

Application Information Sheet

1. Applicant Identification - Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, 9800 Connecticut Drive, Crown Point, IN, 46307
2. Website URL - <https://www.in.gov/rda/>, <https://www.nwitdd.com/>,
<https://www.in.gov/nirpc/>, <http://www.townofpines.net/>, <https://www.in.gov/towns/porter/>
3. Funding Requested
 - a. “assessment coalition”
 - b. Federal Funds Requested \$1,499,876.00
4. Location
 - a. Counties of Lake and Porter, Indiana, Cities of Gary, Hammond, Lake Station, East Chicago, and Portage, Indiana, Towns of Pines, Porter, and Ogden Dunes, Indiana
5. Coalition Member’s Target Areas and Priority Site Information
 - a. Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) – Lead Member
 - i. Target Area: Transit Development Districts (TDDs) and station-area influence zones in Lake and Porter Counties, with emphasis on the Gary Downtown/Metro TDD and Hammond Gateway/Downtown TDD.
 - b. Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) – Non-Lead Member
 - i. Target Area: City of Lake Station, focused on the Central Avenue and Ripley Street commercial and light industrial corridors.
 - c. Town of Porter – Non-Lead Member
 - i. Target Area: Properties within the Town of Porter municipal boundaries along the U.S. 20/Waverly Road corridor.
 - d. Town of Pines – Non-Lead Member
 - i. Target Area: Properties within the Town of Pines municipal boundaries along the U.S. 12/Lake Shore County Road corridor.

Priority Sites by Member and Target Area

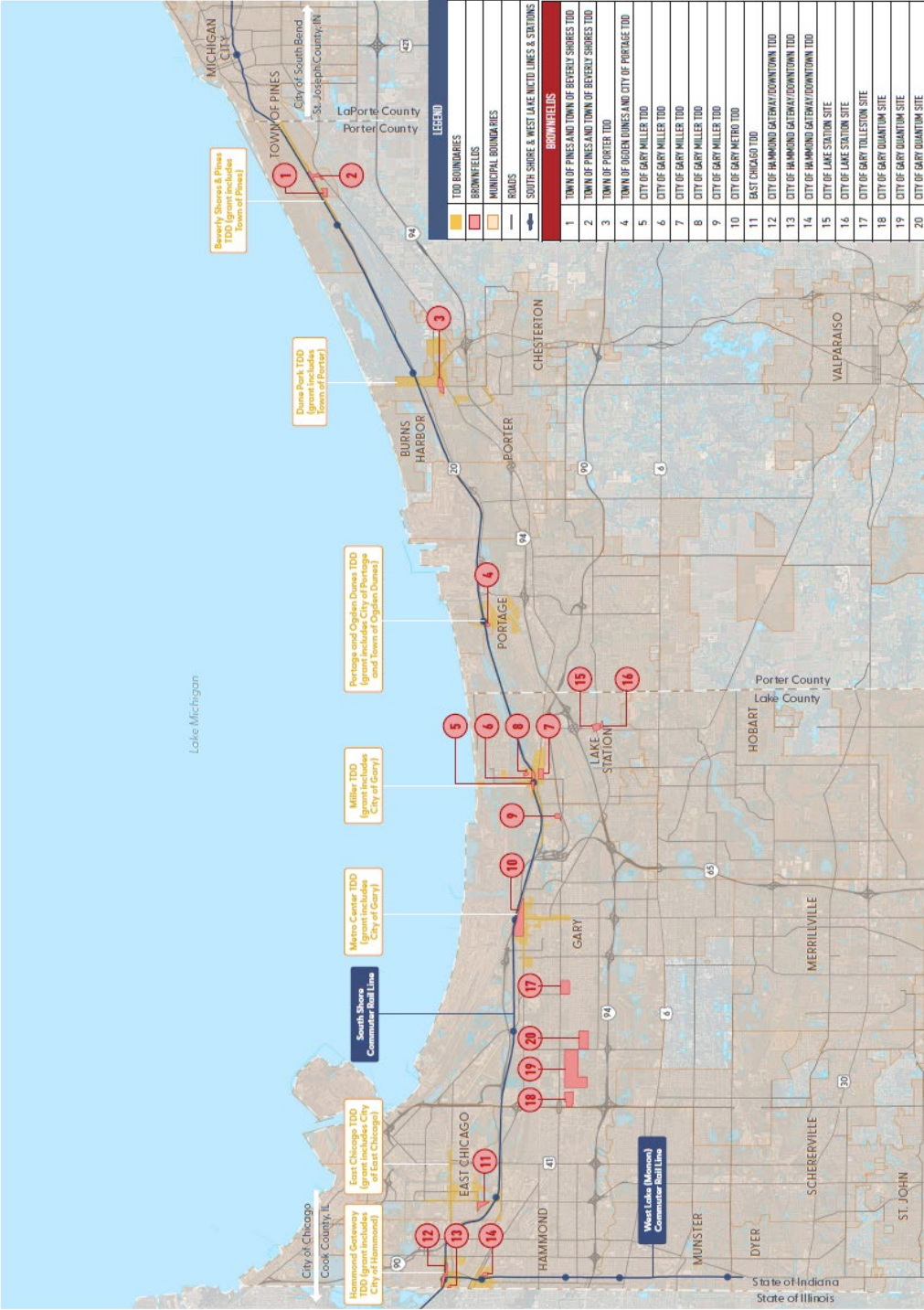
Coalition Member	Target Area	Priority Site Address
RDA (Lead)	Gary Downtown/Metro TDD	Adam Benjamin Jr. Metro Center (South Shore Line Gary Metro Station), 200 4th Avenue, Gary, IN
RDA (Lead)	Gary Downtown/Metro TDD	Former Genesis Convention Center site, 1 Genesis Center Plaza, Gary, IN
RDA (Lead)	Hammond Gateway/Downtown TDD	96, 134, and 232 Gostlin Street; 4351 Hohman Avenue (former station property), Hammond, IN
NIRPC	Lake Station Corridor	2497 Ripley Street, Lake Station, IN
Town of Porter	U.S. 20/Waverly Road Corridor	150 U.S. Highway 20, Porter, IN
Town of Pines	U.S. 12/Lake Shore County Road Corridor	4408 U.S. 12, Pines, IN

6. Contacts

- a. Project Director – Anthony Bytnar, Director of Economic Development, Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, 219-777-6246, abytnar@rda.in.gov, 9800 Connecticut Drive, Crown Point, IN, 46307
- b. Chief Executive – Sherri Ziller, President and CEO, Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, 219-688-2497, sziller@rda.in.gov, 9800 Connecticut Drive, Crown Point, IN, 46307

7. Population

City/Town	Population (2024 est. or latest available)
Gary, IN (RDA target area)	~69,093 (2020 Census)
Hammond, IN (RDA target area)	~77,879 (2020 Census)
Lake Station, IN (NIRPC target area)	~13,033 (2024 estimate)
Porter, IN (Town of Porter target area)	~5,210 (2020 Census)
Pines, IN (Town of Pines target area)	~594 (2020 Census)



NWI RDA - BROWNFIELDS COALITION GRANT COMMUNITIES AND SITES





INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Mike Braun
Governor

Clint Woods
Commissioner

January 27, 2026

Ms. Sherri Ziller, President and CEO
Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority
9800 Connecticut Drive
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Re: IDEM Acknowledgement Letter
U.S. E.P.A. Brownfields Grant Proposal
Coalition Assessment Grant
Northwest Indiana Regional Development
Authority
Lake and Porter Counties

Dear Ms. Ziller:

This letter is provided in support of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (Northwest Indiana RDA) proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for Brownfields Multipurpose Grant funding. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) acknowledges that Northwest Indiana RDA is requesting \$1,500,000 for hazardous substances and/or petroleum assessment and cleanup/redevelopment planning.

IDEM understands that the Northwest Indiana RDA has demonstrated its commitment to redeveloping brownfields by taking advantage of financial and technical assistance offered through the Indiana Brownfields Program (Program) and that Northwest Indiana RDA, 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 the Northwest Indiana RDA 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.

The Northwest Indiana RDA is applying for an EPA Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant to implement a coordinated, region-wide brownfields assessment and redevelopment strategy aligned with the Northwest Indiana Comprehensive Strategic Plan (NCSP) and multiple Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Strategic Implementation Plans. Brownfield conditions across Northwest Indiana have been systematically documented through TOD planning efforts conducted in partnership with the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and local units of government. These studies identified known and suspected brownfield sites, including properties impacted by historic industrial activity, rail operations,

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We appreciate your input!



petroleum uses, underground storage tanks, former dry cleaners, auto-oriented commercial uses, and legacy manufacturing facilities. In many station areas, Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments are recommended prior to redevelopment, and in select locations cleanup planning and remediation will be required to unlock reuse.

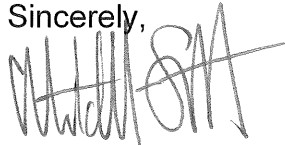
Northwest Indiana contains a high concentration of legacy industrial and transportation-oriented properties that present environmental and financial barriers to redevelopment. Many of these sites are in communities that have experienced long-term disinvestment but are now positioned for growth due to major public investments in commuter rail, infrastructure, and quality-of-place improvements. The NCSP explicitly identifies environmental conditions and brownfield remediation as a prerequisite to economic growth, transit-oriented development, and blight elimination. TOD Strategic Implementation Plans for Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, Dyer, and Munster document brownfield conditions within station areas and recommend environmental assessment and cleanup as necessary steps prior to redevelopment. As part of NCSP implementation, the RDA will narrow a prioritized list of candidate sites and target areas and work in partnership with local units of government to advance those sites through assessment, cleanup planning, and reuse. Anticipated end uses include mixed-use development, employment centers, housing near transit, and community-serving uses consistent with adopted local and regional plans.

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

IDEM has worked with Northwest Indiana RDA on several projects within the Gary TDD and recognizes that Northwest Indiana RDA 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 Porter and Lake Counties by providing technical and other assistance through the Program.

IDEM considers the Northwest Indiana RDA 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 Northwest Indiana RDA 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)*

Anthony Bytnar, RDA
Aaron Kowalski, RDA
AJ Kubin, RDA
Kathy Luther, NIRPC
John Morris, Indiana Brownfields Program

FY 2026 EPA Brownfields Coalition Grant - Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA)

1. Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization

1.a. Coalition Members

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) proposes a Coalition Assessment Grant to advance coordinated brownfields assessment, planning, and redevelopment readiness across Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana. Target communities are located within or adjacent to existing and planned Transit Development Districts (TDDs)—state-authorized districts under RDA oversight that reinvest local revenues in transit-oriented and community-supported development. Through pre-application screening, the RDA, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), and partners identified approximately 20 potential brownfield sites across seven communities, most within established TDDs, demonstrating readiness to proceed.

Established under Indiana Code 36-7.5, the RDA administers TDDs and serves as fiduciary for state and federal funds, with authority to finance and deliver major transportation and redevelopment projects. Coalition partners include NIRPC, a council of governments authorized under Indiana Code 36-7-7.6, and the Towns of Pines and Porter, general-purpose local governments eligible under Indiana Code 36-1-2-23. However, these entities lack the staff and financial capacity to independently manage a grant—Pines and Porter operate with minimal personnel, and NIRPC’s revenues are largely committed to existing federal grants and required match. Without the Coalition structure and RDA’s lead administration, these communities would not have the resources to assess and plan for redevelopment of contaminated sites.

1.b. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas

The proposed grant boundary includes Lake and Porter Counties, encompassing the lead member (RDA) and non-lead partners—the Towns of Pines and Porter and NIRPC’s regional planning area. The Coalition has identified priority sites within Transit Development Districts (TDDs) and key redevelopment corridors, including Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, Portage, Beverly Shores/Pines, and Lake Station, where historic industrial uses, aging infrastructure, and potentially contaminated properties constrain reinvestment.

These communities reflect a legacy of heavy industry that continues to affect economic and environmental health. Lake County’s poverty rate exceeds 14 percent, with child poverty at 20 percent (Stats Indiana), and more than 75,000 Lake County and 30,000 Porter County residents live with asthma or chronic respiratory disease (Indiana Department of Health). Despite significant recent rail and infrastructure investments, brownfields remain a primary barrier due to environmental uncertainty, fragmented ownership, and limited local capacity. Through this grant, the RDA and partners will inventory, prioritize, and assess sites to advance cleanup, prepare properties for reuse, attract investment, and strengthen local capacity.

1.c. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites

For purposes of this Coalition Assessment Grant, the target areas are defined as follows:

- **Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) – Lead Applicant:**
The RDA’s target area includes eligible brownfield sites within Transit Development Districts (TDDs) and associated station-area influence zones in Lake and Porter Counties, consistent with the RDA’s statutory authority and regional role. The RDA’s activities will focus on regionally significant sites that support transit-oriented development, infrastructure reinvestment, and coordinated economic development outcomes.

