TAB Technical Assistance to Brownfields | Kansas State University



ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANT

Guidelines

Updated November 2026

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Applications Due: **Thursday, January 21, 2027**

Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization

FY27 GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANTS (**ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANTS**)

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-OLEM-OBLR-26-03

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1. Basic Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR)

FY27 GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANTS (ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANTS)

Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, and Cleanup (MARC) Grant Application Resources

A. Executive Summary

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities to prevent, inventory, assess, and plan for the cleanup and reuse of brownfield sites. Eligible entities include government organizations, Federally recognized Tribes, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Please see Section 2.A. for the complete list of eligible entities. Applications must meet all threshold eligibility criteria in Section 2.B. to be considered eligible to receive an Assessment Coalition Grant.

Assessment Grants provide funding for developing inventories of brownfield sites, prioritizing sites, conducting community involvement activities, conducting planning, conducting site assessments,[1] developing site-specific cleanup plans, and developing reuse plans related to brownfield sites. A portion of the Assessment Grant funding must be used to conduct site assessments. Assessment Grant funds may not be used to conduct cleanup activities.

B. Key Information

Opportunity Number:

EPA-OLEM-OBLR-26-03

Assistance Listing:

66.818

Announcement Type:

Initial

Funding Available:

$13,000,000

Number of Awards:

Approximately 13

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.

The lead entity submits one application on behalf of the coalition members and may request funding up to $1,000,000 to address sites contaminated (or potentially contaminated) by hazardous substances,[2] pollutants, or contaminants, including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum, and/or petroleum.[3] To be eligible for Brownfield Grant funding, sites must meet the definition of a brownfield

[1] Environmental site assessments must be performed in accordance with EPA's All Appropriate Inquiries Final Rule (40 CFR Part 312).
[2] Hazardous substance sites eligible for funding are those sites with the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, sites that are contaminated with controlled substances, or that are mine-scarred lands. For more information, please refer to the FY27 *Brownfields Frequently Asked Questions*.
[3] Petroleum sites eligible for funding are those sites that meet the definition set forth in CERCLA § 101(39)(D)(ii)(II), as further described in Section 1.3.2. in the *Information on Sites Eligible for Brownfields Funding under CERCLA § 104(k)*.

site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) § 101(39) and site eligibility requirements as described in the Information on Sites Eligible for Brownfields Funding under CERCLA § 104(k). For the purposes of this funding opportunity, the cost of site-specific activities carried out at each approved, eligible site may not exceed $200,000 per site.[4] EPA will determine site eligibility after the grant award and prior to expending grant funds at any site. Assessment Coalitions will be required to assess at least two sites in each coalition member's geographic boundary.

Before expending or drawing down awarded funds, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) must document the coalition's site selection process. Coalition members should establish relationships and define roles to achieve the project goals. The purpose of the MOA is for coalition members to agree on the distribution of funds and the mechanisms for implementing the assessment work.

Please carefully review Section 4.D. of these guidelines, Section IV.E. "Coalitions, Contracts, and Subawards" of EPA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Clauses, and Section D. in the FY27 Brownfields Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to ensure that contractors (including individual consultants) are procured in compliance with the fair and open competition requirements. Also, carefully review the EPA Subaward Policy and Subaward Frequent Questions for establishing and managing subawards.

A checklist of mandatory documents is in Section 4.A.

For the purposes of this NOFO, the term "grant" refers to the cooperative agreement that EPA will award to a successful applicant.

C. Key Dates

November 9, 2026 1:00 pm ET	National Outreach Webinar
January 21, 2027 11:59 pm ET	Application Submission Deadline
June 2027	Anticipated Notification of Selection
September 2027	Anticipated Award Notification

D. Funding Details

It is anticipated that up to **13 awards** will be made under this announcement. The amount of funding is expected to be **$13,000,000**, depending on Agency funding levels, the quality of applications received, agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. Awards funded under this opportunity are expected to have a **4-year** project period. Applicants may apply for up to $1,000,000 of EPA funds. (Note, applicants may also request an amount that is less than $1,000,000.) Funding estimates are approximations that are subject to change.

EPA reserves the right to:

- make additional awards under this funding announcement consistent with Agency policy and guidance if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any

[4] As provided in CERCLA § 104(k)(5)(A)(i)(II), EPA may approve a waiver that allows recipients to use up to $350,000 per site based on the anticipated level of contamination, size, or status of ownership of the site.

additional selections for awards will be made no later than 6 months after the original selection decisions.
- to make no awards under the funding opportunity.
- partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If a project is partially funded, it will be done in a manner that maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.
- incrementally fund applications based on funding availability and/or satisfactory performance.
- adjust funding levels for priorities, set-asides, or other types of funding categories.
- increase or decrease (including decreasing to zero) the total number and amount of awards under each funding category or change the ratio of assistance agreements it awards among the funding categories.

The actual award amounts and number of projects awarded may differ from the estimated amounts.

E. Agency Contact Information

Further information, if needed, may be obtained from the EPA contact(s) indicated below.

Technical Contact:	**Elyse Salinas,** brownfields@epa.gov
Eligibility Contact:	**See Regional Contacts below**
Electronic Submissions Contact:	**Grants.gov, 1-800-518-4726, support@grants.gov**
Regional Contact(s):	**EPA Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)** Meena Mortazavi, Mortazavi.Meena@epa.gov, (617) 918-1488 **EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI)** Esmeralda Vargas, Vargas.Esmeralda@epa.gov, (212) 637-4391 **EPA Region 3 (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)** Anthony Geiger, Geiger.Anthony@epa.gov, (215) 814-3367 **EPA Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)** Aditi Chakravarty, Chakravarty.Aditi@epa.gov, (404) 562-9515 **EPA Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)** Riley Jenkins, Jenkins.Riley@epa.gov, (312) 886-7178 **EPA Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)** Mike Kennedy, Kennedy.Michael@epa.gov, (214) 665-7125 **EPA Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)** Bobbie Pennington, R7_Brownfields@epa.gov, (913) 551-7209 **EPA Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)** Joann Jeplawy, Jeplawy.Joann@epa.gov, (303) 312-6715 **EPA Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, Pacific Island Territories)** Jennifer Tung, Tung.Jennifer@epa.gov, (415) 972-3698 **EPA Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA)** Meredith Lightbody, Lightbody.Meredith@epa.gov, (206) 553-6910

2. Eligibility

Applications must meet all requirements in this section, including the submission of responses to the Section 2.B. threshold eligibility criteria, to be considered eligible. Applicants should direct eligibility questions to the Regional Contact in Section 1.E. well in advance of the application deadline.

A. Eligible Applicants

Only these types of organizations may apply as a lead or non-lead member of an Assessment Coalition Grant. Organization types are consistent with definitions at CERCLA § 104(k)(1) and 2 CFR § 200.1:

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government. Local government means a county, borough, municipality, city, town, township, parish, local public authority (including any public housing agency under the United States Housing Act of 1937), school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (whether or not incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), and any other agency or instrumentality of a multi-, regional, or intra-State or local government.
- Land Clearance Authority or another quasi-governmental entity that operates under the supervision and control of, or as an agent of, a General Purpose Unit of Local Government.
- Government Entity Created by State Legislature.
- Regional Council established under governmental authority or 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.[5]
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe[6] other than in Alaska. (The exclusion of Tribes from Alaska, with the exception of the Metlakatla Indian Community as noted below, from Brownfields Grant eligibility is statutory at CERCLA § 104(k)(1). Intertribal Consortia, comprised of eligible Indian Tribes, are eligible for funding in accordance with EPA's policy for funding intertribal consortia published in the *Federal Register* on November 4, 2002, at 67 Fed. Reg. 67181. This policy also may be obtained from your Regional Brownfields Contact listed in Section 1.E.)
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation and Alaska Native Village Corporation as those terms are defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 and following) and the Metlakatla Indian Community. For more information, please refer to the FY27 FAQs.
- Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of title 26 (the Internal Revenue Code (IRC)) and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that title.
- Limited liability corporation in which all managing members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the IRC or limited liability corporations

[5] As defined in CERCLA § 101(27), the definition of State for purposes of the Brownfields Program "include[s] the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction."

[6] There are currently 575 federally recognized Tribes, and there are many names that these sovereign nations use to describe their culture, history, and geography, including Tribe, Village, Nation, Band, and Pueblo. For the purpose of these guidelines, the EPA Brownfields Program uses "Tribe" and "Tribal Nation" as all-encompassing terms.

whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the IRC.
- Limited partnership in which all general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the IRC or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(a) of the IRC.
- Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the IRC.

Note, individuals, for-profit organizations, and nonprofit organizations that are **not** tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) are ineligible to receive Brownfields Assessment Grants. Organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the IRC may be eligible for a Brownfields Assessment Grant if they also qualify as an eligible entity type listed above and demonstrate that they do not lobby the Federal government.[7]

B. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

Applications must meet the following threshold eligibility criteria to be considered eligible to receive a Community-wide Assessment Grant under this NOFO. The information you submit will be used by EPA solely to make eligibility determinations for Brownfield Grants and is not legally binding for other purposes, including federal, State, or Tribal enforcement actions. Only those applications that pass all the threshold eligibility criteria will be evaluated against the review criteria in Section 6.B. of this announcement.

EPA staff will respond to questions regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about this announcement. For purposes of the threshold eligibility review, an EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program representative, if necessary, may seek clarification of applicant information that is included in the application and/or consider information from other sources, including EPA files. Such communications shall not be used to correct application deficiencies or material omissions, materially alter the application or project proposed, or discuss changes to the applicant's responses to any review or selection criteria.

To maintain the integrity of the competition process, EPA staff cannot meet with individual applicants to discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft applications, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to the Narrative Criteria Responses. EPA's limitations on staff involvement with grant applicants are described in EPA's Policy for Competition of Assistance Agreements.

i. Number of Applications EPA will Accept:

   a. Applicants can only apply for one Assessment Coalition Grant. Entities that are applying for, or are a non-lead member of, an FY27 Assessment Coalition Grant under this NOFO may not also be members of another FY27 Assessment Coalition, nor apply for an FY27 Community-wide Assessment Grant, or an FY27 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes. Additionally, non-lead members of an FY27 Assessment Coalition Grant may not submit an application for an FY27 Revolving Loan Fund Grant or an FY27 Cleanup Grant.

[7] The Lobbying Disclosure Act (2 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.) provides requirements for the disclosure of lobbying activities to influence the Federal Government.

b. Entities with an open award (or pending an award for) a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes are not eligible to apply for Assessment Grant funding under this funding opportunity or be a non-lead member of an FY27 coalition.

c. Applicants may not submit multiple applications (i.e., submit applications for different projects) under this NOFO. EPA considers departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the same State or city governments to be the same applicant if they are directly supervised or controlled by the same elected/appointed executive (even if they have different Unique Entity Identifier numbers). For example, a corporation formed under State or local law to perform redevelopment activities on behalf of or in support of a local government that is primarily staffed by employees of that local government will be considered an agency or instrumentality of that local government. These eligibility determinations are made on a case-by-case basis since State and local laws vary. For Tribes, EPA defers to the Tribe's interpretation of a department, agency, or instrumentality being the same or a separate entity.

