

TAB Technical Assistance to Brownfields | Kansas State University

MARC GRANT

Summary of Changes

Updated November 2026

FY27 Summary of the Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) Grant Guidelines Changes
(as of 11/4/26)

EPA prepared this Summary of Changes document to assist prospective applicants with preparing Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant applications. **Please review the FY27 Application Guidelines** (also referred to as Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or the solicitation) **when preparing your application.** If the information in the Summary of Changes differs from information in the statute, regulation, or the Guidelines, then the statute, regulation, or the Guidelines will take precedence.

If you are interested in **applying for more than one grant type in FY27,** review the *FY27 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications* (see p.1) to determine which other grants are available to you.

If you currently have an EPA Brownfields Grant and are interested in applying for an FY27 grant, review the *FY27 Eligibility Chart for Existing Grant Recipients* (see p.2) to determine which other grants are available to you.

A solicitation for new Multipurpose Grants will not be issued in FY27.

Changes to All Grant Types
Changes to the **Community-wide Assessment** Grant Guidelines
Changes to the **Assessment Coalition** Grant Guidelines
Changes to the **Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes** Guidelines
Changes to the **Revolving Loan Fund** Grant Guidelines
Changes to the **Cleanup** Grant Guidelines

CHANGES TO THE ASSESSMENT, REVOLVING LOAN FUND, AND CLEANUP GRANT GUIDELINES		
Topic	**Most Recent Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines**	**FY27 Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines**
General Information		
Cost Share (RLF and Cleanup only)	EPA waived statutory cost share requirements per the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.	RLF and Cleanup Grant applicants must include a 20% cost share of the federal funds. The cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services, must be for eligible and allowable costs under the grant. This requirement is waived for projects located in U.S. Territories. All other applicants must describe how they will meet the cost share, even if applying for a hardship waiver.

		Eligible entities may petition EPA to waive the cost share requirement if meeting a cost share will place an undue hardship. EPA will consider hardship waiver requests submitted with the application on a case-by-case basis and intends to approve such requests on an extremely limited basis. See Section 2.C. Cost Sharing of the RLF Grant and Cleanup Grant Guidelines for details.
Participant Support Costs (RLF and Cleanup Grants only)	Details on the eligible use of participant support costs were only covered in Multipurpose Grant and Assessment Grant Guidelines.	The use of participant support costs was included in Section 2.B.2. Eligible Uses of Grant Funds for all grant types. If an applicant proposes to include participant support costs in their project, they should respond accordingly in their Narrative Criteria Response to 3.b./3.d. Project Implementation: "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."
$200,000 Site-Specific Activities Limit (Assessment Grants only)	EPA waived the statutory site-specific activities limit for Assessment Grants awarded with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding.	Site-specific activities are limited to $200,000 per site per grant: "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. 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."
2.A. Eligible Applicants and 2.B. Threshold Eligibility Criteria		
2.B.i. Threshold Eligibility Criteria Number of Applications	Previously stated: "EPA considers departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the same State, Tribal, 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	EPA clarified: "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

	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. Applicants that exceed the number and type of applications allowable will be contacted prior to review of any of the applications by EPA to determine which application(s) the applicant will withdraw from the competition."	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."
2.B.iv. Risk Review		EPA added a Risk Review threshold Eligibility requirement: "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."
Contractors and Named Subrecipients	Details on how State, territory, Tribal, and eligible Tribal entity applicants should respond to the criterion were in a footnote.	EPA clarified: "State, territory, 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. 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)…" Additional information on applicants with noncompliant procurement processes that may have to prepare and issue a new RFP/RFQ was moved to Section 4.D.
4.C. Narrative Criteria Outline & 6.B. Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria		
Narrative Criteria Location	Narrative criteria were previously under Section 4.C.	Section 4.C. is now the Narrative Criteria Outline, and includes optional sample tables. Applicants should use the outline in Section 4.C. to organize the information provided in response to the instructions in Section 6.B. Section 6.B. includes instructions for what applicants should include in their Narrative Criteria Responses to address the Review Criteria. The Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria are listed side-by-side in Section 6.B.
General Review Criteria Updates		Review Criteria were updated to emphasize the quality and impact of the applicant's approach rather than the inclusion of specific information in the Narrative Criteria Responses.
6.B.1.g./h. Use of Existing Infrastructure	Previously stated: "Describe how this grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure (e.g., utilities, roads, buildings, etc.) at the priority site(s) and/or within the target area(s). If additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are key to the reuse of the priority site(s), describe these needs/upgrades and funding resources that will be sought to implement that work."	This criterion now asks applicants to: "Describe the state of the existing infrastructure (e.g., utilities, roads, buildings, etc.) at the priority site(s) and/or within the target area(s). 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 site(s), describe these needs/upgrades and funding resources that will be sought to implement that work."

