



Alabama Department of Environmental Management
adem.alabama.gov

R04-24-A-040

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 ■ Post Office Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700 ■ FAX (334) 271-7950

1. **Applicant Identification:**

- a. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management
1400 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2400

2. **Funding Requested:**

- a. Assessment Grant Type- “Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes”
- b. Federal Funds Requested- \$2,000,000.00

3. **Location:**

- a. York, Sumter County, Alabama
- b. Union Springs, Bullock County, Alabama
- c. Autaugaville, Autauga County, Alabama

4. **Target Area and Priority Site Information:**

- a. York, Alabama
 - i. Downtown Block across from City Hall
 - 1. 604 2nd Avenue- 102 Broad Street, York, Alabama, 36925
 - ii. Old Station
 - 1. 313 Broad Street, York, Alabama, 36925
 - iii. York Drug Store
 - 1. 583 4th Avenue, York, Alabama, 36925
- b. Union Springs, Alabama
 - i. Newtown Park
 - 1. 76 Brown Street, Union Springs, Alabama, 36089
 - ii. Old Warehouse
 - 1. 324 N Prairie Street, Union Springs, Alabama, 36089
- c. Autaugaville, Alabama
 - i. Old Schoolhouse
 - 1. Alabama State Route 14, Autaugaville, AL 36003

5. **Contacts:**

- a. Project Director-
 - i. Crystal Collins, Redevelopment Unit Chief
 - ii. O-(334) 279-3067, C- (334)549-8569, email- ccollins@adem.alabama.gov
 - iii. 1400 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama, 36110-2400
- b. Chief Executive/ Highest Ranking Elected Official-
 - i. Lance LeFleur, Director
 - ii. O-(334) 271-7700, email- llefleur@adem.alabama.gov
 - iii. 1400 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama, 36110-2400





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6. Population:

- a. York- 2,415
- b. Union Springs- 3,358
- c. Autaugaville- 795

7. Other Factors:

Sample Format for Providing Information on the Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 10,000 or less.	5
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	n/a
The priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	n/a
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	n/a
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	n/a
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	4
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	n/a
The proposed project will improve local climate adaptation/mitigation capacity and resilience to protect residents and community investments.	n/a
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section I.B. , for priority sites within the target areas.	9
The target area(s) is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2013 or later) or is closing.	n/a



**Alabama Department of Environmental Management
(ADEM)
COMMUNITY- WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANTS FOR STATES AND TRIBES GRANT
APPLICATION**

1. Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization

1.a. Target Areas and Brownfields

1.a.i. Overview of Brownfield Challenges & Description of Target Areas:

Alabama, an agricultural hub since its early beginnings, has fallen destitute to numerous brownfields and severely blighted areas. During the first half of the 19th century, cotton was the driving economic force in the creation of Alabama. The exceptionally fertile black soil of the Black Belt region served as the backbone of commerce for nearly a century. Agricultural products dominated the Black Belt's economy with the expansion of rail, highway, and river transport systems, which connected Alabama to the established United States. However, an unrelenting economic shift towards industrial manufacturing had an adverse effect over time. As a result, the railroads, which once played an integral role in Alabama's history and economic development, left numerous rail lines ambling through the state, leaving blighted communities in its wake.

York, Union Springs, and Autaugaville are three such communities that continue to overcome the hardships of that economic shift. York, established in the early 1830s originally as New York and located in Sumter County, was a vibrant community. The area's fertile Black Belt soil allowed for multiple crops to be grown. York was a significant producer of the state's agricultural cotton. For decades, cotton gins and warehouses populated the area. With the expansion of a small Civil War railroad junction, York boomed in agricultural production. The former Alabama, Tennessee, and Northern (AT&N) Railroad shop, which built and repaired locomotives, was eventually transformed into a wood product manufacturing facility. However, the driving economic force of York was depleted with the rise of the Industrial Revolution, and the railroad was no longer vital. Today, the railroad has been detrimental to York's economy and its citizens because it stops all of York's traffic, cutting off most of the town from itself and preventing people from leaving or returning to their homes for hours. With the blockade, businesses have relocated to other communities and abandoned York. With \$101 million in revenue leaving York, \$33 million of that is grocery and food-related revenue. York is a food desert, there are no grocery stores or markets located within the community. York currently contains many dilapidated buildings, concrete slabs, vacant buildings, brownfields as far as the eye can see. Like many communities in the Black Belt, York has struggled with economic decline over the years.

