

**NARRATIVE INFORMATION SHEET:
Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission**

1. Applicant Identification:

Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission
Room 212
200 South 9th Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1629

2. Funding Requested:

- a. Grant Type: Assessment Coalition
- b. Federal Funds Requested: \$1,500,000

3. Location:

- a. City: City of Springfield
- b. County: Sangamon County
- c. State: Illinois

4. Coalition Members' Target Area and Priority Site Information:

- **List the Coalition Members and Target Areas:**
 - Coalition Members: Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission, City of Springfield, Sangamon County, Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance
 - Target Areas: Downtown Springfield Corridor, 9th Street/Peoria Road Corridor, South Grand Avenue Corridor, MacArthur Boulevard Corridor
- **For each Target Area that is smaller than a city/town, list the census tract number(s) within the target area:**
 - Downtown Springfield Corridor: 17167001400
 - 9th Street/Peoria Road Corridor: 17167001400, 17167001800
 - South Grand Avenue Corridor: 171670001600, 171670002400, 17167002300, 17167001800, 17167001900, 17167001200
 - MacArthur Boulevard Corridor: 171670003000 and 17167000202
- **Provide the address of the Priority Site proposed in the Narrative**
 - 125 W. Browning Road, Springfield, Illinois

5. Contacts:

a. Project Director: Ms. Lisa Peterson, Senior Planner
200 South 9th Street, Room 212, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1629
Phone: 217.753.6747
Email: lisa.peterson@sangamonil.gov

b. Chief Executive: Ms. Molly Berns, Executive Director
 200 South 9th Street, Room 212, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1629
 Phone: 217.753.6747
 Email: molly.berns@sangamonil.gov

6. Population: 196,343 (US Census, 2020 – Sangamon County Population)

7. Other Factors Checklist:

Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 10,000 or less	N/A
The applicant is, or will assist a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory	N/A
The priority brownfield 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	2-3
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy	N/A
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 site(s) within the target area(s).	N/A
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

8. Letter from the State Environmental Authority:

Please find attached the Letter of Acknowledgement from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission’s Coalition Assessment Grant Application.

9. Releasing Copies of Applications:

Not Applicable. This application does not have confidential, privileged, or sensitive information included that cannot be shared.



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

**Subject: State Acknowledgement Letter for The Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC)
FY2024 US EPA Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant Application**

11/7/2023

Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC)
ATTN: Molly Berns
Room 212, 200 South 9th Street
Springfield, IL 62701-1629

Dear Molly Berns,

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) has received your request for a letter of acknowledgement for an upcoming Assessment Coalition Grant application to U.S. EPA. Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC) is applying for a \$1,500,000 Assessment Coalition Grant on behalf of the City of Springfield, Sangamon County, and Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance.

The grant will be an Assessment Coalition Grant for Hazardous Substances and Petroleum.

Illinois EPA acknowledges SSCRPC's efforts to obtain federal Brownfields funds for this project. If you have any questions, I may be contacted at the above address or telephone numbers below, or at Jacob.fink@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Jacob Fink
Brownfield Program Administrator
Bureau of Land/Office of Site Evaluation
Office# (217) 785-8726
Cell# (217) 986-0818
Jacob.fink@illinois.gov



2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800
1101 Eastport Plaza Dr., Suite 100, Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120
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1: PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION & PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION:

1.a. Coalition Members, Target Areas, and Brownfields

1.a.i. Coalition Members

The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC) is the Lead Coalition Member of the Springfield-Sangamon Coalition and the applicant for this US EPA Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant. The Coalition is also comprised of the City of Springfield, Sangamon County, and the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance as Non-Lead Coalition Members. While all members of the Coalition understand the importance and impact of brownfields redevelopment, the members do not have the staffing capacity to fully undertake a meaningful region-wide Brownfields Assessment grant alone. The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission is a stand-alone regional commission entity, who's ongoing mission is to provide professional expertise and objective analysis that communities in the region need to assess their opportunities, sharpen their vision and design the strategies needed to accomplish their goals. The SSCRPC works to help local leaders, the agencies and organizations they direct and the citizens they serve. The SSCRPC is organized around four primary planning practices, each with its own staff. These are: Strategic and Comprehensive Planning; Land Use and Environmental Planning; Development Planning; and Transportation Planning. Most recently, the SSCRPC has added Economic Development Planning to its service portfolio. The SSCRPC is the most effective and efficient choice as the lead Member of this Coalition Assessment application.

1.a.ii. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas

With SSCRPC as the Lead Member, the Coalition's geographic boundary spans throughout Sangamon County, Illinois. Located in the heart of both Illinois and the nation, Sangamon County was established in 1821 and has a population of 196,343 in an area of 877 square miles. Sangamon County also includes the City of Springfield, Illinois. Springfield is the capital of the State of Illinois, the Sangamon County Seat, and the largest city of Sangamon County. The City of Springfield's population is 114,394¹, which makes it the State's sixth most-populous city. Coal mining and railroads were the economic engines of the Sangamon County and Springfield developments. When Illinois entered the Union in 1818, the future site of the City of Springfield was still unbroken prairie. With the support of Abraham Lincoln, who called Springfield his home at that time, the city became the capital of Illinois in 1837. The railroad and coal mining industries drove the area's economic development activities. Railroads arrived in 1852, and soon employed over 300 people in its Springfield workshops and on the trains themselves. After the Civil War ended in 1865, the first coal mine shaft was sunk in Springfield. The coal mining industry provided fuel for manufacturing and employment for hundreds of workers. Two other railroads were organized and constructed in the early 1870s, driving more industry to develop on the city's outskirts like the Springfield boiler works and Sattley plow factory. This growth out from the city triggered heavy roadway development and the installation of fuel stations all along the new routes. The coal mining industry, which gradually saw employment drop in the 1930s, largely shut down in 1952 with the closing of the last major shipping mine left in the area. Industrial and manufacturing jobs also disappeared as city factories were closed permanently or transferred to another location out of the state. The manufacturing facilities that remained experienced a severe drop in employment. Changes became evident in the retail sector as suburban shopping centers began to appear around the edge of the city - this competition damaged the downtown shopping district as people became attracted to the convenience of new shopping centers with ample parking located closer to their homes. This economic development history illustrates how brownfield sites challenge and impact the Coalition's geographic area. The legacy of decline in the manufacturing, rail, and coal industries hangs heavy in the region in the form of potential and known brownfields sites littered across in the area in the form of abandoned coal mines, shuttered factories, severely underutilized properties, vacant buildings and storefronts, and seriously blighted areas. These brownfield sites range from former corner gas stations and dry cleaners to the massive former manufacturing facilities of railyards and companies like the former Pillsbury Mills site in Springfield.

