

**Hastings Community
Joint Planning Committee (Alliance) – Grant Coalition Team
USEPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Program
Application Guidelines and Call for Projects
October 2013**

I. INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has awarded the City of Hastings, Michigan (City), a Brownfields Hazardous Substance Assessment Grant Cooperative Agreement (CA) for community-wide assessment of properties. The City, Village of Freeport and Middleville along with Carlton, Hastings, Irving, Rutland and Thornapple Townships formed a Coalition (Coalition) to apply for this grant. As the lead Coalition member and CA recipient, the City will manage the grant program and report to the USEPA. The grant funds will be used to assess brownfield sites within the Coalition communities; investigate historic uses and identify Recognized Environmental Conditions; determine the type, severity, and extent of environmental contamination; and develop liability management and remedial strategies that will allow for safe and viable redevelopment/reuse of brownfield sites. The Coalition is seeking environmental assessment projects that are eligible for grant funding.

II. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The Coalition has identified over 100 brownfields within its boundaries, including manufacturing facilities, print shops, dry cleaners, landfills, salvage yards, and automobile repair shops, all of which are potential candidates for environmental assessment. The Coalition will use its grant to conduct environmental assessment of regional brownfields, which will provide useful data to support property transfers, redevelopment, job creation/retention, and if necessary, cleanup planning.

The City and Coalition members have formalized a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) describing the process by which the Coalition partners will conduct grant tasks and disburse grant funds. The City has retained a qualified environmental consultant, using quality based selection criteria in accordance with federal procurement rules, to assist with the CA management, perform environmental assessments, and prepare technical documents.

Moving forward, the Coalition will identify, evaluate, and select properties on which to focus CA monies. Site selection criteria will include factors such as:

- Impact on the community as a whole, specific neighborhoods, sensitive populations, and environmental justice.
- Level of potential threats to human health and the environment.
- Sustainable development aspects of a redevelopment project.
- Greenspace created or preserved as a result of redevelopment.
- Site development potential (desirability and redevelopment feasibility).
- Nonprofit interest in redevelopment of sites.
- Private developer interest in redevelopment of sites.
- Financial capacity of developer.
- Market value.

- Job creation / retention.
- Availability and reliability of information from previous environmental investigations.
- Title status and site accessibility.

The grant will support the Coalition's efforts to create incentives for redevelopment of brownfields, and increase tax revenues for the Coalition's service budgets, which will enable the Coalition to enhance residents' quality of life (e.g., increased recreational opportunities, creation of greenspace, etc.) and further promote brownfields redevelopment.

III. DEFINITION OF BROWNFIELDS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING UNDER THIS GRANT

All projects must be located within the jurisdictional limits of one of the participating Coalition members (Rutland Charter Township, Hastings Charter Township, Carlton Township, Irving Township, Thornapple Township, City of Hastings, Village of Freeport and Village of Middleville). This grant is intended to fund environmental assessment activities at properties where known and/or suspected releases of hazardous substances or commingled hazardous substances and petroleum products (e.g. service station) have occurred.

Applications for any site within the geographical/jurisdictional limits of any of the units of government participating in the Coalition will be reviewed and considered for potential funding. The applicant should identify to the fullest extent possible the basis for known or suspected contamination and the type of contamination known or suspected to be present.

IV. CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Coalition is currently accepting applications for projects to be considered for funding under its USEPA Brownfields Hazardous Substance Assessment Grant. Applications will continue to be accepted throughout the duration of the term of the grant, or until all of the available funds have been expended.

Applications should be submitted using the attached Grant Application Form. This form is available from the City of Hastings, 201 East State Street, Hastings, MI 49058, (269) 945-2468. Applications should be submitted to the City of Hastings at the above referenced address. Applications will be evaluated by the Coalition or their assigns for eligibility and priority. The Coalitions shall retain full authority and responsibility for selecting projects for funding. Questions regarding this call for projects can be directed to John Hart or Jeff Mansfield of the City of Hastings at the above address and telephone number. Applications must contain all of the information requested on the Coalition's Grant Application Form to be considered for funding.