IF YOUR SHIP HASN'T COME IN, BUILD AN ARC:

PREPARING A COMPETITIVE EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT APPLICATION

October 3, 2024
12:00pm- 1:00pm

Samantha A. McGraw
Senior Department Administrator, Sustainable Jersey

Joe Reiner
Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist, NJIT TAB

Elise Molleur
Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist, NJIT TAB

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED
A Better Tomorrow, One Community at a Time

Made possible with funding from USEPA

Thank you for joining us today!

This webinar will be starting soon.

This webinar is for informational purposes only.

But first, some helpful information:

- Today's session will be recorded.
- The recording for this session will be available on our website: https://www.njit.edu/tab/

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Thank you for joining us today!

This webinar will be starting soon.

But first, some helpful information:

- Use the Q&A box to queue up questions. Use the chat to share your thoughts.
- We want to know your thoughts! Fill out our feedback survey after today's session.
- Continue the conversation on our LinkedIn page! https://bit.ly/47Qmj2B

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Thank you for joining us today!

This webinar will be starting soon.

But first, some helpful information:

Experiencing technical issues? Know someone who is having trouble hopping on?

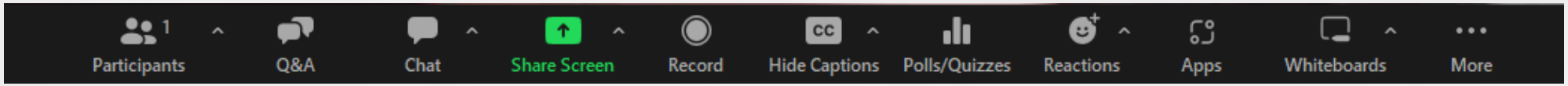
Reach out to me via email at fm392@njit.edu

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Need some assistance?

Ask questions here!

Need captions? Captions can be live translated as well! Just select your preferred language.



Share your thoughts here!

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Today's Speakers:

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NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Sustainable Jersey Overview

Samantha A. McGraw
Senior Department Administrator | Sustainable Jersey
mcgraws@tcnj.edu | 609-771-2855

October 3, 2024

What is Sustainable Jersey?

A nonprofit organization that provides tools, trainings, financial incentives, and technical assistance to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs.

Actions	Tools, resources, guidance
Funding	Technical Assistance

$8.1 million in grants to municipalities and schools through the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program for sustainability initiatives. Learn more: sustainablejersey.com/grants

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

Statistics

2009
Program
Started

83%
Participating

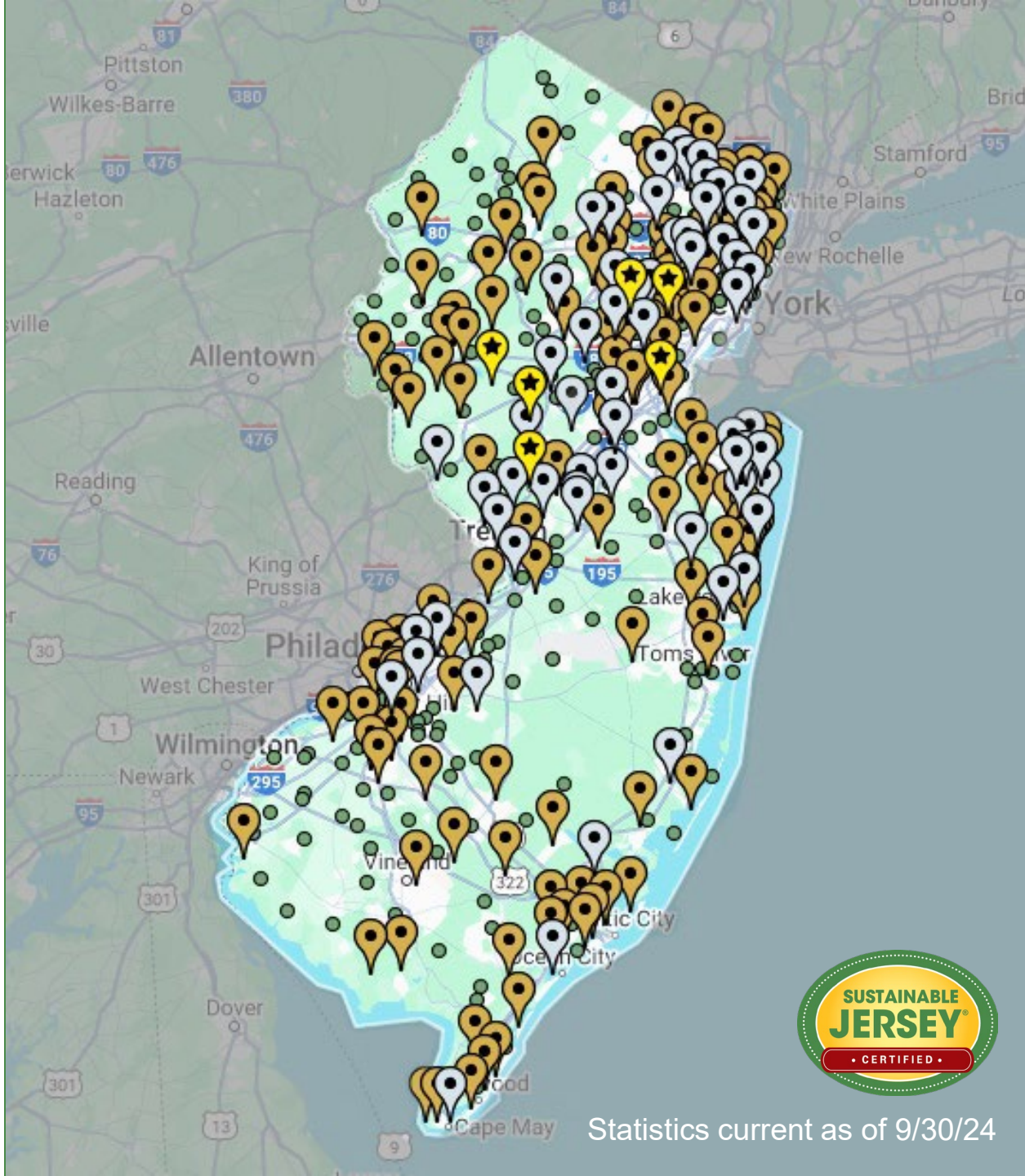
91%
Population

139
Bronze
Certified

68
Silver
Certified

7 Stars

16,710
Actions
Implemented



Statistics current as of 9/30/24

Certification Requirements

- Total of at least 150 points
- Mandatory Green Team
- Implement 2 of 15 priority actions
- Actions completed in 6 of 17 categories

Made a commitment to Sustainability, created internal organization (green team), succeeded in implementing first significant actions

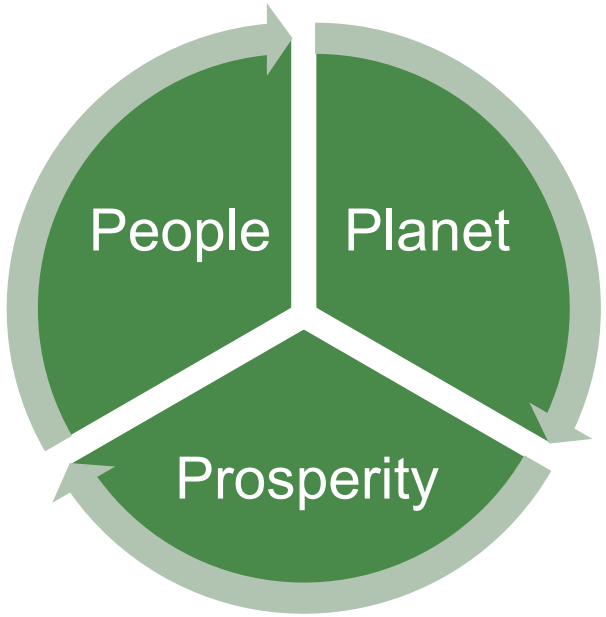
- Total of at least 350 points
- Mandatory Green Team
- Implement 3 of 15 priority actions
- Actions completed in 8 of 17 categories

Beyond getting started, making significant progress in a number of categories toward sustainability, statewide leader

Actions

Over 145 actions to choose from.

Download the Sustainable Jersey brochure on the Actions page.



ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

To become Sustainable Jersey Certified, municipalities must complete and document actions from this list.

BRONZE — Mandatory **Green Team**
2 out of 13 PRIORITY ACTIONS*
150 points across 6 of 17 categories.

SILVER — Mandatory **Green Team**
3 out of 13 PRIORITY ACTIONS*
350 points across 8 of 17 categories.

