

**Office of Brownfields & Land Revitalization**  
**FY15 National Outreach Webinar (11/05/14) - Question and Answer Transcript**

*Note: Text in italics indicate responses that were provided verbally during the call or not responded to during the webinar.*

Jay E.: For proposals that are being mailed in, does the typical postmark deadline apply?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Hi Jay, yes, the postmarked date applies.

OSU-Cascades: How is a "site" defined, can multiple "Sites" be located on a single tax lot?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): OSU- Cascades: a site can be defined in various ways. I recommend calling your regional contact to discuss your particular situation and eligibility.

OSU-Cascades: Ok, thank you.

Dave L.: Can nonprofits apply for or be part of a coalition grant application?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Dave - are you asking about an assessment coalition?

Dave L.: yes

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): a non-profit is not eligible for assessment funding so would not be eligible as a coalition partner.

Andrea S.: If a not-for-profit is applying for cleanup funds is site ownership a requirement? Or is an MOU sufficient proof of intent?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Andrea - site ownership is a requirement for cleanup funding.

Andrea S.: Thanks Terri

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Andrea - site ownership is required at time of proposal submission. We will review that in Threshold.

Nancy H.: do you have advice for submitting an assessment grant on property that includes a fire damaged contributing building in a federally designated Historic District. What has your experience been with environmental assessment/remediation on historic designated buildings/properties?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Nancy - let's hold that question until the end of this section. thanks

Deborah J.: Will a copy of this presentation be available for us to print out?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Deborah - yes, it will be made available on our website.

Gary A. E.: If we have identified 3 sites as part of an area-wide brownfield plan completed in 2012 do we apply for site specific and only target one site at a time or can we do area-wide and discuss doing one, two or all three of the sites (as money allows?)

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Gary - you may submit a community-wide application.

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Gary - another thing you should do is to contact your regional contact to discuss eligibility.

Gary A. E.: will do...thanks

Scott L.: Do community wide applications have to provide site eligibility information?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Scott – no. Community wide assessment applicants do not provide site eligibility information.*

Dannielle A.: For a site-specific assessment grant, are there additional requirements to determine eligibility for \$350,000 amount?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Dannielle, yes. You'll need to include a one-page justification for the \$200K waiver and explain why the entire \$350K is required for the assessment work. Please review page 5 of the assessment guidelines for further guidance.*

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): Can anyone use the KState TAB EZ or just the KState Regions?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Anyone can use the TAB EZ. It is easy to register on the website

Blase Leven (TAB-KSU): Answer to TAB EZ Question - anyone anywhere with an internet connection can use TAB EZ

Jessica W.: Will a copy of the Q&A be made available to participants?

Everett C.: Sorry if I missed this but will the power point presentation be available to download as well?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/news/index.htm> this is our website where the webinar slides will be posted.

Blase Leven (KSU-TAB): Question TABs are getting - can different legal (& eligible) entities apply for a coalition grant that focuses on the same area? Does that meet the intent of a coalition grant?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Blase – There is nothing in the guidelines stating that coalitions cannot implement the suggested approach. However, the intent of the assessment coalition grants is to provide smaller communities with less capacity an opportunity to take advantage of assessment funds.*

Andrea S.: Is there a waiver to exceed the \$200,000 cap for cleanup grants?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10) - \$200k is the cap for cleanup grants.

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): only site-specific assessment grants may go up to \$350k as specified in the Brownfields statute

Guest 3: Do these potential properties need to be owned by the applicant? Such as the municipality that is applying? This would be for an assessment.

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Guest 3 - an assessment grantee does NOT need to own the site.

Guest 3: Thanks, Terri

Nicole H.: CERCLA?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Nicole - CERCLA is the Statute that governs the Brownfields program.

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): CERCLA in that slide was another word for Superfund remedial or removal orders

Jane N.: For a coalition assessment proposal, if the primary applicant is a tribe (not requiring a letter from the state environmental agency) but other entities are non-tribal, does the proposal need to include letters from the state for each of the other coalition partners?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Jane – no, the state environmental authority does not need to provide letters for the coalition partners.*

Gary A. E.: Can the match be money used within the last 3 months to demolish the building (dangerous and falling down) or does it have to be going forward?

*Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Gary - match must support project costs within the project period of the grant not previous costs.*

Ananya: Following up on Jane N.'s question, what about a coalition that includes a tribal entity where that entity is not the Primary Applicant? Would the letter from the state still be required?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Ananya – A letter from the state is required for the 'lead applicant'. If the lead applicant is the State or a Tribe, a letter is not required. If the lead is any other entity, a letter from the state is required.*

Gary A. Evans: The Community Notification is for Cleanup only??