The Coalition is in urgent need of Brownfields Coalition Assessment funding to assess environmental conditions in four Target Areas where contamination from brownfields pose the most serious risks to sensitive populations and contribute the most to economic distress in the Coalition's geographic area. The four Target Area Corridors for this grant are: **(1) Downtown Springfield:** this Target Area is located in a Disadvantaged Census Tract, 17167001400, and is bounded by Madison on the north, 2nd Street on the west, Capital Avenue on the South and 9th Street on the east. This disadvantaged area has a low-income percentile of 95 and a poverty percentile of 96. This area contains historic buildings and is the downtown business district in Springfield. Migrations of state offices and businesses to other areas of the city has resulted in opportunities for adaptive reuse of the buildings. Fuel stations are heavily located

¹ US Census, 2020 Census data, www.census.gov

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in this Target Area with 89 counted. The Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool have proximity to underground storage tanks for this Disadvantaged Census Tract in the 97th percentile. **(2) 9th Street/Peoria Road:** this Target Area is located in two Disadvantaged Census Tracts – 17167001400 and 17167001800. This corridor stretches from Cook Street on the South to Sangamon Avenue on the north, and is a major north-south corridor in the City of Springfield. This disadvantaged area has a low-income percentile of 81, a poverty percentile of 81, and an unemployment percentile of 93. This Target Area is also Business I-55 and a former alignment of Route 66. Part of the corridor is adjacent to downtown Springfield, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the 1908 Springfield Race Riot Archaeological Site, and the Mid-Illinois Medical District. A new state of the art Transportation Hub will open in 2026 in this Target Area that consolidates Amtrak to the 10th Street high-speed rail corridor, and moves city mass transit and inter-city bus service to the location. The areas north of The Hub are being studied for other revitalization efforts. This Target Area also includes some of the most critical and Disadvantaged Census Tracts in the Coalition’s geographic area. There are 66 fuel stations in this Target Area corridor, and the proximity to underground storage tanks in this disadvantaged area is in the 98th percentile. **(3) South Grand Avenue:** this Target Area Corridor crosses six Disadvantaged Census Tracts and runs from Dirksen Parkway on the east to MacArthur Boulevard on the west. This corridor is a major east-west thoroughfare in Springfield. In these Census Tracts, the low-income percentiles range from 79 to 99, the low median income percentiles range from 93 to 96, the poverty percentiles. Beginning in the 1940’s, the area was dotted with neighborhood businesses including fuel stations and car sales and repairs. As the business models changed to larger lots, many of the parcels and structures converted to residential uses, some have now deteriorated. The area is now ripe for revitalization. Some of the most critical Census Tracts in Springfield are in the area from Dirksen to 9th Street. There are 53 fuel stations in this Target Area, and the proximity to underground storage tanks in these six Disadvantaged Census Tracts range from the 83rd to 98th percentiles. **(4) MacArthur Boulevard:** this Target Area Corridor includes two Disadvantaged Census Tracts: 171670003000 and 17167000202, and runs from South Grand Avenue on the north to Wabash on the south in Springfield. The Disadvantaged Census Tracts have low income percentiles of 81 and 89, low median income percentiles of 87 and 88, unemployment percentile of 94, and poverty percentiles of 79 and 86. This area is also a historic alignment of Route 66. The street had some residences on the north, which have now been converted to light office/service uses. The remainder of the corridor is commercial/shopping. There are 38 fuel stations in this Target Area, and the proximity to underground storage tanks in the Disadvantaged Census Tracts percentiles are 84 and 91².

1.a.iii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Site

The Coalition has identified one priority site located at 125 W. Browning Road, Springfield, Illinois. This site is comprised of three property pins and encompasses 17.63 total acres. The property pins and acreage breakdown are as follows: 14.16.0-400-042 (.87 acres), 14-16.0-400-041 (4.98 acres), 14-16.0-400-012 (11.78 acres). The site is owned by the heirs of the operator of a former junkyard and car repair facility. The property is currently vacant, and has suspected contamination. The site has remained largely undisturbed, and a court order prohibits alternative uses that might result in additional hazardous materials at the location. A large portion of the site is in the floodplain. This property is located in a severely disadvantaged census tract: 17167000300. Per the Climate & Environmental Justice Screening tool, this Census Tract has a low income percentile of 89, a low median income percentile of 88, a poverty percentile of 86, an unemployment percentile of 94, 22% of the population in this track have an education level of less than a high school diploma, and the tract is designated as experiencing historic disinvestment, which means that there are historically high barriers to accessing home loans in this area. The population of the area is comprised of minorities, with 18% of the population being African American. 12% of the population are children under the age of 10, and 17% of the population is made up of the elderly over age 65.

1.a.iv. Identifying Additional Sites

SSCRPC will create a comprehensive brownfield inventory for the Coalition. If assessment funds are still available after the Priority Site and Target Area corridors are assessed, SSCRPC will work with their Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee (BRAC) and Qualified Environmental Consultant to determine where next to apply assessment grant funds based on site location, its ability to provide health and economic benefit to underserved populations and Disadvantaged Census Tracts in the Coalition’s geographic area, and the site’s redevelopment potential.

