


Expanding the Conversation




working for environmental justice

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call


September 14, 2021

1


Housekeeping



PLEASE JOIN BY PHONE OR COMPUTER, NOT BOTH



YOU ARE ON MUTE. ENTER COMMENTS INTO THE Q&A POD



IF SELECTED DURING THE DIALOGUE, LIMIT COMMENT TO 1 MINUTE



RECORDING & TRANSCRIPT WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2

En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.



Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

- How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

3

Agenda

Welcome

EJ Program Updates

Featured Topic: *Justice40 and EPA's Brownfields Program*

Listening Session and Dialogue

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Closing Remarks

4

EJ Program Updates

Charles Lee

SENIOR ADVISOR, EPA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

5

EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program Overview

Overview of Justice40 and Brownfields



6

Presentation Overview

- Brownfields Definition and Program Purpose
- Historical Context
- Brownfields Grant Programs
 - Types of grants, eligibility, timeline and success stories
- Technical Assistance
 - TAB Providers, ARP Funding, TBAs, Land Revitalization
- Justice40 Approach & Program Benefits
- Q&A
- Focused Questions for Stakeholder Engagement
- Future Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities



7

Legal Definition of a Brownfield Site

“A brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”

(from CERCLA 101(39))



Before: Billings, MT



After: Mint Smartwash

8

Communities often struggle with how to safely address and redevelop their brownfield sites



Environmental challenges



Economic challenges



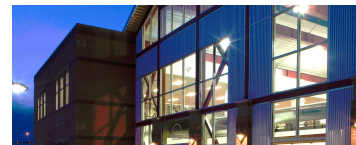
Social challenges

- **Uncertainties about environmental contamination on a property contribute to disinvestment and blighted neighborhoods.**
- **These properties stress the local economy, the environment, and the residents' social well-being**

9

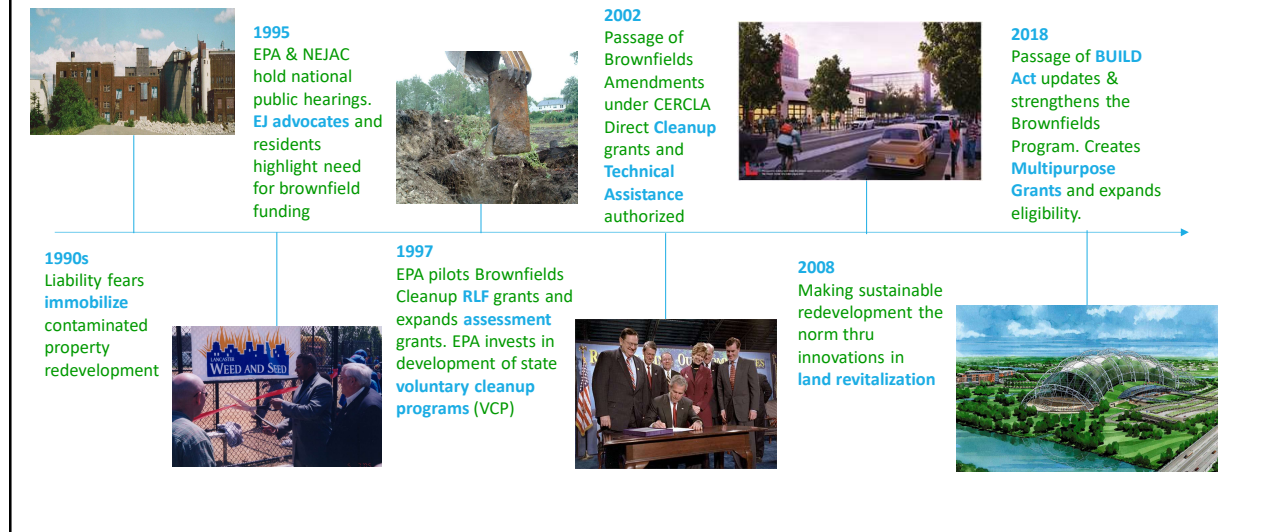
EPA Supports Brownfield Revitalization

- **Grants and technical assistance** to promote:
 - planning, assessment, clean up and reuse of brownfield sites
 - environmental workforce development and job training
- **Liability protections** to encourage acquisition and investment in brownfield reuse
- Establishing and enhancing **state and tribal response programs**



10

Historical Context



11

Brownfields Grant Types

- **Assessment** (next solicitation Sep/Oct 2021)
- **Cleanup** (next solicitation Sep/Oct 2021)
- **Revolving Loan Fund** (next solicitation Sep/Oct 2021)
- **Multipurpose** (next solicitation Fall 2022)
- **Job Training** (solicitation available; closes Oct 5, 2021)



12

Brownfields Assessments

Grant and technical assistance provide support for sites with known or potential contamination. Eligible activities include:

