

**Application Information Sheet
Hocking County, Ohio
FY2026 Coalition Assessment Grant**

1. Applicant Identification

Hocking County, Ohio
1 East Main Street
Logan, OH 43138

2. Website URL

Hocking County - [Home | Hocking County](#)
Vinton County - [Vinton County](#)
Meigs County - [Meigs County](#)

3. Funding Requested

- a. Assessment Grant Type: Assessment Coalition
- b. Federal Funds Requested: \$1,500,000

4. Location

- a. Lead Member: Hocking County, Ohio
- b. Non-Lead Members: Vinton County, Ohio & Meigs County, Ohio

5. Coalition Members' Target Areas and Priority Site Information

The proposed Brownfield Coalition includes Hocking County as the lead applicant, with Vinton County and Meigs County participating as non-lead coalition members under a coordinated multi-county assessment strategy focused on legacy mining, manufacturing, and industrial sites in south-central and Appalachian Ohio. Each coalition member has identified priority target areas and sites requiring environmental assessment to support future cleanup and redevelopment.

Hocking County

- Target Areas: Ward Township, the Village of Murray City, Starr Township, Green Township, Falls Township, the City of Logan, and Washington Township.
- Priority Site: Old General Clay Property
 - Address: Haydenville Road, Starr Township, Hocking County, OH 43127
 - Former Use: Brick Plant

Vinton County

- Target Areas: Swan Township, Elk Township, the Village of McArthur, Vinton Township, Clinton Township, and the Village of Hamden.
- Priority Site: McArthur Brick Company Historic Preserve
 - Address: 600 S Market Street (State Route 93), McArthur, OH 45651
 - Former Use: Former Land Mine

Meigs County

- Target Area: Columbia Township, Salem Township, Rutland Township, Village of Rutland, Salisbury Township, Village of Middleport, Village of Pomeroy.
- Priority Site: Former General Hospital Site
 - Address: 234/236 W. Second Street, Pomeroy, OH 45769
 - Former Use: Medical Office and Hospital

6. Contacts

- a. Project Director: Sean Brooks, Hocking County Grants Coordinator
1 East Main Street, Logan, OH 43138
Phone: (740) 385-5195
Email: grants@hocking.oh.gov
- b. Chief Executive: Drew Davison, Hocking County Commissioner
1 East Main Street, Logan, OH 43138
Phone: (740) 385-5195
Email: comm2@hocking.oh.gov

7. Population - *Data from 2020 US Census*

- a. Hocking County: County population of 27,938
 - i. Target Area Population: 25,878
- b. Vinton County: County population of 12,686
 - i. Target Area Population: 8,354
- c. Meigs County: County population of: 22,210
 - i. Target Area Population: 14,016

8. Other Factors

Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less.	1
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	N/A

The priority brownfield site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	2
The priority site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the priority site(s) is contiguous or partially contiguous to the body of water, or would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water but for a street, road, or other public thoroughfare separating them).	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.	N/A
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	N/A
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.	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

9. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority: Attached



January 28, 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 Hocking County's Assessment Coalition Grant Proposal

Dear Torre Ippolito:

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) acknowledges that Hocking County, in partnership with Vinton and Meigs County, 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. Ohio EPA supports this effort under the Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant program.

If awarded, Hocking County and its coalition partners will use these funds to:

- Develop a comprehensive brownfield inventory and conduct community engagement.
- Perform Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, hazardous materials surveys, and cleanup planning.
- Advance reuse and area-wide planning to prepare sites for future remediation and redevelopment funding.

The proposed target areas include priority sites such as:

- Old General Clay Property along Haydenville Road in Hocking County (publicly owned) – a former brick plant. Potential contaminants may include petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), fuel-related VOCs (BTEX), PAHs, and metals (e.g., arsenic, lead, cadmium, chromium, mercury).
- McArthur Brick Company Historic Preserve at 600 S. Market St. (St. Rt. 93), McArthur, Ohio (publicly owned) – a former land mine. Potential contaminants may include petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), fuel-related VOCs (BTEX), PAHs, and metals (e.g., arsenic, lead, cadmium, chromium, mercury).

These sites represent opportunities to expand outdoor recreation and improve access to state parks, trail networks, river corridors, and public lands. Many of these properties are constrained by real or perceived contamination from legacy industrial and extractive uses. By addressing these barriers, the coalition will accelerate projects that support recreation-oriented reuse, such as trailheads, river access points, visitor-serving amenities, and complementary community development.

