

Navigating FY26 Brownfields Grants: Eligibility, Threshold Criteria, & Application Strategies



US EPA R9 Brownfields Programs
The Center for Creative Land Recycling



Housekeeping

Agenda

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Timeline Changes | 1. CCLR Intro |
| 2. Grant Offerings | 2. CCLR's Services |
| 3. NOFO Changes | 3. Tips from CCLR |
| 4. Eligibility | 4. Data Platforms |
| 5. Application Package | 5. More Resources |
| 6. EPA Tips | |

Reminders

1. Zoom webinar - you will not be able to turn on mic or video
2. Put your questions in the Q&A box. We will answer questions at the end

Disclaimer

During open solicitation, **EPA** personnel may **review threshold eligibility criteria**, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about the announcement. However, EPA personnel cannot meet with individual applicants to discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft applications, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to Narrative Criteria. **CCLR** personnel can **review and provide comments on draft applications**, including responses to the Narrative Criteria.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- ❑ EPA **does not** supply an AI-generated summary of this training.
- ❑ An AI-generated summary **may not correctly capture** the training topics.
- ❑ Any AI-generated summary you might receive via email is not from EPA.

Meet our Presenters!



Brooklyn James, Env. Eng.
Project Officer
US EPA San Francisco Office



Devyn Rainwater
Program Manager, CCLR



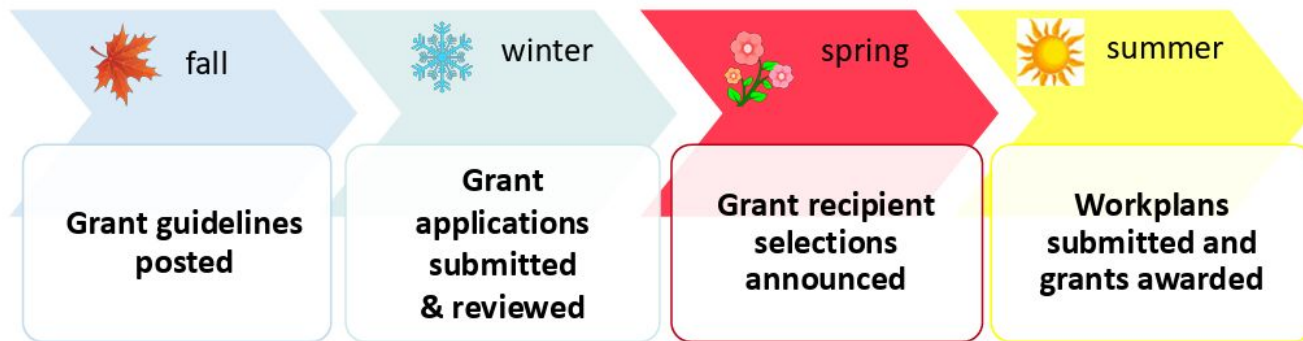
Joelle Greenland, AICP
Sr. Planning Consultant, CCLR
Founder & Principal
Green Lands Consulting

Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) “See Clear”

- National non-profit promoting the sustainable, equitable and responsible reuse of underutilized and environmentally impacted properties.
- Educate, advocate, assist and convene stakeholders to revitalize communities through land recycling.
- Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities provider R9 & R10
- Services are [FREE](#)
- Visioning & Planning
- Redevelopment process
- Environmental “Translations”
- Grant Writing Assistance & Reviews
- Grant Management & Reporting
- ACRES
- Webinars, workshops, online resources

Timeline Changes

***Dates subject to change
(excluding application
submission date)**



- ❑ **January 28, 2026: Application submission deadline**
- ❑ June 2026: Selections announced
- ❑ June – September 2026: Workplans and grant paperwork finalized
- ❑ September – October 2026: Grants awarded/funds become available

FY26 Brownfields Grant Offerings

NO COST SHARE – while IJJA
funding is available

Community Wide Assessment (CWA)

- Brownfields inventory, Phase I/II environmental site assessments, community engagement, cleanup/reuse planning. 4 year project period.
- **\$500K**

CWA for States and Tribes (CWAGST)

- Brownfields inventory, Phase I/II environmental site assessments, community engagement, cleanup/reuse planning. 5 year project period.
- **\$2M** – only available to States and Tribal Nations

Assessment Coalition (AC)

- Brownfields inventory, Phase I/II environmental site assessments, community engagement, cleanup/reuse planning. 4 year project period.
- **\$1.5M** - one lead member, 2-4 non-lead members.

Cleanup

- Remediation, reuse planning, regulatory oversight fees. 4 year project period.
- **\$500K and \$4M**
- Applicant must be owner of the site, site must be fully characterized, applicant cannot be responsible party for contamination

Multipurpose (MP)

- At least one of each of the following:
 - Phase II environmental site assessment
 - Site cleanup
 - Overall revitalization plan/site specific reuse plan
- **\$1M** up to 5 year project period.
- Target area may not include communities in distinctly different geographic areas.

FY26 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Offerings

Grant Type	Maximum Project Period	Maximum Amount Per Grant	Estimated # of Awards	Total Per Grant Type	
				Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funds	Regular Appropriated Funds
Multipurpose	5 years	\$1,000,000	20	\$20,000,000	
Assessment (Community-wide)	4 years	\$500,000	70	\$35,000,000	
Assessment (State/Tribal Level)	5 years	\$2,000,000	18	\$35,000,000	
Assessment Coalitions	4 years	\$1,500,000	39		\$58,700,000
Cleanup	4 years	\$500,000	10	\$5,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$4,000,000	26	\$102,000,000	
			183	\$197,000,000	\$58,700,000
				\$255,700,000	

NO COST SHARE



NOFO Changes - FY26 Assessment Coalition

Limitations on entities eligible to lead an assessment coalition grant have been removed.

Additions to the threshold criteria will require:

- ❑ Target areas must be identified for each coalition member, may not overlap, and must be in **at least three distinct municipalities or jurisdictions** (e.g., town, city, or Tribe)
- ❑ Lead member must have **legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members** to conduct the proposed activities. If the lead member's geographic boundary does not encompass the non-lead members' geographic boundaries, the lead member must identify the relevant law(s), ordinance(s), or other documentation to demonstrate their legal authority to expend grant funds outside of their geographic boundary.