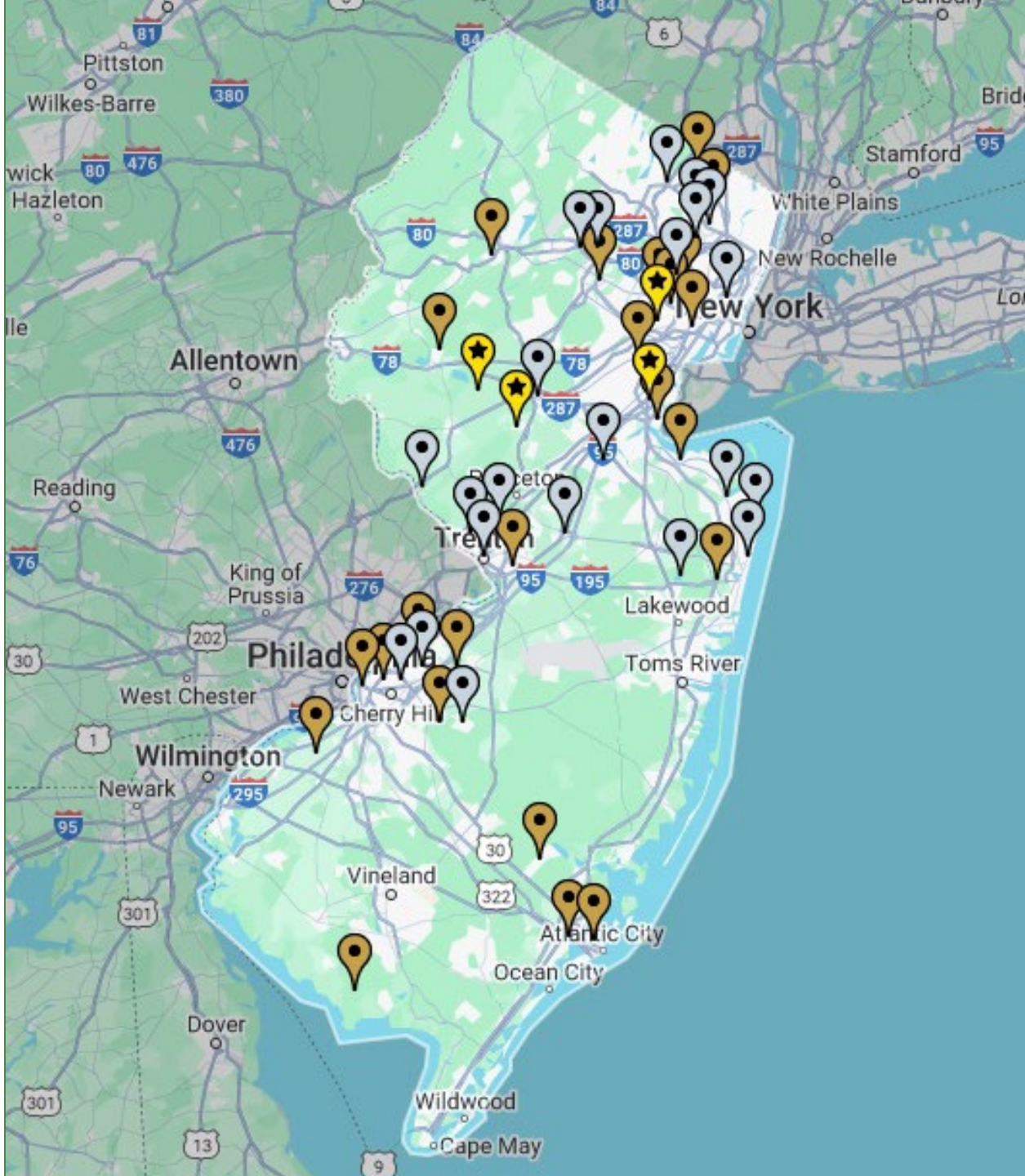
Certified communities can earn stars for high levels of achievement in Energy, Health and Water. The icons identify which actions can contribute towards earning a star.

Action	Stars	Points
ARTS & CREATIVE CULTURE		
Establish a Creative Team		10
Creative Assets Inventory		10
Creative Placemaking Plan		10
Municipal Commitments to Support Arts & Creative Culture	♥	5 to 25
Utilizing Your Creative Assets		10 to 30
BROWNFIELDS		
Brownfields Inventory & Prioritization	♥	10 to 15
Brownfields Reuse Planning	♥	5 to 15
Brownfields Marketing		10
Brownfields Assessment & Investigation	♥	5 to 30
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & OUTREACH		
Green Team - MANDATORY		10 to 15
Community Education & Outreach		5 to 20
Green Challenges		10
Green Fair		10 to 15
DIVERSITY & EQUITY		
Community Equity & Diversity Profile*	♥	10 to 15
Diversity on Boards & Commissions*	♥	10
Environmental Justice in Planning & Zoning	♥	10
Lead Education & Outreach Programs	♥	5 to 15
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & RESILIENCY		
Extreme Temperature Event Plan	♥	10
Heat Island Assessment & Mitigation Plan	♥	5 to 20
Community Wildfire Protection Plans		10
Firewise Community		5 to 15
Ready Set GO! Fire Company		5 to 15
Wildfire Safety Council		10
Emergency Communications Planning	♥	15

Action	Stars	Points
ENERGY		
Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities*		5 to 50
Energy Tracking & Management*		10 to 20
Buy Electricity from a Renewable Source		10
Municipal Onsite Solar System		5 to 45
Municipal Geothermal Energy System		10
Municipal Wind Energy System		10
Renewable Government Energy Aggregation	⚡	5 to 50
Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach	⚡	10 to 20
Energy Assistance Outreach	⚡♥	10 to 20
Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach	⚡♥	10 to 20
Make Your Town Solar Friendly	⚡	15 to 30
Municipally Supported Community Solar	⚡	15 to 25
Solar Outreach	⚡	10 to 15
Wind Ordinance		10
Fleet Inventory*		10
Meet Target for Green Fleets	♥	30
Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles		5 to 15
Electric Vehicle Community Outreach	⚡	10 to 15
Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly	⚡♥	15
Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	⚡♥	15
FOOD		
Farmland Preservation Plans	♥	10
Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen	♥	10 to 15
Community Gardens	♥	10 to 20
Expanded Supplemental Food Programs	♥	10 to 20
Promoting Safe Food Donation for Food Security	♥	10
Buy Fresh By Local Programs	♥	10
Farmers Markets	♥	10 to 15
GREEN DESIGN		
Green Building Policy/Resolution		5
Green Building Education		5
Green Building Training		5
Green Development Checklist		10
New Construction		20
Upgrade/Retrofit-Light Pollution		10
Upgrade/Retrofit-Water Conservation		10
HEALTH & WELLNESS		
Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program	♥	10
Best Practices for Local Boards of Health	♥	5 to 10
Building Healthier Communities	♥	5 to 25
Integrating Health Into Municipal Decision Making	♥	10 to 25
Local Health Assessment & Action Plan	♥	25 to 40
Safe Routes to School	♥	10

Brownfields Actions

- Brownfields Inventory & Prioritization
- Brownfields Reuse Planning
- Brownfields Marketing
- Brownfields Assessment & Investigation



Certification Steps

#1
Pass resolution & register municipality

#2
Form ***mandatory*** green team

#3
Meet criteria for bronze or silver certification

#4
Submit documentation for each action

***Certification awarded after review and verification*

Certification Timeline

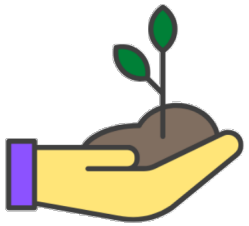
February → May → July

Certification Benefits

Save money.
Get money.

Get recognized.
Promote your town.

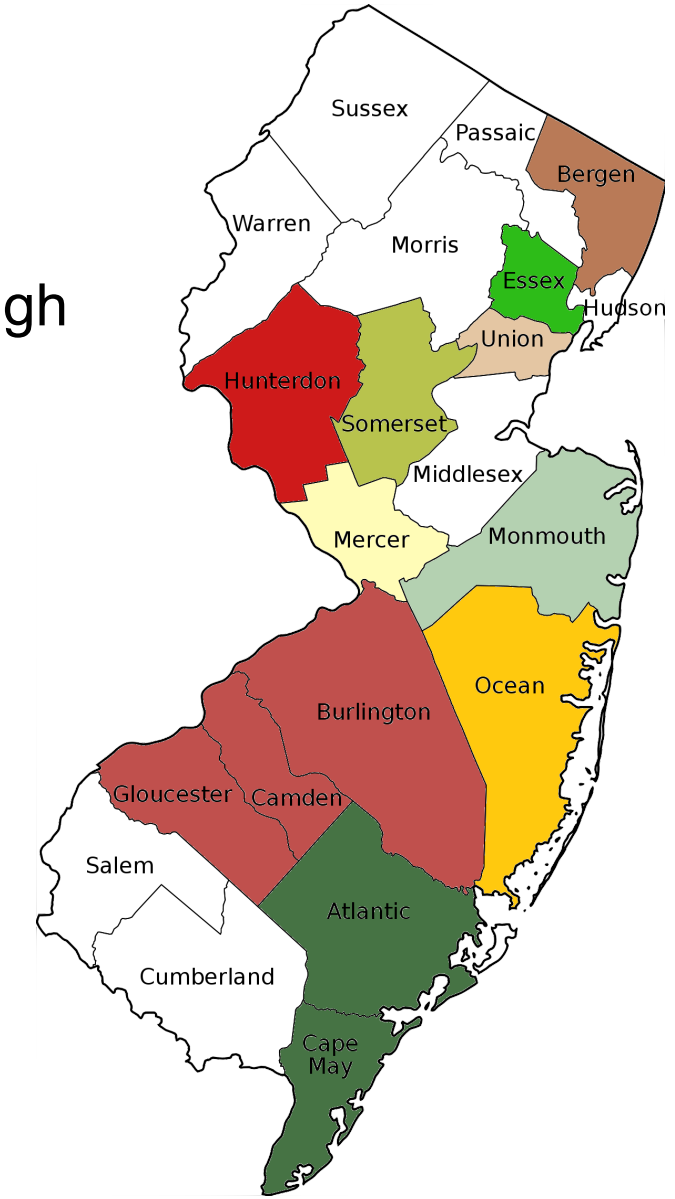
Gain access to tools, training and expert guidance.



Conserve valuable resources.
Protect the environment.

Regional Hubs

Ten hubs around the state to help green teams build capacity through training, best practices resources and networking. Learn more sustainablejersey.com/get-involved/



Benefits

- Peer mentoring
- Project collaboration
- Online communication platform
- Network of Leaders
- Quarterly Events
- Help Peers Get Certified
- Technical assistance & administrative support from SJ

Participants Map Search

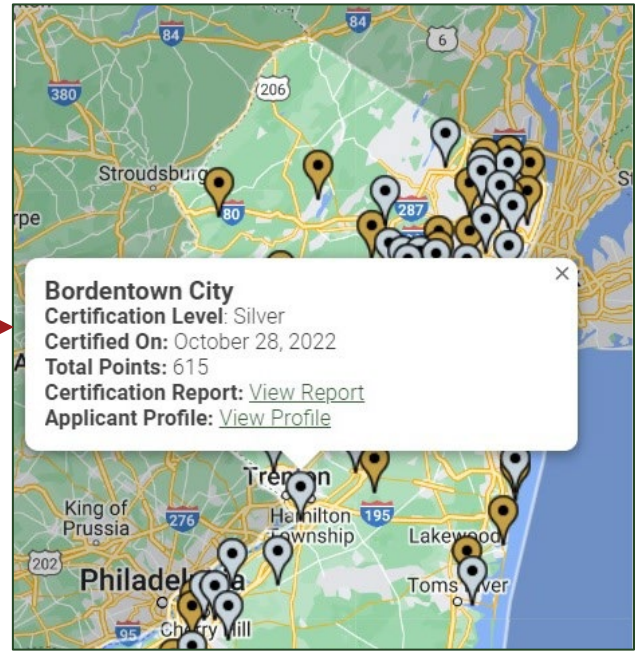
Use the Participating Municipalities & Approved Actions (*sustainablejersey.com/certification/search-participating-municipalities-approved-actions*) page to find examples of documentation from certified towns and connect with municipal green teams

Search by action

View certified towns approved for that action

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	CERTIFICATION
Asbury Park City	Monmouth	SILVER
Atlantic Highlands Boro	Monmouth	BRONZE
Belleville Twp	Essex	BRONZE
Bogota Boro	Bergen	BRONZE
Bordentown City	Burlington	SILVER
Bradley Beach Boro	Monmouth	BRONZE
Brigantine City	Atlantic	BRONZE
Cape May City	Cape May	SILVER
Chatham Boro	Morris	SILVER

View certification report for example documentation



Events & Technical Assistance

Events

sustainablejersey.com/nc/events/

Grants & Technical Assistance

sustainablejersey.com/grants/

Thank You!

