



# City of Hazleton

Office of Community  
and Economic Development

R03-26-A-014

Joseph C. Zeller, III  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
joe@hazletoncity.org  
570.459.4965

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## Application Information Sheet

### 1. Applicant Identification:

City of Hazleton  
40 N. Church Street  
Hazleton, PA 18201

### 2. Website URL:      <https://www.hazletoncity.org/>

### 3. Funding Requested:

- a. Grant Type: "Community-wide"
- b. Federal Funds Requested
  - i. \$500,000

### 4. Location:

- a) City of Hazleton; b) Luzerne County; c) Pennsylvania

### 5. Target Area and Priority Site Information:

- The target areas for the assessment activities are the *Priority Improvement Areas* as identified in the 2015 Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan for Continued Revitalization. The *Priority Improvement Areas* were developed through community and stakeholder input as part of the development of the 2015 Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan.
- The priority site addresses for this assessment grant application are:
  - 661-673 N Church Road, Hazleton, Luzerne County, PA
  - 100 E Diamond Street, Hazleton, Luzerne County, PA

### 6. Contacts

a. Project Director      Joseph C. Zeller, III, Director  
40 N Church Street;  
Hazleton, PA 18201  
570-459-4965  
[jzeller@cityofhazleton.org](mailto:jzeller@cityofhazleton.org)

### b. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official

Jeffrey L. Cusat, Mayor  
40 N Church Street  
Hazleton, PA 18201  
570-459-4910 - [mayorcusat@cityofhazleton.org](mailto:mayorcusat@cityofhazleton.org)

The City of Hazleton is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Lender.

**7. Population**

City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, PA; Population – 30,354 (2024 US Census)

**8. Other Factors Checklist**

<b>Other Factors</b>	<b>Page #</b>
Community population is 15,000 or less.	NA
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	NA
The proposed brownfield site is impacted by mine-scarred land.	#1&2
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	NA
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain	NA
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	NA
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	#2&3
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.	#3
30% or more of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section 3.A.(2), for priority site(s) within the target area.	NA
The target area(s) is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.	NA

**9. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority**

- a. Letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection supporting the project is attached.

**10. Releasing Copies of Applications**

Not applicable. No portions of this application are being claimed as confidential, privileged, or sensitive information.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Zeller, III, Director  
City of Hazleton  
Community and Economic Development



January 21, 2026

Mr. Joseph C. Zeller III  
Director of Community Development  
City of Hazleton  
40 N. Church Street  
Hazleton, PA 18201

**RE: U.S. EPA Brownfields Grant Proposal | State Letter of Acknowledgement  
City of Hazleton  
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania**

Dear Mr. Zeller:

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is pleased to support your efforts to redevelop brownfield properties in your regional area. Returning environmentally challenged and underutilized land and buildings to productive use improves our environment, safeguards our residents, and helps boost Pennsylvania's economy.

The PA DEP supports the City of Hazleton's application for a US EPA Brownfields FY26 Community-Wide Assessment Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to perform Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and develop remediation plans to drive successful redevelopment activities.

The city's efforts to examine the redevelopment potential of aggregated, underutilized sites to create renewed neighborhoods and business districts in Pennsylvania is a worthwhile endeavor.

Both Central Office and Regional Office Staff in the Land Recycling Program look forward to supporting the City of Hazleton and U.S. EPA Region 3 on this project.

If you have any questions, please contact John Gross by email at [johngross@pa.gov](mailto:johngross@pa.gov) or by telephone at 717-783-7502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Maddigan".

Michael Maddigan  
Land Recycling Program Manager  
Bureau Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields

## **1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION**

**a. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area:** The City of Hazleton (the City) is located in the coal bearing regions of northeastern Pennsylvania in Luzerne County. Hazleton Borough was incorporated in 1856 and with the growth of coal mining and accompanying industries, so too did the Borough grow and was chartered as a city in 1891. With many communities in the coal bearing regions of Pennsylvania, as plentiful coal was discovered industry and populations swelled. In the 1940's, over 20,000 people were employed by the coal mines alone in Hazleton. However, by the late 1950's, the demand for coal was beginning to decrease and many coal miners lost jobs as the mines closed. By the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, only 2,300 people were employed by the coal mines, a loss of over 17,000 jobs in this small, rural community. In 1956, the Community Area New Development Organization was created with the mission to develop industry, economic growth, and create jobs in the region. While this organization has made great strides in developing industrial sites on green space, myriad brownfields sites in Hazleton from the legacy of the coal-mining industry sit vacant along with the closed coal mines which historically fed this economy. These vacant and underutilized sites included some of Hazleton's largest former employers including; Reed & Lovatt Silk Co., Duplan Silk Mill, Tung-Sol Electric, Valmount Industries, KAMA Chemicals, and Tranguch. These sites are viewed as "un-developable" due to unknown environmental conditions related to historical operations, yet they also represent an opportunity for community growth and revitalization.

The deleterious effects of a century of intensive land-use related to the coal and manufacturing industries have created brownfield sites of all sizes with myriad environmental and physical hazards across the City. The presence of these sites has negatively impacted the overall economic, social, health, and environmental conditions of the City. According to ACS 2019-2023 data<sup>1</sup>, Hazleton experiences elevated socioeconomic challenges relative to state and regional benchmarks. The City's poverty rate is 27%, median household income is \$43,379, and the unemployment rate is 6.3%. Approximately 66.3% of residents identify as minority, 37% are foreign born, and 59.4% of households speak a language other than English at home. Sensitive populations include children under age five (6.4%), residents age 65 and older (15.1%), and persons under age 65 with disabilities (14.1%). These conditions increase vulnerability to environmental and physical hazards associated with brownfields and limit residents' ability to mitigate exposure risks without public investment.

