Tips for Submitting Brownfields Grant Competition Proposals
Through www.grants.gov

- Register NOW! There is a 5-step registration process outlined below. The process to obtain a DUNS number and/or register in www.SAM.gov can take a month or more. Further details and assistance can be found at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html.

    1. Obtain a DUNS number, a unique nine digit identification number, for your organization.
    2. Register with SAM (the System for Award Management) at www.SAM.gov; use the correct DUNS number. **If you are already registered with www.SAM.gov, make sure your account is active.**
    3. Complete an AOR (Authorized Organization Representative) profile, and create a username and password in www.grants.gov; using the correct DUNS number.
    4. Become an authorized AOR by requesting approval from your organization's E-Business Point of Contact (E-Biz POC).
    5. Track the AOR status by logging into www.grants.gov.

- Obtaining a DUNS number and registering in www.SAM.gov are both free of charge. Please be advised, some companies may offer to register your organization for a fee. If you choose to use one of these companies, any fee you incur is not reimbursable with brownfields grant funds.

- Use the same, correct DUNS number in www.SAM.gov, www.grants.gov and on the application forms.

- The approved Authorized Organization Representative must be the person who submits the application package in www.grants.gov.

- To avoid confusion with terminology, please note that the terms "proposal" and "application" mean the same thing for the purposes of a brownfields grant competition. The files that you submit through www.grants.gov as your brownfields grant proposal is what is known as an application package in www.grants.gov.

- If possible, combine all the required submission materials into a single file and submit that one file through www.grants.gov. This will ensure that the EPA receives your entire submission and the submission is in the order that you intended.

- When attaching your submission materials to the Standard Form 424, EPA recommends choosing one of the following methods:
    - (*Preferred*) Combine all required submission materials into a single file. Attach the single file to the "Project Narrative File(s)" field and attach a blank file to the "Other Attachment File(s)" field.
    - Combine the Cover Letter (and Other Factors Checklist), the letter from the state or tribal environmental authority, and the Proposal Narrative into a single file and attach the file to the "Project Narrative File(s)" field. Combine the remaining submission materials into a single file and attach that file to the "Other Attachment File(s)" field.

- Do not submit password-protected files.

- Make PDF files searchable by creating the PDF from its source document (e.g., a MS Word file). Searchable PDF files make it easier for reviewers to review your proposal. The easiest way to do this is to use the "Create PDF/XPS Document" feature, found under the Export Tab.

- Submitting a proposal to www.grants.gov does NOT automatically mean www.grants.gov accepted the proposal or that EPA received the proposal. **Submit your proposal at least two to three days early**. By submitting your information early, you will have time to find out if your application has been received, is free of errors and is accepted by the www.grants.gov system prior to the deadline.

- After signing and successfully submitting the application package, within 24 to 48 hours the AOR should receive a series of notification emails from www.grants.gov with the following subject lines:

    1. GRANT###### Grants.gov Submission Receipt
    Indicates www.grants.gov (not EPA) received the application package and assigned a tracking number.

    2. GRANT###### Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application
    Indicates www.grants.gov either validated and accepted the application package, and the application is free of errors, OR that www.grants.gov did not accept the application package due to errors which need be resolved. **Your application package has not been accepted until you receive an email stating that it has been successfully validated.**

    3. GRANT##### Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application
    Indicates EPA retrieved the application package from www.grants.gov.

    4. GRANT##### Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application
    Indicates EPA assigned an EPA tracking number to the application package.

    If the AOR did not receive any of the notification emails listed above, contact the www.grants.gov Help Desk at 1-800-518-4726.

- You can check the status of your application package anytime after submission by using the tracking link provided in the Submission Receipt email, or by logging into www.grants.gov using the "Applicants" link at the top of any page, and clicking on the "Check Application Status" link.

- Review instructions in *Section IV.C.* of the brownfields grant competition Request for Proposals (RFP) on how to submit the application package through www.grants.gov. Additional information can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.html.

- If you experience transmission difficulties, please refer to *Section IV.C.* in the RFP for more information and contact the www.grants.gov Help Desk (1-800-518-4726).

Common Issues To Avoid When Trying to Submit the Application Package through www.grants.gov

- Ensure that your files are not corrupt or forcing any errors prior to uploading them to www.grants.gov.

- Ensure the file name(s) does not exceed 50 characters.

- Incorrect version of Adobe Reader - www.grants.gov supports Adobe Reader version 9.0.0 through 11.0.10. These versions of Adobe Reader can be downloaded from http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/. Please note that Adobe Reader DC is not compatible with www.grants.gov.

- Review other common error messages at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/encountering-error-messages.html.

Common Reasons for www.grants.gov Application Package Rejection

- Applicant's www.SAM.gov account is inactive: You must use your account at least once per year for your account to remain active. It's easy to check your account status by going to www.SAM.gov and entering your organization's DUNS number.

- Applicant used the wrong DUNS number: Use the same, correct DUNS number in www.SAM.gov, in www.grants.gov, and on the application forms.

- The submitter is not the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR): Individuals submitting application packages on behalf of their organization must be the AOR, or use the AOR's username and password. The organization's E-Biz POC must authorize the individual as the AOR.

- The application was submitted with another organization's account information: Applicant did not have an active www.SAM.gov account and had another party submit an application package on their behalf. EPA considers the party submitting the application package as the applicant and will not accept applications on behalf of other organizations.

- The applicant is unsure if the application submitted successfully: When attempting to submit the application package, some applicants have reported their screen continuing to say "in progress." Make sure you submit the application early to allow for any issues that may occur along the way. Call the www.grants.gov Help Desk for assistance at 1-800-518-4726.