



TAB
Technical Assistance
to Brownfields

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

WRITE IT RIGHT!

2026 Louisiana Brownfield Grantwriting Workshop

July 28-30, 2026

LDEQ Headquarters, Galvez Building, 602 N. 5th Street, Pensacola Room

ksutab.org

Welcome!

Louisiana Brownfield

Grantwriting Workshop

July 28-30, 2026

Introduction Questions:

- Name
- Entity/ Relationship to Brownfields
- What brought you here today?
- Have you applied for a Brownfield grant before?
- What type of Brownfield grant are you interested in?
- Are there specific sections of the proposal you would like help with?

Housekeeping

- ▶ Bathrooms
- ▶ Smoking Area
- ▶ Silence Cell Phones
- ▶ No recording of the sessions / use of AI summaries
- ▶ Parking validation reminder
- ▶ Short breaks - feel free to get up & stretch when needed
- ▶ Sign in each day
- ▶ Interactive! Please Participate!

EPA Projections for FY 2027.

**All amounts are subject to change.*

Grant Type	Maximum Project Period	Maximum Amount Per Grant	Estimated Awards	Total Per Grant Type
Community-wide Assessment	4 years	\$500,000	30	\$15,000,000
Assessment Coalitions	4 years	\$1,000,000	13	\$13,000,000
Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund	5 years	\$1,000,000	10	\$10,000,000
Cleanup	4 years	\$500,000	28	\$14,000,000

Goal of the Workshop: Help you get every point!

- ▶ Focused on the Narrative part of the application
 - ❖ This is the part you get “graded” on
 - ❖ EPA and KSU TAB will have webinars to focus on the Threshold Criteria and other aspects of the grant
- ▶ Very tight competition: If you lose more than 4 points, you’re probably not going to be awarded

Grant Type	Max Score	Lowest Score Awarded
Community-Wide Assessment	155	152-153
Coalition Assessment	160	155-156
Cleanup - Up to \$500,000	175	152
Cleanup - \$500,001 - \$4 million	175	170

- ▶ Laying the foundation for your Application so you have a head start and know what you need to work on

EPA Brownfields Forecast FY2027

Environmental Protection Agency Region 6

Michael Kennedy





FY27 is almost upon us

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Brownfields

- Historic investment in the EPA Brownfields Program
 - \$1.2 Billion invested in Brownfield Project Grants
- Drastic increase in Brownfield Grant amounts being awarded through fiscal year 2026.



FY27 Offerings

	FY 2027 Return to Regularly Appropriated Funding & Anticipated Offerings
Assessment Grants	• Community-wide up to \$500K • Assessment Coalition up to \$1 million • Funding for assessment is limited to \$200k per each individual brownfield site, or up to \$350K with a waiver (statutory limit/waiver amount).
RLF Grants	• Up to \$1M (statutory limit) • 20% statutory cost share required (hardship waiver available)
Cleanup Grants	• Up to \$500K • 20% statutory cost share required (hardship waiver available)



Applicant Eligibility

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government (e.g., municipality, city, town, township, parish, local public authority, etc.)
- Land Clearance Authority or other quasi-governmental entity that operates under the supervision and control or, or as an agent of, a General Purpose Unit of Local Government
- Government Entity Created by the State Legislature
- Regional Council established under governmental authority or group of General Purpose Units of Local Government established under Federal, State, or Local Law.
- Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a State
- Non-profit organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code



FY26 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications

I am applying for	In FY26, can I also apply for...?					
	Multipurpose Grant	Community-Wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes	Community-Wide Assessment Grant	Assessment Coalition Grant (Lead)	Non-Lead Member of an Assessment Coalition	Cleanup Grant
Multipurpose Grant	N/A	No	No	No	No	No
Community-Wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes	No	N/A	No	No	No	Yes
Community-Wide Assessment Grant	No	No	N/A	No	No	Yes
Assessment Coalition Grant (Lead)	No	No	No	N/A	No	Yes
Non-Lead Member of an Assessment Coalition	No	No	No	No	N/A	No
Cleanup Grant	No	Yes (Choose One Type)			No	N/A

Note: To read this chart, identify the relevant grant type from the far-left column. Read across the row for eligibility information on the other grant types. For example, I am applying for a *Community-wide Assessment Grant*. In FY26, can I also apply for a *Cleanup Grant*? The green box indicates yes.



