

Once in a Lifetime Investment in Brownfields

In December 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law would provide \$1.5 billion in funding through their Brownfields Program. This program brings direct grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes, and nonprofits to assess and clean up contaminated land through a competitive application process. The EPA provides annual funding to these entities to support brownfield redevelopment through a combination of Brownfield Assessment, Cleanup, Multipurpose, and Revolving Loan Fund Grants. The influx of funding from the Infrastructure Law will increase this program from an annual appropriation of ~\$62 million to ~\$370 million for five years (a combination of appropriation and Infrastructure Law funds).

Envirollogic has broad experience successfully applying for and implementing EPA Brownfields Grants (over \$10 million) on behalf of our clients. **On May 12, 2022, the EPA announced the recipients of the FY22 Brownfield Assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Fund Grants. Envirollogic partnered with four of the five communities in Michigan that were awarded funding: Muskegon County, Oceana County, Leelanau County, and the City of Jackson. These awards were the result of a coordinated effort between these communities and Envirollogic.** Economic development professionals have the opportunity to access these funds through Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities or other eligible entities to assess brownfields for redevelopment potential. Depending on the grant, funds can be used to conduct Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments, Baseline Environmental Assessments, Due Care and Cleanup Planning, Brownfield Plans, site cleanup, and planning activities related to brownfield sites.

With the increased funding provided to the EPA through the Infrastructure Law, now is the time to encourage applying for and bringing these funds to your community. The grant funds can be a catalyst for the redevelopment of difficult sites, areas of blight or contamination, or redevelopment planning in areas that require extra attention and assistance. The State of Michigan has over 200 Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities that potentially hold the key to offering incentives yet have either done only one project or have never actually conducted a brownfield project. One of the criticisms we often hear is “if we only had some funding to get started.” Applying for EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant funds takes an investment of time and is very competitive. However, the Infrastructure Law has opened the door to a significant increase in funding that enhances your odds of an award exponentially.

According to the EPA, the money in the Infrastructure Law will transform countless lives and spur life-changing revitalization in communities, all with the same desire to keep their neighborhoods healthy, sustainable, and reflective of the people who call them home. These funds provide an opportunity to capitalize on the efforts of local Brownfield Redevelopment

Authorities and other entities that have limited resources to promote and encourage redevelopment in their communities.

It is anticipated that in September another round of EPA Brownfield Grant funding will become available, allowing for applications to be submitted. Envirologic has been extremely successful in partnering with communities that have then been awarded these grants; however, planning for an application should begin as soon as possible. It is important to develop a compelling narrative that will accurately reflect the needs of your community and satisfy the requirements, goals, and objectives of EPA's award strategies and priorities.

For examples of past projects where Envirologic has used grant funds, as well as other funding tools and strategies, please visit our website at envirologic.com/projects.

Envirologic has developed an Infrastructure Law infographic, which is included on the next pages, and presents more information on this historic investment. For more information or to discuss projects in your community, please contact Jeff Hawkins at information@envirologic.com or (269) 342-1100.



ONCE IN A LIFETIME INVESTMENT IN BROWNFIELDS

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is investing \$1.5 billion in brownfield revitalization to scale up community-led redevelopment.



WHAT TYPE OF FUNDING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITIES?

Direct grants and technical assistance from the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program.

- Brownfield Assessment Grants (\$600 million)
- Cleanup Grants (\$160 million)
- Multipurpose Grants (\$150 million)
- Revolving Loan Fund Grants (\$150 million)



WHEN WILL THE FUNDS BE AVAILABLE?

It is anticipated the proposal guidelines will be released in September.* If so,

- Proposals will be due in November of 2022.
- Grants will be awarded in the summer of 2023.



HOW TO ACCESS GRANT GUIDELINES

Funding guidelines will be released through the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program.

- www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-assessment-grants
- Envirollogic's team of brownfield specialists will also notify you of the release.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

Refer to our "how-to" guide on page two of this document for suggestions.

**Funding amounts and deadlines are tentative and subject to change per the U.S. EPA.*

U.S. EPA Brownfield Definition: 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 hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land.



WHO CAN APPLY?

- State, local (county, city, village, township) and tribal governments.
- A range of government entities including, but not limited to:
 - Land Bank Authorities
 - Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities
 - Regional Councils of Government and state-sanctioned redevelopment agencies.
- Nonprofit organizations and limited liability corporations.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR A WINNING GRANT SUBMITTAL – DON'T WAIT!

Applications will most likely be evaluated based on the extent to which the applicant demonstrates:

- A vision for the community's reuse and redevelopment of brownfield sites (i.e., a master plan, development corridor, priority redevelopment sites).
- A strategy for leveraging resources to help accomplish the vision (not required, but improves the strength of the application).
- Support of environmental justice and disadvantaged communities.
- Strong community engagement.
- Capacity to manage and successfully implement a cooperative agreement (grant contract) with the EPA.

For Cleanup Grants, the applicant must own and have completed an assessment of the property before submitting the grant application.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Envirollogic is one of Michigan's leading brownfield redevelopment firms.

- Our team has written over \$9,000,000 of approved grant proposals to secure U.S. EPA Brownfield Grants for Michigan communities.
- We are currently working with numerous communities across the state.
- Please reach out to one of our team members at brownfields@envirollogic.com to discuss your grant opportunities. We can help you prepare for and navigate the application process to position your community for a competitive application.
- Let us help you tell your story.