The City of Hazleton has identified a "Priority Improvements Area" within the City as part of the 2015 Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan for Continued Revitalization. This area, PA State Route 93 corridor, is centered on former industrial and commercial industries which have fallen vacant, blighted, and are underutilized. As Hazleton was built up around the industries that drove the population and economic growth in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, residential communities were constructed around those sites. These communities are now tied into the fabric of these vacant industrial sites. With the decline in the coal and manufacturing sectors, the population declined and so too did the property values of the residential housing stock with an excess inventory. Numerous brownfields are located throughout the City of Hazleton and represent possibilities for a new and vibrant future in Hazleton, but the legacy human health and environmental conditions associated with these sites are preventing redevelopment. Without the support of this US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant, the City of Hazleton does not have the resources necessary to meet the goals of their most recent Strategic Plan.

**b. Description of the Priority Brownfields Sites:** The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) lists over 227 regulated or potentially impacted sites and locations throughout the City including mine fill sites, automotive repair shops, fueling stations, machine shops, coal mines and manufacturing plants (PADEP eFACTS search<sup>2</sup>). From this list, the City of Hazleton has identified former silk mills, industrial manufacturing facilities, and foundry sites within "Priority Improvements Area" as priority sites for assessment under this grant program. The City is primarily urban and surrounded by coal mine land with very limited potential for development on open space. The City is nearly built out and landlocked, therefore meaningful redevelopment must take place on infill and brownfield sites which have been historically overlooked in favor of sites with fewer potential environmental liabilities. Additionally, a majority of the priority brownfields sites are located near population centers, thus creating an accumulation of contamination near densely populated residential areas creating adversely and disproportionately affected communities. These communities have been decimated and waterways all over the city are being negatively impacted by these brownfields. Selected priority sites identified for this assessment grant are further described below.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://data.census.gov/all?q=Hazleton+city,+Pennsylvania>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eFACTSWeb/criteria\\_sitesbymuni.aspx](https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eFACTSWeb/criteria_sitesbymuni.aspx)

661-673 N Church Rd. Former St. Joseph Hospital: This site previously operated as a hospital from 1928 until 2006. The site has sat vacant with various owners and continues to degrade and has become a source of blight and physical hazards from lack of maintenance. The 2021 Comprehensive Plan identified affordable housing and rental assistance as a key pillar for equitable redevelopment. The City has proposed the redevelopment of this site as a low-income housing facility. However, based on the age of the building the potential exists for lead based paint and asbestos and the facility has been identified to contain a 5,000-gallon fuel oil underground storage tank (UST). The redevelopment plan involves the rehabilitation or demolition of the site building for low-income housing. Several developers have evaluated the site however; the unknown environmental liabilities have stymied movement. Assessment activities are required to quantify the extent of the potential lead based paint and asbestos containing materials as well as the condition of the existing UST.

100 E. Diamond Street Duplan Silk Mill: This site, once the world's largest silk mill at 600,000 square feet and employing 3,000 people. The mill was built in 1898 and closed in 1953. Silk mills are historically known to utilize chemical practices which can impact site soils and groundwater with organic chemicals and metals. The site currently sits mostly vacant, underutilized, and in a state of disrepair. The unknown environmental impacts and physical hazards from over 100-years of operations have deterred redevelopment. The redevelopment of this site would serve as the cornerstone for the revitalization of the 2015 Strategic Plan "Priority Improvements Area". The planned redevelopment of this site is as a "Business Incubator" with workforce skills training and childcare. The sale of the site is contingent on the completion of environmental assessment activities, which have begun under the previous US EPA grant however, additional characterization is needed.

c. Identifying Additional Sites: The City has developed tools and strategies to identify brownfields sites specifically in alignment with the 2021 Comprehensive Plan to "Increase economic development and workforce activities." The City understands many brownfields are disproportionately located in and impacting economically impoverished communities. Therefore, the City will focus on the "Priority Improvement Area", specifically the PA State Route 93 commercial corridor. This corridor has been identified in the 2021 Comprehensive Plan as a "Growth Area" and will further the number one Comprehensive Plan of "Infill development." The City will also utilize the EDA Census Poverty Status Viewer<sup>3</sup> to identify sites located in "High Poverty" areas for assessment and redevelopment. Additionally, the census tracts identified by the EDA Census Poverty Viewer will be targeted for community outreach to gain input from local expertise for insight from the impacted community. This insight will not only be for site identification but also for the redevelopment planning process. The identification of sites via this approach will be paired with public community meetings targeting the identified economically impoverished communities to solicit an open dialogue to gather community input for redevelopment needs.

### **Revitalization of the Target Area**

d. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans: This EPA Brownfield Assessment grant funding would enable the City of Hazleton to assess brownfields across the City and restore their potential as both economic and community resources. This would, in turn, allow the City to work toward achieving the goals outlined in the Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan (2015) and the Department of Community and Economic Development "FY22 Annual Action Plan", which include: removal of blight, reuse of existing infrastructure, and infill redevelopment. These long-term capital improvement and community revitalization plans have identified several key areas for planned redevelopment and reuse. These goals are consistent with the Sustainability and Livability Principles<sup>4</sup> to promote smart growth in communities across the country. However, properties targeted by the various strategic plans, partnerships, and initiatives need to be assessed for potential environmental concerns associated with historic uses. Hazleton will use the following systematic approach to brownfields redevelopment across the City with the support of this US EPA Assessment Grant funding.

**Assess and redevelop brownfields that support and catalyze additional redevelopment:** Assessment funding will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II ESAs as part of a dynamic approach to assess new brownfields sites that are identified by businesses and developers once the overall assessment program commences. This approach will allow the brownfields assessment program to be responsive to new interest and capitalize on project progress with a focus on sustainable economic growth.

