



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation, 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 St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. St. Joseph County (population 62,984) is located in southwestern Michigan about midway between Chicago and Detroit. The "Seed Corn Capital of the World," St. Joseph is a rural county with a large agricultural base. Nevertheless, nearly 42 percent of workers are employed in manufacturing. In recent years, several plants in the county have closed



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 12 Phase I and eight Phase II environmental site assessments and to support 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: St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation, MI
269-467-5663

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.

or laid off workers. The county is targeting sites in the Cities of Three Rivers and Sturgis for brownfields assessment. These two cities account for about 30 percent of the county's population and have the highest poverty rates in the county. They also contain many abandoned industrial sites and other brownfields that are ideal for redevelopment. It is expected that the assessment of these sites will attract redevelopment investment, thereby easing development pressures on greenfields. Preserving the county's farmland will help protect the economic vitality of the agricultural sector and retain the county's large seed processing plants.