Preparing for EPA Assessment Coalition Grants

Technical Assistance for Brownfields Program

EPA Region 1

Marisa Chrysochoou, Program Director
You on June 28\textsuperscript{th} ....

I wonder whether community wide or coalition grant is the right grant for us...
Oh my God, is coalition the right grant for us ?!!
### Learning Objectives – at the end of this webinar, you will know how to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identify MARC options for FY25</th>
<th>Select the appropriate type of grant for your organization</th>
<th>Understand differences between Community Wide and Coalition Assessment grants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate partnerships for Coalition grants</td>
<td>Identify criteria to select type of grant, Target Areas and Site(s) for Assessment Grants</td>
<td>Plan for additional training and find resources to prepare the proposal</td>
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MARC grant Options FY25

- Community-Wide Assessment
- Coalition Assessment
- Cleanup
- Multipurpose
- Revolving Loan Fund
MAC grant Awards FY24

# OF AWARDS FY24

- Assessment: 90
- Cleanup: 70
- Multipurpose: 10

# OF ASSESSMENT AWARDS FY24

- State and Tribe: 5
- Coalition: 30
- Community Wide: 60

$ TOTAL AWARDED

- Assessment: $70,000,000
- Cleanup: $100,000,000
- Multipurpose: $20,000,000

$ ASSESSMENT TOTAL AWARDED

- State and Tribe: $5,000,000
- Coalition: $50,000,000
- Community Wide: $100,000,000

UCONN
Which grant is right for my organization?

**Assessment**
- Multiple sites with no Phase I or II assessment
- Sites can be privately owned – access agreement will be needed to conduct the work
- Can be in one or multiple Target Areas (including multiple towns for regional entities)

**Cleanup**
- Single site OWNED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION with Phase II assessment done
- Assessment of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives by consultant
- General idea of site reuse plan

**Multipurpose**
- Multiple sites at different stages of characterization
- At least one site OWNED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION with at least partial Phase II
- Typically in a single Target Area or Town
Types of Assessment Grants

- **Community Wide**
  - Single applicant
  - $500K, 4 years

- **Coalition**
  - Lead applicant and between two and four additional members
  - $1.5M, 4 years
## Eligibility for Assessment Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Wide</th>
<th>Coalition</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Single applicant</td>
<td>• Lead: state, tribe, regional planning commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>• State, tribe, city or town, regional planning commission, economic development corporation, non-profit organization</td>
<td>• Member:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Town, city, non-profit, land bank, EDC</td>
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<td>• Must NOT have any MARC grant after 2017</td>
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<td>• Cannot be an agency or instrumentality of themselves</td>
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Other criteria for coalition members

Describe the non-lead members’ *lack of capacity* to apply for and manage their own Brownfields Grant and their lack of access to Brownfield Grant resources to address brownfield sites.

- Low population, rural community
- Low staffing levels
- Fiscal and administration systems
- High demands on other municipal services
Example of successful coalition in R1 – FY23

Northeastern Vermont Development Corporation

- Rural Edge: Non-profit developer for affordable housing
- Northern Forest Center: Non-profit organization
- NE Vermont Regional Hospital: Non-profit organization
Example of successful coalition in other regions – FY22

East Texas Council of Governments

- City of Marshall
- Kilgore College Foundation
- Gladewater EDC

- Local unit of government
- Non-profit organization
- Economic Development Corporation
Additional Requirements

Each member (lead and non-lead) must have one Target Area – no overlap allowed

Each member must have at least two priority sites

Minimum five sites assessed

Must have signed Memorandum of Agreement OR provide signed letters by each member
Memorandum of Agreement Template

Eight elements addressed

1. Grant period
2. Lead member
3. Coalition partners and contacts
4. General description of activities
5. Lead will conduct procurement
6. Lead will lead process development for site selection *(Lead Coalition member and each of the Coalition Partners may agree upon a minimum number of sites assessed per member at the start of the cooperative agreement to ensure equitable distribution of funds across all members' jurisdictions)*
7. Lead will work with member on scope of work for each site
8. Lead will ensure community engagement takes place
The chicken or the egg?
Selection of Target Areas and Priority Sites

Select sites in areas with underserved communities

Identify sites across geographic boundaries

Review area demographics compared to EPA criteria

Map sites and identify clusters in one or more Census Tracts (Target Area)
<table>
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<th>Priority Site identification</th>
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<td>Must have at least two priority sites per member – one described in main narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Must meet brownfield definition (underutilized or abandoned, potential for contamination)</td>
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<td>Can be privately owned</td>
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<td>Applicant cannot be liable for contamination</td>
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<td>Schools can be considered for hazardous building material surveys</td>
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<td>Consult state brownfield coordinators and state lists</td>
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Past webinars for MARC grant support:
Prepping for MAC grants, Addressing displacement, Using Public health data, EJSCREEN, and more can be found at:

tab.program.uconn.edu/workshops-webinars/
Typical Timeline for Grant Cycle

- **September**: Guidelines Released and RFA Opened
- **November**: Grant applications submitted & reviewed
- **May**: Grant recipient selections announced
- **June/July**: Workplans submitted and grants awarded

UConn TAB Provides free reviews and support on grant applications. Dates are subject to change based on deadline announced in September

1st round late October
- Returned to applicants within a week of receiving

Final Submission
- Typically, mid to late November

2nd round early November
- Returned to applicants within a week of receiving

[tab.program.uconn.edu/epa-grant-review-submission/](tab.program.uconn.edu/epa-grant-review-submission/)
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<th>Fall Municipal Assistance Program</th>
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<td><strong>Support with grant proposal preparation</strong></td>
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**Narrative Section I**
- Target Area Description
- Site Description (you provide the sites)

**Narrative Section II**
- Demographic data
- Public Health data
- Stakeholders
- Community Engagement Plan

**Cleanup and Multipurpose**
- Assistance with organization of public meeting

**Additional Resources**
- Templates of grant application and supporting documents
- Review of full grant application

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**Fall Map Request for Proposals Open**

Applications due July 15, 2024

[tab.program.uconn.edu/map-requests-for-proposals/](tab.program.uconn.edu/map-requests-for-proposals/)
Impact of our Support

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELDS EPA REGION 1
ANNUAL IMPACT 2023

166 Communities Received
Direct Technical Assistance

33% of Communities Served were EJ

257 ACTIONS

28 FY24 MAC Grant Reviews

61% of Grant Reviews Supported EJ Communities

Impact of our Support

28 FY24
MAC Grant Reviews

61% of Grant
Reviews Supported EJ Communities

Feedback showed that the provided EPA MARC Grant Resources were "Very Useful" and "Extremely Useful"

Distribution of Communities Served

"Thank you, you guys are an amazing resource for us!"

"The MAP program is a valuable asset to both the students and the towns it serves. Tangible results for all involved!"

"Very timely responses and thoughtful comments. Direct edits, where made, were very helpful. Recommendations on cuts and clarity were invaluable. EJScreen download and dissection also a huge help."

Feedback showed that those who received MARC Grant assistance felt "Extremely Knowledgeable" and "Very Prepared" with the grant writing & grant application process after receiving assistance.

32 EPA MAC Grants were awarded for FY24
UConn TAB Supported 30 grant reviews,
25 were successful (78%)
Questions?

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