

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

**Expanding the
Conversation**



**working for
environmental
justice**

Housekeeping



Please join by phone or computer, not both



You are on mute, please enter questions and comments into the Q&A pod



If selected to speak during dialogue, please limit comment to 1 minute



Recording and transcript will be available online in the near future

En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.



Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- ☐ *How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- ☐ *Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- ☐ *Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

***MINDFULNESS
MOMENT***



mindful
EPA

Emergency Preparedness: WildFires

Deysi Merino
Migrant Health & Outreach Services
Program Manager, Vista Community Clinic
deysi.merino@vcc.org
(760) 631-5000 x2131

Vista Community Clinic (VCC)

- Established over 50 years ago and in 2002 was certified as a Federally Qualified Health Center and a Migrant Health Center, serving low-income, underserved communities
- Offers a variety of programs and services that make healthy choices possible.
- Operates 11 clinics and 4 mobile units in Southern California, including our newest clinic, VCC: Fallbrook Pediatrics.

San Diego Region

- The fifth most populated County in the United States
- It is located in the Southwest corner California state
- Bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, Imperial County to the east, the U.S.-Mexico border to the south, and Orange and Riverside counties to the north.

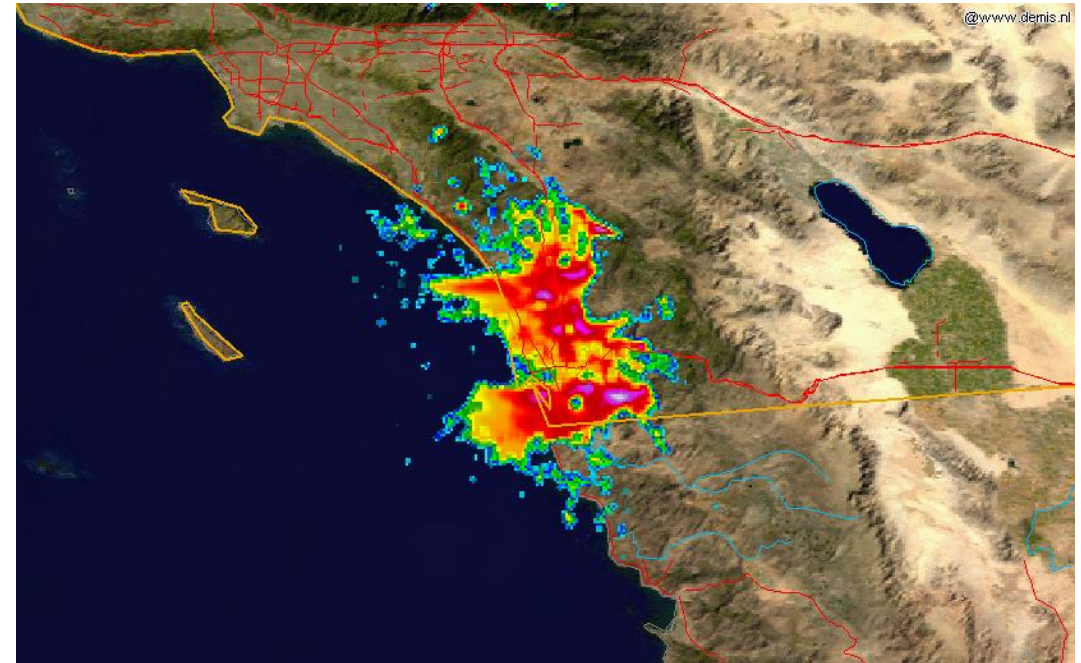


2007 Wildfires



- Burned 368,316 acres
- Destroyed 1,751 homes and businesses

- 8 fires
- Fire lasted 10 days



Most affected Group: Farmworkers

2007 wildfires resulted in:

- Lack of preparation for farmworker communities
- Thousands of Latino farmworkers and migrant families were neglected and impacted
 - o low wages, lack of mobility and limited access to health and social services
- Structural and institutional barriers to access to information and relief efforts
- Poverty, discrimination and anti-immigrant sentiment



VCC – Migrant Health Program

- Under Community Health Department
- **Grant funded**
- Serving farmworkers and migrant families.
- **Services:** care management, transportation, food distribution, *preventative health education*



EPA – 2022 award

- Funding from Office of Environmental Justice
- **Create** an emergency planning protocol for farmworkers to be delivered by Community Leaders
- Conduct emergency preparedness **trainings**
- Share best practices with CBOs to respond to an emergency



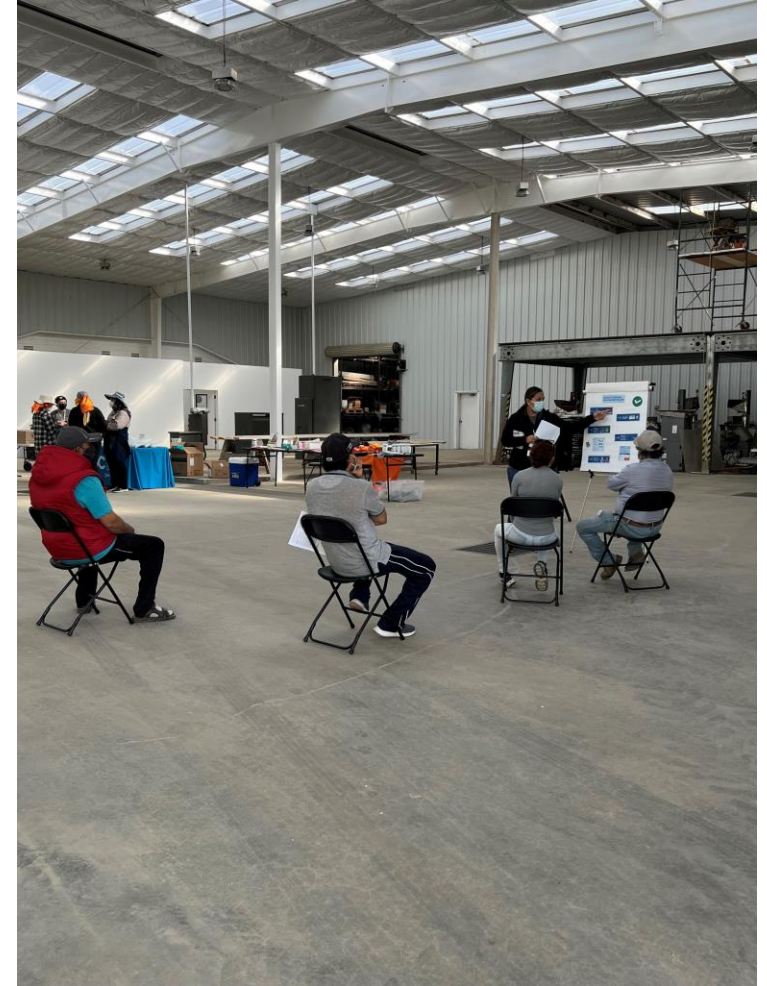
Partners

- **Farmworker CARE Coalition (FWCC)** community advisory arm for the project.
- ***Poder Popular (PP)*** will advise and guide portions of the project, including direct involvement in the training of *Promotores* and in community outreach.
- ***Universidad Popular (UP)*** play a central role in the process of updating and enhancing the first EPP.
- **Farmworker Justice (FJ)** advise the project, and will provide support for webinar trainings to agencies at the national level.
- **Others to be identified...**

Project Success

- 10 community partners recruited
- 20 community leaders identified to support delivering emergency preparedness education to farmworker community
- Needs assessment developed with input from community leaders and partners
- 100 needs assessment responses collected from farmworker community
- Emergency preparedness curriculum developed and piloted
- 2024 emergency preparedness plan created

Project Pictures



Project Pictures



Best Practices

- Engage community leaders – Trusted messengers
 - Compensate their time
- Build and conduct needs assessment
- Conduct focus groups
 - Compensate participants
- Engage local/key community partners
- Meet community where they are
- Include findings from focus groups into the curriculum
- Follow up with focus group participants and engage them in the trainings
- Distribute emergency preparedness kits
- Search for sustainability of project
- *Preventative health education*



Thank you!

Deysi Merino

Migrant Health & Outreach Services

Program Manager, Vista Community Clinic

deysi.merino@vcc.org

(760) 631-5000 x2131



NEJAC

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Paula Flores-Gregg, Designated Federal Officer
Bria Crawford, Alternate Designated Federal Officer



Meet the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

Established September 30, 1993

- Provides independent advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator about broad, cross cutting issues related to environmental justice.
- Provides a valuable forum for discussions about integrating environmental justice into other EPA priorities and initiatives.



“The NEJAC is a phenomenal example of collaborative problem solving and knowledge co-production, wherein community members, EPA administrators and environmental justice leaders from throughout the nation came together to address environmental issues impacting the most vulnerable amongst us”. – Jerome Shabazz



When I saw a farmworker start to cry, when the NEJAC voted to accept the recommendations on Farmworkers and Pesticides Report to submit to the EPA Administrator on behalf of the injustices and harm that has been afflicted on her, her family, her community it humbled me to my core. The NEJAC is needed, the NEJAC is important and the NEJAC can make a difference to address EJ issues across our country." -- Jacqueline Shirley

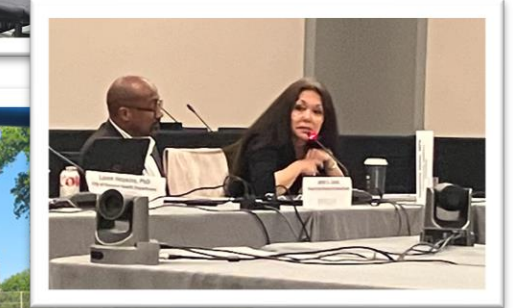
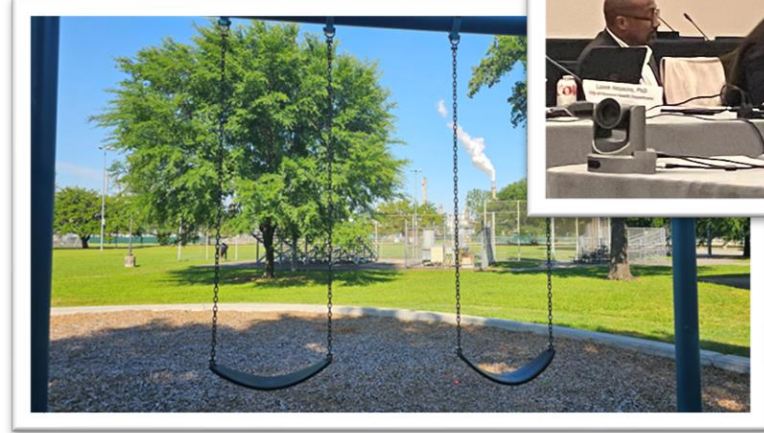
Recent NEJAC Accomplishments

Aug 2024	NEJAC Cumulative Impacts Recommendations
May 2024	NEJAC Farmworkers and Pesticides Recommendations
August 2023	NEJAC Water Infrastructure Technical Assistance Recommendations
August 2023	NEJAC NEPA Training Recommendations
December 2022	NEJAC Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Recommendations
December 2022	NEJAC Finance and Investments Recommendations
November 2022	NEJAC Air Quality and Community Monitoring (AQCM) Recommendations
July 2021	NEJAC "100 Day Letter" to EPA Administrator Regan (Recommendations and Call to Action)
May 2021	NEJAC Superfund Remediation and Redevelopment for Environmental Justice Communities Recommendations
February 2020	NEJAC Superfund Working Group Phase 1 Report