FY26 Eligibility Chart for Existing Grant Recipients

		In FY26, can I also apply for...?					
My organization currently has		Multipurpose Grant	Community-Wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes	Community-Wide Assessment Grant	Assessment Coalition Grant (Lead)	Non-Lead Member of an Assessment Coalition	Cleanup Grant
Multipurpose Grant	→	Must draw down 70% of each MP Grant	Yes	Must draw down 70% of each MP Grant	Must draw down 70% of each MP Grant	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Must draw down 70% of each MP Grant
Community-Wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes	→	Not eligible	Must draw down 60% of each CWAGST Grant	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Yes
Community-Wide Assessment Grant	→	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Yes	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Yes
Assessment Coalition Grant (Lead)	→	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Yes	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Must draw down 70% of each Assessment Grant	Yes
Non-Lead Member of an Assessment Coalition	→	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
RLF Grant	→	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-Lead Member of an RLF Coalition	→	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cleanup Grant	→	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, for a site that has not previously received Cleanup Grant funding

Note: Applicants must also meet all threshold criteria outlined in Section 2. of the guidelines. If you plan to apply for more than one grant type, please refer to the FY26 MARC Grant Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications to determine which grants are available to you.



FY27 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant Offerings

- Upcoming competition round offering Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), and Cleanup Grants (not Multipurpose)
- Application submission deadline is **anticipated Fall 2026**
- April-May 2027—Selections will be announced
- June-September 2027—Workplans and grant paperwork finalized
- September-October 2027—Grants awarded/funds become available



EPA Region 6 Grant Chats

- Planning to conduct these chats again reviewing different issues/questions regarding the guidelines' criteria
- Spread over 8 weeks leading to the application due date



EPA Region 6 Competition Co-Leads

- Mike Kennedy, Region 6 Competition Co-lead
Kennedy.michael@epa.gov
- Marsha Lay, Region 6 Competition Co-lead
Lay.marsha@epa.gov



Links

EPA's National Brownfields Website:

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

EPA Brownfields Types of Funding:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-funding>

EPA's Region 6 Brownfields Website:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/r6>

EPA Brownfield 101 Factsheets

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/understanding-brownfields>



Join the EPA Region 6 Brownfields Newsletter

- If you are interested in receiving our Brownfields monthly newsletter, please email R6Brownfields@epa.gov to be added to our distribution list





Questions

Answers



Contact Information

Mike Kennedy, 214-665-7125, Kennedy.Michael@epa.gov



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Working with a Consultant: Tips for a Successful Partnership

Disclaimers

- ▶ LDEQ has no opinion as to whether or not you use a consultant to help write your grant
- ▶ This section is just some tips if you decide to work with a consultant
- ▶ EPA has additional guidelines if you use a consultant to help write a grant
- ▶ We're not getting into compensation structures today

Why work with a Consultant?

Opportunities:

- ▶ Limited capacity to write a grant at your organization
- ▶ Consultants may have written previous Brownfield grant applications and know what EPA is looking for
- ▶ Up against professional grant writers in other areas

Considerations:

- ▶ Consultant doesn't know your community like you do
- ▶ Commitments might not line up with what you have the capacity for

Tips for a Successful Partnership

- ▶ Start early!
- ▶ Schedule Regular check in meetings & meetings to go into grant details
- ▶ Set up a clear timeline for milestones early on
 - ↓ Due date
 - ↓ Submission Date
 - ↓ Internal approvals before submitting
 - ↓ Finalize grant application
 - ↓ KSU TAB review
 - ↓ Draft documents

Develop a Timeline - Example

[illegible]

Develop a Timeline - Example

[illegible]

Develop a Timeline - Example

[illegible]

Develop a Timeline - Example

EPA Due Date:	Dec. 11 at 11:59pm ET	NOT THE REAL DATE- JUST AN EXAMPLE
Try to get it submitted by:	Dec. 9	Grants.gov can sense your panic
Submit for Internal review/ approvals on:	Dec. 4	Assumes 4 working days for internal process Who needs to approve it? What's their timeline?
Finalize Grant Application Package by:	Dec. 3	Don't forget about all the other forms!