Ohio EPA supports this coalition approach because it leverages regional collaboration to overcome limited local capacity and aligns with statewide priorities for environmental restoration and economic revitalization. These assessment activities are critical first steps toward remediation and redevelopment, reducing environmental risk and uncertainty while fostering community and economic benefits.

We look forward to working with Hocking County and U.S. EPA on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-644-2295 or via e-mail at lisa.shook@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Lisa Shook

Lisa Shook, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

cc: Sean Brooks, Grans Coordinator, Hocking County
Andrew Davidson, Commissioner, Hocking County
Sam Tuten, MPA, Director of Planning & Project Funding, Sunday Creek Horizons
Martin Smith, Ohio EPA, DERR

Target Areas & Sites in Hocking, Vinton & Meigs

Hocking County



Target Area (Falls, Green, Ward, & Starr Townships, Village of Murray City & City of Logan)



Old General Clay Property

Vinton County



McArthur Brick Company Historic Preserve



Target Area (Swan, Elk, Clinton, & Vinton Townships, Village of McArthur, & Village of Hamden)

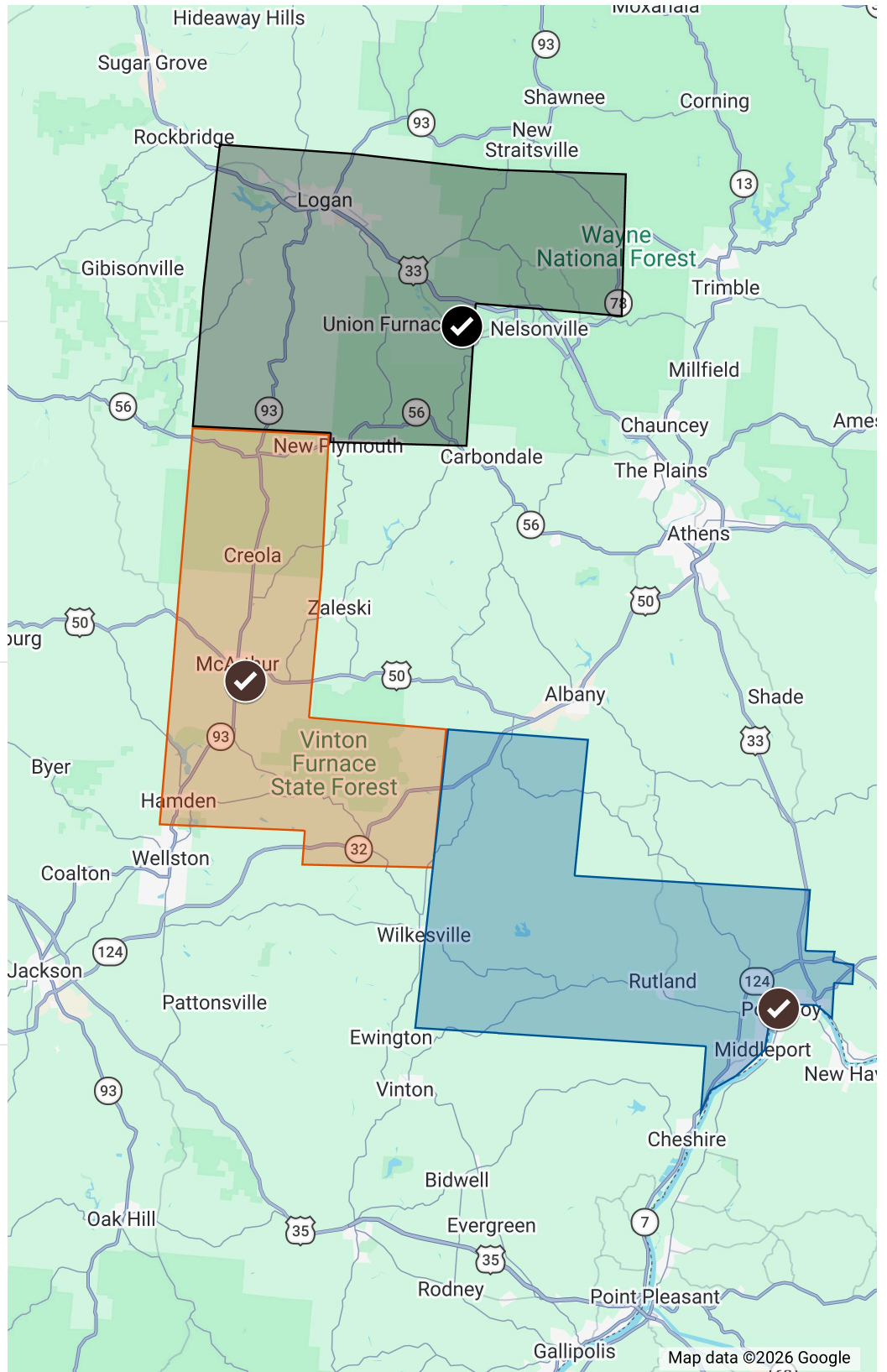
Meigs County



Former General Hospital



Target Area (Columbia, Salem, Rutland & Salisbury Townships, Village of Rutland, Village of Middleport, & Village of Pomeroy)



