



EPA Brownfield Grant Types, Threshold Criteria, Application Section Overview, and Programmatic Capability

Jennifer Morris, EPA Region 7

Kearney, NE

July 31, 2025



Agenda

- Review All Brownfield Grant Types
- Focus on Threshold Criteria Section
- Overview of Narrative Criteria
- Discussion of Programmatic Capability



Brownfields Job Training NOFO Open NOW

Applications are due **September 26, 2025**, via **Grants.gov**
EPA encourages applicants to apply before September 26

*JT Webinars
Available at EPA
website*

[Grants.gov Tip Sheet](#)

**Grants.gov Resources
for Applicants**



FY26 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Offerings

Amounts are
subject to change

Grant Type	Maximum Project Period	Maximum Amount per Grant	Estimated Awards	Total Per Grant Type - BIL	Total Per Grant Type - Reg Approp.
Multipurpose	5 years	\$1,000,000	20	\$20,000,000	
Community-wide Assessment	4 years	\$500,000	70	\$35,000,000	
Assessment Coalitions	4 years	\$1,500,000	39		\$58,700,000
Community-wide Assessment Grants for State and Tribes	5 years	\$2,000,000	18	\$35,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$500,000	10	\$5,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$4,000,000	26	\$102,000,000	



NO COST SHARE



All Assessment Grants

Community-wide

Coalition

States/Tribes

Multipurpose

Grant funds can be used for a variety of activities:

- **Inventory:** Compile a list of brownfield sites
- **Characterization:** Identify past uses
- **Assessment:** Determine existing contamination
- **Site-Specific Cleanup Planning, Area-Wide, and Revitalization Planning:** Scope and plan process for site assessment, cleanup, and reuse
- **Community Involvement:** Inform and engage stakeholders



Springfield, Missouri:
Jordan Valley Industrial
Park becomes Hammons
Field





Community-Wide Assessment Grants

Community-wide

- Is appropriate for communities that are beginning to address their brownfield challenges, as well as for communities that have ongoing efforts to bring sites into productive reuse.
- **Funding: up to \$500,000**
- **Project Period: up to 4 years**

Entities that were awarded (or pending an award for) an FY22, FY23, or **FY24** Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes (CWAGST) are not eligible to apply for additional Assessment Grant funding.



Eligible Assessment Grant Planning Activities

Community-wide

Coalition

States/Tribes

Multipurpose

Planning activities to initiate brownfields revitalization in a target area:

- Site Reuse Assessment
- Land Use Assessment
- Market Study
- Infrastructure Evaluation
- Community Health Assessment
- Site Disposition Strategy

Planning activities to prepare your brownfield site for redevelopment:

- Site Reuse Vision
- Revitalization Plan
- Cleanup Plan
- Resource Roadmap
- Evaluation of Market Viability

For more information on eligible planning activities, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/information-eligible-planning-activities>



Cleanup

Multipurpose

Cleanup Grants

- Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites.
- An eligible entity **must own** the site(s) at the time of application.
- Consistent with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a cost share is not required in FY26. Future years may see a return of a 20% cost share.
- **Funding:** An applicant may request
 - ✓ up to \$500,000, or
 - ✓ up to \$4 million.
- **Project Period:** up to 4 years



Multipurpose:

- Applicant must own **at least one** of the target sites at time of application.



Multipurpose Grants

- A Multipurpose Grant is appropriate for communities that have identified, through community engagement efforts, a discrete area (such as a neighborhood, a number of neighboring towns, a district, a corridor, a shared planning area or a census tract) with one or more brownfield sites.

Communities use funds to carry out a range of eligible **assessment** and **cleanup** activities, including **planning** and additional **community engagement** activities.

