

A Guide to Brownfield and Superfund Cleanup Funding Opportunities

How to Navigate the Grant 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
Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Section I: Federal Opportunities Brownfield Cleanup

This section describes several different types of federally administered programs for the cleaning of Brownfields. These grants are administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, which defines Brownfields 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 breaches 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.
- **Regional Contact:** The country is broken into regions for the purposes of Brownfield cleanup. If you have any questions, contact New York's coordinator, whose information is listed below:

Mr. Larry D'Andrea
Brownfields Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
290 Broadway
18th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Phone (212) 637-4314

Assessment Grants

Overview:

- 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. 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. The website listed at end of the Assessment Grants section provides more information and explains how to apply.

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.

Additional information:

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

Revolving Loan Fund Grants

Overview:

- 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.

Additional information:

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

Cleanup Grants

Overview:

- 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.

Additional information:

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

Job Training Pilots/Grants

Overview:

- 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 Brownfields.
- 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.

Additional Information:

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

Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants

Overview:

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

Eligibility:

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

Additional information:

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

Targeted Brownfield Assessments

Overview:

- 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.
- 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.

Additional information:

- For more information visit http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/grant_info/tba.htm
- As this program is run entirely through the regional offices, the contact number below is different from the other programs as it directs calls to the New York regional office
- Telephone: (212) 637-4314

Other EPA Brownfield Information:

State and Tribal Response Programs

Overview:

- These programs exist to provide individuals in a given state with opportunities on a more localized basis and usually administer their own cleanup programs.
- New York has its own program whose details are listed later in the packet.
- The additional information section directs the viewer to the website for this specific program and can further direct the viewer to tribal and state program sites.

Additional Information:

- http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/state_tribal/index.html

Brownfield sustainability pilots

Overview:

- This program provides technical assistance to Brownfield projects concerned with the sustainability of their project. The EPA can provide expert assistance to help them achieve greener assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment at these sites.

- The engagement in this type of project can increase overall resource efficiency and demonstrate positive practices to the local community.

Additional Information:

- http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/state_tribal/index.html

Information on funding and financing Brownfield cleanup

Overview:

- The EPA has a website that provides important information on funding these projects and how to apply.
- <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/mmatters.htm>



Section II: New York State Funding for Brownfield Cleanup

New York State also runs a robust Brownfield cleanup program through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) using processes not unlike that of the EPA.

Just as with the EPA, if a site is contaminated above certain levels it becomes a Superfund site and must be cleaned in a more thorough manner.

For an extended version of the summary, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8648.html>

New York State Brownfield Cleanup Summary

The New York State DEC accepts grant applications from a variety of organizations for a variety of purposes; in the past, cleanup programs have resulted in the creation of wind farms, commercial centers and hotels, all of which valuable resources to the region.

Eligible sites and applicants

Overview:

- Similarly to the EPA programs, eligible sites are those which are abandoned without a significant level of contamination. Sites whose toxicity breaches a threshold fall under the supervision of the Federal Government Superfund Program.
- The requirements for participation in the NYS program is less restrictive and generally applicants are only restricted from application if there is not current legal enforcement on the party in reference to the site or if the organization has been previously found to aggregate the problem of pollution at a given site.

Application process

Pre-application meeting:

- The application process is similar to the federal program with a large exception. Rather than simply filling out the application, it is highly recommended that interested parties schedule a Pre-application meeting with the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- To schedule the appointment, visit this website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/776.html>.
- If you are unsure as to which region you belong, call Donna Weigel at (518) 402-9764.

Application:

- The application can be found on the website here as a PDF http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/bcpapplication.pdf.

Additional information:

- For a complete summary of the application process, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8648.html> or contact
- NYS DEC
Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7012
518-402-9764

Section III: Federal Superfund Cleanup Opportunities

When compared to Brownfields, 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 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.

Technical Assistance Grants (TAG)

Overview:

- 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.
- 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:

- <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/>
- 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

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

Overview:

- 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>

Section V: 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, please 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 containing all the above information

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

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