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Agenda

WHAT IS A BROWNFIELD?

- Sustainable Jersey Brownfield Actions
- Brownfield Redevelopment Process

BROWNFIELD GRANTS

- EPA Brownfields Grants
- FY25 EPA Brownfield Grants

GRANT-WRITING TIPS & COMMON MISTAKES

- Storytelling
- Threshold Criteria
- Narrative Criteria
- Common Data Sources
- Examples

NJIT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES (TAB)

- How NJIT TAB can assist with your grant application

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

What is a brownfield?

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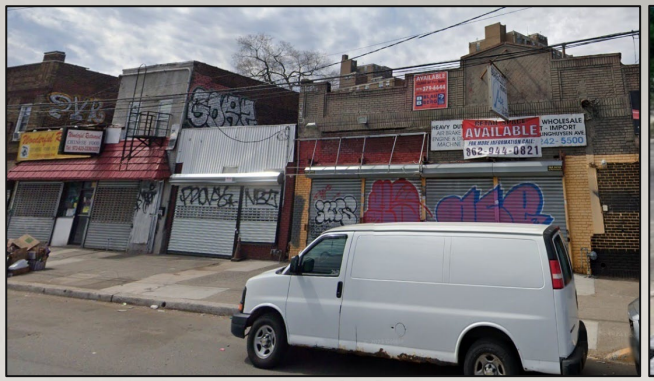
"Real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."

Public Law 107 - 118 (House Resolution 2869)
EPA's Brownfield & Land Revitalization Program

"Any former or current **commercial or industrial site** that is currently vacant or underutilized and **on which there has been**, or there is **suspected to have been**, a **discharge of a contaminant**."

Brownfield & Contaminated Site Remediation Act
N.J.S.A. 58:10B-23.d



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Brownfield Actions

1. Brownfields Inventory & Prioritization
2. Brownfields Reuse Planning
3. Brownfields Marketing
4. Brownfields Assessment & Investigation

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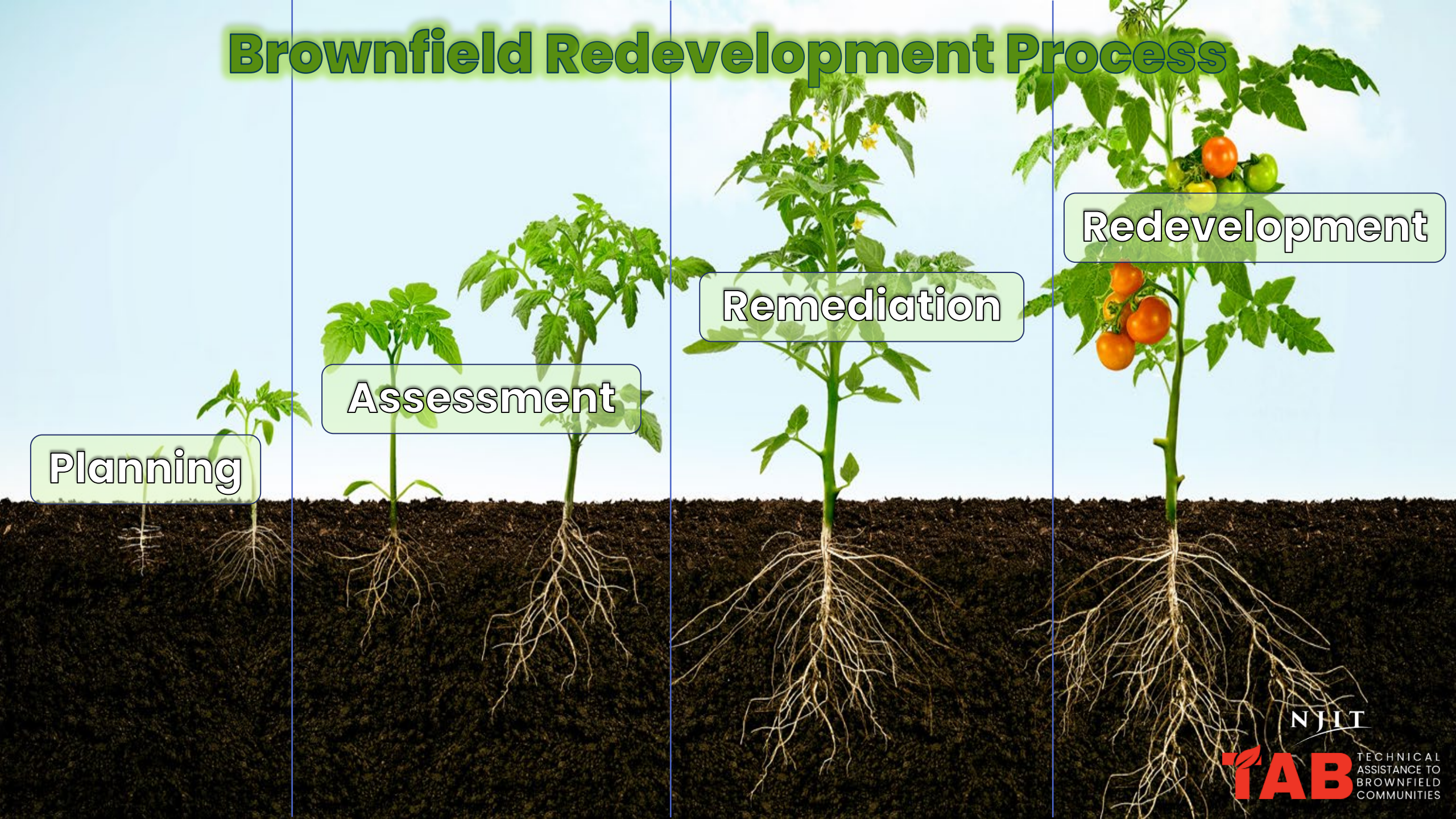
Brownfield Redevelopment Process



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NEW JERSEY BROWNFIELDS REGULATORY PROCESS

RETAIN A LICENSED SITE REMEDIATION PROFESSIONAL (LSRP)

If no area of concerns are identified...

If area of concerns are identified...

If no contamination is identified...

PROCESS IS COMPLETE!

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (PA)

Do any areas of concern exist?

SITE INVESTIGATION (SI)

Is there contamination present?

During the Site Investigation/ Remedial Investigation Phases you may encounter different environmental issues such as:

INVESTIGATION

- Vapor Concern
- Underground Storage Tank
- Hazardous Waste
- Pesticides
- Historic Fill

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION (RI)

What is the nature and extent of the contamination?

REMEDIAL ACTION WORK PLAN (RAWP)

Create a plan to address contamination using information gathered during investigation phases

REMEDIAL ACTION (RA)

Implement RAWP

RESPONSE ACTION OUTCOME (RAO)

Obtain Final Remediation Document

PROCESS IS COMPLETE!

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NJ Brownfields Assistance Center @NJIT New Jersey Institute of Technology

EPA Brownfields Grants

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Brownfields Multipurpose Grant (*Unavailable FY25*)

- Funding to conduct a **range of eligible planning, assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites** in target area(s).

Brownfields Assessment Grants

- Funding for **brownfields inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach**.

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants

- Funding to **capitalize loans that are used to cleanup brownfields**.

Brownfield Cleanup Grants

- Funding to **carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites** by the applicant.

Who's eligible for EPA Brownfields grants?

- State Governments
- Regional/County Governments
- Local/Municipal Governments
- Tribal Nations
- Non-Profit Organizations

FY25 Brownfields ARC Grant Offerings

Grant Type	Max Project Period	Max Grant Award	Estimated Awards	Total $$$ Per Grant Type	
				Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funds	Regular Appropriated Funds
Assessment State/Tribal	5 years	**$2,000,000**	18	**$36,000,000**	--
Assessment Coalition	4 years	**$1,200,000**	29	--	**$35,000,000**
New Assessment Community-Wide	4 years	**$500,000**	40	--	**$20,000,000**
Existing Assessment Community-Wide	4 years	**$500,000**	52	--	**$26,000,000**
Revolving Loan Fund	5 years	**$1,000,000**	15	**$15,000,000**	--
Cleanup	4 years	**$500,000**	30	**$15,000,000**	--
Cleanup	4 years	**$2,000,000**	23	**$45,000,000**	--
Cleanup	4 years	**$4,000,000**	10	**$40,000,000**	--
				$151,000,000	**$81,000,000**

NO COST SHARE!