If the same applicant exceeds the number or type of applications allowable, EPA will contact the applicant to determine which application(s) to withdraw from the competition. In the absence of application withdrawal, EPA will accept the first application received in Grants.gov and deem all other applications submitted by that applicant ineligible.

If an applicant submits the same application multiple times, unless told otherwise by the applicant, EPA will review the most recently received application in Grants.gov.

ii. Ineligible Activities: If an application is submitted that includes any ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding.

iii. Substantial Compliance: Applications must substantially comply with the submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section 4 of this announcement or they will be rejected. See Section 4.A. for the application submission checklist.

iv. Risk Review: Applications from entities that are excluded from participation in Federal Assistance programs at the time of selection will be deemed ineligible for funding. To determine this, EPA will check SAM.gov for suspended or debarred entities that apply for this funding opportunity as per 2 CFR § 200.206(d).

For applications from entities that are not suspended or debarred at the time of selection, EPA will conduct a risk review as per Section 6.D. of the NOFO after the selection process and before awards are made.

v. Assessment Coalition Grants:

Assessment Coalition Grants are designed for one "lead" eligible entity to partner with two to four eligible entities (i.e., 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. The lead member submits an application on behalf of the coalition members.

If selected, the lead member will be the point of contact for coalition members and will receive and administer the grant. The lead member is accountable to EPA for effectively carrying out the scope of work and for financial management of the grant. After the application deadline, neither the lead entity nor the non-lead coalition members can be substituted or changed. If selected for funding, the lead member must partner with the coalition members named in the application.

Before expending or drawing down awarded funds, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) must document the coalition's site selection process. Coalition members should establish relationships and define roles to achieve the project goals. The purpose of the MOA is for coalition members to agree on the distribution of funds and the mechanisms for implementing the assessment work.

vi. **Required Eligibility Documentation: Responses to each item below are required and must be included in the application submitted to EPA. Threshold eligibility criteria responses and documentation do not have a page limit.**

1. **Eligibility of Lead and Non-Lead Coalition Members**
The applicant must have at least two, but not more than four, non-lead coalition members. Applications that include fewer than two eligible non-lead coalition members will be deemed ineligible for an FY27 Assessment Coalition Grant.

   a. From the list of eligible entities in Section 2.A. *Eligible Applicants*, **indicate** the applicant type for the lead member and each non-lead member. **Provide** information that demonstrates how the lead member and each non-lead member are eligible entities for an Assessment Grant.

      - For entities that are villages, towns, cities, counties, Tribes, or States, affirm that the organization is eligible for funding.

      - For government entities other than villages, towns, cities, counties, Tribes, or States, attach documentation of your eligibility (e.g., resolutions, statutes, etc.).

      - For Intertribal consortia, attach documentation that meets the requirements in 40 CFR § 35.504(a) and (c). All members of the Intertribal consortium must authorize the submission of an application.

      - For nonprofit organizations, or organizations comprised of nonprofit organizations, provide documentation as an attachment to the Narrative Criteria Responses demonstrating tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC.

      - For qualified community development entities, provide documentation as an attachment to the Narrative Criteria Responses certifying the organization's status.

   b. All applicants: **Indicate** if the lead member's organization or any of the non-lead members' organizations are exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the IRC. *Note,*

villages, towns, cities, counties, Tribes, or States should respond N/A. All other entities must indicate yes or no.

- If yes, **indicate** if the organization(s) lobbies the Federal government. *Note, if a 501(c)(4) organization lobbies the Federal government, the organization is ineligible for an EPA Brownfields Grant.*

- If yes, but the organization(s) does not lobby the Federal government, **attach** a legal opinion that states that the organization does not engage in lobbying activities.[8] *Note, organizations with 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status that do not lobby the Federal government must also qualify as an entity type listed in Section 2.A. to be eligible as a lead or non-lead member of an Assessment Coalition Grant.*

The non-lead coalition members may not be an agency or instrumentality of or affiliated with **the lead member** (for example, a county and the redevelopment authority of the same county), 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 through a charter or another official action.

A non-lead member may not be an agency or instrumentality of or affiliated with **another non-lead member** in the same coalition. The non-lead members must be separate legal entities. For example, the following may not be members of the same coalition:

1. Different departments within the same unit of government;
2. A unit of government and an affiliated nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC that the city controls; or
3. Affiliated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations (e.g., nonprofit organizations that have the same board of directors or staff). This does not preclude separately incorporated chapters of a national nonprofit organization from being non-lead members of coalitions in different geographic areas. For example, an organization that is a national nonprofit could have local chapters that are separately incorporated and have their own board of directors and staff. Local chapter "A" conducts programming in the State of "Y." Local chapter "B" conducts programming in the State of "Z." Both chapters may be non-lead members of different FY27 Assessment Coalition Grant applications.

2. Target Areas

In the Narrative Criteria Responses, the applicant must identify a target area for each coalition member (i.e., the lead and non-lead members). The target areas may not overlap, and the target areas must be in at least three distinct municipalities or jurisdictions (e.g., town, city, or Tribe).

Provide a response to Section 4.B.5. in the Application Information Sheet to address this threshold criterion. On the Application Information Sheet, **identify** the lead member's target area and the target area of each non-lead member.

[8] The Lobbying Disclosure Act (2 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.) provides requirements for the disclosure of lobbying activities to influence the Federal Government.

3. **Non-lead Member(s) that Never Received an EPA MARC Grant or only Received EPA MARC Grant(s) that Closed[9] in 2015 or Earlier**
   The coalition must include at least one non-lead member that has never received an EPA Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, or Cleanup (MARC) Grant, or at least one non-lead member whose most recent EPA Brownfields MARC Grant closed in 2015 or earlier.

   Indicate which non-lead coalition member(s) has never received an EPA Brownfields MARC Grant, or whose most recent EPA Brownfields MARC Grant closed in 2015 or earlier. Applicants may search the Brownfields Grant Fact Sheet Tool to obtain information on entities selected to receive an EPA Brownfields MARC Grant. Applicants may contact their Regional Brownfields Contact listed in Section 1.E. to confirm whether a non-lead coalition member received an EPA Brownfields MARC Grant that closed in 2015 or earlier.

4. **Legal Authority to Expend Grant Funds on Behalf of Non-Lead Coalition Members**
   The lead member must have legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.

   a. **Attest** that the lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.

   b. For an entity (i.e., a city, town, etc.) with a geographic boundary[10] that does not encompass the geographic boundaries of the non-lead members, **identify** the relevant law(s), ordinance(s), or other documentation to demonstrate the lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds outside of their geographic boundary.

5. **Coalition Agreement**
   Each non-lead coalition member must submit a signed letter to the grant applicant (the lead coalition member) in which they agree to be part of the coalition. An active Memorandum of Agreement that includes a description and role of each coalition member may serve in place of the individual coalition members' letters. Include the document(s), as an attachment, in your application. Documentation that is not included with the application will render that non-lead member ineligible from participating in the coalition, and potentially render the entire application ineligible if there are fewer than two non-lead members.

6. **Community Involvement**
   Provide information that demonstrates how you intend to inform and involve the community and other stakeholders in the planning, implementation, and other brownfield assessment activities described in your application.

7. **Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds**
   Indicate which, if any, of the coalition members (i.e., the lead and non-lead members) have an open[11] EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant or Multipurpose Grant.

[9] For the purposes of this requirement, the term "closed" refers to a grant period of performance that has ended.
[10] The geographic boundary may be the jurisdiction of a unit of government.
[11] For the purposes of this requirement, the term "open" refers to a grant period of performance that has not ended.

Current EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients must demonstrate that payment has been received from EPA (also known as "drawn down"), and drawn down funds have been disbursed for at least 70.00% of the funding for each Assessment and Multipurpose cooperative agreement they have with EPA by **October 1, 2026**, in order to apply for Assessment Grant funding under this funding opportunity.

To demonstrate this, applicants must **attach** a copy of a financial record displaying the amount of cooperative agreement funds drawn down and corresponding dates (e.g., a report from the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) or general ledger entries documenting receipts for funds drawn down from ASAP or the required State financial system). If necessary, applicants may contact the assigned EPA Project Officer for the cooperative agreement(s) or Elyse Salinas (brownfields@epa.gov) to obtain draw down information from EPA's grant financial database (Compass Data Warehouse). Non-State applicants should be aware that if they receive an award, they must comply with EPA's General Terms and Conditions, including the requirement that funds must be substantially disbursed within 5 business days of draw down.

8. **Contractors and Named Subrecipients**
Provide information about contractors and named subrecipient eligibility as described below.

Applicants that plan to use contractors and/or subrecipients in their application or the subsequent award should review Section 4.D. to ensure they comply with all applicable competitive procurement and/or subaward requirements.

- **Contractors.**
State, territory,[12] Tribal, and eligible Tribal entity applicants must **disclose** whether they have already selected/hired a contractor that will be compensated with EPA funds made available under this NOFO and whether they followed the same policies and procedures they use for procurements with non-federal funds.[13] If such policies and procedures do not exist, the applicant must also respond to the requirements below.

  Applicants (other than State, territory, Tribal, and eligible Tribal entity applicants that followed the same policies and procedures they use for procurements with non-federal funds) 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

[12] As defined in 2 CFR § 200.1, the definition of State for purposes of federal procurement standards applicable to the Brownfields Program "means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any agency or instrumentality thereof exclusive of local governments."
[13] Consistent with 2 CFR § 200.317, State and Tribal applicants (including eligible Tribal entities) must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements with non-federal funds, as well as the requirements in 2 CFR §§200.321, 200.322, 200.323, and 200.327 and 40 CFR Part 33. If such policies and procedures do not exist, then the federal procurement standards at 2 CFR §§ 200.318 through 200.327 apply and must be followed.

under a "dual procurement process" for both grant proposal writing and grant implementation services), applicants must **describe**:

- information on **where and when** the solicitation document (e.g., 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.

- **Named Subrecipients.**
  All applicants, **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 at the time of application submission.

Failure to provide the requested information will result in rejection of the application. EPA staff may contact the applicant to clarify issues or obtain additional information before making a final eligibility determination.

Please see Section 6 for additional information on threshold eligibility review.

C. Cost Sharing

Consistent with CERCLA § 104(k)(10), cost sharing and matching funds are not required to be eligible to apply to this funding opportunity. As provided in 2 CFR § 200.1, voluntary committed cost sharing is when an applicant voluntarily proposes to legally commit to provide costs or contributions to support the project when a cost share is not required. Please note only Federal funds should be listed on the SF-424, SF-424A, and Budget Detail. **Voluntary cost share will not be accepted under this competition**.

3. Program Description

A. Purpose, Priorities, and Activities

1. Purpose

EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program provides funds to empower States, Tribal Nations, communities, and nonprofit organizations to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites.

A **brownfield site is defined** in CERCLA § 101(39) as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance,

pollutant, contaminant, controlled substance, petroleum, or petroleum product, or is mine-scarred land.[14]

A critical part of EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program is to ensure that residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and environmental contamination have an opportunity to benefit from brownfields redevelopment. EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program is committed to helping communities revitalize brownfield properties, mitigate potential health risks, and restore economic vitality.