- Eligible brownfield sites are concentrated in the City of Gary, primarily within the Downtown/Metro Transit Development District (TDD), generally bounded by 5th Avenue, the South Shore rail corridor and 3rd Avenue, US-12/20, and Van Buren Street. State data (IndianaMap.org), supplemented by prior RDA work, identify multiple known or suspected concerns, including 3 underground storage tanks, 1 leaking tank, 2 state cleanup sites, and 4 active brownfields.

Despite environmental constraints, the district contains major public assets, including publicly controlled parcels, the active South Shore Line station, and the GPTC bus terminal. The RDA is investing \$27 million in blight elimination and site preparation and has secured \$75 million in state funds for a new Gary Metro Center station, positioning the area for near-term redevelopment. Environmental assessment and cleanup planning remain critical to reduce risk, attract private investment, and advance transit-oriented redevelopment, making this transit-served downtown a high priority for grant activities.

Two priority sites for environmental assessment and cleanup planning include the Adam Benjamin JR Metro Center (South Shore Line Gary Metro Station) at 200 4th Avenue and the former Genesis Convention Center site at 1 Genesis Ctr Plaza, both owned by the City of Gary (US Census Tract 0102.05). These locations are situated within the Downtown/Metro TDD and represent high-impact opportunities for brownfield remediation and transit-oriented revitalization due to their proximity to major transit infrastructure and concentrated redevelopment investment.

- Eligible brownfield sites are concentrated in the City of Hammond, primarily within the Gateway/Downtown TDD, generally bounded by Gostlin Street, the CSX rail corridor, Hohman Avenue, and the Illinois State Line. State data (IndianaMap.org), supplemented by prior RDA work, identify multiple known or suspected concerns, including 4 underground storage tanks, 1 leaking tank, 2 state cleanup sites, 1 auto salvage site, and 3 active brownfields. Despite environmental constraints, the district includes vacant and publicly controlled parcels adjacent to the newly opened Hammond Gateway Station—the primary South Shore Line and West Lake commuter rail hub near Chicago. The City is advancing transit-oriented development, including potential FTA Joint Development with NICTD, but environmental assessment and cleanup planning are needed to reduce risk and unlock reinvestment. The concentration of brownfields in this transit-served area makes it a high priority for grant-funded assessment and redevelopment.

The sites for environmental assessment and cleanup planning include vacant land owned by the City of Hammond at 96, 134, and 232 Gostlin Street and adjacent

excess property owned by NICTD including the former Hohman Station at 4351 Hohman Avenue (US Census Tract 0204.00). These locations are situated within the Hammond Gateway TDD and represent high-impact opportunities for brownfield remediation and transit-oriented revitalization due to their proximity to major transit infrastructure and concentrated redevelopment investment.

- **Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) – Non-Lead Coalition Member:**

NIRPC's target area includes eligible brownfield sites in the City of Lake Station, focused on the Central Avenue and Ripley Street commercial corridors. State data (IndianaMap.org) identify multiple concerns within one mile, including 4 leaking underground storage tanks, 5 dry cleaners, 6 active brownfields, and 2 auto salvage yards. Redevelopment is further constrained by vacant and underutilized properties and nearby floodplains along the Little Calumet River and Deep River.

The priority site for this Target Area is 2497 Ripley Street (US Census Tract 0418.00), with light industrial facilities located in Zone AE Floodplain. This site is a priority because of the current risk of contaminating the Deep River during floods and its potential to increase resiliency if redeveloped appropriately.

- **Town of Porter: Non-Lead Coalition Member:**

Porter's target area includes brownfield sites where environmental uncertainty and limited local capacity hinder redevelopment. The Town is prioritizing a former amusement/water park near Waverly Road and U.S. 20; state data (IndianaMap.org) and limited environmental records indicate potential conditions that may deter investment. Grant-funded assessments will reduce risk and prepare the site for productive reuse.

The priority site for this Target Area is 150 U.S. Highway 20 (US Census Tract 0503.02). This site was formerly operated as a water park and amusement park for decades. Potential contaminants from this use requiring assessment could include disinfectant chemicals such as chlorine, potential underground tanks, petroleum leaks from pumps or generators, and pesticides from landscaping activities.

- **Town of Pines: Non-Lead Coalition Member:**

The Town of Pines' target area includes eligible brownfield sites within its corporate limits, where limited municipal capacity and no prior EPA Brownfields funding constrain redevelopment. State data (IndianaMap.org) identify potential environmental concerns that the Town lacks the resources to address.

As a non-lead member, the Town is prioritizing redevelopment of a former corporate office and trucking site along Lake Shore County Road (U.S. 12). Nearby leaking underground storage tanks, historic trucking uses, limited sewer infrastructure, and proximity to the closed Yard 520 Landfill and the Town of Pines Superfund groundwater plume create environmental uncertainty and redevelopment risk.

The Town of Pines' priority target area includes the 4408 U.S.12 (US Census Tract 0501.07). Redevelopment of this site and adjacent underutilized properties is key to

extending stormwater and sanitary sewer service to this lakefront community and unlocking reinvestment along the U.S. 12 corridor. Adjacent to Indiana Dunes National Park, the area serves as a gateway for residents and visitors. Environmental assessment and cleanup planning will enable replacement of failing septic systems, reduce groundwater and nearshore contamination risks, improve water quality, and support resilient, transit- and trail-oriented redevelopment.

These target areas are distinct and nonoverlapping, and assessment activities will be conducted in coordination with participating local governments to ensure compliance with EPA eligibility requirements and alignment with adopted local and regional revitalization plans. No site will be assessed under more than one Coalition member's target area.

1.d. Identifying Additional Sites

The Coalition will identify and prioritize additional sites through a transparent, documented process successfully applied under prior Northwest Indiana Brownfields Coalition grants. Sites will be evaluated based on redevelopment readiness, public and environmental benefit, economic impact, leverage potential, community need, and alignment with target areas, with priority given to properties within or adjacent to Transit Development Districts (TDDs) where assessment and cleanup can most effectively support transit-oriented and catalytic redevelopment.

The RDA has also developed an implementation-ready inventory of underutilized and potentially contaminated sites through FTA-funded Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Strategic Implementation Plans, enabling the Coalition to initiate assessments quickly where environmental due diligence will directly advance planned investment. Additional nominations may come from local governments, property owners, and stakeholders, with final selections approved by the Steering Committee to ensure alignment with EPA goals and equitable distribution of resources.

2. Revitalization of the Target Areas

2.a. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

Gary (Downtown/Metro TDD): Prepare priority brownfield sites for transit-oriented, mixed-use redevelopment consistent with City and RDA TOD plans, reducing environmental risk and positioning City-owned station-area properties for housing, employment, and commercial uses that leverage existing transit and infrastructure.