6.B.2. Community Need	Previously stated: "Applicants are encouraged to 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 can include data in the Narrative to help characterize and describe the target area(s) and its 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."	EPA clarified: "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 area(s) and its 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 is appropriate."
6.B.2.c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions	Previously stated: "Describe how this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, threats to populations in the target area(s) 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, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum."	EPA added: "Provide quantitative data to demonstrate that populations in the target area(s) suffer from a greater-than-normal incidence of diseases or conditions (including cancer, asthma, or birth defects) that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances, 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."
6.B.2.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations		This criterion was removed.
6.B.2.d. Disaster Preparedness	6.B.1.e. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy previously included: "Describe how the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters."	EPA moved to a new criterion: "Provide a brief description of any extreme weather events and/or natural disasters 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."
6.B.3.f./g. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results	Previously stated: "Discuss your plan and system to track, measure, and evaluate progress in achieving expected project outputs, overall results, and eventual outcomes. *(Definitions of outputs and outcomes are provided in Section 3.A.(4).)*"	EPA added: "Discuss your plan and the tool(s) you will use to track, measure, and evaluate progress in achieving expected project outputs, overall results, and eventual outcomes, including your plan to 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.)*"
6.B.4. Past Performance and Accomplishments	Applicants were asked to discuss if their organization ever received an EPA Brownfields MARC and/or 128(a) Grant, or any other federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements. Organizations that never received a financial assistance agreement, or recently received an agreement but did not have the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements, received a neutral score.	Applicants should only discuss their organization's EPA Brownfields MARC and/or 128(a) Grants, or any other federal or non-federal financial assistance agreements that are currently open, or grants/agreements with a period of performance ended in 2016 or later. Organizations that never received a financial assistance agreement, or the only financial assistance agreement(s) the organization received closed in 2015 or earlier, or that recently received an agreement but did not have the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the award requirements, receive a neutral score.
6.C.1. Other Evaluation Factors		EPA added a new other factor: "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"

COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT GUIDELINE CHANGES

A Community-wide Assessment Grant is appropriate for communities that are beginning to address their brownfield challenges, as well as for communities that have ongoing efforts to bring sites into productive reuse.

Topic	FY26 Assessment Grant Guidelines	FY27 Assessment Grant Guidelines
General Information		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
2.A. Eligible Applicants and 2.B. Threshold Eligibility Criteria		

2.B.3. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025, to apply for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant.	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2026, to apply for an FY27 Community-wide Assessment Grant. Review the threshold eligibility criteria in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.
4.C. Narrative Criteria Outline & 6.B. Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6.B. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 26% Community Need and Community Engagement – 22.5% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 29% Programmatic Capability – 22.5% Maximum number of points: 155	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 26% Community Need and Community Engagement – 22.5% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 29% Programmatic Capability – 22.5% Maximum number of points: 155
ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANT GUIDELINE CHANGES		
Assessment Coalitions 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.		
Topic	**FY26 Assessment Grant Guidelines**	**FY27 Assessment Grant Guidelines**
General Information		
Award Information	Awards are available for up to $1,500,000.	Awards are available for up to $1,000,000.
2.A. Eligible Applicants and 2.B. Threshold Eligibility Criteria		
2.B.3. Non-lead Member(s) that Never Received an EPA MARC Grant or only Received MARC Grant(s) that Closed in 2015 or Earlier	The previous criterion required that at least one non-lead member of the coalition had never been awarded an EPA Brownfields MARC Grant.	EPA added to the criterion: "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."
2.B.7. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025, to apply for an FY26 Assessment Coalition Grant.	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients (i.e., lead and non-lead members) that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2026, to apply for an FY27 Assessment Coalition Grant. Review the threshold criteria in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.
4.C. Narrative Criteria Outline & 6.B. Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6.B. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 28% Community Need and Community Engagement – 22% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 28% Programmatic Capability – 22% Maximum number of points: 160	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 28% Community Need and Community Engagement – 22% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 28% Programmatic Capability – 22% Maximum number of points: 160
COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANTS FOR STATES AND TRIBES (CWAGST)		
This funding is only available to states, Tribes, and eligible native corporations in Alaska to address brownfield sites throughout their entire jurisdiction.		
Topic	**FY26 Assessment Grant Guidelines**	**FY27 Assessment Grant Guidelines**
General Information		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
2.A. Eligible Applicants and 2.B. Threshold Eligibility Criteria		
Ineligible Applicants	Entities applying for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes may not apply for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant, or an FY26	Entities applying for an FY27 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes may not also apply for an FY27 Community-wide

