



Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

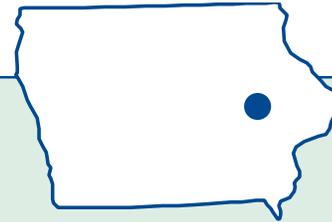
Cedar Rapids, IA

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 this 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 City of Cedar Rapids was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in east-central Iowa, Cedar Rapids (population 120,758) is the largest city in Linn County. The city enjoyed a relatively healthy economy as its population increased by about 11 percent during the 1990s. This growth occurred away from the city's downtown urban core, focusing development activities elsewhere. As a result, the targeted New Bohemia Creative District (population 1,797) experienced environmental and economic decline. This district is characterized by low-to-moderate income residents, and contains abandoned and obsolete industrial areas and aging infrastructure. The poverty and unemployment rates are 28.2 and seven percent, respectively. Nearly 31 percent of area residents are minorities. Cleanup of the target site is



Cleanup Grant

New
2008

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Cedar Rapids for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 30-acre former Sinclair Meat Packing Plant at 1600 3rd Street SE in the New Bohemia Creative District. The plant has a history of commercial, manufacturing, and industrial use dating back to the late 1800s. Site soil and groundwater are contaminated with heavy metals, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, and other hazardous substances. Grant funds also will be used to support community involvement 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 7 Brownfields Team
800-223-0425
<http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: City of Cedar Rapids, IA
319-286-5046

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.

expected to help leverage additional investment in the site and surrounding areas and increase property values. The city's vision for site redevelopment is a mixture of commercial, residential, and greenspace uses.