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Latest Date to Submit to KSU TAB:	Nov. 20 *allows for holidays	Allows 8 working days for review and to incorporate comments

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Receive revised draft documents from Consultant by:	Nov. 18	
Send back comments to Consultant by:	Nov. 16	
Receive Draft Proposal from Consultant by:	Nov. 10	

Develop a Timeline - Example

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Receive Draft Proposal from Consultant by:	Nov. 10	
EPA Issues NOFO:	Oct. 12	NOT THE REAL DATE- JUST AN EXAMPLE

Stay Engaged!

- ▶ What are your target areas?
- ▶ What are your priority sites?
- ▶ What's your community's story?
- ▶ Help with accessing local data
- ▶ Connect to Community Partners
- ▶ Read and comment on draft documents
 - ▶ Does it tell your community's story well?
 - ▶ What are they committing you to?
 - ▶ Does the budget look reasonable? Where is the money going?
- ▶ Read comments from KSU TAB review and check to see if they're incorporated
 - ▶ Meet with Consultant to go over the comments



Who's Preparing What?

Parts of the Application Package:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form:
 - Application Information Sheet (3-page limit, single-spaced)
 - Letter from the State or Tribal environmental authority
 - **Narrative, which includes responses to the narrative criteria (12-page limit, single-spaced)**
 - Threshold Criteria Responses

Tips from Consultants?

- ▶ What's a challenge you've had working with a community?
- ▶ What's helpful for you to write the best application for a community?

EPA Requirements/ Guidelines

- ▶ EPA does not require or encourage applicants to procure contractors (including consultants) before the EPA cooperative agreement is awarded, but applicants may choose to do so.

EPA Requirements/ Guidelines

*May change in the
new NOFO*

Threshold Criteria: Contractors.

All applicants must **disclose** whether they have already selected a contractor that will be compensated with EPA funds made available under this NOFO and the procurement procedures that were followed to hire the contractor(s). If a contractor(s) has been selected prior to submitting the application to EPA (including when a contractor(s) has been selected under a “dual procurement process” for both grant proposal writing and grant implementation services), applicants must **describe**:

- information on **where and when** the Request for Proposals/Request for Qualifications was posted;
- the length of time the RFP/RFQ was advertised;
- the number of firms solicited and the number of offers received and considered; and
- the name(s) of the firm(s) the applicant entered into contract(s) with.

Provide a copy of (or link to) the solicitation document(s) and the signed executed contract(s).

Alternatively, state ‘n/a’ or ‘not applicable’ if a contractor has not been procured at the time of application submission.

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The Pieces & Parts of a Successful Application

Grant Application Package

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form:
 - Application Information Sheet (3-page limit, single-spaced)
What EPA uses for the press release if you're awarded
 - Letter from the State or Tribal environmental authority
We'll touch on this at the end

- **Narrative, which includes responses to the narrative criteria (12-page limit, single-spaced)**

Focus for today!

- Threshold Criteria Responses

Check for EPA and KSU TAB webinars that go into these in depth

Narrative Proposal Sections

(1) Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization

- Tell your story!
 - Target Area(s)
 - Priority Sites
 - Brownfield Impacts
- Set the stage for a winning proposal
- Going in deep on this section

(2) a-d. Community Needs

- Finding data to support your application
- What data boxes do you need to check?
- Grant application vs. scientific paper

Narrative Proposal Sections

(2)e-g. Project Partners & Community Engagement

- Choosing your Partners
- Demonstrating Community Involvement & Input

(3)a-e. Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress

- Clear & Concise Budgets & Tasks
- Common Pitfalls to Avoid

(3)f. Measuring & Evaluating Environmental Program Results

- Be specific and check the box!

