



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Berrien County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, MI

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 January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush 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 Berrien County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in western Michigan on Lake Michigan, Berrien County (population 35,654) is a former manufacturing hub that has experienced a significant decline in industrial production. The county's median household income is 14 percent lower than the state median, and 12.7 percent of residents live in poverty. Abandoned industrial facilities are



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Berrien County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform Phase I and II site assessments, targeted in the Benton Harbor community. Funds also will be used for cleanup planning and community outreach activities.

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: Berrien County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, MI
269-926-6688

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

concentrated in Benton Harbor, which contains the second largest number of brownfields in Michigan. Many sites are on prime waterfront property, limiting recreational, residential, and commercial access to the water. Brownfields pose health risks through soil and groundwater exposure, especially for young children and teenagers who use the sites for recreation. When brownfields are eventually cleaned up, they will be used for residential, commercial, and recreational purposes. Brownfields redevelopment will capitalize on the community's greatest asset: its waterfront. It will increase the tax base, create jobs and tourism-based economies, and fuel the economic revival of the community.