



Brownfields 2009 Assessment Grant Fact Sheet Corpus Christi, TX



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. On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Recovery Act is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, and create or save millions of jobs. This law provided stimulus funds to the Brownfields Program to award grants to evaluate and clean up former industrial and commercial sites. Under this law, EPA will provide financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants.

Community Description

The City of Corpus Christi was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Corpus Christi (population 285,175) is located on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. The city has hosted a large petroleum industry, chemical plants, and heavy industry. During the 1970s and 1980s, many factories and plants closed and now lie vacant or underused, in part because of fears of unknown and potential contamination. The city also has a significant number of military facilities, some of which are closed and unused because of contamination. Corpus Christi will focus on brownfields in the city's north side and in the neighboring downtown area, which are among its most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. These areas have significantly higher minority populations and unemployment rates than the rest of the city, and the median household income of \$15,659 is less than half that of the city as a whole. Brownfield assessments are expected to make north side and downtown properties more attractive to developers and leverage funds for cleanup and redevelopment.

Assessment Grants

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances
(Recovery Act Funding)**

**\$200,000 for petroleum (Recovery Act
Funding)**

EPA has selected the City of Corpus Christi for two brownfields assessment grants. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct up to nine Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments, identify cleanup options, and support community outreach activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

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 6 Brownfields Team
(214) 665-6780

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Web site
(<http://www.epa.gov/region6/brownfields>)

Grant Recipient: City of Corpus Christi, TX
(361) 826-1868

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.