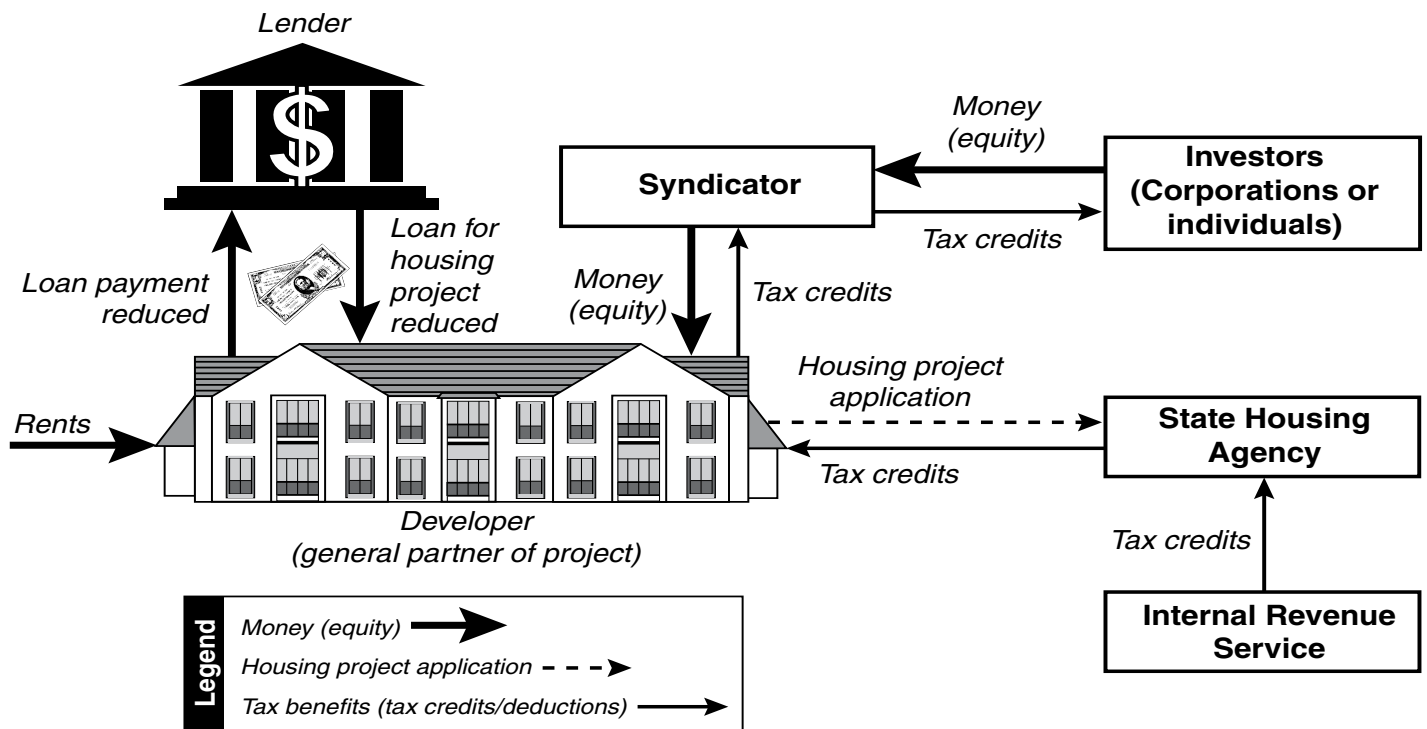
no other federal subsidy, and four percent credits for projects financed with tax-exempt bonds. Tax credits are available only to help cover the cost of units within qualified projects reserved for rental to low-income households. The tax credits are used by developers to raise capital from investors through syndication for their projects. The capital generated from the tax credits prior to the start of a project lowers the debt burden on LIHTC projects, making it easier for owners to offer lower, more affordable rents. Investors, such as banks, obtain a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their federal tax liability. The nine percent and four percent tax credits are paid annually over a 10-year period.