Union Springs, located in Bullock County, was incorporated in the 1840's and flourished during the antebellum period. Union Springs used the railroad to their advantage and became home to several cotton mills, an oil mill, and a planing mill. Destruction from the Civil War and the impact of the Reconstruction period led to an economic decline. Businesses left the area for more traveled, populated areas. Union Springs contains many brownfields, which include abandoned buildings, closed gas stations, dilapidated structures, and abandoned lots. Downtown businesses have closed and moved to more prosperous towns, leaving behind dilapidated building structures

and a failing economy. The community 's residents have expressed the desire for the regrowth of their once heavily populated city. Love and pride in a community are not enough to begin the revitalization of Union Springs. A plan and guidance on how to redevelop their community, which was left destitute in the wake of the interstate highway system are needed.

The first settler in Autaugaville built a gristmill and sawmill on Swift Creek, about three miles upstream from the Alabama River. The town was incorporated in 1839 and is located in Autauga County. A cotton mill opened in 1849 on the banks of Swift Creek and the town became a manufacturing hub with grist mills, sawmills, cotton mills, a cloth factory, and a buggy and wagon factory. The Civil War and Reconstruction resulted in the closing of Autaugaville' s factories, including the cotton factory, which saw its shipments seized by the U.S. Government. The war and aftermath essentially ended Autaugaville's status as a manufacturing center. The Alabama Central Railroad, which built a branch of rails through town in 1911, abandoned the rail lines by 1939. The decline of the economy has forced Autaugaville's citizens to look elsewhere for jobs and travel to purchase basic necessities such as food and other goods.

York and Union Springs are in counties that are listed on the Persistent Poverty County list, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Both communities are in tracts burdened with health crisis, workforce development, and energy issues, according to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). Autaugaville is in a tract burdened with climate change, energy, health impacts, and transportation issues. Sumter and Bullock counties are classified as non-metropolitan counties according to the Metropolitan Area Look-Up Tool while Autauga County falls within the Montgomery, Alabama Metropolitan Statistical Area. While this specific metropolitan statistical area is currently flourishing, specific parts of Autauga County are impoverished and heavily blighted.

1.a.ii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites

York, Sumter County Alabama (Census Tract c01119, York 84096)

York has three priority sites. The **first** is a downtown block across from the current city hall. The area is listed with addresses 604 2nd Avenue to 102 Broad Street and contains roughly 4 acres. Historically, a cotton warehouse and gin, a dry cleaner, a wood processing and building supply company, and a coal and ice company populated the area. There were several fueling stations, automotive repair shops, and a grist mill within close proximity. Today, the buildings are vacant, partially demolished, or only a concrete slab remains. To assist with the City's revitalization plans, the Department plans to provide assessments for this area to help encourage new business development as well as assist the town with their redevelopment strategy. The **second** site is an abandoned fueling station located at 313 Broad Street. It is currently abandoned and has two garage bay areas for tire repair and oil changes. The pump island is still located on the property. The Department is unable to locate any records of the tanks on the property. The city hopes to address the environmental concerns that potentially exist at this property as well as create a redevelopment plan for this site. The **third** site is the old drug store located at 583 4th Avenue. It was closed in 2021 and has a warehouse containing medical supplies attached to the back of it. According to aerial photography from the University of Alabama, the drug store was constructed

between 1985 and 1998. The warehouse was added between 1998 and 2006. There are several gas stations and auto shops near the drug store. The city has plans to make this site their new city hall and to turn the warehouse space into a community/senior center.