1.b. Revitalization of the Target Areas

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

² Climate & Environmental Justice Screening Tool - <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#14.53/39.79908/-89.64854>

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The Coalition's revitalization plans will be steered by the City of Springfield's Comprehensive Plan, as the brownfield inventory target areas are located primarily within the city's limits. One of the general policies pertaining to land use contained in the Comprehensive Plan is the identification of Special Areas referred to as Legacy Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Centers, and Opportunity Areas. The plan states "where areas are identified within this plan that are undergoing significant change that could make them marginal as either commercial or residential areas, they should be set aside as special redevelopment areas for more intensive monitoring, detailed planning, and active improvement." The brownfield inventory will contribute significantly to the City's strategy to revitalize Special Areas identified in the Comprehensive Plan. On a regional basis, the guidance from the Sangamon County Regional Strategic Plan revitalization plans will be utilized. At the request of Sangamon County, the City of Springfield, and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC) initiated a regional strategic planning process in order to create a compelling vision for the region's long-term growth and development - a vision that builds on significant assets and the opportunities the region offers for strengthening the region's economic vitality and overall quality of life. The regional goal is to help the County and its communities grow, be sustainable, resilient in their endeavors, increase the quality-of-life measures, and develop a framework focused on economic development collaboration. The Springfield-Sangamon County Coalition's geographic region is one of the state's most important economic centers, with assets that include: a mix of industries; significant infrastructure, open space and transportation systems; a number of heritage, cultural and educational institutions; and a network of distinctive cities, small towns and villages. Strengthening the region's existing industries and diversifying the economic base to include new business sectors like information technology, renewable energy production facilities, mixed-use development, and entrepreneurial efforts in incubator spaces that can sustain long-term growth and regional competitiveness is a critical priority. The region's transportation system will be greatly enhanced by future high-speed rail service to Springfield, but other system enhancements, such as new roadway connections and an expansion of mass transit services, are needed to broaden the mobility choices and options for businesses and residents. In the region's small communities and villages, access to health care, commercial services, parks and open space have become key issues in maintaining community viability and vibrancy. Addressing land use development and the physical appearance and visual character of communities, their downtowns, neighborhoods and key transportation corridors, were recognized as important elements in promoting orderly growth and attracting new economic development and investment. Reuse of the Priority Site and the Target Area Corridors will help meet redevelopment goals throughout the Coalition region. This site reuse will also help enhance tourism by eliminating blighted, vacant, and derelict buildings that are near local tourism attractions. Revitalization plans will improve the quality of life for residents by guiding development through assessing environmental conditions, developing a future remediation plan, guiding future remediation activities, and laying out a specific plan for the eventual redevelopment of these Priority Sites.

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

The Coalition will utilize brownfields funding to (1) Maintain the brownfields inventory; (2) Prioritize secondary sites for the program; (3) Conduct community engagement activities; and (4) Characterize, assess, and plan for remediation and reuse of brownfields sites and their buildings within the identified Target Areas and Priority Site to aid in the redevelopment of distressed, blighted, and otherwise underutilized properties. This program will return brownfield sites back to economic vitality for the public's use and enjoyment. This is not only expected for the priority project areas/sites, but also for nearby properties that have been impacted by their proximity to these Priority Site and Target Area corridors. The eventual remediation of these sites will minimize risk of exposure both at the site and on adjacent properties. Additional expected outcomes will be new investment, job creation, housing opportunities, and an increased tax base which will benefit these Disadvantaged Target Area corridors. Renewable and energy efficiency measures will be incorporated into the reuse and marketing plans. Area leaders will encourage developers to utilize renewable and energy efficiency measures wherever possible. This funding will allow for the repurposing of these sites, making the entire area more appealing, which in turn will increase the land value and tax rate.

1.c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.c.i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

The HUB, a new transportation center, is Springfield's most significant public works project. At a total cost of approximately \$127M from a combination of federal, state, and local funds, The HUB will consolidate Amtrak, regional mass transit, and inter-city bus service to a new location adjacent to the 10th Street rail corridor. Additional development is expected due to this investment, spurring further development along the 9th Street corridor. MacArthur Boulevard was extended to the south of one of the identified Target Areas via a \$30M investment from IDOT using a combination of state and federal funds. This extension positions the Target Area as appropriate for revitalization after removing any

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identified environmental barriers. The Far East TIF, which includes South Grand Avenue from Dirksen to 10th Street, has accumulated approximately \$10M, which was re-invested in the area. Since 1981, the Downtown TIF amassed roughly \$100M, which was also re-invested. The SSCRPC spearheaded efforts to prepare a 9th Street/Peoria Road Corridor and Route 66 county-wide land use plans. The IDOT Statewide Planning and Research grant totaled \$450k for both projects. Meanwhile, the Springfield-Sangamon Growth Alliance partnered with other entities to prepare a Downtown Springfield/Central IL Medical District plan expending \$295k. These three land-use plans are expected to be released in the first quarter of 2024. The City has effectively used Community Development Block Grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to support economic development activities. The City and County have worked together to acquire and demolish numerous vacant and blighted properties to prepare the sites for redevelopment. Additional funding from various sources will be sought for the Target Areas, including but not limited to the following resources:

- **Enterprise Zone:** The Springfield/Sangamon County Enterprise Zone can offer a unique mix of local and state incentives to help retain, expand, and attract businesses to Sangamon County and the City of Springfield. These incentives are used to stimulate economic activity and neighborhood revitalization in a community. Existing and potential businesses within an Enterprise Zone may be eligible to receive economic benefits including state and local tax incentives, regulatory relief, and improved governmental services.
- **Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds:** Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, is a tool to use future gains in taxes to finance redevelopment and community improvement projects. The City of Springfield has designated nine areas of the city as Tax Increment Financing Districts. TIF funds support many improvements, including roadway access, demolition of old buildings, streetscape, site preparation, infrastructure, and building rehabilitation. This tool helps stimulate economic growth by assisting with the retention and growth of the existing industrial and commercial base, providing needed capital to new start-up businesses, encouraging the development of minority and female-owned businesses, and assisting new or existing businesses with creating and retaining jobs.
- **Opportunity Zones:** Opportunity Zone programs encourage long-term investment and job creation, by reducing capital gains taxes for individuals and businesses who invest in qualified opportunity zones. It is the hope that Opportunity Zones will catalyze investment in these qualified zones - Springfield has five Opportunity Zones to utilize and all five fall in the Target Area corridors of this application.

1.c.ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure

The Target Area Corridors will have access to existing infrastructure (water, sewer, electricity, transportation, etc.), as they are all infill sites. Where possible, the reuse of existing buildings will be encouraged and adaptive reuse methods utilized. However, where new development is the only option, developers will be encouraged to implement practices to minimize landfill debris and implement green/sustainable building practices.