**Assess and redevelop brownfields that connect, expand or create greenspaces and support sustainable transportation:** As outlined in the Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan, the City is currently prioritizing the extension of the Greater Hazleton Rail Trail for connectivity to the downtown. Additionally, the City has a plan

<sup>3</sup> [https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=ad8ad0751e474f938fc98345462cdfbf#data\\_s=id%3AdataSource\\_7-1956c056805-layer-6-17%3A46396](https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=ad8ad0751e474f938fc98345462cdfbf#data_s=id%3AdataSource_7-1956c056805-layer-6-17%3A46396)

<sup>4</sup> Livability Principles defined by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities between the US EPA, US Department of Transportation and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to help communities improve access to affordable housing and transportation while protecting the environment.

to expand their greenway trail network to connect and increase accessibility to protected resources by connecting “hubs” and “spokes” of greenspaces. The primary challenge to implementing these plans is access to strategically located parcels of land that will allow for the proposed expansion/extension. Sites that will facilitate greenway expansion and trail extensions will be identified and assessed during the project to promote these city-wide goals. Phase I and Phase II ESAs will be conducted as necessary to support city-wide greenspace expansion and sustainable transportation goals.

**Assess and redevelop brownfields in urbanized areas and neighborhoods:** Potential sites will be prioritized based on accessibility, their potential for redevelopment, and their connection to existing critical infrastructure. Sites proposed for evaluation will include public properties, privately-owned distressed properties, and blighted sites. Publicly-owned industrial sites will be evaluated for potential redevelopment into side yards, community gardens, affordable housing, and mixed-use commercial developments. Phase I and Phase II ESAs will be conducted as necessary to support redevelopment in the City, of which is predominately urbanized. For sites where property transactions are imminent, a Phase I ESA will be completed to satisfy the future owner’s due diligence requirements.

e. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy: Revitalization of these sites will support the goals of the Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan and FY22 Hazleton Annual Action Plan by promoting sustained economic growth, new investments and jobs, safer streets, stronger healthier families, increased pride, and the removal of environmental and physical hazards from the community. The priority sites will be identified not only by the City but also through public outreach and stakeholder input. The priority sites are primarily located within the fabric of adversely and disproportionately impacted communities, many of which were developed as residences for the jobs created by the former industries and represent the legacy of lack of environmental regulation and adjacent mine scarred lands. As outlined in the Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan, the City is currently prioritizing the extension of the Greater Hazleton Rail Trail for connectivity to the downtown. Additionally, the City has a plan to expand their greenway trail network to connect and increase accessibility to protected resources by connecting “hubs” and “spokes” of greenspaces. The primary challenge to implementing these plans is access to strategically located parcels of land that will allow for the proposed expansion/extension. Sites that will facilitate greenway expansion and trail extensions will be identified and assessed during the project to promote these city-wide goals. Phase I and Phase II ESAs will be conducted as necessary to support city-wide greenspace expansion and sustainable transportation goals.

The environmental assessment and remediation required to support revitalization of these priority sites would create hundreds of jobs as well as removing blighted and vacant brownfield sites. The myriad benefits of the assessment and redevelopment that would follow would help raise these communities out of poverty by creating jobs, developing affordable housing, increasing property values, and mitigating decades of environmental impacts. The assessment and redevelopment of vacant and distressed sites will also assist in the removal of potential contaminated soils and remove impervious surfaces. This would increase the community resiliency to extreme weather events and decrease stormwater runoff and reduce acid mine drainage from the abandoned mine land that straddle the City. Planned reuse of assessed sites include affordable housing, community-servicing commercial uses, workforce development facilities, and public greenspaces. These reuses will reduce exposure pathways, improve neighborhood safety, expand access to amenities, and support long-term economic growth.

### **Strategy for Leveraging Resources**

f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse: The environmental conditions and associated unknown costs of remediation at brownfields sites throughout the City, specifically the priority sites, make any attempt at redevelopment unfeasible. Upon completion of assessment activities conducted utilizing funding from the US EPA Brownfields Assessment grant, remedial strategies and costs will be developed. Quantifying the remedial costs will enable the prospective redevelopment activities to be developed. The environmental assessment activities and remedial planning will enable the City to also access additional competitive and non-competitive grant funding sources. Many of which require a remedial strategy to access. The City has a strong history of leveraging funding for community revitalization projects and initiatives and is eligible to access numerous state and federal funding programs. If the assessments determine that additional work is required, the City will leverage funding sources that have historically been available through partnerships Hazleton has established.

- **Industrial Sites Reuse Program** – This Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development program provides assessment and remediation funding. The City has recently utilized this program for the following projects:
  - **13-17 E Green St Assessment - \$50,329**

○ **13-17 E Green St Remediation - \$59,943**

- **PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources** – This Pennsylvania grant program provides funding for recreational space, trails and open space. The city has utilized this resource to fund over \$500,000 for the development of public parks, Americans With Disability access, trails and open space (**Value: significant/variable**)
- **Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA)** – This PA Department of Community and Economic Development program provides low-interest loan financing through Industrial Development Corporations for land and building acquisition, construction and renovation, resulting in the creation or retention of jobs (**Value: up to \$2 million**)
- **Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program** – This program provides grant funding for projects which generate substantial increases of employment, tax revenues, and other economic activity. The City has worked with this program for economic development projects and leveraged over \$1.7 million for redevelopment projects. (**Value: up to \$5 million**)

In addition, when deemed appropriate, the City and the qualified environmental professional will consult with qualified legal counsel to pursue past responsible parties to participate in the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites to further extend the reach of this assessment grant program.

g. Use of Existing Infrastructure: The priority brownfields sites are former industrial/hospital facilities which are already tied into existing infrastructure networks within the City. These sites have existing water, electric, sewer, and transportation networks including; rail, river, and road. The priority Duplan Silk Mill Site offers approximately 600,000 square feet of interior space for manufacturing, industrial use, office space, etc. This site is currently connected to local municipal water, sewer, electric, and tied into the existing roadway infrastructure. The St. Joseph Hospital site is 115,000 square feet and currently vacant. All existing public utilities will be utilized to support development at identified priority sites. The City of Hazleton is completely built out and only infill redevelopment is possible. Therefore, all brownfield sites will incorporate existing infrastructure and no additional infrastructure construction is required at this time for successful redevelopment and reuse.