As described in Section 6 of this announcement, applications will be evaluated based on the extent to which the applicant demonstrates: a vision for the reuse and redevelopment of brownfield sites and a strategy for leveraging resources to help accomplish the vision; the environmental, social, health, and economic needs and benefits of the target areas; strong community engagement; reasonable costs, eligible tasks, and appropriate use of grant funding; the capacity for managing and successfully implementing the cooperative agreement; and other factors.

2. Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

Assessment Coalition Grant funds can be used for the direct costs associated with the inventory, site prioritization, community involvement, site reuse planning, assessment, and cleanup planning for brownfield sites. A portion of the Assessment Grant funding must be used to conduct site assessments.[15] For examples of grant project accomplishments across the country, please see the EPA Brownfield Grant Recipients Success Stories.

Site Eligibility

The Assessment Coalition may address sites contaminated (or potentially contaminated) by hazardous substances,[16] pollutants, or contaminants, including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum, and/or petroleum.[17] To be eligible for Brownfield Grant funding, sites must meet the definition of a brownfield site under CERCLA § 101(39) and site eligibility requirements as described in the Information on Sites Eligible for Brownfields Funding under CERCLA § 104(k). For the purposes of this funding opportunity, the cost of site-specific activities carried out at each approved, eligible site may not exceed $200,000 per site.[18] EPA will determine site eligibility after the grant award and prior to expending grant funds at any site. Assessment Coalitions will be required to assess at least two sites in each coalition member's geographic boundary.

Conducting Brownfields Planning & Developing Site Reuse Plans

[14] The *Understanding Brownfields Fact Sheet Series* is available at www.epa.gov/brownfields/understanding-brownfields.

[15] Environmental site assessments must be performed in accordance with EPA's All Appropriate Inquiries Final Rule (40 CFR Part 312).

[16] Hazardous substance sites eligible for funding are those sites with the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, sites that are contaminated with controlled substances, or that are mine-scarred lands. For more information, please refer to the FY27 FAQs.

[17] Petroleum sites eligible for funding are those sites that meet the definition set forth in CERCLA § 101(39)(D)(ii)(II), as further described in Section 1.3.2. in the *Information on Sites Eligible for Brownfields Funding under CERCLA § 104(k)*.

[18] As provided in CERCLA § 104(k)(5)(A)(i)(II), EPA may approve a waiver that allows recipients to use up to $350,000 per site based on the anticipated level of contamination, size, or status of ownership of the site.

Successful brownfields reuse and redevelopment often depend on early consideration of the range of potential future uses for each brownfield site. Local community priorities, market conditions, infrastructure availability, environmental contamination, public health issues, and local ordinances shape brownfield site reuse opportunities. Having a site reuse plan grounded in these local conditions will directly influence how that site is characterized, assessed, and cleaned up.

Where multiple sites are connected through location, infrastructure, economic, social, and environmental conditions, EPA encourages communities to take an area-wide approach to planning for the assessment, cleanup, and reuse of these brownfield sites. This focus on multiple brownfield sites will result in more coordinated strategies for cleanup and area revitalization versus a site-by-site focus. For more information on site reuse plans and examples of eligible planning activities, please refer to the FY27 FAQs and Planning Program Fact Sheets.

Participant Support Costs

Participant support costs, as defined in 2 CFR § 200.1, are allowable under Assessment Grants. Examples of potentially allowable participant support costs include stipends for attendees at community meetings, attendee travel to community meetings, or childcare expenses to encourage attendance at community meetings. Please refer to the FY27 FAQs for additional details on the use of participant support costs.

A community liaison can serve as a key resource to help ensure the community members' goals and interests are reflected in the planned reuse of individual brownfield sites as well as the revitalization of the areas in which they live, work, play, learn, and pray. In addition to the eligible uses of participant support costs described above, recipients may use a portion of the Assessment Grant for eligible participant support costs associated with a community liaison(s) who is not an employee of the grant recipient or an employee of a non-lead member's organization. This may include reasonable stipends to compensate an individual community member's time and travel costs for participating in project-related meetings (e.g., meetings with the community, meetings held by a brownfields advisory board, etc.) and time associated with other specific tasks that are directly tied to related community engagement efforts. Note that stipends may only be paid for actual time spent working on tasks associated with the project and must not duplicate support provided through other Federal, State, Tribal, or local programs.

In their project descriptions, applicants should describe the process they will follow for determining the amounts of allowable stipends, procedures for accounting for participant support cost payments (including receipts), and procedures for documenting that the costs are allowable and do not duplicate other support for the individual(s). Additional information on participant support costs is available in EPA's Guidance on Participant Support Costs.

In addition to direct costs associated with the inventory, site prioritization, community involvement, site reuse planning, assessment, and cleanup planning for brownfield sites, Assessment Grant funds may be used for:

i. Direct costs associated with programmatic management of the grant, such as required performance reporting and environmental oversight.

   All costs charged to Assessment Grants must be consistent with the requirements at 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E.

ii. A local government (as defined in 2 CFR § 200.1, *Local Government*, and summarized in Section 2.A. of these guidelines and the Health Monitoring Fact Sheet) may use up to 10% of its grant funds for the following activities:
    a. health monitoring of populations exposed to hazardous substances from a brownfield site; and
    b. monitoring and enforcement of any institutional control used to prevent human exposure to any hazardous substance from a brownfield site.

iii. A portion of the Brownfields Grant may be used to purchase environmental insurance. (See the FY27 FAQs for additional information on purchasing environmental insurance.)

3. Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds
Grant funds cannot be used for the payment of:

i. Site cleanup activities;

ii. Direct costs for proposal preparation;

iii. a penalty or fine;

iv. a federal cost share requirement consistent with 2 CFR § 200.306(b)(5) (i.e., a cost share required by other federal funds unless there is authority in another Federal statute to use Federal funds for cost share);

v. administrative costs, including all indirect costs and direct costs for grant administration, in excess of five (5) percent of the total amount of EPA grant funding, with the exception of financial and performance reporting costs (which are considered allowable programmatic costs and not subject to the 5% limitation);

vi. a response cost at a brownfield site for which the recipient of the grant or a subaward is potentially liable under CERCLA § 107;

vii. a cost of compliance with any federal law, excluding the cost of compliance with laws applicable to the cleanup; or

viii. unallowable costs (e.g., lobbying) under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E.

See the FY27 FAQs for additional information on ineligible grant activities and unallowable costs.

4. Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes
EPA requires that applicants adequately describe environmental outputs (performance measures) and outcomes to be achieved under assistance agreements.[19] Applicants must include specific statements describing the environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined outputs and, to

[19] *EPA Order 5700.7, EPA's Policy for Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements* is available at www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements.

the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes that will demonstrate how the project will contribute to EPA's goals and objectives described below in Section 3.B.

Applicants are required to describe how funding will help EPA achieve environmental outputs and outcomes in their Narrative Criteria Responses in Section 6.B. Outputs and outcomes specific to each project will be identified as deliverables in the negotiated workplan if the application is selected for award. Recipients will be expected to report progress toward the attainment of expected project outputs and outcomes during the project performance period. Outputs and outcomes are defined as follows:

i. Outputs

The term "outputs" refers to an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product(s) related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the project period. The expected outputs for the grants awarded under these guidelines may include, but are not limited to, the number of brownfield sites identified in inventories, development of an area-wide plan, number of Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, number of community meetings held, and number of Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) completed.

ii. Outcomes

The term "outcomes" refers to the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out the activities under the grant. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic; must be qualitative or quantitative, and may not necessarily be achievable during the project period. Expected outcomes of Brownfield Grants include the number of jobs created and funding leveraged through the economic reuse of sites; the number of acres made ready for reuse; acres of greenspace created for communities; and the minimized exposure to hazardous substances and petroleum contamination.

EPA will evaluate whether recipients have made sufficient progress in implementing the environmental outputs outlined in the cooperative agreement 18 months from the date of award. Additional details on sufficient progress and Brownfield Programmatic Requirements are in Section 8.D.

5. Leveraging

Leveraging is generally when an applicant commits to contributing additional funds or resources, either from its own assets or from third-party sources, such as private organizations or other federal grants, to support or complement the project they are seeking to fund. This contribution goes above and beyond the financial support provided by the EPA grant funds awarded and is intended to amplify the project's impact. Leveraging demonstrates the applicant's ability to secure and utilize supplementary resources to achieve greater outcomes.

Leveraged resources are not the same as voluntary committed cost sharing under 2 CFR § 200.1. Leveraged resources are funds, services, or in-kind support that complement the project but are not a binding cost share commitment and are not part of the EPA assistance agreement budget. They may occur during the period of performance or after the grant ends. Applicants that wish to include leveraged resources should describe them and their sources in the Narrative Criteria Responses. Applicants must not include leveraged resources in the project budget - they are not part of the budget,

and the costs do not have to be eligible or allowable. By contrast, voluntary committed cost sharing, which is prohibited under this funding opportunity, is a binding commitment that becomes part of the award budget and must meet all eligibility and allowability requirements.

- **Leveraging that will materialize during the grant:** Leveraging that typically materializes during a Brownfields Grant period of performance includes an applicant's leveraged resources that are needed to support or complement the grant.[20] Examples include additional public or private funds or in-kind resources for assessment, remediation, and/or subsequent reuse of the site. If applicants propose to provide leveraged funds/resources, EPA expects them to make the effort to secure the leveraged resources described in their Narrative Criteria Responses. If the proposed leveraging does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and/or take other appropriate action as authorized by CERCLA § 104(k)(8)(C) and 2 CFR § 200.339 and 2 CFR Part 1500. The grant workplan must include a statement indicating that the applicant is expected to produce the proposed leveraging consistent with the terms of the announcement and the applicant's Narrative Criteria Responses.

- **Leveraging that will materialize after the Brownfields Grant has ended:** Examples of leveraging that typically materialize after the Brownfields Grant has ended include resources for remediation, infrastructure updates, and reuse.[21]

B. Program Goals and Objectives

The activities to be funded under this funding announcement support Goal 1 of EPA's Strategic Plan and are aligned with all current executive orders, including Executive Order 14154 Unleashing American Energy and Executive Order 14332 Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking. The objectives of this funding opportunity are to advance EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment by supporting efforts to ensure access to clean air, land, and water; reduce toxic emissions; clean up hazardous sites; promote conservation; and improve emergency response capabilities to help communities recover quickly and safely. EPA expects funded activities to ensure the efficient and effective use of Federal resources in support of these mission-driven objectives.

The goal of the Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program is to provide grants to communities, States, Tribes, and others to assess and clean up contaminated properties with the aim of facilitating their sustainable reuse.

C. Statutory Authority

CERCLA was amended by the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act in 2002 to include Section 104(k), which provides federal financial assistance authorities for brownfields revitalization, including grants for assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan funds. The Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development (BUILD) Act (Public Law 115-141) enacted in 2018 reauthorized EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program and made additional amendments to CERCLA that affect EPA's brownfield grant authorities, and ownership and liability provisions. (Note:

[20] If an applicant proposes to contribute leveraged resources to support or complement the grant, EPA will evaluate responses to the *3.a. Project Implementation* criterion.
[21] EPA will evaluate an applicant's responses to the criteria *1.g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse* and *1.h. Use of Existing Infrastructure*.