217 AWARDS / $232,000,000 TOTAL

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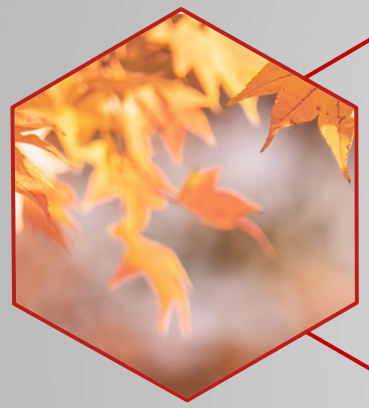
EPA Brownfields Grant Solicitation Cycle

For FY25, ARC grant applications are due November 14th, 2024



Request For Applications (RFA)

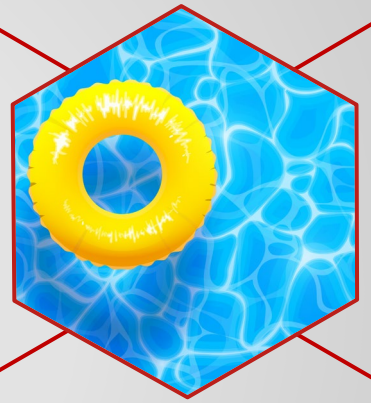
Fall

Grant Application Submissions Are Due

6 weeks after RFA **(11/14/2024)**

Successful Grant Applicants Are Announced

Spring



Funding Becomes Available

Late Summer

Ready, Set, Redevelop!

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Brownfields Assessment Grants

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Community-Wide

Up to $500k in funding
4-year performance period

Up to $2M for States/Tribes
5-year performance period

Coalition

Up to $1.2M in funding
4-year performance period

Direct costs associated with:

- Site inventorying
- Site prioritization
- Community involvement
  - Community Liaisons
  - Stipends
  - Childcare
- Site reuse planning
- Site assessments
- Cleanup planning
- Grant management programs
- Health monitoring
- Environmental insurance

Brownfields RLF & Cleanup Grants

Revolving Loan Fund

Up to $1M in funding
5-year performance period

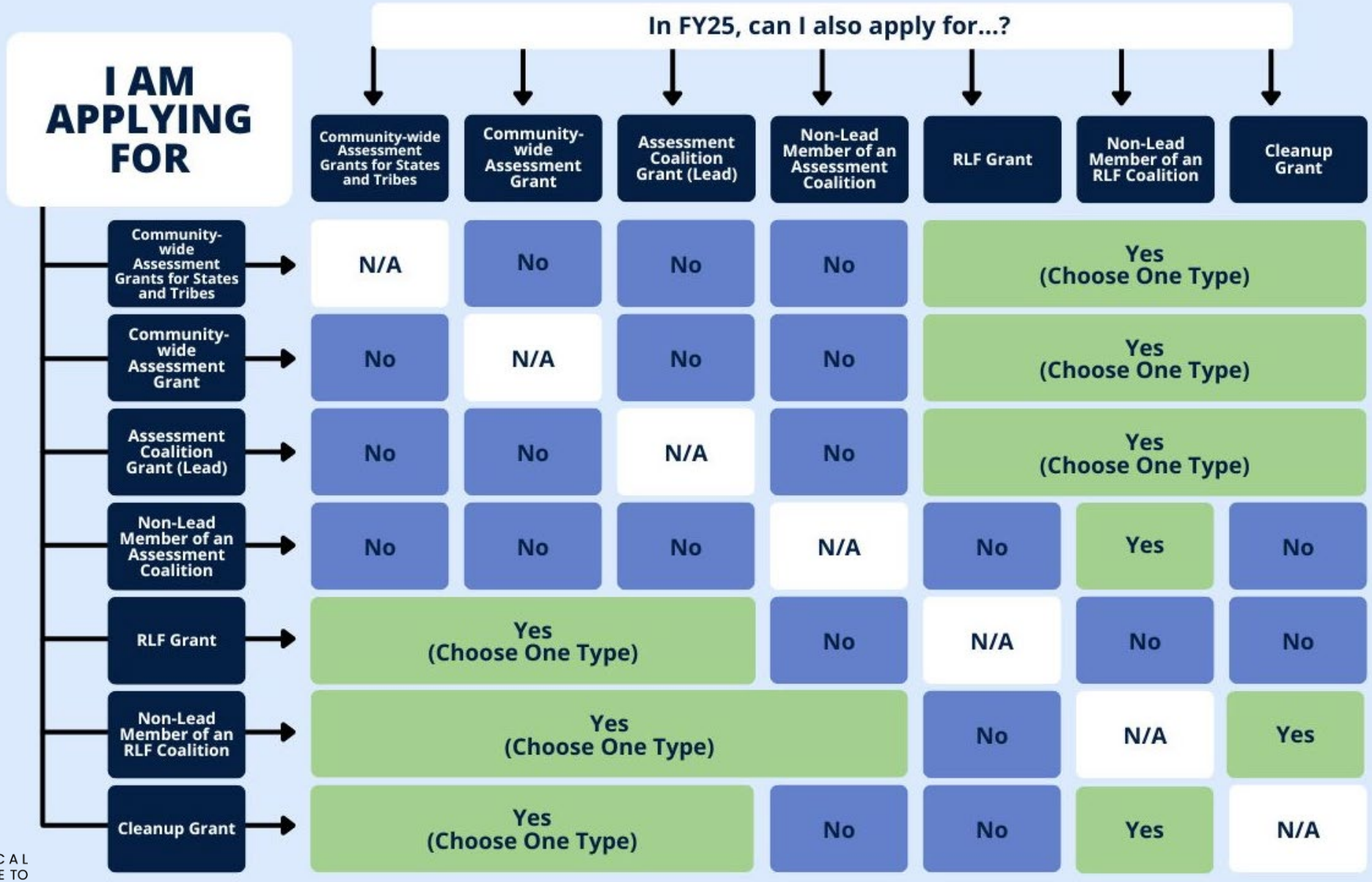
Cleanup

Up to $4M in funding
4-year performance period

Direct costs associated with:

- Cleanup
- Grant management programs
  - Required performance reporting
  - Cleanup oversight
  - Environmental monitoring of cleanups
  - Funds management
- Health monitoring
- Environmental insurance

FY25 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications



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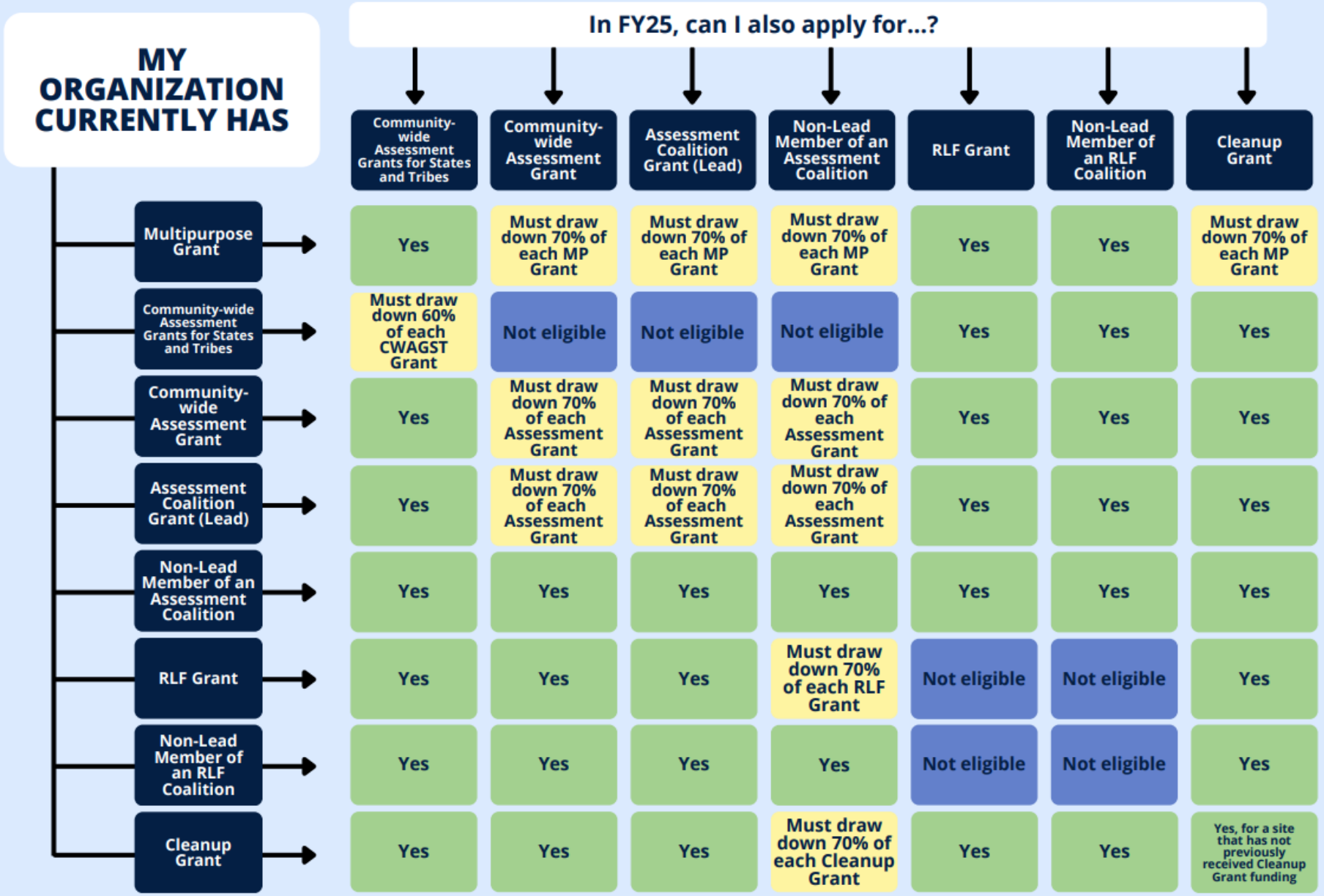
FY25 Eligibility Chart for Existing Grant Recipients



Note: Applicants must also meet all threshold criteria outlined in Section III. of the RFA. If you plan to apply for more than one grant type, please refer to the FY25 MARC Grant Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications chart to determine which grant(s) are available to you.

EPA Guideline Change Highlights

Changes to FY25 EPA Brownfields ARC Grant Guidelines

Disadvantaged communities include those in a US Territory (**PR**, **USVI**, etc.)

EPA updated their **"environmental justice"** definition, clarification that use of **geographic preference to evaluate bids or proposals will no longer be prohibited** for EPA funding awarded on/after 10/1/2024.

Applicants may **include a map of their target area(s) and/or priority site(s)**.

