

FY26 Summary of the Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grant Guidelines Changes
(as of 11/20/25)

EPA prepared this Summary of Changes document to assist prospective applicants with preparing Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant applications. **Please review the FY26 Application Guidelines** (also referred to as Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or the solicitation) **when preparing your application**. If the information in the Summary of Changes differs from information in the statute, regulation, or the Guidelines, then the statute, regulation, or the Guidelines will take precedence.

If you are interested in **applying for more than one grant type in FY26**, review the [FY26 Eligibility Chart for Multiple Applications](#) (see p.1) to determine which other grants are available to you.

If you currently have an EPA Brownfields Grant and are interested in applying for an FY26 grant, review the [FY26 Eligibility Chart for Existing Grant Recipients](#) (see p.2) to determine which other grants are available to you.

A solicitation for new Revolving Loan Fund Grants will not be issued in FY26.

[Changes to All Grant Types](#)

[Changes to the Multipurpose Grant Guidelines](#)

[Changes to the Community-wide Assessment Grant Guidelines](#)

[Changes to the Assessment Coalition Grant Guidelines](#)

[Changes to the Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes Guidelines](#)

[Changes to the Cleanup Grant Guidelines](#)

CHANGES TO THE MULTIPURPOSE, ASSESSMENT, AND CLEANUP GRANT GUIDELINES

Topic	Most Recent Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines	FY26 Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines
General Information		
New NOFO Template		EPA is now using the streamlined NOFO template, in line with the 2024 <u>Uniform Grants Guidance</u> updates. Information has been rearranged into different sections. The new sections for applicant eligibility, the submission checklist, the Applicant Information Sheet, threshold criteria, narrative criteria, review criteria, and submission requirements are identified below. Please review the FY26 guidelines for details.

Alignment with Administration Priorities and Executive Orders		EPA updated language and requirements to align with current Administration priorities, EPA Pillars, and Executive Orders. Narrative/review criteria and other factors related to the previous Administration's Justice40 Initiative are removed.
4.A. Application Forms (Submissions Checklist)	Information on required forms and documents was previously split between Section IV.C. and Appendix 1.D.	Information on required forms and documents is consolidated into Section 4.A. and formatted as a checklist. See the MARC Grant Application Resources Page for an interactive copy of the checklist.
Applicant Information Sheet Name and Location	Previously referred to as Narrative Information Sheet and was located in Section IV.D.	EPA renamed the "Narrative Information Sheet" to the "Application Information Sheet" to help distinguish this attachment from responses to the Narrative Criteria. The Application Information Sheet is now under Section 4.B.
Submission Requirements Location	Application submission information was previously split between Section IV. and Appendix 1.	Application submission information is consolidated into Section 5.A.
2.A. Eligibility Information and 2.B. Threshold Criteria		
Applicant Eligibility Location in the NOFO	The list of eligible entities was previously under Section III.A. Who Can Apply?	The list of eligible entities is now under Section 2.A. Eligible Applicants.
2.A. Eligible Applicants	Previously stated: "Note, individuals, for-profit organizations, organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that lobby the Federal government, and nonprofit organizations that are not tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) are ineligible to receive Brownfields Multipurpose/Assessment Grants."	EPA clarified (for all grant types but cleanup) how a nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) <i>may</i> be eligible to apply: "Note, individuals, for-profit organizations, and nonprofit organizations that are not tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) are ineligible to receive Brownfields Multipurpose/Assessment Grants. Organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code may be eligible if they also qualify as an eligible entity type listed above and demonstrate that they do not lobby the Federal government. "
Threshold Criteria Location in NOFO	Threshold criteria were previously under Section III.B.	Threshold Criteria are now under Section 2.B.