2: COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

2.a. Community Need

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

The SSCRPC geographic area is limited in its ability to assess brownfield sites in a meaningful and impactful way without US EPA assistance. The Target Area corridors and the Priority Site's surrounding neighborhoods are among the most severely impoverished in Springfield. The average Median Household Income of these areas is approximately \$25,000, which is 65% lower than the State of Illinois's Median Household Income at \$72,205. The average Poverty Rate in the Target Area corridors is a staggering 49%. The Median Home Value in this area is \$50,000, which is 76% lower than the Median Home Value of the State of Illinois. The populations of children under the age of 10 and the elderly over the age of 65 illustrate a vast threat to the health and safety of the some of the most sensitive populations of children and the elderly in the Target Area corridor neighborhoods. The location of the Target Area corridors and Priority Site are in federally Designated Low Income Community and Designated Opportunity Zone areas. To have these designations, the site location generally represents economically distressed communities that are in need of investment and revitalization. In the previous section describing the Target Area corridors and Priority Site, low income, low median income, poverty, and unemployment were all high percentile data points. Each Target Area corridor and Priority Site location fell into a Disadvantaged Census Tract area³. Pressures in Sangamon County and the City of Springfield to keep local tax burdens low for residents, partly based on workers earning low wages and the declining of quality life for the community due in part to brownfields, limit the government's funds

³ CEJST designation - <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>

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for economic development. The Coalition does not have the capacity to fund environmental assessments given the number of potential brownfield sites located throughout the area. Brownfield sites within the Target Areas are contributing to the overall economic decline of the region and preventing redevelopment – the blighted vacant buildings display underuse and decay that remains depressed and frozen in disrepair. However, receiving grant funds for environmental site assessment and reuse planning activities at these sites could be the catalysts for the positive economic growth the region so critically needs.

2.a.ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations

(1) Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

The people living in the Target Area corridors and adjacent to the Priority Site of this application, mostly comprised of sensitive populations, are immediate neighbors to the Coalition’s most potentially harmful brownfield sites based on their historic uses. Each of the Target Area corridors and Priority Site are located in Disadvantaged Census Tracts. One of the recurring issues in each area was the proximity to underground storage tanks. Per the Climate & Environmental Justice Screening Tool, the percentiles for proximity to underground storage tanks ranged from the 84th to the 98th percentiles. This proximity heightens the chances that nearby residents are directly affected by the contamination impacts of the remaining underground storage tanks. In addition, the presence of lead based paint in the Disadvantaged Census Tracts ranged from 89th to 97th percentiles, again increasing the likelihood of the contamination to those residing in homes with lead based paint. The population of the Target Area corridors and Priority Site area include a higher percentage of children under the age of 10 and the elderly over the age of 65 – the average of each in all of the Disadvantaged Census Tracts involved in this project is 12% children and 18% elderly. Minority populations are also greater in the Disadvantaged Census Tracts, particularly those of Black/African Americans and Hispanic/Latino populations. The population of Black/African Americans ranges from 18% to 57% in the Disadvantaged Census Tracts. By identifying the environmental contaminant issues in the Target Area corridors with these grant funds, particularly underground storage tanks, asbestos and lead based paint, any threat of exposure by nearby sensitive populations to contaminants via direct contact, inhalation, vapor intrusion or ingestion will be inventoried and analyzed, positioning the sites for remediation and the eventual elimination of the threats to health and safety.

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

The four Target Area’s sensitive populations are at greater risk of exposure to brownfield sites given their proximity to the sites in the neighborhoods. Per the Climate & Environmental Justice Screen Tool⁴, the rates of disease and adverse health conditions are high in the Target Areas of this application. In the Disadvantaged Census Tracts of this project, the percentile of Asthma ranges from 70 to 88, the percentile of Diabetes ranges from 84 to 87, the percentile of Heart Disease ranges from 87 to 94, and the percentile of Low Life Expectancy ranges from 87 to 99. Individuals with Asthma face significantly greater risks from the presence of environmental contaminants. Those with Diabetes and Heart Disease are more adversely impacted when they are located in brownfield areas – these areas are undeveloped and offer little greenspace for residents to exercise outside and great fresh air. Identifying and developing an assessment and cleanup plan for the Coalition Priority Site and Target Area corridors is the first step in reducing the risk of exposure to contaminants in and around these sites.

(3) Environmental Justice

a. Identification of Environmental Justice Issues:

Brownfield sites add to the environmental justice challenges that continue the cycle of disinvestment and poverty within the Target Areas. According to EPA’s EJSCREEN all the Target Areas experience at least one environmental burden above the 95th percentile when compared to the state. Many of these environmental risk factors can be attributed to the Target Areas having a high prevalence of disease, including Asthma, Diabetes, Cancer, and poor Mental Health. Securing this grant funding is critical to the Coalition’s ability to serve these Target Areas most impacted by brownfields through positive redevelopment planning of these vacant and underutilized properties. In addition, the Priority Site location has a designation of Historic Underinvestment, creating historically high barriers to accessing home loans and improving the area⁵.

b. Advancing Environmental Justice: The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission seeks to promote environmental justice with this grant funding by: collaborating with community partners to assess environmental and health-related challenges; work with our community partners and neighborhood leaders to enhance the understanding of environmental and health-related issues at the community level; and by providing accessible and culturally appropriate opportunities for

⁴ Climate & Environmental Justice Screening Tool - <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#12.81/41.32537/-88.70315>

⁵ Climate & Environmental Justice Screening Tool - <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#12.81/41.32537/-88.70315>

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low-income, minority, and linguistically isolated stakeholders to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes on brownfields sites.

2.b. Community Engagement

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

Organization Name	Point of Contact (name and email)	Specific Role in the Project
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce	Name: Mike Murphy, President/CEO Phone: 217.525.1173 Email: mmurphy@gsc.org	The GSCC has strong connections with businesses in the Springfield area. They will assist with outreach, contribute to community engagement and be a liaison to the business community.
The Springfield Project at CAP 1908	Name: Dominic Watson, President Phone: 217.753.3551 Email: info@thespringfieldproject.org	The Springfield Project is an innovation and co-working space in a disadvantaged and minority population area. They have strong ties in the community, and can serve as a liaison to and advocate for minority-owned businesses.
Springfield Inner City Older Neighborhoods (ICON)	Name: Mark Mahoney, Chair Phone: 217.528.9803 Email: chair@springfieldicon.org	ICON preserves, improves, and promotes older neighborhoods. They can help share information to homeowners via their network of neighborhood associations.
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	Name: Tyshianna Bankhead, Executive Director Phone: 217.544.2297 Email: fccg2208@gmail.com	The Faith Coalition includes faith congregations, nonprofit, and union labor organizations. Members are also advocates in the community who can assist with community engagement and citizen education.
Sangamon County Farm Bureau	Name: Jim Birge, Manager Phone: 217.753.5200 Email: jbirge@sangamonfb.org	The Farm Bureau provides a collective voice for the many farmers in Sangamon County. They can help share information to rural residents and businesses.