(4) Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

- Answer all the questions

Two Days & A Lot to Cover

- ▶ Intended to give you a head start on your application
- ▶ There will be grant chats and other webinars this Fall
- ▶ Trainings in other Regions are open to anyone!
- ▶ Optional Working Day on Thursday from 9a -12pm



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Grant Guidelines – Section 1

Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization

EPA Brownfields MARC Grant Scoring

Ranking Criteria for EPA Brownfields Grants – FY26 (New guidelines will be issued in September 2026)	Community- Wide Assessment	Assessment Coalition	Cleanup
Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization	40 pts	45 pts	55 pts
Community Need and Community Engagement	35 pts	35 pts	35 pts
Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress	45 pts	45 pts	55 pts
Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	35 pts	35 pts	30 pts
Total	155 pts	160 pts	175 pts

BEFORE PEN HITS PAPER:

*Start with a great project
rather than a great grant.*

(Good storytelling is easier if
you've a good story to tell.)



Narrative Criteria -- Section (1)

Project Area Description & Plans for Revitalization

- a. Overview of BF Challenges and Description of Target Area
- b. Description of Priority BF Site(s)
- c. Identifying Additional Sites
- d. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans
- e. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy
- f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse
- g. Use of Existing Infrastructure



PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

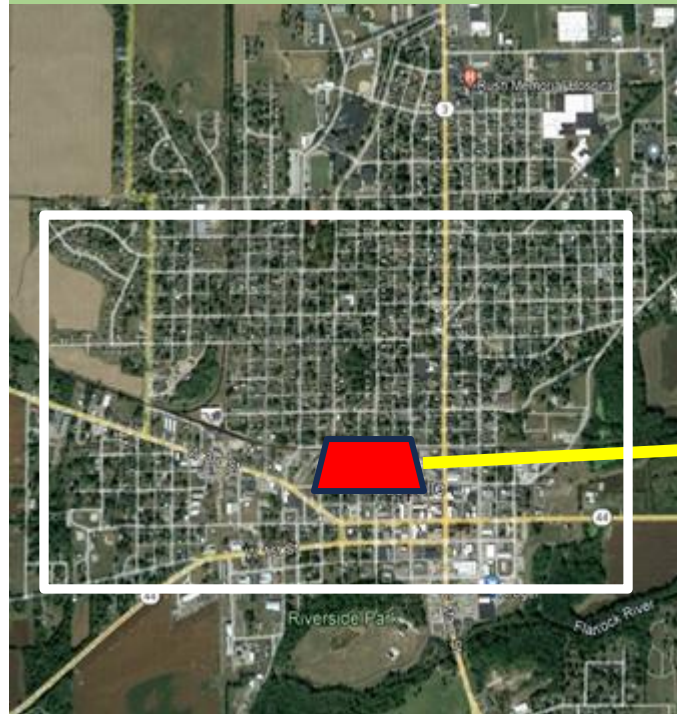
Geographic Boundary(ies)

- Boundary(ies) in which work can be performed
- Within this geographic boundary- discuss what the brownfields challenges and impacts are to this area
- How will this grant, if awarded, address these challenges/impacts? **Be Specific!**

Target Area(s)

- Within the geographic boundary(ies), specific target area(s) where you plan to focus grant activities, such as a neighborhood, district, corridor, or census tract.

Geographic Boundary(ies)



Target Area (s)