Contractors and Named Subrecipients	<p>Threshold criterion covered information requested from applicants and EPA requirements for applicants using contractors and/or subrecipients.</p>	<p>This threshold criterion covers information requested from applicants. The criterion clarifies that “All applicants must disclose whether they have already selected a contractor... and the procurement procedures that were followed...” but applicants (other than State, territory, Tribal, and eligible Tribal entity applicants) must describe additional details about the procurement. Review the threshold criterion in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.</p> <p>Additional information on EPA requirements for applicants using contractors and/or subrecipients was moved to section 4.D.</p> <p>In section 4.D., the requirement that applicants procure contractors in accordance with the six good faith efforts in 40 CFR Part 33, Subpart C (EPA’s Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises regulations) was updated in line with EPA’s Class Exception from Requirements under 40 CFR Part 33.</p>
Participant Support Costs	<p>For Assessment and Multipurpose Grants, recipients could use a portion of the grant for eligible participant support costs associated with <u>one community liaison per target area</u> who is not an employee of the grant recipient.</p>	<p>For Assessment and Multipurpose Grants, EPA removed the requirement that there can only be one community liaison per target area. Recipients may use a portion of the grant for eligible participant support costs associated with a community liaison(s) who is not an employee of the grant recipient. Applications are still to be evaluated on the extent to which their proposed cost estimates are reasonable, realistic, and correlated to the proposed project and activities.</p>
4.C. Narrative Criteria & 6.B. Review Criteria		
Narrative Criteria Location	Narrative criteria were previously under Section IV.E.	Narrative criteria are now under Section 4.C.
Review Criteria Name and Location	Previously referred to as “ranking/evaluation” criteria, and were under Section V.A.	Now referred to as “review” criteria and are under Section 6.B.
General Criteria Language	Minor changes were made to simplify some of the narrative/review criteria language. Sub-criteria grouping titles	Additional changes are made to further simplify some of the narrative/review criteria language. Numbering is removed from

Simplification and Renumbering	were included in the numbering, so criteria were identified as 1.a.i., 1.a.ii., 1.a.iii., etc.	sub-criteria grouping titles to simplify sub-criteria numbering to (1).a., (1).b., (1).c., etc.
Mapping Tools	Under III.2.a.ii., EPA encouraged applicants to use data from specific federal geospatial mapping tools in their Narrative to help characterize their target area(s)/community(ies).	Under 4.C.2. Community Need, EPA encourages applicants to use data from geospatial mapping tools in their Narrative to help characterize their target area(s)/community(ies). No specific mapping tools are encouraged.
4.C.(2).c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions		Added a footnote for clarification: “For the purposes of this criterion, “greater-than-normal” refers to when the incidence of disease or an adverse health condition exceeds what is typically expected or considered average. Applicants should provide information or data to establish a baseline for what is considered average and demonstrate how the incidence of disease or adverse health condition(s) among the populations in the target area(s) is greater.”
4.C.(2).d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations		A criterion that was previously used in FY19 is added back: “Describe how this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or help identify and reduce, related threats to populations in the <u>target area(s)</u> that are economically impoverished and/or disproportionately share the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and/or commercial operations or policies.”
4.C.(2).e. Project Involvement	The previous criterion stated: “Identify the local organizations/entities/groups that will be involved in and will provide assistance/information to assist you with this project. This includes community-based organizations and/or community liaisons representing residents directly affected by the project work in the target area(s).”	The criterion no longer requires inclusion of a community-based organization or community liaison: “Identify the local organizations/entities/groups that will assist with this project.”
4.C.(4).d. Acquiring Additional Resources	The previous criterion stated: “Describe the system(s) you have in place to appropriately acquire any additional expertise and resources (e.g.,	The criterion no longer includes the requirement on promoting strong labor practices, local hiring/procurement, and linking to employment opportunities:

	<p>contractors or subrecipients) required to successfully complete the project.</p> <p>Describe your efforts to promote strong labor practices, local hiring/procurement, or link members of the community to potential employment opportunities in brownfields assessment, cleanup, or redevelopment related to your project in a meaningful and equitable way.”</p>	<p>“Describe your system(s) and/or procedure(s) to appropriately acquire additional expertise and resources (e.g., contractors or subrecipients) required to complete the project.”</p>
6.C.(1). Other Evaluation Factors		<p>EPA added a new other factor:</p> <p>“Whether the proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.”</p>

MULTIPURPOSE GRANT GUIDELINE CHANGES

A Multipurpose Grant is appropriate for communities that have identified, through community engagement efforts, a discrete area (such as a neighborhood, a number of neighboring towns, a district, a corridor, a shared planning area or a census tract) with one or more brownfield sites. The target area may not include communities that are located in distinctly different geographic areas.