EPA may reimburse successful applicants for eligible programmatic pre-award costs incurred up to 90 days prior to award.

4.a.i. Organizational Capacity (except cleanup) "Discuss the applicant's organizational capacity **to oversee grant tasks/activities** and carry out and **manage the programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements** of the project and grant."

V.B. Other Factors and Considerations - small community defined as a population of **15,000 or less**.

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SAM.GOV® Entity Registration Checklist

SAM = System for Award Management

Information like:

- ✓ Legal business name
- ✓ Organization start date
- ✓ Organization website
- ✓ Address (**with proof**)
- ✓ Criminal/civil proceedings
- ✓ NAICS code
- ✓ Point of Contact information

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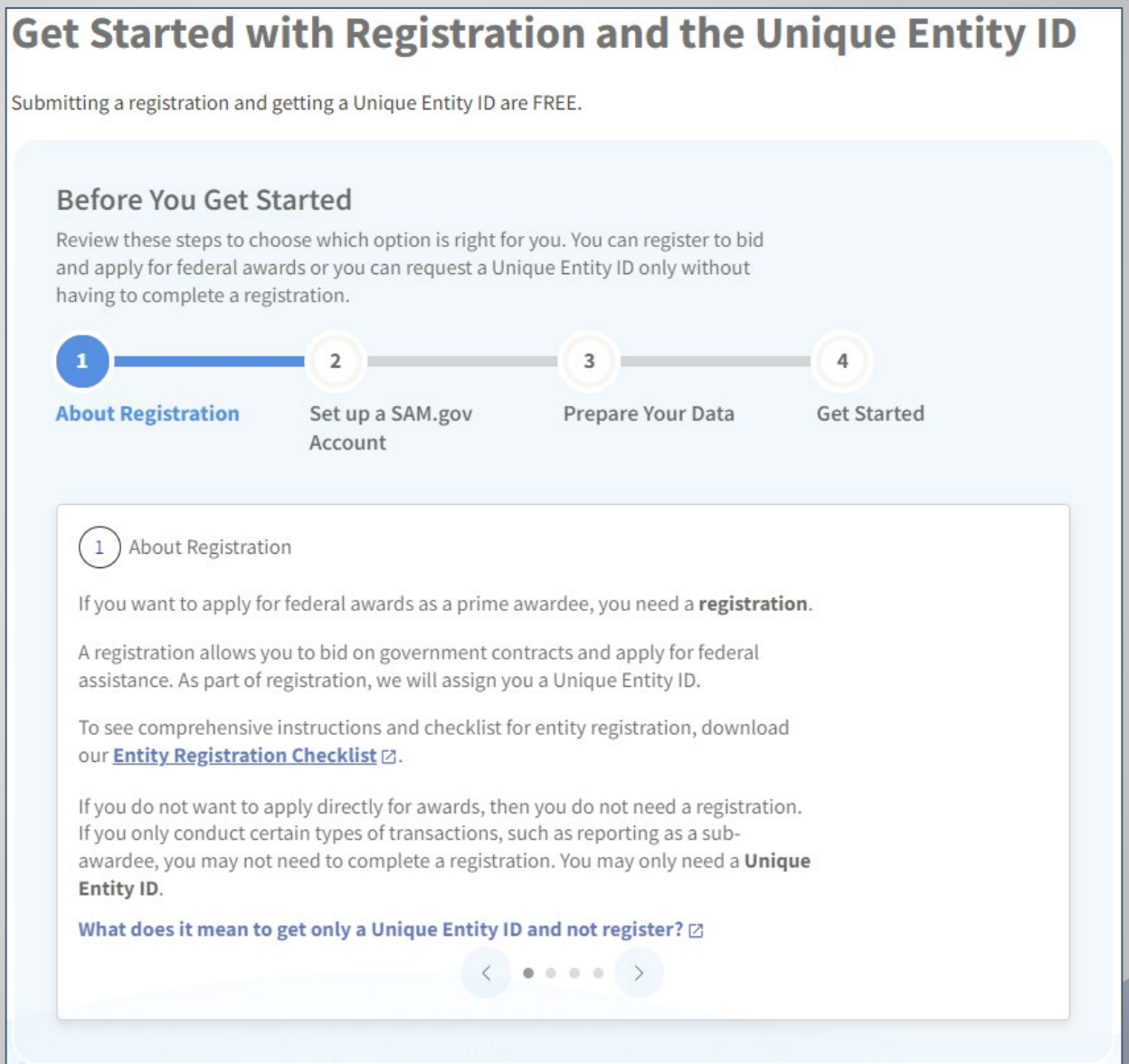

SAM.GOV® Entity Registration

Registration: Before Grants.gov

System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

- Register with SAM at www.SAM.gov to receive UEI
- Establish E-Business Point of Contact (**EBiz POC**): Individual who oversees all activities for organization within Grants.gov and approves the AOR
- ~7-10 business days (**or more**) to complete SAM registration, including submitting notarized letter to SAM

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EPA Brownfields Grant Resources

FY25 Grant Guidelines and Application Resources on the Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization Website:
https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources#Open%20Solicitations

EPA Assessment Grant Recording (Grant Submission, Narrative Information, & Threshold Requirements Overview):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5ZRXYyTUYQ
Presentation:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/fy25-assessment-grant-minimum-reqs-pres.pdf

EPA Revolving Loan Fund Grant Recording:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Npca8C1Blnc
Presentation:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/fy25-rlf-grant-minimum-reqs-pres.pdf

EPA Cleanup Grant Recording:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEQsxFzNG_k
Presentation:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/fy25-cleanup-grant-minimum-reqs-pres.pdf

FAQs:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-05/fy25-bf-jt-faqs_may24.pdf

Summary of Changes:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-08/summary-of-fy25-bf-arc-grant-guideline-changes.pdf

MARC Grant Application Resources – "Open Solicitations":
https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources#Open%20Solicitations

Brownfields, Public Health, and Health Monitoring:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/bf-health-monitoring-fs-10-25-21.pdf

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Grant Writing
Tips and Common Mistakes

NJIT

TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Open Solicitations

FY 2025 Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant Application Resources - The application submission deadline is November 14, 2024.

- FY 2025 Community-wide Assessment Grant Guidelines
- FY 2025 Assessment Coalition Grant Guidelines
- FY 2025 Community-wide Assessments Grant for States and Tribes Guidelines
- FY 2025 Revolving Loan Fund Grant Guidelines
- FY 2025 Cleanup Grant Guidelines
- FY 2025 Summary of Brownfields Grant Guideline Changes (pdf) (243.67 KB)
- FY 2025 Frequently Asked Questions about Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grants
- FY 2025 Sample Federal Forms (pdf) (2.09 MB)
- FY 2025 Cleanup Grant Site Characterization Letter Sample Template (docx) (38.75 KB)
- FY 2025 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications and Existing Grant Recipients (pdf) (177.36 KB)
- Tips for Submitting an Application through Grants.gov

https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources#Open%20Solicitations

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General Application Tips

#1 Piece of Advice

1. Follow Directions (read entire guidelines)

2. Decide what your story is. How is your community different from other applicants?

3. Make sure project outcomes match community needs. Keep a consistent narrative throughout.

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Ordinary doesn't get funded!

III.B. Threshold Criteria

- Pass/fail
- For this Cleanup Grant – 15 criteria
- Major Tip: Answer all the questions! If it doesn't apply, say so; don't leave blanks or skip sections

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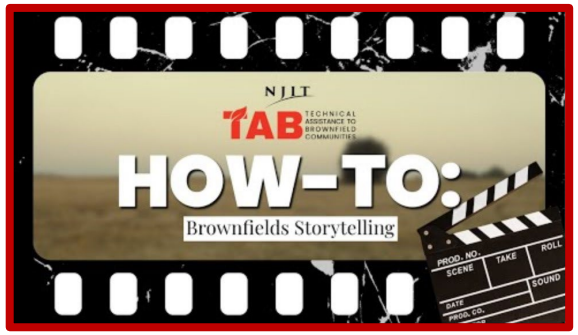
NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Storytelling: Brownfields Beyond the Three Act Narrative Structure

Before, After, and Beyond



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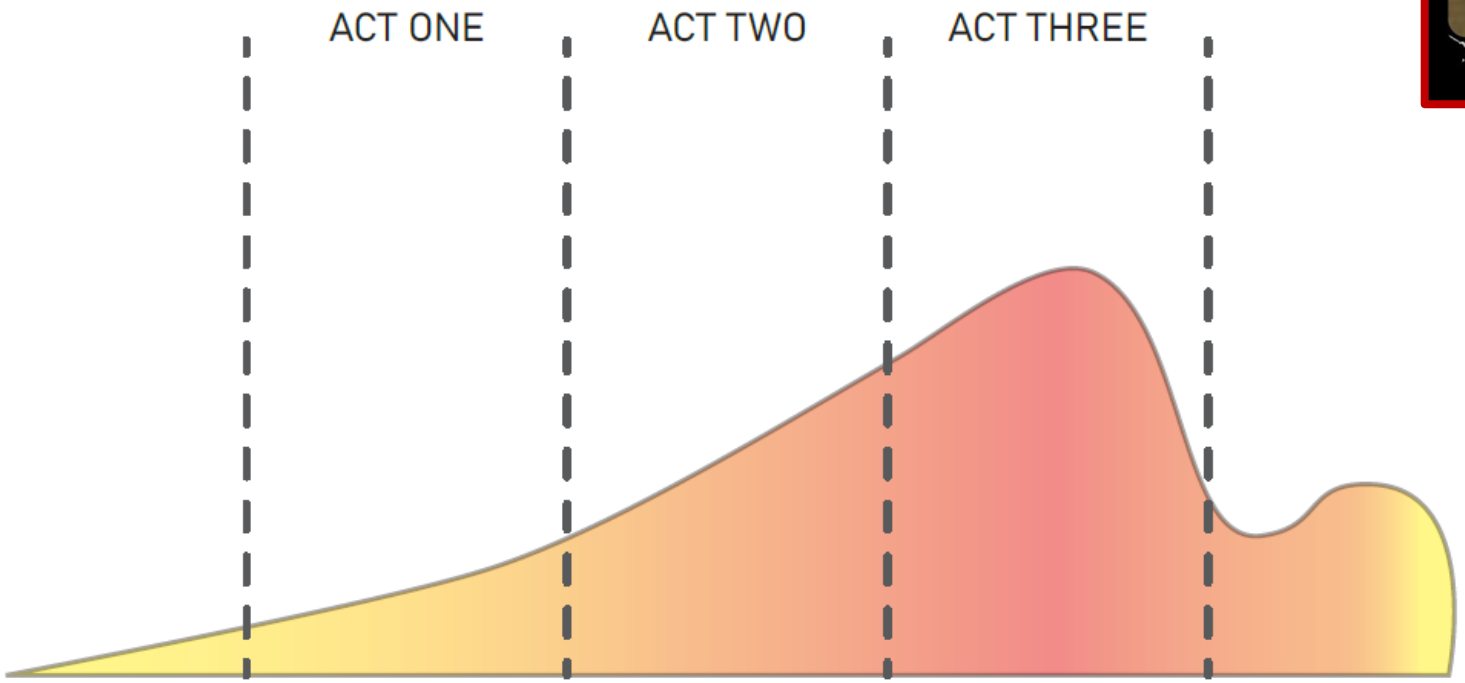

Modified from Pauline Clague, *Five Beats Of Indigenous Storytelling.*

Source: Google Maps, September 2019.