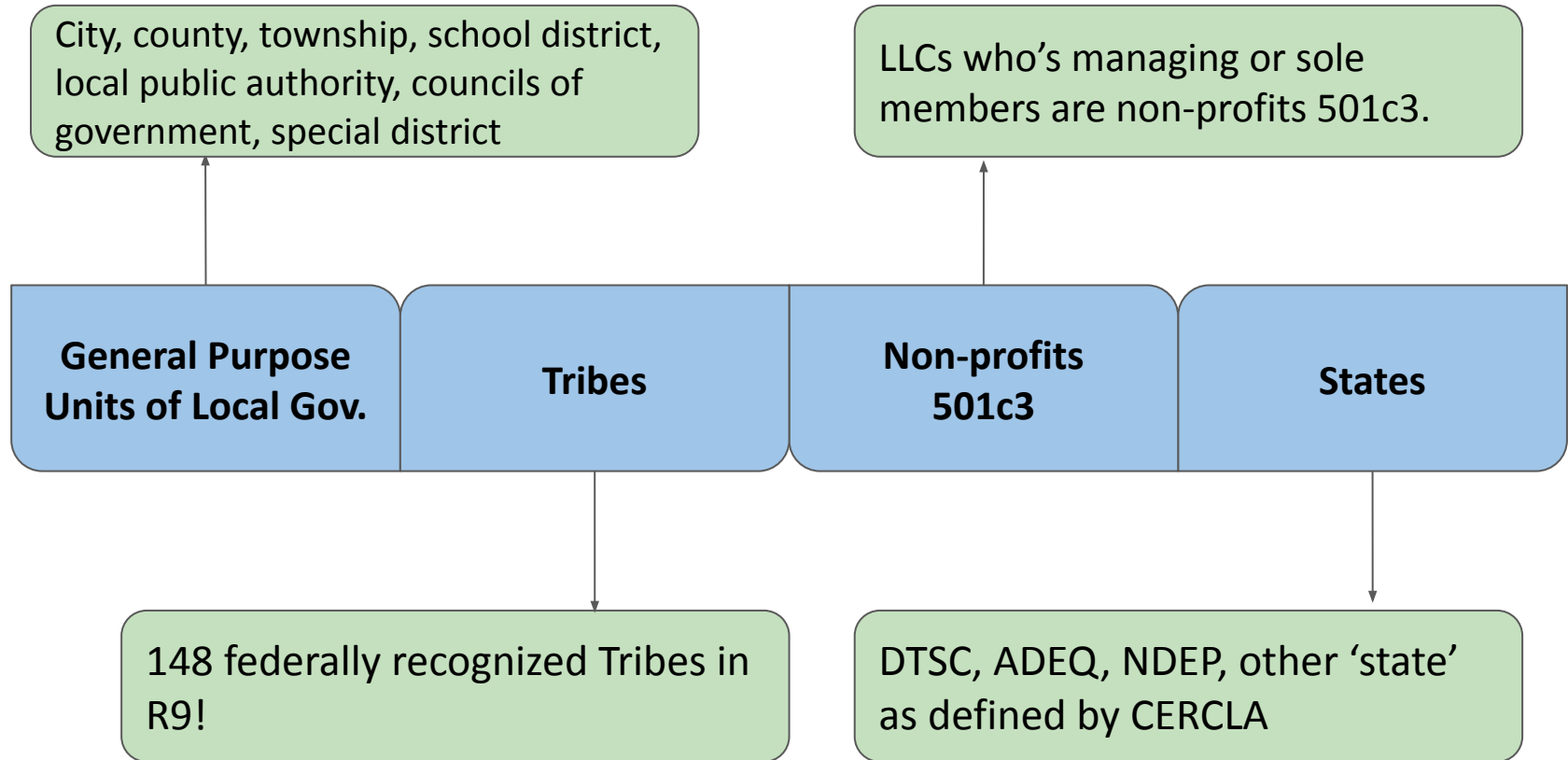
NOFO Changes - FY26 Cleanup Grant

Updates were made to the Site Characterization Threshold Criterion:

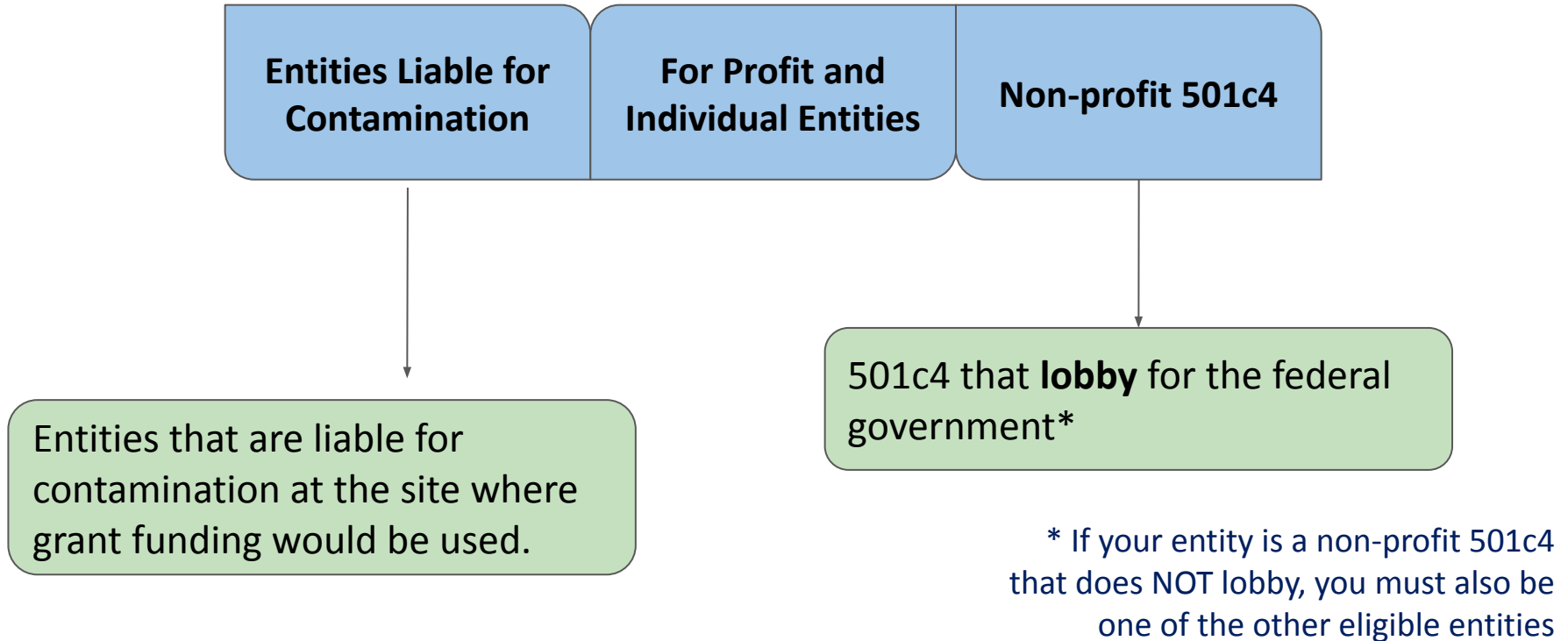
- ❑ For sites eligible to be enrolled in a voluntary response program, if additional assessment is needed to sufficiently characterize the site(s) for the remediation work to begin, the applicant should **include a statement** to that effect and affirm that there will be a **sufficient level of site characterization** from the environmental site assessment performed by **June 15, 2026**.
- ❑ See the [Types of Funding webpage](#) for more information.

Reminder - Cleanup grant site eligibility must be based on info provided in the application. Reviewers will not be able to use any outside sources to determine eligibility.