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Gary – that's correct. Community Notification is for a threshold criterion cleanup proposals and Community Involvement threshold criterion is for assessment proposals.*

Isaac K. - KY: Will requesting hardship waiver hurt us when evaluating application. For instance, would it show how we are unable to attract leveraged resources?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Isaac – no, requesting a hardship waiver will not hurt you during the evaluation. However, you will need to provide information in the proposal explaining how the 20% match will be secured in the event the hardship waiver is not approved.*

Everett C.: Can you please repeat who provides the petroleum eligibility letter?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): The petroleum eligibility letter is provided by the state environmental authority. If the state is unable or unwilling to make the determination, EPA will then make the determination.*

Toni M.: I am applying for a Clean-up Grant and have a final ABCA? For community notification, am I only required to provide a draft Clean-up Grant Application?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Toni – Yes, you're only required to provide a draft ABCA with your cleanup application. The ABCA presented to the community should be as final as possible. However, any significant feedback received from the community should be incorporated into the ABCA.*

LaKeesha M.: Must the community meeting be held prior to Dec 5, or do we simply have to advertise the public meeting by Dec 5?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): The community must be notified by December 5 and the meeting should be held prior to submission of your proposal.*

Marquitrice M.: When applying for a coalition assessment grant, is there a formal letter of commitment or letter of support required by each member of the coalition to be submitted with the application?

Jane N.: But the memorandum of agreement does NOT need to be submitted with the proposal.

Marquitrice M.: Thanks!!

Beth G.: in a large coalition-multiple counties-- can small communities (usually less than 5,000)--be considered grass roots? They are targeted communities

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Beth – A small community in itself is not considered a grass root organization. Additionally, municipal organizations and govt's are not community organizations. Please review page 34 of the assessment guidelines and frequently asked question #8 and #9 for further guidance on community organizations.*

Jane N.: So municipal governments can be a community organization by virtue of the community being very small population??

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): municipal governments are not considered community organizations. We will cover community organizations in section 3 of today's presentation*

Cynthia M.: Would you please repeat that website?

Sandy: [www.epa.gov/enviro](http://www.epa.gov/enviro)

Cynthia M.: Thank you.

Susan: If we have already gone through the consultant selection process, and we are awarded an assessment grant, can we use those EE consultants who are on contract or do we have to go out again?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Susan - it depends on how the consultant contract is written and if there is flexibility to add more time and \$ to the contract. Please work with your regional brownfields contact on whether or not the contract is written broad enough.*

Beth G.: when a community is leveraging their internal resources towards the grant, does this information need to be included into the budget itself (other)

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Beth - did Barbara just answer your question?*

Beth G.: yes

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): great!*

LaKeesha M.: What do you suggest if we are in the process of bidding out to conduct the Phase II Assessment, but it may not be done by the deadline for the cleanup grant?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): LaKeesha – at minimum, a draft Phase II assessment report must be included in the cleanup proposal.*

Dave S.: health monitoring activities are available only to Local Units of government, correct?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Correct. Local Units of Government are defined under 40 CFR Part 31. Therefore, quasi-governmental entities (such as regional councils and councils of governments) are eligible to include health monitoring activities in the proposal.*

Isaac K. - KY: Where will the national brownfield conference be and when?

Sandy: Chicago next September

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Our main webpage has the information on the National conference. [epa.gov/brownfields](http://epa.gov/brownfields)

Scott L.: Can a health department conduct health monitoring?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Health agencies could work to provide risk based information or contaminant information to the community, the state probably has a voluntary or brownfields program, the county may have an environmental program, the housing authority may be a partner in providing affordable housing for reuse.

Scott L.: Should include information related to any previous area wide plan applications?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Scott: Yes, that is fine.

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): <http://nalgep.org/uploads/pdf/October%2030%20Slides.pdf> this is the link for NALGEP's webinar slides

Everett C.: Can you please give an example of a governmental partnership, what does that look like and what are you looking for the partnership to do?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Government partnerships include the following: Health agencies, state environmental, regional planning councils, development authorities, board of commissioners, development councils, education organizations etc.

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): don't forget the historic society if you have old historic buildings downtown that may need assessment.

Isaac K. - KY: Are community orgs limited to those within the community, or can they also include regional entities? Thinking about our regional economic development and planning orgs.