1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

Coalition Members, Target Areas, and Brownfields - (a.) *Coalition Members* - The Hocking County Board of Commissioners is the lead member of the proposed brownfields assessment coalition. The coalition is composed of the following non-lead members: The Vinton County Board of Commissioners and the Meigs County Board of Commissioners. Each of these coalition members provides essential governmental services and oversight to meet the needs of each respective county's residents. These services include, but are not limited to, public infrastructure maintenance, land use planning, public safety, social services, and budgetary oversight to support the health, safety, and economic well-being of their communities. The coalition members recognize the importance of assessing and addressing brownfield properties, including abandoned mine lands, to support environmental protection, public health, and long-term community revitalization. However, these counties are small, rural communities with limited staff capacity and financial resources, and do not have the ability to independently operate a comprehensive brownfield program. Through this coalition approach, the members will be able to pull resources, share expertise, and collaboratively assess priority sites in order to position their community's future cleanup, redevelopment, and economic opportunity. **(b) *Overview of Brownfield Challenges and Description of Target Area*** - The geographic boundary encompasses multiple rural and small urban jurisdictions that share a legacy of coal mining, clay extraction, and industrial manufacturing, resulting in numerous underutilized properties with suspected or documented environmental contamination. Across the coalition area, historic extractive and industrial uses have left behind brownfield sites with environmental uncertainty, aging infrastructure, and redevelopment constraints. Many of these properties are located in communities with limited local capacity to conduct environmental assessments, creating barriers to private investment, long-term planning, and safe reuse. The impacts include prolonged vacancy, reduced economic activity, and missed opportunities to connect environmental remediation with broader community revitalization and outdoor recreation goals. This grant will help address these challenges by enabling Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments, inventorying and prioritizing additional brownfield sites, and supporting reuse and cleanup planning within each member's jurisdiction. By reducing environmental uncertainty and improving site readiness, the coalition will position priority properties for future clean-up funding, redevelopment, and integration into community-driven economic development strategies. Each coalition member has identified a distinct, non-overlapping Target Area and at least one priority site where assessment and planning activities will be concentrated. Hocking County's Target Area includes Ward Township, the Village of Murray City, Starr Township, Green Township, Falls Township, the City of Logan, and Washington Township. These jurisdictions contain multiple former clay mining and industrial properties associated with historic brick manufacturing and related activities. Vinton County's Target Area includes Swan Township, Elk Township, Clinton Township, the Village of McArthur, Vinton Township, and the Village of Hamden. Meigs County's target area consists of Columbia Township, Salem Township, Rutland Township, the Village of Rutland, Salisbury Township, the Village of

Pomeroy, and the Village of Middleport. Vinton County's population is 12,686, meeting the EPA criterion for communities with a population of 15,000 or less *(c) Description of Priority Brownfield Sites* - Within each Coalition member's Target Area, numerous brownfield properties are associated with historic coal mining, clay extraction, brick manufacturing, and legacy industrial operations. These sites vary in size and condition, but commonly exhibit environmental uncertainty related to historic industrial practices, limited documentation of past activities, and long-term underutilization. The coalition will inventory and prioritize additional sites within each target area. However, each member has identified at least one Priority Site that exemplifies the broader brownfield challenges present in their jurisdiction and warrants early assessment to support informed reuse planning. Hocking County's priority site is the **Haydenville Brick Plant** in Starr Township. It is a publicly owned former brick manufacturing and clay processing site. The site contains remnants of historic industrial activity and supporting infrastructure associated with surface clay extraction and processing. Current site conditions include vacant land and remaining industrial features typical of legacy brick and clay operations. Potential environmental concerns include soil contamination from former kiln/furnace zones, raw material and waste areas, ground/surface water impacts from sediment runoff and leaching. There are also physical hazards such as unstable grounds and collapsed tunnels. Vinton County's priority site is the **McArthur Brick Company Historic Preserve**. This is a publicly owned former surface clay mining and brick production site located in the Village of McArthur. The site reflects the county's extractive industry legacy and includes mine-scarred land features and remaining industrial remnants. While portions of the site have transitioned toward passive use, environmental assessment is needed to better characterize subsurface conditions and potential contamination. Potential environmental concerns include physical hazards such as erosion, spoil piles, highwalls, collapsing air tunnels, and soil and site contamination risk from historical industrial operations. Meigs County's priority site is the former **Meigs General Hospital** in downtown Pomeroy. This site represents a high-value brownfield priority site with areas of uncertainty (AUM) and partially known extents tied to both historic institutional use and the Village's broader legacy of coal mining and coal-related industrial activity. While prior work has advanced understanding of site conditions, remaining uncertainties, particularly regarding metals and other coal-associated constituents and how far they extend laterally/vertically, create due diligence risk that can deter private investment and complicate redevelopment decisions without additional assessment and documentation. This site is strategically positioned for catalytic reinvestment because it is immediately adjacent to County-owned property, creating an opportunity to plan and redevelop the entire assemblage as a single, coordinated project. With the hospital parcel and adjacent County property treated as one redevelopment footprint, the project can support downtown Pomeroy revitalization, adding new economic activity, housing, and/or mixed-use infill, and complementary public improvements in the county seat's core, while reducing blight and uncertainty that currently suppresses redevelopment potential. This would be contiguous or partially contiguous with a body of water, but for a few streets separating them. *(d.) Identifying Additional Sites* - If grant funds remain after completing assessment activities

for the identified Priority Sites, the coalition will identify additional brownfield sites within the established geographic boundaries of Hocking, Vinton, and Meigs Counties. The process will be coordinated by the lead member in collaboration with each non-lead coalition member to ensure site selection reflects local priorities and documented brownfield challenges. Additional sites will be identified through a systematic review of known or suspected brownfields, including county and municipal property inventories, tax-delinquent and publicly owned properties, and sites identified through coordination with local planning, economic development, and public works staff. Coalition members will also consult elected officials and community members with knowledge of historic industrial, mining, or manufacturing activities to identify properties where environmental uncertainty continues to hinder reuse. Candidate sites will be prioritized using consistent criteria applied across all coalition members. Priority will be given to sites that: Meet EPA eligibility requirements for brownfield assessment; Have known or suspected contamination requiring Phase I or II Environmental Site Assessments; Are publicly owned or have cooperative property owners; Align with local redevelopment, economic development, or community reuse goals; Demonstrate potential to leverage future cleanup or redevelopment funding; And address community needs such as reducing blight, supporting economic revitalization, or improving environmental conditions. This structured approach will ensure that any remaining grant funds are used efficiently to advance assessment activities that reduce environmental uncertainty and support redevelopment outcomes across the coalition area. **b. Revitalization of the Target Area - (e.) Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans** - The coalition's reuse strategy focuses on removing environmental uncertainty at priority brownfield sites so that local governments and property owners can make informed decisions consistent with adopted land use, economic development, and community revitalization plans. Assessment activities funded through this grant will provide the environmental data necessary to evaluate feasible reuse options, support site prioritization, and advance projects toward future cleanup and redevelopment funding. Across the coalition area, local plans emphasize revitalizing underutilized industrial properties, supporting job creation, preserving community assets tied to the region's industrial and extractive history, and improving public access to recreational and community spaces. The coalition's assessment efforts directly support these goals by addressing one of the primary barriers to reuse: unknown or suspected contamination. By aligning assessment activities with locally adopted plans and community priorities, the coalition's reuse strategy ensures the grant-funded work directly supports community-driven reutilization, positions sites for future investment, and advances equitable and sustainable reuse across the coalition area. **(f.) Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy** - Assessment and reuse planning activities supported by this grant will help stimulate post-cleanup economic development by reducing environmental uncertainty and improving site readiness at priority brownfield properties. By clarifying environmental conditions, the coalition will enable local governments and property owners to pursue redevelopment and reuse options that attract investment, support job creation, and strengthen local tax bases in communities impacted by historic industrial and extractive uses. Across the coalition area, reuse planning may support a range of outcomes,

including industrial and commercial reinvestment, adaptive reuse of existing facilities, and the creation or enhancement of parks, greenways, recreational spaces, and nonprofit or community-use properties. In Vinton County, assessment activities will inform long-term stewardship and public-use planning at a historic clay mining site, while in Hocking and Meigs Counties, assessments will support redevelopment planning in areas with existing infrastructure and employment potential. The proposed project will also improve community resilience to extreme weather events and natural disasters by advancing assessment and reuse planning for sites with physical and environmental vulnerabilities. By supporting informed decisions about land use, storm water management, and site design, the coalition will help reduce flood risks, stabilize disturbed soils, and limit potential contaminant migration during severe weather events. Collectively, these outcomes support safer, more resilient communities and sustainable long-term reuse of previously developed land.

c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources - (g.) Resources Needed for Site Reuse - Leveraging existing local and regional resources is a priority for all coalition members and reflects the coalition's strategic approach to community revitalization and economic growth. County land banks and port authorities, where applicable, play an important role in addressing vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties and will be key partners in advancing site reuse efforts. Land banks support the acquisition, stabilization, and repurposing of underutilized properties, helping to return environmentally impacted sites to productive use. Port authorities can serve as drivers of regional economic development by providing expertise related to industrial reuse, infrastructure planning, transportation access, and redevelopment strategy, all of which are relevant to many of the coalition's brownfield and abandoned mine land sites. In addition to local resources, the coalition will leverage available state and federal brownfields and redevelopment funding programs to support future cleanup and reuse activities. These resources may include additional U.S. EPA brownfields funding opportunities, the Ohio EPA Targeted Brownfield Assessment Program, and the Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program, among others. Each member within the coalition has experience accessing and administering state and federal funding to support infrastructure, environmental, and community development projects. This collective experience positions the coalition to effectively coordinate assessment activities, pursue complementary funding, and support long-term site reuse and revitalization efforts across Hocking, Vinton, and Meigs counties.

(h.) Use of Existing Infrastructure - As a predominantly rural region, the coalition recognizes that leveraging existing infrastructure is a practical and sustainable approach to redevelopment. Given the limited availability of resources to construct new infrastructure, the coalition will prioritize the reuse of sites that are already served by established systems, including transportation networks, utilities, and existing structures, where applicable. Many of the potential priority brownfield and abandoned mine land sites are located in areas with existing infrastructure capacity, making them suitable for future redevelopment without the need for significant new infrastructure investment. By repurposing these sites, the coalition will promote efficient use of public resources, reduce development pressures on undeveloped land, and support responsible economic growth. The availability and capacity of

existing infrastructure will be a key consideration during the assessment process to ensure that identified sites are viable for future reuse and aligned with local and regional revitalization goals.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Need - (a.) *The Community’s Need for Funding-* Communities within the coalition’s geographic boundaries face significant barriers to addressing brownfield sites due to small population size, limited local capacity, and constrained financial resources. Hocking, Vinton, and Meigs Counties include a mix of rural townships and small municipalities that lack the tax base, staffing, and technical expertise necessary to independently fund and manage environmental site assessments or remediation activities. Historical coal mining, clay extraction, and industrial manufacturing have left behind numerous underutilized properties with suspected environmental contamination, yet many local governments do not have access to alternative funding sources to conduct Phase I or Phase II Environmental Site Assessments. Private investment is often limited in these communities due to environmental uncertainty, making it difficult to advance sites toward reuse without federal assistance. This grant is critical to meeting community needs by providing the resources required to identify, assess, and prioritize brownfield sites, reduce environmental risk, and support informed reuse planning. By addressing a key gap in local capacity, the proposed project will enable communities with limited financial means to pursue future cleanup funding, leverage public and private investment, and advance revitalization efforts that would not be feasible without EPA Brownfields support. **(b.) *Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations*** - The communities within Hocking, Vinton, and Meigs Counties include sensitive populations whose health and welfare are influenced by socioeconomic conditions and environmental risk factors. These largely rural counties have relatively older populations, limited access to healthcare, and lower household wealth, all of which can increase vulnerability to potential environmental exposures associated with brownfield and abandoned industrial sites. A notable share of residents lack health insurance, limiting access to preventative care and treatment. Each county also has a substantial age 65 or older, a group more susceptible to chronic disease and environmental stressors. Housing values below state and national averages further reflect constrained household resources and reduced capacity to independently address environmental hazards. Environmental assessment activities funded through this grant will help identify and reduce potential threats posed by brownfield sites, support protective reuse decisions, and improve long-term community health and welfare by reducing exposure risks and supporting safer redevelopment outcomes.

County	Variable	Value	State	US
Hocking	Without Healthcare Coverage	8.5%	6.7%	8.2%
	Percent 65 and Up	21.5%	19.1%	17.7%
	Median Value of Housing Units	\$172,300	\$236,963	\$433,175
Vinton	Without Healthcare Coverage	9.5%	6.7%	8.2%
	Percent 65 and Up	20%	19.1%	17.7%

FY2026 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant - Hocking Coalition

	Median Value of Housing Units	\$131,700	\$236,963	\$433,175
Meigs	Without Healthcare Coverage	8.4%	6.7%	8.2%
	Percent 65 and Up	22.1%	19.1%	17.7%
	Median Value of Housing Units	\$113,400	\$236,963	\$433,175

(c.) Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions - Populations in Hocking, Vinton, and Meigs Counties experience notably high rates of chronic health conditions that compound vulnerability to environmental exposures. Higher prevalence of conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and asthma, often correlated with social determinants of health like limited healthcare access and poverty, can increase the likelihood of adverse impacts from environmental stressors associated with brownfields. Understanding community health burdens strengthens the need for environmental assessments that identify and help reduce exposure pathways and inform protective reuse planning. Environmental assessment activities supported by this grant will help identify potential containment pathways and support reuse strategies that minimize cumulative risk to residents with chronic health conditions. Assessments will generate the environmental data necessary for communities to plan protective reuse and reduce environmental uncertainty in areas where sensitive populations are at greater risk.

County	Variable	Value	State	US
Hocking	Prevalence of Stroke	5.2%	3.9%	3.1%
	Prevalence of Asthma	13.1%	10.4%	7.7%
	Prevalence of Heart Disease	11.5%	5.6%	5%
	Prevalence of Disabilities	23%	14.5%	13.5%
	Prevalence of Diabetes/Poor Health	21.3%	11.3%	11.6%
Vinton	Prevalence of Stroke	5%	3.9%	3.1%
	Prevalence of Asthma	12%	10.4%	7.7%
	Prevalence of Heart Disease	10.5%	5.6%	5%
	Prevalence of Disabilities	20%	14.5%	13.5%
	Prevalence of Diabetes	18%	11.3%	11.6%
Meigs	Prevalence of Stroke	6%	3.9%	3.1%
	Prevalence of Asthma	21.6%	10.4%	7.7%
	Prevalence of Heart Disease	11.1%	5.6%	5%
	Prevalence of Disabilities	15.3%	14.5%	13.5%
	Prevalence of Diabetes	13%	11.3%	11.6%

(d.) Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations - Communities within Hocking, Vinton, and Meigs Counties include economically impoverished populations that have been disproportionately impacted by the legacy of coal mining, clay extraction, and industrial manufacturing. Many brownfield sites in the coalition's target area are located near low-income neighborhoods and small rural communities where residents have limited financial resources and reduced capacity to address environmental risks independently. As a result, these populations may experience a greater share of the negative environmental consequences associated with historic industrial and commercial operations, including exposure to contaminated land, blight, and long-term disinvestment. This grant will help address these inequities by providing resources to identify and assess environmental conditions at brownfield sites that currently pose barriers to safe reuse and reinvestment. By reducing environmental uncertainty, the project will support protective reuse strategies that limit potential exposure pathways and prevent incompatible land uses that could further burden vulnerable communities.

b. Community Engagement - (e.) Project Involvement/(f.) Project Roles

<i>Name of Organization/Entity/Group</i>	<i>Point of Contact (Name & Email)</i>	<i>Title</i>
Hocking County Board of Commissioners	Drew Davidson, comm2@hocking.oh.gov	Hocking County Board of Commissioners
Hocking County	Sean Brooks, grants@hocking.oh.gov	Hocking County Grants Coordinator
Vinton County	Terri Fetherolf, dev.tfetherolf@vintonco.com	Vinton County Development Department Director
Meigs Soil and Water Conservation District	Jenny Ridenour, jenny.ridenour@meigsswcd.com	SWCD Director
Meigs County Land Reutilization Corporation and County Commissioner	Jimmy Will, jwill@meigscountycocommissioners.com	President and County Commissioner
Meigs County Ohio Economic Development Office	Perry Varnadoe, director@meigscountyo.com	Director

(g.) Incorporating Community Input - Communities, as the most direct stakeholders, possess insights into the historical, environmental, and social aspects of brownfield sites. Their lived

experiences and local knowledge provide a perspective that goes beyond data and reports. By actively engaging with the community in the assessment process, we will ensure that the brownfield remediation efforts align with their needs and concerns, but also provide a sense of ownership in the outcome. This approach enhances the quality and comprehensiveness of brownfield assessments but also strengthens the bond between agencies, organizations, and the community, making way for successful and sustainable redevelopment. The members of this coalition plan to conduct the following community engagement activities: press releases, posts on social media, in-person meetings, and information sessions. Interested individuals will be able to provide input at these meetings and online.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, AND MEASURING PROGRESS

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs:

Task/Activity: Project/Program Management
<p>a. Project Implementation: This task will include the oversight and supervision of the grant program for the Coalition. Activities include the management of the Cooperative Agreement, procuring the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP), conducting regular meetings with the QEP and US EPA, reporting to the non-lead members throughout the grant period, output tracking for all Tasks, Assessment Cleanup Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) database entries, review and approval of invoices, eligibility determinations, review of completed technical reports, annual financial reporting, quarterly program reports to US EPA, a final closeout report, and attending EPA Brownfields training conferences and related workshops.</p>
<p>b. Anticipated Project Schedule: This activity will be initiated at project inception. QEP selection will occur within three (3) months of securing the Cooperative Agreement. Quarterly meetings with the US EPA (including the QEP) and separately with the Coalition members will begin within the first quarter after grant approval and continue through project closeout (32). Other activities will occur concurrently throughout the grant period.</p>
<p>c. Task/Activity Lead: Hocking County will rely on QEP to lead Grant Administration with support from county grants administrator Sean Brooks.</p>
<p>d. Outputs: Outputs for this Task will include documentation of QEP selection, completion of quarterly meetings and preparation of meeting notes with US EPA representatives and separately with Coalition members throughout the grant period, ACRES documentation, technical reports for sites investigated, documentation of Outputs for all Tasks under the Grant, annual financial tracking summary prepared for US EPA, eligibility determinations, closeout report, and summary of training conferences/workshops.</p>
Task/Activity: Brownfield Inventory
<p>a. Project Implementation: A Brownfield Inventory will be prepared in at least each of the Coalition’s Target Areas (three [3]), up to a total of six (6) for the grant, and presented at Stakeholder and Public meetings to gain input on identifying and prioritizing sites for further assessment. The Brownfield Inventory Tool (BiT) or similar system will be utilized.</p>

<p>b. Anticipated Project Schedule: The initial Brownfield Inventory for the selected Target Area(s) will be completed within one year of QEP selection. Additional Inventories will be conducted at least annually or as needed.</p>
<p>c. Task/Activity Lead: QEP will execute the inventories with support from Coalition members in each Target Area.</p>
<p>d. Outputs: Output for this task will be a comprehensive Brownfield Inventory for the selected Target Area(s) produced using the BiT or similar tool.</p>
<p>Task/Activity: Community Engagment</p>
<p>a. Project Implementation: A Brownfield Inventory will be prepared in at least each of the Coalition’s Target Areas (three [3]), up to a total of six (6) for the grant, and presented at Stakeholder and Public meetings to gain input on identifying and prioritizing sites for further assessment. The Brownfield Inventory Tool (BiT) or similar system will be utilized.</p>
<p>b. Anticipated Project Schedule: The initial Brownfield Inventory for the selected Target Area(s) will be completed within one year of QEP selection. Additional Inventories will be conducted at least annually or as needed.</p>
<p>c. Task/Activity Lead: QEP will execute the inventories with support from Coalition members in each Target Area.</p>
<p>d. Outputs: Output for this task will be a comprehensive Brownfield Inventory for the selected Target Area(s) produced using the BiT or similar tool.</p>
<p>Task/Activity: Re-Use/Area-Wide Planning</p>
<p>a. Project Implementation: This task will include the formation of a Brownfield Advisory Committee (BAC) among the Coalition members and convening quarterly meetings of that group to review actions and progress (16). Additionally, it will include at least six (6) community meetings - three (3) associated with Area Wide Plans (one in each of the Target Areas), and three (3) additional meetings – one (1) at the beginning, middle, and at the end of the project. Communication of the program will include website and social media postings, and the creation of fact sheets, and will include presentations at Coalition member County Commission and applicable city council meetings.</p>
<p>b. Anticipated Project Schedule: This Task will be initiated within three (3) months of completion of Consultant selection and continue throughout the grant period. The BAC will have their first meetings within three (3) months of QEP selection and then quarterly thereafter during the grant period for a total of 16 meetings. The six (6) community meetings will occur during the grant period, as determined by the schedule for the Area Wide Plans and general meetings.</p>
<p>c. Task/Activity Lead: QEP will lead, supported by Representatives from all Coalition members.</p>

