

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

On June 8, 2021, H.439 was enacted as Act 74 (The Act). The Act appropriated \$11 million of state General Funds to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (The Agency) for the Brownfields Revitalization Fund (BRF), as established by 10 V.S.A. § 6654 (The Statute – <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06654>). Of this investment, \$1 million will be sub-granted to the State’s Regional Planning Commissions to support site assessment. The passage of Act 74 represents the State’s largest general fund investment in the Brownfields Revitalization Fund.

The BRF promotes the productive reuse of sites that are currently abandoned or not fully utilized due to contamination on the site. By providing financial assistance for cleaning up these sites, Vermont continues its commitment to environmental stewardship, community investment, and economic growth.

This investment will provide the Agency’s BRF with the capacity to offer additional grants, beyond the existing Federally Funded program. It will target projects that represent transformational economic development and housing initiatives inclusive of the following criteria: the severity of any health or environmental hazard to be remediated, the population to be served, and the readiness of the project to proceed. This funding will principally be used for the implementation of approved Corrective Action Plans (CAP) that support regional and statewide economic development goals.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet all the below criteria to be eligible for the Brownfields Revitalization Fund – State Program:

1. Applicant’s site must be enrolled in the Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (BRELLA). The application for that program can be found here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/contaminated-sites/brownfields/BRELLA>; AND
2. Applicant site must have a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation of the Agency of Natural Resources. Applicants may apply if their CAP is pending approval; however, remediation awards will not be issued to a site without an approved CAP; AND
3. Applicant must be a non-profit, for-profit, or municipality with a project site located in Vermont. State owned project sites are not eligible for funding at this time.
4. Applicant must generally be able to demonstrate ability to meet a 10% match.

APPLICANTS WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

- A detailed budget estimate and project cost information; AND
- An estimate of the remediation/cleanup costs in accordance with Corrective Action Plan (CAP); AND
- Details on additional funding sources and their status; AND
- A brief description and/or a letter of support documenting project’s alignment with State/Regional plans (i.e.: CEDS plan, regional plan, master plan, municipal and regional community investment plans); AND
- A description of anticipated positive regional and statewide impacts in the form of (including, but not limited to):
 - Number of housing units created;
 - Number of net-new jobs created;
 - Number of acres of land remediated;
 - Other site improvements or community benefits;
 - Description of reused infrastructure;
 - Estimate of the project’s increases in Grand List values; AND
- Proof of organizational capacity to support site project; AND
- A demonstrated project readiness plan and timeline for project completion.

Note: Applicants should be prepared to host a site visit to present an overview of the project and to answer project-related questions.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to complete an on-line application, via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0500IK26PEOcAnDtzHVZxip1GG48aP1KnjwrEexTjyIUQVo1REQ5TIBEVFRTNFiyUkZSVTdWVOYwVi4u>

In addition, applicants are required to submit their W-9 and Certificate of Insurance (COI) by email to: accd.brownfieldsteam@vermont.gov.

Note: All supplemental documents must be provided in a PDF format.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS & PRIORITIZATION

In addition to the considerations outlined within 10 V.S.A. § 6654

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06654>; grant applications will be evaluated based on the project merits. All applications shall include, at a minimum:

- Statement of Need describing the need this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need and cite the source of the data.
- Population Served including number and demographic characteristics of those served.
- Results including a description of the measurable proposed impacts of the project, with at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. Wherever possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.
- Budget including all proposed project funding by sources and uses.
- Special Considerations describing any other information that might assist the State in its selection.

Furthermore, projects will be prioritized as follows:

- Projects that have an approved Corrective Action Plan.
- Projects that have demonstrated re-use opportunities with itemized impacts.
- Projects in which an award from this program will fill a funding gap that allows the project to move forward or to completion.

AUDIT PROCEDURES AND COMPLIANCE

All grants awarded by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development are subject to the State's standard audit requirements as established by Bulletin 5 and the standard provisions in Attachment C.

RECAPTURE PROCEDURES:

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development is authorized by law to recapture an award; 1) if a recipient is found to be ineligible for the award; 2) has been overpaid with an award; 3) or is found to have used an award for activities other than CAP implementation.

GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE:

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the program funding has been exhausted.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/funding-incentives/brownfieldrevitalizationfundstateprogram>