Applicant Eligibility



Applicant **Ineligibility**



Threshold Requirements (General)

- ☐ Applicant Eligibility
- ☐ Restrictions on Multiple Applications
- ☐ Community Involvement
- ☐ Expenditure of Existing EPA Brownfields Funds
- ☐ Contractors and Subrecipients
- ☐ Application Submission Requirements
 - ☐ Federal Application Forms
 - ☐ Application Information Sheet (max 3 pages)
 - ☐ Narrative Proposal (max 10/12 pages)
 - ☐ **Threshold Criteria Response Page**
 - ☐ State or Tribal Environmental Authority Letter
 - ☐ Submitted through Grants.gov

IMPORTANT: If one of the threshold criteria doesn't apply to you, do not skip it. State that it does not apply to you.

Reach out to EPA for eligibility determinations!

Cleanup Grant Eligibility Requirements

- ❑ Applicant must be the sole owner of the site
- ❑ Applicant must be exempt from, or have a defense to CERCLA liability at the site (cannot be the responsible party!)
- ❑ Applicant must be an eligible entity

*Reach out to your [regional brownfields coordinator](#) for eligibility questions (Lisa Hanusiak in R9).

Cleanup Grant Eligibility Requirements

- ❑ Completed **Phase II Environmental Site Assessment** (or equivalent report)
- ❑ Draft **Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives** (ABCA) report or equivalent document
- ❑ **Letter from State or Tribal Environmental Authority** -ensuring that the site is sufficiently characterized and the status of the site in the state or Tribal voluntary response program
- ❑ Release a **Community Notification Ad** – must be placed no later than **14 days before application submission**
- ❑ Host a **Public Meeting** – must be held to discuss and **consider comments** on the Cleanup Grant application and draft ABCA. Applicants must be able to demonstrate how this feedback was considered

Your Application Package

REQUIRED FORMS

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424 A)
3. Pre-award Compliance Review Report (EPA Form 4700-4)
4. EPA Key Contacts (Form 5700-54)
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form, as one file (if possible) include:
 - Application Information Sheet
 - Threshold Responses (and related attachments)
 - Narrative (responses to Narrative/Ranking criteria)

OPTIONAL FORMS

6. Grants.gov Lobbying Form – To be submitted by applicants requesting more than \$100,000 of EPA grant funding.
7. Negotiated/Proposed Indirect Cost Rate Agreement – submit using the Project Narrative Attachment Form.



Application Writing Resources

[EPA's MARC Webpage](#)



[Summary of Guideline Changes](#)



[FAQs](#)



[MAC Grant Submission Checklist](#)



[Sample Federal Forms](#)



[Minimum Grant Requirements Videos](#)



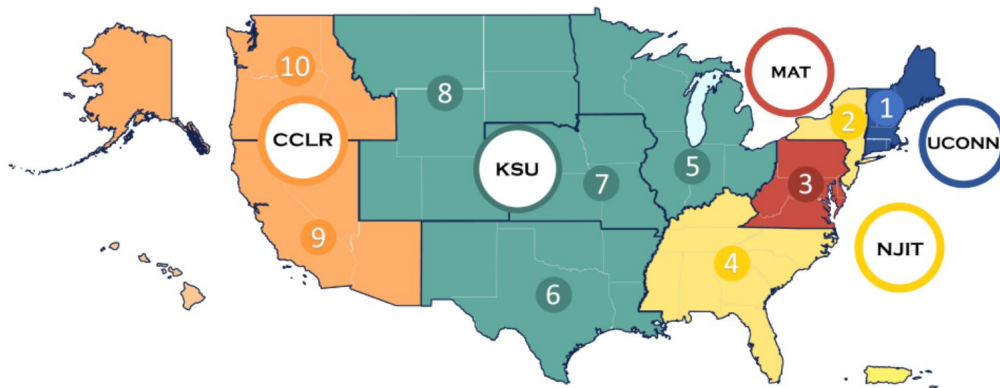
Tips from EPA

- ❑ Read the **entire** Guidelines!
- ❑ Write the app as though the reader knows **nothing** about your community.
- ❑ Respond to criteria where asked
- ❑ **Address all criteria. If it doesn't apply, state that and explain why.**
- ❑ Number pages and enumerate/identify the criterion
- ❑ The **quality** of the response is extremely important
- ❑ Organize attachments, ex:
 - ❑ Attachment A: Threshold Criteria
 - ❑ Attachment B: Cleanup Grant Levering Commitment(s)
- ❑ Use Application Checklist (do not submit checklist with application)
- ❑ Avoid using acronyms and technical/organizational jargon.
- ❑ Readability is important (1" margins, 12pt font, TNR/Arial/Calibri font)

EPA FY26 Brownfield Grant Application Review

Provided Cost-Free by Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Providers

Cost-Free Grant Review Services



Region 1

University of Connecticut TAB

Email uconn-tab@uconn.edu to schedule assistance

Submit application for review

Region 3

Mid Atlantic TAB at West Virginia U.