Current Charges & Consultations

- Civil Rights Title VI Charge
- EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Implementation Phase Consultation

“We need more spaces where the grassroots, faith and business communities, educational institutions and government are leveraging their unique skills, gifts and abilities while working toward a common goal of justice. NEJAC members bridge the gap between good intentions and good outcomes.” - Laprisha Daniels



New Member Recruitment

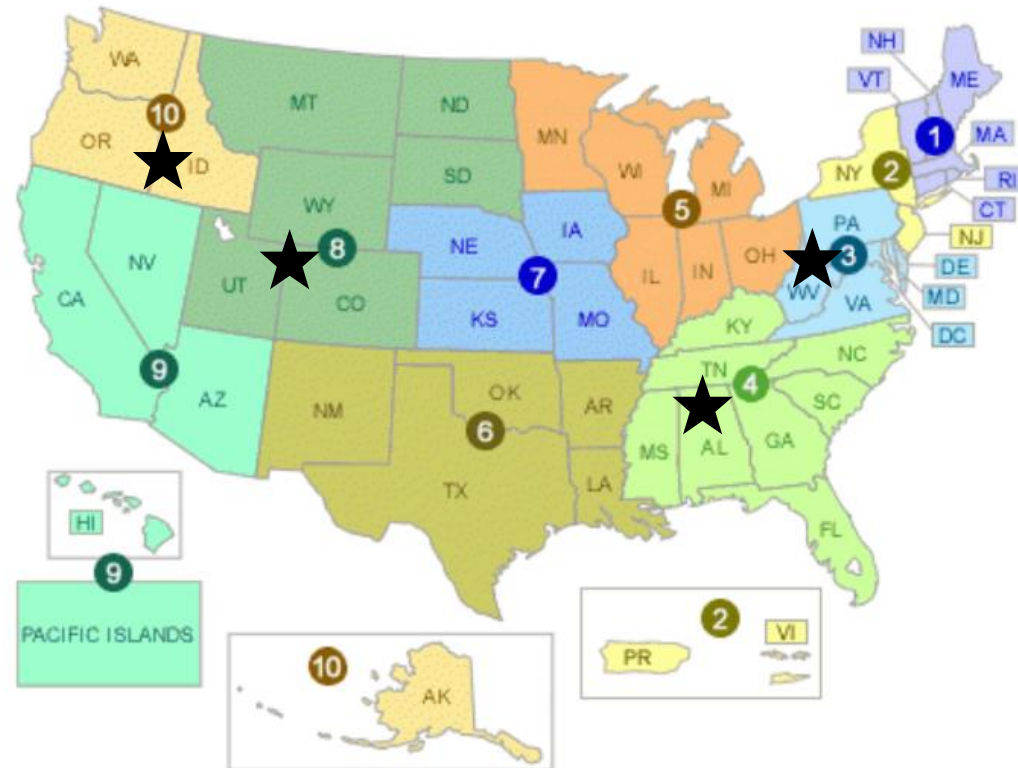
The Council has 7 members rolling off in September 2024

Focusing recruitment on areas where we have category and regional gaps (3, 4, 8, and 10).

Stakeholder Categories

- Academia
- Business and Industry
- Community-Based
- NGO/Environmental
- State/Local Government
- Tribal Government/ Indigenous

Announcement will go out soon



Nomination Criteria

- The background and experience that would help members contribute to the diversity of perspectives on the committee
- Demonstrated experience with environmental justice and community sustainability issues
- Excellent interpersonal and consensus-building skills,
- Ability to volunteer time
- The average workload for the members is approximately 20 to 25 hours per month
- Members are expected to participate on work groups that may meet up to twice a month via virtual meetings
- Willingness to commit time to the committee and demonstrated ability to work constructively and effectively on committees.