Union Springs, Bullock County Alabama (Census Tract c01011 Union Springs

9522.01,9522.02) The next two priority sites are located in Union Springs. The **fourth** site is Newtown Park located at 76 Brown Street in Union Springs. According to a 1909 Sanborn Map, Cotton Oil Company Branch of American Cotton Oil Company of New York was located directly behind Newtown Park. The company used coal as fuel and underground storage tanks were located on the property. The site touches the Conecuh River and is less than half a mile from US Highway 82. The city needs a recreation facility for the area's underserved youth. With the assistance of an environmental assessment and planning, the site could be used to alleviate that need. The **fifth** site is an old warehouse located at 324 N Prairie Street in Union Springs. This is an abandoned piece of property located downtown and was formerly the W.B Burt Gin & Grist Mill according to the 1909 Sanborn map. The site is located next to the fire station and is a large piece of property for the downtown area. The downtown corridor will benefit from a redevelopment and assessment plan to ignite the revitalization of downtown Union Springs.

Autaugaville, Autauga County Alabama (Census Tract c01001, Autaugaville 03220)

The **sixth** priority site is an old school building located off Highway 14 near the heart of Autaugaville. The town contacted the Department requesting an assessment of the site along with a hazardous material survey. The community would redevelop this building as a safe place for after-school programs and community events. To receive additional funding from programs such as USDA, the property needs an assessment to address any environmental concerns.

1.a.iii. Identifying Additional Sites

The Brownfield program maintains a brownfield inventory list. In an effort to enhance information contained in the inventory, the Department plans to add Economic Analysis Reports for the communities. The Department hopes the additional information will be more beneficial for communities to use as a marketing tool to help drive new business initiatives, create jobs, and alleviate blighted areas. As a component of this proposal, the Department will perform inventories for York, Union Springs, and Autaugaville. York and Union Springs are located in nonmetropolitan areas and Autaugaville is a part of the Montgomery Alabama Metropolitan area. According to the Justice40 Initiative all three areas have been identified as disadvantaged communities. The Department conducts inventories and assessments for all communities depending on available funding. To prioritize disadvantaged communities, the Department has fully supported working in disadvantaged communities identified by the CEJST and Environmental Justice Screening Mapping Tool (EJscreen).

1.b. Revitalization of the Target Areas

1.b.i Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

The Department held meetings with these communities to better understand their needs and how these funds could be most beneficial. All three target areas need assistance in community

planning for future redevelopments. Through developed strategies, these governments can work collaboratively with residents and stakeholders to articulate how their communities look, feel, and function in the future. Each of the community leaders in these areas have ideas for their redevelopment, but struggle with knowing where to start. The Department is proposing to use up to \$400,000 of the funds to sub-award the money to the communities for use in their redevelopment planning. By assessing the six priority sites, the potential for their redevelopment will increase by allowing the areas to remove blighted brownfield properties from the hearts of these communities.

1.b.ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategies

All six priority sites are located in rural parts of the state. **York's** completion of their assessment and cleanup will stimulate economic development in the area. Revitalizing the downtown area and eliminating the blighted buildings will also boost morale of York's residents, helping them become inspired to envision the future of what York can be. Cleaning up the potential environmental concerns in **Union Springs** and assisting with the funding needed to create a revitalization plan will strengthen the efforts from local officials to beautify the community and bring businesses to the area. Union Springs is the home of an electric cooperative. With a potential partnership, the area behind Newtown Park could be used as a solar farm to facilitate renewable energy should the city decide the addition to the park is not needed. Structuring a redevelopment plan for **Autaugaville** for capacity building and new business development will help in identifying additional priority sites. Remediating the old school in Autaugaville can create a safe place for recreation activities for the community's disadvantaged youth.

1.c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.c.i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

The Department will seek to utilize available resources to help achieve redevelopment in these communities. While the requested funding will be a starting point for each community, partnerships with additional funding sources are being sought. The Department will assist each community in connecting with a Historically Black College and/or University (HBCU) to assist with community redevelopment strategies and engagement events, as well as job training capabilities that can be utilized for future brownfield remediation.

