

A Guide to Brownfield and Superfund Cleanup Funding Opportunities

How to Navigate the Funding Process

Compliments of
U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
New York



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This document will be continuously updated as information becomes available.

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Introduction

Dear Fellow New Yorker:

Each year, the federal and New York State governments distribute billions of dollars worth of grants and loans for the cleanup of abandoned or toxic industrial sites. There are thousands of abandoned industrial sites across the nation that are too contaminated for reuse but could be valuable properties for economic development. These plots are referred to as Brownfields or Superfund sites and their existence hampers local development and threatens our communities' health. Cleaning up these sites provides for a cleaner environment and redevelopment opportunities, but can be costly projects. As a result, both the federal and state governments provide funding for such cleanups.

Finding the resources that meet your needs in this complex web of information can seem daunting. For this reason, I have created this guidebook to serve as a starting point in providing information about what resources are available to individuals, businesses, community organizations and local governments.

The information in this guidebook details program grants and loans, which provide resources to help attain the goal of redeveloping a contaminated site for commercial or government use. Its contents are by no means comprehensive; as new programs and opportunities emerge, its contents will be updated to provide New Yorkers with the most information possible.

The guidebook provides information about grant funding sources, strategies for writing effective grant proposals and ways in which my office can assist you in this process.

My Senate website (www.Gillibrand.senate.gov) is continually updated with information about various funding opportunities that are available to you, how to access them, and where to apply.

As you move forward with any grant opportunities, please contact Jon Cardinal, for letters of support, when applicable. You can reach him in my Washington, D.C. Office at Grants@Gillibrand.Senate.gov, or (202)-224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Federal Section I:

Environmental Protection Agency

Brownfield Sites

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers several different types of federally administrated programs for the cleaning of Brownfield sites. The EPA defines a Brownfield site as abandoned industrial sites that cannot profitably be repurposed or have mild levels of contamination.

Each grant satisfies different goals depending on the desired effect whether it is merely preliminary assessment or even final cleanup. If a site breeches a certain level of toxicity, it becomes a Superfund site and cannot be cleaned under Brownfield-quality methods. Opportunities for Superfund work are listed later in this guide.

The listed contact websites will direct the potential applicant to the specific location that features information about the grant listed in the section; the website will provide more specific information on the grant, contact information and application information.

1) Assessment Grants

- Assessment grants provide funding to make determinations about cleanup preparation. This can include determining the level of toxicity, studying past uses of the site, involving the community and crafting a cleanup plan.

Additional Information:

- These grants typically supply \$200,000 but can give as much as \$1 million depending on the anticipated level of contamination and number of parties involved in cleanup. Additionally, a community can apply for the grant to cover multiple sites as a part of one plan.

Eligibility:

- This grant is usually limited to government or quasi-government organizations. All Tribal, local and state governments, or subset programs of these groups, may apply. Additionally, quasi-governmental organizations, including economic development organizations or land clearance groups, may apply.

Contact Information:

- For more information please visit: http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/assessment_grants.htm
- National Brownfield coordination office Telephone: (202) 566-2777

2) Revolving Loan Fund Grants

- The Revolving Loan Fund Grant program allows applicants to sub-grant federal funding to other entities interested in either cleanup or assessment. If your organization needs to coordinate many smaller groups in the cleanup of several sites, this may be the grant for you. This grant can provide up to \$1 million to interested organizations.

Eligibility:

- The eligibility of this grant is identical to that of Assessment Grants, which is listed above.

Contact Information:

- For more information, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/rlflst.htm>
- Telephone: (202) 566-2777

3) Cleanup Grants

- Following assessment, this grant program provides funding for the actual cleanup of the site in question. They provide up to \$200,000 per site and organizations should not apply for more than five sites due to budget limitations. The program requires a cost share of 20 percent and an applicant must either own the site mentioned in the application or demonstrate the ability to obtain the site.

Eligibility:

- The eligibility of this grant is identical to that of Assessment Grants, which is listed above.

Contact Information:

- http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/cleanup_grants.htm
- Telephone: (202) 566-2777

4) Job Training Pilots/Grants

- This grant provides up to \$200,000 in funding to create training programs in order to enable local community groups, job training organizations, educators, labor groups, investors, lenders, developers, and other affected parties to address the issue of Brownfield sites.

Additional Information:

- These training programs help unemployed or underemployed individuals attain education that enables them to participate actively in the cleanup of their community's hazardous sites. This makes them a positive choice for communities that need economic development.
- Programs are developed according to plans developed by the applicant although by their nature must focus specifically on an environmentally-based curriculum.

Eligibility:

- Eligible applicants include all governmental bodies as well as eligible non-profit organizations. Included in this group are public and non-profit educational organizations. Eligibility for non-profits is determined mainly on an individual applicant basis and revolves around the organizations status as a public-interest group.

Contact Information:

- <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/job.htm>
- Telephone: (202) 566-2777

5) Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants

- This program provides funding to organizations interested in training, research and technical assistance. This usually consists of non-profit organizations that exist specifically to concentrate their efforts towards Brownfield mitigation.

Additional Information:

- Universities and non-profit organizations that have a specific interest in research also primarily benefit from this program

Eligibility:

- This grant is usually limited to government or quasi-government organizations. All Tribal, local and state governments, or subset programs of these groups, may apply. Additionally, quasi-governmental organizations, including economic development organizations or land clearance groups, may apply.

Contact Information:

- For more information visit http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/trta_k6/index.htm
- Telephone: (202) 566-2777

6) Targeted Brownfield Assessments

- This program provides funding to private contractors or similar groups so they may assess the site in question in preparation for cleaning. It is not a true grant program but is rather a service provided in a contract with the EPA.

