



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Brownfields Grant Deep Dives: Day 1

THANK YOU for joining us for this webinar. We will get started in a moment.

Technical Notes

If you experience technical difficulties with your connection:



Dial 785.532.0783



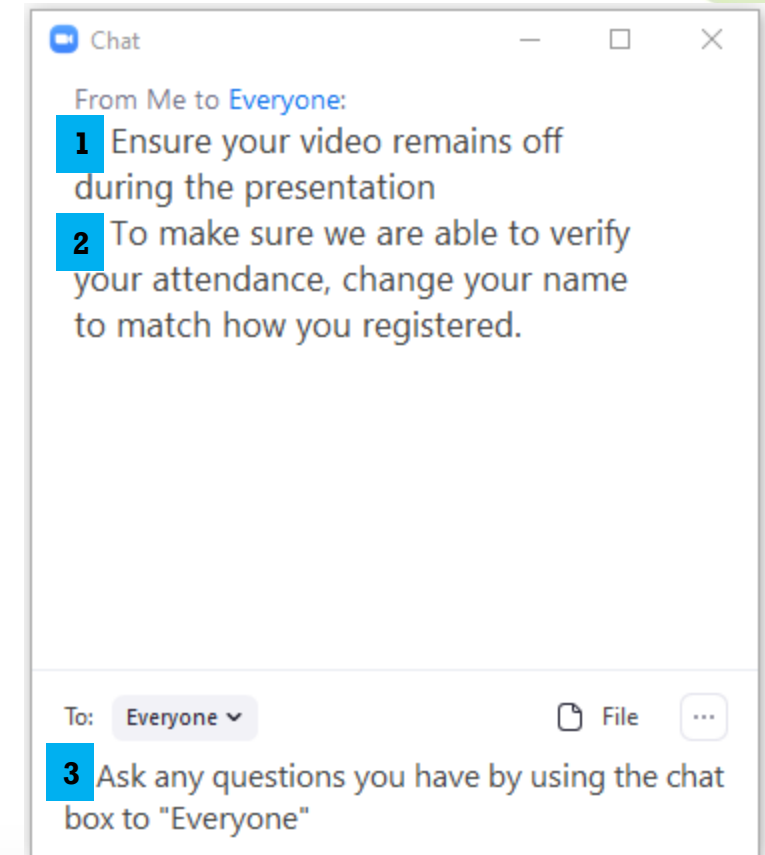
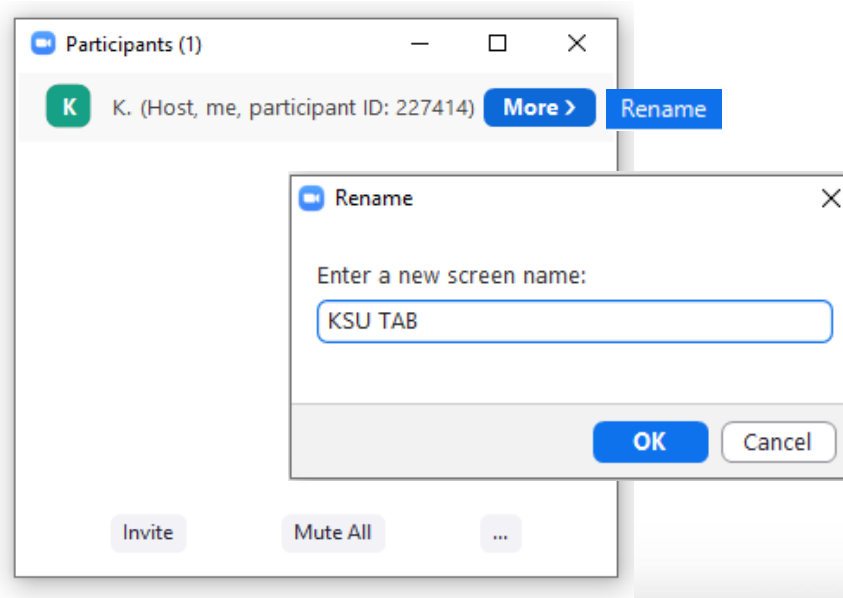
Email chsr@ksu.edu

Additionally, please note:



The presentation is being recorded and will be available on the website. The link has also been placed in the chat box.