Email wwutab@mail.wvu.edu or schedule a virtual consultation

Regions 9 & 10

Center for Creative Land Recycling

Schedule 1:1 technical assistance or email marcreview@cclr.org with questions/application for review

Regions 2 & 4

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Schedule a call with the TAB team
Contact [Cailyn Bruno](mailto:Cailyn.Bruno), 973-596-5519

Regions 5, 6, 7 & 8

Kansas State University TAB

Contact [Scott Nightingale](mailto:Scott.Nightingale)
TAB EZ and Helpful Hints Available 12/8

Center for Creative Land Recycling

(CCLR or “see clear”)

CCLR is U.S. EPA’s Technical Assistance to Brownfields Provider (TAB) for EPA Regions 9 and 10!

Our mission is to promote the sustainable, equitable and responsible reuse of underutilized and environmentally impacted properties. We educate, advocate, assist and convene stakeholders to revitalize communities through land recycling.

In 2024, we:

Provided Assistance to

328

Unique entities/communities

Trained

2,790

Land reuse practitioners at
events/webinars

Helped Secure

\$30.9M

In EPA brownfield grants,
91% of all R9/10 selectees



CCLR is Your Partner in Land Reuse!

Brownfields 101 Training, Custom Trainings, and Resource Dissemination

- Providing a primer for those who have never worked with brownfields and/or managed a brownfields grant.
- Beginning guide to understanding the brownfields redevelopment process.
- Understanding liability including CERCLA and the Brownfields Law.
- Primer on EPA grants and other funding opportunities in R10.
- Providing custom educational workshops or training on topics including grant writing, procurement, grant reporting, etc.
- Manages an [online resource center](#) with readily available information, webinar recordings, and documents to assist practitioners in navigating the different steps of the brownfield redevelopment process.

Redevelopment Planning

- Identifying, inventorying, and prioritizing brownfields for redevelopment.
- Creating strategic plans, work plans, and setting goals for property reuse.
- Assisting communities with demographic research, health, and environmental data
- Conducting economic market and feasibility analysis for brownfields properties.
- Helping practitioners assess and analyze existing plans and conditions to inform area-wide redevelopment plans.
- Evaluate the potential reuse of existing infrastructure; and identify sites that can help spur revitalization and economic development.

Redevelopment Financing; Grant Prep/Management; Procurement

- Identifying funding opportunities and creative financing approaches.
- Developing redevelopment roadmaps and funding matrices.
- Providing guidance during brownfields grant application preparation.
- Providing thorough review of draft grant applications.
- Supporting grant management and programmatic activities including quarterly/annual reporting, understanding and inputting data into ACRES, and reimbursements through ASAP.
- Assisting with understanding your Cooperative Agreement (CA) and Workplan.
- Assisting with and navigating the procurement process.
- Developing *RFPs* and *RFQs* including evaluation criteria and process of selecting contractors or consultants.

Remediation Support

- Procuring a contractor to conduct environmental site assessments and due diligence.
- Interpreting environmental technical reports including remedial investigations, Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, analysis of remediation alternatives, feasibility studies, and cleanup plans.
- Navigating and interpreting regulatory requirements by facilitating conversations with applicable state agencies.
- Understanding voluntary cleanup programs and their requirements.
- Assessing potential risk and liability associated with a brownfield property.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Facilitating and planning community involvement activities and developing community engagement plans.
- Helping practitioners communicate the reuse process, risks, and benefits to community stakeholders.
- Connecting and convening the community with other relevant stakeholders and practitioners including agency officials, consultants, attorneys, and more.
- Assisting with marketing sites, including developing Property Profile Sheets, to third parties interested in purchasing properties.



How CCLR Can Help – Grant Review



Help you plan out your application narrative approach



Help you engage stakeholders and partners



Help you navigate data platforms to tell your story



Connect you to grantees that have had success in applying for and managing MARC grants



Provide resources to help you navigate the application process and craft a compelling narrative



Provide a thorough review of your application including multiple rounds of edits



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"I learned so much through the process of working with ... CCLR and have been able to apply my learning to other grant applications as well! Thank you for your "tough love" and constructive feedback!"