- **Funding:** up to \$1,000,000
- **Project Period:** up to 5 years





Agenda

- Review All Brownfield Grant Types
- **Focus on Threshold Criteria Section**
- Overview of Narrative Criteria
- Discussion of Programmatic Capability



Every application must clear the Threshold Requirements



Attach Responses to Your Application

Threshold Criteria			
Multipurpose	ASSESSMENT APPLICATIONS		
	Community-Wide	Coalitions	CWAGST
Applicant Eligibility			
Community Involvement			
Expenditure of Previous Assessment and Multipurpose Grant Funds			
Contractors and Named Subrecipients			
Target Area		# of Non-lead Coalition Members and Target Areas	Target Area and Priority Sites
Affirmation of Site Ownership			
Use of Grant Funds			
		Existing BF Grants to Non-lead Members	
		Coalition Agreement	





A Brief (but Important) Note on Threshold

Community-wide

Coalition

States/Tribes

Multipurpose

Cleanup

- Responses to all Threshold Criteria and associated threshold attachments

‡ No Page Limit

‡ Applicant **and** grant- type dependent



EPA staff eager to see early versions!!

- Unless noted **NO** attachments will be considered during the evaluation (scoring) of the Application/Proposal Narrative



Eligible Entities

Community-wide

Coalition

States/Tribes

Multipurpose

Cleanup

See the full list
of eligible
entities in
Section III.A.

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government
- Quasi Governmental Entities
- Regional Council established under governmental authority
- Group of General-Purpose Units of Local Government established under federal, state or local law (e.g., councils of governments) to function as a single legal entity with authority to enter into binding agreements with the federal government.
- Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state
- State
- Federally recognized Indian tribe, other than in Alaska
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community
- Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- **Cleanup only:** Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

Note: Individuals, for-profit organizations, organizations exempt from taxation under section **501(c)(4)** of the Internal Revenue Code that **lobby the federal government**, and nonprofit organizations that **are not tax exempt under section 501(c)(3)** are ineligible to receive Brownfields Assessment and RLF Grants

Applicant Eligibility

Describe how you are an eligible entity (complete list in Section III.A.)

Multipurpose and Community-wide Assessment:

- For entities that are cities, counties, tribes, or states, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.
- For entities other than cities, counties, tribes, or states, attach documentation of your eligibility (e.g., resolutions, statutes, etc.).
- For nonprofit organizations and qualified community development entities, attach documentation certifying the organization's status.

Coalitions:

- For entities that are counties, tribes, or states, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.
- For entities other than counties, tribes, or states, attach documentation of your eligibility (e.g., resolutions, statutes, etc.).

Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes:

- For entities that are tribes or states, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.





Assessment Coalition Grants

Key Features

Coalition

- Partnership with non-lead members that do not have the capacity to apply for and manage their own EPA cooperative agreement and otherwise would not have access to Brownfields Grant resources.
 - **Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to include eligible community-based nonprofit organizations** as non-lead coalition members to help promote strong local engagement.
- **Must** identify a target area for each member in the coalition – target areas may not overlap and **must be in at least three distinct municipalities or jurisdictions**.
- **Lead member must have legal authority to expend funds on behalf of the non-lead member. Must provide documentation to expend funds outside of geographic boundaries.**
- **Funding: up to \$1.2 million**
- **Project Period: up to 4 years**





Coalition

Assessment Coalition Grants (cont.)

- Coalitions are designed for one “lead” eligible entity to partner with eligible entities.
- NEW IN FY 26 - The lead member limitations are removed. **Any entity eligible to apply for an Assessment Grant may apply to be the Lead of an FY 26 Coalition Assessment.**
- Information on non-lead members:
 - ‡ There must be at least two, but not more than four, eligible entities (cannot be the state).
 - ‡ Must include at least one member that has never been awarded a Brownfields MARC Grant.
 - ‡ Entities with an open Brownfields MARC Grant that can demonstrate they have drawn down 70.00% of the funding for each open MARC Grant are eligible to be a non-lead member. (Must be drawn by Oct. 1, 2025)
 - ‡ Members of the coalition may not be an agency or instrumentality of themselves except for coalitions in which the state is the lead and one of the members is a regional council or regional commission that is created by a state legislature

Contractors and Named Subrecipients

- **Contractors.**

Applicants, other than state applicants, that have procured a contractor(s) where the amount of the contract will be more than the micro-purchase threshold in [2 CFR § 200.320\(a\)\(1\)](#) (\$10,000 for most applicants) must demonstrate how the contractor (including consultants) was selected in compliance with **the fair and open competition requirements** in 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 1500.