TARGET AREA



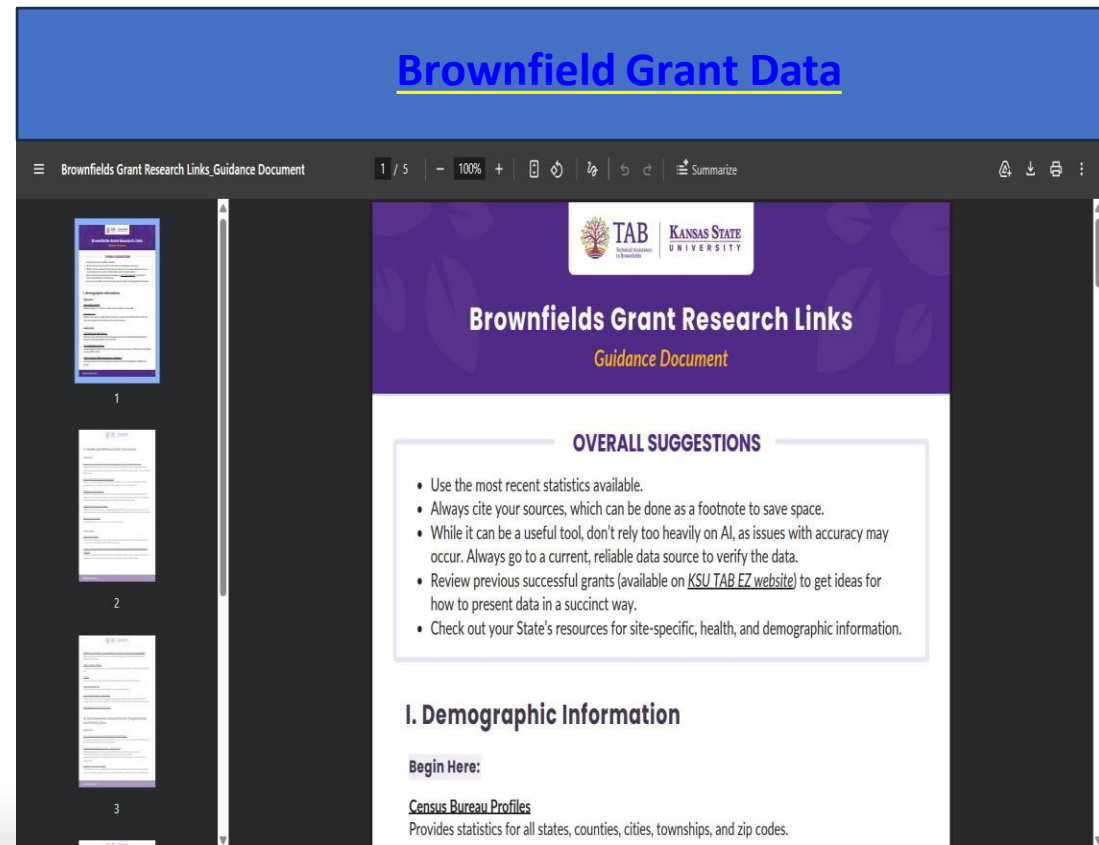
OVERVIEW OF BROWNFIELD CHALLENGES AND DESCRIPTION OF TARGET AREA

DESCRIPTION OF TARGET AREA

- Clearly define target area(s): neighborhood, census tract, corridor, historic district (street boundaries)
- What is the condition of your target area(s)? High crime? Health issues? Unsafe/attractive nuisance properties? Food deserts? Ecologically/environmentally sensitive areas (waterways, wetlands, etc.)?
- Quantify all *possible* brownfields for this target area(s) (#acres, #properties, etc.), include properties like vacant lots, blighted or aging buildings, historic dry cleaners, historic gas stations, etc.
- Are the brownfield sites in your target area(s) proximal to residential areas, schools, parks, local businesses, industry?
- Research demographic, health & welfare, environmental, community need and Sustainability data for your application's target area(s). See KSU TAB's "Brownfields Grant Research Links" at [Brownfield Grant Data](#)

About that data....

Some of the data links that EPA maintained and recommended in the past for obtaining relevant data are no longer being maintained by the Agency. Don't worry! KSU TAB has created a document that provides useful data websites and interactive maps to successfully locate environmental, demographic, sustainability, community need and health related data for your community and target area(s)!



Beth shares Grant Research Links



Quantitative Data is only as Good as the Qualitative Description of What it Means!

Example 1 – Describes TA, but vaguely.

Target Area 1 with a population of 13,792, is a community experiencing severe economic distress, with poverty rates exceeding 40 percent and high unemployment. Target Area 1 is within ZipCode 56451 which is designated as distressed according to the Distressed Communities Index, with a distress score of 81. This target area reflects the City's industrial past and contains clusters of vacant buildings and parcels affected by suspected or documented contamination.

Quantitative Data is only as Good as the Qualitative Description of What it Means!

Ex. 2 – Detailed Data Explained in TA Context

This target area is in census tracts 47.01 and 48.00 and U.S. Census Bureau Profiles estimates 2,029 residents live here and 50.1% have incomes below the poverty level, and 34% are minorities. This community, per the USDA Food Access Research Atlas, is identified as having low income and low access to food. In addition, per the EPA Smart Location Mapping Tool, only 5% of the population can easily access public transit. The city's Police Department recorded 64 crimes in the target area between January 1–September 29, 2025 , which included nine burglaries in residences, 12 aggravated assaults, and six auto thefts.