References to CERCLA in this funding opportunity refer to CERCLA as amended by the 2002 Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act and the 2018 BUILD Act.)

The statutory authority for assistance agreements expected to be awarded by EPA under this announcement is CERCLA § 104(k)(2).

D. Funding Type

It is anticipated that cooperative agreements will be funded under this funding opportunity.

Cooperative agreements provide for substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicant(s) in the performance of the work supported. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial federal involvement for these projects may include, but is not limited to:

- Close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant.
- Collaboration during performance of the scope of work, including participation in project activities, to the extent permissible under EPA policies. Examples of collaboration include:
    - Consultation between EPA staff and the recipients on effective methods of carrying out the scope of work provided the recipient makes the final decision on how to perform authorized activities.
    - Advice from EPA staff on how to access publicly available information on EPA or other federal agency websites.
    - With the consent of the recipient, EPA staff may provide technical advice to recipient contractors or subrecipients provided the recipient approves any expenditures of funds necessary to follow advice from EPA staff. (The recipient remains accountable for performing contract and subaward management as specified in 2 CFR §§ 200.317, 200.318, and 200.332, as well as the terms of the EPA cooperative agreement.)
    - EPA staff participation in meetings, webinars, and similar events upon the request of the recipient or in connection with a co-sponsorship agreement.
- Reviewing and approving Quality Assurance Project Plans and related documents or verifying that appropriate Quality Assurance requirements have been met where quality assurance activities are being conducted pursuant to an EPA-approved Quality Assurance Management Plan.
- In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.325, review of proposed procurements, as well as the substantive terms of proposed contracts or subawards as appropriate. This may include reviewing requests for proposals, invitations for bids, scopes of work, and/or plans and specifications for contracts over the simplified acquisition threshold prior to advertising for bids.
- Approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA does not have the authority to and will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient).
- Review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).
- Reviewing and approving that the Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), or equivalent State Brownfields program document, meets the Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program's requirements for an ABCA.
- Verifying sites meet applicable site eligibility criteria and ensuring that sites are consistent with the selection criteria outlined in the workplan.

- Participation in periodic telephone conference calls to share ideas, project successes and challenges, etc., with EPA.

4. Application Contents and Format

All application materials must be in English. The Application Information Sheet and the Narrative Criteria Responses must be typed, single-spaced, on letter-sized (8.5 x 11-inch) paper, and should **use standard Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri fonts with a 12-point font size**. The Application Submission Checklist below outlines the documents that must be submitted to complete the application package. Extraneous materials, including photos, graphics, and attachments not listed, will not be considered.

A. Application Forms (Submission Checklist)

The following forms and documents are required under this announcement:

Mandatory Documents:[22]

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 [Guidance on how to complete this form is available at www.epa.gov/grants/tips-completing-epa-form-4700-4.]
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form: use this to submit the following as one file, if possible
   - **Application Information Sheet** (3-page limit, single-spaced)
   - **Application Information Sheet Attachment**: Letter from the State or Tribal environmental authority (see Section 4.B.10.)
   - **Narrative Criteria Responses** as described in Section 6.B. (12-page limit, single-spaced)
   - **Threshold Eligibility Criteria Responses and Documentation** as described in Section 2.B.:
     - A statement of applicant eligibility (i.e., lead and non-lead members, as applicable) if a village, town, city, county, State, or Tribe (see Section 2.B.1.)
     - Documentation of applicant eligibility (i.e., lead and non-lead members, as applicable) if other than a village, town, city, county, State, or Tribe; e.g., resolutions, statutes, Intertribal Consortium documentation, or documentation of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or qualified community development entity (see Section 2.B.1.)
     - A statement of the lead and non-lead members' 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status and, if applicable, legal opinion(s) regarding lobbying activities (see Section 2.B.1.)
     - A statement on the coalition lead and non-lead members' target areas (see Section 2.B.2.)
     - Indication of which non-lead member(s) has not received an EPA Brownfields MARC Grant that closed within the last 10 years (see Section 2.B.3.)
     - A statement that the lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities (see Section 2.B.4.)
     - If applicable, identification of the law(s), ordinance(s), or other documentation to demonstrate the lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds outside of their geographic boundary (see Section 2.B.4.)

[22] FY27 sample federal forms are available on the MARC Grant Application Resources webpage under open solicitations.

- A signed letter of commitment from each coalition member or an active Memorandum of Agreement (see Section 2.B.5.)
- Description of community involvement (see Section 2.B.6.)
- Documentation of the available balance on each open Assessment Grant and Multipurpose Grant awarded to any of the lead and non-lead members, as applicable; or an affirmative statement that the lead and non-lead members do not have an open Assessment Grant or Multipurpose Grant, as applicable (see Section 2.B.7.)
- Discussion on contractors and named subrecipients; or an affirmative statement that a contractor has not been procured and/or a subrecipient has not been named (see Section 2.B.8.)
- A copy of (or link to) the solicitation documents and the signed executed contract, as applicable (see Section 2.B.8.)

Optional Documents:

6. Grants.gov Lobbying Form – To be submitted by applicants requesting **more than** $100,000 of EPA grant funding.
7. Other Attachments Form – Negotiated/Proposed Indirect Cost Rate Agreement – To be submitted using the Other Attachments Form by applicants proposing to charge indirect costs to the EPA grant. Please note that applicants may budget for indirect costs pending approval of their Indirect Cost Rate Agreement by the cognizant Federal agency or an exception granted by EPA under section 6.3 or 6.4 of EPA's Indirect Cost Policy for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements. However, recipients may not draw down indirect costs until their rate is approved or EPA approves an exception.

Recommended Resources:

Applicants are encouraged to refer to EPA's:

1. Pre-recorded video on the grant submission process, Application Information Sheet, and threshold eligibility requirements for FY27 Assessment Grants.
2. National Outreach Webinar on the FY27 Narrative Criteria Responses Assessment Coalition Grants.
3. Applicant Resources listed under General Program Resources and Open Solicitations
4. Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) Provider assistance with preparing a grant application.

B. Application Information Sheet

The Application Information Sheet should address the information below and shall not exceed three single-spaced pages. Do not include a summary or overview of your Narrative Criteria Responses/project. Any pages submitted over the page limit or information beyond what is requested below will not be considered and may be redacted. EPA does not consider information in the Application Information Sheet to be Narrative Criteria Responses. Provide the Application Information Sheet on the applicant's official letterhead. You will not be penalized if you provide this information to EPA in a different format.

1. Applicant Identification: Provide the name and full address of the entity applying for funds. This is the agency or organization that will receive the grant and be accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

2. Website URL: Provide the website URL of your organization and for each non-lead coalition member. If selected for funding, EPA will include the link to your coalition members' websites on the Brownfields Grant Factsheet Tool.

3. Funding Requested:
   a. Assessment Grant Type: Indicate "Assessment Coalition."

   b. Federal Funds Requested:
   $_____ (Include the amount being requested from EPA; must not exceed $1,000,000.)

4. Location: Provide the a) city, b) county, and c) State or reservation, Tribally owned lands, Tribal fee lands, etc., of non-lead members and all geographic boundaries to be covered under the application.

5. Coalition Members' Target Areas and Priority Site Information:
   - List the coalition members (i.e., the lead and non-lead members) and each member's associated target area discussed in the Narrative Criteria Responses.
   - Provide the address of each priority site and the associated target area proposed in the Narrative Criteria Responses.
   - (Optional) As a separate one-page attachment, you may include a map to visually depict the target areas and/or priority sites. Do not include any additional information or data on the map. Maps will not be evaluated and will not count against the 3-page limit. Applicants that do not include a map will not be penalized.

6. Contacts:
   a. Project Director: Provide the name, phone number, email address, and mailing address of the Project Director assigned to this proposed project. This person should be the main point of contact for the project and should be the person responsible for the project's day-to-day operations. The Project Director may be contacted if other information is needed.

   b. Chief Executive/Highest-Ranking Elected Official: Provide the name, phone number, email address, and mailing address of the applicant's Chief Executive or highest-ranking elected official. For example, if your organization is a municipal form of government, provide this information for the Mayor or County Commissioner. Otherwise, provide this information for your organization's Executive Director or President. These individuals may be contacted if other information is needed.

7. Population:
   - If you are a city/town/village, provide the population of your jurisdiction.

   - If you are a county/parish/borough, State, or regional organization that covers a geographic area with more than one city/town, provide the population of the city(ies)/town(s) in which each priority site/target area is located.

   - If you are a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) or a qualified community development entity, provide the population of the city(ies)/town(s) in which each priority site/target area is located.

- If you are a Tribe, provide the number of Tribal/non-tribal members affected.

Population data can be found at www.census.gov.

8. Other Factors: Applicants claiming one or more of the other factors below must provide a summary in the Narrative Criteria Responses on the applicable other factor(s). Please identify which of the below items apply to your community/proposed project by noting the corresponding Narrative Criteria Responses page number. **If none of the Other Factors apply to your community/proposed project, please provide a statement to that effect**. EPA may verify this information prior to selection.

Sample Format for Providing Information on the Other Factors	**Page #**
Community population is 15,000 or less.	
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	
The priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.	
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section 3.A.2., for priority sites within the target areas.	
The target area(s) is impacted by a coal-fired power plant that has recently closed (2016 or later) or is closing.	

9. Releasing Copies of Applications:
To support transparency, EPA may make copies of applications submitted under this NOFO publicly available on the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization website or another public website for approximately 3 months after selected applications are announced. EPA recommends that you do not include confidential business information (CBI) or trade secrets in your application. Additionally, do not include information that would invade someone's personal privacy (e.g., an individual's salary, personal email address, etc.).

If the application does not include CBI, state 'n/a' or 'not applicable.'

Applicants that include CBI in their application must make CBI claims at the time of application submission as follows:

- **Clearly mark the specific sections/pages you claim as CBI (e.g., with a cover sheet, a stamped or typed legend, or another appropriate notice) to help EPA identify and handle them.**
- **Use terms such as "trade secret," "proprietary," or "confidential" as per 40 CFR § 2.203(b).**

- **If confidentiality is needed only until a specific date or event, state that date or event.**

Information covered by a CBI claim will be treated in accordance with, and disclosed only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. If information is not marked as CBI when EPA receives it, EPA may make it public without further notice. See 40 CFR § 2.203(a)(2), 41 Fed. Reg. 36,907.

10. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority (not included in the three-page limit):
For an applicant other than a State or Tribal environmental authority, attach a current letter from the appropriate State or Tribal environmental authority (or equivalent State or Tribal regulatory oversight authority) acknowledging that the applicant plans to conduct assessment activities and is planning to apply for FY27 EPA Brownfields Grant funds. Letters regarding applications from prior years will not be accepted.

    If you are applying for more than one type of grant, one acknowledgment letter from your State or Tribal environmental authority is sufficient, but you must attach a copy of that letter to each application. Please note that general correspondence and documents evidencing State involvement with the project (i.e., State enforcement orders or State notice letters) will not be accepted. Coordinate early with your State or Tribal environmental authority in order to allow adequate time for you to obtain the acknowledgment letter and include it in your application.