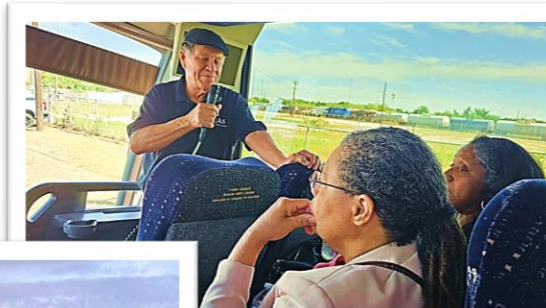
How to Submit

- A completed Nomination Form
- Resume and a short biography describing the professional and educational qualifications of the nominee/applicate, including a list of relevant activities, and any current or previous service on advisory committees.
- One (1) letter of recommendation is required from a third party supporting the nomination; no more than a total of three (3) letters.



The application process will close on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, by the end of business on that day. Please check the list of vacancies and application instructions. New members will be appointed by January 31, 2025.

For more information, contact:
Bria Crawford,
NEJAC Alternate Designated Federal Officer, U.S. EPA,
by email at **nejac@epa.gov**



FY 2025 Brownfields Grants

Overview of EPA's Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants

September 17, 2024



Welcome!

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the FY 2025 Brownfields Grant offerings and where to find resources to apply:

- ❖ Assessment Grants

- Community-wide Assessment Grants
- Assessment Coalition Grants
- Community-wide Assessment Grants for States & Tribes

- ❖ Revolving Loan Fund Grants

- ❖ Cleanup Grants

Application submission deadline for all grant types: November 14, 2024

See the **MARC Grant Application Resources** webpage under **Open Solicitations** for links to the guidelines and applicant resources, including recorded training on General Submission, Narrative Information Sheet, and Threshold Criteria requirements
www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources

For training on the Narrative Criteria, join the upcoming Zoom webinar(s) for:

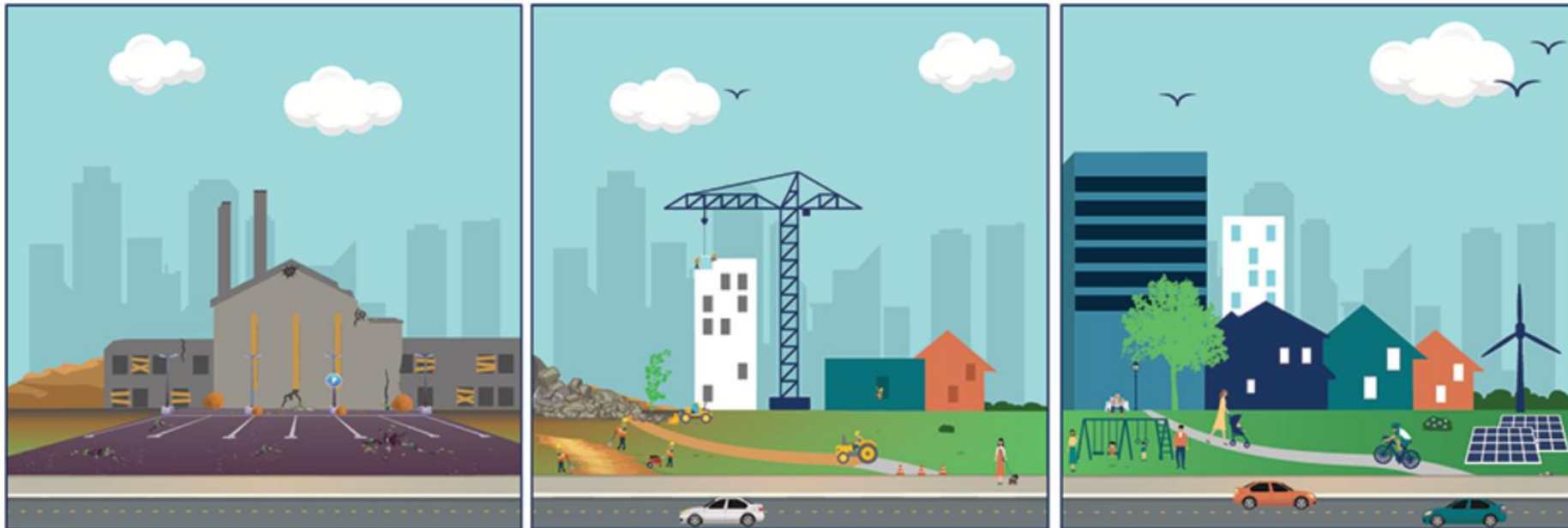
Assessment Grants - Sep 19, 2024, at 12 PM ET
<https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1610639674>