To qualify, a project must have at least 20 percent of its units rented to households with incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income, or at least 40 percent of its units rented to households with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median income. Although the developer may claim the tax credit directly, the credits usually are passed on to investors through syndication. A syndicator acts as a broker between the developer and investors in the project. Syndicators may pool several projects' tax credits into one LIHTC equity fund and offer the credits to investors who buy a piece of the equity fund. This process spreads the risk to investors across various projects. In addition, the investors typically

become limited partners in the housing project and have an ownership interest. The developer typically receives a development and property management fee plus a share in any cash flows and any profits when the property is sold. By using the investors' equity, the developer is able to complete the project with less debt-service financing. Thus, the rents for the building can be reduced and serve lower-income individuals.

**Advantages for Brownfields Site Redevelopers:** The LIHTC program offers several advantages to developers considering affordable housing projects on brownfields, which are enhanced by the renewed interest in central cities and consideration of abandoned sites and properties for infill uses. These range from cost savings to opportunities for leveraging funding from other programs.

- LIHTCs offer an opportunity to restore buildings that may have historic significance to provide affordable housing. These properties may be located in distressed neighborhoods that will benefit from low-income housing options. In other cases, the properties may be in emerging neighborhoods, and their redevelopment can lead to affordable housing for lower-wage workers that is located closer to places of employment.



- LIHTCs can be combined with federal historic preservation tax credits to create a powerful investment incentive. If the brownfield is a historical structure, it can be a relatively easy fit with low-income housing development.
- LIHTCs can attract new investors in redevelopment projects. LIHTCs offer a strong incentive for investors to consider financing a low-income housing project on a brownfield property in instances where they otherwise might not consider including low-income housing in the project. This is especially true if a syndicator is able to pool tax credits from several projects and create a LIHTC equity fund, which can reduce the liability risk for individual investors.

Nonprofit housing developers such as community development corporations often find the program especially advantageous because each state must set aside at least 10 percent of its credit allocation for projects developed by nonprofits. The guaranteed return stemming from the tax credit can attract private banks not normally interested in housing or brownfields projects. A nonprofit can sell the tax credits to investors or syndicators and become the principal partner in the project. The tax-related value of these credits is of little use to nonprofits because they already are exempt from paying taxes.

**Limitations:** Brownfields housing projects may be hindered by the same forces affecting the banking and housing industries as a result of the economic downturn and sectoral restructuring. Reduced credit, tighter bank underwriting, and tighter due diligence standards all make housing development more challenging. And in many areas, the stigma of contamination and cleanup continues to limit the viability of many potential projects.

In addition, state LIHTC allocation plans may vary in their treatment of projects sponsored by local housing authorities. Some states may award bonus points to such projects. Others states may require local housing authorities to work with nonprofit organizations to be eligible to apply for tax credits. Stakeholders interested in information about specific state policies should contact their state housing authorities.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research maintains the HUD USER website, which contains an extensive database of information on projects that used the LIHTC.

### HUD USER

P.O. Box 23268

Washington, DC 20026-3268

Toll Free: 1-800-245-2691

<http://www.huduser.org/datasets/lihtc.html>

In addition, the following housing nonprofit and advocacy groups track LIHTC trends and activities:

The National Council of State Housing Agencies is a nonprofit organization created by the nation's state Housing Finance Agencies to coordinate and leverage advocacy efforts for affordable housing.

### National Council of State Housing Agencies

444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 438

Washington, DC 20001

202-624-7710

<http://www.ncsha.org/>

The National Low Income Housing Coalition is a nonprofit that educates, organizes, and advocates to ensure decent, affordable housing within healthy neighborhoods for everyone.

### National Low Income Housing Coalition

727 15th Street, NW, 6th Floor

Washington, DC 20005

202-662-1530

<http://www.nlihc.org>

The National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies is a nonprofit national association of professionals working to finance affordable housing in the broader community development context at the local level.

### National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies

2025 M Street, NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036

202-367-1197

<http://www.nalhfa.org>



## SNAPSHOT – LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA

Mifflin Mills is Lebanon, Pennsylvania's, first affordable rent-to-own townhouse community. It was developed by the Lebanon County Housing Authority through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. The development includes 20 three-bedroom townhomes located just blocks from downtown Lebanon. During the first 15 years of occupancy, funds will be escrowed for tenants to use toward the down payment on the townhome. The 1,380-square-foot 2- and 3-story units have open floor plans, front porches, off-street parking, Energy Star appliances, and high efficiency natural gas heat. Mifflin Mills was developed on a vacant blighted city block, and construction of the townhouse community greatly improved the appearance of the neighborhood. In addition, the property was designed to blend with the neighborhood streetscape, further adding to the aesthetics of the community.

# Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits

Historic rehabilitation tax credits were adopted by Congress to discourage unnecessary demolition of sound older buildings and to slow the loss of businesses from older urban areas. The tax credits encourage private investment in the cleanup and rehabilitation of historical properties. The National Park Service (NPS) administers the program in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). Nearly 1.59 million historic buildings are listed in or contribute to historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places, with thousands added each year. The NPS estimates that 20 percent of these buildings qualify as income-producing.

The historic rehabilitation tax credit is well-suited for packaging with other economic development grant and loan programs. Using the historic preservation tax credit generally does not preclude the use of other federal, state, or local funding sources or other programs designed to encourage rehabilitation. In FY 2014, 88 percent of the projects that used the historic rehabilitation tax credit also took advantage of at least one additional incentive or form of publicly supported financing. Of the additional incentives, 50 percent used state historic preservation tax incentives, and four percent used the low-income housing credit. Nearly a quarter used local tax increment financing (TIF) or property tax abatements.

Given that historic rehabilitation tax credits focus on older buildings, they are an ideal brownfields financing tool. Their use at brownfields properties is rapidly accelerating across the country. The tax credits help attract redevelopment capital to many projects in blighted and ignored areas not ordinarily considered for investment. These projects encompass a wide range of properties and project types, including offices, hotels, retail stores, warehouses, factories, and rental housing.

**How the Program Works:** This incentive offers private investors a tax credit that can be claimed for the year in which the renovated building is put into service. There are two separate tax credits: one for the restoration of certified historic properties and one for the rehabilitation of older but noncertified properties.

A certified historic structure is defined as a building that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually, as a contributing building in a

National Register historic district, or as a contributing building within a local historic district that is certified by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Rehabilitation of income-producing, certified historic structures qualifies for a credit equal to 20 percent of the cost of the work. Rehabilitation work on older, noncertified structures built before 1936 qualifies for a credit equal to 10 percent of the cost of the work. Most reconstruction work is eligible for the credit. All restored buildings and properties must be income producing and rehabilitated according to standards set by the Department of the Interior and enforced by the SHPOs.

The 20 percent tax credit is available for historic properties rehabilitated for commercial, industrial, agricultural, or rental residential purposes, but not for properties used exclusively as an owner's private residence. Working in conjunction with state historic preservation agencies, the NPS must approve all rehabilitation projects seeking to use the 20 percent tax credit. The rehabilitation must be consistent with the historic character of the property. Owners seeking to claim the 20 percent tax credit must complete a detailed application process and maintain certification throughout the rehabilitation work. Generally, the tax credit is claimed in the year in which the rehabilitated building is placed back into service. The owner of the building must maintain ownership of the building for five years after completing rehabilitation or be subject to a staggered recapture of the tax credit. In addition, a rehabilitation project must meet several IRS criteria to qualify for the tax credit:

- The structure must be depreciable.
- The rehabilitation must be "substantial," defined as expenditures greater than \$5,000.
- The property must be returned to an income-producing use.
- The building must be maintained as a certified historic structure when returned to service.

The 10 percent tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of noncertified, nonresidential buildings built before 1936. Former manufacturing facilities, office buildings, and hotels located on a brownfield site easily qualify for this tax credit. Projects that plan to claim the 10 percent rehabilitation tax credit must meet several physical structure tests:

- At least 50 percent of the building's external walls existing at the time that rehabilitation begins must remain in place as external walls upon completion.
- At least 75 percent of the building's existing external walls must remain in place as either external or internal walls.
- At least 75 percent of the building's internal structural framework must remain in place at the time the building is returned to service.

Rehabilitation tax credits can be especially attractive for cleanup and restoration of certified historic or pre-1936 properties. An increasing number of states are adopting their own rehabilitation tax incentive programs and are encouraging developers to participate in both the state and the federal program to maximize benefits. This opportunity creates a powerful incentive and provides developers with increased cash flow, which can make brownfields redevelopment projects more financially viable. State programs typically offer tax credits that range between 10 and 30 percent.