## **2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

a. The Community's Need for Funding: Coal mine, factory, and manufacturing plant closures have left many without jobs. Additionally, the skill sets required for these industries limit transitional job prospects and the generational employment historically provided by these industries has negatively impacted entire families. Hazleton was built around coal mining. Industries developed and residential communities build up around them. As coal declined, industries closed or moved, jobs were lost and housing values depreciated. Recent plant and factory closures and associated job losses in the last five years include: Valmont Industries, 180 jobs lost; Weir Minerals, 76 jobs lost; Graham Packaging, 84 jobs lost; Quad Graphics, 165 jobs lost; and General Foam, 100 jobs lost. What remains is a legacy of impacted land surrounded by stagnant housing markets. Gentrification has also pushed low-income and other marginalized groups to occupy these areas because, due to depressed property values, they are more affordable. These trends have created low-income and sensitive populations concentrated around impacted lands. If not for this funding to remove environmental liabilities and begin the redevelopment process, the cycle of decreasing land value and continued disrepair will ultimately lead to more vacant and blighted land and perpetuate contemporary trends of adversely and disproportionately affected communities in proximity to environmental or human health and harm risks. This “brownfields” story has played out in Hazleton as documented in the statistics below.

According to the 2023 American Community Survey 5-year Estimate<sup>5</sup>, the unemployment rate in Hazleton is 6.3% which is higher compared to nearby cities in the Lehigh Valley like Bethlehem (3.9%) and that of Pennsylvania (4.3%). According to the ACS 2019-2023 data Similar trends in median household income were also apparent and incomes in Hazleton (\$43,379) were lower compared Bethlehem (\$66,443) and Pennsylvania (\$76,081). Poverty levels are also disproportionately higher. According to the ACS 2019-2023 data poverty levels in Hazleton (27.0%) were higher compared to Bethlehem (15.8%) and Pennsylvania as a whole (11.6%). Furthermore, a disproportional amount of disabled people, under age 65, are present further straining the local social services. According to the ACS 2019-2023 data the sensitive population of disabled people under 65 in Hazleton is 14.1%, higher than Bethlehem (10.3%) and Pennsylvania (10.2%). These factors, in conjunction with the blight and unknown environmental impacts from the myriad brownfield sites, including vacant and

<sup>5</sup> [https://data.census.gov/profile/Hazleton\\_city\\_Pennsylvania?g=160XX00US4233408](https://data.census.gov/profile/Hazleton_city_Pennsylvania?g=160XX00US4233408)

underutilized manufacturing and industrial sites, have caused property values to fall has left a smaller, less affluent tax base with a greater reliance on social services and programs. Cumulatively, these trends have contributed to a greatly diminished availability of funding for brownfields redevelopment. Without the revenue to initiate environmental assessments on the priority brownfield sites, economic recovery in Hazleton is essentially stalled as the City is built out and the only remaining viable redevelopment sites are brownfields.

**b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations:** Sensitive populations identified in Hazleton include (ACS 2019-2023): children under 5, 6.4%; Children under 5 living in poverty, 26.1%<sup>6</sup>; Persons over 65, 15.1% and persons experiencing poverty. Furthermore, a disproportional amount of disabled people, under age 65, are present further straining the local social services. According to the ACS 2019-2023 data the sensitive population of disabled people under 65 in Hazleton is 14.1%, higher than Bethlehem (10.3%) and Pennsylvania (10.2%). Additionally, the unemployment rate in Hazleton is 6.3%<sup>7</sup> which is higher compared to nearby cities in the Lehigh Valley like Bethlehem (3.9%) and that of Pennsylvania (4.3%). According to the ACS 2019-2023 data Similar trends in median household income were also apparent and incomes in Hazleton (\$43,379) were lower compared Bethlehem (\$66,443) and Pennsylvania (\$76,081). Poverty levels are also disproportionately higher. According to the ACS 2019-2023 data poverty levels in Hazleton (27.0%) were higher compared to Bethlehem (15.8%) and Pennsylvania as a whole (11.6%).

The impacts on Hazleton residents from unchecked brownfields have decimated the welfare of the City community. These impacts include; loss of jobs, loss of income, public health issues, reduced local food access, exposure to contaminants, and a lack of quality affordable housing. Brownfields redevelopment will help to improve the overall quality of life in communities across the City by enabling safe redevelopment creating new jobs and affordable house, green space, removing sources of contamination and reducing potential exposure of city residents to pollutants. Persistent environmental concerns related to brownfields sites such as asbestos, lead-based paint, petroleum products, along with myriad unknown physical and chemical hazards associated with these sites present a real and continuous threat to the health and welfare of the disproportionately sensitive populations that live near these blighted properties. Brownfields redevelopment will improve residents' health and welfare by removing sources of contamination and limiting inhalation, ingestion, and dermal contact exposures, which coincides with the City's goal of protecting and improving health and welfare of City residents. Additionally, physical health risks will also be mitigated by removing or restoring deteriorated buildings associated with these properties. Sensitive and economically impoverished populations in these communities will likely be the most directly affected by brownfields redevelopment projects and expansion/creation of affordable housing and improving the quality of life in those communities and neighborhoods is a priority of the City.