Highlight one or more priority site(s) (include past & current uses, site conditions, # and size of structures and environmental issues). **Why is the site(s) a priority for assessment and reuse?**

Coalition: At least one priority site in the lead entity's Target Area and one priority brownfield in each non lead entity's Target Area

Cleanup: Describe known contamination (use Phase II) Structures—removed or reused? Exposure: How do existing contaminants impact surrounding residents, sensitive populations. waterways

DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITY BROWNFIELD SITES

Why is your site a priority: it represents a significant health hazard or attracts vagrants/crime; it has great redevelopment potential; redevelopment meets objectives community plans. **Where are site(s) located:** proximal to neighborhoods, sensitive populations, near sensitive eco-systems, bodies of water, in a flood plain; **Other Factors:** Is your priority site(s) is adjacent to body of water, located on a floodplain, impacted by mine-scarred lands or a coal-fired power plant recently closed or is closing.

What may be missing? Priority Brownfield Description Example

PRIORITY SITE: The 11.6-acre **Former National Bronze & Aluminum Foundry Co. Site (the “Foundry Site”)** ...adjacent to Twins River is our priority site for this Assessment grant. The site is bordered on the north and south by residential properties. The **Foundry Site** is vacant with no structures on site. The **Foundry Site** was formerly used for foundry operations that likely consisted of molding, cleaning, and finishing aluminum, bronze, and other metals. Foundry sands, slag, cleaning wastes, furnace air particle deposition, and other foundry byproducts might be present on-site. Chemicals of concern associated with the former uses include but are not limited to VOCs, PAHs, TPH, and heavy metals.

- **What is the redevelopment potential?**
- **Does it represent a significant health hazard to the community or is it an attractive nuisance? Is it located in a floodplain or near an ecologically sensitive area?**
- **Residential properties bordering site – sensitive populations, high % of health effects, etc?**



PRIORITY

Side Note on Scoring

In the FY26 Community-Wide Assessment grants, the Overview of BF Challenges and Description of Target Area was worth 5 points, maximum. The Description of Priority BF Site(s) was worth 10.

Although you can't afford to miss any points, be aware of the value each subsection, and devote appropriate research and application space.



Plan for Identifying Additional Sites

- The Central Plains Brownfields Coalition region has over 3,000 brownfields sites, according to the Platform for Exploring Environmental Records (PEER). The Coalition will continue to identify sites through public feedback and input. The Coalition will finalize a brownfields rubric that will evaluate and rank sites based on: (1) site eligibility based on the U.S. EPA's requirements; (2) site significance relative to achieving adopted plans/reuse strategies and/or area priorities; (3) the willingness of the property owner to partner with the Coalition on environmental site assessment work and to provide site access; (4) the marketability of the site and potential for redevelopment; (5) extent or perception of contamination threatening public health and/or the environment; (6) anticipated impacts from site reuse.

Describe the reuse strategy or projected reuse for the Priority site(s). How does this reuse strategy align with government's land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities?

Identify your land use and revitalization plan(s). Describe community's involvement with the plan.

Cleanup: the extent to which the reuse is an appropriate reuse and aligns with the local government's land use and revitalization plans. Describe how the public and partners were involved in developing the reuse. Also, how it considers the site's location in a federally designated flood plain.

**REVITALIZATION OF
THE TARGET AREA:**

**REUSE STRATEGY
AND ALIGNMENT
WITH
REVITALIZATION
PLANS**

Focus on the Outcomes and Benefits that will take place in the Target Area and benefits underserved populations (as well as community at large)

Upon cleanup, how the proposed project/revitalization stimulates potential economic development and/or facilitates a park, greenway or other nonprofit purposes in the target area

How your proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters and/or will incorporate reuse of the priority site(s), facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy or other energy efficiency measures.

Detail your benefits!!! Benefits from updated infrastructure (safer with lighting, walkways, mitigation of vehicle congestion and air pollution); Sewer and Stormwater upgrades; Improving walkability/bike-ability in the community from a greenway, riverwalk, park, etc.