According to the NPS, \$4.32 billion in structural rehabilitation work was carried out in 2014 at 762 project sites. Many of these properties, including old mills, vacant industrial buildings, gas stations, and abandoned production facilities, are located in blighted areas and meet the criteria to be classified as brownfields. This investment in rehabilitation led to the creation of nearly 78,000 jobs and the development of almost 20,000 housing units in 2014. Over 6,500 of the housing units were for low- and moderate-income individuals, which created a link

between low-income housing tax credits and rehabilitation tax credits. Moreover, rehab tax credits are well-suited for smaller projects; in 2014, 39 percent were less than half a million dollars in size, and half were less than \$1 million in total cost.

**Advantages for Brownfields Site Redevelopers:** Brownfields redevelopers can choose to sell or syndicate rehabilitation tax credits in exchange for an upfront cash investment in the project. This exchange can translate into more upfront project funding if a developer prefers having a larger cash flow infusion before cleanup and redevelopment work is carried out, rather than take a tax credit at the end of the project or tax year. In addition, rehabilitation tax credits offer significant leveraging possibilities with:

- Low-income housing tax credits.
- Industrial development bonds.
- A variety of federal development programs described earlier in this guide, including SBA, HUD's CDBG program, and USDA Rural Development.
- Numerous state and local financing, tax incentive, and bond programs.

**Limitations:** While historic rehabilitation tax credits can be beneficial and flexible sources of funding, taking advantage of these credits sometimes can be difficult. Brownfields developers contemplating old or historic sites for new uses need to consider the following:

- Once a building is placed into service, tax credits are not officially awarded until the project is reviewed and approved by the SHPO. This can take time and affect project cash flow.

## SNAPSHOT – RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

Built in 1930, the Albert Kahn-designed Ford Motor Assembly Plant in Richmond, California, was once the largest automobile assembly plant on the West Coast. Manufacturing at the site ended in 1953, and the building was later used as a movie set and a book depository. By the early 2000s, the 520,000-square-foot building had sat vacant for years and suffered structural damage from earthquakes. Rehabilitation of the building began in 2004 and was implemented in three phases. Although seismic retrofits were required, special care was taken to retain historic features, such as the craneway, windows, sawtooth light monitors, smokestack, and some historic mechanical systems like those housed in the boiler house. Administrative areas were updated and the historic lobby was restored. The large assembly space with its north and south mezzanines was kept largely intact and open as it had been during its life as an assembly plant. After \$55 million of rehabilitation work, which utilized historic rehabilitation tax credits, the building is now home to several manufacturers of environmentally sustainable products as well as Craneway Pavilion, a 45,000-square-foot meeting and entertainment venue designed to accommodate up to 5,000 guests. It also houses the visitor education center for the National Park Service's Rosie the Riveter National Historic Park, which includes an interactive museum to interpret the World War II homefront movement and orient visitors to Richmond's history from the era.

## SNAPSHOT – ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

Carlin's Amoco Station is an historic service station located on Williamson Road in Roanoke, Virginia. It was originally constructed in 1947, and later remodeled in 1953 by the American Oil Company (Amoco) into a "stylized-box" design by adding Streamlined Moderne features, such as rounded corners and vertical strips of glass block backlit by green neon tubing. The building represents the aggressive effort oil companies took, beginning in the 1930s, to market and sell their products through service stations that promoted individual corporate identity and brands. In 2011, the owners of the gas station, at the encouragement of one of their employees, decided to restore the Amoco station and register it as a state and national historic landmark. Renovation was made possible through historic tax credits. The station is now listed on the State and National Historic Registries.

- Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act, pursuing LEED certification, installing energy efficient windows, and addressing environmental considerations such as lead paint and asbestos may impact a building's historic nature and complicate project certification. Fortunately, more SHPOs are gaining an understanding of the brownfields process and what needs to be done to achieve appropriate cleanups. In addition, some of the new remediation and reconstruction techniques are proving to be less disruptive to a structure's historic integrity.
- Nonrefundable credits, such as the rehabilitation tax credit, may not be used to reduce the alternative minimum tax. If a taxpayer is not eligible for the rehabilitation tax credit because of the alternative minimum tax, the credit can be carried back or forward.
- To claim any credit, the investment must exceed the greater of \$5,000 or the adjusted basis of the building and its structural components. This requirement can necessitate a large rehabilitation expenditure on a big project.
- Tax credit sales or syndications are most suitable for larger projects, and may not work at smaller projects because of their transaction costs.