The identified and priority brownfields sites are primarily associated with manufacturing and industrial operations. The residential areas of Hazleton have historically built up around the facilities which employed a majority of the population since the early 1900's and are negatively impacting the welfare of the economically impoverished communities and sensitive populations in these areas. With the downturn of the historically important industries of Hazleton and the recent loss of jobs, property values in these areas have plunged and the population has become disproportionately low income and minority. The lack of living wage jobs has also diminished causing rising poverty rates, 27% (ACS 2019-2023 data) which have disproportionately impacted sensitive populations. The populations in the areas surrounding the identified brownfield sites do not have the resources to relocate and forced to endure the environmental conditions left behind from the industries and jobs which have been lost.

Planned reuse of the priority sites, once assessed and remediated, includes affordable housing, public green spaces and diverse commercial enterprises that would assist in mitigating impacts to these sensitive populations. The City, through zoning and planning, encourage reuse options including greenspace and other, safe and walkable areas such as urban gardens and parks; affordable housing, and equitable amenities such as health clinics and grocery stores. The assessment, remediation and redevelopment of brownfields sites would remove legacy contamination and alleviate health risks such as lead based paint and contaminated soils thus reducing asthma and other respiratory conditions.

**c. Greater Than Normal Incidences of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions:** The loss of jobs, ageing housing stock, young population and vacant and environmental impacts associated with blighted brownfields sites have a

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.phaim.health.pa.gov/EDD/WebForms/ChildLdPoverty.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> <https://data.census.gov/all?q=Hazleton+city,+Pennsylvania>

negative impact on the health of residents in the immediate vicinity of brownfields sites in Hazleton. The lack of employment diminishes the resources available to upkeep aging homes and lead based paint as well as the proximity of many residential neighborhoods to the historical industrial and manufacturing facilities, airborne lead deposition from these sites acutely impacted the surrounding population. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, children aged 0-6 in Luzerne County with blood lead levels greater than 10% in children tested was greater 6%<sup>8</sup>, as opposed to Pennsylvania as a whole at 3.3%. Indicating a higher-than-normal incidence of exposure to lead. The planned reinvestment and reuse of these brownfield sites will address environmental conditions as part of the redevelopment, including affordable housing, which will lead to the removal of the persistent human and environmental health hazards which are associated with compromised health conditions in these communities.

**d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations:** The areas targeted for assessment activities under this EPA Brownfields Grant application were identified as part of the Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan. These areas were identified through public outreach and stakeholder involvement as Priority Improvement Areas due to the high density of vacant and former industrial sites. The priority brownfields sites identified in this grant application are sites from industries which, primarily due to the downturn in manufacturing in the US, have: a) costs 100's of jobs; b) left blighted and vacant brownfields; c) falling population; d) limited opportunities for jobs with livable wages; e) decreasing tax base; and f) a legacy of environmental health issues disproportionately impacting the economically impoverished communities surrounding these sites.

The residential areas of Hazleton were historically built up surrounding the industrial facilities which employed a majority of the population of those communities since the early 1900's. With the downturn of these industries and subsequent loss of jobs, these the population of these areas has become disproportionately low income and minority. Health effects from the aging housing stock is apparent in the blood lead levels of 10% or greater in over 6% of children under 6. As more properties fall into disrepair and foreclosure, the number of brownfields will likely increase thus exacerbating an already tenuous real estate market in the City. Hazleton has also become a safe haven for immigrants looking for a better life as the population of foreign- born residents in Hazleton has increased over time to 37%, as opposed to Bethlehem 10.9% and Pennsylvania as a whole, 7.4%<sup>9</sup>. The areas of low income and subsidized housing are situated in communities immediately surrounding the identified priority sites as well as in the areas identified for revitalization. Revenue shortfalls and budget cuts related to an eroded tax base from a depressed real estate situation and rising unemployment rates have limited the funding available for capital reinvestments projects, economic revitalization initiatives, and infrastructure improvements. These economically impoverished populations are disproportionately impacted from the environmental legacy of these former industrial sites. This has been documented by blood lead levels in the population under 6. The City has initiated the assessment and clean up, under their previous EPA grant, to enable new development, industries and jobs flourish once again. The assessment of these sites is enabling the redevelopment of these sites and are creating: a) new jobs with livable wages; b) cleanup and redevelop brownfield sites; and c) opportunities for new affordable housing. However, much more work and funding is needed to continue this progress.

**Community Engagement**

**e.&f. Project Involvement & Project Roles:** Engaging the civic groups, residents, and local organizations representing communities adversely affected by brownfields enables the City's revitalization program to continue to be successful and impactful. Below are some of the community partners the City has been working with to identify and prioritize sites. Throughout the duration of the program, the City will continue to actively engage additional partners to broaden their community connections and outreach.

<b>Name of Entity</b>	<b>Entity's Mission</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Specific Involvement</b>
Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress	Economic Development	Krista Schneider - 570-455-1509 <a href="mailto:kschneider@downtownhazleton.org">kschneider@downtownhazleton.org</a>	Community Outreach and engagement.
Community Area New Development Organization (CANDO)	Economic Development	Mark Minnig – 570-455-1508 <a href="mailto:mminnig@hazletoncando.com">mminnig@hazletoncando.com</a>	Community / Business engagement
Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation	Reclamation of mine scarred lands	Robert Hughes 570-371-3522 <a href="mailto:rhughes@epcamr.org">rhughes@epcamr.org</a>	Community coordination in mine scarred communities

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.phaim.health.pa.gov/EDD/WebForms/ChildLead.aspx>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/PA,bethlehemcitypennsylvania,hazletoncitypennsylvania,US/PST045224>

g. Incorporating Community Input: Once the award has been secured, the City will focus on engaging the community to identify additional potential brownfields sites to assess and further develop the inventory of priority sites. In a series of quarterly public meetings to be held at City Hall, the City, in conjunction with the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress, Community Area New Development Organization, and the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, will solicit members of the communities they serve to identify sites they consider to be brownfields and sites that they feel are negatively impacting health and welfare in the City. Each quarterly meeting will be advertised in English and Spanish to involve as many of the City residents as possible in the process. These sites will be added to the inventory of potential sites to assess. The meeting presentation materials and minutes will be posted on Facebook, LinkedIn, and the City website (hazletoncity.org). The city will also include Spanish speaking interpreters to ensure the information is available to the communities in which the brownfields sites are located. The City has also established a free call in number for disabled members of the community to attend the quarterly meetings virtually and have their voices heard. The free call in line is provided on the City webpage.