Additional Information:

- Essentially, these private organizations can accomplish preliminary planning and investigation of the site, allowing small organizations to avoid the uncertainty of a larger level of investment.
- EPA regional organizations determine which sites receive this treatment.

Eligibility:

- The requirements are identical to the qualifications for Assessment grants.

Contact Information:

- For more information visit http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/grant_info/tba.htm
Telephone: (212) 637-4314



Federal Section II:

Environmental Protection Agency ***Superfund Sites***

When compared to a Brownfield site, Superfund sites and their cleanup are considered more carefully, and for good reason. Usually, these sites are not simply abandoned industrial areas but rather have experienced active dumping of dangerous chemicals in the past. These sites usually have unsafe contamination levels of petroleum products, toxic chemicals or both.

This increases the dangers associated with cleanup so the EPA oversees the projects internally. There are, however, some opportunities for communities wishing to get involved in the process in some way.

1) Technical Assistance Grants (TAG)

- TAG grants allow limited community involvement in the Superfund site cleanup process. Local groups may contract site investigations to private organizations so a greater understanding of plot contamination can be attained.

Additional Information:

- Eligible sites include areas that are already on the EPA National Priority List, which are lands that are identified as being highly toxic, or sites that are proposed for the list.
- The TAG program provides an initial grant of up to \$50,000 for site investigation.

Additional Information:

- Contact for questions about applications
Frank Barone
U.S. EPA Region 2 (2OPM-GCMB)
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866
Phone: 212-637-3379

2) Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

- TASC funding is not technically a grant, but it is available through the EPA.
- The EPA contracts individuals from either the private or university community to inform local individuals on procedures relating to Superfund Cleanup. Ultimately, these resources are not a direct fix for the Superfund contamination, but rather help to keep concerned individuals informed appropriately.

Additional Information:

- <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc/>
- Contact information is listed under the TAG section directly above
- For additional information on community involvement, visit <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/policies.htm>



State Section I:

New York State Department of State: Division of Coastal Resources

The Division of Coastal Resources works in partnership with community groups, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, and local governments to make communities better places to live, work and visit.

The Division of Coastal Resources is involved in a wide variety of programs and initiatives that help revitalize, promote and protect New York's communities and waterfronts. Over the past 20 years, the Division has worked with hundreds of local governments and communities to prepare Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs that define a local vision for the waterfront, and has provided technical and financial assistance to hundreds more communities for plans and projects that have expanded public access, reinvigorated urban waterfronts, restored habitats, and strengthened local economies

1) The Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program

- The Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program is designed to assist a community's efforts to foster redevelopment and return dormant and blighted land into productive and catalytic areas while restoring environmental quality. This program provides municipalities and community-based organizations with resources to address local Brownfields providing area-wide Brownfield redevelopment planning, access to expert environmental and economic analysis, and environmental site assessment for strategic redevelopment parcels.

Additional Information:

- The BOA program recognizes that successful Brownfield redevelopment comes in many forms and that each community has their own unique opportunity and revitalization goals. BOA provides a flexible planning framework for communities to catalyze the redevelopment of Brownfields and affected areas through a locally-driven process.

Eligibility:

- New York States Municipalities, Community Based Organizations, and Community Boards are eligible to apply to receive funding through this program.
- The BOA provides municipalities and community based organizations with assistance, up to 90 percent of the eligible costs, to complete revitalization plans and implementation strategies.

Contact Information:

- The program's regional offices have been divided into nine sections of New York State. To find the proper office that will best serve you, I encourage you to access the provided link:
- http://www.nyswaterfronts.com/BOA_contact.asp



Letters of Support from Senator Gillibrand

While Senator Gillibrand does NOT decide which organizations are awarded grants, there are instances in which it is appropriate for the Senator Gillibrand to write a letter of support for an application. If you wish to request a letter of support for your application, you must supply Senator Gillibrand with the following:

1. A description of your organization,
2. Summary of the application,
3. a description of what the money will be used for, and
4. a draft letter of support

Please forward this information to the nearest regional office:

Capitol District

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Leo W. O'Brien Federal Office Building
1 Clinton Square
Room 821
Albany, NY 12207
Tel: (518) 431-0120
Fax: (518) 431-0128

Buffalo/Western New York

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Larkin at Exchange
726 Exchange Street, Suite 511
Buffalo, NY 14210
Tel: (716) 854-9725
Fax: (716) 854-9731

Long Island

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
155 Pinelawn Road
Suite 250 North
Melville, NY 11747
Tel: (631) 249-2825
Fax: (631) 249-2847

New York City

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
780 Third Avenue
Suite 2601
New York, New York 10017
Tel. (212) 688-6262
Fax (212) 688-7444

North Country

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
PO Box 273
Lowville, NY 13367
Tel. (315) 376-6118
Fax (315) 376-6118

Rochester Region

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Kenneth B. Keating Federal Office Building
100 State Street
Room 4195
Rochester, NY 14614
Tel. (585) 263-6250
Fax (585) 263-6247

Syracuse/Central New York

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
James M. Hanley Federal Building
100 South Clinton Street
Room 1470
PO Box 7378
Syracuse, NY 13261
Tel. (315) 448-0470
Fax (315) 448-0476

Westchester County

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Tel. (914) 725-9294
Fax (914) 472-5073

Washington D.C.

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel. (202) 224-4451
Fax (202) 228-0282
TTY/TDD: (202) 224-6821

