



LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Community Development

Marty Gallagher

David J Moore

Jeff Riddell

1. Applicant Identification

R05-26-A-061

Lorain County Commissioners
266 Middle Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035

2. Website URL:

Lead: Lorain County – <https://www.loraincountyohio.gov/>

Non-lead: City of Oberlin – <https://cityofoberlin.com/>

Non-lead: Township of Wellington – <https://www.wellingtontownshipohio.gov/township-departments>

Non-lead: University Hospitals (UH Elyria Medical Center) – <https://www.uhhospitals.org/locations/uh-elyria-medical-center>

3. Funding Requested

a. Assessment Grant Type: Assessment Coalition

b. Federal Funds Requested: \$1,500,000

4. Location

a) Wellington Township, City of Oberlin, City of Elyria b) Lorain County c) Ohio

5. Coalition Members' Target Area and Priority Site Information

Member	Priority Site	Address	Target Area: Census Tract
Lead Member: Lorain County	Eastwood School	198 East College Street, Oberlin, OH 44074	39093060100
Non-lead Member: City of Oberlin	Former Dollar General	544 West College Street, Oberlin, OH 44074	39093060200
	Oberlin Gas Station	550 West College Street, Oberlin, OH 44074	
Non-lead Member: Wellington Township	Gas Station / Vacant Lot	45227 State Route 18, Wellington, OH 44090	39093096100
Non-lead Member: University Hospitals	McKinley School	620 East River Street, Elyria, OH 44035	39093070700



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6. Contacts

a. Project Director

Rob Duncan, Director of Community Development
 226 Middle Avenue
 Elyria, OH 44305
 440-328-2323
rduncan@loraincounty.us

b. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official

David Moore, President of Lorain County the Board of the Commissioners
 226 Middle Avenue
 Elyria, OH 44305
 440-329-5300
Dmoore@loraincounty.us

7. Population

City of Oberlin: 8,054
 Wellington Township: 6,171
 City of Elyria: 52,833
 US Census 2019–2023 American Community Survey

8. Other Factors

Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less.	1, 5
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	N/A
The priority site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	N/A
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).	2
The priority site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	N/A
The reuse of the priority site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	4
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	4
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.	4
At least 30% of the overall project budget will be spent on eligible reuse/area-wide planning activities, as described in Section 3.A.(2), for priority sites within the target areas.	10, 11
The target area(s) is impacted by a coal-fired power plant that has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.	N/A



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9. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority

See attached.

10. Releasing Copies of Applications

Not Applicable.



January 20, 2026

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
ATTN: Torre Ippolito
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Mail Code SB-5J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

RE: Ohio EPA's Letter of Support for Lorain County's Assessment Coalition Grant Proposal

Dear Torre Ippolito:

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) acknowledges that Lorain County, in partnership with the City of Oberlin, Wellington Township, and University Hospitals, plans to conduct assessment activities and is applying for a FY26 U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant in the amount of \$1,500,000. We have worked with Lorain County on previous revitalization efforts and hope to provide support under the Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant program.

If awarded, Lorain County will use these funds to:

- Conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, Remedial Action Plans, and reuse planning at priority sites within Lorain County census tracts.
- Advance redevelopment planning for distressed properties to improve environmental quality and community health.
- Build on its demonstrated success in leveraging additional resources for remediation and revitalization projects.

The proposed target areas include priority sites such as:

- Eastwood School at 198 E. College Street, Oberlin (publicly owned) – a vacant school building with potential asbestos (ACM), lead-based paint (LBP), and petroleum contamination.
- Vacant Commercial Building at 544 W. College Street, Oberlin (privately owned) – a former retail/grocery store with suspected ACM and LBP contamination.

- Oberlin Gas Station at 550 W. College Street, Oberlin (privately owned) – a former gas station with petroleum contamination.
- Wellington Gas Station/Vacant Lot at 45227 State Route 18, Wellington (privately owned) – a former gas station with potential underground storage tanks and petroleum contamination.
- McKinley School at 620 E. River Street, Elyria (privately owned) – a vacant school building adjacent to UH Elyria Medical Center with potential ACM, LBP, and petroleum contamination.

Ohio EPA supports Lorain County's coalition approach. The City of Oberlin and Wellington Township are small communities with limited budgets and staffing capacity, making it difficult for them to independently apply for or manage a Brownfields Grant. Similarly, University Hospitals brings valuable expertise in public health but lacks the administrative resources to oversee federal grant requirements. By joining Lorain County as the lead applicant, these partners gain access to the County's grant management experience and technical resources, ensuring that sensitive areas within Lorain County can benefit from brownfield assessment and revitalization activities.

These assessment activities are critical first steps toward remediation and redevelopment, improving neighborhood safety, housing options, and economic vitality. Lorain County has a strong track record of leveraging U.S. EPA Brownfields funding to secure additional resources for cleanup and redevelopment. The County plans to utilize programs such as the Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD) Brownfield Remediation Program, the ODOD Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program, and other state and federal resources to maximize impact. This proven ability to combine federal and state investments ensures that awarded funds will have a significant and lasting benefit across Lorain County.