In addition, tax credit recapture scenarios need to be avoided if the full value of the credit is to be realized. The tax credits can be subject to recapture (at 20 percent per year) if the property is disposed of before five years pass after the credit is granted or if the building is converted to tax-exempt use within five years of being put back into service.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### National Park Service

Technical Preservation Services

1201 Eye St., NW, 6th Floor

Washington, DC 20005

202-513-7270

<http://www.nps.gov/tps/>

The NPS website provides access to detailed tax incentive information, regulations, applications, and rehabilitation standards, including an overview of the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm>.

# Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

As communities become more concerned about the economic and environmental impacts of the use of fossil fuels, renewable energy technologies are expected to play a greater role in meeting future electricity demand. Renewable energy in the United States, including hydroelectric, wood, biofuels, wind, organic waste, geothermal, and solar, accounted for more than 10 percent of the domestically produced electricity in 2010. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that renewable-generated electricity will account for 16 percent of total U.S. electricity generation in 2035. This growth will be driven mainly by the extension of federal tax credits, new loan and grant programs, and state requirements.

Identifying and using land located in areas that are amenable to high-quality renewable energy alternatives will be an essential component to developing new renewable energy sources. EPA screened more than 13,000 potentially contaminated sites and solid waste landfills covering nearly 22 million acres across the United States for suitability to renewable energy generation facilities. Tracked sites include brownfields, Superfund sites, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites, abandoned mine lands, and landfills. Maps depicting the locations of these EPA-tracked sites and their potential for supporting renewable energy generation can be found at [http://www.epa.gov/oswercpa/rd\\_mapping\\_tool.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oswercpa/rd_mapping_tool.htm). These maps enable users to view screening results for various renewable energy technologies at each site. Through coordination and partnerships among federal, state, tribal, and other government agencies as well as utilities, communities, and the private sector, new renewable energy facilities may be developed on many potentially contaminated properties.

Combining energy incentives with contaminated land cleanup incentives can allow investors and communities to create economically viable, nonpolluting, renewable energy redevelopment projects on brownfields, particularly sites where local economic conditions prohibit more conventional reuse of the site. Over the past decade, several statutes created, expanded, or extended incentive programs such as tax incentives, loans, grants, and loan guarantees to encourage renewable energy generation and energy efficiency projects; the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 extended these for one year, generally until the end of 2014. This section contains information about the federal tax incentives that are available

to potential developers considering the siting of renewable energy generation and energy efficiency projects on brownfields.

## How the Programs Work:

### **Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction**

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established a tax deduction for energy-efficient commercial buildings placed in service through the end of 2007. This deduction was extended through 2008, and then again through 2014. A tax deduction of \$1.80 per square foot is available to owners of new or existing buildings who install lighting, heating, cooling, ventilation, or other systems that reduce the building's total energy and power cost by 50 percent or more in comparison to a building meeting certain minimum requirements. Deductions of \$0.60 per square foot are available to owners of buildings for which energy-efficiency measures are installed but where total energy and power cost savings from these improvements do not meet the 50 percent threshold.

The deductions are available primarily to building owners. Deductions are taken in the year in which construction is completed. Energy savings must be calculated using qualified computer software approved by the IRS. The IRS released interim guidance in June 2006 to enable taxpayers to obtain a certification that a property satisfies the energy efficiency requirements contained in the statute. IRS Notice 2008-40 was issued in March 2008 to further clarify the rules. The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory published a report, *Energy Savings Modeling and Inspection Guidelines for Commercial Building Federal Tax Deductions, Second Edition*, to provide guidelines for the modeling and inspection of energy savings required by the statute. DOE also compiled a list of qualified computer software for calculating commercial building energy and power cost savings.