2.b.iii. Incorporating Community Input

Through the management of their previous federal and state awarded grant funds, and through their work as the Regional Planning Commission, SSCRPC has developed processes and infrastructure to meaningfully involve citizens, civic organizations, and communities in the assessment, cleanup, and reuse decision making process. SSCRPC will be hiring a Community Engagement Consultant to lead and manage the extensive community engagement and outreach activities that will take place with this grant. SSCRPC will work with the selected Community Engagement consultant to include the affected neighborhoods and their respective residents, property owners, and business owners as vital partners in their assessment and cleanup planning activities. Neighborhood organizations and citizen’s groups will have the opportunity to express their concerns, identify their needs, and create and implement reuse plans. SSCRPC will partner with a Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee (BRAC), the Coalition Members, and Project Partner organizations to assist with community notification efforts. As SSCRPC moves forward with site assessments, the Coalition will hold four (4) public meetings and develop four (4) fact sheets on the status of assessment activities at important junctures. SSCRPC will post these fact sheets on their website and utilize any necessary social media to notify the public with a link to the Coalition Member’s webpages for more detailed information. It will also be a priority for SSCRPC to describe their activities, and progress in ways that are easily understood by its residents, who will most likely be unfamiliar with environmental and scientific terminology. In addition, SSCRPC will seek out translation services for any households directly impacted by any assessment-related work.

3.TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

3.a. Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

We have carefully evaluated and planned grant activities to ensure that they are grant compliant and appropriate to our overall goals. We will prioritize four Target Areas and one Priority Site before assisting others in the County. We will use our extensive in-house grant management, planning, and economic development skills, and access to other partner resources to augment the EPA grant funds to spur redevelopment and revitalization in our jurisdiction. To demonstrate our commitment to the effective use of these brownfields funds, we have added dedicated and experienced Coalition Partners to our grant.

Task 1: Cooperative Agreement Oversight
i. Project Implementation: This task is comprised of the following: develop and monitor the grant’s Work Plan, oversight of the Cooperative Agreement, Quarterly and Annual Reporting to US EPA, coordination between the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional

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<p>Planning Commission (SSCRPC) and US EPA, updating of the appropriate GIS systems as the brownfields inventory is developed, data entry into US EPA's ACRES program, procurement of a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP), documentation of the site assessment selection process, management of the coalition's brownfields inventory, and sending two staff the National Brownfields Conferences.</p>
<p>ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: QEP will be retained within the first quarter of award. Quarterly Reports and ACRES updates will be submitted at the close of each quarter and an Annual Report will be submitted within 30 days of fiscal year-end.</p>
<p>iii. Task/Activity Lead: Program Management will be led by our Executive Director, Molly Berns, and the selected Qualified Environmental Professional.</p>
<p>iv. Outputs: Anticipated outputs of this Task include: 16 Quarterly Reports to US EPA, 4 Annual MBE/WBE Reports to US EPA, and the number of sites in the Brownfields Inventory.</p>

<p>Task 2: Community Engagement</p>
<p>i. Project Implementation: The Community Engagement Task is comprised of activities that encourage and facilitate the project's community involvement and outreach plans early in the program. A Community Outreach Plan will be established under this task, and the Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee (BRAC) will also be created under this task. A Community Engagement Consultant will be hired to manage all community engagement and involvement activities for this grant. The BRAC will meet at least twice a year to keep the brownfields inventory current, ensuring that the highest priority projects/sites are being assessed and made ready for reuse. As the project progresses, our Project Partners will play key roles in both the BRAC and Community Outreach activities. We will hold 4 Community Meetings to ensure the residents are aware of project activities and developments. The Community Meetings will be coupled with the release of project Fact Sheets, which will be distributed by the SSCRPC, Project Partners, and posted on the SSCRPC website. The priority projects sites identified in this proposal will take precedence in this task. The Community Engagement Plan will include a method for collecting and responding to community feedback on our assessment grant project.</p>
<p>ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: There will be 2 BRAC Meetings each year and one Community Meeting annually. Fact Sheets will be distributed immediately after Community Meetings and Project Progress activities will continue throughout the four year project period.</p>
<p>iii. Task/Activity Lead: Community Outreach task activities will be led by the SSCRPC, the selected Community Engagement Consultant, in conjunction with the Qualified Environmental Professional, the BRAC and Project Partners assisting with Community Outreach and site prioritization/reuse efforts.</p>
<p>iv. Outputs: Anticipated outputs of this Task include: 8 BRAC Meetings, 4 Community Meetings, and 4 Fact Sheets distributed to the community regarding the program.</p>

<p>Task 3: Inventory & Prioritization</p>
<p>i. Project Implementation: SSCRPC will take the existing inventory of approximately 650 sites and update the list throughout the grant period, which also resides in the GIS system. The SSCRPC, the QEP and BRAC will then develop prioritization criteria and then use the criteria to rank the sites. This task will help the SSCRPC prioritize properties based on their specific reuse plans, potential for redevelopment, and the health and social impacts to the City's most disadvantaged populations.</p>
<p>ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: This Task will take place in the first year of the project period. The SSCRPC will continue to add brownfield sites as they are identified to their inventory throughout the four year project period. Prioritization will take place at the bi-annual BRAC Meetings.</p>
<p>iii. Task/Activity Lead: This task will be led by the selected Qualified Environmental Professional with assistance from the SSCRPC Executive Director, Molly Berns.</p>
<p>iv. Outputs: The anticipated outputs of this task include: a current and prioritized Brownfields Site Inventory for the region.</p>

