



EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants: Interested in Applying for Funding?

Here's what you need to know to get started...

What is the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program?



Colorado Coalition-RLF (before)



Colorado Coalition-RLF (after)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (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. EPA provides technical and financial assistance for brownfields activities through an approach based on four main goals: protecting human health and the environment, sustaining reuse, promoting partnerships, and strengthening the marketplace.

A **brownfield** is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Brownfields grants serve as the foundation of the Brownfields Program. These grants support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, cleanup, and job training activities.

Benefits of brownfields cleanup and reuse:

- increases local tax base
- facilitates job growth
- utilizes existing infrastructure
- conserves open land
- improves and protects the environment

- ✓ Assessment Grants provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.
- ✓ Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants provide funding to capitalize a revolving loan fund and to provide subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites.
- ✓ Job Training Grants provide environmental training for residents of brownfields communities.
- ✓ Cleanup Grants provide direct funding for cleanup activities at specific sites.

What are Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants?

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to:

- ✓ Capitalize a revolving loan fund and to provide subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites.

For a more detailed discussion on the use of brownfields grant funding, please refer to the EPA Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants (Proposal Guidelines).

Who is Eligible to Apply for a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant?

Entities eligible to apply for and receive RLF Funding Grants include: state, local, and tribal governments, with the exception of certain Indian tribes in Alaska; general purpose units of local government, land clearance authorities, or other quasi-governmental

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entities; regional council or redevelopment agencies; or state or government entities created by the state legislature.

Some sites are excluded from the definition of a brownfield site unless EPA makes a site-specific funding determination that allows grant funds to be used at that site. For a more detailed discussion of eligible brownfield sites, refer to the Proposal Guidelines.

How Much Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant Funding is Available?

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants provide up to \$1,000,000

Revolving Loan Fund Grants provide:

- ✓ Up to \$1,000,000 for an initial RLF grant.
- ✓ Coalitions of eligible entities may apply together under one recipient for up to \$1,000,000 per eligible entity.
- ✓ These funds may be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous

substances, pollutants, or contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum).

- ✓ At least 60 percent of the awarded funds must be used to implement a revolving loan fund, in order to provide no-interest or low-interest loans for brownfields cleanups.
- ✓ An RLF award requires 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. Please refer to the Proposal Guidelines for a full explanation.

How Long is the Grant Period?

The performance period for Revolving Loan Fund Grants is five years.

How Do I Apply for a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant?

Current Proposal Guidelines are available at <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/applicat.htm#pg>

Applicants must use the Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants published by EPA. Applicants submit a proposal for each grant type that they are applying for (i.e., assessment, revolving loan fund, and/or cleanup). Each proposal must address the selection criteria outlined in the guidelines. Proposals must include:

- ✓ A cover letter describing the project
- ✓ Applicant information
- ✓ Applicable mandatory attachments (e.g., state letter)
- ✓ Responses to evaluation criteria

Grant proposals should be concise and well organized, and must provide the information requested in the guidelines. Applicants must demonstrate that they meet threshold eligibility requirements and must respond to evaluation criteria. Factual information about your proposed project and community must be provided.

Where Do I Find the Proposal Guidelines?

- ✓ Electronic copies of the Proposal Guidelines can be obtained from the EPA brownfields Web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/applicat.htm#pg>

- ✓ Information on the Brownfields Grant programs may be found at www.fedgrants.gov

Is Pre-Application Assistance Available?

- ✓ EPA posts Frequently Asked Questions on its Web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/pg/fy2005pgfaq.htm>
- ✓ If resources permit, EPA Regions may conduct open meetings with potential applicants. Check with your regional office for date and location information. Regional Brownfields contacts can be found at:
<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/corcntct.htm>
- ✓ EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants about threshold criteria, including site eligibility and ownership. EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals or provide assistance in responding to ranking criteria.

What is the Evaluation/Selection Process?

Brownfields Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Evaluation panels consisting of EPA staff and other federal agency representatives assess how well the proposals meet the threshold and ranking criteria outlined in the Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants. Final selections are made by EPA senior management after considering the ranking of proposals by the evaluation panels.

Responses to threshold criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If the proposal does not meet the threshold criteria, the proposal will not be evaluated. Please note, in some circumstances, EPA may seek additional information.

What are the Application Due Dates and Award Dates?

- ✓ Revolving Loan Fund Grant proposals are due by November 12, 2004.
- ✓ EPA plans to announce RLF grants in Spring 2005.