Using Zoom – The Basics

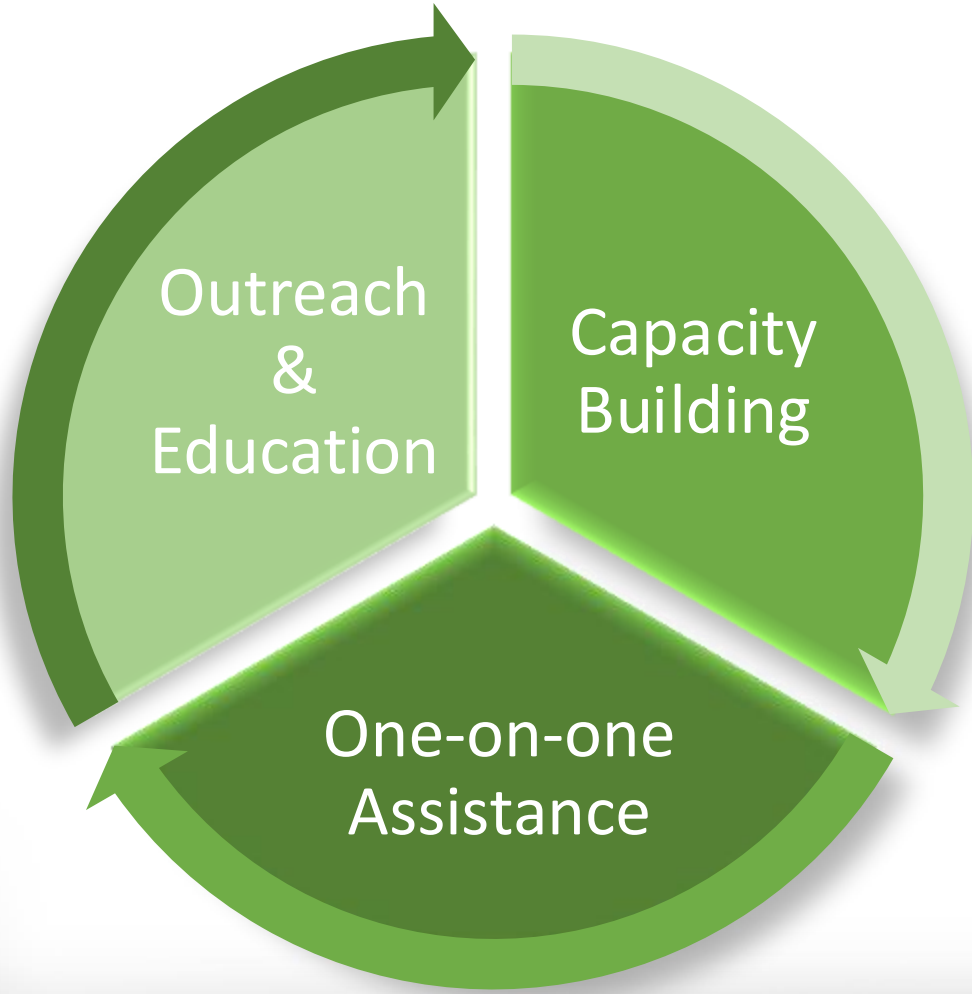


- A national program funded by U.S. EPA
- Dedicated TAB services provider for each EPA region & a dedicated TAB services provider for all federally recognized Tribes & Alaska Native villages
- Services provided are **FREE** and tailored to address specific community needs
- Assist communities and tribes with the brownfield assessment, cleanup and redevelopment process
- Planning, environmental and economic development expertise
- Webinars, workshop, e-tools (e.g., BiT, TAB EZ) and online resources
- And much, much more...

KSU – ITEP – ANTHC – Tribal TAB



KSU TAB Resources & Assistance



All services are FREE

**Services are provided by:
KSU TAB Staff & as needed,
KSU TAB Partners**

Three main categories of services



You've Got a Friend

KSU TAB can fill gaps and help support overall project goals.



We Want to Hear Your Feedback

Please provide feedback on today's event:

1. Click this link
https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9SZeHJhy5R4Vdc
2. Click the link provided in the chat box
1. Scan this QR image from your smartphone



One Final Note...

**The ARC Grant NOFO
has not yet been
released, so
information discussed
today is subject to
change**



Topic 1: Target Areas, Priority Sites, and Geographic Boundaries

Target Area and Brownfields

- Intended to set the stage for telling your brownfield story
- Remember that your reviewer probably doesn't know anything about your community
- Identify one to two issues that your community is facing (i.e. lack of affordable housing, need for more jobs, lack of access to park space, health impacts, etc.) – your grant will center around these issues
- **Read sample successful grant applications for inspiration!**



Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area (CWA+RLF)

Identify the **geographic boundary(ies)*** for the proposed grant activities and discuss the **brownfield challenges and their impacts**. Briefly explain **how this grant may help** address these challenges and impacts.

Within the geographic boundary(ies), **identify and describe the target area(s)** for the focused grant activities, such as a neighborhood, district, corridor, or census tract. *(Depending on the scope and design of your project, one or more target areas may be presented.)*

** The geographic boundary may be the jurisdiction of a unit of government.*



Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area (Coalition)

Identify the **geographic boundary(ies)*** for the proposed grant activities and discuss the **brownfield challenges and their impacts**. Briefly explain **how this grant may help** address these challenges and impacts.

Within the geographic boundary(ies), **identify and describe the target area(s)** for the focused grant activities. **Include the areas targeted by the lead and each non-lead member.** *(Examples of a target area include a neighborhood, district, corridor, or census tract.)*



Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area (Cleanup)

Discuss the **brownfield challenges and their impact** on the city(ies), town(s), or geographic area(s) targeted by this application. Briefly explain **how this grant may help** address these challenges and impacts.

Identify and describe the target area(s) for the focused grant activities, such as a neighborhood, district, corridor, or census tract. *(Depending on the scope and design of your project, one or more target areas may be presented.)*



Today's Discussion

- Geographic Boundaries
- Brownfield challenges and how this grant will address them
- Target Areas
- Priority Sites



What is a Geographic Boundary???

