



DIAMOND BUSH
DiCIANNI
& KRAFTHEFER

A Professional Corporation
140 South Dearborn Street, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60603
www.ancelglink.com

Brent O. Denzin
bdenzin@ancelglink.com
(P) 312.604-9164
(F) 312.782.0943

MEMORANDUM

To: All Clients

CC:

From: Brent O. Denzin

Subject: USEPA Brownfield Grants—Potential Funding for Redevelopment of Blighted Properties

Date: October 8, 2012

In nearly every community there is at least one blighted, commercial/industrial property that sits boarded up and vacant. In most cases, developers have passed over the property out of concern for unknown environmental contamination and high redevelopment costs. These properties, known as “brownfields,” typically depress values around them and stifle efforts to boost economic development. Often, if communities can redevelop these blighted brownfields, they can jumpstart lasting economic growth in the surrounding area.

Each year, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issues funds for local governments to assess brownfield properties and/or fund site clean up. The 2013 USEPA Brownfield Grant application was recently issued. All “units of local government,” including Park Districts, are eligible for funding. Interested local governments have until **November 19, 2012** to file an application.

The three types of Brownfield Grants are described below:

1. **Brownfield Assessment Grants.** Provides funds to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning (including cleanup planning) and community involvement related to brownfield sites. The Assessment Grant may be for community-wide assessment of numerous properties, or a site-specific assessment. Funding limit: \$400,000 (Community-wide); \$350,000 (Site-specific)
2. **Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants.** Provides funds for a grant recipient to capitalize a revolving fund and to make loans and provide

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subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. Funds may be used to clean up sites contaminated with petroleum and/or hazardous substances. Funding limit: \$1,000,000.

3. **Brownfields Cleanup Grants.** Provides funds to carry out cleanup activities at a specific brownfield site owned by the applicant local government. Cleanup grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at specific brownfield sites owned by the applicant. An applicant must be the sole owner of the site that is the subject of its cleanup grant proposal and must own the site by November 19, 2012 in order to be eligible to receive a cleanup grant. Funding limit: \$200,000 per brownfield site; \$600,000 total.

Please let us know if you are interested in pursuing this funding. Ancel Glink has compiled numerous USEPA and IEPA Grant applications for clients and can help frame your application to increase the chances of success. This year, Ancel Glink participated in USEPA meetings that specifically discussed the 2013 Brownfield Grant objectives and strategies for successful applications.

If you are interested in more information, contact attorney Brent Denzin in the Chicago Office (312-782-7606) or by e-mail at bdenzin@ancelglink.com.