

**NARRATIVE INFORMATION SHEET
EAST CENTRAL INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT
FY26 U.S. EPA BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

1. Applicant Identification:
 - East Central Indiana Regional Planning District (ECIRPD)
 - 1208 White River Boulevard
 - Suite 136
 - Muncie, IN 47303
2. Website URL: <https://ecirpd.org/>
3. Funding Requested:
 - a) Assessment Grant type: Community-wide
 - b) Federal Funds Requested: \$500,000
4. Location:
 - a) City of Muncie
 - b) Delaware County
 - c) Indiana
5. Target Area and Priority Site Information:
 - Target Area 1: Former Whitely/Industrial Commercial Corridors
 - Target Area Census Tracts 12 and 28: 180350012002004 and 18035002800
 - Two Priority Sites:
 - 1a) Former Whitely Commercial Corridor
1218 – 1312 and 1504-1818 N. MLK Blvd, Muncie, Indiana
 - 1b) Former Industrial Commercial Corridor
5th to 9th Streets along S. Madison St, Muncie, Indiana
 - Target Area 2: Former Glass-Manufacturing Facility
 - Target Area Census Tract 3: 18035000300100
 - Priority Sites:
1600 and 1810 S. Macedonia Ave and 2000 E. 8th St, Muncie, Indiana
6. Contacts:
 - a) Executive Director:
Mr. William Walter, ECIRPD
1208 W. White River Blvd, Muncie, IN 47303
Phone: (765) 713-7000, Email: bwalters@ecirpd.org
 - b) Director of International Development:
Ms. Michelle Badders
1208 W. White River Blvd, Muncie, IN 47303
Phone: (765) 730-7602, Email: mbadders@ecirpd.org
7. Population: 112,951
(U.S. Census Bureau, [census.gov](https://www.census.gov), 2024)
8. Other Factors Checklist:

Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less.	No
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	No
The priority brownfield site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	No
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).	Page 1
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	No
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	No
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures	Page 4
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather and natural disasters.	Page 4
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section I.B., for priority site(s) within the target area(s).	No
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.	No

9. Letter from State or Tribal Environmental Authority: Attached



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204
(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • Fax (317) 233-6647 • www.idem.IN.gov

Mike Braun
Governor

Clint Woods
Commissioner

January 14, 2026

Mr. William Walters, Executive Director
ECI Regional Planning District
1208 West White River Boulevard
Muncie, Indiana 47303

Re: IDEM Acknowledgement Letter
U.S. E.P.A. Brownfields Grant Proposal
Community Wide Assessment Grant
ECI Regional Planning District
Delaware County

Dear Mr. Walters:

This letter is provided in support of the East Central Indiana Regional Planning District (ECI) proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for Brownfields Community Wide Assessment Grant funding. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) acknowledges that ECI is requesting \$500,000 for hazardous substances and/or petroleum assessment.

IDEM understands that ECI has demonstrated its commitment to redeveloping brownfields by taking advantage of financial and technical assistance offered through the Indiana Brownfields Program (Program) and that ECI, based on the information it has provided with its request, believes it has the capability to perform the proposed grant-funded activities. The requested community wide assessment grant funding will help ECI with community outreach, evaluating and prioritization of site inventory, conducting Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, and developing site specific cleanup and reuse plans.

ECI has identified the Former Whitely/Industry Commercial Corridor and the Former Glass Manufacturing facility in Muncie as the target areas (TA) of this grant proposal. The EPA assessment grant will provide assessment/cleanup planning funds that are not currently available in the TA and if funding allows, nonpriority brownfields in rural neighborhoods. The funds will directly improve the quality of life in the TAs by identifying and characterizing potential health risks and removing barriers to redevelopment. In the past 15 years, both the City and County have suffered significant revenue depletion from loss of manufacturing jobs that led to population decline, impoverished neighborhoods, decreased tax revenues, and unsafe, underutilized brownfields. The remaining limited resources must address public safety and aging infrastructure needs.

Visit on IN.gov/survey or scan the QR code to provide feedback.

We appreciate your input!



Both Delaware County and Muncie suffer from poverty rates higher than the State (12.3%) with the County at 20.6% and the City at more than twice the State rate at 30.4%. Poverty levels are magnified in the TA (44.2%), nearly 70% higher than the City and 214% higher than the County. The City's Median Household Income (MHI) is 40% less than the State of Indiana MHI (\$40,309 compared to \$67,173). In 2019, the Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) reported that Delaware County ranks 3rd highest in the State (out of 92) for population loss from 2010 through 2019 at -3.0%; Muncie ranks 2nd highest of 566 cities/towns in Indiana for population loss at -3.1%. Tax revenues associated with population loss and the presence of over a hundred acres of vacant/underutilized brownfields continues to decrease the City's Assessed Value by approximately \$11MM in four short years (2015-\$1.623MM to 2019-\$1.612M (Delaware Co Auditor). The loss of over 9,700 manufacturing jobs from 2005 to 2020 (IDWD) resulted in population loss, higher poverty levels, and factories that are deteriorating, unsafe, and a drain on Public Safety.

ECI has not yet selected specific sites to benefit from U.S. EPA brownfield grant funding. If ECI is awarded the requested grant funding, the Program will work with U.S. EPA and ECI to determine site eligibility once specific sites are identified.

IDEM has worked with ECI on several projects and recognizes that ECI is committed to working with the Program and/or the IDEM Voluntary Remediation Program for technical oversight of grant-funded site activities as applicable during the grant project period. The Program and IDEM are committed to continuing to support brownfield redevelopment within ECI by providing technical and other assistance through the Program.

IDEM considers ECI an excellent candidate to receive U.S. EPA assessment grant funding to continue its brownfields redevelopment efforts, which support Indiana's brownfields initiative. IDEM looks forward to continuing its partnership with ECI and its constituent communities. For further assistance, please contact John Morris of the Indiana Brownfields Program directly at (317) 234-0235 and at jmorris@ifa.in.gov.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Smith
Technical Staff Coordinator
Indiana Brownfields Program

MS/JTM

cc: (via electronic transmission)

Mitchell Cline, SME
John Morris, Indiana Brownfields Program

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1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

Target Area and Brownfields

1.a. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area:

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District (ECIRPD) is a state designated, multi-county, regional planning district whose mission is to serve the economic development, planning and grant development needs of East Central Indiana communities. All grant activities will take place within Delaware County with a focus on the City of Muncie, both of which have the majority of brownfields and the neediest residents within ECIRPD's jurisdiction. Muncie is located roughly 1½ hours northeast of Indianapolis and approximately 45 minutes west from the Ohio State line; the remainder of the County's seven cities and towns are rural with six having populations less than 2,600.

