



Other Brownfields Funding Sources

In addition to DEQ's Brownfields Assessment Program, other resources are available for brownfields projects.

EPA Assessment and Cleanup Grants

Eligible entities may apply directly to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for up to \$200,000 in grant funds for brownfields assessments and cleanups. For assessment grants, applicants may seek a waiver of the \$200,000 limit and request up to \$350,000 for a site contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants and up to \$350,000 to assess a site contaminated by petroleum. Due to budget limitations, no entity may apply for more than \$700,000 in assessment funding. The performance period for these grants is up to 3 years.

Although EPA funding for this program is much larger than the DEQ Brownfields Assessment Program, grants are extremely competitive. In fiscal year 2013, EPA received 654 proposals representing 885 brownfields grants. A total of 240 grants were awarded nationwide in fiscal year 2013. To learn more about these EPA grants, visit www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Who is eligible to apply?

Both assessment and cleanup grants are available to the following:

- State, local, and tribal governments, with the exception of Indian tribes in Alaska
- General purpose units of local government, land clearance authorities, or other quasi-governmental entities operating under the control, supervision, or as an agent of the local government
- Governmental entities or redevelopment agencies created or sanctioned by a state
- Regional councils of governments

Cleanup grants are also available to nonprofit organizations and nonprofit educational institutions, but applicants must own the property. Indian tribes may be eligible for funding.

For-profit entities cannot apply for funding, and applicants who received an assessment grant in the previous year are not eligible to apply for the next year. Facilities owned by, or under the custody or control of, the federal government are not eligible for funding.

How can funds be used?

EPA assessment funds may be used for *area-wide* activities such as neighborhood, city, or county projects or to assess a specific site. Cleanup funds are directed at specific brownfields sites and require a 20% cost share per the Brownfields Law. Due to budget limitations, no entity should apply for funding cleanup activities at more than three sites. Portions of a site may be found eligible if a whole site is not, and some Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites may be eligible. Facilities listed or proposed for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL) are not eligible, nor are facilities subject to unilateral administrative orders, court orders, administrative orders on consent, or judicial consent decrees issued to or entered into by parties under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Grant funds cannot be used for a penalty or fine, federal cost share required by other federal funds, administrative costs, or to pay response costs at a brownfields site for which the recipient of the grant or loan is potentially liable under CERCLA §107. These grants can be used to purchase environmental insurance.

Targeted Brownfield Assessments (TBA)

Much like DEQ's assessment program, at no cost to the applicant, EPA contractors conduct an assessment to determine the nature and extent of contamination (if any) at brownfields sites and provide the results in a report. The site must have a potential release of hazardous substances to be eligible. To learn more about EPA's TBA Program, visit

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/brownfields/targeted+brownfields+assessments>.

Some highlights of these types of grants follow:

- Value of these assessments is approximately \$50,000.
- EPA's selection process is aimed at projects where a party has concrete redevelopment plans for the site once the assessment is complete.
- Grants are available to public, quasi-public, or nonprofit entities (such as municipalities, tribal governments, and community development organizations) interested in redeveloping abandoned or underutilized properties. If a public or nonprofit entity is aware of a brownfields site that is privately held but has potential for redevelopment that will offer significant public benefit, EPA will consider spending TBA funds at the site.
- EPA can provide assistance with a screening (Phase I) assessment, a full (Phase II) site assessment, and establishing cleanup options and cost estimates based on future uses and redevelopment plans.

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Cross Funding with Other Agencies

EPA's TAB program funds organizations that provide brownfields assistance to interested parties. In EPA region 10, the TAB grantee is the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR), which provides an online resource center offering information on funding, the regulatory process, news, contacts, and other resources. For example, the brownfields program works as a great small business tool because the 5–10% of federal funds the program brings to the table via assessments and cleanups opens the door for USDA rural business, housing, and infrastructure grants and loans. CCLR partners with DEQ to perform on-site regional training workshops if there is sufficient interest. For more information, visit www.cclr.org/resources or call (415) 398-1080.

Although this type of assistance doesn't come with any funding, TAB has many advantages:

- It is a valuable source of information on how to find funding for assessments and cleanups.
- CCLR provides in-kind technical assistance and training to communities and other stakeholders on brownfields issues. One example of technical assistance is their Brownfields 101 workshop, which provides project managers with the tools, techniques, and resources required to complete projects on time and on budget.
- The TAB program serves as an independent source of information regarding community involvement; the health impacts of brownfields sites; science and technology relating to brownfields site assessment, remediation, and site preparation activities; brownfields finance questions; and integrated approaches to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment.