



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

Osceola 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 Osceola County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Osceola County (population 23,750) is a 566-square-mile rural county that developed around the lumber industry. With the arrival of the railroad, the county's industrial base expanded to include oil, natural gas, and manufacturing. Changing markets, new technologies, and globalization significantly impacted the local economy. Manufacturers



Assessment Grants



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

EPA has selected the Osceola County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to identify and inventory sites, perform up to 12 Phase I and up to ten Phase II environmental site assessments, and conduct community outreach activities. Funds also will be used to perform up to six cultural resources assessments based on the documented tribal history of the county. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform 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 at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team

312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Osceola County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, MI

231-832-7397

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.

closed their doors, moved, and laid off employees. They left behind vacant, blighted, and underused facilities. There are 40 underground storage tank and 39 hazardous waste sites in the county. Potential contamination from these sites poses a threat to the area groundwater, the county's only source of drinking

water. The unemployment rate in the county is 7.3 percent. The median household income is 24 percent lower than the state median. Assessment of brownfields will assist the county in promoting redevelopment that is necessary to relieve pressures for greenfield development and preserve natural resources.