Detail your benefits!!! Energy/Cost benefits to sustainable reuse of buildings or structures: energy/cost benefits to avoiding new construction-mitigating noise, emissions to air, etc. Constructing permeable pavement areas or rain gardens: mention how this mitigates flooding events.

**REVITALIZATION
OF THE TARGET
AREA: Outcomes
and Benefits of
Reuse Strategy**

Describe your eligibility for monetary funding from other resources and the extent that grant will stimulate additional funds for assessment, remediation or subsequent reuse.

Extent to which potential key funding resources can be used to support completion of assessment (if needed), remediation, and/or reuse of the priority site(s)

Leveraged funding should be easily identifiable -the source, activity being funded, and amount. Note resources secured, those pending, or being applied for. **Secured funding is reviewed more favorably.** Consider sources you are eligible for: Local, State, Federal; Economic Districts, TIF Districts, Foundations, Local Partners, TAB Resources such as Visioning, Market Studies and Technical Assistance.

Cleanup: Resources for Site Characterization-Do you have assessment funding secured if site requires additional characterization? Remediation-enough to complete remediation? Resources for Site Reuse- do you have **secured** commitments to complete part or all of the Reuse?

The more locked in, or secured, funding you have, the better!



STRATEGY FOR LEVERAGING RESOURCES: Resources Needed for Site Reuse

Strategy for Leveraging Resources: Use of Existing Infrastructure

- List existing infrastructure (i.e., water, sewer, gas, electric, **transportation**, **high speed internet**) and how it fits into your redevelopment plan
- What are the leveraged benefits of using existing infrastructure (quantify those benefits if able)?
- If additional infrastructure are key to the reuse of the property (**or, for Cleanup Grants, revitalization plans**) provide clear description of needs/upgrades and the funding resources that will be sought to pay for that infrastructure.
- If additional infrastructure is needed, describe the environmental benefits of those infrastructure upgrades (if applicable), like replacement of lead pipes or updated septic or sewer systems.



Lunch Break



Exercise 1 - Review a Successful Grant Application

Section 1

Materials

- Caribou, ME – FY26 Community-Wide Assessment Grant Application
- CWA Guidelines, 6.B. Review Criteria (p.31) – This is your primary review tool.
- CWA Guidelines, 4.C. Narrative Criteria (p.17) – For reference, to check on application instructions.



Exercise 1 - Review a Successful Grant Application

Section 1

Instructions

- Individually, read and evaluate the Caribou, ME – FY26 CWA Grant Application against the Review Criteria in 6.B. Score each section 1.a. through 1.g.
- As a table group, discuss scores and come to a consensus for all of Section 1. (Assign someone to record the scores.)
- Report out to the room.



Exercise 2 – Write it Right!

Develop Your Hook, Craft Your Story - Section 1

Materials

- CWA Project Description Worksheet – Example
- CWA Project Description Worksheet – Blank
- Brownfields Grant Research Links

Instructions – Select Target Areas, Priority Sites, and BF Challenges for Section 1 of your grant application. Report out.



Break



Grant Guidelines – Section 2

Community Need and Community Engagement



Narrative Criteria -- Section (2)

Community Need and Community Engagement

Community Need

- a. The Community's Need for Funding
- b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations
- c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions
- d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations



Community's Need for Funding

Why do you need the grant?

- Reduced Tax Revenues
- Small Population and/or Low Income Tax Base
- Are your limited resources prioritized elsewhere.



Note – To get full points, this has to be “because the community has a small population and/or is low-income.”





COMMUNITY NEED: Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

Identify sensitive populations in the target area and the health/welfare of sensitive populations. How will this grant address those issues?

Example Language:

Abandoned and/or unaddressed Brownfields sites in the Target Areas promote environmental degradation and contribute to negative public health impacts for nearby residents, particularly the sensitive populations in those areas. These populations are acknowledged to experience greater health risks than the general population from exposure to Brownfield-sourced contaminants in their area. Sensitive populations in the Brownfields Target Areas can include include infants, children, the elderly, pregnant mothers, people experiencing serious disease burdens, and low income populations.

Who is vulnerable → What health/welfare issue exists → How severe it is → How the brownfield project and reuse strategy address or reduce the related threat.