RLF and Cleanup Grants - Sep 24, 2024, at 12 PM ET
<https://usepa.zoomgov.com/j/1614022736>

EPA Supports Community Efforts to Revitalize Brownfields

EPA's [Brownfields Program](#) provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, Tribal Nations and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties.

To learn about EPA's broader efforts to put previously contaminated properties back into productive use, read about our [Land Revitalization Program](#).



Eligible Entities for Brownfields Grants

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government.
- Quasi Governmental Entities.
- Regional Council established under governmental authority.
- Group of General Purpose Units of Local Government established under Federal, state or local law (e.g., councils of governments) to function as a single legal entity with authority to enter into binding agreements with the Federal Government.
- Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state.
- State.*
- Federally recognized 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.
- Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- **Cleanup only:** Other nonprofit organizations consistent with the definition of Nonprofit organization at 2 CFR § 200.1.

See the full list
of eligible
entities in
Section III.A.

*Includes D.C, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Marianas, and any other U.S. Territory



Individuals, for-profit organizations, and organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that lobby the Federal Government are ineligible to receive Brownfields Grants.



Assessment Grants

Grant funds can be used for a variety of activities:

- **Inventory:** Compile a list of brownfield sites
- **Characterization:** Identify past uses
- **Assessment:** Determine existing contamination
- **Site-specific Cleanup Planning, Area-Wide and Revitalization Planning:** Scope and plan process for site assessment, cleanup and reuse
- **Community Involvement:** Inform and engage stakeholders



Community-wide Assessment Grants

- 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.
- **Funding:** up to \$500,000
- **Project Period:** up to 4 years



Assessment Coalition Grants

- Coalitions are designed for one “lead” eligible entity to partner with eligible entities.
- The **lead** member must be a state, county government, Indian Tribe other than in Alaska, Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, the Metlakatla Indian Community, regional council or a group of general purpose units of local government established under a governmental authority.
- Information on **non-lead** members:
 - There must be at least **two**, but not more than **four**, eligible entities (cannot be the state).
 - Must include at least one member that has never been awarded a Brownfields MARC Grant.
 - Entities with an open Brownfields MARC Grant that can demonstrate they have drawn down 70.00% of the funding for each open MARC Grant are eligible to be a non-lead member.
 - Members of the coalition **may not be an agency or instrumentality of themselves** (for example, a county and the redevelopment authority of the same county); except for coalitions in which the state is the lead and one of the members is a regional council or regional commission that is created by a state legislature through a charter or another official action.



Assessment Coalition Grants

Key Features

- Partnership with non-lead members 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.
- Must identify a target area for each member in the coalition – target areas may not overlap.
- Recipients must assess a minimum of 2 sites in each member's geographic boundary throughout the project period.
- **Funding:** up to \$1.2 million
- **Project Period:** up to 4 years



Community-wide Assessment Grants for States & Tribes

Who Can Apply?

- States.
- Indian tribe other than in Alaska; including Intertribal Consortia, comprised of eligible Indian tribes.
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and the Metlakatla Indian Community.