### **3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS**

#### **Description of Tasks/Activities a.-d.**

<b>Task 1: Programmatic</b>
<p>i. <u>Project Implementation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overall programmatic and administrative oversight and cooperative agreement compliance</li> <li>▪ Solicitation, selection, and contracting the qualified environmental professional (QEP)</li> <li>▪ Annual and quarterly performance reporting (US ACRES) and ASAP accounting updates</li> <li>▪ Travel for applicant attendance at conferences to present program success stories</li> <li>▪ Development and submission of the Quality Management Plan (QMP)</li> </ul>
<p>ii. <u>Anticipated Project Schedule:</u> The solicitation for and selection of the QEP will be completed within 3 months following execution of the cooperative agreement (CA). The QMP will be developed and submitted within 90 days of the beginning of the grant-performance period. All other administrative tasks will be completed as required in the CA over the grant performance period.</p>
<p>iii. <u>Task/Activity Lead:</u> City of Hazleton (Applicant)</p>
<p>iv. <u>Outputs:</u> CA execution, QEP solicitation and contracting, US EPA approved QMP, 12 quarterly update reports (US ACRES), accounting updates (ASAP), annual FFR and MBE/WBE reporting, 1 kickoff meeting with US EPA, and travel to up to 3 conferences, and grant closeout reporting.</p>
<b>Task 2: Community Outreach</b>
<p>i. <u>Project Implementation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public announcements of grant progress, updates, and public meetings</li> <li>▪ Solicitation of community input through City social media accounts and email newsletters</li> <li>▪ Secondary information distribution via City community engagement partners</li> <li>▪ Host a public kick-off meeting in the City Offices to inform the community and solicit input</li> <li>▪ Outreach to community engagement partners, local governments, and private stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p>ii. <u>Anticipated Project Schedule:</u> Initial public meeting will be scheduled during the first quarter following grant award. Over the three years of the program, updates, announcements, and solicitations for input will be posted regularly via City social media accounts and websites and public update meetings will be held quarterly, or as needed, based on community input, site selection, and program progress.</p>
<p>iii. <u>Task/Activity Lead:</u> City of Hazleton (Applicant)</p>
<p>iv. <u>Outputs:</u> Host up to 5 public meetings, social media and website updates, creation of marketing materials, press releases, and regular outreach to community engagement partners.</p>
<b>Task 3: Site Inventory and Selection</b>
<p>i. <u>Project Implementation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain, update, rank, and prioritize brownfields inventory sites</li> <li>▪ Coordinate with community engagement partners and direct the selected QEP to develop an inclusive list of more communities and brownfields sites throughout the City</li> <li>▪ Site owner outreach, site access coordination, and site access agreements at selected priority sites</li> <li>▪ Preparation of Property Approval Questionnaires (PAQs) and coordination of requisite eligibility determination for low-risk petroleum sites with the Pa Dept. of Environmental Protection</li> </ul>
<p>ii. <u>Anticipated Project Schedule:</u> The existing site inventory will be actively expanded during the first 6-9 months following grant award and updated for the duration of the performance period. Site selection will be</p>

completed and access agreements, PAQs, and petroleum eligibility determination coordination, as necessary, will be completed continuously following grant award.
iii. <u>Task/Activity Lead</u> : City of Hazleton (Applicant)
iv. <u>Outputs</u> : Update and expand site inventory list, rank and identify priority sites, complete up to 20 PAQs and site access agreements along with eligibility determination coordination for up to 5 petroleum products sites, and complete up to 5 site inventory evaluation visits.
<b>Task 4: Site Assessments</b>
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare and submit a quality assurance program plan (QAPrP) for both hazardous substances and petroleum products to be used for the duration of the performance period for all sites</li> <li>▪ Coordinate site access at eligible sites to complete Phase I/II activities</li> <li>▪ Complete up to 20 Phase I ESAs (and accompanying US EPA All Appropriate Inquiry Checklists) in accordance with ASTM E1527-21 and All Appropriate Inquiry requirements</li> <li>▪ Complete up to 10 Phase II ESAs, which include the completion and submission of a health and safety plan (HASP) and requisite Field Sampling Plan (FSP) to evaluate environmental conditions at selected sites, consistent with the Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program</li> </ul>
ii. <u>Anticipated Project Schedule</u> : Phase I ESAs will be initiated within 6 months of the start of the program and will be ongoing throughout the duration of the performance period. A FSP, HASP, and Phase II ESA report will be completed for each site, as appropriate, based on the findings of the Phase I ESA on a rolling basis following completion of the Phase I. The QAPrP will be completed and submitted to the US EPA within the first 6 months of the program and prior to completion of any Phase II ESA activities.
iii. <u>Task/Activity Lead</u> : The selected Qualified Environmental Professional. At the direction of the City (Applicant), the QEP will be the Task 4 lead because of the specialized expertise and familiarity with programmatic requirements of the US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant program, experience with Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program regulations, and specialized training necessary to complete the activities for Task 4.
iv. <u>Outputs</u> : 20 Site Access Agreements, 20 Phase I ESA reports, 1 QAPrP, 10 FSPs, 10 HASPs, 10 Phase II ESA reports, and US ACRES updates.
<b>Task 5: Remedial Planning and Design</b>
i. <u>Project Implementation</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete up to 4 Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for hazardous substances and petroleum products sites based on the results of the Phase I and Phase II ESAs and reuse potential</li> <li>▪ The RAPs will outline the remediation plan for specific sites and will be used to either leverage additional assessment and cleanup funds from applicable programs or serve as a workplan for privately funded remediation work, as applicable</li> </ul>
ii. <u>Anticipated Project Schedule</u> : RAPs will be developed and submitted to the US EPA within 3 months following the completion of Phase II ESA activities for a given site, as appropriate.
iii. <u>Task/Activity Lead</u> : The selected Qualified Environmental Professional. At the direction of the City (Applicant), the QEP will be the Task 4 lead because of the specialized expertise and familiarity with programmatic requirements of the US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant program, experience with Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program regulations.
iv. <u>Outputs</u> : Complete up to 4 RAPs, identify secondary funding programs to leverage with the completed RAPs.

