



A CASCADE OF BROWNFIELD FUNDING IS COMING...

If you are interested in revitalizing your community, there is no time like now. In addition to the existing EPA Brownfield grant funds, Opportunities Zones, and state incentives, we are starting to see a cascade of billions of dollars to support the revitalization of brownfields provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), reinstatement of Congressional Earmarks, as well as, President Biden's Proposed 2022 Budget and American Jobs Plan Act.

A sampling of the enacted and proposed Brownfield funding is described below:

PASSED FUNDING

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- \$350 billion to be distributed to all state and local governments “to address the negative economic impacts” including community revitalization.
- \$3 billion for Economic Development Administration grants for economic development.
- \$100 million in U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Grants to identify and address disproportionate environmental or public health harms and air, water or brownfield risks in minority or low-income population. Emphasis on COVID-impacted minority and low-income communities, climate resiliency, and communities impacted by diesel fuel near ports and railyards.

Congressional Earmarks for Revitalization Have Returned

Members of Congress can once again request that the Appropriations Committees, or the Infrastructure Committees designate funding for specific home-district or home-state projects – now called Community Projects or “Member-Designated Projects.”

PROPOSED FUNDING

President Biden's Proposed 2022 Budget

- Proposed increase in EPA Brownfield grant budget:
 - Many are calling for fully authorized level of \$250 million, others \$1 billion.
- \$936 million for EPA “Accelerating Environmental & Economic Justice: initiative to “create jobs, clean up pollution, and secure environmental justice” including new resources for air monitoring and enforcement.
- Boost in USDA rural water & wastewater infrastructure to \$717 million (an increase of \$100M).
- \$6.5 billion for USDA rural clean energy projects (up \$1B).

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President Biden's Proposed 2022 Budget

- \$111B for water infrastructure.
- \$100B for clean power & environmental infrastructure – including \$5 billion for EPA Brownfields/Superfund, \$16B for mine land and oil well remediation.
- \$20B for new “Community Revitalization Fund” for “innovative, community-led redevelopment projects that can spark new economic activity, provide services and amenities, build community wealth, and close the current gaps in access to the innovation economy for communities of color and rural communities that have suffered from years of disinvestment.”
- \$5B for rural and tribal economic development.

HOW TO PREPARE

To effectively leverage this potential cascade of funding for brownfield revitalization, communities need to:

1. Organize a task force backed by leaders to coordinate local needs, track resources, evaluate input, and conduct messaging.
2. Identify priority funding needs & projects, evaluate shovel-readiness, confirm costs and timelines.
3. Align priority projects and funding needs with available resources – contact the EPA and state agencies to discuss funding.
4. Create a “Resource Roadmap” to confirm priorities, needs & targets – and determine sources of match.
5. Create a matrix of priority projects and funding targets.
6. Create a one-page briefing sheet for each priority project that is ready to present to decision makers.
7. Engage with agency/funder officials.

An EPA Assessment grant is a great starting point since it allows communities to inventory, assess, investigate and develop remediation plans. The grant can be used to leverage other state and federal programs to revitalize sites. The key is to start the process, the sooner the better.

ABOUT HRP

HRP Associates, has provided grant writing, environmental site assessment/investigation and site revitalization for over 35 years. We work together with our clients to assure that they realize their goals and achieve the right solutions to their environmental and engineering challenges. Our collaborative business approach means you will always be fully involved and informed through the development and completion of your project. We have successfully completed numerous Brownfield programs for communities and developers throughout the United States.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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