Muncie and Delaware County together formed one of Indiana's earliest manufacturing hubs. The region is home to the "Trenton Field", recognized as the largest natural gas field in the world, and served as the focal point of the gas and oil boom of the 1870s. The region suffered its first economic crisis when gas resources were depleted by the early 1900s with many of the brownfields originating at that time. Manufacturing continued to evolve using other energy sources. The second economic crisis began with the automobile industry's decline and loss of other industry to overseas competition. Since 1990, major successful manufacturers¹ left the County along with large supporting foundries, steel mills, and stamping operations. This prolonged exodus resulted in the loss of over 9,700 jobs from 2005 to 2020 (IDWD)². Many industrial and commercial sites have fallen into disuse, restricting economic development, and posing serious health risks to those who live in the Targeted Areas (TAs). Despite significant momentum generated by the successful execution of previous USEPA brownfields assessment grants, the City of Muncie continues to experience economic challenges associated with population decline, limited income levels, lower educational attainment, and insufficient employment opportunities.

ECIRPD, in collaboration with the City of Muncie's Environmental Protection Steering Committee (EP Committee), has chosen two TAs within the City within which to focus continued USEPA grant-related efforts: the Whitely/Industrial Commercial Corridors TA and the Former Glass-Manufacturing Facility TA. These TAs were selected due to multi-acre legacy brownfields (glass manufacturing, steel manufacturing and fabricating, and vacant commercial and industrial properties) that date back to the gas boom, as well as to the auto manufacturing boom of the 1960s. The TAs were also home to working class neighborhoods, with numerous amenities such as specialty shops, gas stations, dry cleaners, and grocery stores. The TAs total 3.6-square miles and encompass 3 contiguous census tracts within inner-City Muncie. The TAs are bordered by the West Fork of the White River, the primary waterbody in the region. This river bisects the City of Muncie and continues through central and southwestern Indiana. The White River has been recognized as one of the most polluted waterways in the US for the past 200 years³. The TAs contain dense impoverished neighborhoods (Whitely, Industry, and McKinley) with over 47% minority populations (Census 2022) facing continued decline of household income and related issues due to susceptibility to potential contaminants emanating from brownfields. ECIRPD will focus grant funds in the TAs to provide outreach, environmental assessment, and cleanup planning needed to address individual priority brownfields. County-wide nonpriority sites will be addressed in smaller towns if funding allows.

1.b. Description of Priority Brownfields Sites:

Despite assessing numerous brownfield sites during execution of previous USEPA brownfields assessment grants, ECIRPD and the EP Committee have identified dozens of additional brownfields properties within the two impoverished TAs noted above. Each of these brownfields likely pose potential environmental and human health threats as well as barriers to anticipated redevelopment plans.

Former Whitely Commercial Corridor (1218–1312 and 1504–1818 N. MLK Blvd)/Former Industry

Commercial Corridor (5th to 9th streets along S Madison St.) TA: The Former Whitely Commercial Corridor is a six-block area in the Whitely neighborhood with 20 adjoining parcels now mostly used for parking, storage, and abandoned vehicles, and often listed for Tax Certificate Sale due to blight. This gateway to the City of Muncie that extends through the Whitely neighborhood and ends at the McKinley neighborhood was once a thriving commercial district that faded during the 1960s. Historical uses since the 1970s have included gasoline

¹ Ball Bros. Glassworks, GM/New Venture Gear Borg Warner, Westinghouse, IN Steel & Wire, Delco Battery, and Broderick

² Indiana Department of Workforce Development

³ Sierra, *The Twisted Tale of Indianapolis's White River*, February 4, 2024.

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stations, vehicle repair shops and small service businesses. Four gasoline underground storage tanks (USTs) and two aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) have been identified on just one of the dozens of parcels within this brownfields corridor. Reports of illegal dumping of hazardous materials at another parcel are on file with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Additionally, the property located at 1208 E Centennial (intersection with Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd.) has been identified as contaminated with hexavalent chromium in the shallow soil and groundwater. This parcel is currently utilized by the Whitely Community Council, who has granted ECIRPD access to support their long-term plans to expand this facility to include a youth athletic complex, after the contaminated environmental media is fully assessed and potential risks mitigated. Presently, there is a plan to raise approximately \$20 million dollars to expand this facility to benefit the underserved Whitely and McKinley communities.

The Former Industry Commercial Corridor includes approximately 35 contiguous parcels along South Madison Street, between 5th and 9th Streets. This corridor, originally developed with small businesses like convenience stores and gas stations in the 1960s, has gradually declined into mostly vacant lots and underused sites such as used car sales and storage for unrepaired vehicles. These parcels are located in prime commercial zones adjacent to the Industry neighborhood. Many current property owners acquired the land through tax sales after gas stations closed, and now face costly assessment or cleanup requirements that hold back redevelopment. The City has been engaging with the property owners to assess potential environmental risks and barriers to redevelopment that may be discernable through routine Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments and/or cleanup planning. This area is a priority to support the underserved Industry neighborhood and encourage redevelopment of the area to create jobs as well as attract basic services and amenities back to the neighborhood. The City has taken steps to promote and assist with redevelopment to help revitalize the two previous business areas. Such actions include re-zoning to support commercial and light industrial redevelopment and the investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars for construction of much needed infrastructure (sidewalks and walking bridges over waterways) to promote access from the TA neighborhoods to these future commercial properties for employment and commerce.

