



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Calhoun County, 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

Calhoun County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in south-central Michigan, Calhoun County (population 137,985) historically has relied on manufacturing operations for its economic base. Between 1980 and 1990, however, manufacturing jobs in the county decreased nearly 22 percent because of major plant closings. These closings, in turn, triggered the closure and abandonment of smaller auxiliary businesses. As a result, the county is plagued by large industrial and smaller commercial brownfields sites. These sites are not only eyesores but also pose potential health and safety risks to county residents. In the county, the unemployment rate is 6.7 percent, and 11.3 percent of residents live below the poverty level. Approximately 16 percent of residents are African-American, Native American, Asian,



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected Calhoun County for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to inventory brownfields sites, conduct eight to ten Phase I and six to eight Phase II environmental site assessments, and conduct two to four baseline environmental assessments. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach and cleanup planning 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: Calhoun County, MI
269-781-9841, ext. 232

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

Hispanic, or other minorities. Revitalization of brownfields will preserve the county's agricultural heritage and create greenspace. Brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment is expected to reduce threats to human health and the environment, enhance property values, revitalize the tax base, improve the appearance and appeal of communities, and restore idle properties to productive use.