Once Upon a Time...
The Endicott-Johnson Corporation was a major cultural and economic force in the development of Johnson City. The company treated workers fairly and used their land to provide recreation space for the community.

Introduction:
The post-war industrial decline lead to EJ factory closures throughout the city. These abandoned structures stood as a reminder of hard times for 40 years.

Rising Action:
The sister factories Century and Sunrise are sold to investors. The site is assessed and contamination is identified. The structure remains intact.

Crisis:
Site is cleaned up and existing structure is repurposed.

Falling Action:
Century Sunrise Redevelopment opens in 2018, providing affordable housing within the city.

Future of Setting:
The redevelopment attracts new residents and furthers development within the city. Many former industrial sites have since been remediated and given new life, providing needs such as affordable housing and public recreation space.

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IV.E. Narrative/Ranking Criteria

1. Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization
2. Community Need and Community Engagement
3. Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress
4. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

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NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

1. Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization

This section “sets the stage” for talking about the brownfield challenges within the community and how this grant will address those challenges.

- **Geographic Boundary(ies)**
  - Ex: Municipality, County
  - Make as big as reasonable
- **Target Area(s)**
  - Specific area within your geographic boundary
  - Ex: neighborhood, downtown district, census tract
  - Be specific! Include street names, natural boundaries, coordinates
- **Priority Site(s)**
  - Why? What’s around them? What’s the impact?

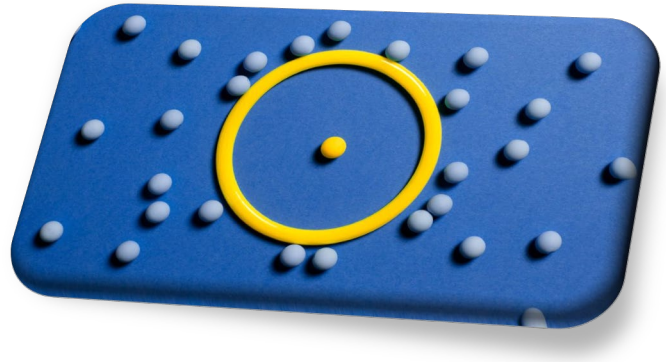
NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Common EPA Brownfield Grant Application Mistakes

1) PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

a. Target Area and Brownfields

i. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area



- *Applicant doesn't describe geographic area or target area boundaries adequately.*
- *Applicant confuses geographic area with target area.*

ii. Description of the Priority Brownfield Site(s)

- *Applicant doesn't provide details of priority sites i.e., structures, slab, secured, wetlands, overgrown, known contamination, and illicit activities.*
- *Applicant doesn't select priority brownfield sites that best make application case.*
- *Applicant lists too many priority sites.*

iii.Identifying Additional Sites

- *Applicant doesn't describe what process will be employed to identify and prioritize additional sites to expend funding on.*
- *Applicant doesn't discuss who will do previous.*

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Common EPA Brownfield Grant Application Mistakes

1) PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION (cont.)

b. Revitalization of the Target Area

i. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

- *Applicant doesn't discuss how identified plans specifically pertain to priority brownfield sites or target area.*
- *Applicant doesn't discuss other plans that are relevant i.e., transportation improvement plans.*

ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

- *Applicant confuses outputs with outcomes. Outcomes and benefits i.e., acres of open space, new jobs created, square foot of office or retail, etc.*

c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources

i. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

- *Applicants don't delineate between potential future resources and secured resources.*
- *Applicant doesn't relate funding resources to appropriate phase.*

ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure

- *Applicant forgets to mention infrastructure that provides access to the site i.e., roadways, rail, water, mass transit, etc.*
- *Applicant forgets to mention required infrastructure upgrades.*

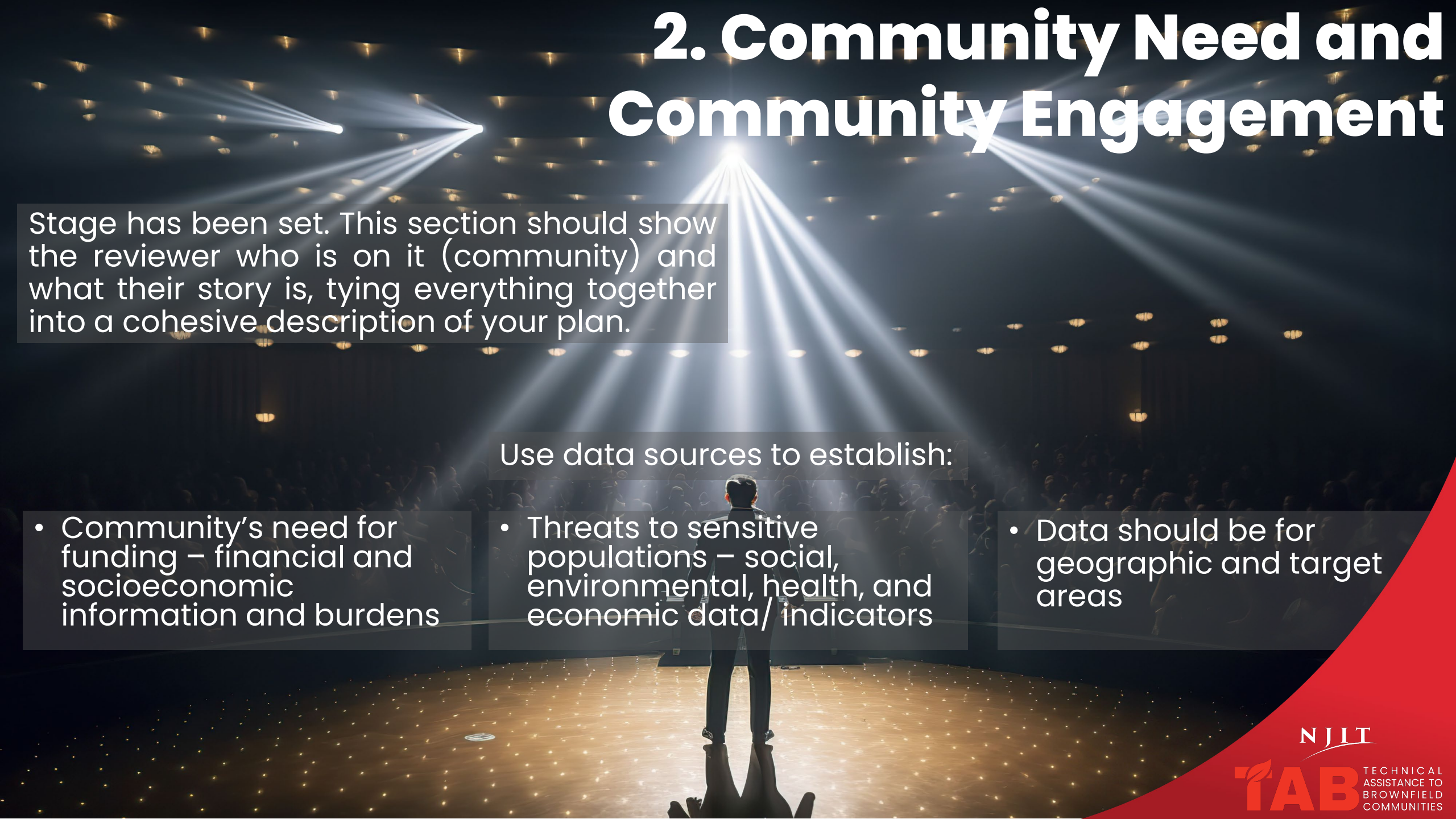
NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

2. Community Need and Community Engagement

Stage has been set. This section should show the reviewer who is on it (community) and what their story is, tying everything together into a cohesive description of your plan.

Use data sources to establish:

- Community's need for funding – financial and socioeconomic information and burdens
- Threats to sensitive populations – social, environmental, health, and economic data/ indicators
- Data should be for geographic and target areas



NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Common Data Sources

Sources for Information:

- Census Data
- Health Department Data
- Center for Disease Control
- Territory records
- Census tract data
- Community Health Needs Assessments
- EPA EJSCREEN
- EPA Envirofacts
- CEJST
- Recent local Comprehensive or Revitalization Plans
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or other Regional Plans
- Local Hospitals or Urgent Care Centers

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Demographic & Health Data Collection

Websites for Information

- U.S. Census Bureau
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Environmental Health Tracking Network
- County Health Rankings and Roadmaps
- City Health Dashboard
- EPA Envirofacts
- EJSCREEN
- Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
- Environmental Justice Index Mapping Tool (EJI Explorer Tool)
- Poverty Statistics (USDA)
- HealthData.gov
- National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- USDA Food Desert Atlas
- ParkServe® by the Trust for Public Land
- CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index
- EPA Resources on Public Health

Common EPA Brownfield Grant Application Mistakes

2) COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

a) Community Need

i. The Community's Need for Funding

- *Applicant forgets to mention burdens to entities budget that prohibit funding project i.e., climate change events, policing vacant sites, etc.*

ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations

- *Applicant doesn't quantify statements regarding health and census data.*

(1) Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

(2) Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions

- *Applicant forgets to discuss exposure pathways related to priority sites.*

(1) Environmental Justice

(a) Identification of Environmental Justice Issues

(b) Advancing Environmental Justice

- *Applicants forget to mention how this project will remedy those threats and EJ issues.*

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Common EPA Brownfield Grant Application Mistakes

2) COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (cont.)

b. Community Engagement

i. Project Involvement

- *Applicants make the mistake of going for quantity versus quality of partners.*

ii. Project Roles

- *Applicants tend to have redundant roles i.e., community outreach.*

iii. Incorporating Community Input

- *Applicants discuss community input as a necessary requirement instead of meaningful and how garnered input will be considered in the project.*

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Don't say:

"According to the [illegible] this disadvantaged community. The sensitive populations are impacted by the brownfields in the neighborhood. This grant will be used to clean up the site to create a memory care clinic for elderly veterans. The neighborhood is also impacted by flooding."

