Technical Assistance to Brownfields EPA Region 1

EPA ARC Grants: Community Engagement & Displacement

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Webinar Outline

1. ARC Grants
2. What is Meaningful Community Engagement?
3. Grant-Writing Guidelines
   I. Section II of Narrative
   II. Considerations for Assessment and Cleanup Grants
   III. Helpful TAB Resources
4. Intro to Displacement
5. Summary
6. Questions

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Grant Type	Award Funding	Number of Awards Anticipated
Community-Wide Assessment	Up to $500,000 per applicant	92
Assessment Coalitions	Up to $1,200,000 per applicant	29
Cleanup	Up to $500,000, up to $2,000,000, or up to $4,000,000 per applicant	63 (**30** awards at $500,000 **23** awards at $2,000,000 **10** awards at $4,000,000)
Revolving Loan Fund *Recipients use this fund to provide local communities and organizations with loans and smaller grants to complete brownfield remediation activities	Up to $1,000,000	15

ARC Grants

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Meaningful Community Engagement

- The community engagement process provides a valuable setting for discussing how brownfield assessment, cleanup and revitalization can contribute to creating safe and secure neighborhoods for current and future residents
    - mutual decision-making, accessibility, inclusivity
- Openly addressing community concerns and social barriers
- Creating a shared community vision
- Considerations for Environmental Justice communities
- **Community Engagement looks different for each community and requires different strategies during each stage of brownfields redevelopment**

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Section II of Narrative

a. Community Need

1. The Community's Need for Funding
2. Threats to Sensitive Populations (Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations, Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions)
3. Environmental Justice (**displacement**)

b. Community Engagement

1. Project Involvement
2. Project Role
3. Incorporating Community Input

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Project Involvement and Project Roles

- Partnerships are key!

- Project Partners

- Project Partner Roles

Sample Format for List of Organizations/Entities/Groups & Roles

Name of organization/entity/group	Entity's mission	Point of contact (name & email)	Specific involvement in the project or assistance provided
Add rows as needed			

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Examples of Project Partners

- ✓ Environmental non-profits (i.e. rail to trail type organizations)
- ✓ Economic development organizations
- ✓ Community Development Corporations (CDCs)
- ✓ Social services providers
- ✓ Downtown development committees
- ✓ Chambers of Commerce
- ✓ Churches
- ✓ Property owners
- ✓ Municipal officials
- ✓ Revitalization committees
- ✓ Affordable housing organizations
- ✓ Land trusts
- ✓ Neighborhood associations
- ✓ Regional economic strategy groups
- ✓ Health organizations
- ✓ Education institutions
- ✓ Historic and cultural organizations
- ✓ Lenders
- ✓ Developers

Examples of Project Partner Roles

- ✓ Participate on the brownfields advisory committee
- ✓ Become involved in the cleanup/reuse planning process
- ✓ Talk to their constituency about the site or the role of brownfields redevelopment in the targeted community
- ✓ Host public meetings
- ✓ Host design charrettes
- ✓ Help to post community outreach material on web and/or in newsletters
- ✓ Provide financial or legal advice
- ✓ Provide technical assistance

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Incorporating Community Input

- Focus groups and listening sessions

- Social media and TAB's Community Pages

- Suggestion boxes throughout town

- Meet people where they are: libraries, churches, parks, community events, local restaurants and businesses

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Community Engagement in Community-Wide Assessment Grants

- Participate on an Advisory Committee that will screen and evaluate sites for assessment

- Develop vision for Target Area redevelopment and specific site reuse

- Communicate plans to their constituents

- Solicit interest for redevelopment

- Help disseminate material via social media, newsletters and other events

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Community Engagement in Cleanup Grants

- Refine vision for specific site reuse (add details if they don't exist)

- Engage neighborhood in specific decisions (e.g. parking, lighting, aesthetics, noise mitigation)

- Communicate cleanup progress

- Help disseminate material via social media, newsletters and other events

*** Must hold a public meeting and notify the community at least 14 calendar days prior to submitting grant application

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What is Displacement?

Displacement: forced relocation of residents and businesses from their homes/neighborhoods, often taking place when cost of living increases in communities due to redevelopment or revitalization

Brownfields redevelopment can present opportunity and transformation within communities, but the process can also present challenges:

- Complex regulations
- Limited capacity within local government
- **Revitalized brownfields can increase taxes and cost of living, leading to possibility of displacement**

Source: Thriving in Place

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FY25 Guidelines

(b) Advancing Environmental Justice:

Discuss how this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will advance environmental justice and minimize the unintended displacement of residents and/or businesses among the community(ies) in the target area(s).

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Discussing Displacement on MAC Grants (FY25)

- Identify displacement that will possibly occur

- Measurement and Evaluation: develop metrics to evaluate displacement potential (property values, rent, vacancy rates, demographics)

- Develop an anti-displacement plan that is tailored for your municipality

- Acknowledge the connection between displacement and environmental justice
  - Prioritize sensitive, underserved populations
  - Protecting the rights of current residents, small businesses, and underserved groups in your community is advancing environmental justice!

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Key Elements for Full Points

- Identify different types of partners and key contacts
  - (Check out UConn TAB's **Stakeholder Analysis** Tool!)
- Explain how each type of partner is relevant to the project & each partner role
- Demonstrate Engagement Plan (meetings, communications)
- **Address displacement**
- Explain how community input will be meaningfully used within decision-making processes
- Describe how redevelopment plan will support and uplift community members

Contacts

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Community Engagement in Practice

STAKEHOLDERS

Identify the key community stakeholders through a stakeholder analysis

TAB Stakeholder Mapping

Identify key stakeholders in brownfields redevelopment and decide how to engage them

Power-Interest Grid
EXAMPLE:

HIGH

Power

Keep Satisfied	Manage Closely
Examples: • Legislators or policy makers • News and media outlets	**Examples:** • Community leaders • State/federal agencies
Monitor	Keep Informed
Examples: • Residents who are not impacted by the brownfield site • Local businesses	**Examples:** • Residents who live/work near the brownfield site

LOW   **Interest**   HIGH

★ This will look different for each community!

Guiding Questions

People, groups, or organizations that have the most power or influence in your community will go in the top row of the chart ("Keep Satisfied" and "Manage Closely").

1. **Who has the most power or influence in your community?**
2. **Who makes key decisions in your community?**
3. **Is there a person or organization that could prevent your brownfield redevelopment project from being completed?**

People, groups, or organizations that have the most interest in your redevelopment project will go in the boxes on the right side of the chart ("Manage Closely" and "Keep Informed").

1. **Who is the most impacted by the brownfield site and/or the redevelopment of the site?**
2. **Who will benefit the most from the redevelopment of the site?**
3. **Who has historically been involved in local community engagement efforts? Are there any populations that have been neglected or overlooked during decision-making and engagement efforts?**
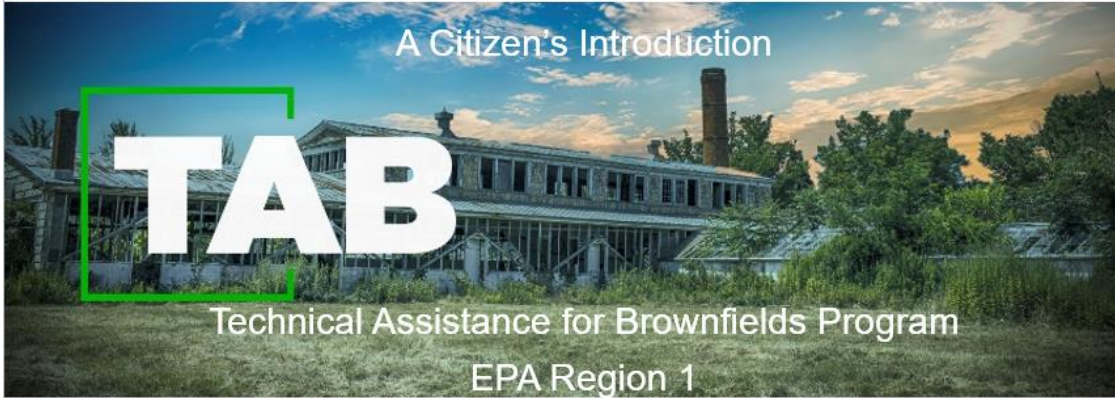
Any other identifiable stakeholders will go in the "Monitor" box, meaning that they have limited power, influence, and interest in your project.

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Community Engagement in Practice

EDUCATE

Utilize education materials created by UConn TAB to achieve goals throughout each phase

What are brownfields? What can we do about them?

A Citizen's Introduction

TAB

Technical Assistance for Brownfields Program

EPA Region 1

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http//:tab.program.uconn.edu

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Community Engagement in Practice

Community Engagement in Practice

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SUSTAINABLE OUTREACH

Determine an approach that works for the community and will last beyond all phases

BETHLEHEM
reimagined
A Community Development Group

Community Engagement Plan

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