1.c.ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure

There are several buildings located within the priority sites that will be evaluated during the assessment phase. Based on the results of a hazardous material survey, the Department will provide recommendations on the redevelopment of any existing structure. The Department is currently partnering with the Alabama Community College Systems (ACCS) to develop a short-term credential course for asbestos and lead abatement. This course would be offered at no cost to communities targeted in this proposal as well as communities across the state. ACCS receives grant funding to create and provide these courses. The Department has conducted several grant writing workshops through a partnership with Alabama State University, a local HBCU. Should updates to infrastructure be needed, several agencies offer grants for building repairs and the communities outlined in this proposal would be eligible to apply.

2. Community Need and Community Engagement

2.a. Community Need

2.a.i. The Community's Need for Funding

Each community within the Black Belt Region suffers from similar economic situations, such as small populations and high poverty rates. The population of York is 2,415. **York has a poverty rate at 26.5%** with an **85.3% Black/African American population**. The median income is \$30,307.00. The population of **Union Springs** is 3,358. **Union Springs has a poverty rate of 63.7%** with a **76.6% Black/African American population**. The median household income is \$20,476.00. The population in **Autaugaville** is 795. **The poverty rate is at 20.6%** with a **65.98% Black/African American population**. The median household income is \$34,375.00. In addition, all three target areas fall within Alabama's disadvantaged regions. These communities located within the geographic boundaries do not have the resources or personnel capacity to write and administer grants that require much work and time, such as Brownfield grants.

2.a.ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations

2.a.ii.(1). Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

EJSCREEN was utilized to describe the target areas' low income and the unemployment rate for the communities of York, Union Springs, and Autaugaville. Each of these communities are at an increased risk for health disparities such as low life expectancy, heart disease, and asthma. The communities also suffer from critical service needs such as broadband gaps, food deserts, and are medically underserved. The correlation between the lack of a high quality of life in our target communities and unhealthy living is paramount.

2.a.ii.(2) Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most recent asthma data, Alabama has an estimated 341,720 people with asthma. Asthma prevalence in Alabama is at 9% compared with US rates of 7.8%. Childhood asthma prevalence is also higher among non-Hispanic blacks in Alabama. The prevalence of health burdens in **York** includes 93% with asthma, 98% with diabetes, 94% with heart disease, 94% with low life expectancy, and 94% with low income according to the CEJST. The prevalence of health burdens in **Union Springs** includes 96 % with diabetes, 90 % with low income, 94 % with poverty, and 26 % with high school education according to CEJST. The prevalence of health burdens in **Autaugaville** includes 95% with diabetes, 90% with heart disease, 93% with low life expectancy, and 83% with low income according to the CEJST. With the revitalization of brownfields in these communities, the opportunity for healthier food options, potential access to exercise equipment, and an increase in quality of life can be realized in these communities. Remediating potential contaminants and hazardous substances will support a healthier environment for all.

2.a.ii.(3) Environmental Justice

2.a.ii.(3).(a). Identification of Environmental Justice Issues

Each community within the Black Belt region has been affected by various circumstances over the years that have impacted the quality of life. These areas in Alabama's Black Belt have historically been home to minority communities with high unemployment rates living in poverty.

York and Autaugaville have communities that have experienced agricultural and rail industry impacts. However, York, Union Springs and Autaugaville have all experienced human rights struggles that are deeply embedded in the history of these communities. Businesses have come and gone, leaving remnants of hope and a multitude of blight. Abandoned facilities breed pestilence and harbor unhealthy activities for struggling communities. The lack of proper cleanup and removal at these locations has adversely affected the city and surrounding areas.

2.a.ii.(3).(b). Advancing Environmental Justice

By assessing these properties, the community could begin marketing the former business locations to developers to bring jobs, build capacity, provide goods and services desired, increase tax revenue, and eliminate health burdens potentially caused by these brownfields. This can result in residents remaining in these communities instead of being forced to relocate to provide for their families. Instead of losing resources to the larger surrounding areas, these small Black Belt communities would be able to spend their hard-earned income in their community to further the growth of the area.

