

Lorain Port Authority

U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant

Fact Sheet



In November of 2011, the Lorain Port Authority applied for and subsequently received \$400,000 in grant funding from U.S. EPA to be used for the assessment of brownfields throughout Lorain. The Port Authority will use the grant to assess local brownfields and complete the studies necessary in order to complete cleanup of the sites. The ultimate goal of the requested grant funding will be to create market-ready sites for new businesses and grow the local economy.

For additional information contact:

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What is a Brownfield?

"...real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contamination." Brownfield sites include residential, commercial and industrial properties, as well as mine scarred lands, and may be contaminated by controlled substances or petroleum products.

What grant does the Port Authority have?

The Lorain Port Authority received \$400,000 for "community-wide" assessment of brownfield properties. The funding provides \$200,000 in funding to assess properties potentially contaminated with hazardous substances and \$200,000 for properties with potential petroleum contamination.

What will the grants pay for?

The grants may be used to assess, identify, characterize and plan cleanup activities at potentially contaminated sites. Specifically, the Port Authority plans to complete the following:

- Inventory of brownfield sites
- Phase I and II Site Investigations
- Remedial Action Plans
- Community Outreach Meetings

What areas are eligible?

The funding may be utilized on any site within the jurisdiction of the Port Authority that meets the U.S. EPA property eligibility criteria. Sites will be prioritized based on eligibility, access, marketability, and community impact.

Why are the studies needed?

- Assessment can increase the marketability of brownfield property
- Assessment may be required prior to lending institution approval
- Quantifies environmental risk for property value assessments
- Opportunities for additional cleanup funds at the state and federal level

What about site cleanup?

If it is determined that cleanup of a site is necessary, the Port Authority may pursue funding for brownfield cleanup. Cleanup funding is available from the U.S. EPA Brownfields Cleanup Program and the Clean Ohio Revitalization and Assistance Funds.

Key steps in the U.S. EPA grant process

- Port Authority receives grant
- Contract with U.S. EPA
- Competitive procurement to select consultant
- Work plan /quality assurance plans
- Selection of target sites / access agreements
- Site eligibility determinations
- Public meetings
- Phase I site investigations
- Phase II site investigations
- Risk assessments
- Remedial planning and design
- Plan for cleanup and redevelopment

What are the overall goals of the project?

- Work with property owners and partners to leverage funds & encourage redevelopment
- Conduct assessments and complete cleanup plans to redevelop properties
- Create opportunities for new businesses, jobs and growth

How can I participate?

The Port Authority will host a public meeting to solicit public comment. The details of the meeting will be publicly announced.

In addition, an information repository will be established at the Port Authority office. The public is encouraged to submit comments or questions to Mr. Rick Novak or Ms. Tiffany McClelland.