e. Cost Estimates (based on previous EPA Brownfields Grant)

Task 1: Programmatic Costs: *Personnel* – 140 hours at an average rate of \$50/hour = \$7,000; *Travel* - \$800 for attendance at three conferences = \$2,400; *Supplies* - \$1,200 for printing and distribution, website maintenance fees. *Contractual* – The QEP will assist the CAR in development and submission of the QMP = \$2,500.

Task 2: Community Outreach Costs: *Personnel* - 60 hours at an average rate of \$50/hour = \$3,000; *Supplies* - \$1,000 for newspaper fees, website/social media fees, printing information materials; *Contractual* – 5 days for the QEP to attend and support outreach meetings at an average rate of \$1,000/day = \$5,000.

Task 3: Site Inventory and Selection Costs: *Personnel* - 60 hours at an average rate of \$50/hour = \$3,000; *Travel* - 40 hours at an average rate of \$50/hour = \$2,000 for the City personnel to visit potential sites; *Contractual* - 26 days for the QEP to assist in contacting site owners, completing Property Profile Forms, canvassing, inventory database development and maintenance, and GIS mapping at an average rate of \$1,000/day = \$26,000.

Task 4: Site Assessments Costs: *Personnel* - 32 hours at an average rate of \$50/hour = \$1,600; *Contractual* – The QEP will complete 20 Phase I ESAs at an average cost of \$5,500 each = \$110,000, a QAPrP at a cost of \$2,500,

10 Phase II ESAs (including Site Access Agreements, FSPs, HASP, and Phase II ESA report) at an average cost of \$30,000 each = \$300,000.

Task 5: Remedial Planning and Design Costs: Personnel - 32 hours at an average rate of \$50/hour = \$1,600;  
Contractual – The QEP will complete 4 RAPs, including submission of sites into the PADEP VCP, at an average cost of \$7,725 each = \$30,900.

Budget Categories		Project Tasks (\$)						Total
		Programmatic	Community Outreach	Inventory & Selection	Site Assessments	Remedial Planning	Administrative Costs	
Direct Costs	Personnel	\$7,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0	\$16,200
	Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Travel	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,400
	Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Supplies	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,200
	Contractual	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$26,000	\$412,800	\$30,900	\$0	\$477,200
	Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>		<b>\$13,100</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$414,400</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Federal Funding</b>		<b>\$13,100</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$414,400</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>\$13,100</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$414,400</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

f. Plan to Measuring and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results: The City of Hazleton intends to assess up to 8 sites per year and will evaluate overall progress toward that goal by performing an annual review of the requisite quarterly progress reports. Additionally, the solicitation for the QEP will require the submission of a project timeline based on the expected outputs identified in Section 3.a-f to ensure the program schedule is being met and deliverables are being completed in a timely and efficient manner. The table presented below lists some of the expected outputs and outcomes from the assessment program. This systematic approach for using the Assessment Grant funding will promote revitalization, redevelopment and expansion of greenspaces throughout the City by eliminating the health and environmental risks posed by the extensive network of brownfields sites. This method will also enable active tracking of project goal completion throughout the project timeframe and facilitate EPA reporting.

Outputs		Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of community-involvement meetings</li> <li>• Number of assessment sites identified</li> <li>• Number of Phase I ESAs completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Phase II ESAs completed</li> <li>• Number of sites where remediation planning was conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres of land assessed</li> <li>• Number of sites assessed</li> <li>• Acres of greenspace preserved/created</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of sites redeveloped</li> <li>• Jobs created/retained</li> <li>• Tax-base increase</li> <li>• Number of affordable housing units developed</li> </ul>

#### **4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE**

a. Organizational Capacity, b. Organization Structure and c. Description of Key Staff: The City’s Department of Community & Economic Development (CED) will be the lead agency for this grant. The City has successfully utilized EPA and state brownfields grants for the assessment and redevelopment of brownfield sites. This operational experience includes all aspects of technical, administrative and financial administration of millions of federal and state grant and entitlement programs. The City has carried out grant/entitlement programs which included: contractor procurement, project bidding, financial reporting, and grant reporting. The City has an experienced and professional staff to manage and successfully expend the funds of the grant. The fiscal supervision of the grant will be monitored by the DCED Director of Finance, Allison Keegan. The City’s

Solicitor, Sean Logsdon will prepare the Professional Services Contract with the selected QEP. The CED's Director, Joseph Zeller, will manage the solicitation, selection, and production of the environmental firms. The City has extensive experience managing successful professional service contracts for Environmental Phase I and Phase II projects throughout the City. Mr. Joseph Zeller is the Director of (CED) and has over 20-years in brownfields, community and economic redevelopment experience at the city and county level. Mr. Zeller has overseen numerous community and economic redevelopment in excess of \$10 million in northeastern Pennsylvania. Mr. Zeller is responsible for grant management, communication and community outreach and site selection. Mr. Zeller managed all aspects of previous grant funded brownfields redevelopment projects and assisted the City in accessing and utilizing in excess of \$5 million in brownfields and redevelopment projects. Allison Keegan has over 15-years' experience in City government and responsible for grant financial reporting and bookkeeping. Ms. Keegan will be responsible for the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP). Mr. Logsdon, Esq. has over 15-years' experience as the City Solicitor and will be responsible for oversight and QEP procurement.