- **Inventory** to compile a list of brownfields
- **Characterization** to identify past uses
- **Assessment** to determine whether site is contaminated and if so, to what extent
- **Community Involvement** to engage local stakeholders in site assessment decisions
- **Planning for Site Cleanup and Redevelopment** to identify viable opportunities for redeveloping the site, and develop site cleanup plans based on reuse



Assessment activities include site inspections to identify sources of contamination

13

Brownfields Assessment Grants

- **Community-wide Assessment Grants:**
 - Appropriate when a specific site is not identified, and the applicant plans to spend grant funds on more than one brownfield site in its community.
 - **Funding:** up to \$500,000
- **Site-specific Assessment Grants:**
 - Appropriate when a specific site is identified, and the applicant plans to spend grant funds on this one site only.
 - **Funding:** up to \$350,000
- **Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes:**
 - Only available to state agencies Indian tribe other than in Alaska, Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community.
 - Applicant must plan to use grant funds to assess a minimum 10 brownfield sites in disadvantaged communities throughout its jurisdiction.
 - **Funding:** up to \$2,000,000



14

Brownfields Cleanup Grants

Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at one or more brownfield site(s):

- **Cleanup Grants:**

- An eligible entity must own the site at the time of application. Requires a 20% cost share.
- **Funding:** up to \$500,000



15

Brownfields RLF Grants

Grants provide capitalization funding to entities who make loans and/or subgrants to conduct cleanup activities at brownfields.

- **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants:**

- Eligible entities may apply individually or as a coalition. Requires a 20% cost share.
- A non-competitive round of Supplemental RLF funding for existing high-performing grant recipients is held annually.
- **Funding:** up to \$1 million



16

Brownfields Multipurpose Grants

Grants provide funding to carry out a range of planning, assessment and cleanup activities within a target area.

- **Multipurpose Grants:**

- Grantees must produce at least one Phase II assessment, one site cleanup and an overall plan for revitalization in the target area.
- Requires a \$40,000 cost share
- **Funding:** Up to \$800,000



17

Brownfields Job Training Grants

- Grants provide funding to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of communities affected by solid and hazardous waste.
- Training programs provide graduates with the opportunity to seek and obtain environmental jobs that contractors may otherwise fill from outside the affected community.
- **Funding:** up to \$200,000



Job Training Program participants in personal protective equipment for a HAZWOPER training exercise

18

Eligible Entities for Brownfield Grants

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government (i.e., county, city, town, etc.)
- Land Clearance Authority or another quasi-governmental entity operating under a General Purpose Unit of Local Government
- Government Entity Created by State Legislature
- Regional Council or group of General Purpose Units of Local Government
- Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a state
- State
- Indian tribe other than in Alaska
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- Limited liability corporation in which all managing members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or limited liability corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Limited partnership in which all general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or limited corporations whose sole members are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

This list is available in Section III.A. of Brownfield Grant Guidelines

19

Anticipated FY22 Grant Competition Timelines



FY22 Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) Grants

- Sep – Oct 2021: FY22 Brownfields ARC Grant Guidelines published (application submission deadline at least 60 days later)
- Apr – May 2022: Selections announced
- Jun – Sep 2022: Workplans and grant paperwork finalized
- Sep – Oct 2022: Grants awarded/funds become available

FY22 Job Training Grants

- Oct 5, 2021: FY22 Brownfields Job Training Grant application submission deadline
- Feb 2022: Selections announced
- Jul – Aug 2022: Workplans and grant paperwork finalized
- Aug – Sep 2022: Grants awarded/funds become available

20

Brownfields Assessment & Cleanup Success Story

Social Impact Bonds for Housing & Brownfields Revitalization in Richmond, California

- City of Richmond partnered with non-profit, Richmond Community Foundation, to fund rehabilitation of abandoned housing using social impact bond
- Leveraged EPA Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup grants to address challenging brownfield sites in the area
- Since 2015, have rehabilitated and sold dozens of affordable, energy-efficient homes to first-time homebuyers, supported wealth-building in communities of color, facilitated over \$6.5 million in local spending, and attracted new investments



New homeowners in Richmond who purchased a home rehabilitated by the City and RCF Connects' program

21

Brownfields Job Training Success Story

Zender Inc. in Alaska

- Non-profit, Zender, Inc., provides environmental program services for underserved tribal and isolated-rural populations in Alaska
- Has trained and placed over 115 participants in jobs with an average of over \$18 in hourly wages
- Students are trained and well-prepared for various environmental services careers and have a job placement rate of 95%



Zender, Inc. job training participants at a spill response activity

22

Technical Assistance

- Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB Program)
- Provides geographically-based technical assistance and training to communities and other stakeholders on brownfield issues.
- Available to help guide communities through the cleanup and redevelopment process. TAB Grantees can offer assistance with:
 - preparing grant proposals;
 - performing site inventories;
 - reviewing historical information;
 - design of the investigation/sampling/field analysis; and
 - cleanup and redevelopment planning.