Multipurpose Grant funds allow communities to carry out a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities, including planning and additional community engagement activities.

Topic	FY24 Multipurpose Grant Guidelines	FY26 Multipurpose Grant Guidelines
General Information		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
2.A. Eligibility Information and 2.B. Threshold Criteria		
Threshold Criteria Alignment		To align with the FY26 Assessment and Cleanup Grant Guidelines, action items are bolded and underlined to flag requirements for applicants and avoid missed responses. Other minor changes are made to the order in which information is requested to clarify the requirement. Note, EPA did not issue a request for Multipurpose Grants in FY25.
Ineligible Applicants	Entities that were awarded (or pending an award for) an FY22 or FY23 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes are not eligible to apply for Multipurpose Grant funding.	Entities with an open award (or pending an award for) a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes are not eligible to apply for Multipurpose Grant funding under this solicitation.

2.B.(3). Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2023, to apply for an FY24 Multipurpose Grant.	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025, to apply for an FY26 Multipurpose Grant. Review the threshold criteria in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.
4.C. Narrative Criteria & 6.B. Review Criteria		
Narrative and Review Criteria Alignment	Narrative and review criteria are updated to align with the FY26 Assessment and Cleanup Grant Guidelines. Please review the FY26 Multipurpose Grant Guidelines for details.	
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 26% Community Need and Community Engagement – 26% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 26% Programmatic Capability – 21% Maximum number of points: 170	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 27.5% Community Need and Community Engagement – 24% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 27.5% Programmatic Capability – 21% Maximum number of points: 165
COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT GUIDELINE CHANGES		
A Community-wide Assessment Grant is appropriate for communities that are beginning to address their brownfield challenges, as well as for communities that have ongoing efforts to bring sites into productive reuse.		
Topic	FY25 Assessment Grant Guidelines	FY26 Assessment Grant Guidelines
General Information		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
2.A. Eligibility Information and 2.B. Threshold Criteria		
Ineligible Applicants	Entities that were awarded (or pending an award for) an FY22, FY23, or FY24 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes are not eligible to apply for additional Assessment Grant funding.	Entities with an open award (or pending an award for) a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes are not eligible to apply for Assessment Grant funding under this solicitation.
2.B.(3). Expenditure of	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025, to apply for an FY26

Existing Grant Funds	70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2024, to apply for an FY25 Community-wide Assessment Grant.	Community-wide Assessment Grant. Review the threshold criteria in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.
4.C. Narrative Criteria & 6.B. Review Criteria		
6.C.(1). Other Factors and Considerations	EPA previously prepared two selection lists, one list comprised of “new applicants” and a second list comprised of “existing and recent recipients.”	EPA will prepare one selection list for all Community-wide Grant applicants.
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 25% Community Need and Community Engagement – 25% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 28% Programmatic Capability – 22% Maximum number of points: 160	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 26% Community Need and Community Engagement – 23% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 29% Programmatic Capability – 22% Maximum number of points: 155
ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANT GUIDELINE CHANGES		
Assessment Coalitions are designed for one “lead” eligible entity to partner with two to four eligible entities that do not have the capacity to apply for and manage their own EPA cooperative agreement and otherwise would not have access to Brownfields Grant resources.		
Topic	FY25 Assessment Grant Guidelines	FY26 Assessment Grant Guidelines
General Information		
Award Information	Awards are available for up to \$1,200,000.	Awards are available for up to \$1,500,000.
2.A. Eligibility Information and 2.B. Threshold Criteria		
Eligible Applicants	The list of entities eligible to lead an Assessment Coalition Grant was limited to: state; county; regional council established under governmental authority (e.g., regional planning commissions); group of general purpose units of local government established under Federal, state, or local law (e.g., councils of governments); Tribe; or Alaska Native Regional/Village Corporations.	Previous limitations on entities eligible to lead an Assessment Coalition Grant have been removed. The list of entities eligible to apply for an FY26 Assessment Coalition Grant is the same for both lead and non-lead coalition members.
Ineligible Applicants	Entities that were awarded (or pending an award for) an FY22, FY23, or FY24 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States	Entities with an open award (or pending an award for) a Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes are not