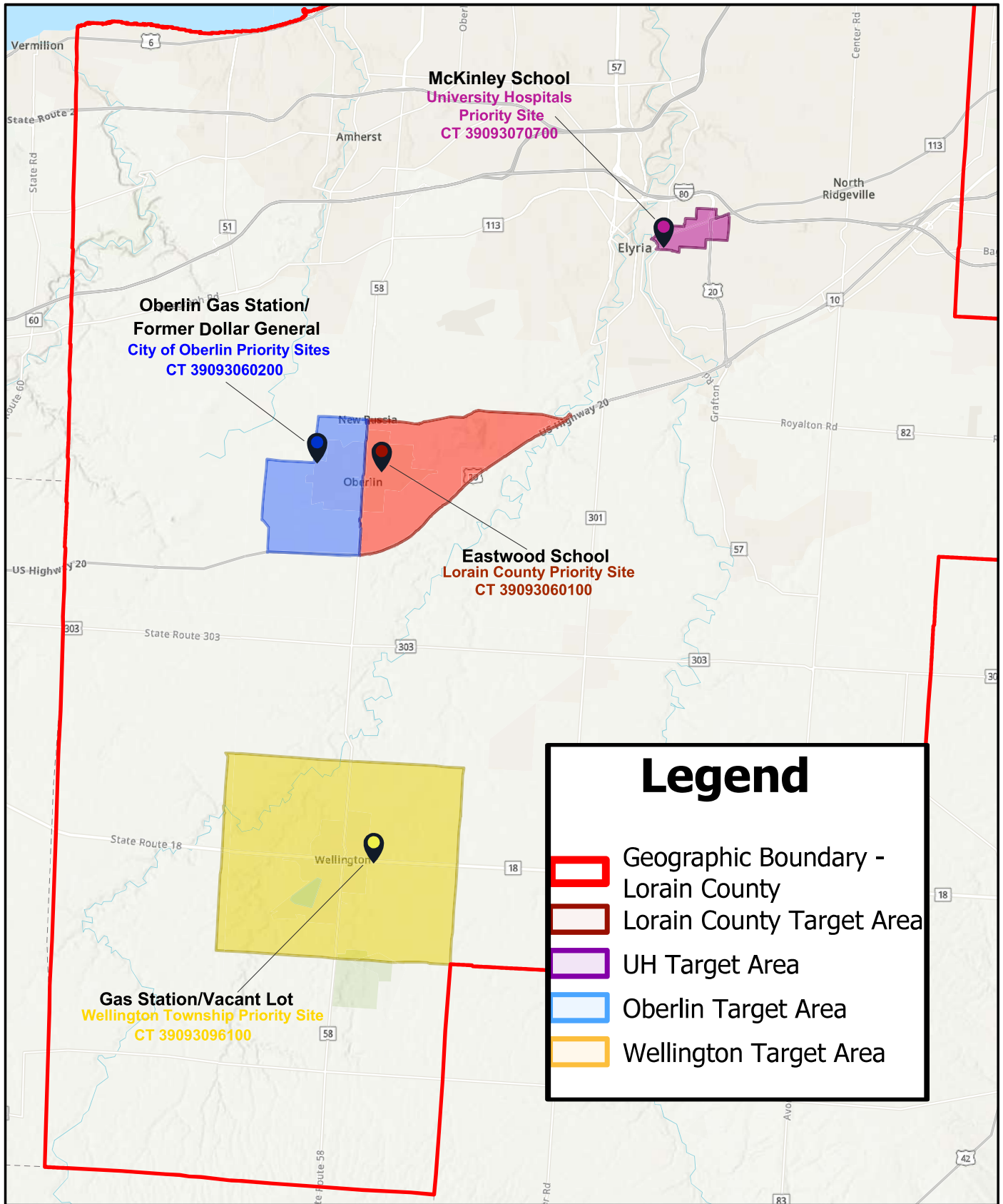
We look forward to working with Lorain County and U.S. EPA on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-728-5441 or via e-mail at emily.johnson@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Emily Johnson

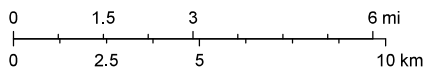
Emily Johnson, Manager
Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

cc: Kelly Smith, Economic Development Specialist III, Lorain County Community Development
Stephen J. Conway, C.P., Principal of Environmental Services, Terracon
Gary Deutschman, Ohio EPA, DERR



12/11/2025

1:168,999



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

<p>Target Area and Geographic Boundary Map</p> <p>FY26 EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant Application Lorain County, Ohio</p>

<p>Exhibit</p> <p>1</p>



Lorain County, OH
FY26 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant
Narrative



1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

Coalition Members, Target Areas, and Brownfields. a. Coalition Members: **The City of Oberlin, Wellington Township, and University Hospitals (Elyria Medical Center/UH EMC EMC) UH EMC will be the non-lead members** of the coalition. Non-lead members Oberlin and Wellington are general-purpose units of local government as defined under 2 CFR § 200.64 and are eligible non-lead entities. UH EMC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is an eligible non-lead entity. All non-lead members are located within the county lines of **lead member Lorain County (County)** and are committed to working in partnership with the County to create a much-needed Brownfields Program for the area.

Oberlin, while known for its vibrant community and educational institutions, operates under a constrained municipal budget and faces significant challenges related to a reduced tax base and limited staff capacity. With a **small population of 8,054**, Oberlin does not have the resources or dedicated personnel to apply for or manage its own Brownfields Grant.¹ The city's many brownfield sites add to the challenges of low-income households and elevated poverty rates. A coalition will help Oberlin access the technical expertise and funding necessary to address its brownfield sites and serve its community.

Wellington Township, a community with a **small population of 6,171**, has an even smaller annual budget and is extremely limited in time and staffing for any type of grant management.¹ Partnering in a Coalition Grant is necessary for the township to address the brownfield sites in its community so it can support growth in the region.

The UH EMC brings expertise in public health and community engagement, but it lacks the experience, resources, and administrative infrastructure to independently apply for or manage a Brownfield Grant. By joining with Lorain County as the lead applicant, Oberlin, Wellington, and UH EMC will gain access to the County's grant management experience, technical resources, and administrative capacity, ensuring that distressed areas within the county can benefit from brownfield assessment and revitalization activities.

b. Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Areas: **The geographic boundary for this Assessment Coalition Grant is the boundary/county limits of Lorain County.** The County, governed by the Lorain County Board of Commissioners, has a total population of 314,588, consisting of sensitive populations of the youth, elderly, and individuals experiencing poverty.¹ The County has a long history of industrial, commercial, and agricultural activity, which has contributed to the presence of numerous brownfield sites throughout the region. Past industries include Oberlin's educational and light manufacturing sectors, Wellington's cheese production (once the "Cheese Capital of the U.S."), and Elyria's iron and steel manufacturing for automotive and consumer goods. **Deindustrialization and the collapse of these industries** left many properties vacant or underused, creating environmental hazards, blight, and barriers to redevelopment. These challenges have diminished the community's economic growth and the wellbeing of the County's most vulnerable residents.

The **target areas** for this Coalition Grant are the **County census tract (CT) 39093060100 (lead), Oberlin CT 39093060200 (non-lead), Wellington CT 39093096100 (non-lead), and UH EMC CT 39093070700 (non-lead)**. Each of these target areas is unique, does not overlap, and contains properties that have been identified as brownfields due to their history of industrial, commercial, or institutional use and their current state of vacancy or underuse. This grant will enable the coalition to create a site inventory and conduct environmental assessments and EPA-approved planning activities that will help address these challenges. By prioritizing the assessment and revitalization of brownfield

¹ US Census 2019–2023 American Community Survey



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sites in the identified target areas, the coalition aims to reduce environmental hazards, promote community health, and support economic growth for the benefit of all residents, especially those most affected by blight and disinvestment.

c. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites: A windshield survey has identified **20 potential brownfield sites across the four target areas**. These sites include filling stations, vacant industrial facilities, vacant school buildings, and commercial facilities. Potential environmental hazards include **underground storage tanks (USTs), per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)/perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals, phosphates, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead-based paint (LBP), asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), and other hazardous building materials**. The four priority sites were selected based on their potential to deliver immediate economic benefits, their proximity to sensitive populations, and the **availability of site access granted by property owners for assessment upon award of grant funds**.

- **Lead Member: Lorain County.** The **Eastwood School** (1.94 acres) built in 1955, consists of a 39,000-square-foot vacant school building surrounded by pavement, access drives, and parking lots. The property is in a residential area near Oberlin's Main Street and has been vacant since 2021. Potential contaminants of concern are ACMs and LBP, based on the age of the structure, and petroleum, due to heating oil tanks on site. The site has only ever operated as a school. Its proximity to homes and the potential for redevelopment as senior living space make it a priority for assessment and redevelopment. Addressing contamination and blight at this location will improve neighborhood safety and create new housing options for older adults. **The property owner, Oberlin CSD Board of Education, has given site access for assessment.**

- **Non-lead Member: Oberlin.** The **first priority site** is the **Former Dollar General** (1.02 acres) located at 544 West College Street, which features one vacant 10, 214 square-foot commercial building with an asphalt parking lot and vegetated areas. This property operated as a grocery store from the 1940s until more recently as a Dollar General. The building has sat vacant for the past three years and is dilapidated. Suspected environmental issues include ACM and LBP. The site is adjacent to residential areas and within half a mile of a church, making redevelopment crucial for community health and safety. **The owner of the property has given site access for assessment.** Oberlin would like to redevelop the site as a small grocery store to service the neighborhood of predominantly multi-family homes, many of which do not have access to personal vehicles.

The **second priority site** is the **Oberlin Gas Station** (1.45 acres), located at 550 West College Street, which features one **vacant** 1,260 square-foot commercial building with an attached 96 square-foot canopy and associated asphalt parking lot and vegetated areas. Historically, this property operated as a gasoline station from approximately the 1940s to the mid-2000s. Orphan underground storage tanks (USTs) may remain on the property. In addition, petroleum related releases may have occurred during its former commercial use. Oberlin would like to redevelop the site for mixed-use, with a restaurant/retail space on the ground floor and residential on upper floors.

- **Non-lead Member: Wellington.** The **Gas Station / Vacant Lot** (3.2 acres) is a vacant parcel that is primarily grass-covered with a small concrete access entryway. Wellington Creek adjoins to the east, First Baptist Church lies 0.5 miles southwest, and the site is surrounded by residential and agricultural fields and wooded land. Previously, the site contained three structures that were razed in 2018. Past uses include a gas station and possible industrial operations, with suspected remaining USTs. The proximity of a sensitive ecological receptor to this site adds potential environmental risk for the community. Based on this past land use, potential contaminants of concern include ACM,



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LBP, and petroleum. **The owner of the property has given site access for assessment.** Wellington envisions the redevelopment of this site into commercial and residential mixed-use.

- **Non-lead Member: UH EMC.** The **McKinley School** (8.69 acres) hosts a vacant, three-level, 38,000-square-foot school building, with parking lot, vegetated areas, and a playground. The school was built in 1907 and ceased operations in 2021. It is adjacent to UH Elyria Medical Center (UH EMC) and close to downtown Elyria, Elyria Catholic High School, and several commercial and residential properties. Potential environmental concerns based on past land use include ACM and LBP, due to the age of the structure, and petroleum, due to heating oil tanks on site. **UH EMC completed their due diligence and took ownership of the vacant site and will allow access to do further hazardous materials testing.** Revitalizing this site located in the heart of downtown Elyria will enhance community health infrastructure and create new opportunities for housing, along with a potential commercial/retail component.

d. **Identifying Additional Sites:** The coalition will identify sites for assessment across the four target areas, building on the 20 potential brownfield sites already noted through community input and windshield surveys in preparation for this grant application. During the grant project, a comprehensive site inventory and ranking process will be developed in collaboration with residents, partners, and coalition members. Guided by a structured evaluation framework, properties will be reviewed through municipal records, planning consultations, site inspections, and census data to ensure areas of greatest socioeconomic need are prioritized. Criteria will include barriers to revitalization, anticipated economic and community benefits, site readiness, and alignment with local development plans. Sites offering the greatest potential for community impact will be prioritized. When the four target areas have been fully assessed with grant funding, any **remaining funds will be applied to additional sites** that benefit vulnerable populations throughout the **County's geographic boundary.**

Revitalization of the Target Areas. e. **Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans:** The following outlines the reuse strategies and projected redevelopment plans for the four priority sites, highlighting how each initiative aligns with and advances the local government's land use and revitalization goals while supporting broader community priorities. **The Lorain County Strategic Action Plan (2024)** identifies housing development, mixed-use redevelopment, and community health infrastructure as key priorities for revitalization. Similarly, the **City of Oberlin Comprehensive Plan (2024)** emphasizes expanding housing options and revitalizing older commercial areas to strengthen economic vitality. **Our Elyria Comprehensive Plan (2024)** has objectives in place to enhance the quality of life by creating partnerships to improve healthcare access and repurpose vacant parcels into more productive uses. The proposed reuse strategies for all four priority sites directly advance these goals by addressing blight, reusing vacant structures, creating new housing opportunities, and stimulating economic growth.

- **Lead member Lorain County.** The **Eastwood School priority site's** redevelopment as senior housing aligns with Lorain County's strategic objective to increase housing availability and meet the needs of aging populations. This reuse will **provide affordable housing options for older adults** and support the County's vision for livable communities.

- **Non-lead member Oberlin.** The **Former Dollar General priority site** will be redeveloped into a small grocery store, supporting Oberlin's Comprehensive Plan goal to **revitalize older commercial corridors.** The **Oberlin Gas Station priority site** will be redeveloped into a mixed-use development with retail and restaurant space, supporting Oberlin's Comprehensive Plan goal to **revitalize older commercial corridors.**



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- **Non-lead member Wellington.** The township has envisioned reuse of the **Gas Station / Vacant Lot priority site** as commercial mixed-use development with a housing component. This aligns with Lorain County’s plan to **promote economic growth through redevelopment of underused properties and support the County’s vision for livable communities.** This project will create new business opportunities, strengthen the local economy while improving environmental conditions and providing new housing options.
- **Non-lead member UH EMC.** The **McKinley School priority site** will be redeveloped as a community health facility and provide housing with potential retail components. This reuse aligns with Lorain County’s strategic goals to improve health access and promote mixed-use development near downtown Elyria as well as the City of Elyria’s plan to enhance the quality of life by creating partnerships to improve healthcare access. By revitalizing this historic property, the coalition will **advance community health priorities and stimulate economic activity** in a key urban corridor.

Collectively, these reuse strategies are designed to reduce environmental risks, remediate blight, and expand housing and commercial development, in full support of the land use plans for Lorain County, Oberlin, and Elyria. The resulting projects will advance economic resilience, improve community health, and enhance living conditions for residents, with particular benefits for distressed neighborhoods.

f. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy: Redevelopment of the coalition’s priority sites will generate substantial economic and noneconomic benefits for the target area communities. With the ability to assess and address contamination, the coalition will transform vacant and underused properties into productive assets that advance local revitalization plans and community priorities. Economically, these projects will **create short-term construction and remediation jobs** during cleanup and redevelopment, as well as **long-term employment opportunities** in retail, restaurant, and healthcare sectors. New housing and mixed-use developments will increase property values in target areas where housing values are currently low, **expanding the local tax base and providing sustainable revenue for public services.** The addition of retail and commercial spaces will **stimulate small business growth and attract new investment**, strengthening the county’s economic vitality.

Noneconomic benefits will include **improved housing access**, particularly for older adults through the redevelopment of the Eastwood School priority site into senior housing. The McKinley School site will **enhance community health infrastructure and create walkable, connected spaces** near UH EMC, while mixed-use redevelopment in Oberlin and Wellington will revitalize older commercial corridors and provide new housing and retail options. Removing blight and contamination will restore community pride, attract new people to the area, and encourage reinvestment in neighborhoods that have experienced decades of disinvestment.

The coalition will promote climate sustainability by encouraging developers to incorporate **energy-efficient design, renewable energy features, and green building materials into reuse plans.** Redevelopment will improve resilience to **extreme weather events by reducing impervious surfaces, enhancing stormwater management**, and creating green buffers where feasible. Walkable mixed-use developments will reduce vehicle emissions and support sustainable growth. Collectively, these outcomes will revitalize distressed neighborhoods, improve quality of life, and build economic resilience, ensuring the target areas thrive for generations.

Strategy for Leveraging Resources. g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse: The coalition partners are eligible to apply for state, federal, and local grant opportunities to further redevelopment. The County has a successful history of leveraging funding resources on public projects that have a primary focus on economic development, commerce, and education.



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The State of Ohio's Brownfield Remediation Program (OBRP) will be a key resource throughout the redevelopment process, giving developers access to liability protections, cleanup funding, and potential tax incentives. Each coalition member can apply to the OBRP for funding for the cleanup and remediation of brownfield sites across Ohio. To date, through 10 rounds, OBRP has provided nearly \$717 million to support 681 projects throughout Ohio. The new Ohio budget includes \$100 million in each of the next two fiscal years (FY 2026 and FY 2027). The first \$88 million are set-aside dollars that will go to each of Ohio's 88 counties (\$1 million each). The remaining \$12 million of FY 2026 funds, any reserve funds unused after one year, and the \$100 million of FY 2027 funds will be available for additional brownfield projects. The coalition partners can also apply for the Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program which awards funding to demolish vacant, blighted, or unsafe structures that hinder redevelopment. As brownfield redevelopment progresses, the coalition will apply for Brownfield Cleanup Grants to address the myriad of sites with historical on-site contamination within the vicinity of each of the priority sites. Developers can also leverage the Opportunity Zone designation for a portion of the City of Elyria, located within 0.1 miles of the **McKinley School priority site** to further attract developer support and to use funds from other community grants for additional brownfield redevelopment purposes. The coalition partners will apply for Community Development Block Grant funds for demolition of blighted sites and Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP) funding that will improve and provide affordable housing for low and moderate-income people and strengthen neighborhoods through community collaboration. The County will seek out additional funding opportunities in the form of state, federal, and private funding.

h. Use of Existing Infrastructure: The priority sites and the target areas are connected to existing infrastructure (sewer, water, utilities, roadways, broadband) sufficient for future redevelopment. The redevelopment of the two school priority sites will reuse the existing structures. If infrastructure upgrades are required in the redevelopment of the project, the County and the non-lead coalition members will apply for additional funding from state and federal resources.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Need. a. The Community's Need for Funding: *The information presented below as either a percentage or income figure is from the US Census and taken as an average of the four census tracts that make up the different coalition member's target areas.* The County and target areas have experienced a decline in population and development over the past few years. Numerous abandoned and neglected industrial and commercial sites are scattered throughout the target areas, and the County does not have extra funds to address them in a safe and effective manner. Currently for the local government coalition members, inadequate budgets are allocated for salaries and services such as solid waste, police, and fire. UH EMC is a healthcare nonprofit organization that relies on grant awards and state allocations to fund their programs. This reality, coupled with the **high poverty levels** and the **low-income status** of the target areas' residents, mean the coalition partners lack the funding for assessments that would allow for the redevelopment of this **distressed** community. With no additional funding available for assessment and redevelopment, residents will continue to endure the **harmful health effects and blight** at potential brownfield sites.

The **small combined population** of the target areas is 17,152: CT 39093060100 (3,881), CT 39093060200 (4,860), CT 39093096100 (6,171), and CT 39093070700 (2,240).² The target areas' average **per capita income of \$30,395 is substantially below the US average (\$43,289)**.² Residents of the target areas are **impoverished, with 18% living below the poverty level (US 12%)**.² Strain on local budgets and an overwhelming number of brownfield sites prevents these areas from

² US Census 2019–2023 American Community Survey



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experiencing revitalization. EPA Brownfield funding will help the coalition provide resources, identify environmental hazards, and generate revitalization for a brighter future.

b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations: The target areas are home to a range of sensitive populations, including youth, elderly, low-income households, and individuals living below the poverty line. **Children under 18 experience a poverty rate of 20%, while 19% of seniors (65+) live below the poverty level (US 16%/10%).**² This impoverishment causes **13% of households to need SNAP benefits (US 11%) and 15% of residents to experience food insecurity (US 13%).**^{2,3} Educational attainment also remains a challenge within the County, with 9% of adults lacking a high school diploma (US 5%).⁴ These factors contribute to persistent economic hardship and limit opportunities for upward mobility.

Welfare issues such as a **lack of affordable housing** within the target areas are affecting the residents. The target areas' average monthly rent is \$904 (US \$1,348), and the average median value of a home is \$173,000 (US \$303,400).⁵ Even with the low monthly rent and home values, the community is suffering, as a significant portion of their annual income still goes to cover housing costs. The target areas are in the **50th percentile of low-income households spending more than 30% of their income on housing.**⁶ To make matters worse, existing housing within the target area is aged, with 71% of all homes constructed prior to 1979 (US 51%), creating a widespread environmental concern of **ACM and LBP.**⁵ The target areas' **lead paint indicator** is in the **73rd percentile** in the state.⁷ EPA Brownfield funds will identify contamination and reduce risks to sensitive populations, laying the groundwork for new affordable housing throughout the target areas.

Health disparities are present throughout the County (CT-level health data not available). Heart disease remains a leading cause of death among working-age adults, and socioeconomic factors exacerbate these outcomes. Worsening these health issues, the County has healthcare-access challenges driven by **structural barriers such as provider and facility shortages and affordability.** The County faces a critical shortage of primary care providers, with a population-to-physician ratio of approximately **2,040 residents per primary care physician**, compared to the US average of **1,310 residents per physician.**⁸ This shortage results in long wait times, limited appointment availability, and forces many residents—especially those in rural or distressed neighborhoods—to travel outside the county for basic medical care. It places an even greater burden on youth and older adults, who may not be able to drive long distances. As a result, chronic conditions often go unmanaged, preventive care is delayed, and emergency departments are increasingly used for nonemergent needs. Targeted investment in healthcare infrastructure is essential to close this gap, **such as the assessment and redevelopment of the non-lead member UH EMC priority site.** This grant will fund environmental assessments and redevelopment of brownfield sites, transforming them into housing, mixed-use, and health facilities. These projects will reduce environmental hazards, expand access to stable housing, and promote healthier living environments, supporting long-term community health and welfare.

c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions: Residents in the target areas face a greater-than-normal incidence of disease and adverse health conditions, many of which are directly linked to environmental hazards present at the coalition's priority sites. The **Eastwood School and McKinley School sites**, with the likelihood of ACM, pose significant risks for respiratory illnesses such as **asthma** and potentially **cancer**, especially as these structures

³ <https://www.ohiofoodbanks.org>

⁴ <http://www.statisticalatlas.com/county/Ohio/Lorain-County/Educational-Attainment>

⁵ US Census 2019-2023 American Community Survey

⁶ <https://public-environmental-data-partners.github.io/j40-cejst-2/en/#11.09/41.1687/-82.2188>

⁷ <https://pedp-ejscreen.azurewebsites.net/>

⁸ [Primary Care Physicians | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)



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deteriorate and fibers become airborne. Oberlin's & Wellington's Gas Station sites may harbor residual **petroleum** contamination and remnants of industrial activity, which can cause soil and groundwater contamination, elevating risks for **cancer, birth defects**, and chronic diseases.

According to CDC Places, Lorain County data shows **asthma is a significant concern, with adult prevalence rates estimated at 11%**, higher than the national average (US 8%). (City- and township-level data is not available.) Asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency visits are especially elevated among low-income and minority populations, a trend intensified by poor air quality, older housing, and environmental exposures associated with brownfields. County cancer rates also exceed state and national averages, with the **age-adjusted cancer incidence rate standing at 496.4 per 100,000 population**, compared to 471.1 for Ohio and 444.6 for the US. Cancer mortality rates are similarly elevated, reflecting the impact of legacy contamination from brownfield sites.¹⁰

Maternal and infant health indicators further highlight vulnerability. Lorain County's **infant mortality rate** of 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births exceeds both state and national benchmarks, and its **preterm birth rate** of 12.4% is among the worst quartile of Ohio counties.⁹ These adverse outcomes, coupled with elevated risks for birth defects and low birth weight, underscore the urgent need to address environmental hazards that contribute to poor maternal and infant health. By remediating contaminated sites and promoting healthy redevelopment, this grant will help reduce exposure to pollutants linked to respiratory illness, cancer, and developmental complications, improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable populations.

d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations: The coalition's target areas are home to populations that are both **economically impoverished and disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards** resulting from decades of industrial and commercial activity. These neighborhoods have experienced persistent disinvestment, leaving behind vacant and contaminated properties that depress housing values and limit economic opportunity. Rental vacancy rates in the target areas (7%) are significantly higher than that national average (5%), reflecting economic instability and lack of investment.¹⁰ Environmental indicators further underscore disproportionate impacts. The **Drinking Water Non-Compliance Summary Index ranks in the 94th percentile**, and the **Toxic Releases to Air Summary Index ranks in the 93rd percentile**, placing these communities among the most environmentally burdened in the nation.¹¹ These conditions compound health risks for residents already facing elevated rates of chronic disease, asthma, and cancer, as well as maternal and infant health disparities. The proposed grant will help identify and reduce these threats by funding environmental assessments and remediation at priority sites. Redevelopment into senior housing, mixed-use developments, and health-related facilities will eliminate contamination, raise property values, and create economic opportunities for residents who have long borne the greatest environmental and socioeconomic burdens. By addressing both environmental hazards and economic disinvestment, this project will advance equity and improve quality of life for the target areas' most vulnerable populations.

Community Engagement. e. Project Involvement & f. Project Roles: Project partners will play a vital role in advancing brownfield revitalization by supporting site identification and prioritization, leading community outreach and education, and guiding cleanup and reuse planning.

⁹ healthyneo.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=380&localeId=2141

¹⁰ US Census 2019–2023 American Community Survey

¹¹ <https://pedp-ejscreen.azurewebsites.net/>



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Name of org.	Entity's mission	Point of contact	Specific involvement /assistance provided
Lorain County Urban League	Empower disadvantaged individuals, particularly African Americans, to participate equally in education, economics, and social life.	Parris M. Smith, psmith@lcul.org	Assistance/Decision Making: Outreach and community engagement
Oberlin: Lorain County Joint Vocational School	Lorain County JVS empowers high school and adult learners with career-technical education, workforce credentials, and the real-world skills they need to thrive in a changing economy. Their programs are driven by industry partnerships, local talent needs, and a deep commitment to lifelong learning.	Mario Codispoti, MCodispoti@lcjvs.net	Assistance/Decision Making: Outreach and education of the youth and adults; reuse planning of priority sites
One Lorain County	Help businesses locate, stay, and grow in a vibrant Lorain County.	Lisa Hutson, CEO, LHutson@oneloraincounty.com	Assistance/Decision Making: Site identification and prioritization through the site inventory process.
Oberlin Community Business Partnership	Advance and promote the sustainable growth and prosperity of the Oberlin community through leadership, service, and advocacy, focusing on supporting local businesses and preserving the historic areas of Oberlin.	Abbie L. Fox director@oberlinbusinesspartnership.com	Assistance/Decision Making: Outreach and community collaboration
Elyria Library	Connect, engage, and inspire its community by providing opportunities for intellectual and creative growth, ultimately empowering residents with unlimited learning, knowledge, creativity, and cultural exploration in an inclusive environment.	Jennifer Starkey jennifer.starkey@elyrialibrary.org	Assistance/Decision Making: Outreach and education of the youth and elderly sensitive populations through programs; provide meeting space for educational brownfield events.
Lorain County Office of Aging	Providing support, resources, and advocacy for older adults to age successfully in Lorain County	Nicolle Bellmore Pierse, Exec. Director nbellmorepierse@lcoa.org	Assistance/Decision Making: Cleanup and reuse planning of the priority sites; outreach to elderly sensitive population

g. **Incorporating Community Input:** The coalition partners and their residents understand the need for community input to run a successful Brownfield Program. The coalition's Brownfield Team (BT) has been discussing the potential for redevelopment of their respective brownfield properties and were happy to share their vision with the local communities. The coalition will continue to be transparent with residents and seek feedback throughout the project. They will engage the residents and project partners in educational and project-update meetings as well as request their input on brownfield site identification and prioritization. Community input and suggestions will be documented during all grant project meetings. Resident suggestions will be discussed during quarterly brownfield meetings, and responses will be posted on the Brownfield Program webpage, which will be developed as part of this grant to allow residents access to periodic updates on the program's status. Resident-identified sites throughout all coalition members' target areas will be added to the inventory, evaluated with project-partner input, and prioritized based on need, project goals, and future land-use redevelopment plans. The comments and questions gathered from residents during meetings, especially those from residents most affected by the project, will be addressed through the project webpage and at the regularly scheduled County meetings throughout the grant period. Project information will be offered through the County's and project-partner websites, coalition members' social media accounts,



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local/regional publications, and distributed print material to ensure dispersal throughout the coalition’s geographic boundary. A Community Involvement Plan (CIP) will also be created to outline the community engagement activities, schedule, project background, and key players. The CIP will be available for review in the County’s office and on the brownfield webpage. A Brownfield Program brochure explaining the program will be shared throughout the community at local businesses, coalition member offices, and project partner’s physical locations throughout the target areas; these brochures will be especially helpful for those residents without internet access. The Brownfield Project Director will provide project information during regularly scheduled monthly commission meetings, the 15 grant-funded community educational meetings, and charrettes/visioning sessions. Meetings will be promoted through the Brownfields Program webpage, local and state officials, email distribution lists, church groups, and social media. To continue to promote public involvement, educational community outreach events will be conducted via in-person meetings or virtual meetings, when applicable and available, to discuss the grant project and engage the community.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs:

Task 1: Program Management	
a.	<i>Project Implementation: EPA Non-Funded:</i> Utilizing its own funding, the County will procure an environmental contractor (EC) to assist with the Brownfield (BF) Grant project. The County’s BF Finance Director will oversee grant implementation and administration to ensure compliance with the EPA Cooperative Agreement work plan, schedule, and terms and conditions. <i>EPA Funded:</i> The EC will assist in completing ACRES database reporting, yearly financial reporting, quarterly reporting, and additional programmatic support for the four-year term of the grant. The travel budget allows four staff to attend three BF training conferences.
b.	<i>Anticipated Project Schedule:</i> Procure EC in 1 st quarter. ACRES & quarterly reporting begins in 1 st quarter and continues throughout the grant. Annual reporting and forms created in the 5 th , 9 th , and 13 th quarters and final closeout.
c.	<i>Task/Activity Lead:</i> Lorain County: Michael Bores, Economic Development Specialist, BF Finance Director
d.	<i>Outputs:</i> ACRES database reporting, 4 annual financial reports, 16 quarterly reports, programmatic support for the four-year grant period. Four staff attend three conferences.
Task 2: Community Engagement & Site Inventory	
a.	<i>Project Implementation: EPA Funded:</i> CIP, outreach materials, BF webpage, and social media posts will be developed by the County’s BF Project Manager with assistance from the EC. County staff will lead the community meetings discussing project plans and updates throughout the coalition members target areas. The County’s BF Project Manager will work with target-area residents during outreach events to add to the site inventory. Identified abandoned and underused properties will be researched further by County staff using GIS and the County Auditor’s website. The EC will work with County staff to create an evaluation ranking tool to determine the order the sites will be addressed. <u>Supplies: printing of outreach materials (brochures/handouts) and office supplies to manage the grant.</u>
b.	<i>Anticipated Project Schedule:</i> CIP will create in 1 st quarter. Community meetings to be held 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th , 7 th , 9 th , 11 th , and 14 th quarters. BF webpage and outreach materials created in the 1 st quarter and posted throughout the grant project. Meeting held in 1 st quarter will continue the preliminary inventory process. Evaluation ranking process begins in 2 nd quarter and continues throughout the grant.
c.	<i>Task/Activity Lead:</i> Lorain County: Kelly Smith, Economic Development Specialist, BF Project Manager
d.	<i>Outputs:</i> CIP, BF webpage, 15 community meetings, brochures/handouts, social media posts, summary of community meetings in EPA-required quarterly reports, evaluation ranking tool, site inventory list.
Task 3: Assessment	
a.	<i>Project Implementation: EPA Funded:</i> The EC conducts Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), starting with the priority sites listed in this application. ASTM-AAI-compliant Phase I; Generic Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP); Phase IIs will include the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP). Prior to assessment, site access agreements and property eligibility determinations approval will be obtained. National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultations will be addressed when applicable.



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b.	<i>Anticipated Project Schedule:</i> Assessments begin 2 nd quarter and continue throughout the grant project.
c.	<i>Task/Activity Lead:</i> The EC will implement the technical aspects of the project with oversight from the County, Rob Duncan, Director of Community Development, BF Project Director.
d.	<i>Outputs:</i> 32 Phase I ESAs, 1 Generic QAPP, 24 Phase II ESAs including SAP, site access agreements, property eligibility determinations, Section 106 determinations (if applicable).

Task 4: Cleanup Planning

a.	<i>Project Implementation: EPA Funded:</i> Projects identified for cleanup. The EC will prepare the Analysis for Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) and/or Cleanup Plans, which include evaluating cleanup alternatives, calculating cleanup costs, and determining site-appropriate remediation and/or reuse planning to reduce health/environmental risks. The EC will assist the County in hosting charrettes/visioning sessions. A planner will create the following EPA-approved planning documents: BF Revitalization Plans, Site Reuse Assessments, Land Use Assessments and Market Studies.
b.	<i>Anticipated Project Schedule:</i> Plans and charrettes begin in 6 th quarter and will continue throughout the grant.
c.	<i>Task/Activity Lead:</i> The EC will implement the technical aspects of the project with oversight from Lorain County: Rob Duncan, Director of Community Development, BF Project Director.
d.	<i>Outputs:</i> 4 ABCAs, 4 vision sessions/charrettes, 4 Site Reuse Assessments, 5 Land Use Assessments, 4 Market Studies, 3 BF Revitalization Plans.

