



Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

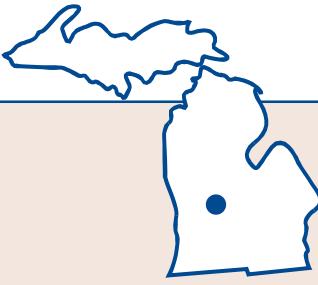
Ionia County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development 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 January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields 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 Ionia County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The county (population 61,518) has not experienced the same rate of growth as adjacent regions, and has been hurt by the closing of two large plants in two of Ionia County's three cities. The county also suffers from lower income levels and real estate values than the rest of the state. There are 20 contaminated sites and at least 54 underground storage tank sites in the county, and many more brownfields are thought to exist along the Grand River than runs through the county.



Assessment Grant

New
2004

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

EPA has selected the Ionia County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds and petroleum funds will both be used to develop an inventory of approximately 50 properties in the county, distribute inventory information, complete approximately ten Phase I and an undetermined number of Phase II environmental assessments, and develop redevelopment plans for selected properties. The grant will focus on a wide variety of industrial sites, such as mills, tool and die plants, rail yards, and auto parts plants, that have potential for redevelopment in areas that include Belding, Lake Odessa, Lyons, and Portland.

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 at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Ionia County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, MI
616-527-8014

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

Firms in neighboring Lansing and Grand Rapids have inquired about available sites in which to expand in Ionia County, creating opportunities for redeveloped brownfields to return to use.