Hammond (Gateway/Downtown TDD): Assess and prepare sites adjacent to the new Hammond Gateway Station for mixed-use TOD, reducing environmental uncertainty and advancing redevelopment of City- and NICTD-owned properties consistent with adopted TOD plans and potential FTA Joint Development.

Lake Station (Central Ave/Ripley St): Assess and prepare corridor brownfields for commercial and light industrial reuse, reducing risk and repositioning underutilized and flood-prone properties, including 2497 Ripley Street, for employment-focused redevelopment.

Town of Porter: Prepare sites including the former amusement/water park property at 150 U.S. 20 for housing and neighborhood-serving commercial redevelopment, addressing environmental uncertainty that has hindered reinvestment.

Town of Pines: Assess the former corporate and trucking site at 4408 U.S. 12 for commercial and community-serving reuse, supporting infrastructure extensions and positioning the property to anchor corridor reinvestment and grow the tax base.

2.b. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

Gary (Downtown/Metro TDD): Cleanup and redevelopment will attract private investment, expand the tax base, and support an estimated 2,500 residents, 1,300 housing units, 450 families, and 280 jobs. Transit-focused growth promotes walkability, reduces vehicle trips and greenfield development, and strengthens resilience through modern infrastructure and improved stormwater management.

Hammond (TDD): Redevelopment will support approximately 3,500 residents, 2,000 housing units, 650 families, and 435 jobs while expanding the tax base. Concentrating growth near transit enhances walkability, reduces trips, and improves resilience through upgraded infrastructure and stormwater systems.

Lake Station: Cleanup will return vacant sites to productive use, create jobs, and strengthen the local employment base while reducing flood-related contamination risks to the Deep River and incorporating resilient infrastructure that protects public health.

Porter: Redevelopment will restore vacant land, strengthen the tax base and service economy, and support workforce housing and businesses near Indiana Dunes National Park. Assessment and remediation will address soil and groundwater risks to enable safe, resilient reuse.

Pines: Cleanup will attract investment and support commercial and community-serving uses along the U.S. 12 corridor, reducing environmental uncertainty, enabling utility extensions, and improving stormwater and water quality protections for adjacent Indiana Dunes National Park watersheds, while catalyzing redevelopment and growing the tax base.

2.c. Resources Needed for Site Use

The Coalition can leverage significant public and private resources to advance cleanup and reuse. The RDA is pursuing EPA cleanup funds, CDBG and State Revolving Fund utility financing, FTA station investments, and state and philanthropic support, while its Land Development Entity assembles and packages sites for redevelopment. EPA assessments will reduce uncertainty, ready sites for investment, and accelerate reuse across the target areas.

2.e. Use of Existing Infrastructure

This grant will prepare priority brownfield sites for reuse in areas served by the modernized South Shore Line, existing roads and utilities, the Marquette Greenway, and expanding broadband and quantum corridor investments. Cleanup planning, paired with targeted sewer, stormwater, and site upgrades funded through FTA, state, and other sources, will leverage these assets to maximize prior investments and accelerate redevelopment.

3. Community Need and Community Engagement

Together, these communities represent the highest concentration of brownfield need in Northwest Indiana and lack the fiscal and technical capacity to address environmental risks

without EPA assistance. The target areas contain numerous legacy industrial and transportation-related sites, aging infrastructure, and underutilized land.

3.a. The Community's Need for Funding

Coalition members lack the fiscal and technical capacity to independently conduct environmental assessments or cleanup planning despite significant legacy contamination. Pines (<1,000 residents), Porter (~5,000), and Ogden Dunes (~1,200) are small, resource-constrained towns with minimal staff and tax bases; they serve areas near Indiana Dunes National Park and contain brownfields near sensitive natural resources and housing, with Pines also adjacent to an active EPA Superfund site. Lake Station (~14,000) has underutilized commercial and industrial corridors and below-average incomes but lacks funding for assessments. Gary, East Chicago, Hammond, and Portage are legacy industrial cities with extensive vacant, rail-served brownfields, aging infrastructure, and environmental needs that exceed local capacity. Many communities face nearby contamination, impaired waterways, flood risk, and major transportation corridors, compounding public health and reinvestment challenges. None have previously received direct EPA Brownfields or MARC funding; without Coalition support, they cannot prepare sites for reuse. This grant provides the technical assistance and resources needed to reduce risk and enable equitable redevelopment.

3.b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

Across the Coalition's target areas, sensitive populations—including children, seniors, low-income households, and renters—live near former industrial sites, rail corridors, contaminated properties, and impaired waterways, with many neighborhoods bordering legacy manufacturing and heavy transportation infrastructure. Communities such as Pines are near an active EPA Superfund site, towns near Indiana Dunes National Park face brownfields adjacent to sensitive natural resources and housing, and Gary—one of the region's most economically distressed legacy industrial cities—has large residential areas next to vacant industrial land, compounding exposure risks. Grant-funded assessments will identify contamination and exposure pathways and support cleanup planning to remove or contain hazards, upgrade stormwater and wastewater systems, and prepare sites for safe reuse, enabling redevelopment that improves neighborhood conditions and creates healthier, safer environments for residents.

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

Residents in the Coalition's target areas face elevated respiratory and environmental health risks due to proximity to legacy industrial sites, leaking underground storage tanks, rail corridors, heavy truck traffic, and impaired waterways, with contaminated soils and groundwater near homes, schools, and community facilities increasing exposure to hazardous substances. This grant will address these threats through Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments to characterize contamination, identify exposure pathways, and prioritize cleanup, followed by remediation and reuse strategies that remove or contain hazards, address petroleum and groundwater impacts, modernize stormwater and wastewater infrastructure, and return sites to safe, productive use—reducing health risks and supporting safer, healthier neighborhoods.

3.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations

Across the Coalition's target areas, many residents live in lower-income communities with limited tax bases and a disproportionate concentration of legacy industrial and transportation-related contamination, where vacant and underutilized brownfields often sit near homes and neighborhoods and smaller towns lack the resources to address environmental risks or attract reinvestment. This grant will fund assessments and cleanup planning to reduce environmental uncertainty and prepare sites for safe reuse, enabling private investment, new jobs and housing, and expanded tax bases while directing resources to the communities with the least capacity and greatest burden to ensure equitable, long-term economic and environmental stability.

