

# U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant

## Fact Sheet



In May 2014 Hardin County received a \$200,000 grant from U.S. EPA to be used for the assessment of brownfields throughout Hardin County. The County will use the grant to conduct Phase I and II Assessments and Cleanup Planning on eligible properties. The ultimate goal of the requested grant funding will be to create market-ready sites for new businesses and grow the local economy.

### What is a brownfield?

"...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." Brownfield sites include residential, commercial and industrial properties, as well as mine scarred lands, and may be contaminated by controlled substances or petroleum products.

### What type of grant did the County receive?

The County applied for \$400,000 for "community-wide" assessment of brownfield properties – however they were awarded half of their request, \$200,000. The requested funding provides \$200,000 in funding to assess properties potentially contaminated with hazardous substances.

### What will the grant pay for?

The grants may be used to assess, identify, characterize and plan cleanup activities at potentially contaminated sites. Specifically, the County plans to complete the following:

- Inventory of brownfields sites
- Phase I and II Site Investigations (including soil and groundwater sampling of properties)
- Cleanup Planning (to determine what is necessary to meet cleanup standards for reuse goals)
- Community Outreach Meetings

Additional information regarding the U.S. EPA Brownfield Grant Program is available online at [http://epa.gov/brownfields/assessment\\_grants.htm](http://epa.gov/brownfields/assessment_grants.htm)

### Why are the studies needed?

- Assessment may increase the marketability of a brownfield
- Assessment may be required for a loan for redevelopment by a bank
- Studies quantify environmental risks for property value
- Studies build prerequisite plans to apply for cleanup funding at the state and federal level

### What about site cleanup?

If it is determined that cleanup of a site is necessary, the County or local municipalities may pursue additional grant funding. Cleanup funding is available from the U.S. EPA Brownfield Cleanup Program and Jobs Ohio Revitalization Fund.

### What happens after the grant award? Key steps in the U.S. EPA grant process

- County receives grant
- County authors a work plan and signs a Cooperative Agreement with U.S. EPA
- County issues RFQ to select a consultant
- Consultant is hired by the County
- County selects sites for eligibility approval
- Site Eligibility Determinations
- Consultant and County hold public meetings
- County and owners sign access agreements
- Consultant completes:
  - Phase I site investigation reports
  - Phase II site investigation reports
  - Cleanup planning and design

August 1, 2014



July 30, 2017

### For additional information contact:

Mr. John Hohn  
Director of Economic Development

Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance  
225 S. Detroit St.  
Kenton, OH 43326

419-673-4131 (phone)  
419-674-4876 (fax)

Email:  
[jhohn@hardinohio.org](mailto:jhohn@hardinohio.org)

### What areas are eligible?

The funding may be utilized on any site within the jurisdiction of the County that meets the U.S. EPA property eligibility criteria. Property owner participation is voluntary. Sites will be prioritized by the County based on eligibility, access, marketability, and community impact. Owners of private property may participate.

### What are the overall goals of the project?

- Work with property owners and partners to leverage funds & encourage redevelopment
- Complete assessments and cleanup plans to redevelop properties
- Create opportunities for new businesses, jobs and growth