- Grant Review TA Recipient

Criteria	Pts	Description	11/6	Date	Date
I. Project Area	40	(2-3p)			
a. Target Area & Brownfields	20				
a.i. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area(s)	5	Identify the geographic boundary(ies) where you are proposing to conduct eligible activities	1		The extent to which the geographic boundary(ies) is clearly identified. The extent to which the brownfield challenges are clearly discussed and the degree to which the brownfield challenges impact the area(s) in the geographic boundary(ies). The extent to which this grant will potentially help address those challenges and impacts. The extent to which the applicant clearly identifies and describes the specific target area(s) within the geographic boundary(ies) where it plans to focus grant activities.
		discuss the brownfield challenges and their impacts.	3		
		Overview of how this grant will potentially help address those challenges and impacts	2		
		Within these city(ies), town(s), or geographic area(s), identify and describe the specific target area(s) where you plan to perform assessment activities, such as a neighborhood, district, corridor, or census tract. Depending on the scope and design of your project, one or more target areas may be presented.	3		
a.ii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Site(s)	10	Provide an overview of the brownfield sites in the target area(s) with information such as number, size, and environmental concerns.	1		The extent to which the response provides a clear overview of the brownfield sites. The degree to which one or more sites are highlighted as a priority. The degree to which the priority site(s) is clearly described. The degree to which it is clear why the site(s) identified as a priority (for assessment and reuse) has been selected.
		Specifically highlight one or more sites that are a priority	1		
		Discuss why the site(s) is a priority for assessment and reuse	1		
		Include information such as past and current land uses, current site conditions (including structures), and potentially related environmental issues.	1		
a.iii. Identifying additional Sites	5	Describe the plan to identify additional sites for eligible activities throughout the geographic boundary(ies) identified in 1.a.i. in the event that grant funds remain after addressing the target area(s)/priority site(s). Identify the criteria that will be used to prioritize additional sites for selection. All applicants except Tribes or eligible Tribal entities – Describe how your prioritization criteria will consider whether a site is located in an underserved community or disadvantaged census tract.	2		The extent to which there is a clear plan to identify additional sites for eligible activities and the degree to which the prioritization criteria that will be used to select additional sites are identified.
b. Revitalization of the Target Area	10				
b.i. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans	5	Describe the reuse strategy, or projected reuse, for the priority brownfield site(s) to be assessed	2		The extent to which a reuse strategy/projected reuse is clearly identified for the priority brownfield site(s). The extent to which the reuse strategy/projected reuse clearly aligns with and advances the local government's land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities.
		Discuss how the reuse strategy/projected reuse aligns with the local government's land use and revitalization plans or related community priorities.	3		
b.ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy	5	Describe the potential of the proposed project or revitalization plans to stimulate economic development upon completion of the cleanup of the priority sites; and/or how the grant will facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes	3		Given the type of community being served (e.g., urban, rural, tribal, etc.), the degree to which the proposed project or revitalization plans will potentially stimulate economic development in the target area(s) upon completion of the cleanup of the priority site(s) and/or the degree to which the grant will facilitate the creation of, preservation of, or addition to a park, a greenway, undeveloped property, recreational property, or other property used for nonprofit purposes in the target area(s). The degree to which these outcomes clearly correlate with the applicant's reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s). The extent to which the proposed project will improve local climate adaptation/mitigation capacity and resilience to protect residents and community investments. When applicable, the extent to which the reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy, or will incorporate energy efficiency measures.
		If applicable, describe how the reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy, or will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	3		
		If the proposed project or revitalization plans may potentially cause the displacement of residents and/or businesses, describe the strategies and/or policies that will be implemented to minimize displacement.	3		
c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources	10				
c.i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse	5	Describe your access to monetary funding from other resources and how the grant will stimulate the availability of additional funds for environmental site assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse.	1		The extent to which the applicant has access to monetary funding from other resources, and the extent to which the grant will stimulate the availability of additional funds to support the completion of the environmental site assessment or remediation, and subsequent reuse strategy at the priority site(s). (Note, a response may not earn full points if the applicant duplicates sources that are listed in 3.a. Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs.)
c.ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure	5	Describe how work performed under this grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure at the priority site(s) / target area	1		The extent to which work performed under this grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure at the priority site(s) and/or within the target area(s). When additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are needed, the extent to which a clear description of the infrastructure needs/upgrades and the extent to which the identified funding resources that will be sought to implement the work are relevant to the project.
		If additional infrastructure needs or upgrades are key to the revitalization plans for the priority site(s), describe the infrastructure needs/upgrades, and describe the funding resources that will be sought to implement that work.	3		

Example of a completed grant review scoring rubric. This always accompanies a redline-edited draft of your application narrative.



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Access CCLR Grant Review

Grant Review Submission Instructions:

- Email the narrative of your FY26 EPA Brownfields Grant Application to marcreview@cclr.org by January 7, 2026 to provide time for two full rounds of comments. Drafts should be completed and within 2 pages of the page limit.
- Attach your application in Microsoft word (doc/docx) format.
- Name the file: **APPLICANT NAME_STATE_GRANT TYPE_Review Request**
Ex: City of Whoville_OR_Cleanup_Review Request
- CCLR will also provide feedback on your Application Information Sheet, Threshold Criteria Response, and other application materials upon request.
- *To Consultants:* If you are sending CCLR an application on behalf of an eligible applicant, you must include the their contact and copy them on all communications with CCLR. We won't begin application review until the applicant is included!

Tips from CCLR: Writing an Effective Narrative

Know your “why”!