- EPA will not accept sole source justifications for procurement contracts for services such as environmental consulting, engineering, and remediation that are available in the commercial marketplace.
- Firms or individual consultants that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements as provided in [2 CFR § 200.319\(b\)](#). EPA interprets this regulation to preclude applicants from directly receiving any assistance from prospective contractors in developing RFPs if the prospective contractor will be allowed to compete for the work covered by the RFP.

States: Consistent with 2 CFR § 200.317, follow the same competitive policies and procedures used for procurements from non-Federal funds.

Failure to demonstrate compliance with these requirements in the application will result in rejection of the application/award.

EPA provides guidance on complying with the competition requirements in the [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#).



Contractors and Named Subrecipients

- **Contractors cont'd:**

EPA does not require or encourage applicants to procure contractors (including consultants) before the EPA cooperative agreement is awarded, but if you do...you must disclose whether they have already selected a contractor that will be compensated with EPA funds made available under the grant.

- Disclose whether you have already selected a contractor that will be compensated with EPA funds made available under this RFA.
- If a contractor(s) has been selected prior to submitting the application to EPA, describe/include:
 - the procurement procedures that were followed to hire the contractor(s);
 - **where and when** the Request for Proposals/Request for Qualifications was posted as part of the application; and
 - the number of firms solicited and the number of offers received and considered.
- Alternatively, state 'n/a' or 'not applicable' if a contractor has not been procured.

States/territories respond
'n/a' or 'not applicable'

See Section D. of the [FAQs](#)



Contractors and Named Subrecipients

- **Named Subrecipients.**

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

Describe how the named subrecipient is eligible for a subaward (e.g., is a nonprofit organization or unit of government). Alternatively, state 'n/a' or 'not applicable' if a subrecipient is not named.

Refer to [EPA's Contracts and Subawards Solicitation Clause](#) for additional guidance.





Target Area and Priority/Proposed Sites

Applicants, other than Tribes:

- ‡ List the **target area(s)** discussed in the Narrative.
- ‡ For each target area that is smaller than a city/town, list the **eleven-digit census tract number(s)** within the target area.
- ‡ Provide the **address of the priority site(s)** proposed in the Narrative.

All applicants:

- List the **target area(s)** discussed in the Narrative.
 - ‡ **Coalitions:** List the coalition members and each member's associated target area.
 - ‡ **States/Tribes:** Must have at least three target areas and at least five priority sites, with at least one priority site in each target area.

Applicants, other than Tribes:

- ‡ For each target area that is smaller than a city/town, list the **eleven-digit census tract number(s)** within the target area.
- ‡ Provide the **address of the priority site(s)** proposed in the Narrative.

Community-wide

Multipurpose

Cleanup

Coalition

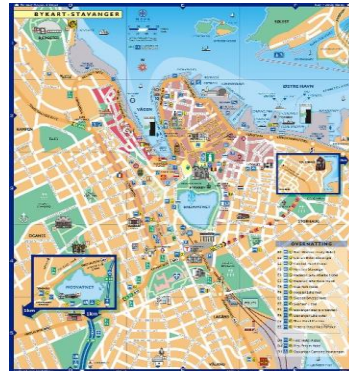
States/Tribes





Target Area

- Identify one target area.
- Target area may include a number of neighboring towns, a district, a shared planning area, or a census tract.



Affirmation of Site Ownership

- Affirm that you own a site in the target area that meets the definition of a brownfield.

You are not required to address this site if selected for funding.





Use of Grant Funds

Indicate on which page of the application information can be found on your plan to:

- Conduct assessment activities.
- Conduct remediation activities.
- Develop an overall plan for revitalization of the target area **that includes a feasible reuse strategy for at least one priority site**, or...

State if an overall plan for revitalization of the target area (and the plan includes a feasible reuse strategy for at least one priority site) already exists.

Information that is referenced can
be in the written narrative or the
budget table.





Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority

Community-wide

Coalition

States/Tribes

Multipurpose

Cleanup

- Include a current letter acknowledging your specific application and your plans to apply for a grant to conduct/oversee assessment activities.
- **State and Tribal** environmental authorities do not need to provide a letter for themselves.

Attach letter to the Narrative Information Sheet.

Does not count toward 3-page limit.

Do not use last year's letter.

Do not substitute an enforcement letter from the state regarding a specific site action.

Do not substitute a letter from local or county oversight agencies.