Former Glass-Manufacturing Facility TA: The 75-acre former glass bottle coating, canning lids/rings manufacturer, which adjoins the Industry neighborhood, has a long history in Muncie. Manufacturing began in the late 1800s and grew over 80 years to a manufacturing facility that included over 50 buildings. The manufacturer gradually moved operations out of Muncie beginning in 1970s and by the early 1990s, remaining operations ceased and over 1,300 jobs were lost. Primary constituents of concern for soil are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead and arsenic. VOCs are a concern for groundwater and can lead to vapor intrusion. The target area is a top priority for the Industry neighborhood and industrial redevelopment of the site will create jobs as well as attract basic services and amenities to the neighborhood. Priority sites within the target area include nineteen blighted and vandalized buildings, encompassing a total of 545,000 sq ft and highlighted by properties located at 1600 and 1810 S Macedonia Ave, and 2000 E 8th St. Several multinational corporations are in negotiations with ECIRPD and the City/County to encourage their redevelopment of the property at the intersection of E Memorial Dr. and Macedonia Ave. Assessment of these buildings/properties is needed to identify/address potential impacts to surrounding residents as well as to support prospective purchasers and redevelopment. USEPA grant funds will be used by the grantee to assist future developers with their environmental due diligence and cleanup planning to mitigate environmental issues during construction.

1.c. Identifying Additional Sites:

ECIRPD and the EP Committee maintain ongoing discussions with community members and other interested parties regarding additional brownfield sites. If grant funds remain after addressing the priority sites, additional sites will be identified and prioritized based on evidence of threat to the public or environment, potential and timing of real development and job creation, and direct community consultation.

Revitalization of Target Areas

1.d Reuse Strategy, Alignment with Revitalization Plans:

ECIRPD's grant project goals are consistent with the updated 2020 Muncie-Delaware County Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) and aligns with several key elements: "*Redevelopment/Revitalization of existing urban areas and neighborhoods within the City of Muncie; Encouraging Economic Development; Preserving/Protecting the natural environment; and, Enhancing the attractiveness of the community*". Mirroring the plan is the Muncie Action Plan (MAP), a blueprint for Muncie neighborhood redevelopment. MAP has been recognized as one of 10 All-America City award winners for its inclusive civic engagement that created stronger connections among

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residents, businesses, and local leaders. Each neighborhood has embraced MAP as a foundation to advance development, quality of life, and collaboration.

Former Whitely/Industry Commercial Corridors TA: Assessment of these properties is needed to identify/address potential impacts to nearby residents as well as support prospective purchasers and redevelopment in the Whitely and Industry neighborhoods. The priority sites are comprised of several contiguous vacant, blighted buildings and parking lots on several acres of land. These are the remnants of a thriving commercial district that faded during the 1960s. Historical uses since the 1970s included gas stations, muffler shops and dry cleaners (historic City directories). Abandoned former gasoline and used oil USTs associated with the various automobile repair/filling stations remain in-place; contributing to groundwater contamination. Suspected contaminants along this former commercial corridor include chlorinated solvents (tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE)), petroleum hydrocarbons, and heavy metals. Given the age and condition of buildings (more than 50 years old), asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) and lead-based paint are likely present. These brownfields corridors are a priority for ECIRPD and the City/County as the parcels will be redeveloped with essential services (e.g., health care clinic, fresh food store, and small retail businesses) within walking distance for residents of the adjoining Whitely, McKinley, and Industry neighborhoods. To jump start redevelopment, the City has undertaken several actions to encourage and support the revitalization of these parcels. Such actions include re-zoning to support commercial redevelopment, and the construction of much needed infrastructure (sidewalks and walking bridges over waterways) to promote access from the neighborhoods to these future commercial properties for employment and commerce opportunities. Discussions with developers regarding light industrial reuse are ongoing. Environmental assessment of these properties is needed to identify/address potential impacts to surrounding residents as well as support prospective purchasers and redevelopment.

Former Glass-Manufacturing Facility TA: The sustainable redevelopment of the former Glass-Manufacturing facility aligns with redevelopment/revitalization of an urban area and encouraging economic development. Due to the site's prominent location at a main entry point to Muncie and its position within the Industry neighborhood, appropriate redevelopment will require engineering controls or restrictive covenants to ensure that the property is limited to light industrial uses. On-site groundwater will also likely be prohibited. Discussions with developers for light industrial reuse are already underway.

1.e. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy:

Former Whitely/ Industry Commercial Corridors TA: These former commercial corridors are very desirable by entrepreneurs and small business owners to locate their startup businesses and offer employment opportunities to local residents. However, environmental assessments required by lending institutions often present an insurmountable financial hurdle for startup businesses. Such assessments will be funded by the USEPA grant to assist eligible developers in overcoming this financial hurdle and provide information needed to mitigate environmental concerns. Economic benefits include potential for good-paying job opportunities with potential growth for the chronically under/unemployed workers (see Table 1) of Whitely, McKinley and Industry residents that are within walking distance. In addition, redevelopment will increase tax revenues and property values, and provide basic services, amenities and jobs for residents.

Former Glass-Manufacturing Facility TA: This large industrial/commercial area is very desirable by outside parties that are ready to move their operations to Muncie, Indiana. However, ongoing negotiations have faltered due to perceived environmental challenges. Phase I and II environmental assessment findings will inform developers and stakeholders about possible remediation, mitigation of legacy contamination, and ongoing property owner responsibilities. Economic benefits include potential for hundreds of high paying job opportunities for the chronically under/unemployed workers (see Table 1) within walking distance for residents.

Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.f. Resources Needed for Site Reuse:

ECIRPD has extensive expertise in leveraging and developing partnerships that bring resources to support projects. ECIRPD leveraged over \$23.5 MM during implementation of the FY2011 grant (\$609,000) including redeveloping a vacant hospital into a \$5.7 MM Senior Living Housing. The financing sources comprised County Economic Development funds, contributions from the City, private developers, the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority, and support from the Indiana Brownfields Program (IBP). Similarly, ECIRPD has leveraged over \$30 MM with their current FY 2022 grant (\$500,000) including \$28.5MM for

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multifamily residential development in a TA⁴, \$1.5 MM in private funding for the redevelopment of a former industrial facility⁵ and \$100K to develop a pocket park⁶. **100 percent of the FY2022 grant was exhausted by the end of the grant period (September 2025).** ECIRPD continues to leverage IBP resources such as the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) program and the Petroleum Orphan Sites Initiative (POSI). In the past five years, ECIRPD has leveraged over \$300,000 in environmental assessments, UST removals, and demolitions funded by the IBP and County resulting in IDEM site closure letters for six Muncie brownfields. ECIRPD and our partners (the City and County) are eligible for the key funding sources:

TA/Eligible Leveraging Sources	Purpose/Activities	Amount	Status
ECI Brownfields Community Development Corp.	Holds blighted/derelict brownfields to cleanup	\$ 20,000	As needed
City of Muncie Tax Increment Financing (TIF)	Site preparations/infrastructure/development	\$200,000	Confirmed
Muncie EDIT ¹	Site preparations, Redevelopment	\$100,000	Confirmed
Muncie CBDG ²	Blight clearance, remediation	\$250,000	Confirmed
Delaware County EDIT ¹	Site preparations, Redevelopment	\$500,000	Confirmed
Muncie Industrial Revolving Loan Fund	Funds manufacturing equipment, real estate	\$450,000	Confirmed
Delaware Co. Redevelopment Commission	Site preparation, Redevelopment	\$1,000,000	As needed
Indiana Brownfields Program	Assessment, Remediation	Scope Based	As needed
¹ Economic Development Income Tax; ² US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) ³ Phase I, Petroleum Orphan Tank Removal, Remediation Revolving Loan Fund			

1.g. Use of Existing Infrastructure:

All priority sites are located in established industrial urban areas and possess infrastructure which requires modernization to accommodate the redevelopment plans outlined above. Resources such as tax increment financing and the Delaware County Redevelopment Commission funds will be used to support these upgrades. Sustainable reuse of existing buildings is likely and will produce greater environmental benefit than new construction. Due to poor conditions of other TA site buildings, demolition is likely and intact materials will be recycled. Over the next 20 years, full separation of sanitary and combined sewers (\$160 MM project) will be implemented in the TA, which will eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) into the White River and sewer backups to residents. This effort will mitigate the frequent sewer overflows events due to extreme weather impacts. As developed, all sites require updated stormwater discharge plans that comply with the City's Sanitary District and/or Indiana codes. This will be the responsibility of future owners. Finally, redevelopment of the sites will incorporate energy efficiency measures including hybrid or electric vehicles, when applicable and installation of energy efficient appliances.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Need

2.a. The Community's Need for Funding:

The USEPA grant will provide environmental assessment/cleanup planning funds that are otherwise limited in our TAs and, if funding allows, nonpriority brownfields in our rural small towns. The funds will directly improve the quality of life in the TAs by reducing health risks, creating jobs, and removing barriers to redevelopment. In the past 15 years, both the City and County have suffered significant revenue depletion from loss of manufacturing jobs that led to population decline, impoverished neighborhoods, decreased tax revenues, staffing declines, and unsafe, underutilized brownfields. The City and County must allocate their limited resources to address both public safety and the requirements of aging infrastructure.

Refer to Table 1 unless otherwise noted. Both the City of Muncie and Delaware County suffer from poverty rates higher than the State (12.3%) with the City more than double the State rate at 30% and the County at 20.6%. Poverty levels are magnified in the TAs at 10% higher than the City and nearly 160% higher than the County. The TA's Median Household Income (MHI) is 28% less than the City which is 60% less than the State of Indiana MHI (\$40,309 compared to \$67,173). In 2019, the Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) reported that Delaware County ranks 3rd highest in the State (out of 92) for population loss (-3.0%) from 2010 through 2019; Muncie ranks 2nd highest of 566 cities/towns in Indiana for population loss at -3.1%. Tax

⁴ 700, 702, 704, 710 N Walnut St, 701, 703, 705, 707 N. Mulberry St and 108 E Columbus Ave, Muncie, IN (TA: McKinley NH)

⁵ 1302 E. Washington St., 1308 E. Gilbert St. & 319 N. Wolfe St, Muncie, IN

⁶ 1400 Block S. Hoyt Ave, Muncie, IN

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revenues associated with population loss and the presence of hundreds of acres of vacant/underutilized brownfields has continued to decrease the City's Assessed Value by approximately \$11MM in four short years⁵. The loss of over 9,700 manufacturing jobs from 2005 to 2020 (IDWD) has resulted in population loss, higher poverty levels, and derelict industrial sites that are a drain on Public Safety funds⁷.

	TAs*	Muncie	County	Indiana	US
Population	5,745	65,167	112,156	6.7M	331.1M
%Minority	47.3	18.5	12.9	20	34.1
%African American	40.0	10.2	6.2	9.4	12.5
% Individuals below poverty level	33.1	30.4	20.6	12.3	12.5
% < 5 yrs. living below poverty level	60.8	31.1	21.9	18.4	18.1
%Single female below poverty level with own children	40.8	34.8	29.9	26.6	24.1
% Unemployment	9.8	7.9	6.6	4.8	5.3
Median Household Income (MHI)	\$29,085	\$40,309	\$53,377	\$67,173	\$75,149
Median Home Value (MHV)	\$57,933	\$88,000	\$120,500	\$183,600	\$281,900

* The TAs are comprised of Delaware County Census Tracts 3, 12 and 28

2.b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations:

Refer to Table 1 unless otherwise noted. The TAs represent a disproportionately affected community with high concentrations of impoverished and minority residents. Nearly 61% of children under the age of 5 (our most vulnerable and sensitive population) live in poverty in the TA neighborhoods. 40.8% of families are single mothers with children living in poverty-almost 20% higher than the City. 17% of TA residents do not have a High School Diploma (Census 2022). There is a high percentage of minority populations (over 4 times the rate of the City) with a predominance of African American residents (4 times the rate of the City). 75% of the African American residents in our TAs live *below* the poverty level. In 2019, the CDC identified Indiana in the **top ten** of all States with the highest infant mortality rates at 7.22 per 1,000 births (USA rate 5.79). The Indiana Department of Health (ISDH) reported the infant mortality rate for Delaware County was 8.5. A portion of the TA is located in the State's zip code with the highest infant mortality rates at 12.5 by ISDH. Furthermore, the CDC reports the African American infant mortality in the State at **12.1** (CDC 2005-2018 Infant Mortality Rates, per 1,000). Given the localized and County elevated rates and socioeconomic status of African American residents in our TAs, it is likely that infant mortality rates are even higher in the area. As a result of these troubling statistics, vulnerable groups, including women of child-bearing age, children living in poverty, single-mother households, and African Americans, often experience limited access to higher education and increased rates of poverty.