- Notice 2008-40, *Amplification of Notice 2006-52; Deduction for Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings*  
[http://www.irs.gov/irb/2008-14\\_IRB/ar12.html](http://www.irs.gov/irb/2008-14_IRB/ar12.html)
- *Energy Savings Modeling and Inspection Guidelines for Commercial Building Federal Tax Deductions, Second Edition*  
<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy07osti/40467.pdf>

- *Qualified Software for Calculating Commercial Building Tax Deductions*

<http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/qualified-software-calculating-commercial-building-tax-deductions>

### **Business Energy Investment Tax Credit**

The business energy federal investment tax credit provides incentives for the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies. Prior to 2005, a 10 percent federal investment tax credit was available to businesses to offset capital expenditures for solar or geothermal energy property. The federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 expanded the tax credit to include fuel cells, microturbines, and hybrid solar lighting systems and raised the tax credit for solar to 30 percent. The tax credits were expanded significantly by the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008 (EIEA) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), and modified by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Current tax credits are summarized below for eligible technologies placed in service before the end of 2016:

- *Solar*. In general, the tax credit is equal to 30 percent of expenditures, with no maximum credit, for eligible systems. Eligible solar-energy property includes equipment that uses solar energy to generate electricity, heat or cool a structure, heat water for use in a structure, provide solar process heat, and illuminate the inside of a structure using fiber-optic distributed sunlight. Passive solar systems and solar pool-heating systems are not eligible.
- *Fuel Cells*. The tax credit is equal to 30 percent of expenditures, with no maximum credit. However, the credit for fuel cells is capped at \$1,500 per 0.5 kilowatt of capacity. Eligible property includes fuel cells with a minimum capacity of 0.5 kilowatts that have an electricity-only generation efficiency of 30 percent or higher.
- *Small Wind Turbines*. The tax credit is equal to 30 percent of expenditures, with no maximum credit. Eligible small wind property includes wind turbines up to 100 kilowatts in capacity.
- *Geothermal Systems*. The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of expenditures, with no maximum credit limit stated. Eligible geothermal energy property includes geothermal heat pumps and equipment used to produce power from a geothermal deposit. The credit for geothermal energy property, excluding geothermal heat pumps, has no stated expiration date.

- *Microturbines*. The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of expenditures, with no maximum credit limit stated. The credit for microturbines is capped at \$200 per kilowatt of capacity. Eligible property includes microturbines up to two megawatts in capacity that have an electricity-only generation efficiency of 26 percent or higher.
- *Combined Heat and Power (CHP)*. A CHP system, also known as cogeneration, recovers waste heat from electrical generation equipment and uses the heat energy to power heating, cooling, dehumidification, and other systems. The credit is equal to 10 percent of expenditures, with no maximum limit stated. Eligible CHP property generally includes systems up to 50 megawatts in capacity that exceeds 60 percent energy efficiency. The efficiency requirement does not apply to CHP systems that use biomass for at least 90 percent of the system's energy source.

In general, the original use of the equipment must begin with the taxpayer, or the system must be constructed by the taxpayer. The equipment also must meet any performance and quality standards in effect at the time the equipment is acquired. The energy property must be operational in the year in which the credit is first taken. EIEA allows utilities to use the credits and allows taxpayers to take the credit against the alternative minimum tax (AMT), subject to certain limitations. ARRA repealed a previous restriction on the use of the credit for eligible projects also supported by "subsidized energy financing."

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 continues to allow facilities that produce solar electricity to take a 30 percent investment credit in the year that the facility is placed in service, with the other facilities eligible for a production tax credit for electricity produced over a ten-year period. But the recent statute does allow facilities qualifying for the production tax credit to elect to take the more advantageous investment tax credit in lieu of the production tax credit for facilities that began construction by the end of 2013.

### **Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit**

The renewable electricity production tax credit reduces the federal income taxes of qualified taxpaying owners of renewable energy projects based on the electrical output, measured in kilowatt-hours, of grid-connected renewable energy facilities. This type of credit differs from an investment tax credit, which reduces federal income taxes based on capital investment in renewable energy projects. Originally enacted in

1992, the production tax credit was renewed and modified numerous times, most recently extended in December 2014.

The tax credit amount is 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour in 1993 dollars (now equal to 2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour indexed for inflation) for some technologies, and half of that amount for others. The rules governing the production tax credit vary by resource and facility type. Renewable technologies that qualify for the production tax credit include wind energy, closed-loop biomass, open-loop biomass, geothermal energy, landfill gas production, municipal solid waste combustion, qualified hydroelectric energy, and marine and hydrokinetic (150 kilowatt or larger) energy. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 made this provision more advantageous. Under the Tax Increase Prevention Act of December 2014, the deadline for qualifying for the tax credit applies to systems that began construction before the end of 2014. This new deadline also applied to wind projects, which also must have started construction before the end of 2014. The duration of the credit generally is ten years after the date the facility is placed in service, with some exceptions. The tax credit is reduced for projects that receive other federal tax credits, grants, tax-exempt financing, or subsidized energy financing. Taxpayers eligible for the production tax credit may alternatively take the business energy investment tax credit (described above).