2.b. Community Engagement

2.b.i. Project Involvement & ii. Project Roles

The following chart demonstrates partnerships and roles the Department has secured for this proposal.

Partner/Name/Title	Contact Information	Project Role
City of York Mayor Willie Lake	Post Office Box 37 607 2nd Avenue York, AL 36925 Phone: 205-392-5231 Fax: 205-392-7202 Email: yorkcityof@yahoo.com	Administrative support and facilitating community meetings for the city.
City of Union Springs Mayor Rod Clark	212 N Prairie St, Union Springs, AL 36089 Phone: 334-738-2720 Email: rodclarkema@gmail.com	Administrative support and facilitating community meetings for the city.
Town of Autaugaville Mayor Curtis Stoudemire	106 Taylor Street, Autaugaville, AL 36003 Phone: 334-365-9563	Administrative support and facilitating community meetings for the city.
Alabama Community College Systems Julie Frizzell Director of ACCS Innovation Center	Phone: 205-292-3394 Email: Julie.frizzell@accs.edu Website: www.accs.edu/innovation	Creation of asbestos and lead abatement course to assist communities and potentially create jobs.
	Email: Brandy.wilkerson@atrc.net	Environmental funding opportunities and

Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Council (ATRC) Brandy Wilkerson	Phone: 334-682-6154	facilitating community visioning sessions for ADEM.
West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) Cory Johnson	Email: warc@westal.org Phone: 205-333-2990	Funding opportunity and facilitating community engagement sessions.
Tuskegee University Dr. Kwesi Daniels	Email: kdaniels@tuskegee.edu Phone: 334-727-8352	Architectural design and sustainable development support for the target areas.
Stillman University Dr. Cynthia Warrick	Email: stillmanprez@stillman.edu Phone: 205-366-8811	Facilitating community involvement.
Alabama STEM Council Lawrence Cooper Program Manager	Email: lcooper@aidt.edu Phone: 205-420-1963	Facilitating educational outreach in target areas for youth.
Tourism Council of Bullock County Megan Faulk Administrator	106 Conecuh Ave E Union Springs, AL, 36089 Email: tourismbullockcounty@yahoo.com Phone: 334-738-8687	Funding opportunity and facilitating community engagement sessions.

2.b.iii. Incorporating Community Input

Community input will involve several different aspects of community outreach. Education will be provided to each community via Brownfield 101 workshops. Visioning sessions will be held to incorporate the ideas and desires of the citizens in each community. In person community engagement events will be utilized to communicate information with each community. All efforts will be given to each community whether it be multiple events to include small numbers of participants that allow for social distancing or the ability to live stream and interact with participants via zoom meetings. The Department will allow each community to decide what is best for the situation and provide support to accommodate changing scenarios.

3. Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress

3.a. Description of Tasks/ Activities and Outputs

Task/ Activity: Program Management
i. Project Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department will perform project oversight, technical reviews, secure site access, perform inventories to identify new sites, and site selection and prioritization.
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Completed by end of FY 29
iii. Task/ Activity Lead: The Department’s Brownfield Personnel
iv. Outputs:

