

RPCGB Brownfields Assessment Project

EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Overview



Project Purpose:

The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB) is applying for an [EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant](#) to increase access for local municipalities to available federal funds for environmental assessments. The purpose of this application is to equip member governments in the six-county region with resources and funding for the completion of Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments on their vacant or blighted properties in order to spur redevelopment.

As the project manager, the RPCGB is currently engaging member governments to develop a coalition of partners, identify a preliminary list of brownfield sites, and begin the project development process. This grant application is expected to be due in November 2021.

What are Brownfields?

A **brownfield site** is defined as real property in which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of 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.

Common examples of brownfields include old gas stations, vacant dry cleaners, or abandoned lots where illegal dumping could have occurred over time. Vacant warehouses or plants and blighted buildings can also be considered brownfields.

Grant Description:

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grants provide 100% federal funding for recipients to:

- Inventory sites: Compile a listing of current brownfields
- Characterize sites: Identify past uses of properties
- Assess sites: Determine if any contamination exists on property
- Cleanup and redevelopment planning: Conduct scope and planning process for potential uses
- Community involvement: Perform community engagement activities during planning process

EPA Brownfields Assessment Grants are an effective tool for communities to use to spur redevelopment and generate new tax dollars. Utilizing a brownfield assessment grant encourages site reuse of vacant properties, which can be used as a leveraging tool for attracting new development.

How To Get Involved:

The RPCGB is currently meeting with interested member governments to discuss potential partnerships and project development ideas. If you have a potential site in mind and are interested in learning more about this partnership opportunity, please contact Jesslan Wilson, Director of Economic Development, at jwilson@rpcgb.org or 256-899-3865.