The health and welfare of residents throughout the TAs is at risk due to exposure to proximal multi-acre brownfields sites that could result in particulate inhalation, vapor intrusion, direct contact with contaminants such as VOCs, lead/metals, friable asbestos, and chlorinated solvents in soils, stormwater run-off, and groundwater, creeks, and the river. These contaminants may cause birth defects, brain, and developmental health damage to children as well as cancers and other diseases to all residents. According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), exposure to chlorinated solvents such as TCE and PCE (found at multiple priority sites is linked to kidney cancer and liver damage. With USEPA grant funds, ECIRPD can assess exposure from brownfields and develop plans to mitigate the potential risks at the sites.

2.c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions:

Delaware County is ranked 85th of 92 Indiana counties for overall Health Outcomes (2020 County Health Rankings). Please reference Table 2 below. County Cancer mortality rates for Black Males range 10% higher than State. Other cancers mortality rates are 24% higher than (State) and 60% higher than US. Both Liver and Kidney disease mortality range 54% and 39% (respectively) higher than State rates. Both diseases are associated with hexavalent chrome and PCE exposure. Infant Mortality rates in the

	Delaware	IN	US
Black Males, All Cancers ¹	277.05	251.6	233.5
Cancer: Other malignant neoplasms ²	54.92	44.4	21.6
Liver Disease ²	17.78	11.56	12.8
Kidney Disease ²	25.7	18.53	15.5

¹ Deaths per 100,000; Statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov (2012-2016); ² ISDH

County were more than 50 percent higher for essential hypertension, pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, sudden infant death syndrome than the state averages (ISDH, 2017). Specific health threats to sensitive populations will be identified by completing grant-funded assessments that will identify the

⁷ Delaware Co, Auditor-2015: \$1.623MM to 2019: \$1.612MM

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hazardous substances to which residents may be exposed. Exposures can be reduced by implementing remediation activities and/or putting engineering controls in place prior to or as a part of brownfields redevelopment.

2.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations:

Residents of the TAs area experience notably elevated exposure to toxics, resulting in increased health and well-being risks relative to other block groups within Indiana. The USEPA's EJSCREEN previously combined environmental and demographic indicators to understand how existing pollution may present potential adverse human health or environmental effects on communities. The highest Index percentiles for our TAs in 2024 were for National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) Cancer Risk at 73; Particulate Matter, Ozone, NATA Diesel PM, and NATA Respiratory Hazard Index percentiles are at 72. This means that only 27% of all block groups in Indiana had a **higher exposure** level for Air Toxics Cancer Risk and 28% of all block groups in the State had **higher exposure** to particulate matter, ozone, NATA Diesel PM and NATA Respiratory Hazards. **Residents in the TA are not only exposed to impacts from uncontrolled brownfields, but toxic air pollution as well.**

The Median Home Value (MHV) for the TAs is \$57,933 compared to the City's MHV at \$88,000 (35% lower than the City) and 69% lower than the State (See Table 1). Census 2019 indicates 24.3% of housing units are vacant (City is at 15.8%). The neighborhoods are disproportionately challenged by higher risks due to exposure to toxics, but also decreased property values and increased risk to public health and welfare due to surrounding brownfields and attraction of vandalism/vagrants to the sites.

Community Engagement

2.e. Project Involvement and 2.f. Project Roles (Table)

Partner Name	Point of contact	Specific role in the project
Muncie EP Committee: Coordinates with City officials to address environmental concerns of TA residents	Richard Ivy, HR Director at Muncie Sanitation District, rivy@cityofmuncie.com , 765-747-4853 ext. 323	Assist ECIRPD and City for outreach, additional sites, grant status, cleanup plans, redevelopment plans for TA neighborhoods.
Delaware County Health Dept.: Monitors public health risks; responds to public health threats	Jammie Bane, Administrator jbane@co.delaware.in.us 765.587-0660	Assist ECIRPD with outreach, site selection, and assist with providing residents with information regarding health impacts.
Muncie-Delaware Co. Economic Development Alliance: Supports/markets business growth	Traci Lutton, Vice President tlutton@muncie.com 765.751.9126	Inform/Market sites to businesses/ developers; identify funding for future cleanup, redevelopment of assessed brownfields.
Muncie TA Neighborhood Organizations: Resident-driven goal setting, neighborhood plans, coordination with city, universities, and nonprofit organizations	Eddie Chappell, Industrv NH, [REDACTED] Bruce Rector, McKinley NH, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Frank Scott, Whitely NH, [REDACTED]	Assist ECIRPD as conduit for outreach, additional sites, grant status, cleanup plans, redevelopment activities for Muncie neighborhoods; post quarterly reports for neighborhood review and comments

2.g. Incorporating Community Input.

Since January 2021, ECIRPD, in collaboration with Muncie, Delaware County, and the EP Committee, has been engaged in outreach initiatives related to the recently completed FY2022 grant, working alongside Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) program staff from Kansas State University. Monthly virtual outreach forums (Zoom platform) with Muncie's EP Committee have occurred since early Fall 2022. ECIRPD, City, EP Committee members and TAB representatives have discussed and provided an overview of brownfields, resources, overview of community-wide grants, and input on sites for the inventory at each of the meetings. The interactive platform allowed for questions, comments, and input from participants. Several sites were nominated and are on ECIRPD inventory. Neighborhood recordings are available at the ECIRPD and City websites. The quarterly USEPA progress reports have been and will continue to be disseminated using ECIRPD, County, and City websites, our partners' websites, and newsletters, as well as online news sources because these are widely read online. ECIRPD and the City will work with the EP Committee and individual Neighborhood Associations to develop a pipeline for resident input and concerns to share with ECIRPD. Individual neighborhoods can identify sensitive populations and non-English speaking residents for development of outreach materials. Six ECIRPD Board members represent rural communities in the County and will be engaged at monthly board meetings to solicit non-

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priority sites, provide input, and receive updates. All input will be considered with responses developed by ECIRPD members with assistance from neighborhood representatives and the health department if needed.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

3.a.–3.d. (Implementation, Schedule, Lead, Outputs):

ECIRPD will use the grant to assess priority sites in the TAs and other high-risk and developable sites (i.e., non-priority sites) identified during the 3-year performance period to support cleanup and redevelopment. Project implementation, schedule, and costs are based upon ECIRPD's most recent experience as well as past USEPA Grant experience. The following 4 tasks will be implemented to accomplish this plan.