Current CWAGST recipients are not eligible for an FY25 Community-wide Assessment Grant or Assessment Coalition Grant

Key Features

- Identify at least 3 target areas and at least 5 priority sites in the application (at least 1 priority site in each target area).
- Target areas of higher and lower population densities.
- Recipients must assess a minimum of 10 sites in underserved and/or disadvantaged communities throughout the project period.
- **Funding:** up to \$2 million
- **Project Period:** up to 5 years



Cleanup Grants

- Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites.
- An eligible entity **must own** the site(s) at the time of application.
- Consistent with the direction on cost sharing in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a cost share is not required.
- **Funding:** An applicant may request
 - ✓ up to \$500,000, or
 - ✓ up to \$2 million, or
 - ✓ up to \$4 million.
- **Project Period:** up to 4 years



Revolving Loan Fund 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.
 - A successful RLF program revolves by generating program income, which is then used to make more loans and subgrants.



Revolving Loan Fund Grants

Key points for how an RLF Program operates:

- **At least 50%** of the total award amount must be used for loans & eligible programmatic costs associated with those loans.
- Repaid loans are returned into the fund and re-lent to other borrowers.
- Designed to operate for many years (possibly decades) and require long-term resource commitments during the project period and afterwards.
- Recipients commit to properly managing the program income generated by their RLF program in perpetuity (see [RLF Closeout Resources](#) for more details).
- RLF recipients need to have:
 - A strong understanding of real estate financing principles and approaches, including loan underwriting, loan servicing, and credit analysis; and
 - The ability to market the RLF program on an on-going basis, regardless of whether the program is operating under a cooperative agreement or a closeout agreement.



Revolving Loan Fund Grants

- **Funding:** An eligible entity or coalition of eligible entities may apply for up to \$1 million
- Only eligible entities who **do not have, or are not a part of (i.e., a coalition member), an open cooperative agreement** for a Brownfields RLF at the time of application may apply for an FY25 RLF Grant.
- **Project period:** Initially 5 years

Grant recipients with an open RLF cooperative agreement are given the opportunity to request funds through the annual supplemental funding process, which includes awarding funds as either a new grant or an amendment to the existing cooperative agreement.



Regional Brownfield Contacts (Assessment Grants)

Headquarters Contact

Elyse Salinas
brownfields@epa.gov



REGIONAL CONTACTS & STATES	
EPA Region 1 – Christine Lombard Lombard.Chris@epa.gov (617) 918-1305	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
EPA Region 2 – Yocasta DeJesus Dejesus.Yocasta@epa.gov (212) 637-4340	NJ, NY, PR, VI
EPA Region 3 – Anthony Geiger Geiger.Anthony@epa.gov (215) 814-3367	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV
EPA Region 4 – Nichole Rodgers Rodgers.Nichole@epa.gov (404) 562-8069	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN
EPA Region 5 – Torre Ippolito Ippolito.Torre@epa.gov (312) 353-6556	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI
EPA Region 6 – Paul Johnson Johnson.Paul@epa.gov (214) 665-2246	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX
EPA Region 7 – Tarah Vaughn R7_Brownfields@epa.gov (913) 551-7059	IA, KS, MO, NE
EPA Region 8 – Jennifer Benz Benz.Jennifer@epa.gov (303) 312-6551	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY
EPA Region 9 – Lisa Hanusiak Hanusiak.Lisa@epa.gov (415) 972-3152	AZ, CA, HI, NV, Pacific Island Territories
EPA Region 10 – Meredith Lightbody Lightbody.Meredith@epa.gov (206) 553-6910	AK, ID, OR, WA



Regional Brownfield Contacts (Cleanup Grants)

Headquarters Contact

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EPA Region 10 – Meredith Lightbody Lightbody.Meredith@epa.gov (206) 553-6910	AK, ID, OR, WA



Regional Brownfield Contacts (RLF Grants)

Headquarters Contact

Elyse Salinas

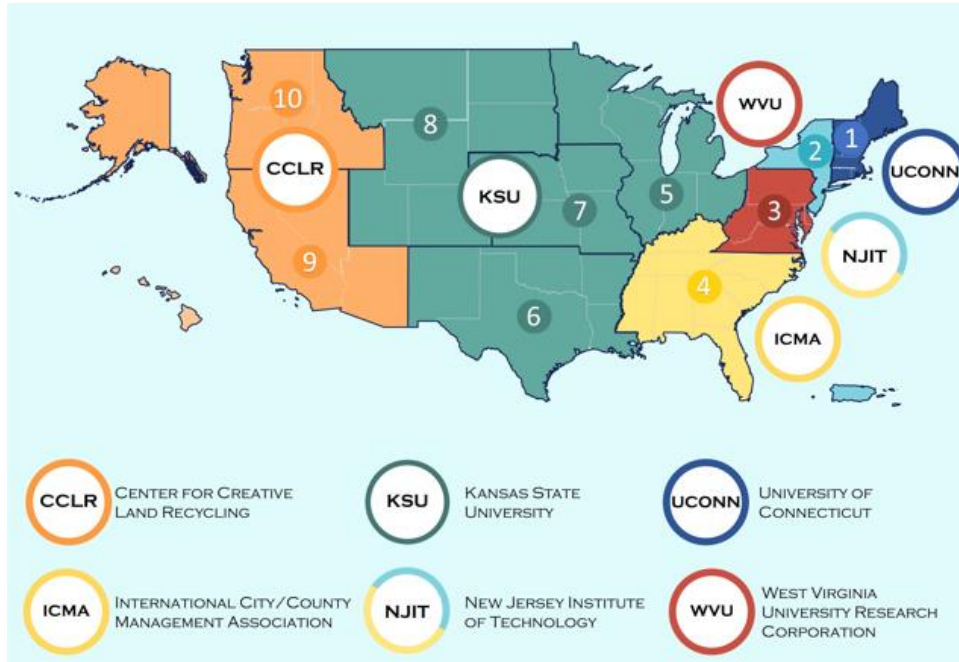
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EPA Region 3 – Brett Gilmartin Gilmartin.Brett@epa.gov (215) 814-3405	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV
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Free Application Writing Resources: Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities Providers



Assist regions with technical assistance and training to communities and other stakeholders on brownfield issues, such as:

- preparing grant applications
- performing site inventories
- reviewing historical information
- design of investigation/sampling/field analysis. and
- cleanup and redevelopment planning.

University of Connecticut

Serves EPA Region 1

Randi Mendes, Program Director

randi.mendes@uconn.edu

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Serves EPA Region 2 & Region 4

Sean Vroom

973-596-6415, svroom@njit.edu

Mid-Atlantic TAB

Serves EPA Region 3

Carrie Staton

304-293-7071, vvutab@mail.wvu.edu

Kansas State University (KSU)

Serves EPA Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8

Scott Nightingale

785-207-6021, scottnight@ksu.edu

Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR)

Serves EPA Regions 9 and 10

Claire Weston

802-488-4690, claire.weston@cclr.org

Questions?



Deadline to apply in grants.gov is **November 14, 2024**

[Click Here to Join the
Brownfields Program Listserv](#)

A screenshot of a web form titled "BROWNFIELDS AND LAND REVITALIZATION". The form is for signing up to the Brownfields Listserv. It includes a logo at the top, a title, a brief description, and several input fields for email, first name, last name, and company. A "Sign Up" button is at the bottom.

**BROWNFIELDS AND
LAND REVITALIZATION**

Sign up to the Brownfields Listserv

When you sign up you will receive important updates and notifications
from EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization.

* Email

* First Name

* Last Name

* Company

[Sign Up](#)

Thanks for Listening!!

The guidelines and applicant resources, including recorded training on General Submission, Narrative Information Sheet, and Threshold Criteria requirements are available now at

www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources

For training on the Narrative Criteria, join the upcoming Zoom webinar(s) for:

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