



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Oregon Health Authority

Office of the Director

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August 30, 2010

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Dave Hunt, Co-Chair  
State Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Retroactive Request to Apply – Competitive Grant– Non-ARRA  
Funded – Community Health Projects Related to Brownfield and Land  
Reuse (OHA-PH-16)

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Public Health Division requests retroactive permission to apply for the Community Health Projects Related to Brownfield and Land Reuse grant for federal funds up to \$125,000 for one year beginning September 30, 2010 and ending September 29, 2011.

The funding is available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The request for proposals was received on June 14, 2010, and the application was submitted on July 12, 2010. This grant funding requires no state matching funds.

### **Agency Action**

Brownfields are typically commercial or industrial properties that are abandoned and not considered for development or reuse because of possible hazardous waste and chemical contamination. Examples of Brownfields

include former manufacturing facilities, gas stations, dumps, and small businesses such as printers or dry cleaners. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that there are approximately 450,000 Brownfields and potentially 15 million acres of potentially contaminated properties in the United States. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality estimates that there are hundreds of potential Brownfield sites in Oregon. To date, over 250 sites in Oregon have received financial or technical assistance from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, EPA or other agencies.

Many communities in Oregon bear a disproportionate burden of environmental health risks because they are located near current or former industrial zones. Often these areas have undergone a cycle of industrial development, expansion and decline, which results in the erosion of nearby communities through the loss of jobs, affordable housing, and key services in the surrounding community. The redevelopment of brownfields is a powerful way to revitalize these communities by reducing environmental health risks, bolstering local economies, and improving residents' access to basic goods, services and amenities.

There is broad support for the redevelopment of brownfields among government, environmental, and business stakeholders because of the potential environmental, social, and economic benefits to communities. However, there has been less attention on the ways redevelopment can impact community health, and the potential role for public health agencies at these sites.

A key role for public health agencies at brownfield and redevelopment sites is to assist communities in developing a baseline profile of community health which can be used to prioritize proposed revitalization projects and inform communities about actions that can lead to health improvements. Public health agencies can also develop screening tools to identify disproportionately affected communities where strategic redevelopment could have a positive impact on health, educate partners and communities about actions that can lead to health improvements, and provide information to prevent exposure to chemical contamination before, during and after the redevelopment. ATSDR has developed resources, including an Action Model and Brownfield Redevelopment Toolkit, to assist public health agencies to implement these activities at brownfield sites.

Until recently, public health agencies in Oregon have played a relatively limited role in brownfields redevelopment and land reuse planning. The purpose of this grant is to increase public health involvement and monitoring at brownfield/land reuse sites in Oregon and provide funding to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Implement the ATSDR Action Model in order to:
  - identify and prioritize health issues, risk factors and disparities;
  - collect data on key health indicators to build a baseline profile of community health;
  - identify resources, opportunities and actions to improve health through redevelopment and environmental change; and,
  - monitor changes in community health after redevelopment.
2. Work with state and local brownfields programs and networks to create a comprehensive inventory and map of brownfield sites in Oregon.
3. Develop and pilot a geographical information system (GIS) mapping tool to identify at-risk communities in Oregon.
4. Assess health education and training needs among partners and community groups, and develop resources to promote health-based decisions at land reuse sites.
5. Provide technical assistance as needed at brownfields and land reuse sites.

We will work with the Linnton Neighborhood, a northwest Portland community located near a heavy industrial area, to implement the ATSDR Action Model. In October through December 2010, we will hold initial meetings with community members to identify priority health issues and indicators for a baseline health profile. During this time, we will also partner with existing Brownfield programs and key stakeholders to compile and evaluate existing data on brownfield sites, and conduct an electronic survey to assess health education needs at these sites.

From January-March 2011, we will collect and analyze data for the Linnton community, and complete the inventory and map of brownfield sites. We also will develop an outreach plan based on findings from our survey and meetings with stakeholders, and begin work on health education materials.

From April to June 2011, we will complete a baseline profile for Linnton with recommendations for redevelopment. We will work with key stakeholders to develop a GIS mapping tool to identify at-risk communities in Oregon; this tool will combine demographic and community information with data on brownfield sites and other sources of environmental contamination.

During the last quarter of the project period, we will work with Linnton to identify resources, partnerships and opportunities to promote the healthy redevelopment of their community, and develop a plan to monitor changes in the community's health. We will disseminate the health education materials, inventories, maps and reports developed during the project period. By the end of the grant period, we will evaluate the effectiveness of these materials and tools, and develop a sustainable model that can be used with other communities.

If awarded funding, OHA may utilize the services of a short-term limited duration research analyst to develop the GIS mapping tool.

This funding opportunity does not require any maintenance of effort by the state and there is no expectation that the state will continue to fund this activity or the position at the end of the grant period. The intent of the grant is to provide one-time funding develop a framework that will be sustainable without state or additional federal funding.

These federal funds will further the OHA mission to assist Oregonians to become healthy and safe by promoting the healthy redevelopment of Brownfields and other land reuse sites. If funds are awarded, OHA will return to a future Emergency Board for any necessary expenditure limitation adjustments.

**This grant is not a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).**

### **Action Requested**

The OHA Public Health Division requests retroactive permission to apply for federal funds available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for

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Toxic Substances and Disease Registry for the Community Health Projects  
Related to Brownfield and Land Reuse grant for federal funding for up to  
\$125,000 for one year beginning September 30, 2010.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

For additional information, please call Gail R. Shibley at 971-673-0403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Scherzinger  
Deputy Director of Finance

CC: Linda Ames, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Kelly Freels, Department of Administrative Services  
Blake Johnson, Department of Administrative Services