Task 1 – Programmatic and Outreach
<u>a. Project Implementation</u> -The Work Plan will be prepared, and the Cooperative Agreement (CA) will be executed. Grant project tracking and financial systems will be set up and maintained. Compliance with CA Terms will be monitored-A Qualified Environmental Professional(s) (QEP) will be retained in compliance with applicable federal procurement regulations. -The following reports will be submitted to the USEPA: Quarterly reports, MBE/WBE/DBE reports and final project closeout documentation; the Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) will be updated. -Staff will attend USEPA National Brownfields Conference -Project “kick-off” meetings will be hosted for the ECIRPD Board, individual neighborhoods, and partners. -Internal team meetings, updates and status will take place monthly throughout the grant term. -Community Outreach Materials/Press Releases will be developed for Social Media outlets, local media outlets, the ECIRPD website, City of Muncie’s Facebook Page, Muncie-Delaware County LinkedIn, and partner’s websites. Up to 36 Public/Outreach meetings will be conducted through a mix of virtual and live events. Assistance will be requested from the County Health departments as appropriate to understand and prioritize health risks at brownfield sites identified for assessment.
<u>b. Anticipated Schedule</u> -The Work Plan will be prepared within one month of receiving notification of the grant award; CA will be executed by September 2026. CA Compliance Tracking and Financial Systems will be set up upon award of grant and maintained throughout term. -A QEP will be retained within three months of award. -Beginning January 2027, Quarterly reports will be submitted within 30 days of the end of the quarterly reporting period, ACRES will be updated as sites are assessed. ACRES updated with cleanup and/or redevelopment information during and/or after the performance period. Annual MBE/WBE reports submitted. Final project closeout documentation submitted as required once the performance period ends. -Staff will attend the 2026 USEPA National Brownfields Conference. -A project “kick-off” meeting held within one month of receiving notification of the grant award for ECIRPD and Partners; Internal team meetings will begin at this time; Kick-off meetings scheduled within various Targeted Area neighborhoods by March 2027. -Community outreach activities begin immediately upon award announcement and continue throughout the performance period. QEP will assist with technical outreach materials.
<u>c. Task/Activity Lead:</u> ECIRPD will lead this Task and Activities.
<u>d. Outputs:</u> Work Plan, CA, quarterly reports (12); ACRES updates; MBE/WBE reports (3) and final project closeout documentation; staff training; 36 outreach meetings and development of outreach materials throughout the term
Task 2 – Site Inventory
<u>a. Project Implementation:</u> Soliciting input for sites in Muncie and County-wide; interviewing stakeholders and visiting sites to determine if projects meet eligibility and prioritization scoring criteria. Priority sites will receive higher prioritization ranking. Non-priority sites will be evaluated, prioritized, and added to the inventory.
<u>b. Anticipated Schedule:</u> Inventory and prioritization activities will begin upon grant announcement and continue throughout 3-year term. New sites/non-priority sites will be added to inventory
<u>c. Task/Activity Lead:</u> ECIRPD will be the lead for this Task and Activities
<u>d. Outputs:</u> Updated brownfields inventory and prioritization.

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Task 3 – Site Assessment
a. <u>Project Implementation</u> - Priority sites (and nonpriority sites identified during performance period) evaluated through performance of Phase I and/or Phase II assessments, in accordance with All Appropriate Inquiry (<i>Phase I: ASTM Standard E1527-21; Phase II ASTM E1903-19</i>) and other ASTM standards or practices required by the project. ECIRPD anticipates assessing fourteen sites. - QEP will prepare and submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for USEPA for approval. - QEP will conduct assessments on Targeted Area sites and issue reports. - ECIRPD will coordinate activities with stakeholders regarding site access. - ECIRPD will review reports for accuracy and report findings to stakeholders. - ECIRPD will oversee QEP to verify individual assessments are progressing, and overall project schedule is met.
b. <u>Anticipated Schedule</u> - Once sites are selected and site access is granted, USEPA eligibility will be submitted for approval. Phase I and/or Phase II assessments will begin by February 2027 and continue throughout the term. - Phase II Assessments begin once USEPA approves the QAPP and associated Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) anticipated to be accomplished by April 2027 (USEPA approved QAPP will be updated annually). - Assessments on both priority and other sites continue throughout the performance period. - ECIRPD staff and QEP meet monthly to discuss priority sites, ensure required site access/eligibility have been secured, individual projects are progressing, and the overall project schedule is met. - ECIRPD staff meets with prospective purchasers, developers to determine their specific project needs for redevelopment for overall design of project and to identify funding gaps and types of resources needed (such as Office of Community and Rural Affairs OCRA funding for demolition and cleanup, local TIF resources, etc.)
c. <u>Task/Activity Lead:</u> The QEP will lead this task. The QEPs have the specific educational and experience required for complying with All Appropriate Inquiry.
d. <u>Outputs:</u> Outputs: 1 QAPP and anticipated 14 completed Phase I, 6 Hazardous Materials Assessments and 8 Phase II ESA reports.
Task 4 – Cleanup Planning
a. <u>Project Implementation</u> - Cleanup/redevelopment planning as required by various state of Indiana programs for sites (both priority and nonpriority sites assessed using the grant) where redevelopment is imminent. Assessment of brownfields cleanup/redevelopment alternatives, evaluation of needed institutional and engineering controls, and preparation of cleanup and reuse plans. - ECIRPD and project partners will identify potential clean-up resources specific for redevelopment of sites including potential USEPA Brownfields Cleanup funding, IBP Revolving Loan Fund, and opportunity for insurance recovery for cleanup.
b. <u>Anticipated Schedule:</u> -Anticipated by January 2027, selecting sites for Cleanup planning will continue throughout the performance period. Liability limitation letter requests submitted to IBP for prospective purchasers/developers/owners. State Letters issued after state-determined waiting period.
c. <u>Task/Activity Lead:</u> The QEP will lead this task. QEPs have the educational and technical experience required for evaluating/mitigating hazardous/petroleum releases to the environment.
d. <u>Outputs:</u> 6 cleanup planning documents.

