



Brownfields 2011 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet

Gulfport, MS

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Gulfport was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Gulfport (population 71,127) is located on the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Katrina extensively damaged the city and caused a massive loss in operating businesses and employment. In 2008, the economic downturn caused casino industry revenues in the Gulf Coast area to drop 28 percent, which affected Gulfport's tax base. Additionally, the city experienced economic effects from the April 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. These hardships have increased the number of closed and abandoned properties throughout the city. Gulfport has identified 45 potential brownfields, including abandoned gas stations, dry cleaners, and auto repair shops. Approximately 75 percent of city residents are African-Americans, who are disproportionately impacted by their proximity to brownfields. Brownfield assessments will help the city evaluate environmental and health threats, and identify actions needed to reduce these threats. The city expects that eventual site cleanup and redevelopment will facilitate the reuse of underused properties for mixed-use commercial and residential purposes.

Assessment Grants

\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Gulfport for two brownfields assessment grants. Community-wide hazardous substances and petroleum grant funds will be used to perform 25 Phase I and nine Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds also will be used to conduct cleanup planning and community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team
(404) 562-8792
EPA Region 4 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf>)

Grant Recipient: City of Gulfport, MS
228-868-5700

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.