Your application should tell the story of why, what and how
(Why does this project exist? how does it align with federal priorities?
what resources are needed and where they will come from)

- Make it easy for reviewers to score you well! Articulate points clearly and concisely
- Use NOFO language and follow the framework provided
- Ensure all NOFO sections and related project components are represented
- Know grant requirements and deliverables (outputs & outcomes)
- Provide context - reviewer/s do not know your community or project
- Have an external reviewer provide comments
- Learn from winning applications

Tips from CCLR: Meeting Grant Requirements

- Include Threshold as a separate document!
- Understand [programmatic requirements](#)
- Understand Grant Timeline
- Identify your Team
- Understand Grant Administration
- Grant requirements
- Compliance
- Reporting obligations
- Have a “village” - you cannot do it alone

Be ready to manage an EPA grant!

- Honestly assess your organization's capacity
- Take the [EPA Grant Management Training](#)

Using Data to Support your Application

Resource: Using Data to Make Your Case: Resources to Jump-Start Your Journey to Revitalization

Build + Backup Your Narrative with Data:

- Show the **impact of brownfield sites** and histories of contamination
- Show **community demographics** including:
 - Health of Welfare of Sensitive Populations
 - Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease
 - Disproportionately Impacted Populations



National Resources

Government entities, nonprofits and research organizations offer an array of relevant environmental health and equity data. Many sites provide ready-made maps or charts or allow researchers access to metadata or self-serve mapping tools that allow them to pinpoint indicators tied to specific regions of interest, often down to the Census-tract level.



SOCIAL CONDITIONS



CDC/ATSDR SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX (SVI)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

The SVI is a place-based index, database and mapping application to identify and quantify communities experiencing social vulnerability across four themes:

- Socioeconomic Status,
- Household Characteristics,
- Racial & Ethnic Minority Status
- Housing Type & Transportation.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES: FEDERAL GRANT NAVIGATION EQUITY DASHBOARD

National League of Cities

Dashboard with 200+ indicators related to health, education, workforce, and housing to measure vulnerability at each Census tract and overlay this with city-level demographic data. The tool helps consolidate a wide range of indicators and datasets to provide a granular data narrative.



ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED (ALICE) ECONOMIC VIABILITY DASHBOARD & REPORT

United for ALICE

Dashboard and reports with indicators and tools to demonstrate financial hardship and community conditions beyond the limited framework of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and focuses on four main elements: work, housing, community, and gaps.



ECONOMIC INDICATORS



PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS & ROADMAPS (CHR&R)

University of Wisconsin

Population Health Institute

Annual data for nearly every county in the U.S. with overall measures of local health across four sub-areas (Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social and Economic Factors, and Physical Environment) and Health Outcomes (length and quality of life).

CITY HEALTH DASHBOARD

NYU Langone Health

Data on 40+ measures of health and factors affecting health across five areas (Health Behaviors, Social and Economic Factors, Physical Environment, Health Outcomes, and Clinical Care) for 970+ cities across the U.S. (all 50,000+ population).



City Health Dashboard — bit.ly/cityhealthdashboard

*A previous version of this guide included the Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) and EPA's Environmental Justice Screen (EJScreen) which are no longer available through the federal government.



Region 9 Resources



ARIZONA



ARIZONA ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING —

QUICK REPORTS:

Arizona Department of Health Services

Sourced from various local, state, and federal sources, including the U.S. Census.



ARIZONA PROGRESS METERS:

The Center for the Future of Arizona

Sourced from various local, state, and federal sources, including the U.S. Census, and various additional publicly available data.

- PUBLIC HEALTH
- SOCIAL CONDITIONS
- ECONOMY
- PUBLIC POLICY



CALIFORNIA



HEALTHY PLACES INDEX 3.0 MAPPING TOOL:

Public Health Alliance of Southern California

Sourced from various local, state, & federal datasets, including US EPA, US Department of Housing & Urban Development, CalEPA, National Land Cover Database.



NEIGHBORHOOD DATA FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (NDSC):

USC Lusk Center for Real Estate

Sourced from original data from the Lusk Center and various local, state and federal datasets, including the U.S. Census.



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCREENING TOOL (CALENVIROSCREEN4.0):

California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) under CalEPA

Sourced from various local, state and federal datasets, including the U.S. Census, and various publicly available data.



HAWAII



UHERO.DATA and ANALYTICS DASHBOARD:

The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i (UHERO)

Sourced from original UHERO data, aggregated publicly available online data, and various local, state and federal datasets.



OAHU SOCIOECONOMIC VULNERABILITY INDEX AND RELATED MAPS:

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency

Sourced from original data from The O'ahu Resilience organization and various state and federal datasets, including the U.S. Census and CDC's Social Vulnerability Indexes.



NEVADA



LINCY INSTITUTE AND BROOKINGS MOUNTAIN WEST DATA HUB:

Brookings Mountain West and the Lincy Institute

Sourced from original UNLV data and various local, state and federal datasets, including U.S. Census.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

Refer to National Data Sources

Additional Resources to Get Started

[CCLR's Tips on Getting Started with MARC](#) – This explores FY25's guidelines, but the tips are very relevant!

[Successful EPA MARC grant examples](#)

[Return of the MAC](#) - CCLR's Webinar on Writing a MAC application

[EPA's Tips on Getting Started with MARC](#)

[EPA Grants Management Training](#) - Browse to see if you are ready for grant management

[CCLR's guide to writing a grant budget](#)

Significant Support for Writing your Grant! – [MARC Grant Helpful Hints from CCLR and KSU](#)

Criteria	Pts	RFA Question	Helpful Hints
1. Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization (2-3p)	40	Your grant will be reviewed by people not familiar with your area or with your city or situation. A person from a different EPA region will review your application to California could review a grant from Nebraska. Do not assume that the reviewer, for example, will know that shops, factories, etc. in your community closed and base. Discuss relevant facts but provide sufficient context to tell your story. This will help the reviewer understand why your community really needs this grant to	
a. Target Area & Brownfields	20		
a.i. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area(s)	5	Identify the geographic boundary(ies) where you are proposing to conduct eligible activities	• Describe the location of your brownfields, i.e., in the center of town, outskirts, close to or in neighborhoods/schools, in a historic section, along a reinvestment corridor, or near other sensitive populations, etc.
		Discuss the brownfield challenges and their impacts	• Demonstrate the cumulative impact of brownfields on the surrounding community and how residents are overburdened when compared to the rest of the city/town, region, or larger geographic area. • Support your statements by highlighting key statistics (population loss over time, poverty, unemployment, job loss, environmental justice issues) that you present in Section 2. (Sources: See Statistics and Census Information in the current MARC FAQs)
		Overview of how this grant will potentially help address those challenges and impacts	• Focus on the brownfields challenges for the impacted community (blighted properties, higher crime rate, job loss, etc.) and how this grant will help alleviate or address those challenges. • Include a discussion on the extent you plan to address these sites with the funding requested.
a.ii. Description of the Priority	10	Within the geographic area(s), identify and describe the specific target area(s) where you plan to perform assessment activities, such as a neighborhood, district, corridor, or census tract. Depending on the scope and design of your project, one or more target areas may be presented.	• Provide a description based on physical surroundings. Examples include proximity to a known body of water, interstate(s), direction from downtown, major industry (like a port), or known landmarks. • If you have more than one target area, make sure they do not overlap. • If the target area is already included in an active EPA grant, consult with your EPA region.
		Provide an overview of the brownfield sites in the target area(s) with information such as number, size, and environmental concerns. Include information such as past and current land uses, site conditions (including structures), and potentially related environmental issues.	• Provide a clear overview of the brownfield sites in the target area. (Include properties like longtime-vacant lots, blighted or aging buildings, historic dry cleaners, historic gas stations, etc.) • Describe the extent of the brownfields problem including their potential relationship to the health and well-being of people in the target area. Search state databases for contaminated sites in the target area and describe how these and underutilized sites significantly impact the target area and the specific types of challenges/impacts they are causing to the community. Do not include demographic and health data here - refer the reader to the Section 2 subsection where this information is detailed.



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LAND RECYCLING

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Tips

- Review past successful brownfields grants
- Tell a compelling story via narrative & budget
- Budget needs to be clear and tell its own story.
- Read guidelines & instructions; submit ALL required documents
- Answer all questions directly and concisely in the narrative sections.
- Assume reviewers know NOTHING about your community
- Ask for assistance early
- Assume reviewer/s know NOTHING about your community
- Pretend it's your money – would you select your application?

Upcoming MAC Events

EPA Grants Competition Process Webinar

December 17th at 10am PST

- Information on process of applying for MAC funding

National TAB: Tips from the TAB Programs

December 17th at 11:30am PST

- In a roundtable discussion, hear tips and ideas for tackling MAC from each of the TABs



Stay up to date on events at <https://www.cclr.org/events/events>



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

January 28th, 2026 11:59 PM ET

MUST be submitted through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

Contact Information

<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Email</u>
Brooklyn James	EPA R9	james.brooklyn@epa.gov
Lisa Hanusiak	EPA R9 (BF Coordinator)	hanusiak.lisa@epa.gov
Devyn Rainwater	CCLR	devyn.rainwater@cclr.org
Joelle Greenland, AICP	CCLR	joelle.greenland@cclr.org
Terri Griffith	EPA R10	griffith.terri@epa.gov
Meredith Lightbody	EPA R10	lightbody.meredith@epa.gov

THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK!