







ASK THE EXPERTS

Tips & Tricks for EPA Brownfield Grant Successes

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INTRODUCTIONS

Mid-Atlantic TAB



Becca Phillips,
Outreach and Education Manager



Jared Stewart,
Program Coordinator



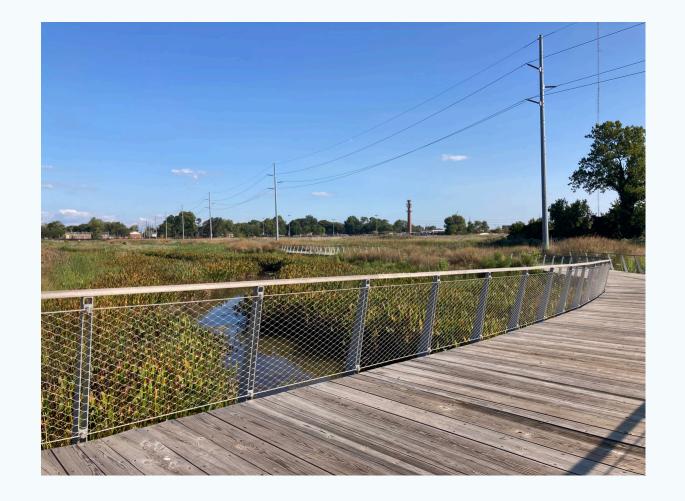
MID-ATLANTIC TAB

What do we do?

- Mid-Atlantic TAB is the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) provider for EPA Region 3.
- Resources we offer include Brownfield Education









INTRODUCTIONS

EPA, MDE & MD Department of Planning





Barb Krupiarz, Land Restoration Program Manager MDE



Craig Anderman,
EPA Project Officer





Sylvia Mosser,
Planner Supervisor MDP



Brett Gilmartin
EPA Region 3
Project Officer

EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT FY26 WEBINAR - PART 1

State EPA Grant Webinar = Part 2

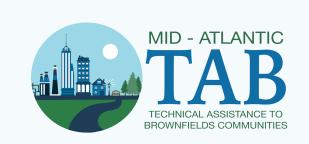


DESTINATION GRANT AWARD: HOW TO FUND YOUR BROWNFIELD PROJECT





Check out <u>Part 1 here</u> for more details about each brownfield grant application, including threshold, narrative, meeting requirements, and eligible activities



AGENDA

- Overview of EPA Brownfields Grants and Eligibility
- SAM.GOV and Application Threshold Criteria
- FY26 MAC Grant Changes
- Grant Package
- Key Information
- TAB Resources and any Questions



EPA GRANT OVERVIEW

FY 26

- Also referred to as MARC Grants
 - Multi-Purpose
 - Assessment
 - Revolving Loan Funds (Not included this round)
 - Cleanup



EPA GRANT TIMELINE





ELIGIBILITY- ALL GRANTS



- - State, local, and tribal governments
- (General purpose units of local government
- Regional council or redevelopment agency sanctioned by a state
- Non-profit organizations*
- Quasi-governmental agencies

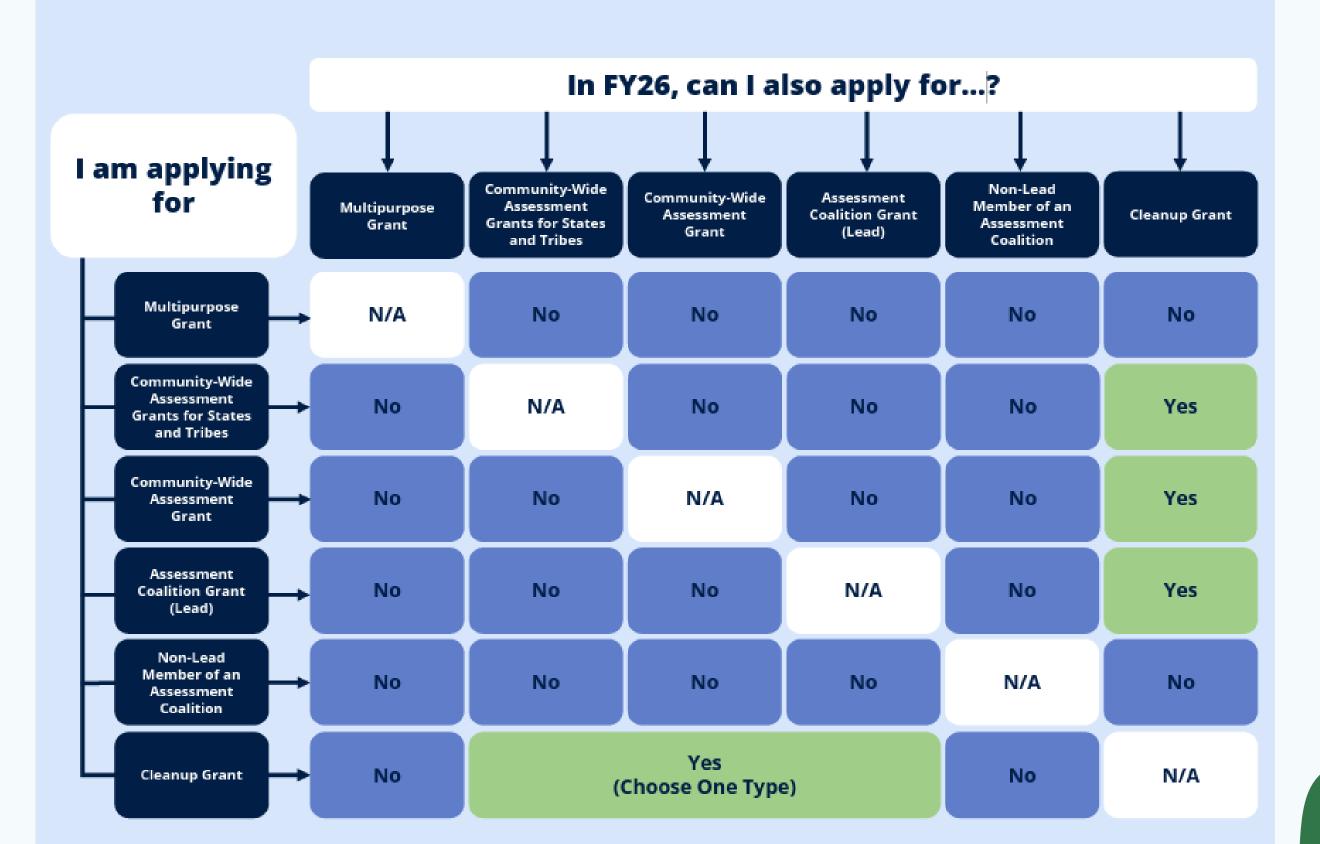
*501c4 organizations that lobby the federal government are not eligible for EPA Brownfield Grants Source: See <u>EPA Eligible Entities</u> for more details

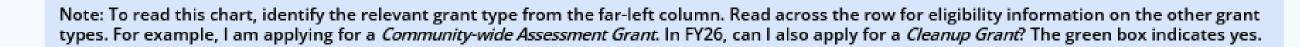
Anticipated Funding for FY26

Grant Type	Maximum Project Period	Maximum Amount per Grant	Estimated Awards	Total Per Grant Type - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs	Total Per Grant Type - Regular Appropriated Funds
Multipurpose	5 years	\$1,000,000	20	\$20,000,000	
Community-wide Assessment	4 years	\$500,000	70	\$35,000,000	
Assessment Coalitions	4 years	\$1,500,000	39		\$58,700,000
Community-wide Assessment Grants for State and Tribes	5 years	\$2,000,000	18	\$35,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$500,000	10	\$5,000,000	
Cleanup	4 years	\$4,000,000	26	\$102,000,000	



FY26 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications







FY26 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications



In FY26, can I also apply for ...? My organization Community-Wide Non-Lead currently has Community-Wide Assessment Multipurpose Assessment Member of an Assessment **Coalition Grant** Cleanup Grant **Grants for States** Grant Assessment Grant (Lead) Coalition and Tribes Must draw Must draw Must draw Must draw Must draw down 70% of Multipurpose down 70% of Yes down 70% of down 70% of each down 70% of Grant Assessment each MP Grant each MP Grant each MP Grant each MP Grant Grant Must draw Community-Wide down 60% of Assessment Not eligible Not eligible Not eligible Not eligible Yes Grants for States each CWAGST and Tribes Grant Must draw Must draw Must draw Must draw down 70% of down 70% of down 70% of down 70% of Community-Wide Yes each Yes each each each Assessment Assessment Assessment Assessment Assessment Grant Grant Grant Grant Grant Must draw Must draw Must draw Must draw down 70% of down 70% of down 70% of down 70% of Assessment Yes Yes each each each each Coalition Grant Assessment Assessment Assessment Assessment (Lead) Grant Grant Grant Grant Non-Lead Member of an Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Assessment Coalition Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes RLF Grant Non-Lead Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Member of an **RLF Coalition** Yes, for a site that has not Yes Yes previously Cleanup Grant Yes Yes Yes received Cleanup Grant funding

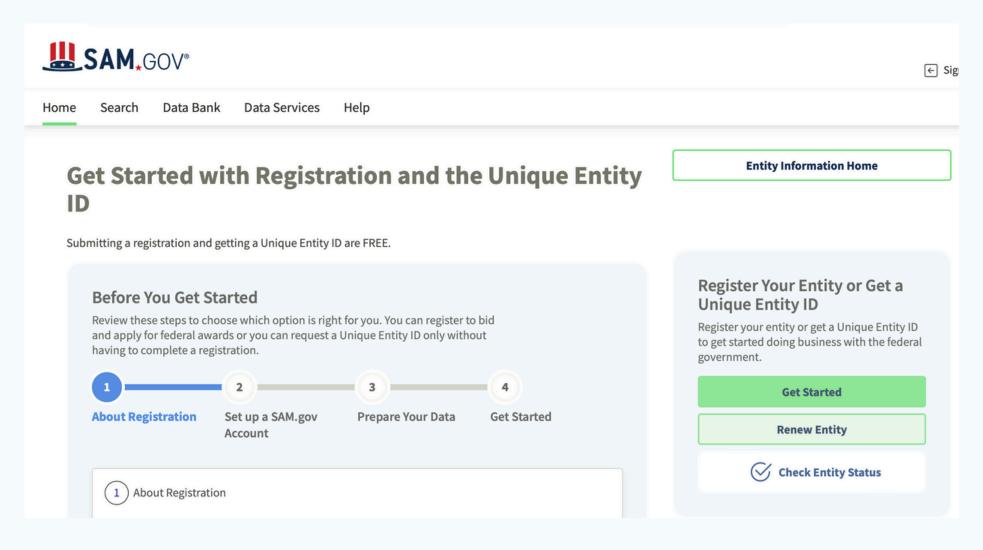
FY26 Eligibility Chart for Existing Grant Recipients

Note: Applicants must also meet all threshold criteria outlined in Section 2. of the guidelines. If you plan to apply for more than one grant type, please refer to the FY26 MARC Grant Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications to determine which grants are available to you.

SAM.GOV



SAM.gov



- The System for Award Management (SAM) is an official website of the U.S. Government. There is NO cost to use SAM. You can use this site for free to:
 - Register to do business with the U.S. Government.
 - Update or renew your entity registration
 - Check the status of an entity registration
 - Search for entity registration and exclusion records
 - Can take at least 2 weeks or more to complete- **Don't Wait!**



SAM.gov

- The NOFO will be released through www.grants.gov
- All entities are required to have an active Sam.gov registration
- Applicants should ensure they have an active Unique Entity ID (UEI) now. EPA may not be flexible in allowing applicants to submit applications outside of www.grants.gov.







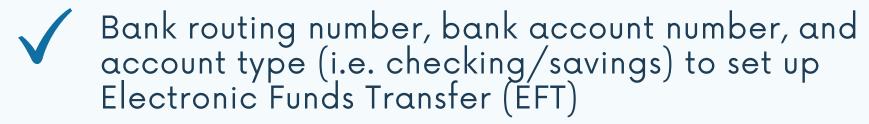


• To Register/Check Status/Renew: www.sam.gov

You will need:







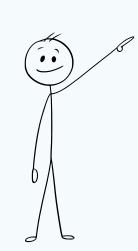


- Must be renewed every 12 months.
- Must be active when applying for grants.
- Make sure contact information is correct and up to date.
- FREE to register and renew-Watch Out for Scams!



PROCUREMENT WARNING

A qualified environmental professional (QEP) cannot prepare grant application AND be awarded contract to implement grant (Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, Cleanup) without going through competitive bid process



This prevents QEP from unfair competitive advantage



THRESHOLD CRITERIA HIGHLIGHTS



ALL Grants

- Threshold eligibility criteria ensure applicants are eligible to receive an EPA Brownfield MARC grant
- Criteria are pass/fail and based on certain requests for information identified in the following slides
- Information submitted is used by EPA only to make eligibility determinations for EPA Brownfield grants
- Only applications that pass **all threshold criteria** will be evaluated against evaluation criteria in Section 5.A. Evaluation Criteria of Grant Solicitations
- Double check your work!! You cannot make changes to your application past the submission deadline and EPA cannot accept additional documents past the deadline.

Responses to each criterion are required and must be included as an attachment to the grant Narrative which is included in application submitted to EPA.

Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.



ALL Grants

Assessment/Multipurpose Grant

- Current letter from environmental state agency acknowledging that applicant plans to conduct activities and apply for FY26 brownfield grant
- Letter from previous year(s) not permitted

Cleanup Grant

- Current letter from environmental state agency acknowledging that applicant plans to conduct cleanup activities and apply for FY26 brownfield grant
- Site Characterization:
 - Determination must be made by the state environmental agency that either:
 - A sufficient level of characterization has been performed OR
 - Additional assessment is needed
 - If additional assessment is needed, a statement from the applicant confirming that sufficient characterization will be completed by June 15, 2026 must be included
- Phase II ESA completed (or equivalent)



Cleanup Grants Ownership Eligibility

- MUST be sole owner of the site at the time of application submission.
 - Fee simple title through a legal document.
- The owner must have conducted all appropriate inquiries (AAI) prior to acquiring the property.

- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment not more than 180 days before the property transfer.
 - The owner must not be liable in any way for the contamination at the site or affiliated with any other person potentially liable for the contamination.



Cleanup Grants

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

- Discuss the draft application
 - Consider public comments
 - Can be a regularly scheduled community meeting with other topics
 - In-person and/or virtual
- Required attachments for grant application:
 - Copy of newspaper/online advertisement of meeting
 - o Comments or a summary of the public comments received
 - Response to public comments
 - Meeting notes or summary of public meeting(s)
 - Sign-in sheets or participant list





Cleanup Grants

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

- Ad in local newspaper or an equivalent means to communicate with target community.
 - No later than two weeks before the application is submitted (January 14, 2026)
- Must clearly state:
 - A copy of this grant application, including draft ABCA(s), is available for public review and comment
 - How to comment on the draft application
 - Where the draft is located (i.e. town hall, library, website)
 - Date, time, and location of public meeting(s)



THRESHOLD CRITERIA - INFOGRAPHIC

Cleanup Grant

Section A: Property Ownership Eligibility- Hazardous Substances

Liable parties may include all current and former owners and operators, and those who arranged for or contributed to the disposal and/or treatment of hazardous substances on the site. To be eligible for EPA grant funding, you must demonstrate that you:

- 1. Are exempt from CERCLA liability; or
- 2. The property is publicly owned and was acquired prior to January 11, 2002; or
- 3. Meet requirements for an affirmative defense to CERCLA liability

1. Exemptions to CERCLA Liability

- Indian Tribes
- Alaska Native Village Corporations and Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Property acquired under certain circumstances by units of state and local government:
- Seizure or in connection with a law enforcement activity
- Bankruptcy
- Tax delinquency
- Abandonment
- · Escheat or certain inter-governmental transfers
- See <u>FY2025 FAQs</u> for further information

2. Exceptions To Meeting the Requirements For Asserting an Affirmative Defense To CERCLA Liability

 Publicly owned brownfield sites acquired prior to January 11, 2002

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)

imposes liability on parties responsible for, in whole or in part, the presence of hazardous substances at a site.

Info Needed!

To demonstrate (1) the State or local government is exempt OR To demonstrate (2) you qualify for the Publicly-Owned Brownfields Sites exception the following information is required:

- · Conditions under which the property was acquired
- Date the property was acquired
- Whether all hazardous substance disposal occurred before your ownership
- Confirmation that you have not caused or contributed to the release of hazardous substances
- Confirmation that you have not arranged for the disposal of or transported hazardous substances to the property

Full handout available on our website!



THRESHOLD CRITERIA - INFOGRAPHIC

Assessment Grant

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR ALL ASSESSMENT GRANTS

This covers the threshold eligibility criteria that ensure applicants can receive a grant. Threshold criteria are pass/fail and are based on the information below. Once you pass all threshold criteria, your application is evaluated further.

Applicant Eligibility

Indicate your applicant type and provide information that shows you are eligible for an Assessment Grant. Indicate if your organization is exempt from federal taxation.

Community Involvement

Provide information on how you plan to inform and involve the community in the assessment of your brownfield.

Contractors and Named Subrecipients

If you have selected a contractor, you must demonstrate that you did so according to EPA requirements. If you have identified a specific subrecipient, you must comply with EPA's subrecipient requirements even if they are referred to as a "partner" in your application.

Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

AGENCY - STATES - STA

If you have a pre-existing EPA Brownfields Grant, you must demonstrate that you have disbursed these funds.

Full handout available on our website!

FY26 MAC* GRANT CHANGES

*Note that RLF Grants are not included in FY26 solicitations



EPA BROWNFIELD MAC GRANT

Changes for FY26

Complete list of changes to all grant guidelines for FY26 can be found here



ALL GRANTS



ALL GRANTS NEW CHANGES

- EPA now uses streamlined NOFO (notice of funding opportunities) template, in line with 2024 Uniform Grants Guidance updates.
 - Information is rearranged into different sections
 - Review the FY26 guidelines for details
- Review updated language and requirements to align with priorities; Ex:

 Justice 40 initiatives removed

(4) may be eligible to apply

Sample Format for Budget Table provided in the guidelines.



ASSESSMENT GRANTS



NEW CHANGES

Community-Wide Assessment Grants

Entities with an open Community-Wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes (CWAGST) award (or a pending CWAGST award) must meet the 60.00% drawdown requirement for each CWAGST grant to apply for CWAGST funding under this solicitation.

Current Assessment & Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for CWAGST funding must have met 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025 to apply for FY26 Community-Wide Assessment Grant.

Point/Percentage Distribution for merit review

- Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization 26%
- Community Need and Community Engagement 23%
- Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success 29%
- Programmatic Capability 22%

Maximum number of points: 155 (reduced from 160)

Not a complete list of guideline changes. See <u>link</u> for complete list.





NEW CHANGES

Assessment Coalition Grants

Awards available up to \$1,500,000

Entities with open award (or pending an award for) Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes are not eligible to apply for Assessment Grant funding under this solicitation.

Previous limitations on entities eligible to lead Assessment Coalition Grant removed. The list of entities eligible to apply for FY26 Assessment Coalition Grant is same for both lead and non-lead coalition members.

Current Assessment & Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must have met 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025 to apply for FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant.

Coalition target areas may not overlap, <u>and the target areas must be in at least three (3) distinct municipalities or jurisdictions</u> (e.g., town, city, or Tribe).

Point/Percentage Distribution for merit review

- Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization 28%
- Community Need and Community Engagement 22%
- Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success 28%
- Programmatic Capability 22%

Maximum number of points: 160 (reduced from 165)

Not a complete list of guideline changes. See <u>link</u> for complete list.



MULTIPURPOSE GRANT



NEW CHANGES

Multipurpose Grants

Entities with an open award (or pending an award for) Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes are <u>not eligible</u> to apply for Multipurpose Grant funding under this solicitation.

Current Assessment & Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must have met 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025 to apply for FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant.

Point/Percentage Distribution for merit review

- Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization 27.5%
- Community Need and Community Engagement 24%
- Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success 27.5%
- Programmatic Capability 21%

Maximum number of points: 165 (Reduced from 170)



CLEANUP GRANTS



NEW CHANGES Cleanup Grants

Applicant site characterization

If additional assessment is needed to "sufficiently characterize the site(s) for the remediation work to begin":

- a statement must be included confirming that additional assessment will need to be performed AND
- affirm that a sufficient level of site characterization will be performed by June 15, 2026 to allow for remediation work to begin.

This is in addition to required state environmental agency letter for Cleanup Grant applications





NEW CHANGES

Cleanup Grants

Current Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025 to apply for FY26 Cleanup Grant.

Point/Percentage Distribution for Merit Review

- Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization 31.5%
- Community Need and Community Engagement 20%
- Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success 31.5%
- Programmatic Capability 17%

Maximum number of points: 175 (Reduced from 180)





Not a complete list of guideline changes. See <u>link</u> for complete list.



QUESTIONS?



GRANT PACKAGE



APPLICANT* INFORMATION SHEET

⚠ Limited to 3 Pages ⚠

- Must be on applicant's official letterhead
- Applicant Identification
 Name & Full Address
- Website URL
- Funding Requested
 - Grant Type
 - Federal Funds Amount Requested
- Location

- Target Area & Priority Site Information (Site-Specific Assessment and Cleanup Only)
- Contacts
- Population- of your jurisdiction or the targeted areas
- Other factors checklist
 - Slightly different for each grant
 - Letter from state environmental agency acknowledging plans to conduct assessment activities and apply for FY26 grant

 Releasing Copies of Applications on EPA
 - website



*Formerly referred to as Narrative Information Sheet

NARRATIVE & RANKING CRITERIA





NOTE: Page Limits!



All Narratives must be single-spaced. Nothing exceeding page limit will be reviewed.

- Cleanup/Assessment Grant: 10 page limit
- Multipurpose Grant: 12 page limit
- The Narrative, which includes responses to the ranking criteria, must provide sufficient detail to allow for an evaluation of the merits of the application.
 - i. Project Description and Plan for Revitalization
 - ii. Community Need and Community Engagement
 - iii. Task Descriptions, cost estimates, and measuring progress
 - iv. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance
- Threshold Criteria Responses
- Other Factors and Considerations

• Note: EPA only evaluates the information that is requested and required in the NOFO. Therefore, we do not encourage applicants to solicit support letters from members of Congress or include such letters with their applications.

GRANT PACKAGE: Letter From State Environmental Authority



STATE-SPECIFIC THRESHOLD CRITERIA

- CLEANUP GRANT-

If eligible for MDE's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP):

- Phase I
 - Required to be completed within 6 months of VCP application;
 - Must be updated by ASTM standards for a Phase I completed within 1 year or;
 - A new Phase I if it is older than a year
- A Phase II or a work plan for a Phase II is required with the application

If NOT eligible for VCP:

- Ineligible for Brownfield Tax credits if they are available in your jurisdiction.
- Cleanup will be accomplished by EPA, but MDE requests a copy of the Phase I and II



MD DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT REVIEW

- MDE requests assessment results to help guide a state support letter for a cleanup grant
- Please submit your request to MDE as soon as possible to <u>barbara.krupiarz2@maryland.gov</u>.
- Please also include whether the site is or is not eligible to participate in MDE's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). We can help you make the determination.
- For sites not eligible for the Voluntary Cleanup Program, the level of site characterization needed will be determined by EPA in order to begin remediation.
- MDE would appreciate being apprised of the progress of the remediation, if awarded.
- MDE is available for questions throughout the process



LETTER FROM MDE

- Required attachment for all grants
- Acknowledges state's awareness and support of the project(s)
- Sharing a Phase I is helpful
- One letter can be used for multiple applications
- Letter must be current (<u>cannot use previous year's</u> <u>letter</u>)

Contact for State Letter

Barbara Krupiarz barbara.krupiarz2@maryland.gov

- Request should:
 - Describe current site status and any redevelopment plans, if available
 - Please submit your request to MDE with at least a 2-week notice before your expected submission timeframe
 - Include current site ownership



KEY INFORMATION



FEDERAL FORMS

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- Pre-award Compliance Review Report (EPA Form 4700-4)
 - Guidance on how to complete this form is available at www.epa.gov/grants/tips-completing-epa-form-4700-4
- Project Narrative Attachment Form
 - Attach the Narrative Information Sheet, the Narrative, and required attachments as one file.

To assist with completing the various federal forms, EPA has created a file with sample forms (pdf) that include useful tips and suggestions for your use and reference. Please click the link to access: <u>Sample Federal Forms</u>

The most current version of the forms listed above can be found on the EPA Applicant and Recipient Forms website.





GRANT DEBRIEF

If you applied previously and were unsuccessful, refer to your Grant Debrief





When In Doubt... Check the FAQs!

Other EPA Resources, including slides and recordings of webinars, can be found on our <u>MARC Grant Resources</u> page





QUESTIONS?



MID-ATLANTIC TAB CAN HELP!



MID-ATLANTIC TAB

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB)

- Brownfield Education
 - Trainings, webinars, events
- Resource Identification
 - o Grant writing assistance, grant review, resource road maps
- Local Brownfield Program Support
 - o Brownfield Inventory Development, questions on sites, technical support
- Project Development & Design Assistance
 - Site-specific design assistance, design support



IMPORTANT DEADLINES



January 16, 2026

Deadline to submit draft applications to Mid-Atlantic TAB for review

January 14, 2026

Deadline to submit request for letter to MDE

January 28, 2026

EPA Grant Submittal Deadline



EPA & TAB CONTACTS



Craig Anderman anderman.craig@epa.gov

Call EPA for:



Threshold criteria questions

Note: EPA is limited on assistance they can provide while EPA Brownfield Grant NOFOs are open



wvutab@mail.wvu.edu

Call TAB for:



Almost anything!*

* We cannot write that grant, but we can assist with brainstorming and review



MD CONTACTS



Barb Krupiarz

barbara.krupiarz2@maryland.gov

Call Barb for:

State environmental agency letter



Sylvia Mosser

sylvia.mosser@maryland.gov

Call Sylvia for:

- Technical and financial assistance opportunity questions
- Help preparing grant application
- MDP's considerations for brownfield sites
 - How brownfields align with MDP's <u>Sustainable Policy</u> and <u>Planning Principles</u>



MDP BROWNFIELD ASSISTANCE

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) serves as a resource, liaison, and facilitator for brownfield remediation and redevelopment. MDP connects local planning jurisdictions and other interested parties throughout the State with brownfield assessment, cleanup, planning, and redevelopment funding and incentive opportunities through State and federal government agencies and identifies technical and financial resources to help navigate the brownfield process. MDP also helps prepare grant applications and helps access other types of funding and tax incentives.





Stay Connected



TAB Hotline: <u>(304) 293-7002</u>

Direct Email: wvutab@mail.wvu.edu

TAB LinkTree





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