C. Narrative Criteria Outline

Section 6.B. provides detailed instructions for what to include in the Narrative Criteria Responses. These responses should address the Review Criteria that are also listed in Section 6.B. You may use the outline below to organize your responses. The Narrative Criteria Responses, including citations, must not exceed 12 single-spaced pages.

This section also includes sample format tables that applicants may use to present all or a portion of their response. Applicants that do not use the sample format tables will not be penalized.

1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

Coalition Members, Target Areas, and Brownfields

a. Coalition Members
b. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas
c. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites
d. Identification and Prioritization of Additional Sites

Revitalization of the Target Areas

e. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans
f. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

Strategy for Leveraging Resources

g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse
h. Use of Existing Infrastructure

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. Disaster Preparedness

Community Engagement

To conserve space, you may present information for 2.e. – 2.f. in the same response and/or use the suggested table format below.

e. Project Involvement
f. Project Roles

Sample Format for List of Organizations/Entities/Groups & Roles

Name of organization/entity/group	Entity's mission	Point of contact (name & email)	Specific decision-making role or contribution to the project
Add rows as needed			

g. Incorporating Community Input

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

To conserve space, you may present information for 3.a. – 3.d. in the same response and/or use the suggested table format below.

a. Project Implementation
b. Anticipated Project Schedule
c. Task/Activity Lead
d. Outputs

Sample Format for Tasks/Activities and Outputs

Task/Activity:
a. Project Implementation ▪ EPA-funded tasks/activities: ▪ Non-EPA grant resources needed to carry out tasks/activities, if applicable:
b. Anticipated Project Schedule:
c. Task/Activity Lead:
d. Outputs:

Cost Estimates and Plan to Measure and Evaluate

e. Cost Estimates

You may use the sample table format below to present how you plan to allocate grant funds for tasks/activities described in Section 6.B.3. by budget category. Replace the task number heading in the sample table with the actual title of the task.

Only include costs to be covered by EPA grant funds in this table. Leveraged resources should not be included in the budget table.

Sample Format for Budget (do not change Budget Categories)

Budget Categories		Project Tasks ($)				
		(Task 1)	(Task 2)	(Task 3)	Administrative Costs	**Total**
Direct Costs	Personnel					
	Fringe Benefits					
	Travel[1]					
	Equipment[2]					
	Supplies					
	Contractual					
	Construction[3]					
	Other (include subawards, conference registration fees, and specific participant support costs such as stipends) (specify type) _____					
Total Direct Costs[4]						
Indirect Costs[4]						
Total Budget (Total Direct Costs + Indirect Costs)						

[1] Travel to brownfields-related training conferences is an acceptable use of these grant funds.
[2] EPA defines equipment as items that cost $10,000 or more with a useful life of more than one year unless the applicant has a lower threshold for equipment costs. Items costing less than $10,000 (e.g., laptop computers) are considered supplies. Generally, equipment is not required for Brownfield Grants.
[3] Costs must be placed on the Construction budget line when at least 50% of the estimated amount of the contract(s) will be for the remediation of contamination at the brownfield site. Construction costs do not typically apply to assessment activities. See the FY27 FAQs for more information.
[4] Administrative costs (direct and/or indirect) for the Assessment Grant applicant itself cannot exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds. All indirect costs are considered administrative and are therefore subject to the 5% administrative limit.

f. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

Programmatic Capability

To conserve space, you may present information for 4.a. – 4.c. in the same response.

a. Organizational Capacity
b. Organizational Structure
c. Description of Key Staff
d. Acquiring Additional Resources

Past Performance and Accomplishments

e. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant That Closed in 2016 or Later
   (1) Accomplishments
   (2) Compliance with Grant Requirements

– OR –

f. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements That Closed in 2016 or Later
   (1) Purpose and Accomplishments
   (2) Compliance with Grant Requirements

– OR –

g. No or Limited Financial Assistance Agreements

D. Applicants Using Contractors and/or Subrecipients

Contractors

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.

Applicants, other than State (which includes territories)[23] or Tribal applicants,[24] 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) 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 provides guidance on complying with the competition requirements in the Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements and the Brownfields Grants: Guidance on Competitively Procuring a Contractor. For example:

- 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).

[23] As defined in 2 CFR § 200.1, the definition of State for purposes of federal procurement standards applicable to the Brownfields Program "means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any agency or instrumentality thereof exclusive of local governments."

[24] Consistent with 2 CFR § 200.317, State and Tribal applicants (including eligible Tribal entities) must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements with non-federal funds, as well as the requirements in 2 CFR §§200.321, 200.322, 200.323, and 200.327 and 40 CFR Part 33. If such policies and procedures do not exist, then the federal procurement standards at 2 CFR §§ 200.318 through 200.327 apply and must be followed.

- Consistent with 2 CFR § 200.320(b)(2)(iii), when the value of a procurement transaction exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, price generally must be an evaluation factor in the review of proposals or quotes.

Note, unless the exception discussed above applies, regardless of whether the solicitation is issued as a Request for Proposals or a Request for Qualifications, price reasonableness for the grant implementation work must be a selection factor in the evaluation of proposals or quotes for Brownfields Assessment Grants. See the Brownfields Grants: Guidance on Competitively Procuring a Contractor for additional guidance.

Successful applicants that procure a contractor(s) after being advised by EPA of selection, but prior to award, must describe how they complied with the procurement procedures described above when submitting the final workplan for the award.

Recipients of EPA funding that select a contractor(s) after award must fully comply with the procurement standards at 2 CFR Part 200, 2 CFR Part 1500, and 40 CFR Part 33.

If EPA determines that the process an applicant completed to select a contractor was not compliant with the federal regulations in 2 CFR Part 200, 2 CFR Part 1500, and 40 CFR Part 33, and the application is selected for funding, the applicant may need to prepare and issue a new RFP/RFQ that is compliant with federal procurement regulations. Additionally, EPA may review the new RFP/RFQ and selection process to ensure compliance with fair and open competition requirements. Please see the FY27 FAQs for additional guidance.

Subrecipients
EPA does not require or encourage applicants to name a specific subrecipient(s) in the application for Brownfields Grant funding. However, if an applicant chooses to identify a specific subrecipient(s) to conduct work proposed in this application, the applicant must comply with the following requirements even if the entity is referred to as a "partner" in the application.

Successful applicants that do not name a specific subrecipient(s) in their application but identify a subrecipient(s) after being advised of selection, must also comply with the requirements described below.

All applicants, including States, territories, and Tribes, 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. For additional guidance, applicants should review EPA's Subaward Policy Frequent Questions.

Refer to EPA's NOFO Clause Section IV.E. "Coalitions, Contracts, and Subawards" for additional guidance on these requirements which must be met for all contractors (except for micro-purchases as described above) and/or subrecipients specifically named in the application.

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

A. Submission Dates and Times

January 21, 2027 11:59 pm ET Application Submission Deadline

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept the last on-time submission.

B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. SAM.gov will provide a UEI for your organization, which is required to apply for grants using Grants.gov. To register, go to SAM.gov Entity Registration and click Get Started. From the same page, you can also click on the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register. Make sure you are current with SAM.gov and UEI requirements before applying for the award.

SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with Grants.gov. You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov Quick Start Guide for Applicants.

Please visit How to Register to Apply for Grants for additional information.

C. Submission Instructions

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. See Section 5.B. above for information on getting registered. The registration process for all the above items **may take a month or more to complete.**

Important tips:

- To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to Grants.gov and click the red “Apply” button at the top of the view grant opportunity page associated with this opportunity.
- See the Quick Start Guide for Applicants for instructions on how to submit.
- Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks.
- Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files.
- Your application must be submitted by an official representative of your organization who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal financial assistance.
- If you receive an error or the button is grayed out, it may be because you do not have the appropriate role to submit in your organization. Contact your organization’s EBiz point of contact or contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.
- See Grants.gov Errors for information on other Grants.gov errors.
- The UEI listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

D. Technical Issues with Submission

Applicants that experience technical issues during the submission of an application and are unable to submit through Grants.gov must follow the below procedures **before** the application deadline for EPA to consider accepting the application outside of Grants.gov.

1. Contact the appropriate help desk before the deadline:
    - Grants.gov Support Center for Grants.gov issues
    - Federal Service Desk for SAM.gov registration issues

2. Before the deadline, send an email to brownfields@epa.gov with EPA-OLEM-OBLR-26-03 in the subject line. Include the following information:
    - Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
    - Full copy of Federal Service Desk ticket(s), if applicable
    - Description of the issue
    - The entire application package as described in Section 4.A. in PDF format.

The EPA will decide whether to accept applications submitted via email on a **case by case basis** and will only consider exceptions for:

- **Grants.gov or SAM.gov system issues**
- **Unforeseen emergencies**, such as extreme weather affecting internet access

Not registering on time is **not** a valid reason to justify acceptance of an application outside of Grants.gov.

Important:

- If any of the above information is missing, the EPA may not review the request.
- Applications submitted after the deadline will be ineligible.
- Submitting through Grants.gov or email does not guarantee eligibility.

Limited Internet Access: Applicants with limited or no access to the internet may request an exception by following the procedures outlined here. The request must be received at least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods.

E. Intergovernmental Review

Intergovernmental review is applicable to this assistance listing when proposed Federal financial assistance involves land use planning or construction associated with demonstration projects.

If the application includes land use planning or construction, applicants may need to submit application information for Intergovernmental Review. Some States have adopted Single Points of Contact (SPOC) for coordinating the review.

See the FY27 FAQs for more information.

This requirement does not apply to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes or Tribal organizations.

6. Application Review Information

A. Responsiveness Review

Applications must meet the eligibility requirements described in Section 2 to be evaluated. Applicants not meeting these requirements will be deemed ineligible and will be notified within 15 calendar days of the determination.

- Applications must adhere to the page limit requirements. Any pages over the limit(s) in Section 4 will not be reviewed.
- Initial applications must be submitted *on or before* the application deadline through Grants.gov or through limited circumstances as expressed in Section 5. EPA will not evaluate applications that are not submitted on time.
- *Technical difficulties applying:* Applicants having technical difficulties applying must contact the Grants.gov hotline at 1-800-518-4726 *and* then must email a PDF of the full application to the EPA contact listed in Section 1. The submission must be received prior to the application deadline for consideration.

B. Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria

The Narrative Criteria Responses must provide clear, concise, and factually correct responses to all criteria and sub-criteria below, with sufficient detail to allow for an evaluation of the application's merits. **A response to a criterion/sub-criterion that is included in a different section of the Narrative Criteria Responses may not be scored as favorably**. If a criterion does not apply, clearly state this. **Any criterion left unanswered may result in zero points given for that criterion.** Responses should include the criteria number and title but need not restate the entire text of the criteria.

If selected for funding, the information in your Narrative Criteria Responses will be incorporated into the workplan, subject to any adjustments to clarify issues with carrying out the project's scope of work made during the post-selection negotiation process. The workplan is a legally binding document. Therefore, applicants should carefully consider and accurately respond to the criteria, including the identification of the geographic boundary(ies) (which will become the boundary(ies) in which work can be performed), target areas, criteria used to select additional sites, use of grant funds, and leveraged resources committed to the project that will materialize during the period of performance. EPA may not permit material changes to the workplan.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they demonstrate that they have the capability to successfully perform the project as described in Section 3 of this funding opportunity.