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): community organizations may include regional entities. The relevancy and contribution of the community organization should complement the efforts and goals described in the proposal.*

Everett C.: What are you looking for the governmental partnership to establish?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Partnership with the state agency helps ensure that your program is self-sustaining and helps build capacity for small organizations. States can provide environmental assistance and economic incentives - providing the link to a good source of leveraging.

Scott L.: Should the brownfields within application be based on the participation of property owners?

Scott L.: for community wide applications

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Scott - Property owner participation is not mandatory but would certainly be a plus for a proposal and would show that you have thought out the steps and will be ready to go when you receive the award.

Scott L.: Thanks Barbara

Patrick C.: I am not sure if this was mentioned, and if it was I apologize, but can you provide some examples of commitments from our partners?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Commitments can be anything from a church that is providing meeting space, to the community college providing outreach assistance, or marketing from the redevelopment authority, etc.

Patrick C.: Great, thank you.

Jane N.: How do communities far too small to afford formal community planning efforts much less any sustainability plans demonstrate a connection of their project to local planning efforts?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Jane, I think for small communities, the partners become more important because you need to rely on them for things that the bigger communities may do.

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): Updating a plan to include the livability principles might be included in the strategy for how you plan to engage your community. Either something you will do while you wait a year for EPA to decide - partner with TAB, the State and other orgs.

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): (Basically acknowledge that you are in the process of updating but don't currently have planning in place.)

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Thanks Jennifer!!

Irene S.: Suggestions for approaching community wide application and how that would be different than site specific? In other words, do you want details on multiple proposed sites if we are submitting a community wide application?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Jane and Irene, you raise good questions. let's talk about them in a minute.

Guest 2: Do you have data on success rates of cleanup grants? I come from a community that does not demonstrate a lot of need, does not have a lot of resources to even prepare a grant, will need to hire someone, and wondering if it's worth the effort/expense.

Debi Morey (EPA HQ): In response to Guest 2 - we are able to fund approximately 30% of the proposals submitted, so it is well worth your time to apply for a cleanup grant.

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Guest 2: yes. You might want to talk to your regional rep to talk about a Targeted Brownfields Assessment, which is a great assistance opportunity!

Guest 2: It's for cleanup though

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): Guest 2 - You might help understand - not need? It may be as simple as defining your community at a neighborhood level. Seek assistance from state and TAB. States often help you define your story clearly for the reviewer.

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): Also look at school enrollment info for #s of children on reduced lunch. This can give you a neighborhood level when census blocks don't get small enough.

Irene S.: For audit findings, what kind of audits are you looking for? Ex: HUD monitoring? And if there have been past findings, do reviewers negatively view past findings if we have corrected/resolved them?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Irene, the guidelines say Any Adverse Audit Findings so it could include HUD. Be thorough in your response

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): Irene - negative findings only hurt you if you can't say what you did to find a finding and show responsiveness. No worries if you have a negative finding - just say how it was fixed and remedy the finding.

LaKeesha M.: When will award announcements be made and what is the expected start of the contract period?

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): LaKeesha – grant selections will be made and announced in late spring. Depending on the regional office, the expected start date of the cooperative agreement may begin soon after the federal paperwork and workplans are submitted to EPA and processed in the grants office; and most likely will start no later than Oct 1.*

Toni M.: If the project site has benefited from Community Assessment Grants and TSI grants but our agency was not recipient, am I considered a previous grantee?

Barbara Alfano (EPA Region 4): Toni: no., you need to have been the grant recipient

Crista S.: For small communities, can you use multiple census tracts as your "target area"?

Terri Griffith (EPA Region 10): Crista - yes, you may use multiple census tracts in your target area.

Harris B.: If you submit a \$200k community-wide assessment grant application for petroleum and a \$200k community-wide assessment grant application for hazardous substances, and both applications are funded, can they be combined under a single cooperative agreement?

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): Harris - Check with your Region.

*Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Harris – It is possible to combine both awards into one grant. If feasible, we encourage applicants to submit one combined grant application.*

Dennis L.: Thank you very much for the excellent presentation and discussion!! I look forward to submitting a proposal for a grant!

Tina R.: Thank you!

Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Thank you Dennis!

Patrick C.: Thank you.

Dave A.: Are there examples of successful and unsuccessful grant applications on the site?

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): Dave - I recommend checking TAB EZ for examples of successful/unsuccessful. They have developed an exercise that compares two examples.

Dave A.: Will you repeat this Webinar?

Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): Dave - this is the only webinar

Jerry Minor-Gordon (EPA HQ): however, the slides and audio from today will be made available

Jennifer Morris (EPA Region 7): Dave - check with your region to see if there is some regionally delivered outreach.