23

Subject Area	TA Provider (EPA Region)
Regional, National and Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) Providers	University of Connecticut (Region 1)
	New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) (Region 2) https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/technical-assistance-brownfields-tab-communities-new-jersey-institute-technology-grantee
	West Virginia University Research Corporation (Region 3)
	International City/County Management Association (Region 4)
	Kansas State University (KSU) (Regions 5, 6, 7, 8, nationwide, and tribal) https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/technical-assistance-brownfields-tab-communities-kansas-state-university-grantee-fact Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) (Regions 9 & 10) https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/technical-assistance-brownfields-tab-communities-center-creative-land-recycling-grantee
Equitable Development in Brownfields Planning	Groundwork USA (nationwide) https://groundworkusa.org/ta-services/equitable-development-brownfields-planning/
Brownfields Redevelopment Training & Education	Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) (nationwide for Brownfields Job Training grantees) https://brownfields-toolbox.org/

Technical Assistance (continued)

Free assistance to community stakeholders helps them to address brownfield sites and increase their understanding and involvement in site cleanup, revitalization and reuse



24

American Rescue Plan Act 2021

- Spurring Economic Opportunities and Environmental Revitalization in Our Nation's Most Overburdened Communities
- The FY21 ARP investment will:
 - Remove barriers to brownfields reuse and spur new redevelopment to transform communities into sustainable and environmentally just places
 - Align with the President's Environmental Justice Executive Order by stimulating economic opportunity and environmental revitalization in hundreds of historically overburdened communities



25

Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA)

- TBAs conducted by an EPA contractor on behalf of public entities and non-profits. Sites are selected locally, on a rolling basis.
- Services are for an average of \$100,000.
- Services include:
 - site assessments
 - cleanup options and cost estimates
 - community outreach
- More details are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/targeted-brownfields-assessments-tba>



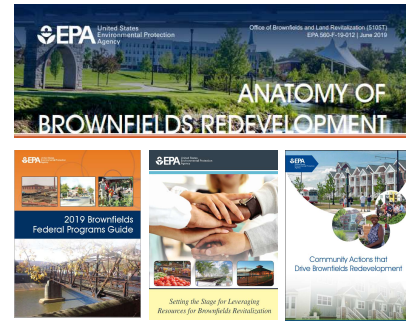
26

Land Revitalization

Tools and technical assistance that help communities sustainably reuse properties

- EPA develops [guides, tools, trainings and best practices](#)* that help communities cleanup and reuse contaminated sites.
- TA projects help communities explore how to identify and remove barriers to site reuse, integrate sustainable and equitable approaches into site redevelopment, and attract and leverage other resources.

* <https://www.epa.gov/land-revitalization/land-revitalization-toolkit>



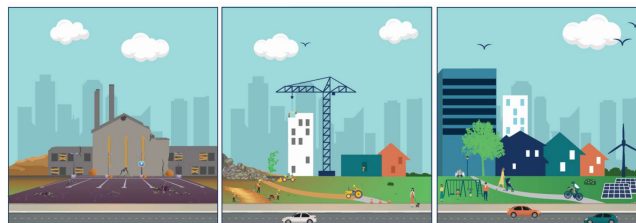
These and other LR resources are on EPA's [LR website](#)



27

Justice40 Approach

- Justice40 Approach for Competitive Brownfields Grants
 - Analyzed our most recent grant competitions to identify grant awards made to disadvantaged communities
 - Changes to FY22 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grant guidelines to reflect Justice40 goals and improve benefits tracking
 - Additional stakeholder engagement with brownfields stakeholders



28

Engagement and Outreach Objectives

- Find out if Justice40 stakeholders are aware of brownfield sites in their communities and EPA's brownfields grant opportunities
- Describe the direct benefits of the brownfields program (sites assessed, sites cleaned up, job training trainees trained and placed) and find out if stakeholders experience additional benefits
- Inform the program how benefits can be maximized in disadvantaged communities



29

Brownfields Program Q&A

Questions?