Task/ Activity: Community Engagements/Meetings/ Visionings/ Education
i. Project Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department will conduct various community meetings and engagement opportunities to provide training, educational materials, and project updates. • The Department will conduct at least three visioning sessions where the community will be given a project update if applicable at the time of the visioning. • The Department will partner with local media, regional councils/commissions, colleges and universities (HBCU's included), and local elected officials to perform these events. • The Department hopes to work with ACCS Innovation Center to provide short term credentials to local community members for preservation demolition and asbestos and lead abatement. ACCS will be funding the course where attendees will apply the skills learned during the course to receive their credentials. • The Department will partner with the Alabama STEM Council and others to provide educational outreach to youths in the community.
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Completed by end of FY 29
iii. Task/ Activity Lead: The Department's Brownfield Personnel
iv. Outputs: At least three professional renderings, a community-wide understanding of Brownfields, possible short-term credentials, educating youths on Brownfields.
Task/ Activity: Phase 1 ESA's
i. Project Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department will conduct a minimum of ten Phase 1 ESA's throughout the three target areas. Six for priority sites, four for non-priority sites.
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Completed by end of FY 25
iii. Task/ Activity Lead: The Department's Brownfield Personnel
iv. Outputs: Finalized Reports of findings; community meeting if requested.
Task/ Activity: Phase 2 ESA's
i. Project Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department will conduct up to ten Phase 2 ESA's depending on the findings from the Phase 1 ESA's, six for priority sites, up to four for non-priority sites.
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Completed by the end of FY 27
iii. Task/ Activity Lead: The Department's Brownfield Personnel
iv. Outputs: Reports of findings; community meeting if requested.
Task/ Activity: Redevelopment Planning
i. Project Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department hopes to subaward funding to the local elected officials in the target areas to use towards developing a strategic redevelopment plan. • The Department will conduct follow-up planning with local elected officials. • The Department will assist in the enrollment of sites into the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) for remediation efforts, <i>if deemed necessary.</i>
ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Completed by end of FY 28
iii. Task/ Activity Lead: The Department's Brownfield Personnel
iv. Outputs: A strategic redevelopment plan, possible site enrollment in the VCP.

3.b. Cost Estimates

Budget Categories		Project Tasks (\$)					Total
		Program Management	Community Outreach	Phase 1	Phase 2	Redevelopment Planning	
Direct Costs	Personnel	\$205,036	\$100,000	\$60,000	\$300,000		\$665,036
	Fringe Benefits	\$84,065	\$41,000	\$24,600	\$123,000		\$272,665
	Travel	\$30,755	\$15,000	\$9,000	\$45,000		\$99,755
	Equipment						
	Supplies		\$5,510		\$6,000		\$11,510
	Contractual*				\$320,000	400,000	\$720,000
	Other						
Total Direct Costs		\$319,856	\$161,510	\$105,622	\$794,000	\$400,000	\$1,768,966
Indirect Costs		\$71,230	\$34,740	\$20,844	\$104,220	\$	\$231,034
Total Budget (Total Direct Costs + Indirect Costs)		\$391,086	\$196,250	\$114,444	\$898,220	\$400,000	\$2,000,000

*Sampling and analytical activities are performed in-house

Costs for each task are subject to the following negotiated rates:

Fringe Benefits – Calculated at 41.00% of salary

(personnel) costs.

Indirect Cost – Calculated at 34.74% of salary

(personnel) costs.

Task 1: Program Management \$391,086 Program Management includes such activities as project oversight, technical reviews, securing site access, performing inventories and site selection and prioritization. Activities associated with program management are for approximately 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) of effort per year for five years for an Environmental Scientist/Environmental Scientist, Senior employee with the Brownfield program performing the work with some oversight and direction provided by the Redevelopment Unit Chief, Environmental Engineer Section Chief and Environmental Engineer Manager of the Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch in which the Department's Brownfields Program resides. Travel associated with this category is for staff training, exhibiting, and presenting at events attended by local officials and stakeholders in the target areas. **Task 2: Community Outreach \$196,250** Community Outreach includes such activities as communicating, training, and informing the local community on project activities and desired outcomes. Engagement will be conducted with elected officials, business and community leaders and the public. Activities associated with community outreach are for 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) of effort per year for five years for an Environmental Scientist/Environmental Scientist, Senior employee with the Brownfield program performing the work. Travel costs include those associated with staff travel to training or conference activities, hosting training or outreach events in target areas,