	and Tribes are not eligible to apply for additional Assessment Grant funding.	eligible to apply for Assessment Grant funding under this solicitation.
2.B.(1). Eligibility of Lead and Non-Lead Members	The previous criteria were separated into 1. (Lead) Applicant Eligibility, and 2. Number and Eligibility of Non-Lead Coalition Members.	These criteria have been consolidated into 1. Eligibility of Lead and Non-Lead Members. The requirements remain the same.
2.B.(2). Target Areas	<p>The previous criterion stated:</p> <p>In the Narrative, the applicant must identify a target area for <u>each</u> coalition member (i.e., the lead and non-lead members), and the target areas <u>may not overlap</u>. Provide a response to Section IV.D.5. in the Narrative Information Sheet to address this threshold criterion. On the Narrative Information Sheet, <u>identify</u> the lead member's target area and the target area of each non-lead member.</p>	<p>Added to the criterion:</p> <p>In the Narrative, the applicant must identify a target area for <u>each</u> coalition member (i.e., the lead and non-lead members). The target areas <u>may not overlap</u>, <u>and the target areas must be in at least three distinct municipalities or jurisdictions</u> (e.g., town, city, or Tribe). Provide a response to Section 4.B.(5). in the Application Information Sheet to address this threshold criterion. On the Application Information Sheet, <u>identify</u> the lead member's target area and the target area of each non-lead member.</p>
2.B.(3). Non-lead Member(s) Never Having Received an EPA MARC Grant	The previous criterion, 4. Existing Brownfields Grants to Non-lead Members, required applicants to indicate which non-lead coalition member(s) had never been awarded an EPA Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, or Cleanup (MARC) Grant, and attach a copy of a financial record for each member of the coalition with an open MARC grant that displays the amount of cooperative agreement funds drawn down.	<p>The criterion was retitled “Non-lead Member(s) Never Having Received an EPA MARC Grant,” and now reads:</p> <p>“Indicate which non-lead coalition member(s) has never been awarded an EPA Brownfields MARC Grant.”</p> <p>The requirement for non-lead members to attach a copy of a financial record with an open Multipurpose or Assessment is moved to 7. Expenditure of Existing Grant funds. Non-lead members no longer have a drawdown requirement for open Revolving Loan Fund or Cleanup Grants (see below for details).</p>
2.B.(4). Legal Authority to Expend Grant Funds on Behalf of Non-Lead Coalition Members		<p>EPA added the following requirement:</p> <p>The lead member must have legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.</p> <p>a. Attest that the lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.</p>

		<p>b. For an entity (i.e., a city, town, etc.) with a geographic boundary that does not encompass the geographic boundaries of the non-lead members, <u>identify</u> the relevant law(s), ordinance(s), or other documentation to demonstrate the lead member has legal authority to expend grant funds outside of their geographic boundary.</p>
2.B.(7). Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2024, to apply for an FY25 Assessment Coalition Grant.	Current Assessment Grant recipients and Multipurpose Grant recipients (i.e., lead and non-lead members) that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025, to apply for an FY26 Assessment Coalition Grant. Review the threshold criteria in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.
4.C. Narrative Criteria & 6.B. Review Criteria		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6. within the Review Criteria	<p>Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 27%</p> <p>Community Need and Community Engagement – 24%</p> <p>Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 27%</p> <p>Programmatic Capability – 21%</p> <p>Maximum number of points: 165</p>	<p>Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 28%</p> <p>Community Need and Community Engagement – 22%</p> <p>Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 28%</p> <p>Programmatic Capability – 22%</p> <p>Maximum number of points: 160</p>
COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANTS FOR STATES AND TRIBES (CWAGST)		
This funding is only available to states, Tribes, and eligible native corporations in Alaska to address brownfield sites throughout their entire jurisdiction.		
Topic	FY25 Assessment Grant Guidelines	FY26 Assessment Grant Guidelines
General Information		
N/A		No significant changes to highlight.
2.A. Eligibility Information and 2.B. Threshold Criteria		
Ineligible Applicants	Entities applying for an FY25 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes may not apply for an FY25	Entities applying for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes may not apply for an FY26 Community-wide