Links & Resources:

- For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>
- EPA's Solicitations for Brownfield Grants: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/solicitations-brownfield-grants>
- Brownfields Technical Assistance: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance-training-and-research#TAB>
- Contact your Regional Brownfields Coordinator: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-contacts-epa-regional-offices>

30

Listening Session and Dialogue



**WRITE ANY
COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS
IN THE Q&A POD**



**WHEN PROMPTED, RAISE
YOUR HAND TO ASK A
QUESTION
USING A PHONE? PRESS
*9 TO RAISE YOUR HAND**

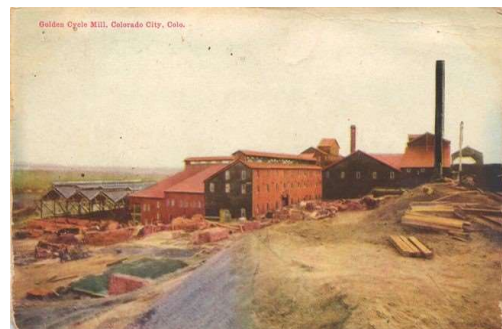


**PLEASE LIMIT
QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS TO 1
MINUTE**

31

Stakeholder Engagement Questions

- Do you have brownfield sites in your community?
- Are you aware of local, state, tribal or EPA resources for brownfields assessment, cleanup, reuse, job training, and technical assistance?



32

Stakeholder Engagement Questions

- What barriers or challenges do you see for disadvantaged communities in accessing brownfields resources?
- What are some strategies that EPA can use to raise awareness and increase access to brownfield grants and technical assistance in disadvantaged communities?

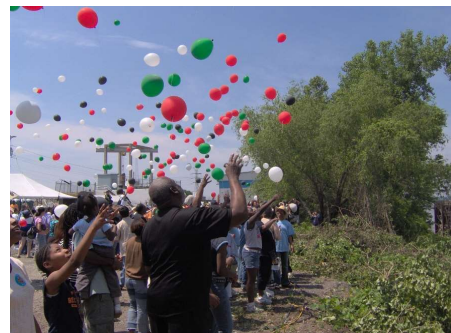


Roberto Clemente Park in Lancaster County, PA

33

Stakeholder Engagement Questions

- What are some of the benefits you see/experience in your community from assessing, cleaning up and reusing brownfields (or from brownfields job training programs)?
- What are some ways the brownfields program can help maximize the benefits of brownfield resources in disadvantaged communities?



Site Reuse Celebration in St. Louis, MO

34

Future Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

- Outreach Webinar for FY22 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grant Guidelines 1-2 weeks after solicitation release in Sep/Oct 2021
- TAB Workshops and Roundtable Discussions Sep-Dec 2021
- National Brownfields Training Conference 2021 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Dec 8-11, 2021
 - EJ Caucus at the National Brownfields Training Conference on Dec 7, 2021
- ASTSWMO Mid-Year Meetings Oct 2021



35

Points of Contact for J40 in OEJ

[Matthew Tejada](#), Director of EPA OEJ
IAC Senior Staff Representative at EPA
Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov

[Charles Lee](#) and [Victoria Robinson](#)
Justice40 Leads for Stakeholder
Engagement
Lee.Charles@epa.gov
Robinson.Victoria@epa.gov

[Nicolette Fertakis](#)
IAC / Justice40 Lead in OEJ
Fertakis.Nicolette@epa.gov

[Patrick Beckley](#)
IAC / Justice40 Support in OEJ
Beckley.Patrick@epa.gov



36

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

- **September 15:** Traditional Knowledge – Federal Agencies’ Considerations: A webinar on how some federal agencies are considering traditional knowledge in the implementation of their missions.
- <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples#webinars>

EPA EJ Screen Office Hours

- **October 20:** Join these open discussions and learn about EJSSCREEN, as well as get your questions answered. For more information on EJSSCREEN, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

37

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities (cont.)

EPA Region 4 EJ Workshop: Growing Grassroots: Building Capacity for Environmental Justice Work

September 23: Session 4 -- Accessing Funding for Communities. This session is the 4th of 5 webinars to build capacity for individuals and organizations working in underserved and disadvantaged communities. This session will offer practical tips on successful grant writing, and information about accessing community-based funding (i.e., federal & state grants, foundations, other community-based funding sources). Learn more about this webinar series at: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/growing-grassroots-building-capacity-environmental-justice-work>

38

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities (cont.)

FY 2022 Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants

Applications due October 5: EPA is soliciting applications to deliver Brownfields Job Training (JT) programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment across a spectrum of brownfield-related activities. Learn more about this opportunity and see available resources:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-job-training-jt-grants>

39

More Information on Justice40

EPA is committed to working with its partners and stakeholders to engage and receive feedback.

[Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative from OMB](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf

[Final Recommendations from WHEJAC on Justice40 and other topics](#)

www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/white-house-environmental-justice-advisory-council-final-recommendations



40

Closing Remarks

- ❑ **Next Steps**
- ❑ **Next National EJ Community Engagement call:**
 - September 28, 2021, at 2 p.m. Eastern
- ❑ **Subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv** for up-to-date information about EJ funding opportunities, events, and webinars:
 - Send a blank email to:
join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- **Follow us on Twitter:**
 - [@EPAEnvJustice](https://twitter.com/EPAEnvJustice)
- ❑ **Send follow-up questions or comments to:**
 - Environmental-Justice@epa.gov

