



Funding Opportunities and Other Resources

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Contaminated Sites Program

Brownfields in Alaska

Brownfields are abandoned, unused, or underused properties that are hindered from desired reuse or redevelopment by the presence or potential presence of environmental contamination. This broad definition encompasses nearly any type of site, as a brownfield can be anything from a 200-acre industrial property, to an old lumber mill, a small abandoned corner gas station, or a residential area.

Every Alaskan city and borough—both urban and rural—have vacant or underused properties whose redevelopment is complicated by potential contamination. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) strongly supports and promotes the assessment, cleanup, and reuse of these sites through the DEC Brownfields Program. In particular, DEC can help local governments, tribes, native corporations, and non-profits identify brownfields, assess potential contamination, and conduct any necessary cleanup activities in order to achieve their community's visions for those sites. DEC also works closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program to encourage the reuse and redevelopment of underused properties and assists Alaskan tribes, native corporations, and non-profits apply for federal grants and services.

Types of Brownfields Funding and Services

Both DEC and EPA offer grants and services to help assess and cleanup brownfields and put them back into productive use so that can be enjoyed by the community. Some of this support is provided through competitive grants, while other technical assistance is offered to stakeholders requesting help answering a specific question, addressing a discrete issue, or generally moving their project through the brownfields cleanup and redevelopment process.

DEC Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Services

DEC Brownfield and Assessment and Cleanup (DBAC) services are intended to help reduce the environmental uncertainties or conditions that hinder the reuse and/or redevelopment of an eligible property. DBAC objectives are to determine whether an environmental problem is limiting a site's use or intended reuse or redevelopment, help identify the nature and extent of contamination, provide recommendations, estimate costs for possible additional assessment, and to conduct cleanup activities designed to enable reuse of a site.



*Old Library Site, Talkeetna, Alaska
Hazardous Materials Abatement,
2017 DBAC Recipient*

DBAC services can include providing soil and groundwater assessments (Phase I and II), hazardous building materials (HBM) surveys, asbestos abatement and disposal, cleanup services, landfill permit assistance, among others. Generally, the application period for [DBAC services](#) runs from November through February. In addition to providing DBAC services, the

For More Information

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DEC Brownfields Program also can provide direct, informal technical assistance to anyone, such as providing community outreach and training, researching site history and cleanup status, and facilitating collaboration with other state and federal agencies in an effort to leverage additional resources.

EPA Competitive Grants

The EPA Brownfields Program can provide direct funding or services for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, environmental job training, technical assistance, training, and research. There are several types of nationally competitive grants available through the EPA Brownfields Program, some of which are listed below.

- *Assessment Grants* provide funding for developing brownfields inventories, characterizing sites and identifying past uses, assessing sites to determine existing contamination, conduct cleanup and redevelopment planning, and involving the local community in the planning process/decision-making. Assessment grants can be either site-specific or community-wide.
- *Cleanup Grants* provide direct funding for cleanup activities and can be used to address petroleum, hazardous substances, pollutants, or co-mingled (hazardous substances and petroleum) contaminants.
- *Multi-Purpose Grants* provide funding to carry out a range of assessment and cleanup activities, including the development of brownfields inventory and site prioritization, community engagement, site assessments, cleanup activities, and site revitalization planning.

In addition to the assessment, cleanup, and multi-purpose grants, EPA also provides Revolving Loan Fund Job Training grants. More information on all of EPA's competitive grants can be found at www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding.

EPA Targeted Brownfield Assessments (TBA)

To supplement its competitive grant programs, EPA also offers targeted brownfields assessments (TBA) to local governments and tribes. Through this program, an environmental consultant contractor, through EPA, conducts site assessments, outlines cleanup options, provides cost estimates, and identifies ways of effective community outreach and engagement. These services may include a background and historical investigation and inspection of the site, a full site assessment including sampling activities to identify contaminants and areas of contaminations, and the determination of how much more investigation is needed based on cost estimates and redevelopment plans. The DEC Brownfields Program can assist in requesting TBA services from EPA and provide technical support during the TBA.



*Keku Cannery, Kake, Alaska
2015 TBA Recipient*

EPA Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program

EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program can assist Alaskan communities, tribes, and other stakeholders by increasing their understanding of how to acquire, assess, cleanup, and reuse brownfield sites. Technical assistance provided by the TAB program comes at no cost to communities.

- Alaska's TAB provider is the [Center for Creative Land Recycling](#) (CCLR)
- The National Tribal TAB provider is [Kansas State University](#) (KSU)

Eligibility Requirements

Both the DEC and EPA Brownfields Programs have specific requirements for who is eligible to apply and receive brownfields funding or services. To access this funding, the following qualifications must be met:

- *Eligible applicant:* public, quasi-public, or non-profit entities such as local government, Native Corporation, or regional development organization. Note that for Brownfields assessment grants, the applicant does not need to be the owner of the property; however, for Brownfields cleanup grants, the applicant must be the owner and not liable for contamination.
- *Eligible property:* defined as “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.”
- *Reuse plan:* a reuse for the property must be established and provide measurable benefit to community. The most appropriate reuse for a property is determined by the local community and stakeholders and can be anything from housing to a playground to greenspace.

Who is Eligible to Apply for Funding?			
Entity	DBAC	Competitive EPA Grants	TBA
Native Corporations	yes	yes	yes
Federally Recognized Tribes	yes	no *	yes
Local Governments	yes	yes	yes

* Federally recognized tribes can partner with Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Alaska Native Village Corporations

More information regarding applicant eligibility can be found at the [EPA](#) and [DEC Brownfields](#) websites.

Additional Funding Opportunities and Resources

DEC Brownfields Program, DBAC Services: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/brownfields/assessment-cleanup/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Types of Brownfields Grant Funding: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2019 Brownfields Federal Guide: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-06/documents/final_2017_bf_fed_guide_5-8-17.pdf

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Setting the Stage for Leveraging Brownfields Revitalization: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/setting-stage-leveraging-resources-brownfields-revitalization>

USDA Rural Development Programs and Services for Alaska: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/ak>

US HUD Community Development Block Grant Program: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs

Alaska State & Tribal Response Program Brownfield Handbook: <https://anthc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Alaska-STRP-Brownfields-Handbook.pdf>