

# **Rejuvinating Communities**

It is a familiar scene in communities across the country: an abandoned manufacturing operation plagues a municipality's redevelopment efforts. The looming facility is an eyesore that detracts from the surrounding neighborhood. Its presence lowers property values, encourages disinvestment, and represents a significant safety hazard.

These sites are often considered potentially contaminated further compounding the problem. Developers and lenders avoid the situation for fear of cleanup liabilities. The rundown structure remains in a purgatory limbo.





58 Grants
Secured by our
Environmental Team

SingleSpeed Brewing Co. - Waterloo, IA

Now imagine that site transformed into a rejuvenated business, lively public park, or vital social services provider. The blighted property becomes an asset that expands the local tax base, creates jobs, stabilizes declining areas, and protects human health and the environment. A former brownfield transitions to a catalyst for future growth.

## **HOW CAN OUR COMMUNITY GET HELP?**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers grants and technical assistance to overcome challenging properties. EPA's Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields.

HR Green boasts a long history of positioning clients to receive these highly competitive federal funds. Our team has secured 58 individual grants totaling nearly \$14 million in assessment, cleanup, and area-wide planning since the program's inception.



**Program Funds** 







Washington Apartments - Ottumwa, IA

# **UPCOMING APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Developing a proposal for EPA's Brownfields Program can be challenging; however, preparation and planning can eliminate many frustrations associated with writing the grants. **Here is what you can do to start preparing today.** 

#### Inventory

Develop a list of properties that remain underutilized based on perceived contamination issues (e.g. hazardous substances, petroleum, asbestos, lead based paint, etc.). This forms the basis of the entire grant.

# Identify key stakeholders

EPA wants to ensure that these grants have grassroots support and that the public is heavily involved in the decision-making process. Partnering groups can include neighborhood associations, churches, economic development organizations, and schools.

#### Devise a public outreach strategy

Grantees need to involve and inform the community throughout the grant process. This involves a combination of outreach meetings, printed materials, and electronic communication.

### Formulate potential redevelopment options

Identified sites must display reuse potential. EPA does not want to pay for reports that simply sit on a shelf!

#### WHY HR GREEN?

HR Green has helped communities of all sizes evaluate possible projects and assist with the development of a successful brownfields program. From grant writing through project implementation and site development, our team can assist you every step of the way.

# **PROCESS MILESTONES**

- Expected grant guidelines release date: Late summer/ early fall 2022
- Expected grant application due date: 60 days following release of grant guidelines
- Notice of award: Spring 2023
- Funding available: November 2023
- Assessment Grant (Community-Wide) funding available: \$300,000 (No local match required)
- Assessment Grant (Coalition) funding available: \$600,000 (No local match required)
- Cleanup Grant funding available: \$500,000 (20% local match required)

Scan the QR Code or follow the link below for your local contacts, project information, or industry insights.

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