4. Community Engagement

4.a. Project Involvement

Community engagement will be coordinated by the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) in partnership with NIRPC, participating municipalities, property owners, businesses, and residents. The RDA's full-time Communications Director will lead outreach, public notices, and information sharing to ensure consistent, accessible engagement. Existing regional structures, including the RDA's Transit Development District (TDD) Steering Committee, provide ongoing representation from Lake and Porter Counties and serve as a standing forum for coordination and public input, alongside local officials, municipal staff, community organizations, and redevelopment partners.

4.b Project Roles

The RDA, as lead applicant, will direct the overall engagement strategy, facilitate meetings, manage communications, and ensure transparency through its full-time Communications Director. NIRPC will provide regional coordination, technical support, and connections to local governments, while participating municipalities will identify priority sites, engage residents and property owners, and help guide site selection, assessment, cleanup planning, and reuse decisions. The Transit Development District (TDD) Steering Committee will serve as an ongoing advisory body to review progress and align priorities across communities, with residents, property owners, businesses, and developers contributing local knowledge to shape redevelopment outcomes. Further input will be sought from a stakeholder list that has been developed for the purposes of this grant. Additional stakeholders will include public, private, and community organizations with a wide cross section.

4.c Incorporating Community Input

The Coalition will communicate progress and solicit input at key milestones, including site prioritization, assessment results, and cleanup and reuse planning. Engagement will include public meetings, workshops, stakeholder and property owner coordination, updates through the RDA's TDD Steering Committee, and members serving as liaisons to their communities to support ongoing local input. Project information will be shared on NWITDD.com with email notices and virtual options to ensure broad access, and community feedback will be documented and used to guide site selection, cleanup priorities, and reuse decisions.

5. Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress

Additional cost estimate information can be found on page 12 at the end of this grant submission in attachment A.

5.a. Program Management and Grant Administration

- **Project Implementation**
 - The RDA will serve as EPA grantee and fiduciary and will manage overall grant administration, including procurement of a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP), financial management, eligibility determinations, compliance, ACRES reporting, and coordination with EPA, IDEM, and the Indiana Brownfields Program. The RDA will oversee execution of the approved workplan, manage consultant and subrecipient performance, and ensure adherence to all federal procurement, reporting, and audit requirements.
 - This work will be supported by the RDA's established grant management systems and staff experienced in administering complex, multi-year federal and state infrastructure and redevelopment funding. NIRPC will provide regional coordination, technical assistance, and support to participating municipalities, including eligibility documentation and alignment with regional planning efforts.
- **Schedule** - Ongoing throughout the period of performance.
- **Task Lead** - RDA (Lead); NIRPC (Support)
- **Outputs** - Quarterly and annual EPA reports, ACRES entries and updates, Consultant procurements and contracts, Ongoing interagency coordination
- **Cost Estimate** - Administrative costs – The RDA is providing administration at no cost to the grant. Personnel and contractual costs include \$60,000 for QEP support for coalition meetings, as well as a sub grant to NIRPC to support coalition coordination activities, and eligibility determinations.

5.b. Community-Wide Inventory, Engagement, Planning, and Site Prioritization

- **Project Implementation** - The Coalition will maintain and update a regional brownfield inventory and apply a standardized prioritization framework to identify and advance candidate sites within participating communities, with emphasis on Lake Station, Porter, and Pines. Municipal input and prior planning efforts will guide selection of sites with the greatest community and redevelopment benefit. Eligible planning activities will be conducted where needed to enhance readiness and inform future reuse. Community engagement will occur concurrently to ensure local priorities shape site selection and planning outcomes. The RDA will integrate prioritization with its land assembly, financing, and redevelopment tools to position sites for future cleanup funding, RLF investment, infrastructure support, or private redevelopment. NIRPC will assist with inventory maintenance, data consistency, and coordination with local partners.

- **Schedule** - Initial inventory and prioritization in Year 1; updates and engagement throughout Years 2–4.
- **Task Lead** - RDA (Lead); NIRPC (Support)
- **Outputs** - Updated regional inventory, Prioritized site list, Community and stakeholder meetings, Planning memos/reuse concepts
- **Cost Estimate** - Personnel, planning, and engagement support - Task 2 costs support community involvement and planning activities, including coordination with local elected officials and city staff, integration of regional brownfield inventories, and engagement support provided by NIRPC personnel. This task also includes QEP and planning consultant support for two target areas, as well as 4 sub-area inventories as part of the community involvement and planning process.

5.c. Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments

- **Project Implementation** - The QEP will conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments consistent with ASTM standards and EPA All Appropriate Inquiries requirements. Assessments will characterize contamination, reduce environmental uncertainty, and support redevelopment feasibility. Eligible activities may include sampling and asbestos or lead-based paint surveys as warranted. Assessment findings will inform cleanup planning, liability management, financing strategies, and developer due diligence. The RDA will oversee consultant performance and ensure results are integrated into broader redevelopment and infrastructure planning efforts.
- **Schedule** - Years 1–3, based on prioritized sites.
- **Task Lead** - QEP (Technical); RDA (Oversight)
- **Outputs** - Approximately 26 Phase I ESAs, Approximately 17 Phase II ESAs, Site assessment reports and data
- **Cost Estimate** - Contractual assessment services and sampling– Costs support environmental assessment and sampling activities. This cost includes 26 Phase 1 ESAs (~\$3,500 each), 17 Phase II ESAs and 6 surveys specifically assessing asbestos-containing materials. Based on past grants, Phase II ESAs range from ~\$25k to \$75k based on complexity.

5.d. Cleanup Planning and Reuse Planning

- **Project Implementation** - Cleanup plans will be prepared for assessed sites to position them for future cleanup funding, Revolving Loan Fund investment, or private redevelopment. Activities may include Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCAs), remedial action plans, soil or materials management strategies, and coordination with state brownfield and voluntary remediation programs. Cleanup strategies will be integrated with reuse concepts to align environmental actions and end uses, infrastructure capacity, and market conditions. This integrated approach ensures plans are implementable and financeable rather than stand-alone studies.

- **Schedule** - Years 2–4.
- **Task Lead** - QEP (Technical); RDA (Planning/Coordination)
- **Outputs**- Up to 9 cleanup plans/ABCAs, Reuse concepts, Site readiness documentation

Cost Estimate - Contractual planning and technical services – Cost includes 9 cleanup planning assessments. Associated tasks include regulatory coordination, preparation of ABCA documentation, and development of asbestos bid specifications.