	Community-wide Assessment Grant, or an FY25 Assessment Coalition Grant (or be a non-lead coalition member).	Assessment Grant, or an FY26 Assessment Coalition Grant (or be a non-lead coalition member).
2.B.(3). Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds	Current EPA Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 60.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2024, to apply for an FY25 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes.	Current EPA Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 60.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025 , to apply for an FY26 Community-wide Assessment Grant for States and Tribes. Review the threshold criteria in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.

4.C. Narrative Criteria & 6.B. Review Criteria

N/A	No significant changes to highlight.
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Point/Percentage Distribution

Listed in Section 6. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 25% Community Need and Community Engagement – 25% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 28% Programmatic Capability – 22% Maximum number of points: 160	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 26% Community Need and Community Engagement – 22.5% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 29% Programmatic Capability – 22.5% Maximum number of points: 155
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CLEANUP GRANT GUIDELINE CHANGES

Cleanup Grants provide funding for eligible entities to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites.

The applicant must own the site for which it is requesting funding.

Topic	FY25 Cleanup Grant Guidelines	FY26 Cleanup Grant Guidelines
General Information		
Award Information	Awards are available in three categories: up to \$500,000, up to \$2,000,000, or up to \$4,000,000. Applications in each category will be placed on separate selection lists.	Awards are available in two categories: up to \$500,000, and up to \$4,000,000. Applications in each category will be placed on separate selection lists.
2.A. Eligibility Information and 2.B. Threshold Criteria		
2.B.(3). Expenditure of Existing	Current Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2024, to apply for an FY25 Cleanup Grant.	Current Multipurpose Grant recipients that want to apply for funding must meet the 70.00% drawdown requirement by October 1, 2025 , to apply for an FY26 Cleanup Grant.

Multipurpose Grant Funds		
2.B.(9). Site Characterization		<p>The letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority must clearly indicate that the information is for the FY26 Cleanup Grant application and not a previously submitted application. EPA is providing an updated, optional letter template for the State or Tribal Environmental Authority to use. See the MARC Grant Application Resources Page for a copy of the template.</p> <p>When applicable under option b., the <u>applicant</u> (i.e., no longer the State or Tribal Environmental Authority), must attest that additional assessment that is needed will be performed by June 15, 2026:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“If additional assessment is needed to sufficiently characterize the site(s) for the remediation work to begin, the applicant should include a statement to that effect. Additionally, affirm that there will be a sufficient level of site characterization from the environmental site assessment performed by June 15, 2026, for the remediation work to begin on the site(s).”</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to request the letter from the appropriate State or Tribal Environmental Authority as early as possible. However, if the appropriate authority cannot provide the letter by the deadline, the applicant may attach proof (i.e., a dated copy of the email) that the letter was requested. Letters must be provided to EPA by February 27, 2026.</p> <p>Review the threshold criteria in Section 2.B. of the Guidelines for details.</p>
4.C. Narrative Criteria & 6.B. Review Criteria		

6.C.(1). Other Factors and Considerations		In making the final selections, EPA's Headquarters Selection Official intends to select a minimum of 1 quality application per EPA region from the list of applications requesting between \$500,001 and \$4,000,000.
Point/Percentage Distribution		
Listed in Section 6. within the Review Criteria	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 31% Community Need and Community Engagement – 21% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 31% Programmatic Capability – 17% Maximum number of points: 180	Project Area Description and Plan for Revitalization – 31.5% Community Need and Community Engagement – 20% Task Description, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Success – 31.5% Programmatic Capability – 17% Maximum number of points: 175