



EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants: Interested in Applying for Funding?

Here's what you need to know...

What Is EPA's Brownfields Program?



Colorado Coalition (before)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work

together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. EPA provides technical and financial assistance for brownfields activities through an approach based on four main goals: protecting human health and the environment, sustaining reuse, promoting partnerships, and strengthening the marketplace. Brownfields grants serve as the foundation of the Brownfields Program and support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, cleanup, and environmental workforce and job training activities. Thousands of properties have been assessed and cleaned up through the Brownfields Program, clearing the way for their reuse.



Colorado Coalition (after)

A brownfield is defined as: real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The Brownfields Law further defines the term to include a site that is: "contaminated by a controlled substance; contaminated by petroleum or a petroleum product excluded from the definition of 'hazardous substance'; or mine-scarred land."

What Are Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants?

- ✓ Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants provide funding to a grant recipient for capitalizing an RLF program.
- ✓ RLF programs provide loans and subgrants to eligible entities to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites contaminated with hazardous substances and/or petroleum.
- ✓ An RLF Grant recipient must use 50 percent or more of the awarded funds for loans.
- ✓ An RLF Grant recipient cannot make a loan or subgrant to a party potentially liable for the contamination at the brownfield site under CERCLA §107, nor may the RLF grant recipient make a loan or subgrant to clean up a site that it is potentially liable for under CERCLA §107.

How Much Funding Is Available?

- ✓ Applicants may apply as an individual applicant or as an RLF Coalition (comprised of one lead member and one or more partners).
- ✓ An applicant/RLF Coalition may request up to \$1 million to address hazardous substances and/or petroleum contamination.
- ✓ Coalition members may not be members of other RLF Coalitions, nor submit an RLF application as an individual applicant, in the same grant competition cycle.
- ✓ RLF Grants require a 20 percent cost share, which may be in the form of a contribution of money, labor, material, or services, and must be for eligible and allowable costs.

Who Is Eligible To Apply For An RLF Grant?

Eligible entities include:

- ✓ General Purpose Unit of 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 or group of General Purpose Units of Local Government.
- ✓ Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state.
- ✓ State.
- ✓ Indian tribe other than in Alaska.
- ✓ Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community.
- ✓ Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ✓ Limited liability corporation/partnership in which all managing members/general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.
- ✓ Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

NEW: Starting in FY22, eligible entities that currently have, or are a part of (i.e., a coalition member), an open Brownfields RLF cooperative agreement at the time of application are not eligible to apply for an RLF Grant through the biennial competition cycle.

How Long Is The RLF Grant Period?

The performance period for an RLF Grant is five years.

Where Do I Find The Application Guidelines?

Copies of the Application Guidelines can be obtained from EPA's Brownfields Program website at www.epa.gov/brownfields or from www.grants.gov.

How Do I Apply For An RLF Grant?

Applicants submit an application through www.grants.gov. Applications should be concise and well organized, and must provide the information requested in the guidelines. Applicants must demonstrate that they meet threshold criteria requirements and must respond to ranking criteria. Factual information about your proposed project and community must be provided.

What Is The Evaluation/Selection Process?

Responses to threshold criteria are evaluated on a pass/fail basis. If the application does not meet the threshold criteria, the application will not be evaluated. In limited circumstances, EPA may seek additional information.

Brownfields grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Evaluation panels consisting of EPA staff and other federal agency representatives assess how well the applications meet the threshold and ranking criteria outlined in the Application Guidelines. The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization will provide to the Selection Official a ranking list of applicants to select based on the application's final score, availability of funds, and as appropriate, the other factors described in the Application Guidelines.

Is Pre-Application Assistance Available?

If resources permit, EPA Regions may conduct open meetings with potential applicants. Check with your regional office for date and location information. Your regional Brownfields Program contacts can be found at www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-contacts-epa-regional-offices.

EPA can respond to questions from applicants about threshold criteria, including site eligibility and ownership. EPA staff cannot meet with applicants to discuss draft applications or provide assistance in responding to ranking criteria.