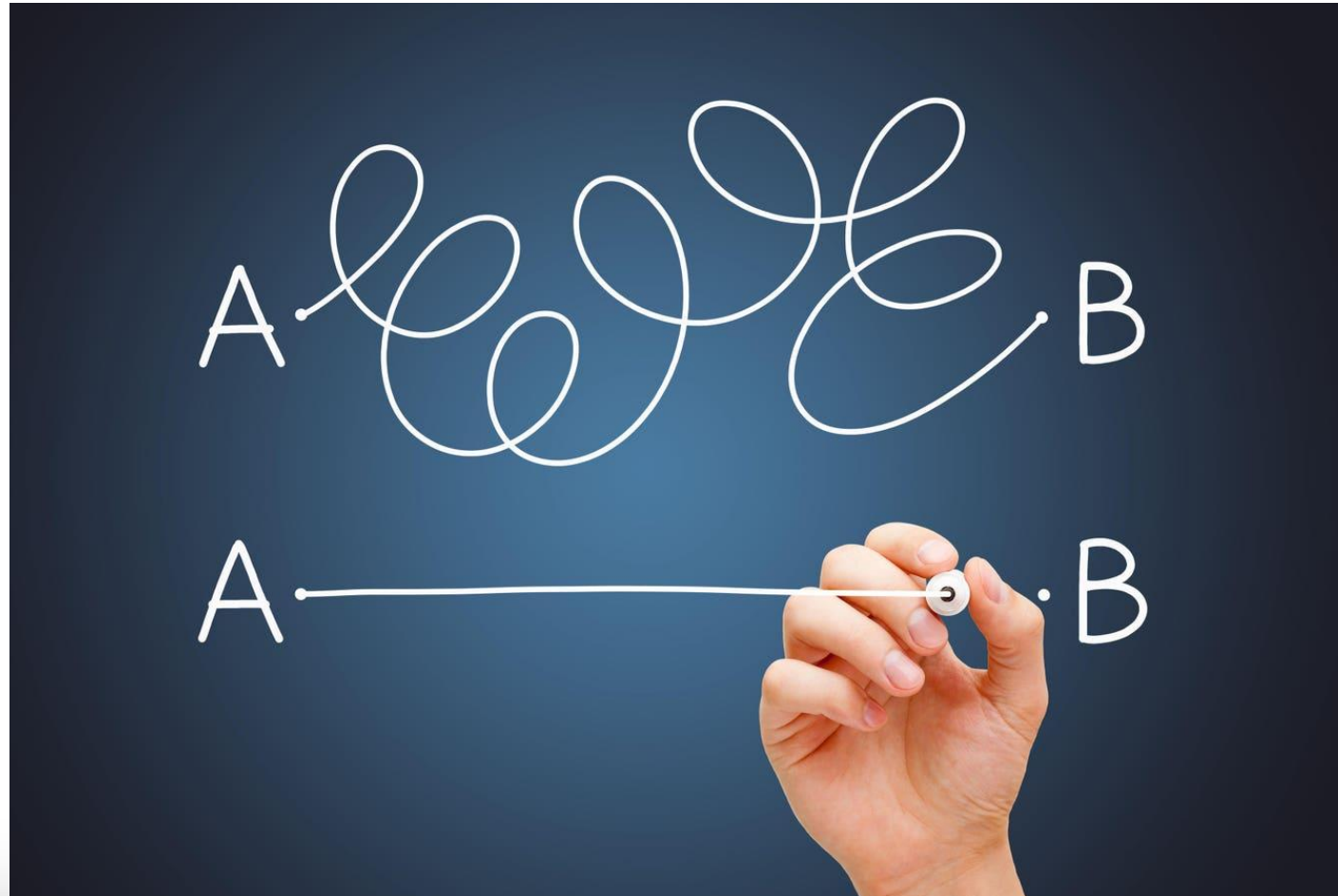
- Typically the jurisdiction of the unit of government applying for a grant, i.e. the area where the applicant has legal authority to spend money
- Think city/town boundary, county boundary, multi-county council of government and/or regional planning organization boundary, tribal area, or the area where a non-profit operates
- Not required for Cleanup grants



Geographic Boundary Examples

- “**The geographic boundary for this Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant is the rural City of Trinidad**, the largest city in Las Animas County located in southern Colorado’s Purgatoire River valley.” *(FY 2026 CWA Grant – Trinidad, CO)*
- “The City of Lamar, Colorado [**the geographic boundary of this grant**] (population 7,687, Census 2020) is located at the crossroads of U.S. Highways 287 and 50 in Prowers County.” *(FY 2026 CWA Grant – Lamar, CO)*
- “The Brownfields Coalition will focus efforts on brownfields redevelopment **within the geographic boundary of Lee County, Iowa.**” *(FY 2026 Coalition Grant – Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, Lee County, IA)*
- “Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG), a voluntary association of local governments established in 1968, serving nine counties in northeast (NE) Texas (TX) (Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus) and one county (Miller) in southwest (SW) Arkansas (AR) **(the Region; geographic boundary).**” *(FY 2025 RLF Grant – Ark-Tex Council of Governments)*

Geographic Boundary – Keep it Simple



Brownfield Challenges

- The brownfield challenges section should tell a cohesive story where the affected population directly benefits from the cleanup or assessment activities.
- Identify a specific issue based on past history
- Make a BRIEF but passionate case – 2-3 paragraphs
- This section is not usually where people lose significant points, but not defining the exact issue being addressed effects the entire proposal. A poorly defined proposal will not get funded.
- **Remember, TAB can help!**



Brownfield Challenges: Weave the Story Throughout

Loss of major employer has led to economic depression, population loss, and underemployment (primary challenge)



Economic challenges have led to neglect of existing homes and housing shortage; limited economic opportunity has resulted in poor community health



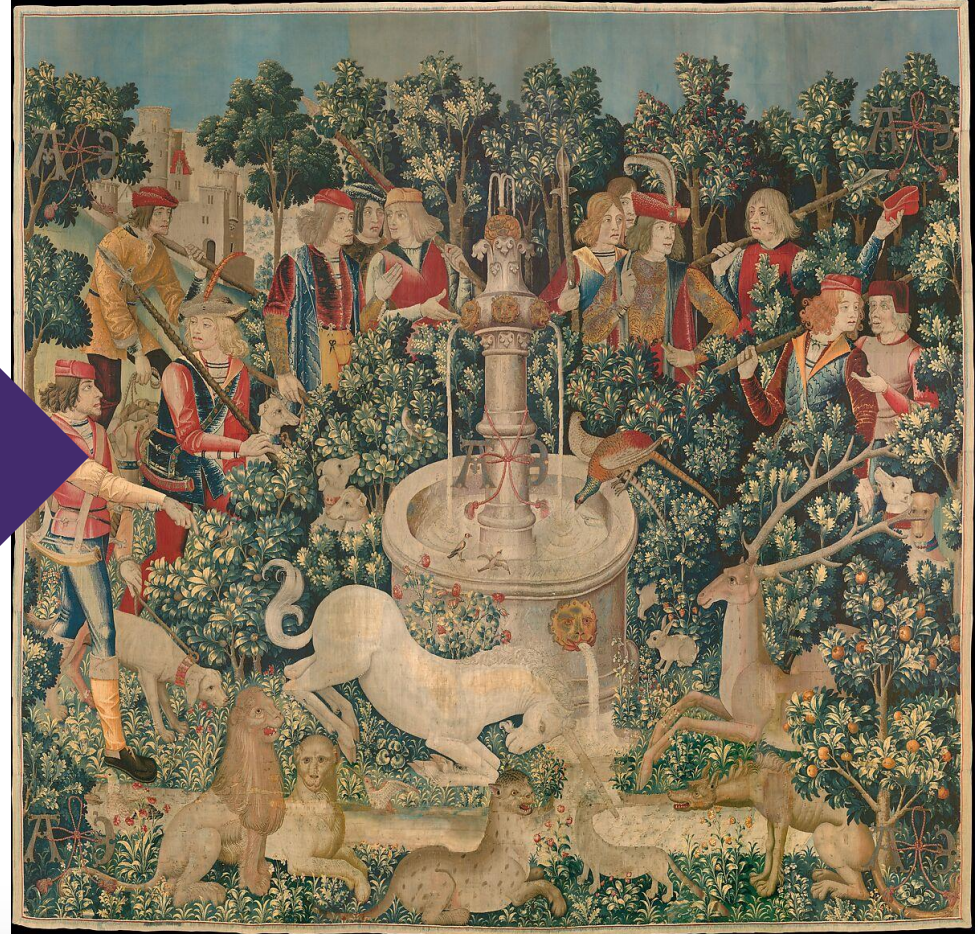
Housing site chosen as a priority for abatement



Providing housing will improve economic and health conditions moving forward.



Weave the Story Throughout



What is a Target Area???

- Your geographic area is anywhere you **can** spend the money. Your target area(s) is a smaller area where you plan to concentrate your grant funds
- CWA grants can have one or more target areas
- Coalition grants must have at least 3 target areas, and up to 5 (at least one per coalition member)
- Cleanup grants typically have one target area (exception: multi-site cleanup applications)



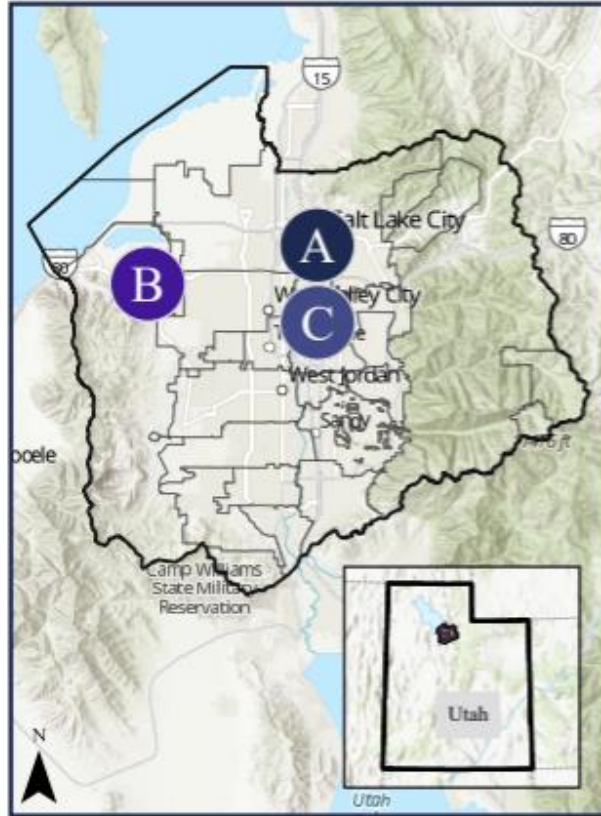
Defining Your Target Area(s)

- Target areas are flexible and can be defined in many ways
- Common approaches include neighborhood boundaries, census tracts/blocks, corridors, small plan areas, urban renewal areas, or a certain radius from a target site
- In small/rural communities, your geographic boundary and target area can be the same (but doesn't have to be!)
- **A target area must feature one or more priority sites**
- Consider your primary brownfield challenge(s) – which neighborhoods are most impacted?
- If you have an inventory of brownfield sites, look at them on a map. Are there clear concentrations? That's a target area!
- You can include a map of your geographic boundary, target areas, and priority sites, but it's not required



Target Area Examples

Salt Lake County



A) Ballpark Neighborhood



Priority Sites:

- 1548 S West Temple St:
 - 15-13-276-003-0000
 - 15-13-276-006-0000
- 1558 S West Temple St:
 - 15-13-276-004-0000
 - 15-13-276-007-0000
- 1566 S West Temple St:
 - 15-13-276-008-0000
- 1572 S West Temple St:
 - 15-13-276-005-0000
 - 15-13-276-009-0000
- 1574 S West Temple St:
 - 15-13-276-010-0000
- 1574 S Jefferson St:
 - 15-13-276-011-0000

B) Magna Main Street Community Development Area



Priority Site:

- 9108 W Magna Main St:
 - 14-19-453-025-0000

C) Meadowbrook Station Area

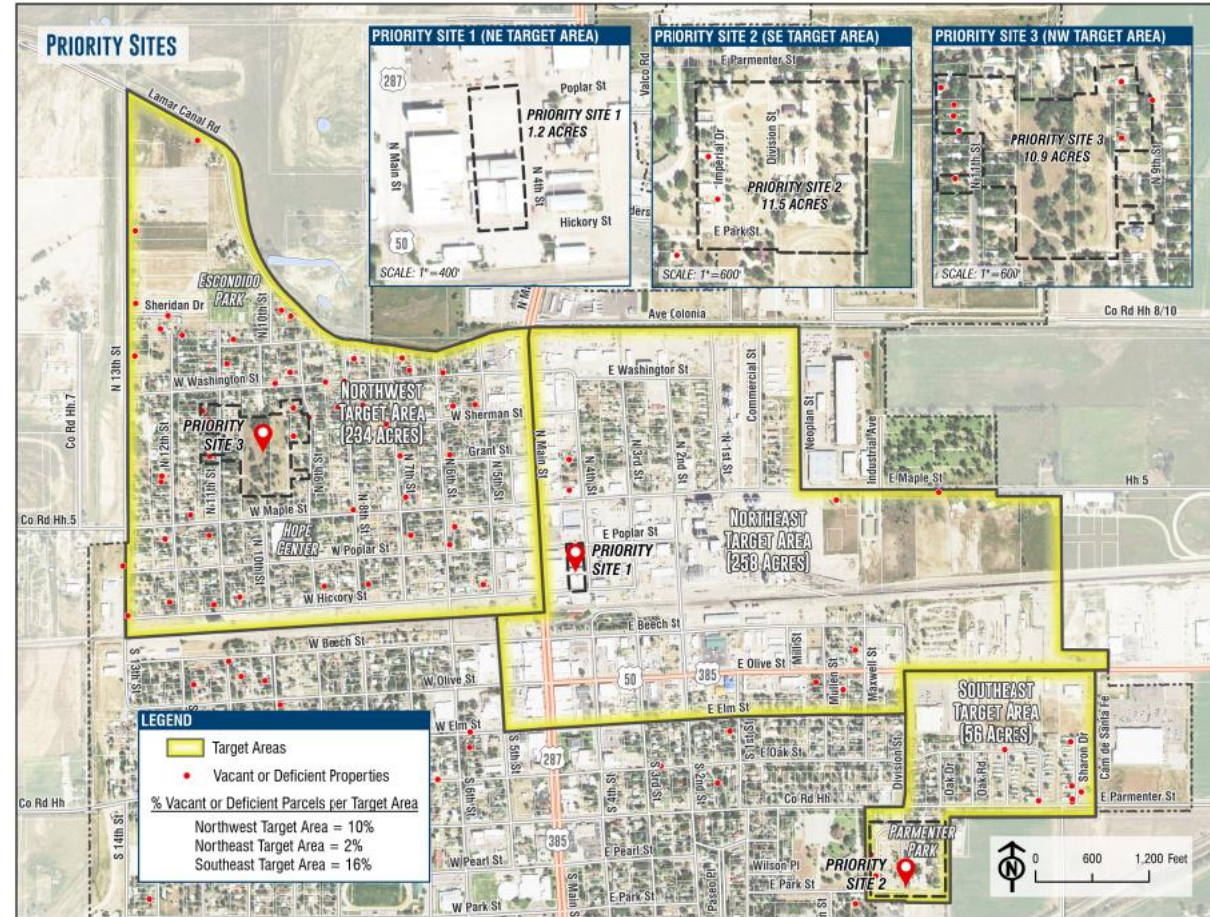
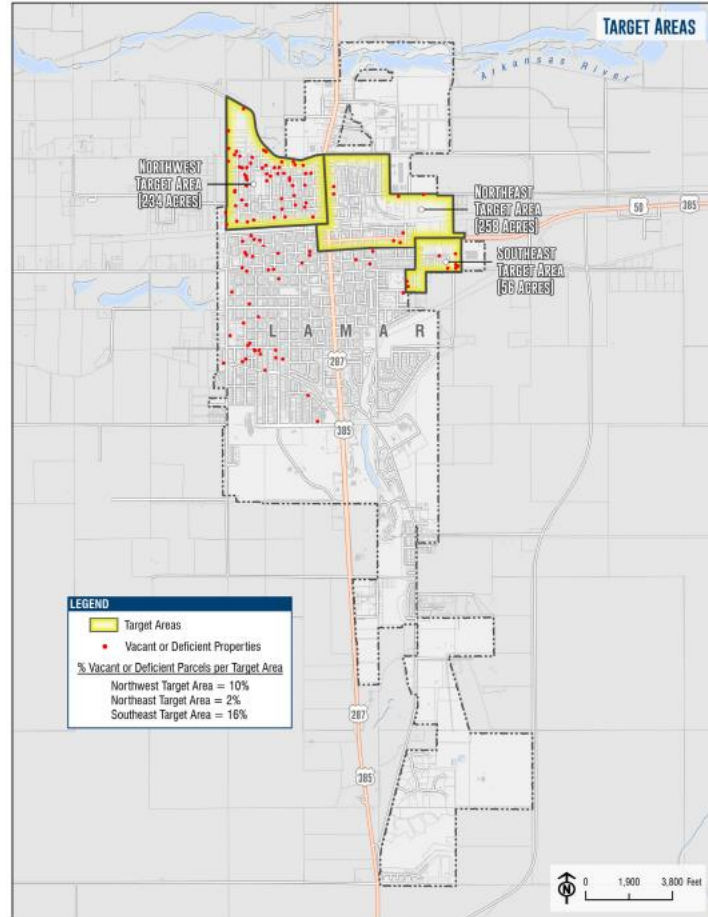


Priority Site:

- 201 E Parkhill Way:
 - 16-31-376-046-0000

Salt Lake County (2026 Coalition Grant)

Target Area Examples



Lamar, CO (2026 CWA Grant)

Description of Priority Brownfield Site(s) (CWA + RLF)

Provide an overview of the brownfield sites in the target area(s) with information such as the **number of sites, size, and environmental concerns**. Highlight **one or more priority sites and discuss why the site(s) is prioritized for assessment and reuse**. Include information such as past and current land uses, current site conditions (including structures), and potentially related environmental issues.



Description of Priority Brownfield Sites (Coalition)

Provide an overview of the brownfield sites in the target areas with information such as the **number of sites, size, and environmental concerns**. Highlight **at least one priority site in the lead member's target area and at least one priority site in each non-lead member's target area**. Discuss why the sites are prioritized for **assessment and reuse**. Include information such as past and current land uses, current site conditions (including structures), and potentially related environmental issues.



