



EPA Brownfields Grant Proposal Information

EPA has issued the proposed Brownfields grant **guidelines** for **FY 2011** for comment. The proposed guidelines may be found at <http://epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>. There are a few changes from FY 2010 guidelines that prospective grantees should be aware of.

EPA proposes to allow a portion of **assessment grant** funding to be expended on **area-wide planning** activities within the target area such as a neighborhood, district, city block, or brownfields corridor, leading to the development of an area-wide plan. Planning activities may include:

- Identification of potential future uses for brownfields properties to inform assessment and cleanup decisions that stimulate economic development upon completion of the cleanup.
- Development of **area-wide strategies** to help ensure successful assessment, cleanup and reuse of the brownfield site(s) within the target area.
- Development of strategies to facilitate the reuse of existing infrastructure.
- Development of strategies to implement the area-wide plan and identification of necessary resources.

What this means to prospective grantees is they can budget a portion of the grant to more fully develop their vision for the future and lay the groundwork for community-wide economic development.

EPA joined with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to produce a set of guiding livability principles. According to EPA, *"It is the goal of this partnership to discourage sprawl and encourage or incentivize location efficient investments, smart growth practices, and green infrastructure development."* The **livability principles** include:

- Provide more transportation choices;
- Promote equitable, affordable housing;
- Increase economic competitiveness;
- Support existing communities;
- Leverage federal investment; and
- Value communities and neighborhoods.

Prospective grantees will want to **incorporate** as many of these livability principles as applicable into their brownfields grant proposals. In addition to furthering EPA's partnership goals (and as a result scoring points on your proposal), it may provide a route to **leverage** additional funding.



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Grant Proposal Hints

- **Do not** budget funds in your grant proposal to develop a **brownfields inventory**. EPA likes it when communities do their homework prior to applying for funding.
- Ask your local **health department** to be part of your **advisory committee** and to provide support for your application.
- If you budget for monitoring of **sensitive populations**, make sure you have secured a **commitment** of assistance from your local **health department**. Too many communities have budgeted for this, but then failed to follow through.
- Use all of the **pages and space** the EPA **guidelines** allow when making your case.

A successful proposal takes time and care so start working on your proposal now.

For more information you may contact:

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Good Luck!