5.e. Measuring Progress

- Progress will be measured using EPA-required outputs and outcomes, including:
 - Number of sites inventoried and prioritized through the Coalition’s regional screening and prioritization framework;
 - Approximately 26 Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) completed in accordance with ASTM and EPA All Appropriate Inquiries requirements;
 - Approximately 17 Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) completed to evaluate the presence and extent of contamination;
 - Up to 9 cleanup plans prepared to position assessed sites for future cleanup funding, Revolving Loan Fund investment, or redevelopment;
 - Acres advanced toward reuse through completed assessment and cleanup planning activities; and
 - Increased local government capacity to manage brownfield redevelopment, particularly in non-lead Coalition communities with limited staffing and prior access to EPA Brownfields resources.

6. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

6.a. Organizational Capacity

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) is a quasi-governmental entity with more than 20 years of experience – recently the RDA has administered approximately \$1.6 billion in FTA-funded commuter rail projects, including the South Shore Line Double Track and West Lake Corridor, overseeing compliance, reporting, and audits, and manages significant state and philanthropic funding for blight elimination and station-area redevelopment.

Since 2014, the RDA has managed multiple EPA Brownfields grants, including a \$600,000 Assessment Grant, an \$800,000 Revolving Loan Fund, and a \$600,000 Coalition Assessment Grant, completing assessments and cleanup planning at 27 sites and cleanups at roughly 30 locations. All grants were successfully administered and remain in good standing with EPA.

6.b. Organizational Structure

The RDA will serve as lead grantee and fiduciary, responsible for program management, compliance, procurement, and reporting. NIRPC will provide regional coordination, technical

assistance, and support to participating municipalities. Coalition partners will help guide site selection, cleanup planning, and reuse priorities.

6.c. Description of Key Staff

The RDA maintains dedicated in-house capacity, including a full-time Economic Development Director, Communications Director, and Controller/Grant Administrator, supported by long-term consultant staff functioning as extensions of the organization with expertise in economic development, land use and redevelopment planning, legal counsel, brownfields analysis, and fiscal/return-on-investment strategy.

Additional support includes:

- NIRPC planning staff: regional coordination and technical assistance
- Qualified Environmental Professional (contracted): environmental assessments and cleanup planning

Together, this team provides the administrative, financial, technical, and community engagement expertise necessary to successfully deliver the grant.

6.d. Acquiring Additional Resources

The RDA follows federal procurement procedures to competitively select contractors and subrecipients. The agency also maintains an active EPA Revolving Loan Fund and Land Development Entity capitalized to move assessed sites into cleanup and redevelopment.

7. Past Performance and Accomplishments

- Northwestern Indiana Brownfields Coalition – Assessment Grant (\$600,000) - Approximately 27 sites assessed and cleanup plans prepared, All outputs recorded in ACRES, All deliverables completed on schedule and funds fully expended
- Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant (\$800,000) - Cleanup actions supported at approximately 30 sites, Funds committed and managed in compliance with EPA requirements, Reporting and financial oversight current and acceptable to EPA
- Coalition Assessment Grant (2019 – \$600,000; NIRPC fiscal agent, RDA project manager)- Additional Phase I/II assessments, cleanup planning, and community engagement completed, Quarterly reports and ACRES entries submitted timely

Across all grants, the RDA has maintained timely reporting, met workplan commitments, complied with federal procurement and financial requirements, and successfully translated assessment funding into cleanup and redevelopment outcomes.

Attachment A. Cost Estimates

Budget Categories		Project Tasks (\$)				Totals
		Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	
		Programmatic	Community Involvement, Inventory, and Area Planning Activities	Phase I and Phase II Assessment	Clean Up Planning	
Direct Costs	Personnel					-
	Fringe Benefits					-
	Travel					-
	Equipment					-
	Supplies					-
	Contractual - QPE	60,000	48,000	923,000	108,000	1,139,000
	Contractual - Planning		150,000			150,000
	Construction					-
	Other - SubGrant to NIRPC	64,653	146,223			210,876
Total Direct Costs		124,653	344,223	923,000	108,000	1,499,876
Indirect		-	-	-	-	-
Total Budget (Total Direct Costs + Indirect Costs)		124,653	344,223	923,000	108,000	1,499,876

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Threshold Criteria Attachments - page 1

- Eligibility statements (RDA/NIRPC/Pines/Porter)
- Coalition letters or MOA
- Target area statements
- Community involvement description (your memo)
- Lobbying disclosures/certifications
- Contractor/sub-recipient disclosures
- Any required statutory documentation (RDA and NIRPC Statutes)
- Non-Lead member that never received a MARC Grant
- Expenditure of existing grants

Mapping - page 1

IDEM Letter - page 1

Threshold Criteria

Eligibility of Lead and Non-Lead Coalition Members

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA), as the lead applicant, is a statutorily created development authority and separate corporate body established by the State of Indiana under Indiana Code 36-7.5. As a government entity created by the State Legislature, the RDA is authorized to undertake regional economic development, infrastructure, and redevelopment initiatives; establish and administer Transit Development Districts; and receive, manage, and expend state and federal grant funds as fiduciary and fiscal manager for public investments. The RDA has explicit statutory authority to receive and administer grant funding on behalf of participating jurisdictions, including the non-lead Coalition members, and to finance and deliver major transportation and redevelopment projects pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7.5 and Indiana Code 36-7.5-4.7. Accordingly, the RDA qualifies as an eligible government entity created by State legislature under EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant requirements.

Documentation of statutory authority (Indiana Code 36-7.5 and related provisions) is provided as evidence of eligibility.

The Coalition's non-lead members include the Town of Pines and the Town of Porter, each of which is a general-purpose unit of local government under Indiana law and therefore eligible for funding. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is a regional council of governments established under Indiana Code 36-7-7.6 and qualifies as an eligible council of governments. As cities/towns and a council of governments, these entities meet EPA eligibility criteria for Brownfields Assessment Grants.

Coalition Letters

See the following pages for letters from:

- NWI RDA– non-lead applicant
- NIRPC– non-lead applicant
- Town of Pines – non-lead applicant
- Town of Porter – non-lead applicant



December 22, 2025

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Land Quality – Brownfields Program
Attn: Indiana Brownfields and IDEM Staff

RE: Request for State Acknowledgement Letter – EPA FY 2026 Brownfields Coalition Grant Application

Dear Indiana Brownfields Program Team,

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (“RDA”) respectfully requests an acknowledgement letter from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Brownfields Program confirming the State’s awareness of, and coordination with, the RDA’s intent to submit an application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the **FY 2026 Brownfields Coalition Grant** program.

The RDA intends to submit its application on or before **January 28, 2026**, and is requesting IDEM’s acknowledgement to satisfy EPA’s threshold eligibility requirements.

