



Brownfields 2010 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency, TN

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency (RPA) was selected to receive a brownfields assessment coalition grant. The RPA's coalition partners are Hamilton County, the City of Chattanooga, and the Southeast Tennessee Development District. The coalition represents 10 counties (combined population 609,262) in southeast Tennessee. The region has a rich industrial past characterized by textile mills and manufacturing and commercial operations scattered throughout urban core communities. During the past four decades, economic decline has left the region with abandoned and potentially contaminated industrial sites. A preliminary inventory of sites has identified 293 brownfields in the RPA area. Several of the sites are adjacent to or near the Tennessee and Hiwassee Rivers and Chattanooga Creek, potentially affecting regional water quality. The unemployment rate in five of the 10 regional counties is about 14 percent. The poverty rates in eight of the 10 counties range from 15 to 27 percent. Brownfield assessments are expected to facilitate site cleanup and encourage reuse.

Assessment Grant

\$250,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency for a brownfields assessment coalition grant. Community-wide petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct seven Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to inventory sites, develop cleanup plans, and conduct community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team
(404) 562-8792
EPA Region 4 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf>)

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The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.