Show data

Compared to what?

How?

Why?

So...?

Successful Example:

The majority-minority New Cassel BOA suffers disproportionately from environmental and public health risks. Polluting industries in North Hempstead have predominantly located in New Cassel, including 88 regulated facilities. Many of these facilities are listed on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC) Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Registry with documented soil and groundwater contamination (primarily from chlorinated solvents and/or petroleum). … The EPA's EJSCREEN tool (measuring environmental justice burdens, updated 2019) ranks New Cassel residents in 98th percentile for superfund proximity in the country, 78th for fine particulates (PM 2.5), 81st percentile for ozone, 90th percentile for lead paint indicators, and 91st percentile for traffic proximity and volume. New Cassel also faces tremendous challenges due to extreme weather impacts. Extreme weather events have disproportionate impacts on low-income, minority neighborhoods like New Cassel, which are more vulnerable due to poor housing quality, deficient infrastructure, and lack of transportation access.

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Common EPA Brownfield Grant Application Mistakes

3) TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

a. Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

i. Project Implementation

ii. Anticipated Project Schedule

- *Applicants include a schedule that is unrealistic and/or out of sequential order.*

iii. Task/Activity Lead

iv. Outputs

- *Applicants confuse outputs and outcomes.*

b. Cost Estimates

- *Applicants don't include generated accurate costs, they back into a number.*
- *Don't **check math**.*

c. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results

- *Applicants don't include a project tracking method beyond ACRES.*
- *Applicants don't include a corrective action to be employed should project go off track.*

Common EPA Brownfield Grant Application Mistakes

4) PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

a. Programmatic Capability

i. Organizational Capacity

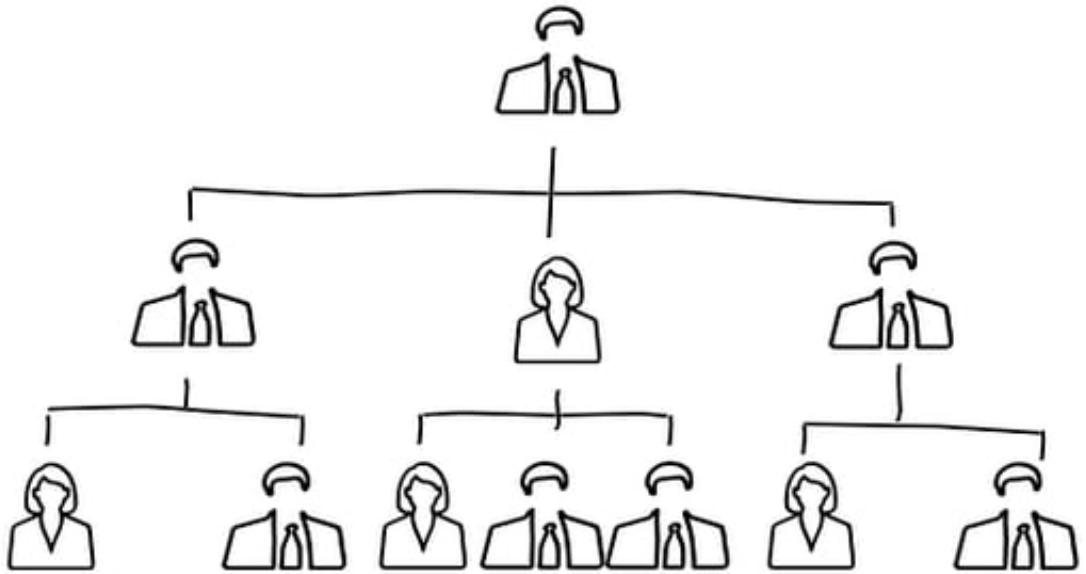
ii. Organizational Structure

- *Applicants don't include a structure and description of how it will function.*

iii. Description of Key Staff

iv. Acquiring Additional Resources

- *Applicants forget to reference "in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200" or higher procurement standard.*



Common EPA Brownfield Grant Application Mistakes

4) PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE (cont.)

b. Past Performance and Accomplishments

- *Applicants forget to consider the "or" option.*
  - i. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant
    - (1) Accomplishments
    - (2) Compliance with Grant Requirements
  - ii. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements
    - (1) Purpose and Accomplishments
    - (2) Compliance with Grant Requirements
  - iii. Never Received Any Type of Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements

- *Applicants forget to list accomplishments & compliance.*
- *Applicants don't discuss applied corrective measures if project went off track.*

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

"The City presently has or had EPA brownfields grants as well as an EDA grant. FY18 Assessment Grant (rec'd extension); generic QAPP, 14 Phase I's, 7 Phase II's, 1 cleanup plans; 9 quarterly reports, ACRES reporting; financial reports; 14 sites and 47 acres ready for use. The EDC estimates that the planned redevelopment will result in hundreds of new residential units (some affordable), over 400 FTE jobs and millions of funds leveraged. "

Since 1988, the City has secured and effectively utilized multiple Federal and EPA Brownfields Grants. The status of the City's most recent EPA grants is:

1. FY14 Community-Wide Assessment | CA #BF-00F90901 | $400K | 10/1/14-17 (closed);*

2. FY16 RLF | CA # BF01F21301| $820,000 | Open*

3. CDBG | Low/Mod Income Housing Rehab | $700K*

*Outputs: one Quality Management Plan, nine Quality Assurance Project Plans, 22 Phase 1 ESAs, 8 Phase 2 ESAs; 12 Quarterly Reports; 3 DBEs and 3 FFRs; *Outcomes: 8 sites and 38.45 acres were designated as ready for use; redevelopment resulted in 813 jobs and leveraged $100M; 122 safe and affordable senior housing units constructed

- Read the guidelines and resource materials thoroughly.
- Follow the guideline outline, don't get creative.
- Use tables when appropriate.
- Don't skip questions because you don't have information or data.
- Do not add hyperlinks to data or other information.
- Get one person to edit the application.
- Get someone who knows nothing about the project to review your application.
- If you hire a consultant, make sure they tell the story you want told.

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Questions & Answers

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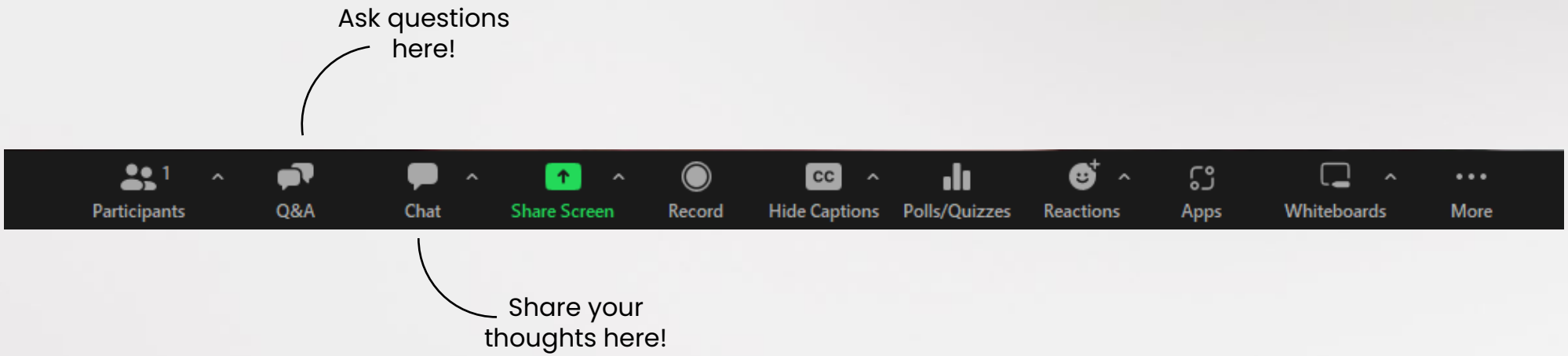
NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Thank you for attending today's webinar!

Questions and Comments?



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TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

NJIT TAB EPA REGION 2

NJIT has served as an EPA designated technical assistance provider since 2008

NJIT TAB serves as an independent resources to state, territory, regional, county, tribal, and local government entities, and nonprofits attempting to learn about, identify, assess, cleanup and redevelop brownfields.

Assistance is *free*!

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

NJIT TAB EPA REGION 4

NJIT has served as an EPA designated technical assistance provider since 2008

NJIT TAB serves as an independent resources to state, territory, regional, county, tribal, and local government entities, and nonprofits attempting to learn about, identify, assess, cleanup and redevelop brownfields.

Assistance is *free*!