The proposed grant application will support brownfields assessment, planning, and cleanup-readiness activities across Northwest Indiana, with an emphasis on advancing priority sites through the RDA’s Land Development Entity (LDE). The LDE was established to focus on catalytic redevelopment and land stewardship activities, including brownfield identification, environmental due diligence, and coordination of cleanup and reuse strategies that support equitable redevelopment and regional economic development objectives.

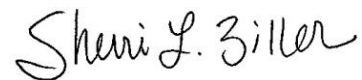
This will leverage work done by the RDA over the past 20 years on lakefront projects, work being done in Gary as part of special legislation tackling blight elimination, as well as emerging work in the Transit Development Districts established by the RDA.

Proposed activities may include community-wide site inventory and prioritization, Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, cleanup planning, community engagement, and

related pre-development activities consistent with eligible uses under the grant program.

We've also attached the completed form you've requested. We appreciate IDEM's continued coordination and partnership in supporting brownfields revitalization efforts throughout Northwest Indiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherri L. Ziller".

Sherri Ziller
President and CEO
Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority



6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368
(219) 763-6060
www.nirpc.org

January 28, 2026

Ms. Sherri Ziller
President and CEO
Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority
9800 Connecticut Dr
Crown Point, IN 46307

Dear Ms. Ziller:

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) acknowledges membership in the 2026 NWI Brownfield Coalition (NWIBC) Assessment Grant led by the Regional Development Authority (RDA). NIRPC supports the RDA as the lead coalition member and grant recipient/administrator. If selected for funding, NIRPC commits to entering into a Coalition Memorandum of Agreement as a non-lead member and sub-granted partner.


NIRPC is the Regional Council of Governments, Economic Development District, and Metropolitan Planning Organization for Lake, Porter, and La Porte Counties in Indiana. NIRPC is a special purpose district of government established in Indiana Law under Indiana Code 36-7-7.6. It is not an organization exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the IRC and does not lobby the federal government.

NIRPC is not an agency or instrumentality of the RDA. We have been the recipient of a FY 2019 Brownfield Coalition Assessment grant. At the current time NIRPC does not have the capacity to prepare and submit an application and remain in compliance with 31 U.S.C. 1352. Over 99% of NIRPC's non-federal funds in CY2026 are committed as match for federal grants, inhibiting the ability of NIRPC staff to prepare and submit a new grant application.

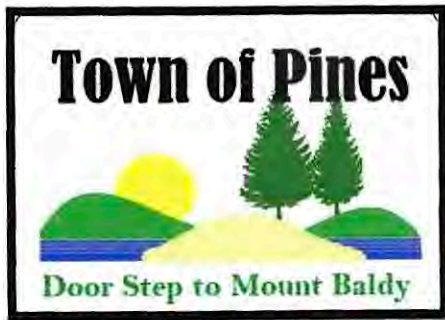
As a non-lead coalition member, NIRPC's Target Area are the commercial corridors and business districts surrounding Central Ave and Ripley Street in the City of Lake Station.

NIRPC's role as a sub-granted partner in the coalition will be to provide technical expertise, assist with eligibility screening and documentation, support stakeholder engagement, to perform GIS mapping and create integrated GIS inventory tools, and to leverage funding opportunities generated by Northwest Indiana's regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Attached to this letter please find a copy of our state enabling legislation. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Luther, Director of Environmental Programs at kluther@nirpc.org or 219.765.4403.



Ty Warner AICP
Executive Director



January 22, 2026

Sherri Ziller,
President & CEO
Northwestern Indiana Regional Development Authority
9800 Connecticut Drive
Crown Point, In 46307

Re: 2026 Brownfields Coalition Grant

The *Town of Pines* acknowledges membership in the 2026 NWI Brownfield Coalition (NWIBC) lead by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Development Authority (NWI RDA). *Pines* supports NWI RDA in their role as the lead coalition member and grant recipient/administrator. *Pines* is eligible as a general-purpose unity of local government in Indiana.

The Town of Pines is organized under Indiana Code Title 36, Article 4 Section as a general-purpose unit of local government. *Pines* is not an agency or instrumentality of NWI RDA. We have not been the recipient of Brownfields grants in the past, however at the current time *jurisdiction* does not have the capacity or staff to apply for or manage an EPA Cooperative agreement. If the NWI RDA Assessment Coalition is selected for funding, *jurisdiction* is committed to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with NWI RDA prior to the grant agreement being executed.

The NWIBC has been formed for the purpose of seeking and managing federal brownfield assistance to support cities with low-income, disadvantaged communities surrounding the Transportation Development Districts (TDDs) in Lake and Porter County, IN. This Coalition's focus is on positioning brownfield sites in the targeted areas favorably for redevelopment in relation to several regional scale infrastructure investments in fixed rail transit expansion, transit-oriented development, quantum computing infrastructure and a regional connecting multi-use trail that follows this Corridor. Brownfield redevelopment continues to be identified by elected leaders and diverse stakeholder groups as the key to equitable economic diversification, growth, and resiliency in our region.

Our organization's role in the coalition is to participate in coalition coordination meetings, to obtain site access agreements for priority sites prior to assessment, and to support coalition efforts to engage residents and businesses in our community in outreach or brownfield educational activities.

If you have any questions about *jurisdiction*'s coalition participation and target areas, please contact Town Council President

James Prast

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Prast", is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.



Town Council

January 27, 2026

Sherri Ziller, President & CEO
Northwestern Indiana Regional Development Authority
9800 Connecticut Drive
Crown Point, In 46307

Re: 2026 Brownfields Coalition Grant

The Town of Porter ("Town" or "Porter"), by and through its undersigned representatives, acknowledges membership in the 2026 NWI Brownfield Coalition (NWIBC) lead by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Development Authority (NWI RDA). Porter supports NWI RDA in their role as the lead coalition member and grant recipient/administrator. Porter is eligible for the grant given its status as a general-purpose unit of local government in Indiana.

The Town is organized under Indiana Code Title 36, Article 4 Section as a general-purpose unit of local government and is not an agency or instrumentality of NWI RDA. The Town has not been the recipient of Brownfields grants in the past; however, at the current time jurisdiction does not have the capacity or staff to apply for or manage an EPA Cooperative agreement. If the NWI RDA Assessment Coalition is selected for funding, the Town is committed to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with NWI RDA prior to the grant agreement being executed.

The NWIBC has been formed for the purpose of seeking and managing federal brownfield assistance to support cities with low-income, disadvantaged communities surrounding the Transportation Development Districts (TDDs) in Lake and Porter County, IN. This Coalition's focus is on positioning brownfield sites in the targeted areas favorably for redevelopment in relation to several regional scale infrastructure investments in fixed rail transit expansion, transit-oriented development, quantum computing infrastructure and a regional connecting multi-use trail that follows this Corridor. Brownfield redevelopment continues to be identified by elected leaders and diverse stakeholder groups as the key to equitable economic diversification, growth, and resiliency in our region.

The Town's role in the coalition is to participate in coalition coordination meetings, to obtain site access agreements for priority sites prior to assessment, and to support coalition efforts to engage residents and businesses in our community in outreach or brownfield educational activities.

If you have any questions about Porter's coalition participation and target areas, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

William Lopez
President, Porter Town Council

Russ Erwin
President, Porter Redevelopment Commission

Target Areas Statement

Lead – RDA

The RDA's target area includes eligible brownfield sites within Transit Development Districts (TDDs) in Lake and Porter Counties, with an emphasis on the Gary Downtown/Metro TDD and Hammond Gateway TDD station areas.

Non-Lead – NIRPC

NIRPC's target area is the City of Lake Station, focused on the Central Avenue and Ripley Street commercial and industrial corridors.

Non-Lead – Town of Porter

The Town of Porter's target area includes properties within municipal boundaries near the U.S. 20/Waverly Road corridor, including the former amusement/water park site at 150 U.S. 20.

Non-Lead – Town of Pines

The Town of Pines' target area includes properties within the municipal boundaries along the U.S. 12/Lake Shore County Road corridor, including the former corporate and trucking site at 4408 U.S. 12.

Description of Community Involvement

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA), as lead applicant, will implement a transparent and inclusive community involvement process to inform and engage residents, local governments, property owners, and stakeholders throughout all brownfield inventory, assessment, cleanup planning, and reuse activities conducted under this Coalition Assessment Grant. The Coalition includes the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and the Towns of Porter and Pines as non-lead partners. Engagement will be coordinated regionally while tailored to these smaller communities, which have limited staff capacity and rely on the Coalition for technical and outreach support.

Project involvement builds on established partnerships and existing engagement structures. The RDA convenes a Transit Development District (TDD) Steering Committee representing Lake and Porter County municipalities that has met quarterly for more than five years in an open, public forum to guide redevelopment priorities. This body will serve as the primary advisory group for the grant. Additional stakeholders on the list in the following page will include public, private, and community organizations with a wide cross section.

Roles are clearly defined to ensure meaningful participation in decision-making. The RDA will lead engagement and communications through its full-time Communications Director. NIRPC will provide regional coordination and technical assistance. Porter and Pines will conduct neighborhood outreach, identify priority sites, and engage residents and property owners to inform site selection, assessment priorities, cleanup planning, and reuse decisions, with the RDA providing direct staff, communications, and meeting support. The TDD Steering Committee and stakeholders will review progress and provide input at key decision points.

Community input will be incorporated throughout the project. The Coalition will communicate progress and solicit feedback during site prioritization, assessments, cleanup planning, and reuse strategy development through quarterly public meetings, workshops, stakeholder sessions, email notices, and virtual participation options. Project information and updates will be posted on the RDA's existing regional website (NWITDD.com), which serves as a centralized public clearinghouse for notices, documents, and engagement opportunities. Comments will be documented and used to refine priorities and guide redevelopment decisions.

This approach ensures continuous, accessible, and meaningful community involvement and aligns assessment activities with locally supported redevelopment outcomes.

Draft Stakeholder List			
NAME OF ORGANIZATION	MISSION	CONTACT NAME/EMAIL	SPECIFIC INVOLVEMENT
TDD Steering Committee*	Development Oversight	David Wellman (dwellman@rda.in.gov)	reuse planning - community outreach
Indiana Dunes Tourism	destination marketing/QoP	Christine Livingston (Christine@indianadunes.com)	community outreach
NWI Forum	Regional voice for business community	Heather Ennis (hennis@nwiforum.org)	site selection - developer
Gary Chamber of Commerce	represent business and entrepreneurs	Chuck Hughes (chughes@garychamber.com)	community outreach - developer
Gary Town Makers	Community development	Cynthia Williams (cynthia@ideationzone.com)	community outreach - site selection - Gary
Hammond Econ Dev	Redevelopment of Hammond	Anne Taylor (taylora@gohammond.com)	community outreach - site selection
Save the Dunes Council	Environmental Advocacy and Education	Betsy Maher (betsy@savedunes.org)	community outreach
Northern Indiana Commuter Transit District	commuter transit	Nicole Barker (nicole.barker@ninctd.com)	transit operator - technical assistance
Indiana Dunes National Park	Federal Land Manager	Dan Plath (daniel_plath@nps.gov)	Contiguous property owner in Porter and Pines
City of Lake Station	Unit of Local Government	Adrian Vera (avera@lakestation-in.gov)	community outreach and site selection - NIRPC TA

* member communities: Portage, Porter, Pines, Beverly Shores, Michigan City, Ogden Dunes, Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, Munster, and Dyer

Tax-Exempt Status and Lobbying Disclosure

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA), the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), the Town of Pines, and the Town of Porter are all governmental entities created and authorized by Indiana statute and are therefore tax-exempt public entities. None are organized under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

RDA (Lead Applicant):

The RDA is a government entity created by the Indiana General Assembly pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7.5 as a separate corporate and political subdivision of the State. As a public governmental body, the RDA is tax-exempt by statute. The RDA's enabling statute limits its activities to public purposes, including regional economic development, infrastructure, and administration of public funds. The RDA is prohibited from engaging in lobbying activities and does not lobby the Federal government.

NIRPC (Non-Lead Member):

NIRPC is a regional council of governments established under Indiana Code 36-7-7.6 and is a governmental planning organization and political subdivision of the State. As a public entity, NIRPC is tax-exempt by statute. NIRPC complies with all federal lobbying restrictions applicable to recipients of federal funds. As documented in its executed Certification Regarding Lobbying, NIRPC affirms that no federal funds are used for lobbying activities

Town of Pines and Town of Porter (Non-Lead Members):

Each town is a general-purpose unit of local government organized under Indiana law and is tax-exempt as a political subdivision of the State. As municipal governments, neither entity is organized under 501(c)(4) and neither engages in federal lobbying activities.

Accordingly, all Coalition members are eligible governmental entities and none are 501(c)(4) organizations or federal lobbyists. The only entity with a formal lobbying compliance provision is NIRPC, which has provided the required federal lobbying certification.

Contractor/Subrecipient Disclosures

The RDA has not procured contractors or identified subrecipients at the time of application. All services will be competitively procured in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 procurement requirements and EPA Brownfields grant regulations.