Threshold Reminder: Cleanup Site Characterization and Letter from the State/Tribal Authority

NEW:
Applicant
Affirmation
required.

EPA wants to be sure sites have been sufficiently characterized for the cleanup to begin.

→ Applicants should coordinate early with the state/tribal environmental authority.

- State/Tribal Letter required an applicant other than a State or Tribal Environmental Authority that is proposing a site(s) that is **eligible or is not eligible** to be enrolled in a voluntary response program.
- The **letter must clearly indicate that the information is for the FY26 Cleanup Grant application** and not a previously submitted application.
- **If additional assessment is needed** to sufficiently characterize the site(s) for the remediation work to begin, the letter must include a statement to that effect and also affirm that there will be a sufficient level of site characterization from the environmental site assessment performed by **June 15, 2026**, for the remediation work to begin on the site(s). **Applicant must also state what additional assessment is needed and affirm it will be completed by June 15, 2026.**
 - If selected for award, must provide EPA with information that demonstrates compliance with this requirement by **June 15, 2026**. If applicants do not meet this requirement by June 15, 2026, **EPA may not make the award due to a failure to meet this requirement.**
- For an applicant other than a State or Tribal Environmental Authority that is proposing a site(s) that is not eligible to be enrolled in a voluntary response program (**or if no voluntary response program or equivalent oversight program exists**), must have letter from state explaining why not eligible AND affirms that and include a statement whether an Environmental Professional (**as defined in 40 CFR 312.10**) has certified that there is a sufficient level of site characterization from the environmental site assessment performed to date for the remediation work to begin on the site(s) (or will be by June 15, 2026).

State/Tribal Letter must be submitted with the application!



Agenda

- Review All Brownfield Grant Types
- Focus on Threshold Criteria Section
- **Overview of Narrative Criteria**
- Discussion of Programmatic Capability



Overview of What to Prepare

Community-wide

Coalition

States/Tribes

Multipurpose

Cleanup

■ Narrative Information Sheet (Section IV.C.)

† 3 pages, single-spaced.

† **Do NOT include a summary or overview of your narrative/project.**

† Place information on your organization's letterhead.

Excess information will be removed/redacted and not reviewed.

Required Attachments (Section III.B.)

† Limit attachments to required/relevant documents (i.e., **threshold criteria**).

■ Narrative Page Limits (Section IV.E.)

† 10 pages, single-spaced: **Community-wide Assessment Grant** and **Cleanup**

† 12 pages, single-spaced: **Coalitions Grant**

† 12 pages, single-spaced: **Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes** **Multipurpose**

Refer to the Application Submission Checklist in Section IV.C. of the Guidelines

Excess pages will be removed/redacted and not reviewed.



FY26 Narrative Ranking Criteria

Criteria
PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION
COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS
PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE
TOTAL SCORE