The NJIT TAB Team

We are planners, engineers,
environmental scientists, hydrogeologists, geologists, and social scientists
who have engaged with thousands of communities
throughout the country

We provide assistance through our:

- Brownfields Academy
- Brownfield Community Engagement and Educational Forums
- One-on-one Technical Assistance

NJIT TAB Brownfield Community Engagement and Educational Forums

- **Brownfield Basics Workshops:** brownfield redevelopment process.
- **Grant Writing Workshops:** getting started on your MAC grant applications; tips and tricks for preparing an EPA brownfields grant application.
- **Community Workshops:** on brownfield-specific topics.
- **Webinars:** on brownfield-specific topics.
- **Breaking Brownfields:** an event where a government entity or nonprofit presents their specific brownfields redevelopment challenge to an audience of private sector representatives and obtains feedback on how to overcome those challenges.
- **IAWG:** an event where a government entity or nonprofit presents their specific brownfields redevelopment challenge to an audience of state and federal government representatives and obtains feedback on how to overcome those challenges.
- **Brownfield Summits:** Full day event that may include an IAWG segment, peer-to-peer sessions, success stories, and sessions on brownfield-related topics relevant to the specific locations, their needs, and their challenges.
- **Conferences**: pre-conference workshops, learning labs, panel sessions, office hours

NJIT TAB One-on-One Technical Assistance

Examples of one-on-one Technical Assistance *tailored to fit specific community's needs*

- Answer your brownfield questions
- Develop redevelopment strategy
- Review draft EPA grant applications
- Explain the regulatory programs
- Develop your redevelopment roadmap
- Identify funding sources
- Explain clean-up technologies
- Guidance on developing brownfield inventories
- Create site prioritization processes
- Develop strategies on marketing brownfield sites
- Develop Assets and Needs Studies
- Design and conduct community redevelopment vision workshops

And Much More!

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

NJIT TAB Brownfields Academy

www.njit.edu/tab

- How-To Videos
- Infographics
- Success Stories
- News and Upcoming Events
- Federal and State Funding Sources
- EPA And State Contacts
- Previously Recorded Webinars
- Downloads of Workshop and Seminar Presentations
- Successful Grant Applications

Scan the QR Code to access our website

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NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

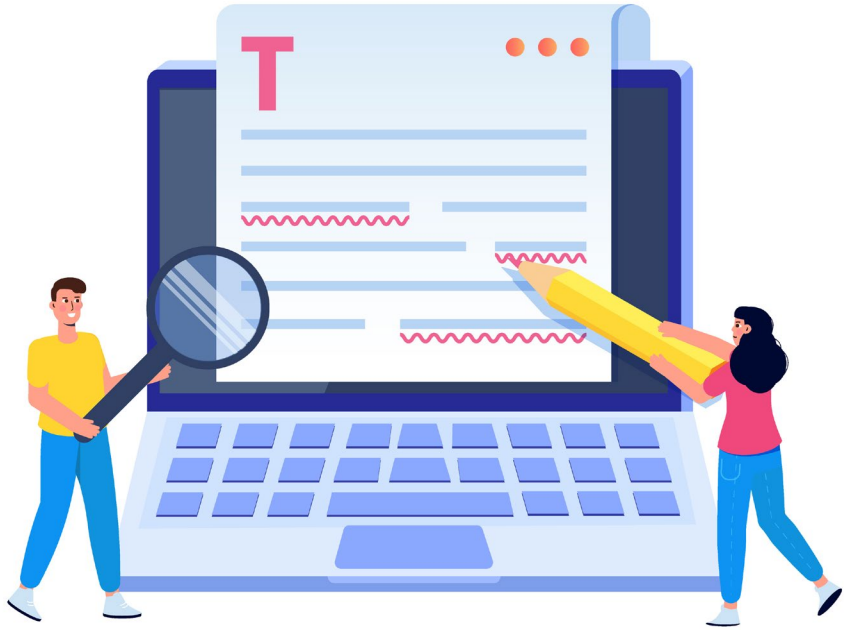
The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is offering an anticipated $232 million in Brownfield ARC grants this year!

NJIT TAB is offering a FREE review of your grant application to help you submit the strongest possible version to the EPA. We'll provide detailed feedback, so you can review and incorporate our suggestions before the final deadline.

- Submit your application to us by **October 31, 2024**, for expert critique.
- Email your application (in Word format) to Carrie Martin: carrie.martin@njit.edu.
- Final submission to EPA is due by November 14, 2024.

Don't miss out on this chance to secure funding for your community's brownfield redevelopment. We helped secure nearly **$20M in funding last round**.

Let our team assist you on the path to success!



NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

NJIT Technical Assistance for Resiliency Program

TARP can give you the tools you need to build competitive grant applications for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA).

We can meet with you one-on-one to:

REVIEW YOUR HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR FEASIBLE PROJECTS.

CONNECT YOU WITH RESOURCES NEEDED FOR SCOPING.

SHARE SUCCESSFUL CASE STUDIES.

ASSESS YOUR PROJECT'S FUNDING ELIGIBILITY.

EVALUATE YOUR PROPOSED PROJECTS AGAINST FEDERAL AND STATE PRIORITIES AND SCORING CRITERIA.

REVIEW YOUR DRAFT APPLICATIONS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON STRENGTHENING THOSE APPLICATIONS.

Contact Information

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Environmental Sustainability Planner
NJIT TARP
carrie.martin@njit.edu
(973) 642-7044

Upcoming Technical Assistance Events:

- October 22: NJ Association for Floodplain Management conference
- Late October/Early November: FY24 FEMA BRIC and FMA Grant Guidelines Review (virtual and in-person)

Upcoming Events 2024

TAB On Tour

TAB On Tour

If you'd like NJIT TAB to visit your area, feel free to contact us!

October 4, 2024

2024 One Region Forward Climate Action Symposium

Buffalo, NY

October 16, 2024

EPA R2 Brownfields Program FY25 Guidelines Overview Workshop (NJ)

Trenton, NJ

October 17, 2024

Breaking Brownfields

Stony Point, NY

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

Upcoming Events 2024

TAB On Tour

TAB On Tour

If you'd like NJIT TAB to visit your area, feel free to contact us!

October 22-24, 2024

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management Annual Conference

Atlantic City, NJ

October 24, 2024

EPA R2 Brownfields Program FY25 Guidelines Overview Workshop (NY)

Albany, NY

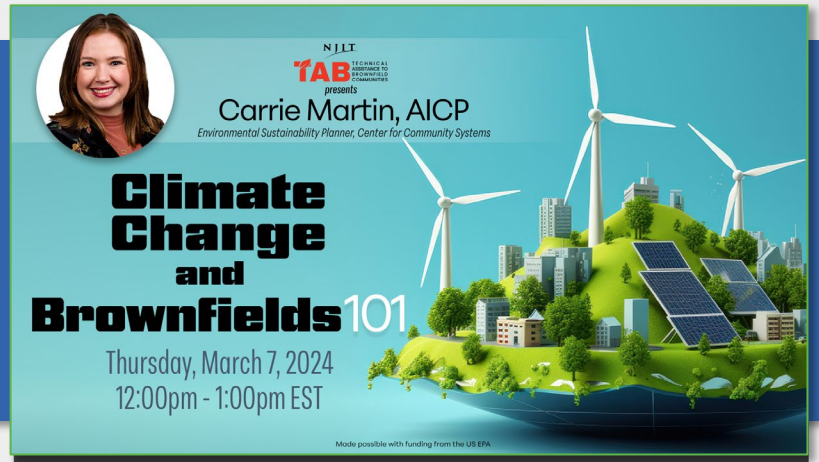
October 29, 2024

EPA R2 Brownfields Program FY25 Guidelines Overview Workshop

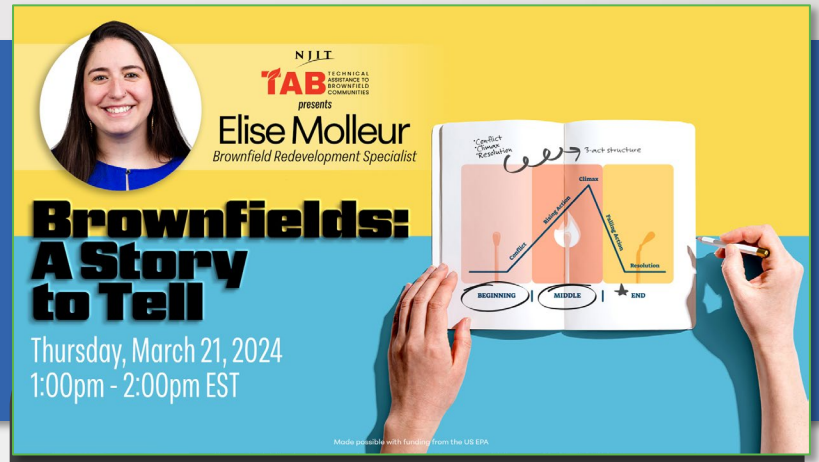
Virtual Session

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

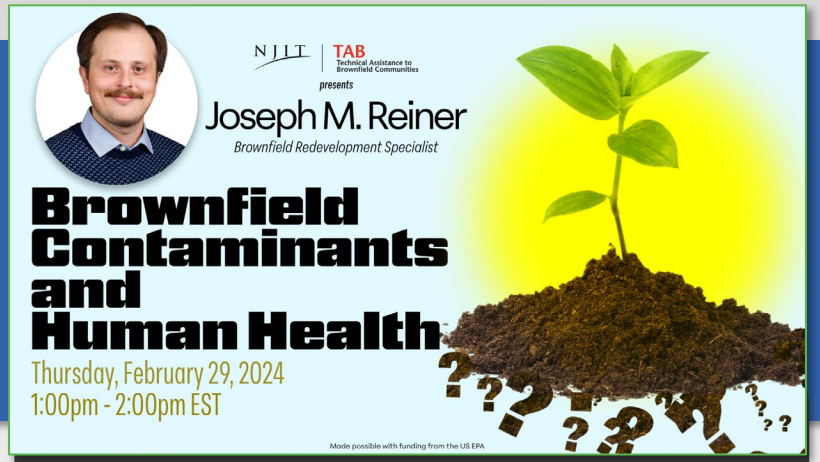
In Case You Missed It



Climate Change and Brownfields 101



Brownfields: A Story to Tell



Brownfield Contaminants and Human Health

Both these webinars with associated presentations and resource links can be found on our website!

www.njit.edu/tab/webinars

NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES

What is NJIT TAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELD COMMUNITIES ?

NJIT provides free technical assistance to state, regional, county, tribal, and local government entities and nonprofit organizations interested in learning about, identifying, assessing, cleaning up, and redeveloping brownfield sites in EPA Regions 2 & 4.

Thank you for attending today's webinar!

Q&A Session

Have any more questions after today?

Contact Us

tab@njit.edu

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