Only eligible entities whose applications meet the threshold eligibility criteria in Section 2 of this announcement will be evaluated. **Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their application package submittal in the Narrative Criteria Responses.** Each application will be rated using a point system. Applications will be evaluated based on a total of 160 possible points.

Narrative Criteria Responses *Instructions for Applicants*	Review Criteria ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***

1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

45 Points

Coalition Members, Target Areas, and Brownfields	
1.a. Coalition Members (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Identify the non-lead coalition members and indicate their organization types (e.g., local government, regional planning organization, community-based organization, etc.). • Describe the non-lead members' lack of capacity to apply for and manage their own Brownfields Grant and their lack of access to Brownfield Grant resources to address sites.	The extent to which the non-lead members lack capacity to apply for and manage their own Brownfields Grant and lack access to Brownfields Grant resources to address sites.
1.b. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas (5 points)	
Applicants should: • 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 areas 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.)*	The degree to which the identified brownfield challenges impact the target areas within the geographic boundary(ies). The extent to which the proposed grant activities may help address these challenges and impacts. *(Note, a response that does not identify at least one target area in each coalition member's (i.e., the lead and non-lead members) geographic boundary will be evaluated less favorably.)*
1.c. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites (10 points)	
Applicants should: • Provide an overview of the brownfield sites in the target areas with information such as the estimated 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,	The degree to which it is clear why the priority sites were selected for assessment and reuse among the known brownfield sites in the target areas. *(Note, a response that does not discuss at least one priority site in each coalition member's (i.e., the lead and non-lead members) target area will be evaluated less favorably.)*

Narrative Criteria Responses ***Instructions for Applicants***	**Review Criteria** ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
current site conditions (including structures), and potentially related environmental issues.	
1.d. Identification and Prioritization of Additional Sites (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe the process you will use to identify additional sites for eligible activities within the geographic boundary(ies) identified in *1.b. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas* if grant funds remain after addressing the target areas/priority sites. • Identify the criteria for prioritizing additional sites.	The extent to which the process to identify additional sites for eligible activities within the geographic boundary(ies), including the criteria for prioritizing additional sites, is well-defined and reasonable.
Revitalization of the Target Area	
1.e. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe the reuse strategy, or projected reuse, for the priority sites and discuss how it aligns with and advances the local government's land use and revitalization plans, or related community priorities.	The extent to which a reuse strategy, or projected reuse, for the priority sites clearly aligns with and advances the local government's land use and revitalization plans, or related community priorities.
1.f. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe how the proposed project or revitalization plans may stimulate economic development in the target areas post-cleanup of the priority sites, and/or may facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes in the target areas. • If applicable, describe how the reuse of the priority sites will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy; or will incorporate energy-efficient approaches. *(For more information on energy efficiency, please refer to the FY27 FAQs and Renewable Energy or Energy-Efficient Approaches in Brownfields Redevelopment Fact Sheet.)*	Given the type of community being served (e.g., urban, rural, Tribal, etc.), the degree to which the proposed project or revitalization plans may stimulate economic development in the target areas post-cleanup of the priority sites and/or may facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes in the target areas. The degree to which these outcomes clearly correlate with the applicant's reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s). When applicable, the extent to which the reuse of the priority sites will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy, or will incorporate energy-efficient approaches.
Strategy for Leveraging Resources	

Narrative Criteria Responses *Instructions for Applicants*	Review Criteria ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
1.g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe your eligibility for and likelihood to obtain funding from other resources (e.g., any other EPA Brownfields resources or public or private resources) and how the grant will stimulate the availability of additional funds to support the completion of the environmental site assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse strategy at the priority sites. *(Do not duplicate sources discussed in 3.a.-3.d. under Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs.)* Likelihood to obtain funding from other resources may be demonstrated by providing information such as the source of the funding, confirmation that the applicant's organization is eligible for the funding, whether the applicant's organization has accessed these funds previously, and/or how often the funding is offered, etc.	The extent to which the applicant is eligible for and likely to obtain funding from other resources (e.g., any other EPA Brownfields resources or public or private resources), and the extent to which the grant will stimulate the availability of additional funds to support the completion of the environmental site assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse strategy at the priority sites. *(Note, a response may not earn full points if the applicant duplicates sources that are listed in 3.a.-3.d. under Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs.)*
1.h. Use of Existing Infrastructure (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe the state of the existing infrastructure (e.g., utilities, roads, buildings, etc.) at the priority sites and/or within the target areas. • Describe how this grant will facilitate the use of this existing infrastructure. • If applicable, identify infrastructure needs or upgrades that are key to the reuse of the priority sites, describe these needs/upgrades and funding resources that will be sought to implement that work.	The extent to which this grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure at the priority sites and/or within the target areas. When additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are key to the reuse of the priority sites, the extent to which the identified funding resources that will be sought to implement that work are relevant.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

35 Points

Community Need

Applicants may use geospatial mapping tools to better understand the communities that may be adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental or human health harms and risks. Applicants should include data in their Narrative Criteria Responses to help characterize and describe the target areas and their community(ies). Data from other sources (e.g., studies, census, and third-party reports) can also be included to give a more complete picture of the impacted communities and populations. Applicants are not expected to generate new data. Applicants are encouraged to explain if supporting data is limited or unavailable and why the level of data provided is appropriate.

Narrative Criteria Responses ***Instructions for Applicants***	**Review Criteria** ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
2.a. The Community's Need for Funding (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe how this grant will meet the needs of the communities within the geographic boundary(ies) that have an inability to draw on other sources of funding to carry out environmental assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse in the target areas **because of the small population[25] and/or low income of the community**.	The extent to which this grant will meet the needs of the communities within the geographic boundary(ies) that have an inability to draw on other sources of funding to carry out environmental assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse in the target areas **because the community has a small population and/or is low income**. *(Note, if the response does not demonstrate why the community's small population or low income has resulted in an inability to draw on other sources of funding, then the response may only earn up to 2 points.)*
2.b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Identify sensitive populations[26] in the target areas and describe their health or welfare issues.[27] • Discuss how this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address these issues and/or help identify and reduce related threats.	The extent to which this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce related threats to, the health or welfare issues among the sensitive populations in the target areas.
2.c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Provide quantitative data to demonstrate that populations in the target areas suffer from a greater-than-normal[28] incidence of diseases or conditions (including cancer, asthma, or birth defects) that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances,	The extent to which this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, threats to populations in the target areas with a greater-than-normal incidence of diseases or conditions (including cancer, asthma, or birth defects) that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances,

[25] There is no statutory definition of what constitutes a "small" population, so EPA leaves it to the applicant to make their case as to why the community is small. However, the Brownfields Program considers communities of 10,000 people and less as "micro" communities, 15,000 people and less as "small" communities, 50,000 people and less as "rural," and less than 100,000 people as "nonurban." Communities with less than 50,000 in population may be considered small.

[26] Sensitive populations are those populations that are likely to experience elevated health risks from pollution, including populations based on age (young children and the elderly), pregnant women, and serious disease burden (such as, high rates of cancer, asthma, chronic respiratory disease, coronary heart disease, low birth weights, etc.), as well as low-income populations. See CERCLA § 104(k)(6)(C)(x). The Brownfields Program will implement this provision in accordance with all applicable law.

[27] For more information on health and welfare issues, please refer to the FY27 FAQs.

[28] For the purposes of this criterion, "greater-than-normal" refers to when the incidence of disease or an adverse health condition exceeds what is typically expected or considered average. Applicants should provide information or data to establish a baseline for what is considered average and demonstrate how the incidence of disease or adverse health condition(s) among the populations in the target areas is greater.

Narrative Criteria Responses ***Instructions for Applicants***	**Review Criteria** ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum. If applicable, explain why the level of data provided is appropriate. • Describe how this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, threats to these populations.	pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum. *(Note, if the response does not quantitatively demonstrate that the populations in the target areas suffer from a greater-than-normal incidence of cancer, asthma, or birth defects, then the response may only earn up to 2 points.)*
2.d. Disaster Preparedness (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Provide a brief description of any extreme weather events and/or natural disasters[29] that have occurred and their impact on populations in the target area(s). • Describe how the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and/or natural disasters.	The extent to which the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and/or natural disasters.
Community Engagement Applicants may consolidate information for 2.e. – 2.f. into one response and/or use the suggested table format in Section 4.C.2.	
2.e. Project Involvement (5 points)	
Applicants should: • 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 areas, entities that are a part of a formal partnership agreement (e.g., through an MOA), and the general public. *(See Section 3.A.2. for additional information on community liaisons, which may be supported by the grant through participant support costs.)*	The degree to which the applicant involves a variety of local organizations/entities/groups that are relevant to the proposed project.

[29] For more information on the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters, please refer to the FY27 FAQs.

Narrative Criteria Responses *Instructions for Applicants*	Review Criteria ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
2.f. Project Roles (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe each identified local organization/entity/group's role in the project. • Include which organization(s)/entity(ies)/group(s) will be meaningfully involved in decision-making for site selection, cleanup, and future reuse of the brownfield sites, including the priority sites. • Discuss how each non-lead member will be engaged and informed throughout the project.	The degree to which each identified local organization/entity/group will have a meaningful role in the project and the extent to which there will be involvement in decision-making for site selection, cleanup, and future reuse of the brownfield sites, including the priority sites. The extent to which each non-lead member will be effectively engaged and informed throughout the project. *(Note: Responses that indicate there will be meaningful involvement in decision-making for site selection, cleanup, and reuse will be evaluated more favorably.)*
2.g. Incorporating Community Input (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Discuss your plan to communicate project progress to inform the local community, including residents directly affected by the project work, and the involved organizations/entities/groups. • Include the frequency and method(s) you will use (including an appropriate alternative(s) to in-person engagement) and how you will meaningfully solicit, consider, and respond to community input.	The extent to which the plan to communicate project progress will effectively inform the local community, including residents directly affected by the project work, and the involved organizations/entities/ groups. The extent to which the plan provides appropriate alternative(s) to in-person engagement, and meaningfully solicits, considers, and responds to community input.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

45 Points

Local government applicants may use up to 10% of the total grant award for health monitoring activities. The health monitoring activities must be associated with brownfield sites at which at least a Phase II environmental site assessment is conducted and that are contaminated with hazardous substances. Coordination with the local health agency is required. Please review the Health Monitoring Fact Sheet for more information.

Cooperative agreements with successful applicants under this funding opportunity will be subject to the administrative cost limitation described at CERCLA § 104(k)(5)(E). Successful applicants may only use up to 5% of the total amount of EPA funds for their own administrative costs (direct costs for grant administration and indirect costs). For example, if EPA awards $1,000,000 to an applicant, the 5% limit for administrative costs equals $50,000. Costs must be classified as direct or indirect consistently and applicants may not classify the same cost in both categories. The limitation on administrative costs does not apply to otherwise allowable programmatic costs (including indirect costs) charged by procurement contractors. Note that EPA considers costs for performance and financial reporting to be allowable programmatic costs that are not subject to the 5% limitation.

Narrative Criteria Responses ***Instructions for Applicants***	**Review Criteria** ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
For applications that include indirect costs in the budget and are selected for funding, an EPA Grants Specialist or Grants Management Officer may request a copy of the indirect cost rate agreement that was negotiated with the cognizant agency before the cooperative agreement is awarded. Cooperative agreements with successful Assessment Coalition Grant applicants under this funding opportunity will require the recipient to assess at least two sites in each coalition member's geographic boundary. Do not include activities that are ineligible uses of EPA Assessment Grant funds (e.g., land acquisition; building demolition that is not necessary to assess contamination at the site; building construction, site preparation, or remediation). Please refer to the FY27 FAQs for additional examples of eligible and ineligible uses of funds, including administrative costs and when demolition that is necessary to address site contamination may be justified as an eligible cost. For questions not covered by the FY27 FAQs, contact your Regional Brownfields Contact listed in Section 1.E.	
Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs Applicants should provide a list and description of the tasks/activities required to implement the proposed project. Applicants may respond to 3.a. – 3.d. using the Sample Format for Tasks/Activities in Section 4.C.3.	
3.a. Project Implementation (10 points)	
Applicants should: • Discuss the proposed EPA-funded tasks/activities under this grant. • If you plan to issue a subaward(s), indicate what tasks/activities or services will be provided. • If you plan to include participant support costs in your project, describe the process you will follow for determining the allowable stipend(s) amounts, procedures for accounting for participant support cost payments (including receipts), and documenting that the costs are allowable. Do not duplicate other support provided through other Federal, State, Tribal, or local programs. • If applicable, identify tasks/activities needed to support or complement the grant that will be contributed by sources other than the EPA grant, such as leveraged resources or funding contributed by your organization. (For example, the applicant does not charge the EPA grant for salary dollars and therefore contributes its own resources to carry out programmatic oversight activities or grant administration.) *(Do not duplicate sources listed in 1.g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse.)* Typical eligible tasks/activities may include cooperative agreement oversight, procuring a Qualified	The degree to which the proposed EPA-funded tasks/activities under this grant are eligible, specific, and appropriate to the goals of the project, and the degree to which the response demonstrates a sound plan to address the priority sites in the target areas. When the project includes a subaward(s), the extent to which the tasks/activities or services to be provided by the subawardee(s) clearly support the project. When the project includes participant support costs, the extent to which the applicant's process and procedures are sound for determining the amounts of the allowable stipend(s), accounting for participant support cost payments (including receipts), and documenting that the costs do not duplicate support provided through other Federal, State, Tribal, or local programs. *(Notes: A response that includes ineligible tasks/activities will be evaluated less favorably.* *A response that includes a plan to subaward any aspects of the programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements of the grant will be reviewed less favorably.)* When applicable, the extent to which the tasks/activities that are needed to support or complement the grant that will be contributed by sources other than the EPA grant (e.g., leveraged resources) will help bring the grant to

Narrative Criteria Responses ***Instructions for Applicants***	**Review Criteria** ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
Environmental Professional, inventory work, community engagement (including using participant support costs (see Section 3.A.2. for details)), site selection, securing site access, Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, cleanup planning at a specific site (including developing an Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)), and coordination with the local health agency on health monitoring activities. Planning tasks/activities[30] may include reuse planning, the development of an area-wide plan, conducting market feasibility studies, evaluating infrastructure needs, etc.	successful completion. *(Note, a response may not earn full points if the applicant duplicates sources that are listed in 1.g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse.)*
3.b. Anticipated Project Schedule (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Discuss the anticipated schedule milestones and timeline for the EPA-funded activities outlined in *3.a. Project Implementation* during the 4-year period of performance. EPA may reimburse successful applicants for eligible programmatic pre-award costs incurred up to 90 days prior to award. Applicants may include pre-award costs for eligible activities in their proposed project. Travel expenses associated with brownfields-related training, such as the National Brownfields Training Conference, are eligible expenses. The budget/project period start date must be before the date that any proposed pre-award costs are incurred. For more information on pre-award costs, please see the FY27 FAQs.	The extent to which the anticipated project schedule milestones are achievable and the likelihood that the activities will be completed within the 4-year period of performance.
3.c. Task/Activity Lead (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Identify the lead entity(ies) overseeing each task/activity (i.e., the applicant, qualified environmental professional, or other identified entity). If not the applicant, explain why the lead entity(ies) is appropriate. *(Note, the local health agency must be involved in health monitoring activities.)*	The extent to which the lead entity(ies) for each task/activity is appropriate. When applicable, the degree to which the local health agency is appropriately involved in health monitoring activities.

[30] For more information on eligible planning activities, review the *Planning Program Fact Sheets* at www.epa.gov/brownfields/information-eligible-planning-activities.

Narrative Criteria Responses ***Instructions for Applicants***	**Review Criteria** ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
3.d. Outputs (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Identify and quantify the anticipated outputs/deliverables for each task/activity. Outputs may include, but are not limited to, quarterly reports, site inventories, Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessment reports, site cleanup plans, final Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) documents, an area-wide plan, or community meetings. *(Refer to Section 3.A.4. for an explanation of outputs.)*	The extent to which the anticipated outputs/deliverables identified and quantified for each task/activity are reasonable and clearly correlate with the proposed project.
Cost Estimates and Plan to Measure and Evaluate	
3.e. Cost Estimates (15 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe how cost estimates for each task were developed per budget category, including direct and indirect administrative costs (if applicable). Present costs per unit where appropriate. *(Note, the total amount of direct and indirect administrative costs cannot exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds.)* Applicants may use the suggested Sample Format for Budget in Section 4.C.3. Examples of costs per unit may include: ***Task 2, Phase I Environmental Site Assessments*** – *Personnel Costs*: 20 hours at an average rate of $50/hr = $1,000 – *Contractual Costs*: 5 Phase I site assessments at an average cost of $3,500 = $17,500 For information on best practices for preparing budgets for EPA grant applications, refer to the General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance.	The degree of clarity on how each cost estimate was developed (including direct and/or indirect administrative costs, when applicable). The extent to which each proposed cost estimate and costs per unit are reasonable, realistic, and correlated to the proposed project/grant and tasks/activities. (*Notes: Projects that allocate at least 60% of the funds to tasks directly associated with site-specific work (i.e., Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and site-specific cleanup planning) will be evaluated more favorably.* *A response that includes administrative costs that exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds will be evaluated less favorably.* *A response that includes cost estimates that are not reasonable or realistic to implement the project/grant will be evaluated less favorably. For example, applicants that request more funding than is reasonably justified in the Narrative Criteria Responses to complete the proposed project/grant.)*
3.f. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Discuss your plan and the tool(s) you will use to track, measure, and evaluate progress in achieving expected	The extent to which the plan and tool(s) to track, measure, and evaluate progress in achieving expected project outputs, overall results, and eventual outcomes, including

Narrative Criteria Responses *Instructions for Applicants*	Review Criteria *Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:*
project outputs, overall results, and eventual outcomes, including how you will implement corrective action measures if issues arise during the grant's period of performance. *(Definitions of outputs and outcomes are provided in Section 3.A.4.)*	how corrective action measures will be implemented if issues arise, are reasonable, appropriate, and clearly correlate with information previously presented in the Narrative Criteria Responses.

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

35 Points

Provide responses for the organization that is applying for funding (i.e., the lead coalition member's organization only).

Programmatic Capability Applicants may consolidate information for 4.a. – 4.c. into one response. Reviewers must evaluate the response against the sub-criteria outlined below.	
4.a. Organizational Capacity (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Discuss the lead coalition member's/applicant's organizational capacity to oversee grant tasks/activities and carry out and manage the grant's programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements on the coalition's behalf.	The degree to which the applicant's organization (i.e., the lead coalition member's organization) has the capacity to oversee grant tasks/activities and successfully carry out and manage the grant's programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements on the coalition's behalf.
4.b. Organizational Structure (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe the organizational structure you will utilize to ensure the timely and successful expenditure of funds and completion of the grant's technical, administrative, and financial requirements. • Describe the proposed governance/decision-making structure among your coalition members and each member's meaningful involvement in determining how grant funds will benefit their communities.	The degree to which the organizational structure will lead to the timely and successful expenditure of funds and the completion of the grant's technical, administrative, and financial requirements. The extent to which the proposed governance/decision-making structure ensures meaningful involvement of coalition members in determining how grant funds will benefit each member's community.
4.c. Description of Key Staff (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Briefly describe the key staff who will successfully administer the grant, including their roles, expertise, qualifications, and experience.	The degree to which the key staff's expertise, qualifications, and experience will result in the successful administration of the grant.

Narrative Criteria Responses *Instructions for Applicants*	Review Criteria ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
4.d. Acquiring Additional Resources (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe your system(s) and/or procedure(s) to appropriately acquire additional expertise and resources (e.g., contractors or subrecipients) necessary to complete the project. *(Refer to Section IV of EPA NOFO Clauses regarding the difference between contractors and subrecipients.)*	The degree to which the applicant's system(s) and/or procedure(s) to acquire additional expertise and resources (e.g., contractors or subrecipients) are appropriate to complete the project. *(Note, if an applicant has selected a contractor or subrecipient without complying with applicable requirements as described in Section 2.B.8., the response will be evaluated less favorably.)*

Past Performance and Accomplishments

Review the information on 4.e. – 4.g. below and only respond to the single criterion that pertains to your organization's circumstances.

4.e.: If your organization directly received an EPA Brownfields Multipurpose Grant, Assessment Grant, Revolving Loan Fund Grant, Cleanup (MARC) Grant, and/or 128(a) Grant that is currently open or closed[31] in 2016 or later, please respond to 4.e. below. (Do not include information on Targeted Brownfields Assessments, Area-Wide Planning Grants, Job Training Grants, subawards from another Brownfields Grant recipient, or experience as a non-lead member of an Assessment Coalition Grant or RLF Coalition Grant. Do not include information on Brownfields MARC or 128(a) Grants that closed in 2015 or earlier.)

4.f.: If your organization never directly received an EPA Brownfields MARC or 128(a) Grant but received other federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements that are currently open or closed in 2016 or later (including only receiving an Area-Wide Planning Grant or Job Training Grant), please respond to 4.f. below. (Do not include information on financial assistance agreements that closed in 2015 or earlier.)

4.g.: If your organization has never directly received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement, or the only financial assistance agreement(s) the organization has received closed in 2015 or earlier, or if your organization has recently received a financial assistance agreement (including a Brownfields Grant) but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements, please indicate this in response to 4.g. below.

In evaluating an applicant's response to this criterion, in addition to the information provided by the applicant, EPA may consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and/or from other federal or non-federal grantors to verify or supplement information provided by the applicant. Applicants will only be evaluated using a single sub-criterion below that is appropriate to their situation.

4.e. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant That Closed in 2016 or Later (15 points)

The period of performance for the organization's EPA Brownfields Grant(s) must have ended in 2016 or later to qualify for this category. Applicants should identify and provide information regarding each of their organization's current and/or most recent EPA Brownfields Grants. Demonstrate how the organization successfully managed the grant(s) and performed all phases of work by providing information on the items listed below.

[31] For the purposes of this criterion, the term "closed" refers to a grant period of performance that has ended.

Narrative Criteria Responses ***Instructions for Applicants***	**Review Criteria** ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
EPA will evaluate the degree to which the applicant demonstrates its ability to successfully manage the grant and perform all phases of work under the grant based on current/past EPA Brownfields Grant(s) (i.e., MARC Grant, or 128(a) Grant).	
(1) Accomplishments (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe the accomplishments (including specific outputs and outcomes) achieved under the current/most recent grant(s) (no more than three), including at a minimum, the number of sites assessed and/or cleaned up. • Discuss whether these outputs and outcomes were accurately reflected in the Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) at the time of this application submission; if not, explain why.	The extent to which meaningful accomplishments (including specific outputs and outcomes) were achieved under the current/most recent grant(s), including at a minimum, the number of sites assessed and/or cleaned up, and the extent to which outputs and outcomes were accurately reflected in ACRES at the time of this application submission. If outputs and outcomes were not accurately reflected in ACRES at the time of this application submission, the extent to which the explanation is adequate.
(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements (10 points) EPA will not penalize the applicant for closure of a Revolving Loan Fund cooperative agreement per the FY23 RLF Policy Memo.	
Applicants should: • Discuss your organization's compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent grant(s) (no more than three), including your organization's history of timely and acceptable quarterly performance, grant deliverables, and ongoing ACRES reporting. Include whether your organization has made and has reported progress towards achieving the expected results of the grant in a timely manner. If not, discuss what corrective measures your organization took and how the corrective measures were effective, documented, and communicated. • For all open EPA Brownfields Grants, indicate the grant period (start and end date), if funds remain, and the plan to expend the funds on eligible activities by the end of the period of performance as defined in 2 CFR § 200.1. • For all closed EPA Brownfields Grants, indicate if there were funds remaining, the amount of remaining funds, and a brief explanation for why any remaining funds were not expended within the period of performance.	The extent of compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent grant(s), and the extent to which the history of quarterly performance, grant deliverables, and ongoing ACRES reporting demonstrates timely and acceptable reporting. The degree to which progress was made (and reported) towards achieving the expected results of the grant(s) in a timely manner. If expected results were not achieved and reported, the extent to which the measures taken to correct the situation were reasonable and appropriate, or the extent to which the explanation for the lack of reporting is adequate. (5 points) The extent to which funds from any open EPA Brownfields Grants (i.e., Multipurpose Grants, Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants, and/or 128(a) Grants) are committed to eligible grant activities. The likelihood that all grant funds under the current grant(s) will be expended by the end of the period of performance as defined in 2 CFR § 200.1. For all closed EPA Brownfield Grants, if funds remained, the extent to which the explanation for why is reasonable, and the degree to which the applicant made every effort

Narrative Criteria Responses ***Instructions for Applicants***	**Review Criteria** ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
	to spend the remaining funds within the period of performance. (5 points)
– OR –	
4.f. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements That Closed in 2016 or Later (15 points) The period of performance for the organization's financial assistance agreement(s) must have ended in 2016 or later to qualify for this category. Applicants should identify and describe each of their organization's current and/or most recent federally and non-federally funded financial assistance agreements (no more than three) *that are most similar in scope and relevance in terms of structure, community engagement, and/or deliverables to the proposed project*. Demonstrate how the organization successfully managed the agreement(s), and performed all phases of work by providing the following information. EPA will evaluate the degree to which the applicant demonstrates its ability to successfully manage the grant and perform all phases of work under the grant based on current/most recent federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements.	
(1) Purpose and Accomplishments (5 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe the awarding agency/organization, funding amount, and purpose of your organization's current/most recent assistance agreement(s). • Discuss the project accomplishments (including specific outputs, outcomes, and measures of success) achieved under the current/most recent assistance agreement(s).	The extent to which the current/most recent financial assistance agreement(s) is similar in terms of scope and relevance in terms of structure, community engagement, and/or deliverables to the proposed project. The extent to which meaningful project accomplishments (including specific outputs, outcomes, and measures of success) were achieved under the current/most recent financial assistance agreement(s).
(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements (10 points)	
Applicants should: • Describe your organization's compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent financial assistance agreement(s), including your organization's history of timely and acceptable reporting, as required by the awarding agency/organization. • Include whether your organization has made and has reported progress towards achieving the expected results of the agreement in a timely manner. If not, discuss what corrective measures your organization took and how the corrective measures were effective, documented, and communicated.	The extent of compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions under the current/most recent financial assistance agreement(s), and the extent to which the history of reporting is timely and acceptable, as required by the awarding agency/organization. The degree to which progress was made (and reported) towards achieving the expected results of the agreement(s) in a timely manner. If expected results were not achieved, the extent to which the measures taken to correct the situation were reasonable and appropriate.

Narrative Criteria Responses *Instructions for Applicants*	Review Criteria ***Each application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it addresses the following:***
– OR –	
4.g. No or Limited Financial Assistance Agreements (8 points)	
Applicants should: • Affirm that your organization has not received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement (grant or cooperative agreement). • Or, affirm that the only financial assistance agreement(s) your organization has received closed over 10 years ago (i.e., the period of performance ended in 2015 or earlier). • Or, affirm that your organization has recently received a financial assistance agreement, but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements.	Whether it is clearly affirmed that the organization has never received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreement, or the only financial assistance agreement(s) the organization has received closed over 10 years ago (i.e., the period of performance ended in 2015 or earlier), or has recently received a financial assistance agreement, but has not had an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements. *(These applicants will receive a "neutral" score of 8 points. Failure to indicate anything in response to this sub-criterion may result in zero points.)*

C. Review and Selection Process

Timely submitted applications will initially be reviewed by OBLR and the EPA Regional Office, which covers the location of the project, to determine compliance with the applicable threshold eligibility criteria for Assessment Grants (Section 2.B.). All applications that pass the threshold eligibility criteria review will be evaluated by national evaluation panels. The national evaluation panels will be comprised of EPA staff and potentially other federal agency representatives chosen for their expertise in the range of activities associated with the Brownfield Assessment Grants. Eligible applications will be evaluated based on the criteria described in Section 6.B. and a ranking list of applications will be developed.

OBLR will provide the list to the Headquarters Selection Official, who is responsible for further consideration of the applications and final selection of grant recipients. Applications will be selected for award based on their evaluated point scores, the availability of funds, and, as appropriate, the other factors and considerations described in Section 6.C.1. below.

1. Other Evaluation Factors

In making the final selections from among the most highly ranked applications, EPA's Headquarters Selection Official may consider the factors below as appropriate. Other factors include:

- whether the community population is 15,000 or less;
- whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory or whether the project is assisting a Tribe or territory;
- whether the priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land;
- whether the priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them);
- whether the priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain;
- whether reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy;
- whether reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures;
- whether the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters;
- whether at least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section 3.A.2., for priority sites within the target areas; and
- whether a target area(s) is impacted by a coal-fired power plant that has recently closed (2016 or later) or is closing.

Additionally, EPA's Headquarters Selection Official may take the following considerations into account when making final selections:

- distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas;
- whether the applicant's jurisdiction/geographic boundary(ies) is located within, or includes, a county experiencing "persistent poverty" where 20% or more of its population has lived in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates;
- distribution of funds among EPA's ten Regions;
- whether the applicant has not received any type of federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements or only had an assistance agreement(s) that closed in 2015 or earlier; and

- whether the applicant has not previously been awarded a Brownfields MARC Grant.

D. Risk Review

EPA will consider any comments by the applicant, along with information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov, when doing the risk review as required by 2 CFR § 200.206.

EPA will conduct a risk review of selected applications before making awards, as required by 2 CFR § 200.206. As part of this review, EPA may consider the following:

- Information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov, including any comments made by the applicant.
- If the applicant is a new recipient, whether they have completed the mandatory training requirement outlined in RAIN-2024-G01 New Recipient Training Requirement.
- Any unresolved administrative findings in EPA records.
- Reported issues related to financial stability and/or management systems.
- Past performance or audit issues.

7. Award Notices

EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made by OBLR's Director**.** The notification will be sent to the Project Director and Chief Executive/Highest-Ranking Elected Official listed in the Application Information Sheet in Section 4.B. This notification is not an authorization to begin work. The applicants that are selected for award will work with an EPA Project Officer to finalize the required federal application package, the proposed budget, and to negotiate the cooperative agreement workplan. The official notification of an award will be made by the Regional Award Official (EPA Grants Officer) assigned to the cooperative agreement. Selection does not guarantee an award will be made. Statutory authorization, funding, or other issues during the award process may affect the ability of EPA to make an award. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The successful applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms, which must be approved by EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded. The time between notification of selection and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipient and any sub-recipient must comply with the applicable General Terms and Conditions. These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as part of the award, terms and conditions, and restrictions reflected on the official assistance award document.

Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity are subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 1500.

B. Reporting

EPA's General Terms and Conditions in the Notice of Award will have information on performance and financial reports, including:

- How often you will report.
- Any required form or formatting.
- How to submit them.

C. Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting

The Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires:

- Data entry at SAM.gov for all subawards and subcontracts issued for $30,000 or more.
- Reporting executive compensation for both recipient and subaward organizations.

D. Brownfield Programmatic Requirements

Approved cooperative agreements will include terms and conditions (including any applicable Davis-Bacon labor standards and prevailing wage requirements for construction) that will be binding on the recipient. Brownfield Grant recipients must comply with all applicable federal and State laws to ensure that the assessment and cleanup protect human health and the environment. Brownfield Grant recipients also must comply with the program's technical requirements, which may include, but are not limited to, requirements for: reporting of progress and site-specific accomplishments, Quality Assurance requirements, historic properties or threatened and endangered species, all appropriate inquiries, sufficient progress, collection of post-grant information, and protections of nearby and sensitive populations. The assistance agreement will include terms and conditions implementing these requirements. For additional information, please review the Brownfield Programmatic Requirements.

E. Build America, Buy America

Certain projects under this competition are subject to the Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58, §§ 70911-70917) when using funds for the purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States. The Buy America preference requirement applies to all of the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for an infrastructure project under an award identified in EPA's financial assistance funding programs subject to BABA report.

These sourcing requirements require that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in Federally funded infrastructure projects must be produced in the United States. The recipient must implement these requirements in its procurements, and this article must flow down to all subawards and contracts at any tier. For legal definitions and sourcing requirements, the recipient must consult the EPA's Build America, Buy America website.

Please consider this information when preparing budget information. EPA has and will continue to provide further guidance on which projects are subject to BABA provisions and will work with grant recipients to support implementation as necessary.

When supported by rationale provided in IIJA § 70914, the recipient may submit a waiver request to EPA. The recipient should request guidance on the submission instructions of an EPA waiver request from the EPA Point of Contact listed in Section 1.E. A list of approved EPA waivers is available on the Build America, Buy America website.

In addition to BABA requirements, all procurements under grants may be subject to the domestic preference provisions of 2 CFR § 200.322.

See "Build America, Buy America" clause in EPA NOFO Clauses.

9. Other Information

A. Additional Provisions for Applicants

Additional provisions that apply to this funding opportunity and/or awards made under this funding opportunity can be found at EPA NOFO Clauses. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please contact the EPA point of contact to obtain the provisions.

These provisions are important for applying to this funding opportunity and applicants must review them when preparing applications.