Task 5: Administrative Indirect Cost: a. – d. See below for the cost breakdown.

e. Cost Estimates: Below are the anticipated cost estimates for this project based on past brownfield projects as determined by local market standards with contractual hourly rates based on the skills needed for the specific tasks.

- **Of the budget, 60% will be spent on site-specific work and 30% for area-wide planning activities.**
- Administrative indirect costs are allocated in the budget at 3.3333% of the allowable 5%.
- Personnel pay rates average \$47 per hour which includes fringe.

Task 1 Program Management: Personnel (\$47/hr): \$16,450 (350 hrs). Contractual: ACRES database reporting, yearly financial reporting, quarterly reporting \$10,150 (58 hrs × \$175). Travel: 4 staff attend 3 conferences for a total of \$21,000 (flights at \$600, 3 nights in hotel at \$250/night, incidentals and per diem at \$100 per day × 4 days × 4 staff × 3 events). Other: conference registration \$2,400 (\$200 per event x 4 people x 3 events.)

Task 2 Community Engagement & Site Inventory: Personnel (\$47/hr): CIP \$940 (20 hrs); BF webpage, outreach brochure/handouts, social media posts \$2,350 (50 hrs); 15 community meetings \$5,640 (8 hrs per meeting to include preparation and execution; \$376 each meeting); site inventory management \$1,786 (38 hrs). Contractual: CIP \$1,020 (6 hrs × \$170); BF webpage, outreach brochure/handouts, social media posts \$1,020 (6 hrs × \$170); 15 community/educational meetings \$15,000 (\$1,000 per mtg.; 10 hours per meeting to include preparation and execution × \$150); BF site inventory and evaluation ranking tool creation \$18,190 (107 hrs × \$170). Supplies: \$1,615 (\$800 [800 printouts at \$1 each]; \$400 [4 display board printouts at \$100 each]; pens, markers, paper \$415).

Task 3 Assessment: Personnel (\$47/hr): Report review \$2,679 (1 hr per report; 57 reports). Contractual: 32 Phase I ESAs \$144,000 (\$4,500 each); 1 Generic QAPP \$7,000; 24 Phase II ESAs including SAP \$720,000 (\$30,000 each).

Task 4 Cleanup Planning: Personnel (\$47/hr): 4 vision sessions/charrettes \$1,880 (40 hrs; 10 hrs per session); report review \$1,880 (2 hrs/report; 20 reports). Contractual: 4 ABCAs \$28,000 (\$7,000 each); 4 vision sessions \$12,000 (\$3,000/meeting); 4 Site Reuse Assessment \$100,000 (\$25,000 each [Senior Planner: 50 hrs × \$200; PM Planner: 50 hrs × \$175; Support Personnel: 50 hrs × \$125]); 5 Land Reuse Assessments \$30,000 (\$6,000 each [Senior Planner: 15 hrs × \$200; PM Planner: 10 hrs × \$175; Support Personnel: 10 hrs × \$125]); 4 Market Study \$80,000 (\$20,000 each [Senior Planner: 50 hrs × \$200; PM Planner: 40 hrs × \$175; Support Personnel: 24 hrs × \$125]); 3 BF Revitalization



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Plans \$225,000 (\$75,000 each [Principal Planner: 100 hrs × \$250; Senior Planner: 100 hrs × \$200; PM Planner: 100 hrs × \$175; Support Personnel: 100 hrs × \$125]).

Task 5 Administrative Indirect Costs: Other: Costs of operating and maintaining facilities \$20,014 (based on average costs). Personnel: General administration consisting of the salaries of executive officers, personnel administration, and accounting \$29,986 (\$47 × 638hrs).

Category	Tasks					Totals
	<i>Program Management</i>	<i>Community Engagement & Site Inventory</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Cleanup Planning</i>	<i>Administrative Indirect Costs</i>	
Personnel	\$16,450	\$10,716	\$2,679	\$3,760	\$29,986	\$63,591
Supplies		\$1,615				\$1,615
Travel	\$21,000					\$21,000
Other	\$2,400				\$20,014	\$22,414
Contractual	\$10,150	\$35,230	\$871,000	\$475,000		\$1,391,380
Total Budget	\$50,000	\$47,561	\$873,679	\$478,760	\$50,000	\$1,500,000

f. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results: To ensure this EPA Brownfield Project is on schedule, the County’s internal Brownfield Project Team, including the non-lead coalition members and the EC, will meet quarterly to track project progress of outputs identified in 3.d. using an Excel spreadsheet to submit quarterly reports to the EPA. Project expenditures and activities will be monitored to ensure timely completion within the four-year timeframe. Site-specific information will be entered into the ACRES database. Key outputs to be tracked include the number of community meetings with neighborhoods, community groups, and community partners; public meetings; environmental assessments; ABCAs; and cleanup redevelopment plans. Key outcomes to be tracked include community participation, acres assessed, acres ready for reuse, leveraged redevelopment dollars, and jobs created. If project efficiency is inadequate, the County has countermeasures in place, including monthly calls with the EPA Project Officer and, if necessary, a Corrective Action Plan to get the project back on track.

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

Programmatic Capability. a. Organizational Capacity, b. Organizational Structure, & c. Description of Key Staff: Lorain County is governed by a leadership structure headed by the Board of Commissioners, which oversees all County operations, including grant-funded initiatives. The County Administrator serves as the Chief Executive Officer and is supported by department directors who manage day-to-day program coordination. This Community Development Department will ensure all technical, administrative, and financial aspects of grant projects are executed efficiently and in full compliance with federal and state regulations.

The Director of Community Development, **Mr. Rob Duncan**, will be the **Brownfield Project Director**. Mr. Duncan has been the Director of Community Development for over five years and has experience executing economic development projects, managing financial incentives such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Enterprise Zones, and Community Reinvestment Areas. Mr. Duncan has previous experience managing brownfield grants and will oversee the grant. **Ms. Kelly Smith**, who has been an Economic Development Specialist for three years, will be the **Brownfield Project Manager**. In addition to conducting environmental reviews for the County, Ms. Smith leads community outreach efforts, supports County planning activities, including zoning, subdivision reviews and floodplain management. Ms. Smith’s responsibilities will include timely and successful expenditure of funds and the completion of the administrative and financial requirements of the grant. She will be the Coalition’s primary point of contact. **Mr. Michael Bores**, who has been an Economic



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Development Specialist for the County for over a year, will be the **Brownfield Finance Director**. Mr. Bores supports the coordination and development of the County's economic development initiatives, including long-term planning and business retention strategies. Additionally, Mr. Bores manages the County's Revolving Loan Fund, calculates TIF payments, and provides direct business consultations. His responsibilities also include assisting with Community Housing Impact and Preservation, and Community Development Block Grant programs, grant application preparation, and supporting Mr. Duncan in implementing county-wide development activities. **Mr. Bores** worked as a sales analyst before taking on his role with the County, managing large commercial accounts, overseeing orders, marketing campaigns, daily operations, and data analysis. Mr. Bores will be responsible for managing the use of the ASAP.gov draw down system. A qualified environmental contractor (EC) will be used to ensure technical and reporting aspects of the grant implementation are completed accurately.

The coalition will be supported by the Brownfield Advisory Board (BAB). The proposed BAB will be a committee that includes representatives from each coalition member and project partner. The BAB will advise on the implementation of this grant and use of funds in respect to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreed on by coalition partners. Coalition partners will work in conjunction to identify sites for assessment; support local communities; fund assessment needs; work with private, public, nonprofit, and local stakeholders to create awareness of the coalition and their associated resources; and provide regular reporting for EPA grant requirements. Lorain County will hold, administer, and disperse funding in a way that abides by the coalition's MOU and best practices. The BAB will work to ensure representation of the various distressed populations by the coalition members and other vital parties. The coalition will work collaboratively to address the brownfield sites across the target areas and geographic boundary.

d. Acquiring Additional Resources: The County will hire a qualified EC to assist with the technical and reporting aspects of the Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant, in addition to any other contractors needed to complete the project. The hiring process will adhere to EPA's Professional Service procurement guidelines and local contracting requirements. Throughout the project, the County will acquire additional resources as needed to ensure successful completion and will be sure to follow all EPA requirements.

Past Performance and Accomplishments. e. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant: (1) Accomplishments: The County was awarded an EPA Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant in FY14 in the amount of \$600,000. Coalition partners included the Village of Wellington and the Cities of Avon Lake, Lorain, North Ridgeville, and Oberlin. Funding was used to conduct 24 Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) and 17 Phase II ESAs. Grant funds were also used to develop a county-wide site inventory, prepare four cleanup plans, and support community outreach activities. This grant funding allowed for redevelopment projects county-wide that leveraged \$16 million in public and private funds and created 220 new full-time jobs, including leverage of \$160,080.59 of Lorain County general funds. All information was reported in ACRES.

(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements: The County completed the FY14 grant in full compliance with EPA requirements, and ACRES was updated with all relevant grant information and outputs. All reporting was submitted to the EPA Project Officer in a timely manner, and the County had a monthly call with its EPA Project Officer since the beginning of the grant project to discuss progress. The FY14 grant opened on October 1, 2014, and was granted a three-month extension from the EPA. The grant closed on December 31, 2017, with \$14,790.95 in unspent funds remaining because planned site assessments could not be completed due to property owner constraints.



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Threshold Criteria



Threshold Criteria

1. Eligibility of Lead and Non-Lead Coalition Members

- a. Lorain County, OH (County) (lead coalition member), City of Oberlin, OH (non-lead member), Wellington Township, OH (non-lead member) are eligible to apply for the EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant as a general-purpose unit of local government as defined under 2 CFR §200.64. University Hospitals (UH Elyria Medical Center) (non-lead member) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is eligible to participate in this project as defined under 2 CFR §200. Please see the attached IRS documentation.
- b. All coalition members are not exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code

2. Target Areas

All target areas are unique, do not overlap, and are in three distinct municipalities/jurisdictions.

- *Lead member – Lorain County*
 - Target Area: CT 39093060100 located in Oberlin, OH
- *Non-lead member – City of Oberlin*
 - Target Area: CT 39093060200 located in Oberlin, OH
- *Non-lead member – Wellington Township*
 - Target Area: CT 39093096100 located in Wellington, OH
- *Non-lead member – University Hospitals (UH Elyria Medical Center)*
 - Target Area: CT 39093070700 located in Elyria, OH

3. Non-lead Member(s) that Never Received an EPA MARC Grant

The City of Oberlin, Wellington Township, and University Hospital (non-lead coalition members) have never been awarded an EPA MARC grant.

4. Legal Authority to Expend Grant Funds on Behalf of Non-Lead Coalition Members

- a. The County, as the lead member of the coalition, has the legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.
- b. Not Applicable.

5. Coalition Agreement

Letters signed by each non-lead coalition member citing the agreement to participate in the EPA Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant are attached.

6. Community Involvement

The coalition partners and their residents understand the need for community input to run a successful Brownfield Program. The coalition's Brownfield Team (BT) has been discussing the potential for redevelopment of their respective brownfield properties and were happy to share their vision with the local communities. The coalition will continue to be transparent with residents and seek feedback throughout the project. They will engage the residents and project partners in educational and project-update meetings as well as request their input on brownfield site identification and prioritization. Community input and suggestions will be documented during all grant project meetings. Resident suggestions will be discussed during quarterly brownfield meetings, and responses will be posted on the Brownfield Program



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webpage, which will be developed as part of this grant to allow residents access to periodic updates on the program’s status. Resident-identified sites throughout all coalition members’ target areas will be added to the inventory, evaluated with project-partner input, and prioritized based on need, project goals, and future land-use redevelopment plans. The comments and questions gathered from residents during meetings, especially those from residents most affected by the project, will be addressed through the project webpage and at the regularly scheduled County meetings throughout the grant period. Project information will be offered through the County’s and project-partner websites, coalition members’ social media accounts, local/regional publications, and distributed print material to ensure dispersal throughout the coalition’s geographic boundary. A Community Involvement Plan (CIP) will also be created to outline the community engagement activities, schedule, project background, and key players. The CIP will be available for review in the County’s office and on the brownfield webpage. A Brownfield Program brochure explaining the program will be shared throughout the community at local businesses, coalition member offices, and project partner’s physical locations throughout the target areas; these brochures will be especially helpful for those residents without internet access. The Brownfield Project Director will provide project information during regularly scheduled monthly commission meetings, the 15 grant-funded community educational meetings, and charrettes/visioning sessions. Meetings will be promoted through the Brownfields Program webpage, local and state officials, email distribution lists, church groups, and social media. To continue to promote public involvement, educational community outreach events will be conducted via in-person meetings or virtual meetings, when applicable and available, to discuss the grant project and engage the community

7. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

The County and all non-lead members affirm they do not have an open EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant or Multipurpose Grant.

8. Contractors and Named Subrecipients

Not Applicable.