

## BROWNFIELDS FUNDING IN USE

States such as Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, and Tennessee are using portions of their state response program funds from EPA to combat meth problems in their communities. Activities include:

- Public outreach
- Meth lab training
- Technical assistance
- Building response capabilities

Kansas also provides assistance to other states and local governments interested in implementing similar programs.

**Public Health Seattle & King County** in Washington State, was awarded an EPA assessment grant specifically to address meth lab contamination by:

- Posting warnings
- Informing the public of hazards
- Assessing the extent of contamination
- Overseeing decontamination and determining when structures can safely be reoccupied
- Assuring that cleanup contractors properly handle and dispose of wastes generated during the cleanup process



For more information on how Brownfields grants can be used to address clandestine drug labs, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/> or call the appropriate EPA Regional Brownfields Office listed below.

| Region    | States                         | Phone          |
|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Region 1  | CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT         | (617) 918-1424 |
| Region 2  | NJ, NY, VI, PR                 | (212) 637-4314 |
| Region 3  | DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV         | (215) 814-3129 |
| Region 4  | AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN | (404) 562-8866 |
| Region 5  | IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI         | (312) 886-7576 |
| Region 6  | AR, LA, NM, OK, TX             | (214) 665-6736 |
| Region 7  | IA, KS, MO, NE                 | (913) 551-7646 |
| Region 8  | CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY         | (303) 312-6803 |
| Region 9  | AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU         | (415) 972-3092 |
| Region 10 | AK, ID, OR, WA                 | (206) 553-2100 |

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## MethFields

### Brownfields Funding and Technical Assistance to Address Clandestine Drug Labs



Office of Brownfields  
Cleanup and Redevelopment

## THE BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

The U.S. EPA Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The program offers a variety of funding and assistance opportunities for redevelopment, bringing life and economic vitality back to communities.

Due to growing national concern, Congress made properties contaminated by controlled substances such as methamphetamine (meth) eligible for Brownfields funding. Brownfields redevelopment is not the primary solution to the emerging clandestine drug lab issue. However, some stakeholders may find Brownfields Program funding and technical assistance beneficial to combating the meth problem in their area.



## CLANDESTINE DRUG LABS: A GROWING PROBLEM

Clandestine drug labs are an increasing problem in the United States. Once seen as only a rural issue in western states, drug labs—specifically meth labs—are multiplying throughout the nation and becoming a major social, economic, and public health concern for some communities.

### Risks to Human Health and the Environment

Over five pounds of waste produced for every one pound of meth manufactured.

Waste is typically dumped on the ground or down drains, which contaminates drain fields, soils, and surface waters.

High danger of explosion—inexperienced people are mixing volatile, unstable compounds usually without the proper safety equipment.

Health effects from exposure include: shortness of breath, chemical burns, damage to central nervous system, and in some cases, death.

### What are the Ingredients of Meth?

Methamphetamine can be manufactured from a variety of easy-to-access ingredients such as cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine, anhydrous ammonia, starter fluid, drain cleaner, and paint thinner.

### Where are Meth Labs Found?

Meth is constructed in labs found in settings such as private residences, trailers, campgrounds, hotel rooms, and vehicles.

## BROWNFIELDS FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

The Brownfields Program provides several types of funding and assistance opportunities that can be used to address clandestine drug labs.

**Assessment Grants** fund a variety of pre-cleanup environmental activities such as site assessment, inventory, characterization, prioritization, community outreach, and cleanup planning and design.

**Cleanup Grants** fund the cleanup of brownfield sites.

**Revolving Loan Fund Grants** help establish state or locally administered loan funds.

**Job Training Grants** are designed to help unemployed/underemployed local residents take advantage of jobs created by the assessment/cleanup of brownfield sites.

**Targeted Brownfields Assessments** provide funding and technical assistance for environmental assessments at brownfield sites.

**State and Tribal Response Program (Section 128) Funds** for state and tribal response programs are a non-competitive grant source for states and tribes to establish and enhance response programs.