COMMUNITY NEED: Sensitive Populations

Provide and compare your sensitive population data/percentages as well as other data and information, e.g. Health & Welfare data, in a table format to make it easier for reviewers to assess the differences between your data and those of the county, state, U.S., etc.

Indicator	Target Area	City	State	U.S. 
Population	6,214	68,750	6.8M	334.9M
Children under 5	9.8%	6.2%	5.9%	5.6%
Adults age 65+	24.1%	17.2%	17.8%	17.7%
Persons below poverty	32.6%	19.4%	12.3%	12.5%
Adults with asthma	14.8%	11.2%	10.1%	9.8%
Coronary heart disease	9.7%	7.1%	6.5%	5.8%

Only bold the Target Area values that demonstrate the disparity

Threats to Sensitive Populations



Sensitive populations are populations likely to experience elevated health risks from pollution.

Clearly identify the sensitive populations present, describe the severity of their health or welfare issues, and explain how the grant and proposed reuse will address those issues and/or help identify and reduce related threats.

Example Language:

This grant will facilitate reduction of environmental contamination that may be associated with the Target Area's chronic disease rates and help lessen its significantly high health burdens.

Greater than Normal Incidence of Disease/Adverse Health Conditions

EPA's FY26 Assessment and Cleanup Guidelines asked for the applicant to identify and describe sensitive populations in the target area(s) that suffer from a greater-than-normal incidence of diseases and health conditions including cancer, asthma or birth defects.

This data should be specific to your target area.

Provide data establishing a baseline for what is considered average and demonstrate that the target-area incidence is greater than that baseline.

Note: make sure you include at least one of conditions EPA mentions in the Guidelines – Cancer, Asthma and/or Birth Defects (per FY25 Guidelines) or you will only earn 2 out of 5 points.

Health Measure	Target Area	State	US
Cancer Mortality (deaths per 100K people)	224.95	150.35	140.21
Asthma	8.8%	7.5%	5.1%
Diabetes	21.2%	13.6%	12.0%
Kidney Disease	5.2%	2.9%	2.3%
High Cholesterol	42.8%	36.1%	33.3%
Limited Physical Activity Time	40.5%	28.3%	25%

Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations

Describe populations in the Target Area that are:

- Economically impoverished; and/or
- Disproportionately impacted by negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and/or commercial operations or policies.

Think: **WHO → WHY → IMPACT → RESPONSE**

DON'T just provide statistics! Make a clear connection between the community conditions, environmental burdens, brownfield work, and anticipated reuse.

Example connection:

“The Target Area’s low-income residents have experienced decades of concentrated industrial activity and vacant contaminated properties. Grant-funded assessment and cleanup planning will identify environmental risks and support reuse that removes blight, reduces potential exposure, and returns underutilized properties to productive community use.”

Tell the story with data and local context:

- Poverty, low income, unemployment, housing burden, or other indicators of economic hardship
- Concentration of brownfields, industrial facilities, contaminated properties, dumping, highways, or other environmental burdens
- Historic or current operations or policies that have resulted in the community bearing a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences

Beth shares Grant Research Links



Exercise 3 - Review a Successful Grant Application

Section 2.a. – 2.d.

Materials

- Caribou, ME – FY26 Community-Wide Assessment Grant Application
- CWA Guidelines, 6.B. Review Criteria (p.31) – This is your primary review tool.
- CWA Guidelines, 4.C. Narrative Criteria (p.17) – For reference, to check on application instructions.



Exercise 3 - Review a Successful Grant Application

Section 2.a. – 2.d.

Instructions

- Individually, read and evaluate the Caribou, ME – FY26 CWA Grant Application against the Review Criteria in 6.B. Note the strengths and weaknesses of the application.
- Be prepared to discuss with the room.



Exercise 4 – Write it Right!

Gathering your data to show Community Need

Materials

- CWA Community Need Worksheet – Example
- CWA Community Need Worksheet – Blank
- Brownfields Grant Research Links

Instructions – Use the Research Links to gather data showing community need. Report out.





TAB
Technical Assistance
to Brownfields

KANSAS STATE
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Thank You

Please join us tomorrow at 8:30 for Day 2 of this workshop!