<p>Task 4: Revitalization Planning</p>
<p>i. Project Implementation: This Task includes the development of one (1) revitalization plan in the South Grand corridor Target Area, and the development of three (3) Market Studies for the other Target Area Corridors: Downtown Springfield, 9th Street/Peoria Road Corridor, and MacArthur Blvd. The Revitalization Plan will help envision site reuse</p>

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<p>planning for the corridor and how the assessment work will contribute to the community’s vision, and overall land use plans already in place. The three Marketing Studies will assist in determining feasible site reuse based on market opportunities and conditions for the Corridors in the brownfields redevelopment process.</p>
<p>ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: This Task will start in the first year of the project period. The SSCRPC will give the selected Planning Consultant one year to complete their Revitalization Studies for the Target Area.</p>
<p>iii. Task/Activity Lead: This task will be led by SSCRPC Executive Director, and the selected Planning Consultant Firm that will work with the selected QEP.</p>
<p>iv. Outputs: The anticipated outputs of this task include: one (1) Revitalization Plan and three (3) Market Studies for the Target Areas Corridors of the Coalition’s application.</p>

Task 5: Environmental Site Assessments & Cleanup Plans	
<p>i. Project Implementation: Before any assessment can be complete an Eligibility Determination must be complete for each site. Hazardous Substance sites are submitted to USEPA for approval. Petroleum EDs are submitted to IEPA. Once EDs are approved Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA’s) will be conducted on sites to move them towards cleanup and/or redevelopment. All Phase I ESA’s will be performed in compliance with the requirements of All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) as well as the applicable ASTM standards and practices. The four Target Area Corridors will utilize assessment funds first, and then the SSCRPC will pursue other sites within the Coalition’s geographic area that are positioned for redevelopment. Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESA’s) will be conducted on eligible sites to position them for cleanup and redevelopment. Prior to conducting any Phase II work, a Sampling & Analysis Plan will be prepared and submitted to US EPA for approval. All Phase II ESA’s will be performed in compliance with the requirements of All Appropriate Inquiry as well as applicable ASTM standards and practices. Some Phase II work may be more focused on the hazardous building materials such as, but not limited to, asbestos and lead based paint. The SSCRPC anticipates conducting up to 15 Phase II Environmental Site Assessments at sites to supplement the Phase I Environmental Site Assessments where Recognized Environmental Conditions were identified. The Target Area Corridors and Priority Site will be considered for Phase II Assessment work first, and will then pursue other sites in the Coalition’s geographic area before venturing to other locations in the community. The results of the Phase II ESA’s will be shared with IEPA to evaluate contaminants through human exposure pathways. If contamination is identified at problematic levels, the SSPRC will seek to enroll the impacted sites in the IEPA voluntary cleanup program for further investigation and remedial planning. The SSCRPC anticipates the enrollment of four to six sites into the voluntary cleanup program. Site-Specific Health and Safety and Sampling Analysis Plans will be prepared for all Phase II Environmental Site Assessment activities. A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will also be prepared by the contracted QEP in accordance with the US EPA’s guidelines. The SSCRPC will evaluate cleanup by preparing a Remedial Objectives/Remedial Action Plan for use under the IEPA voluntary Site Remediation Program. Any site in need of cleanup will have an Alternatives to Brownfields Corrective Action (ABCA) completed. The Target Area Corridors will utilize these task funds first. The SSCRPC anticipates completing seven (7) Hazardous Substances Remedial Action Plans and three (3) Petroleum Remedial Action Plans.</p>	
<p>ii. Anticipated Project Schedule: Phase I and II ESA’s will start in the 3rd quarter of the project’s first year and will continue as needed throughout the four year project period.</p>	
<p>iii. Task/Activity Lead: This Task will be led by the City’s Qualified Environmental Professional selected by SSCRPC.</p>	
<p>iv. Outputs: Anticipated outputs of this Task include 30 Eligibility Determinations, 30 Phase I Site Assessments, 15 Sampling and Analysis Plans, 15 Phase II ESAs and 10 Remedial Action Plans. The number of acres of sites accessed with also be tracked and entered into ACRES.</p>	

3.b. Cost Estimates

Budget Categories	Project Tasks					
	Task 1: Cooperative Agreement Oversight	Task 2: Community Engagement	Task 3: Inventory & Prioritization	Task 4: Revitalization Planning	Task 5: Environmental Assessments & Cleanup Plans	TOTAL

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Direct Costs	Personnel	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$63,000	
	Fringe Benefits	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$31,500	
	Travel	\$2,110				\$2,110	
	Equipment						
	Supplies						
	Contractual	\$10,000	\$6,250	\$18,000	\$225,000	\$927,500	\$1,186,750
	Other (IEPA Fees)					\$200,000	\$200,000
Total Budget	\$24,110	\$21,250	\$48,000	\$262,500	\$1,127,500	\$1,483,360	

Development of Cost Estimates

Task 1: This budget includes **\$8,000** personnel time at an average \$50/hour as well as an average of \$25/hour for fringe benefits totaling **\$4,000**. This will provide approximately 160 hours of staff time for all reporting and cooperative agreement management activities. The remaining **\$2,110** is for Staff to attend a National Brownfield Conference, budgeting air fare at \$500 per ticket, hotel \$150/night for 2 people for 3 nights. Meals at \$35/day for 2 people for three days. The **\$10,000** for contractual work is 80 hours of QEP time (\$125/hr x 80 hrs. = \$10,000)

Task 2: This budget includes **\$10,000** of personnel time at an average of \$50/hour and an average fringe rate of \$25/hour totaling **\$5,000**. This will provide approximately 200 hours of staff time for the development of Fact Sheets, Website updates, and conducting Public Meetings – this will be completed by Community Engagement consultant. The **\$6,250** for contractual work is for 80 hours of QEP assistance (\$125/hour x 50 hours = **\$6,250**)

Task 3: This budget includes **\$20,000** of personnel time at an average \$50/hour for site prioritization along with **\$10,000** in fringe benefits. This will provide 400 hours of staff time to review the inventory and guide site prioritization process with the community and our selected QEP. The **\$18,000** for contractual work is for 144 hours of QEP assistance at an average rate of \$125/hour.

