



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

Winnebago County, IL

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

Winnebago County was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Located in northern Illinois, Winnebago County (population 278,418) historically has depended on heavy manufacturing, especially machinery and fabricated metals, for its economic base. This dependence has led to severe unemployment during economic downturns. The county's unemployment rate now exceeds the state and national levels. The county's minority population, 17.5 percent of residents, has high rates of unemployment and poverty. A preliminary inventory has identified 35 brownfields potentially contaminated by hazardous substances. They range in size from small lots to a 40-



Assessment Grants



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

EPA has selected Winnebago County for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct ten Phase I and five Phase II environmental site assessments. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct ten Phase I and six Phase II environmental site assessments. Funds from both grants will be used for 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: Winnebago County, IL
815-484-8067

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.

acre site. The county also has identified 55 potential petroleum-contaminated brownfields, including old gas stations, industrial sites, and former oil distributors. Some of these brownfields have rail access, making them prime targets for industrial redevelopment once they are assessed. Brownfields redevelopment will increase private investment, create jobs, and encourage growth in the older sections of the county's communities.