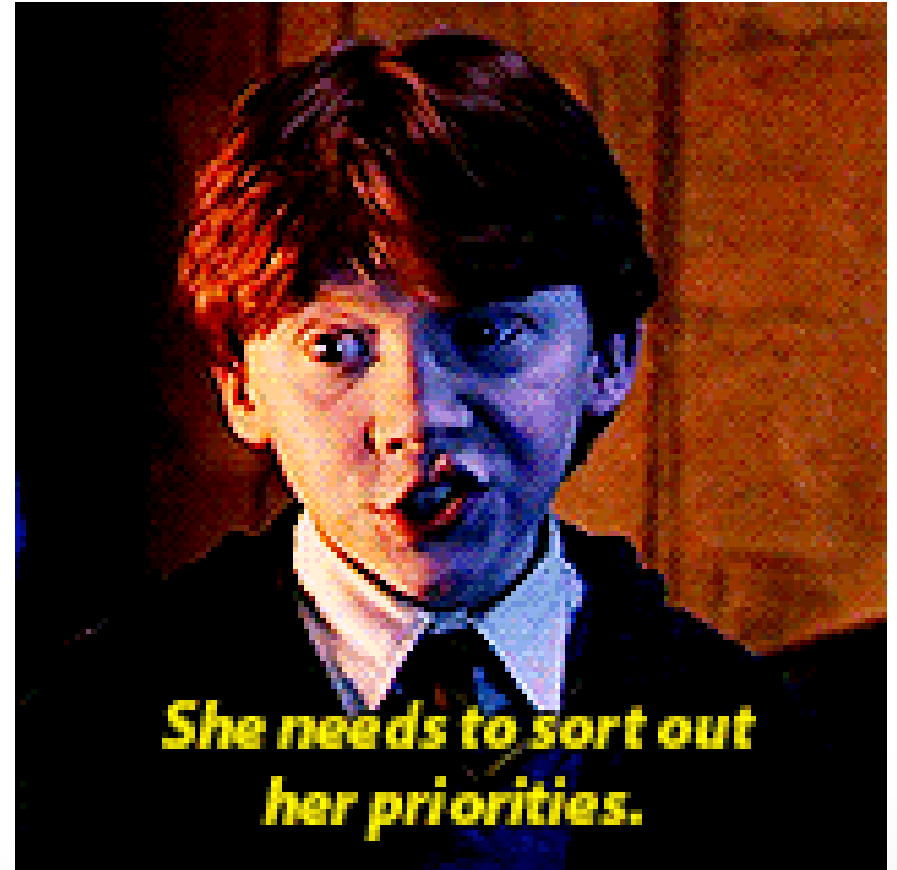
Description of Proposed Brownfield Site(s) (Cleanup)

Describe the property(ies) targeted for cleanup, characterizing known contamination and site conditions (including structures), and relevant past and current land uses.



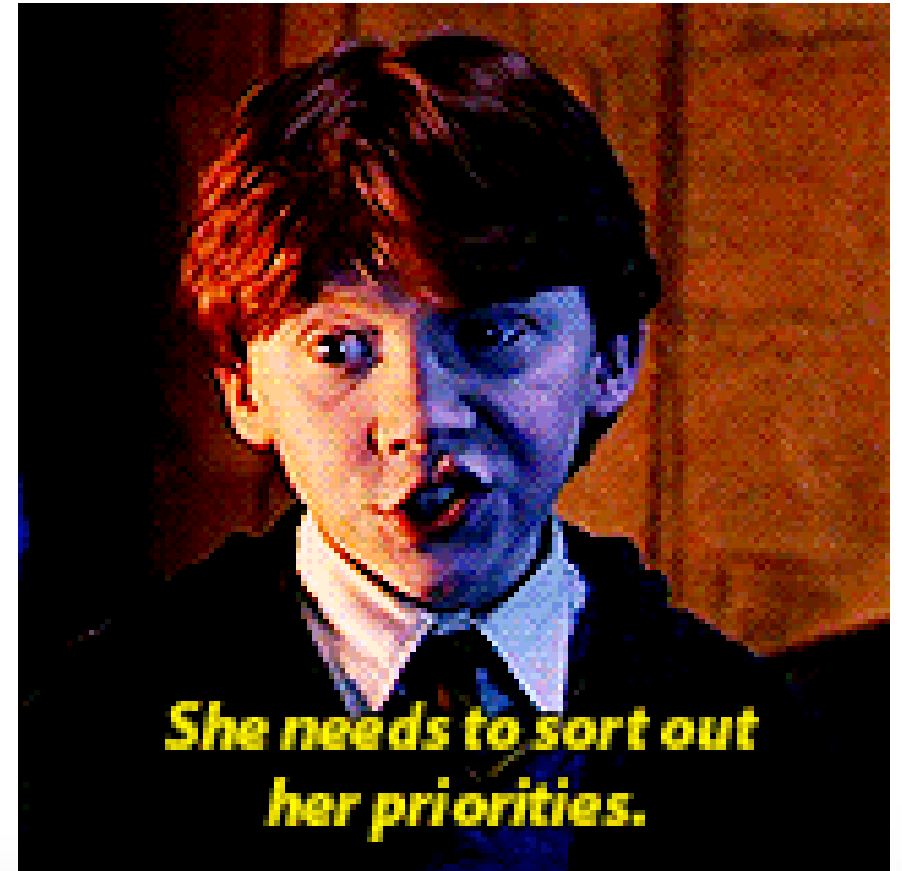
Priority Sites (CWA, RLF, & Coalition)

- Priority Sites are the most significant sites in your target area(s)
- Include 1-2 Priority Sites per Target Area and discuss in detail – don't just list every site
- **Should be directly related to the challenges you discuss and/or their proposed solutions**
- Can be publicly or privately owned
- You don't need property owner consent to discuss a site in your application, but it's recommended
- No penalty if you don't address the sites you discuss in your application if you are awarded



Priority Sites (CWA, RLF, & Coalition)

- Identify priority sites in your target area with past and current land uses and as much environmental information as you have available. Be specific yet concise.
 - Why are the sites a priority?
 - How do they impact the affected populations?
 - How will their reuse address the challenges you defined?
- If you have several priority sites, you can use a table format for the lower-priority sites, if desired



Proposed Sites (Cleanup)

- For cleanup grants, the Proposed Site is the site you are going to clean up
- You need to own the site and have liability protections under CERCLA
- You will be expected to discuss the site in more detail than in assessment grants
- The site and reuse should correspond to the brownfield challenges your community faces



How will these topics be used throughout my grant?