**d. Acquiring Additional Resources:** The City will retain a highly competent QEP to assist in managing and tracking the activities funded by the Assessment Grant and to conduct the environmental assessments. The QEP will be retained using a qualification-based selection process in accordance with Pennsylvania law and comply with applicable federal funding procurement regulations (40 CFR §31.36). The QEP will have previous experience on brownfields redevelopment projects where multiple brownfields financing incentives were leveraged, including US EPA Assessment Grants to ensure they have successful experience with Assessment Grant procedures, requirements and timeframes. The City's redevelopment partner CAN DO, inc., a private non-profit industrial development corporation will assist the City in accessing additional funding sources for site redevelopment.

### **Past Performance and Accomplishments**

e. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant: The City of Hazleton was awarded a US EPA Brownfields Community Assessment grant for \$500,000 in 2022. This grant has been drawn down by 70% as of September 30, 2025, with \$116,933 remaining. The remaining funding is anticipated to be completely drawn down by June 2026, and there is much more work to be done.

(1)Accomplishments: The City, through the properly procured QEP, completed a US EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan, seven Phase I ESA's for sites potentially contaminated with hazardous substances. Three sites have moved forward with Phase II ESA's. One site was a former industrial operation which was demolished after a fire and is currently operating as temporary parking. The assessment activities have enabled the owner to evaluate redevelopment options. The second site consisted of a 20-acres vacant parcel impacted from former coal mining operations, potential redevelopment options, include a solar farm. The third site was the former Duplan Silk Mill which was first operational in the 1800's. The Phase II ESA is anticipated to draw the remaining funding down. Further characterization will be necessary to fully delineate impacts and enable the planned redevelopment to move forward. The potential sale of this site is contingent of the full characterization of the former silk mill. All outputs and outcomes have been routinely updated in US ACRES. The planned redevelopment of these sites has reignited potential revitalization for Hazleton. However, many more sites have been identified and assessment activities are needed to continue this momentum, which is only possible with EPA Brownfields funding.

(2)Compliance with Grant Requirements: The workplan submitted as part of the 2022 US EPA Brownfields Community Wide Assessment Grant estimated the City would complete a QAPrP, Property Approval Questionnaires, and site access agreements for 20 Phase I ESA's, 10 Phase II ESA's, and three remedial action plans. The City completed a US EPA approved QAPrP, Quality Management Plan (QMP), property approval questionnaires and site access agreements for seven Phase I ESA's, and three Phase II ESA's. More sites have been identified for assessment activities however, the one Phase II ESA completed for a former coal mine site which involved assessment of 20-acres of land utilized a significant portion of the grant, approximately \$125,000. Therefore, more sites could not be assessed and more funding is being requested. Over 70% of the previous grant was spent directly on assessment activities, i.e., inventory, site owner outreach, Phase I ESA's, FSPs, Phase II ESA's and Remedial Action Plans. The City completed all EPA required reporting including: quarterly updates, ASAP drawdowns, Federal Financial Reporting, Anti-Lobbying forms, and updating US ACRES and the Project Officer on program progress. The 2022 EPA Brownfields Community Wide Assessment grant has been drawn down greater than 70% (\$116,000 remaining) as of September 30, 2025 and all funds will be completely drawn down before the end of the performance period, September 30, 2026.

## **Attachment - Threshold Criteria for Assessment Grants**

### **1. Applicant Eligibility**

The City of Hazleton is an eligible applicant to apply to the US EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant as a general purpose of local government as defined under 2 CFR 200.64.

### **2. Community Involvement**

The City of Hazleton (City) has been engaging the public of the City to assist determine the list of priority brownfield sites. This engagement has been developed with the community based organization the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress an ongoing since 2014. This partnership led to the development of the Downtown Hazleton Strategic Plan in 2015 which included 9-months of public meetings, surveys, and interviews. This community input helped identify priority brownfields sites for redevelopment and reinvestment

Once the award has been secured, the primary community outreach will include an advertised public “kick-off meeting” with an educational presentation with an overview of the planned grant assessment work and solicit public recommendations for additional priority sites. Advertisements for the award and kick-off meeting will be published in the local newspaper, Standard-Speaker, and on the City website. Upon selection of a qualified environmental professional (QEP), the City will advertise and host a public outreach meeting and task the QEP to provide the public an overview of the program and solicit public input from community partners and stakeholders. The City in partnership with the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress utilized this strategy to great success to develop the “Strategic Plan for Downtown Revitalization” in 2015.

The City and Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress will continue to solicit members of the community to identify sites they feel are impacting the health and welfare in the City. The public meeting presentation materials and meeting minutes will be posted on City social media accounts, including; Facebook, LinkedIn, and the City and Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress websites. Meetings are advertised in the City website, hazletoncity.org and Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress, downtownhazleton.org.

### **3. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds**

The City of Hazleton has an open, existing US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant from 2022. Funding from the existing grant has been drawn down over 70% with \$116,933 remaining as of 9/30/2025, see attached ASAP report. The remaining funding will be drawn down completing assessment activities and will be completely drawn down by 06/30/2025.

### **4. Named Contractors and Subrecipients**

The City of Hazleton affirms it has not named nor procured a contractor or subrecipients prior to the award of Brownfields grant funding. If awarded the City will utilize their standard competitive procurement practices, which follow 2 CFR § 200.317 through 200.326, to secure a qualified environmental contractor.