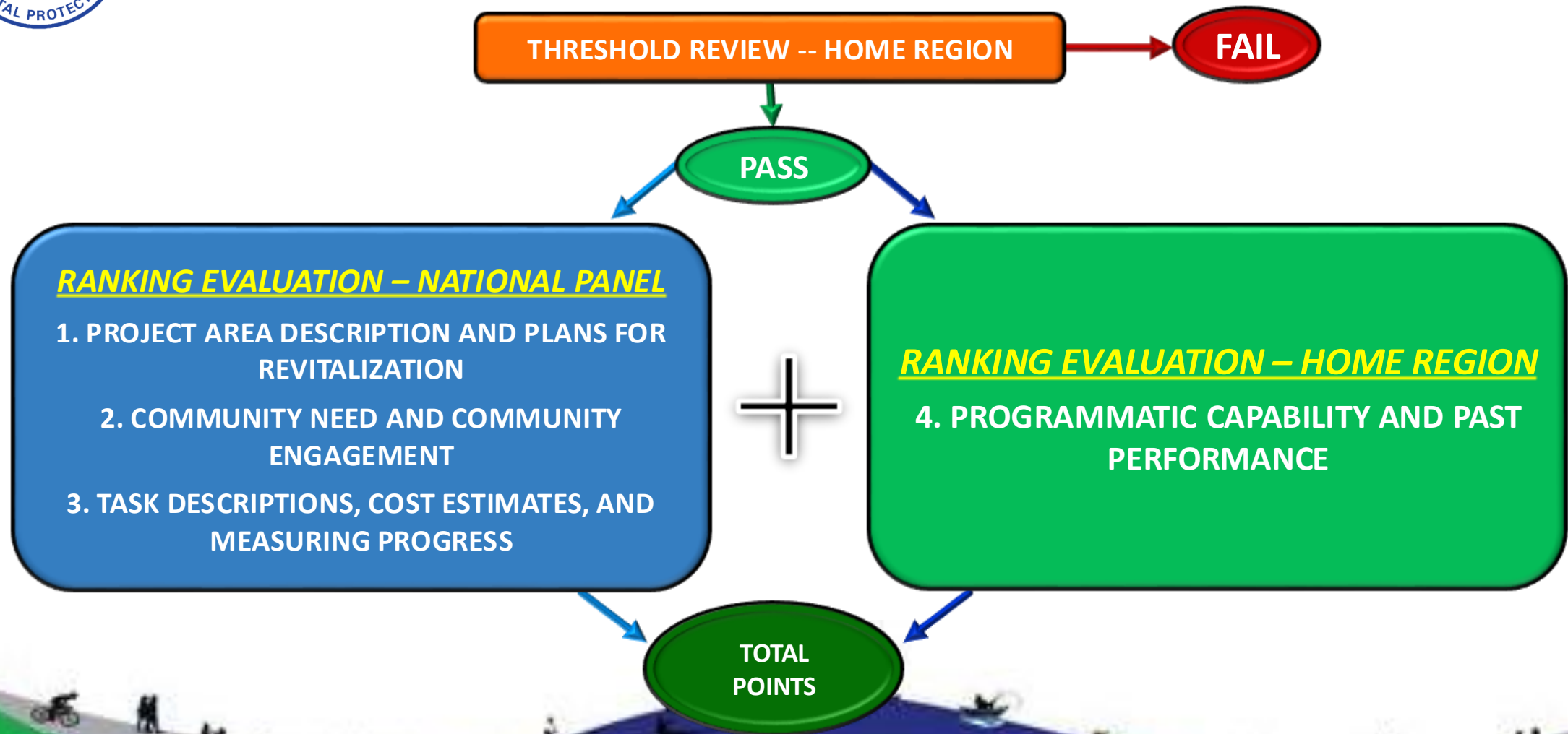
Criteria are further made up of sub-criteria

- Provide the sub-criteria # in your application and follow it with a detailed response
- Sub-criteria language and points *may differ between grant types*
- A response to a criterion/sub-criterion that is included in a different section of the ***Narrative may not be scored as favorably.***

Guidelines:
Section IV.E. Narrative/Ranking Criteria
Section V.A. Evaluation Criteria



Application Evaluation Process

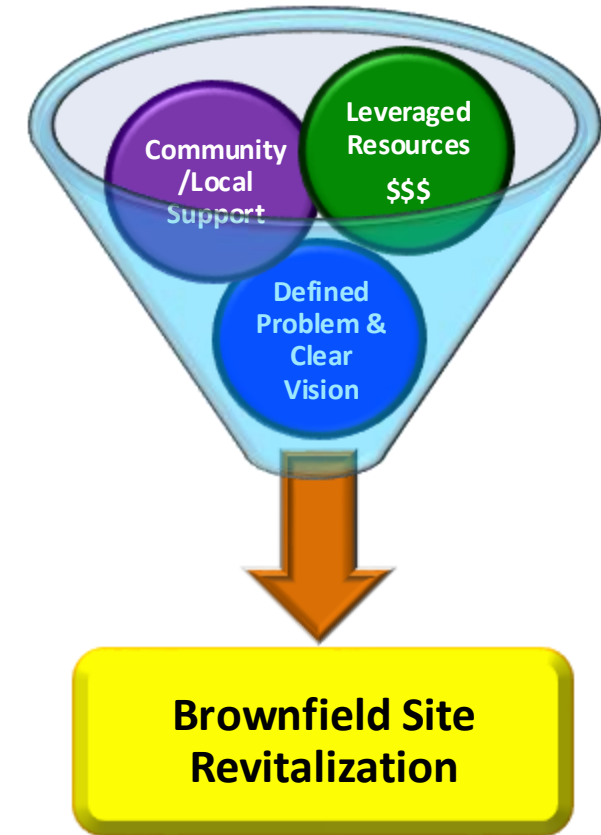




What Makes A Strong Application

Strong application narratives will have:

- ✓ Well-defined brownfield challenges
- ✓ Consideration of what it takes to get to revitalization
- ✓ Community support
- ✓ Clear objectives for the grant





Tips for Writing the Narrative

- Read the entire Guidelines for the grant type for which you're applying.
- Write as though the reader knows **NOTHING** about your community.
- Avoid using acronyms and technical/organizational jargon.
- Respond to the criterion where asked.
- Number pages and enumerate/identify the criterion.
- **Address ALL criteria. If a criterion, or part of a criterion, doesn't apply, state that and explain why.**
- The **quality** of the response is extremely important (see Evaluation Criteria in Section V.).
- Organize attachments, for example:
 - Attachment A: Threshold Criteria
 - Attachment B: Documentation of Eligibility
- Use the Application Checklist in Section IV.C. (do **not** submit with application).
- Readability is important! Advise 1" margins; 12 pts font; Times New Roman/Arial/Calibri font.



Agenda

- Review All Brownfield Grant Types
- Focus on Threshold Criteria Section
- Overview of Narrative Criteria
- **Discussion of Programmatic Capability**



PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

Tell Reviewers:

Programmatic Capability

Description of Key Staff

- Discuss key staff that will work together to successfully administer the grant.

Acquiring Additional Resources

- Discuss the systems in place to acquire any additional expertise and resources.
- Describe efforts to promote strong labor practices, local hiring/procurement, or link members of the community to potential employment opportunities in brownfields assessment, cleanup, or redevelopment related to your project.



PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

Tell Reviewers:

Programmatic Capability

Organizational Capacity

- Explain your organization's capacity to **oversee grant tasks/activities and carry out** and manage the programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements of the project and grant.

+Coalitions: Discuss the lead coalition member's capacity to do this on the coalition's behalf.

Organizational Structure

- Explain how your team will be structured to ensure the grant will be carried out successfully.

+Coalitions: Describe the proposed governance/decision-making structure among your coalition members.



Programmatic Capability & Past Performance

4.b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

i.

Currently have/previously
received EPA Brownfields
Grant

ii.

Have not received an EPA
Brownfields Grant but
Have received other federal/non-
federal assistance agreements

iii.

Have never received
federal or non-federal
assistance agreements

4.b.i. and 4.b.ii. Reviewers evaluate

Demonstrated ability to successfully manage grant based on past experience, progress, accomplishments and successful performance of all phase of work.

Successful compliance with workplan, schedule and award conditions accomplishments

4.b.iii. Neutral Score

Clearly affirmed that the organization never received any type of federal or non-federal assistance agreement.

Applicants that fail to indicate anything in response to this sub-criterion may result in zero points.



Minimum Grant Requirements Pre-Recorded Videos

An overview of the FY 2025 grants **submission process** and **Narrative Information Sheet** and **threshold requirements** for each grant type is available in pre-recorded videos. The FY 2024 Multipurpose recording is available.

- [FY 2025 Assessment Grant Minimum Requirements Recording](#)
- [FY 2025 Assessment Grant Minimum Requirements Presentation \(pdf\)](#) (2.77 MB)
- [FY 2025 Revolving Loan Fund Grant Minimum Requirements Recording](#)
- [FY 2025 RLF Grant Minimum Requirements Presentation \(pdf\)](#) (2.61 MB)
- [FY 2025 Cleanup Grant Minimum Requirements Recording](#)
- [FY 2025 Cleanup Grant Minimum Requirements Presentation \(pdf\)](#) (3.01 MB)
- [FY 2024 Multipurpose Grant Minimum Requirements Recording](#)

EPA Highly Recommends that Applicants view the relevant recordings from PRIOR YEARS. Questions regarding grant eligibility and responses to threshold criterion should be submitted to the Regional Competition Contact as soon as possible.



Brownfields 2025

Sustainable Communities Start Here

gobrownfields.org

McCORMICK PLACE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
AUG. 5-8, 2025



Questions?