3.e. Cost Estimates:

Approximately 91% of the \$500,000 budget will go directly to contractual activities with 82% of the budget allotted to Phase I and Phase II activities. 72% of the budget is allocated towards Phase II activities alone. No administrative, equipment or supplies costs will be incurred.

Task 1 – Programmatic and Outreach: \$38,500

Personnel costs: 370 hrs. @ \$50.00/hour for procurement, tracking outputs, program reporting, financial tracking (100 hrs.); QEP and ECIRPD monthly progress meetings and outreach activities outlined above (270 hrs.): **\$18,500**

Travel costs: 2 people to attend National Brownfield Conference: **\$4,000-** (\$2,000 per person: \$700 Airfare, 3 nights hotel \$700, 4 days per diem and incidentals \$600)

Contractual: \$16,000: (**\$2,400**-technical summaries for 12 quarterly reports); (**\$7,200**- attendance at monthly progress meetings (36 mtgs x \$200 ea.); and **\$6,400**-stakeholder meetings throughout term of grant

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Task 2 - Site Inventory and Prioritization: \$4,500

Personnel: \$2,000-40 hrs. @ 50.00/hour for prioritization of sites, stakeholder interviews and meetings, project site visits throughout the grant term

Contractual: \$2,500- to assist in site selection and prioritization

Task 3 – Site Assessment: \$422,000

Personnel: \$8,000-160 hrs. @ \$50.00/hour to coordinate site access, contractor oversight, report review, stakeholder meetings regarding results throughout the grant term

Contractual: \$414,000

- 14 Phase I ESAs @ avg cost of \$4,000 = \$56,000
- 8 Phase II ESAs @ avg cost of \$40,000 = \$320,000
- 6 Haz Materials Surveys @ avg cost of \$6,000 = \$36,000
- 1 QAPP and updates = \$2,000

Task 4 – Cleanup Planning: \$35,000

Personnel: \$5,000-100 hrs. @ \$50.00/hour for contractor oversight, report review, and stakeholder meetings

Contractual costs: 6 cleanup plans @ avg cost of \$5,000 = \$30,000

ECIRPD USEPA Brownfields Assessment Budget Request					
Program Tasks	Programmatic, Outreach	Inventory	Phase I, Phase II	Cleanup Planning	Budget
Budget Categories					
Personnel-(non-admin) ²	\$18,500	\$2,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$33,500
Travel	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Contractual	\$16,000	\$2,500	\$414,000	\$30,000	\$462,500
Total Direct Costs¹	\$38,500	\$4,500	\$422,000	\$35,000	\$500,000

¹No indirect costs will be incurred; ² In-kind ECIRPD staff time will be contributed for amounts over those accounted for under personnel.

3.f. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results:

ECIRPD will diligently track, measure, and report on the success of the project utilizing ACRES and quarterly reports. Outputs including number of outreach meetings, assessment reports and number of cleanup plans will be tracked. Outputs, described in more detail in the budget section, will lead to specific outcomes, which will include the amount of funding leveraged, the number of acres of greenspace/park created or redeveloped, the number of acres assessed and redeveloped, the infrastructure investments leveraged and, the number of temporary and permanent jobs created. Outcomes/outputs that cannot be easily entered into ACRES (i.e., website updates, staff training, community outreach/meetings) will be reported in the text of quarterly reports. ECIRPD will evaluate the project progress semi-annually and, if goals are not being met or are off schedule, we will discuss with the USEPA Project Officer and the QEP to identify shortcomings and adjust the program accordingly.

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

Programmatic Capability

4.a.–4.c (Organizational Capacity, Organizational Structure, and Description of Key Staff):

ECIRPD unifies the region's communities with economic and community development services such as grant application assistance and project management. Our guiding principles are in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a document that defines the regional strategy to encourage economic development, create jobs, foster more stable and diversified economies, and improve the quality of life.

The ECIRPD project team will be led by **Mr. William Walters**, Executive Director, has led ECIRPD for the past 10 years. Bill has extensive experience in public administration as a Town Council Member and Public Works/Transportation operations. Bill holds certifications as an Indiana Certified Grant Administrator and is a 2013 and 2019 Graduate of Ball State University's Indiana Economic Development Course. He will be responsible for directing and promoting the grant project, engaging the community, and overseeing implementation of this USEPA Brownfields Grant Initiative. **Ms. Michelle Badders**, Director of International Development, is a 2024 graduate of Ball State Economic Development and Community Development. She will provide the day-to-day duties associated with all grant tasks. She has been with ECIRPD for over four years and provided project management for the

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FY2023 USEPA Brownfields grants, numerous projects funded by the IBP for assessment and remediation of brownfield sites, and has maintained an inventory of brownfields sites for Muncie and Delaware County. **Mr. Jacob Thomas** will provide financial tracking and management support for the USEPA grant. He has two years of experience working for Delaware County administering state and federal grants.

ECIRPD will collaborate with the City of Muncie, Delaware County and Muncie's EP Committee to form the decision-making body for the USEPA Grant during the 3-year performance period. Muncie and Delaware County are strategically involved with site selection/prioritization, community outreach and involvement. ECIRPD, as well as the City and County, is guided by the key elements described in the 2020 Muncie-Delaware County Comprehensive Plan (Section 1.d.) with the focus on maintaining and creating partnerships to leverage the USEPA grant resources. ECIRPD will ensure compliance to the CA, as well as be responsible for financial tracking, outreach to stakeholders and liability management. The City, County, TA stakeholders, and Community Partners will provide input on site selection/prioritization, land assembly, and other regional economic impacts throughout the performance period. ECIRPD has served the region for 13 years and secured USEPA Brownfields Coalition Grants in FY2011 and 2023. ECIRPD has also secured \$2.6 MM grants for infrastructure, community development, public safety, and brownfields projects in the past four years.