### **Renewable Energy Bonus Depreciation Deduction**

Businesses typically are allowed to deduct the costs of capital expenditures over time according to various depreciation schedules. Under the IRS's modified accelerated cost recovery system (MACRS), certain renewable energy technologies are classified as five-year property, which means that the cost of the equipment can be depreciated for federal income tax purposes over a period of five years, as determined by the IRS's depreciation schedule.

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 included a 50 percent "bonus" depreciation provision for eligible renewable energy systems that allows taxpayers to deduct 50 percent of the cost of the property in the year in which it was placed in service, with the remaining 50 percent depreciated over the remaining MACRS depreciation schedule.

Various statutes enacted over the past few years amended the bonus depreciation. Eligible property currently includes a variety of solar-electric and solar-thermal technologies, fuel cells and microturbines, geothermal electric, direct-use geothermal and

geothermal heat pumps, wind energy, and CHP. The first-year 50 percent deduction was extended through the end of 2014 for properties placed in service after December 31, 2012.

The bonus depreciation rules do not override the depreciation limit applicable to projects qualifying for the business energy investment tax credit. If a taxpayer takes advantage of the business energy investment tax credit, the amount of the bonus depreciation will be reduced. For more information on the federal MACRS, see IRS Publication 946.

- IRS Publication 946, *How to Depreciate Property*  
<http://www.irs.gov/uac/About-Publication-946>

### **Energy-Efficient New Homes Tax Credit for Home Builders**

The federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 established tax credits of up to \$2,000 for builders of all new energy-efficient homes, including manufactured homes. Initially scheduled to expire at the end of 2007, the tax credit was extended several times, now effective for homes acquired through the end of 2014. Site-built homes qualify for a \$2,000 credit if they are certified to reduce heating and cooling energy consumption by 50 percent relative to the International Energy Conservation Code standard and meet minimum efficiency standards established by DOE, and if building envelope improvements account for at least one-fifth of the reduction in energy consumption.

IRS Notice 2006-27 provides guidance for this credit. Manufactured homes also must conform to Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards to qualify for a \$2,000 credit. Manufactured homes qualify for a \$1,000 credit if they reduce energy consumption by 30 percent and building envelope component improvements account for at least one-third of the reduction in energy consumption. Alternatively, manufactured homes qualify if they meet Energy Star Labeled Homes requirements. IRS Notice 2006-28 provides guidance for the credit for building energy-efficient manufactured homes. This credit expired at the end of 2011 but may be extended again.

- Notice 2006-27, *Certification of Energy Efficient Home Credit*  
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-06-27.pdf>
- Notice 2006-28, *Energy Efficient Home Credit; Manufactured Homes*  
[http://www.irs.gov/irb/2006-11\\_IRB/ar13.html](http://www.irs.gov/irb/2006-11_IRB/ar13.html)

## SNAPSHOT – ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The Hickory Ridge landfill in Atlanta, Georgia, recently was capped after being filled with several tons of waste. Instead of installing a polyethylene cap covered with compacted topsoil, the Atlanta landfill was fitted with a geomembrane dotted with 7,000 thin-film photovoltaic solar panels. The Hickory Ridge project will produce approximately 1.4 million kilowatt-hours of energy per year. The solar cap eliminates the need for seeding, mowing, and maintenance of a vegetated polyethylene cap. The overall cost of the Hickory Ridge solar cap was roughly \$5 million dollars. The company that installed and operates the photovoltaic cap will get a 30 percent tax credit on equipment and installation costs and will sell the power generated from the landfill to Georgia Power.

### **Advantages for Brownfields Site Redevelopers:**

As with the tax credits described in earlier sections, integrating energy tax incentives into a project's financing strategy can enhance project cash flow by offsetting cleanup and construction costs. Using the tax incentives can provide brownfields developers an added income boost. In many cases, these incentives were made more practical when they were made applicable to projects that begin construction by the due date (after the recent tax statute, typically the end of 2014), rather than having to be completed and placed into service. Energy projects can be ideal at brownfields where market interest is insufficient to support more traditional economic redevelopment projects, or at large sites with few reuse options. These properties often are idle for years and may be purchased relatively inexpensively.