visioning sessions, and coordination/communication with local officials, stakeholders, and others. **Task 3: Phase 1 Assessments \$114,444** This task involves the performance of Phase 1 assessments at priority sites in target areas and at non-priority sites. Assessments at a minimum of six priority and four non-priority sites are required and will be conducted during the project period. The task is calculated at \$60,000 (\$6,000 per assessment x 10 assessments) and travel of \$3,000 (\$300 per site) for the Phase 1 assessments by the Department's Brownfields personnel. Additional assessments may be performed if time and funding warrant their inclusion. **Task 4: Phase 2 Assessments \$898,220** This task involves the performance of Phase 2 assessments at priority sites in target areas and at non-priority sites. A minimum of six priority and four non-priority sites are required and will be conducted during the project period. The task is calculated at \$453,900 (\$45,390 per assessment x ten assessments which includes personnel costs, sampling, and laboratory costs) and travel of \$17,000 (\$1,700 per site) for the Phase 2 assessments by the Department's Brownfields personnel. Additional assessments may be performed if time and funding warrant their inclusion. **Task 5: Redevelopment Planning \$400,000** This task involves activities including dissemination of assessment results and follow-up planning with local community representatives, costs associated with the development of a strategic redevelopment plan, and costs associated with application review, approval, and enrollment of sites into the Alabama VCP for additional efforts. Expenses with this task are calculated at \$200 per site for the ten priority/non-priority sites for assessment results review, and \$5,060 for enrollment fees to enter each of the ten sites into the Alabama VCP. Up to \$400,000 will be used for the Redevelopment planning. The total will be divided into \$133,333 for each target area to use on a reimbursement basis. Funding not used can be directed towards additional site assessments.

Notice on Leveraging No leveraged funds are to be applied in the performance of the grant and associated activities.

3.c. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results

The Department will be conducting most of the work. Currently, site progress is tracked on an Excel Spreadsheet known as the VCP Tracker. It will contain all the site's information. Projects will be measured and evaluated based on the activity and project timeline. Phase 1 ESA's will be completed within two months of securing the site. Phase 2 ESA's will be completed within four months of completing the Phase 1; timeline can be subject to change depending on weather. Once the ESA activities have been completed, the information will be uploaded into ACRES.

4. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

4.a. Programmatic Capability

4.a.i. Organizational Capacity

The Department's Redevelopment Unit is comprised of seven environmental scientists and two environmental engineers totaling over 40 years of redevelopment experience. The Unit conducts site assessments and sends samples to the ADEM Field Operations Lab in Montgomery or bids out the lab work through the Alabama Buys system. Many of the Redevelopment employees have career experience in the management and execution of grant projects and will be able to enforce the appropriate and effective use of grant funds.

4.a.ii. Organizational Structure

Assessment activities will be overseen and reviewed by qualified environmental professionals including the Redevelopment Unit Chief and Engineering Section Chief. Budgetary, purchasing, and fiscal tracking will be performed by the Department's Fiscal Branch, who manage the financial aspects of grants awarded to the Department.

4.a.iii. Description of Key Staff

The projects managed under this proposal will fall under the supervision of **Crystal Collins**, Chief of the Department's Redevelopment Unit, and a 20-year ADEM employee serving as the qualified environmental professional. Six Environmental Scientists and one Environmental Engineer will serve as project managers.

4.a.iv. Acquiring Additional Resources

At the time of the proposal, only one external personnel is anticipated to be utilized in the performance of grant tasks and objectives relating to the development of a strategic redevelopment plan. The Department currently does not have any contracts or negotiations for this work; however, any future use of external personnel will be in accordance with EPA and State of Alabama selection and hiring requirements.

4.b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

4.b.i Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant

The Department currently has a Revolving Loan Fund Grant that was awarded this fiscal year. Brownfields personnel are currently working to expend those funds to communities. For fiscal year 2023, the Department has closed out its 128a State and Tribal Response Grant with no unobligated funds remaining.

4.b.i.(1). Accomplishments

The Department completed eight Phase 1's, five Phase 2's, 22 community events, and 17 conferences for the fiscal year 2023. The Department is also performing its first clean up and work is currently in progress.

4.b.i.(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements

The Department has completed the fiscal year 2023 workplan on schedule and has uploaded specific outcomes into the ACRES database.