	Assessment Coalition Grant (or be a non-lead coalition member).	Assessment Grant, or an FY27 Assessment Coalition Grant (or be a non-lead coalition member).
2.B.3. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds	Current EPA Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 60.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025, to apply for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes.	EPA clarified: "Note, for State applicants, if another department, agency, or instrumentality of the same State has an open EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes, and EPA determines it is the same entity as the applicant, that grant is subject to this threshold requirement. State applicants may contact their Regional Brownfields Contact in Section 1.E. to confirm whether another department, agency, or instrumentality in their State has an open EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes. EPA may request additional information as needed to determine whether the entities are directly supervised or controlled by the same elected/appointed executive." Current EPA Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 60.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2026, to apply for an FY27 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes. Review the threshold criteria in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.
4.C. Narrative Criteria Outline & 6.B. Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6.B. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 26% Community Need and Community Engagement – 22.5% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 29% Programmatic Capability – 22.5% Maximum number of points: 155	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 26% Community Need and Community Engagement – 22.5% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 29% Programmatic Capability – 22.5% Maximum number of points: 155
REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) GRANT GUIDELINE CHANGES		

Revolving Loan Fund Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to capitalize a revolving loan fund and to provide loans and subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields sites.		
Topic	**FY25 RLF Grant Guidelines**	**FY27 RLF Grant Guidelines**
General Information		
NOFO Template		Information has been rearranged into different sections using EPA's streamlined NOFO template. Note, EPA did not issue a request for RLF Grants in FY26.
2.A. Eligible Applicants and 2.B. Threshold Eligibility Criteria		
Eligible Applicants	Only eligible entities who do not have or are not part of (i.e., a coalition member) an open cooperative agreement for a Brownfields RLF at the time of application may apply for funding in the FY25 competition.	Only eligible entities who do not have or are not part of (i.e., a coalition member) an open cooperative agreement for a Brownfields RLF at the time of application may apply for funding in the FY27 competition.
4.C. Narrative Criteria Outline & 6.B. Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria		
Narrative and Review Criteria Alignment		Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria were updated to align with the FY27 Assessment and Cleanup Grant Guidelines. Please review the FY27 RLF Grant Guidelines for details.
6.C.1. Other Evaluation Factors		EPA added a new other factor: "whether the applicant's jurisdiction/geographic boundary(ies) lacks access to Brownfields RLF resources from an open RLF cooperative agreement"
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6.B. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 24% Community Need and Community Engagement – 21% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 34% Programmatic Capability – 21% Maximum number of points: 190	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 24% Community Need and Community Engagement – 19% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 35% Programmatic Capability – 22% Maximum number of points: 185
CLEANUP GRANT GUIDELINE CHANGES		
Cleanup Grants provide funding for eligible entities to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites.		

The applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding.		
Topic	**FY26 Cleanup Grant Guidelines**	**FY27 Cleanup Grant Guidelines**
General Information		
Award Information	Awards are available in two categories: up to $500,000 and up to $4,000,000. Applications in each category will be placed on separate selection lists.	Awards are available for up to $500,000 and will be considered on one selection list.
Application Information Sheet	For Cleanup Grants funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, applicants were required to include a Sufficient Characterization letter in response to threshold criterion 2.B.(9). instead of an acknowledgement letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority (or equivalent authority).	Applicants should attach a current letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority (or equivalent) acknowledging that they plan to conduct cleanup activities at one or more sites and are planning to apply for FY27 federal Brownfields Grant funds. Letters regarding applications from prior years will not be accepted.
2.A. Eligible Applicants and 2.B. Threshold Eligibility Criteria		
2.B.3. Expenditure of Existing Multipurpose Grant Funds	Current Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025, to apply for an FY26 Cleanup Grant.	Current Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2026, to apply for an FY27 Cleanup Grant.
2.B.4. Site Ownership	Applicants were previously required to identify the current owner of the site, and if they were not the current owner, the date they planned to acquire ownership.	EPA clarified when ownership documentation is required: "**Identify** the current owner of the site and **provide** information that demonstrates site ownership as it pertains to your circumstance(s). • If you own the site in fee simple, as evidenced by a recorded deed or title, **provide** the date that the deed or title was recorded. EPA may request a copy of the recorded deed or title. • If you own the site in fee simple, but the deed or title has not been recorded, a) **attach** a copy of the deed or title; and b) **cite** the State or local law that establishes site ownership has been conveyed to you through an executed deed or title. • If you do not own the site in fee simple, a) **identify** your ownership arrangement and/or transfer method (e.g., a quitclaim deed, nominee agreement, or 99-year irrevocable

		lease), which EPA must approve as functionally equivalent to fee simple ownership; and b) **attach** documentation to demonstrate site ownership. • If you are not the current owner, a) **identify** the date you plan to acquire ownership of the site; and b) **identify** how you plan to acquire ownership (e.g., fee simple title, or another ownership arrangement, which EPA must approve). EPA staff may follow up for more information and to obtain documentation to demonstrate site ownership. To be eligible to receive a Cleanup Grant, the applicant must be the sole owner of the site that is the subject of its Cleanup Grant application and must own the site by **January 21, 2027**. For the purposes of Brownfields Cleanup Grant eligibility determinations, the term "own" means fee simple ownership as evidenced by a recorded deed or title or other documentation establishing you are the fee simple owner. Alternatively, EPA may approve a different ownership agreement or transfer method that is determined to be functionally equivalent to fee simple ownership (for example, a quitclaim deed, nominee agreement, or 99-year irrevocable lease). (**EPA strongly recommends contacting the Regional Brownfields Contact listed in Section 1.E. to ensure the proposed site is eligible for funding prior to submitting your application.**)
2.B.9. Sufficient Site Characterization	The previous criterion required that applicants, other than a State or Tribal Environmental Authority, attach a letter from the appropriate State or Tribal Environmental Authority affirming whether the applicant requested oversight for the site, eligibility of the site to be overseen by the State or Tribal Program, and that, based on information provided by the applicant, the site was or would be sufficiently characterized for remediation work to begin.	The criterion no longer requires a letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority. All applicants must: "**Affirm** that an Environmental Professional (as defined in 40 CFR § 312.10) has certified that there is a sufficient level of site characterization from the environmental site assessment performed to date for the remediation work to begin on the site(s); or **Indicate** that additional assessment is needed to sufficiently characterize the site(s) for the remediation work to begin; and **affirm** that, if selected for funding, there will be a sufficient level of site characterization from the environmental site assessment performed, before the grant is awarded, for the remediation work to

		begin on the site(s). Applicants selected for funding must affirm that an Environmental Professional has certified that there is a sufficient level of site characterization for the remediation work to begin on the site(s) before an award is made. Failure to meet this requirement may result in EPA not making the award."
2.B.14. Community Notification	The criterion previously required applicants to publish a community notification ad no later than 14 days before the application was submitted to EPA.	EPA clarified that the public meeting must be no later than 7 days before the application deadline, and the community notification ad must be published at least 7 days before the public meeting: "The community meeting must be held no later than **January 14, 2027**. The community notification ad must be published no later than **January 7, 2027**. If an applicant holds the community meeting before **January 14, 2027**, the community notification ad must be published at least 7 calendar days before the community meeting. The community notification ad (or equivalent) must clearly state: • that a copy of the grant application, including the draft ABCA(s), is currently available for public review and comment; • where the draft application, including the draft ABCA(s), is located (e.g., include a website link or the location where a copy is currently available, such as town hall or the library); • how to comment on the draft application; and • the date, time, and location of the public meeting(s)." **If the community notification ad (or equivalent) does not include all of the bulleted items above, or if the draft application, including the draft ABCA(s), is not made available for public review and comment when the ad is published, the application will fail this threshold eligibility criterion.** This threshold eligibility response and/or attachments must demonstrate how the applicant's personnel were involved in the community notification (i.e., attended a public meeting, responded to comments, etc.), even if another party acts on behalf of the applicant.

		If the issue date for the community notification ad (or equivalent) is unclear, EPA may contact the applicant for clarification. If the applicant cannot provide a dated copy of the ad (or equivalent social media post, website post, listserv, etc.), the application will fail this threshold eligibility criterion. EPA will not accept a receipt or order confirmation for purchasing the ad or a signed affidavit as confirmation of the date the ad ran.
2.B.15. Waiver of the $500,000 Limit	EPA offered Cleanup Grants over the $500,000 statutory limit, per the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.	Applicants that plan to only address one brownfield site in their application may request a waiver of the $500,000 limit and request up to $650,000. EPA will consider requests on a case-by-case basis and intends to approve such requests on an extremely limited basis.
4.C. Narrative Criteria Outline & 6.B. Narrative Criteria Responses and Review Criteria		
6.B.1.e. Resources Needed for Site Characterization	Previously stated: "Identify additional assessment funding resources that will be sought if further characterization for the proposed site(s) is needed for the remediation to continue."	EPA clarified: "Identify an additional assessment funding resource(s) that will be sought if unforeseen characterization for the proposed site(s) is required for the remediation to continue.
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6 B. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 31.5% Community Need and Community Engagement – 20% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 31.5% Programmatic Capability – 17% Maximum number of points: 175	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 31.5% Community Need and Community Engagement – 20% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 31.5% Programmatic Capability – 17% Maximum number of points: 175