- If you run out of sites in your target areas, you may be able to extend grant funding to other parts of your geographic area (fairly rare)
- In the Community Need and Community Engagement section, you will use your target areas to show data (if available)
- Your budget will be informed by your priority sites and their needs
- “Data-Driven Hallmark Story”



We Want to Hear Your Feedback

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Topic 1: Breakout Discussion



Topic 2:
Identifying Project Partners
&
Formalizing Coalition Partners

Identifying Project Partners

Sections 2.e. and 2.f. (Project Involvement, Project Roles) of the Grant Guidelines (FY26)

The Narrative Criteria directs the grant applicant to:

“Identify the local organizations/entities/groups that will assist with this project.”

“Project involvement may be provided by a broad variety of entities, including, but not limited to, community-based organizations (e.g., neighborhood groups, citizen groups, business organizations, etc.), community liaisons representing residents directly affected by the project work, property owners, lenders, developers, cities/towns within a regional organization’s target area(s), entities that are a part of a formal partnership agreement (e.g., through an MOA), and the general public.”



Identifying Project Partners

Who will be your partners?

What will be their roles?



Identifying Project Partners

Select partners in your community with whom you've already successfully worked.



Identifying Project Partners

Be careful not to just pick friends as partners; the project might end poorly.



Identifying Project Partners

Partners should have a key interest, commitment, and role in the proposed project. For example, if your projected property reuse is housing, then a partner with expertise in housing would be a strong option. Similarly, if the project will assess properties in the downtown corridor, the local Chamber of Commerce might be a partner.



Identifying Project Partners

Unlikely partners can find success if working towards common goals.



Identifying Project Partners

The Review Criteria in the Grant Guidelines (FY26) indicate the applications will be scored on:

2.e. Project Involvement –“The degree to which the applicant involves a **variety** of **local** organizations/entities/groups that are **relevant** to the proposed project.”

2.f. Project Roles –“The degree to which each identified local organization/entity/ group will have a **meaningful role** in the project and the extent to which they will be **involved in decision-making** for site selection, cleanup, and future reuse of the brownfield sites . . .”



Identifying Project Partners

Variety

From the FY26 FAQs for Brownfield MARC Grants, E.4.

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-11/fy26-faqs_11-20-25.pdf:

“Examples of local organizations/entities/groups that may serve as project partners include (but are not limited to): **community-based organizations** (non-governmental civic and nonprofit organizations such as service clubs, veterans’ organizations, local universities, and community colleges or other education institutions, fraternal orders, youth organizations, watershed protection groups, and faith-based organizations); **community liaisons that represent residents directly affected by project work**; property owners that will benefit from the grant; local lenders that will assist with financing activities that will revitalize the brownfield site; and developers that have an interest in the proposed project.”



Identifying Project Partners

Roles

From the FY26 FAQs for Brownfield MARC Grants, E.5:

“Local partners can play a number of valuable supporting roles with regard to brownfield projects including (but not limited to):

- community engagement (e.g., identifying goals and interests of the local community to incorporate into project plans and soliciting input on the planned reuse of sites and other project activities);
- financial (e.g., hosting fundraising events);
- educational (e.g., the creation, reproduction, or distribution of project information to the community);
- direct on-the-ground assistance (e.g., assisting in the identification of sites for a community-wide assessment); and
- in-kind contributions of facilities, equipment, or materials (e.g., hosting public meetings).”



Identifying Project Partners

Meaningful Involvement

From the FY26 FAQs for Brownfield MARC Grants, E.6.:

“Meaningful involvement means that:

- a. people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- b. the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- c. community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process; and
- d. decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.”



Project Partners – Successful Example 1

Towner County Medical Center, Cando, ND

FY26 Cleanup Grant Application – 5 Partners

Cando Chamber of Commerce – Outreach with community; reuse planning of priority site through events such as farmers markets, family-friendly events, and overall promotion of the space.

North Star School – Outreach and education of youth and adults; reuse planning of the priority site. (*Note – future site use is anticipated to be greenspace development*)

Towner County Economic Development – Outreach and community collaboration.

Towner County Commissioners – Cleanup and reuse planning of the priority sites; outreach to in-kind support.

American Legion Hal Parker Post #79 – Outreach and community collaboration, especially with the veteran population.



Project Partners – Successful Example 2

City of Belgrade, MT

FY26 Multipurpose Grant Application – 12 Partners

Belgrade Chamber of Commerce – Property and business owner outreach.

TIF Advisory Committee – Will act as the brownfields steering committee. Will assist with prioritization, site selection decision making of additional sites for assessment and cleanup.

McCaw, DeVries, Steinhauer and Co. – Will respond to the RFP for the Belgrade Elevator which will contribute private financing to the redevelopment.

Belgrade School District – Outreach and community collaboration.

Snowy Mountain Development Corp. – Assist with leveraging additional resources such as CDBG and USDA Rural Development loans for property reuse and brownfields RLF.

Belgrade Community Coalition – Assist with gathering community input for reuse decision making.



Project Partners – Successful Example 2 (cont.)

City of Belgrade, MT

FY26 Multipurpose Grant Application – 12 Partners

Prospera (non-profit) – Assist with finding cleanup and redevelopment funding for specific projects.

Venture West Development – Will respond to the RFPs for Main Street Belgrade projects, investing private funds into the project.

Healthy Gallatin – Will assist with cleanup planning decision making to ensure health-related concerns are addressed for community members.

KSU TAB – Assist with redevelopment planning and community engagement.