**Limitations:** The descriptions of these incentives are simplified versions of the information in the tax code, which often contains additional caveats, restrictions, and modifications. In addition, the long lead times for many energy-related efforts may make them infeasible, given the uncertainty of future tax incentive extenders that may be needed as part of the project's financing structure. Those interested in these incentives should review the relevant sections of the tax code in detail and consult with a tax professional prior to making business decisions.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

There are many sources of additional information on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Some of the more comprehensive sources include:

- EPA's RE-Powering America's Land website includes maps of the renewable energy potential of current and formerly contaminated land and mine sites, and fact sheets describing state incentives for renewable energy development.

<http://www.epa.gov/oswercpa/>

- DOE's Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE) website is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and federal incentives that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. Established in 1995, funded by DOE, and updated frequently, DSIRE is an ongoing project of the North Carolina Solar Center and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council Inc.

<http://www.dsireusa.org/>

- EPA established the Combined Heat and Power Partnership in 2001 to encourage cost-effective CHP projects by fostering cooperative relationships with the CHP industry, state and local governments, and other stakeholders.

<http://www.epa.gov/chp>



# Brownfields Expensing Tax Incentive

*NOTE: Congress failed to include an extension of the brownfields expensing tax incentive in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, so it was not eligible for extension in the Tax Increase Prevention Act that passed in December 2014. Thus, this incentive no longer is in effect. It had lapsed in December 2011. Although the prospects for an independent reauthorization of the brownfields expensing tax incentive are remote at this time given concerns over revenue losses, this guide retains basic background on the incentive for your information.*

Designed to spur investment in blighted properties and assist in revitalizing communities, the federal brownfields tax incentive encouraged cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields by allowing taxpayers to reduce their taxable income by the cost of eligible cleanup expenses in the year they were incurred. Cleanup costs at eligible properties were fully deductible in the year they were incurred, rather than capitalized and spread over a period of years. Through favorable tax treatment of cleanup costs, the incentive program aimed to level the economic playing field between greenfield and brownfield development.

Both large- and small-scale cleanup and redevelopment activities benefitted from the use of the brownfields expensing tax incentive. From large office buildings to small commercial strips, projects of varying sizes successfully integrated the tax incentive as a key part of their financing packages, especially when considered in the early stages of planning the cleanup and redevelopment process.

**How the Program Worked:** By using the federal brownfields tax incentive, environmental cleanup costs are fully deductible in the year that they are incurred, rather than capitalized over time (up to 30 years in some cases). There are three requirements to qualify:

- The property must be owned by the taxpayer incurring the eligible cleanup expenses and used in a trade or business or for the production of income.
- Hazardous substances or petroleum contamination must be present or potentially present on the property.

- Taxpayers must obtain a statement from a designated state agency (typically, the state's environmental agency overseeing the voluntary cleanup program (VCP)) that confirms the site is a brownfield and therefore eligible for the tax incentive. Participation in a state VCP satisfies this requirement.

To be eligible for the brownfields expensing tax incentive, costs of environmental cleanup needed to be associated with activities that control the release or disposal of a hazardous substance or petroleum contamination, or activities that abate the threat of a release or disposal of a hazardous substance or petroleum contamination. Costs for activities, such as implementation and monitoring of institutional controls (for example, construction of access roads that serve as caps for contaminated soils), demolition and removal of contaminated materials, and state VCP oversight fees, also were eligible expenditures. Expenses associated with site assessment and investigation activities at a qualified contaminated site were eligible for the incentive program if conducted in connection with the abatement or control of hazardous substances or petroleum contamination.

**Limitations:** The brownfields tax incentive was not frequently used, despite its great potential to support property cleanup and reuse. A key reason for the limited use of the incentive may have been uncertainty over its availability over an extended period of time. The tax provision never had long-term authorization, and Congress allowed the provision to lapse six times before dropping it from the tax code in December 2011.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Brownfields Tax Incentive Website

<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/tax/index.htm>

### Brownfields Tax Incentive State Contacts

<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/stxcntct.htm>





