

# BROWNFIELD

# REVITALIZATION GRANTS

Since 1995, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has awarded over 2600 grants totaling approximately \$750 million to assist communities, partnerships, and property owners in the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of Brownfield sites. The USEPA defines a Brownfield site as, “real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or re-use of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” Three USEPA grants that encourage the revitalization of Brownfield sites are, “assessment grants,” “cleanup grants,” and “revolving loan fund (RLF) grants.” Assessment grants provide funding for the recipient (who does not have to be the property owner) to inventory, characterize, and conduct assessment activities at Brownfield sites. Assessment grants can also fund planning (including cleanup planning), training and community involvement efforts that support these initiatives. Cleanup grants provide funding for an owner to conduct cleanup/remedial activities at a specific Brownfield site. RLF grants enable states, political subdivisions, and Indian tribes to capitalize a revolving fund to make loans and subgrants to conduct cleanup activities.

In the spring of 2011, the USEPA estimates that it will award a total of 343 grants totaling \$92.9 million for these three grant types. The typical award for a successful assessment grant applicant is \$200,000; however, this amount can be increased to \$400,000 by concurrently applying to evaluate properties impacted by hazardous and petroleum

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contaminants. A “coalition” of eligible entities can actually pool their grant funds and make application for up to \$1,000,000. Building a winning grant application is tedious and the competition for these monies is great. First, several “threshold criteria” must be met by the applicant (and the property) before the application can be evaluated according

to point-weighted ranking criteria. The application must address community need, the project’s feasibility of success and prospects for leveraging additional financial support, community outreach efforts and partnerships with community-based

businesses, as well as the anticipated health/welfare and economic benefits for the community.

Brownfield cleanup and re-development has the potential to achieve much more than reducing the potential for harm to human health and the environment posed by these sites. To name a few, it can promote re-use of available infrastructure in lieu of developing greenspace, build momentum towards the revitalization of downtown historical/commercial districts, ready old, blighted industrial properties for new tenants and associated jobs, and promote community awareness of appropriate environmental stewardship and sustainability. A USEPA Brownfield grant can provide a significant catalyst for a community’s overall commitment to Brownfield redevelopment.

If you have questions about Brownfield Redevelopment Grants, contact TTL’s resident professional, **Ken Bailey, P.E.** at **205.345.0816** or **kbailey@ttlusa.com**.

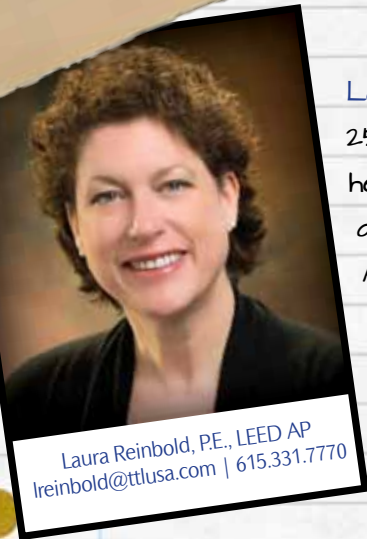


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## HAVE YOU HEARD...

*Laura Reinbold, PE, has been promoted to Branch Manager in Nashville, TN. With over 25 years of extensive management and engineering experience, Ms. Reinbold previously held the position of Professional Development Manager with TTL. Ms. Reinbold holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in civil engineering from Vanderbilt University. According to Rick Heckel, TTL's Chief Operating Officer, "Laura is a strategic thinker who has the vision and leadership skills to lead the Nashville Branch through an aggressive growth strategy."*



*Marcel Scheeff, EIT, has been promoted to Geotechnical Group Leader for the Tuscaloosa Branch. He will be responsible for the overall performance of the geotechnical group with respect to established operating standards and financial goals for TTL. According to Ken Bailey, TTL's Tuscaloosa Branch Manager, "Marcel embodies TTL's core values and has earned this leadership opportunity by virtue of his high level of professionalism and work ethic." Marcel recently received his Masters in Civil Engineering from The University of Alabama.*



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