Task 4: This budget includes **\$25,000** of average personnel time at \$50/hour for revitalization planning efforts as well as **\$12,500** at a \$25/hour for average fringe benefits. This will provide 500 hours of staff time to procure a qualified urban planning firm for the revitalization planning that will work with our select QEP to ensure the planning and environmental impairment items are considered in concert, provide pertinent information for planning efforts, and work alongside the QEP. The **\$225,000** for contractual work is for a Planning Consultant to create 1 Revitalization Plans and 3 Market Studies for the Target Areas Corridors – this fee includes (\$150/hour x 1500 hours = \$225,000)

Task 5: This task includes conducting 30 Eligibility Determinations (EDs) at \$750 each totaling **\$22,500**. Complete 30 Phase I ESA's at \$3,500 each for a total of **\$105,000**, a Quality Assurance Project Plan and Health & Safety Plans for **\$5,000**, 15 Sampling & Analysis Plans at \$1500 each totaling **\$22,500** coupled with Phase II ESA's at \$30,000 each for a total of **\$450,000** and 10 Site Investigation Reports for SRP enrolled sites at \$26,000 for each, for a total of **\$260,000**; This task also includes completing 5 ABCAs at \$1,000 each totaling **\$5,000**, 10 Remedial Action Plans at \$35,000 each totaling **\$350,000** by our QEP and submittal to the IEPA SRP. This would also include IEPA review fees of **\$200,000**.

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

Tracking and measuring progress throughout the period of performance will ensure that SSCRPC achieves the intended project results in an efficient manner. The table below summarizes the proposed project outcomes and method for tracking project progress. The anticipated outputs for each task were described in the previous section. The tasks and outcomes for this grant include:

PROJECT OUTCOMES & PROGRESS TRACKING		
TASK	OUTCOMES	PROGRESS TRACKING
Cooperative Agreement Oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of progress • Efficient project management • Accurate / timely data for EPA • Ready data for Coalition Member use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Reports to EPA • Annual Reports to EPA • ACRES data entry
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More informed and educated stakeholders • Increased program buy-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share Fact Sheets/Web Postings/Meetings on Project Progress and Milestones with EPA
Site Inventory & Prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete, prioritized list of potential brownfield sites in the Coalition Are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield Inventory presented at Project Partner Meeting/Public Meetings
Environmental Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of RECs; AAI compliance • Safe, efficient and reliable assessments • Characterization of contamination; AAI compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Assessment Schedule • Schedule for Priority Site assessments
Revitalization Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze cleanup alternatives • Sites characterized for cleanup/reuse • More efficient activities through 3rd party oversight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share ABCA and Remedial Action Plans for sites positioned for reuse with EPA

TASK 4: PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY & PAST PERFORMANCE:

4.a. Programmatic Capability

4.a.i. Organizational Capacity, 4.a.ii. Organizational Structure, 4.a.iii. Description of Key Staff:

The SSCRPC will manage the grant funds and act as the administrative and financial agent for the project ensuring compliance with regulations and timely and accurate submittal of financial reports and other information requested by the grantor. The SSCRPC will oversee the work of the Qualified Environmental Professional and the selected Community Engagement Consultant. The coalition

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members of this project will be the SSCRPC, City of Springfield, Sangamon County, and the Springfield-Sangamon Growth Alliance. The SSCRPC will consult with the coalition members on a regular basis to obtain input on decisions related to the project. Other community partners will be recruited to provide historic information and help with community outreach efforts. Molly Berns is the current Executive Director of the SSCRPC. She was promoted to the position in May 2018 after serving as the SSCRPC's Senior Planner, Land Use for over ten years. As a lifelong resident of the area, she has historical knowledge and connections to the community that will be an asset to the project. Berns will provide the executive oversight of the project. Lisa Peterson is a Senior Planner, Policy Analysis with the SSCRPC. She was the Business Projects Manager at the City of Springfield in the Office of Planning and Economic Development before joining the SSCRPC Team. Peterson is currently managing two grants awarded by the FHWA (via IDOT). She has experience with grant writing and management, project management, and community engagement. Peterson will oversee consultant activities to ensure grant deliverables are completed. Lindsay Kovski is a Planning Specialist who handles the logistics of the SSCRPC's finances including billing, payments, reporting, monitoring of budgets personnel hours. She will be responsible for ensuring the financial provisions of the grant are carried out accurately. Schyler Thomas is an Administrative Secretary who will assist with scheduling event locations, preparing community outreach documents, and keeping reports of outreach activities. A consultant will be retained to assist with community engagement. Additional consideration will be given to firms specializing in environmental issues and communications with landowners.

4.a.iv. Acquiring Additional Resources

SSCRPC will identify, coordinate, and leverage any public and private resources needed to complete the described grant tasks. SSCRPC will follow EPA's procurement policies to hire a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) to effectively and efficiently assist SSCRPC in managing the Assessment grant project. The QEP will assist SSCRPC in preparing bid documents needed to select a contractor to conduct the assessment work, and manage the project as it commences. All procurement will follow the federal processes along with all additional requirements needed for procurement under an EPA Cooperative Agreement. The Project Manager, Molly Berns will work with the Coalition to ensure that plan is in place if there are any changes in management at the Coalition level – this will alleviate any potential issues or gaps in the project schedule or federal reporting on the project. If additional technical assistance is needed, SSCRPC will reach out to IEPA's office of site evaluation for brownfields related work and the Sangamon County Health Department for additional health data and assistance with community engagement efforts.

4.b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

4.b.ii. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements

(1) Accomplishments: The SSCRPC and its coalition partners apply for and are regularly awarded grants from federal and state agencies. The SSCRPC submits applications to carry out planning services for the region. The Illinois Department of Transportation has awarded funding to the SSCRPC through its Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) funds program to prepare land use corridor and community comprehensive plans, update the travel demand model, and develop economic development technology planning tools. The SSCRPC is leading community efforts to prepare a 9th Street/Peoria Road and a Route 66 land use plan funded with SPR funds. These plans will identify suitable uses for vacant properties and ways to revitalize this blighted area. Annually, the FHWA funds transportation planning activities under the SSCRPC's designation as the region's MPO. The SSCRPC has agreements with the City of Springfield and Sangamon County to provide planning services. It receives periodic funding to perform specific duties for other community partners, including the Sangamon Mass Transit District, Springfield School District, and the Sangamon Water Reclamation District. All financial activities are handled in a fiscally responsible manner and in accordance with applicable accounting procedures.