BNSF – Provide access to the BNSF property for assessment. Has committed to abate the onsite building

Montana DEQ – Provide regulatory input and assist with voluntary cleanup program enrollement as needed for eligible cleanup sites.



Identifying Project Partners

Questions?



Formalizing Coalition Partners

“**Assessment Coalition Grants** are designed for one ‘lead’ eligible entity to partner with two to four eligible entities 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.” - FY26 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grants.



FY27 EPA Brownfield ARC Grants (Anticipated)

<u>Grant Type</u>	<u>Maximum Amount Per Grant</u>	<u>Estimated Awards</u>	<u>Total Per Grant Type</u>
Community-Wide Assessment	\$500,000	30	\$15M
Assessment Coalitions	\$1,000,000	13	\$13M
CWAGST	\$1,000,000	12	\$12M
Revolving Loan Fund	\$1,000,000	10	\$10M
Cleanup	\$500,000	28	\$14M
https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources			

Formalizing Coalition Partners

Entities eligible to be non-lead members of Assessment Coalitions are the same as those eligible to be lead members:

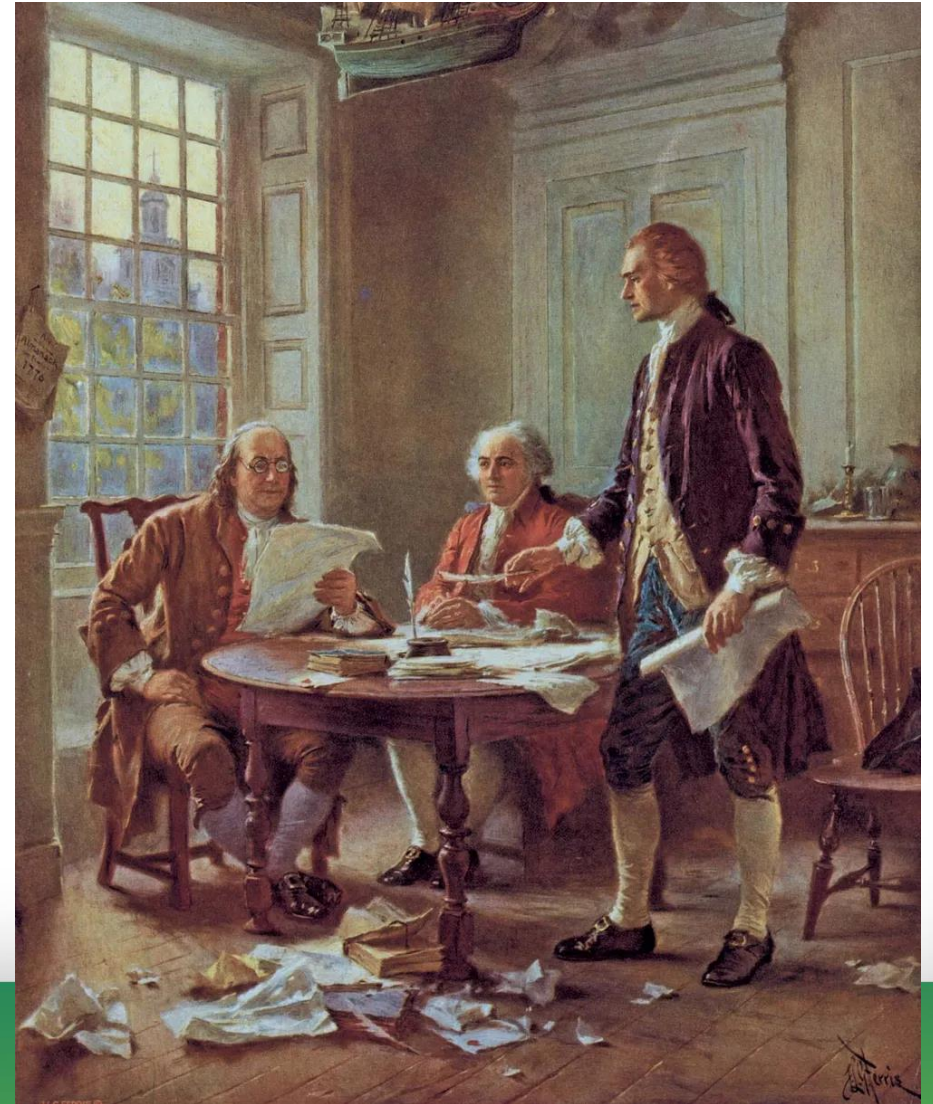
- General Purpose Unit of Local Government (ex. – City, County, Parish, Township)
- Regional Council established to function as legal entity (ex. – Council of Governments)
- State
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe (with a few exceptions)
- Government entity created by State Legislature
- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization
- LLC if all managing members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Other



Formalizing Coalition Partners

Lead and non-lead coalition members must sign an Assessment Coalition **Memorandum of Agreement** (MOA) before the expenditure of any grant funds.

EPA has posted a model MOA Template at <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-04/fy2009moa.pdf>.



Formalizing Coalition Partners

- The Assessment Coalition Grant application must identify unique Target Areas (each with at least one Priority Site) for each member.
- Jurisdictions of the members may overlap, but the Target Areas must not.
- The lead coalition member must have Legal Authority to Expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead coalition members. In cases where the jurisdiction of the lead member does not encompass the geographic boundaries of non-lead members, the grant application must include documentation of this authority.



Formalizing Coalition Partners

Assessment Coalition members may not be an agency or instrumentality of themselves. Examples of this would include a county and the county's redevelopment agency; or two municipal departments in the same municipality.

For more information on Assessment Coalitions, visit the FY26 FAQs for Brownfield MARC Grants, beginning at J.6.

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-11/fy26-faqs_11-20-25.pdf:



Formalizing Coalition Partners

Questions?



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Topic 2: Breakout Discussion





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Thank You

For joining us for this webinar. Please get in touch if you have any questions or comments: katelucas@ksu.edu

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