4.d Acquiring Additional Resources:

ECIRPD will retain an environmental consultant to manage technical grant activities and conduct environmental assessment tasks. ECIRPD has a procurement process in place and has managed the procurement of contractors for multiple state and federal grant projects, including USEPA assessment grants. The process complies with federal procurement regulations and includes guidance to attract and utilize disadvantaged, minority- and women-owned businesses, as possible. Once the CA is approved, ECIRPD will prepare the project Request for Qualifications and will direct and oversee the procurement process. The selected consultant(s) will have managed USEPA Assessment Grants and IBP/IDEM projects and be familiar with all programmatic requirements.

Past Performance and Accomplishments

4.e. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant

(1) Accomplishments:

ECIRPD received a FY2011 USEPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant for Hazardous Substances and Petroleum on behalf of our multi-County coalition. Outputs for the \$609,000 grant included Region-wide Public Involvement (36 Meetings), 29 Phase I ESAs, 24 Phase II ESAs, and 8 Cleanup Plans resulting in 4 Closure Letters from the IDEM. Due to development occurring 2 years following the end of the grant term in 2014, ACRES is not yet updated with the following: a total of \$23.5 MM leveraged in construction/rehabilitation/cleanup for grant sites creating 121 temporary jobs and 75 permanent jobs. All outreach meetings were recorded in quarterly reports. Additionally, ECIRPD has leveraged over \$30 MM with their current FY 2022 grant (\$500,000) including a \$28.5MM for multifamily residential development in a TA⁸ and \$1.5 MM in private funding for the redevelopment of a former industrial facility⁹ and \$100K to develop a pocket park¹⁰. Upon completion, the FY2022 grant funded 19 Phase Is, 7 Phase IIs, 3 Haz Mat Surveys and 1 cleanup plan.

(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements:

ECIRPD successfully negotiated two CAs with the USEPA and received approval of its Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) and associated QAPP updates; all Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) and Health and Safety Plans required for the Phase II activities completed using the Grant funds. Over 75% of the total budget was spent on Phase I/II assessment activities. ECIRPD complied with the Work Plan and associated schedules, terms, and conditions, submitted timely quarterly, MBE/WBE and final reports, entered required data into the ACRES database.

⁸ 700, 702, 704, 710 N Walnut St, 701, 703, 705, 707 N. Mulberry St and 108 E Columbus Ave, Muncie, IN (TA: **McKinley NH**)

⁹ 1302 E. Washington St., 1308 E. Gilbert St. & 319 N. Wolfe St, Muncie, IN

¹⁰ 1400 Block S. Hoyt Ave, Muncie, IN

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

EAST CENTRAL INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT FY 2026 U.S. EPA BROWNFIELDS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND PETROLEUM COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

1. Applicant Eligibility:

East Central Indiana Regional Planning District (ECIRPD) is a quasigovernmental entity created in 2009 by State Statute (IC 36-7-7) and is exempt from Federal taxation as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRC. Documentation is attached.

2. Community Involvement:

Partner Name	Point of contact	Specific role in the project
Muncie Environmental Protection Steering Committee: Coordinates with City officials to address environmental concerns of TA residents	Richard Ivy, Human Resources Director – Muncie Sanitary District, rivy@cityofmuncie.com , 765-747-4853 ext. 323	Assist ECIRPD and City as conduit for outreach, additional sites, grant status, cleanup plans, redevelopment plans for TA neighborhoods.
Delaware County Health Dept.: Monitors public health risks; responds to public health threats	Jammie Bane, Administrator jbane@co.delaware.in.us 765-747-7721 x 764	Assist ECIRPD with outreach, site selection, and assist with providing residents with information regarding public health impacts.
Muncie-Delaware Co. Economic Development Alliance: Supports/markets business growth	Traci Lutton, Vice President tlutton@muncie.com 765.751.9126	Inform/Market sites to businesses/developers; identify funding for future cleanup, redevelopment of assessed brownfields.
Muncie TA Neighborhood Organizations: Resident-driven goal setting, neighborhood plans, coordination with city, universities, and nonprofit organizations	Eddie Chappell, Industry NH, [REDACTED] Bruce Rector, McKinley NH, [REDACTED] Frank Scott, Whitely NH, [REDACTED]	Assist ECIRPD as conduit for outreach, additional sites, grant status, cleanup plans, redevelopment activities for Muncie neighborhoods; post quarterly reports for neighborhood review and comments

ECIRPD, along with Muncie, Delaware County, Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) program staff from Kansas State University, and the TA Neighborhood Organizations recently completed the execution of a US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant (BF00E03229), which was active from August 2022 to September 2025. Our community outreach has been ongoing since January 2021 and has included monthly virtual outreach forums (Zoom platform) with Muncie’s Environmental Protection Steering Committee (EP Committee). ECIRPD, City, and EP Committee members spoke to provide overview of brownfields, resources, overview of community-wide grants, and input on sites for the inventory. The interactive platform allowed for questions, comments, and input from participants. Several sites were nominated and are on ECIRPD inventory. Neighborhood recordings are available at the ECIRPD and City websites.

ECIRPD will continue to use virtual platforms (such as Zoom) and in-person community gatherings to provide updates on grant progress on a bi-annual basis and request input from stakeholders using their individual networks. Quarterly EPA progress reports are disseminated using ECIRPD, County, and City websites, our partners’ websites, and newsletters, as well as online news sources because these are widely read online. ECIRPD, the City, and TAB have been working with the EP Committee and individual Neighborhood Associations to develop a pipeline for resident input and concerns to share with ECIRPD. Individual neighborhoods can identify sensitive populations and non-English speaking residents for development of outreach materials.

Six ECIRPD Board members represent rural communities in the County and will be engaged at monthly board meetings to solicit non-priority sites, provide input, and receive updates. All input will be considered with responses developed by ECIRPD members with assistance from neighborhood representatives and the health department if needed.

3. **Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds:** ECIRPD does not currently have an Active Assessment Grant after conclusion of the previous assessment grant (BF00E03229) in September 2025.
4. **Contractors and Named Subrecipients:** N/A