(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements

SSCRPC has received several state and federal grants, making SSCRPC very aware of the programmatic requirements involved in successfully managing a brownfields grant. SSCRPC will spend all of their grant funds in the respected project periods. SSCRPC will strictly adhere to the workplan and comply with the schedule, terms and conditions, and reporting requirements which include quarterly reports, federal financial reports, ACRES, DBE reports, and where appropriate, HASP and QAPP, and finalizing the Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternative (ABCA) report. SSCRPC will create a positive reputation with US EPA, ensuring to adhere to all requirements to protect the excellent reputation established with its federal partners.

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

1. Applicant Eligibility:

The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC) is a duly formed Regional Planning Commission, and will act as the single legal entity with authority to enter into binding agreements with the Federal Government.

2. Number and Eligibility of Coalition Members:

- Lead Member: Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission
- Non-Lead Member:
 - Sangamon County
 - City of Springfield
 - Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance

3. Target Areas:

The four Target Area Corridors for this grant are: **(1) Downtown Springfield:** this Target Area is located in a Disadvantaged Census Tract, 17167001400, and is bounded by Madison on the north, 2nd Street on the west, Capital Avenue on the South and 9th Street on the east. This disadvantaged area has a low-income percentile of 95 and a poverty percentile of 96. This area contains historic buildings and is the downtown business district in Springfield. Migrations of state offices and businesses to other areas of the city has resulted in opportunities for adaptive reuse of the buildings. Fuel stations are heavily located in this Target Area with 89 counted. The Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool have proximity to underground storage tanks for this Disadvantaged Census Tract in the 97th percentile. **(2) 9th Street/Peoria Road:** this Target Area is located in two Disadvantaged Census Tracts – 17167001400 and 17167001800. This corridor stretches from Cook Street on the South to Sangamon Avenue on the north, and is a major north-south corridor in the City of Springfield. This disadvantaged area has a low-income percentile of 81, a poverty percentile of 81, and an unemployment percentile of 93. This Target Area is also Business I-55 and a former alignment of Route 66. Part of the corridor is adjacent to downtown Springfield, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the 1908 Springfield Race Riot Archaeological Site, and the Mid-Illinois Medical District. A new state of the art Transportation Hub will open in 2026 in this Target Area that consolidates Amtrak to the 10th Street high-speed rail corridor, and moves city mass transit and inter-city bus service to the location. The areas north of The Hub are being studied for other revitalization efforts. This Target Area also includes some of the most critical and Disadvantaged Census Tracts in the Coalition's geographic area. There are 66 fuel stations in this Target Area corridor, and the proximity to underground storage tanks in this disadvantaged area is in the 98th percentile. **(3) South Grand Avenue:** this Target Area Corridor crosses six Disadvantaged Census Tracts and runs from Dirksen Parkway on the east to MacArthur Boulevard on the west. This corridor is a major east-west thoroughfare in Springfield. In these Census Tracts, the low-income percentiles range from 79 to 99, the low median income percentiles range from 93 to 96, the poverty percentiles. Beginning in the 1940's, the area was dotted with neighborhood businesses including fuel stations and car sales and repairs. As the business models changed to larger lots, many of the parcels and structures converted to residential uses, some have now deteriorated. The area is now ripe for revitalization. Some of the most critical Census Tracts in Springfield are in the area from Dirksen to 9th Street. There are 53 fuel stations in this Target Area, and the proximity to underground storage tanks in these six Disadvantaged Census Tracts range from the 83rd to 98th percentiles. **(4) MacArthur Boulevard:** this Target Area Corridor includes two Disadvantaged Census Tracts: 171670003000 and 17167000202, and runs from South Grand Avenue on the north to Wabash on the south in Springfield. The Disadvantaged Census Tracts have low income percentiles of 81 and 89, low median income percentiles of 87 and 88, unemployment percentile of 94, and poverty percentiles of 79 and 86. This area is also a historic alignment of Route 66. The street had some residences on the north, which have now been converted to light office/service uses. The remainder of the corridor is commercial/shopping. There are 38 fuel stations in this Target Area, and the proximity to underground storage tanks in the Disadvantaged Census Tracts percentiles are 84 and 91.

4. Existing Brownfields Grants to Non-Lead Members

The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission does have an open Cleanup Grant, and none of the non-lead Coalition Members have an open EPA Brownfields Grant. The lead member and the non-lead members of this Coalition are not the recipient of an open cooperative agreement for MARC grant funding or a MARC grant that closed in 2016 or later.

5. Coalition Agreement

Each non-lead Coalition Member has signed a letter to SSCRPC agreeing to be a part of the Coalition. These letters are attached.

6. Community Involvement:

Through the management of their previous federal and state awarded grant funds, and through their work as the Regional Planning Commission, SSCRPC has developed processes and infrastructure to meaningfully involve citizens, civic organizations, and communities in the assessment, cleanup, and reuse decision making process. SSCRPC will be hiring a Community Engagement Consultant to lead and manage the extensive community engagement and outreach activities that will take place with this grant. SSCRPC will work with the selected Community Engagement consultant to include the affected neighborhoods and their respective residents, property owners, and business owners as vital partners in their assessment and cleanup planning activities. Neighborhood organizations and citizen's groups will have the opportunity to express their concerns, identify their needs, and create and implement reuse plans. SSCRPC will partner with a Brownfields Redevelopment Advisory Committee (BRAC), the Coalition Members, and Project Partner organizations to assist with community notification efforts. As SSCRPC moves forward with site assessments, the Coalition will hold four (4) public meetings and develop four (4) fact sheets on the status of assessment activities at important junctures. SSCRPC will post these fact sheets on their website and utilize any necessary social media to notify the public with a link to the Coalition Member's webpages for more detailed information. It will also be a priority for SSCRPC to describe their activities, and progress in ways that are easily understood by its residents, who will most likely be unfamiliar with environmental and scientific terminology. In addition, SSCRPC will seek out translation services for any households directly impacted by any assessment-related work.

7. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds:

Not Applicable. SSCRPC does not have any existing US EPA Brownfields Assessment or Multipurpose Grant funds open.

8. Named Contractors and Subrecipients:

Not Applicable. SSCRPC did not name Contractors or Subrecipients in this Grant Application Proposal. SSCRPC has not undergone any procurement or entered into any agreements with Contractors or Subrecipients for this project.