<p>d. Outputs: Outputs for this task will include a list of BAC Group members, documentation from quarterly BAC meetings and six (6) community meetings, information postings, and documentation from County Commission and City council meetings.</p>
<p>Task/Activity: Environmental Assessments</p>
<p>a. Project Implementation: Brownfield re-use/area-wide planning will be conducted in each of the three (3) Target Areas. Community input will be garnered through public meetings and/or past planning processes specific to each Target Area.</p>
<p>b. Anticipated Project Schedule: The planning projects will be prioritized and scheduled over the course of the grant period. The first will be initiated within the first year of the grant and completed by the end of the first grant year, with others to follow, at least annually, until all are completed. At least one (1) community meeting will be conducted as part of each planning process.</p>
<p>c. Task/Activity Lead: QEP will lead. Representatives from all Coalition members, along with the QEP will participate in the coordination of meetings within all Target Areas.</p>
<p>d. Outputs: Outputs will be the three (3) Re-use/Area Wide Plans and documentation of at least three (3) community meetings specific to the planning process.</p>
<p>Task/Activity: Cleanup Planning</p>
<p>a. Project Implementation: The Coalition will conduct Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) and Hazardous Materials surveys. All work will be conducted under the QEP's approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and site-specific Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) and Health and Safety Plans (HASPs) where applicable, and consistent with All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) and with the Ohio Voluntary Action Program (VAP) or other applicable statutes (e.g., Ohio Department of Health [ODH] asbestos, lead-based paint, etc.).</p>
<p>b. Anticipated Project Schedule: Assessments will be initiated throughout the grant based on Brownfield Advisory Committee recommendations, site eligibility, and priorities developed by the Coalition during the Inventory and Brownfield Planning tasks.</p>
<p>c. Task/Activity Lead: QEP will lead. Representatives from applicable Coalition members where the site is located, along with the QEP will coordinate the physical work activities.</p>
<p>d. Outputs: Outputs will include the approved QAPP, SAPs and HASPs, at least 18 Phase I ESAs, at least 10 Phase II ESAs (including the SAPs), six (6) hazardous material surveys, and eligibility determinations for each site that is considered.</p>

Task 1 – Project and Program Management \$84,770: The Coalition staff will be responsible for oversight and management of all grant administration tasks, we will also select a QEP to perform the bulk of grant administration tasks at an estimated cost of \$49,950 (\$150/hr x 333 hours). Coalition staff budget includes Project Director (\$60 x 522 hours=\$31,320). A total of \$3,500 is budgeted for travel of two (2) Coalition employees to the US EPA Brownfield training

conference to account for flights (\$1,500), hotels (\$1,500) and meals (\$500). **Task 2 – Brownfield Inventory: \$36,000:** The QEP is anticipated to prepare one (1) Brownfield Inventory for each of the three (3) Target Areas. It is estimated that \$12,000 will be needed for each Inventory. **Task 3 – Community Engagement: \$85,960:** Coalition staff will be responsible for oversight and management and use the QEP to organize community engagement including seven (7) public meetings (\$2,000/meeting=\$14,000), quarterly BAC meetings during project execution (16 @\$2,000/each=\$32,000). Additional activities and personnel associated with website/social media updates are estimated at \$24,450 (\$75/hr x 326 hours) over the course of the grant. Coalition staff budget includes Project Director (\$60 x 258.5 hours=\$15,510). **Task 4 – Re-Use/Area-Wide Planning: \$450,000:** The QEP will lead this Task completing at least one (1) area-wide plan for each of the three (3) Target Areas. It is estimated that \$150,000 will be allocated to each plan. **Task 5 – Environmental Assessment: \$693,270:** The QEP will lead this task. It is anticipated that up to 20 Phase I ESAs at an average cost of \$5,000/each, one (1) QAPP at a cost of \$10,000, 12 Phase II ESAs (including the SAPs) at an average cost of \$40,000/each and six (6) hazardous materials surveys at an average cost of \$25,000/each. **Task 6 – Cleanup Planning: \$150,000:** The QEP will lead this Task conducting cleanup planning on at least one (1) site per Target Area (3 total) at an average cost of \$50,000 each.

Project Tasks		Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5	Task 6	Total
Budget Costs		Project & Prog. Mgt	Brownfield Inventory	Comm. Engmt.	Re-Use / AWP	Env. Assess.	Cleanup Planng.	
Direct Costs	Personnel	\$31,320		\$39,960				\$71,280
	Travel	\$3,500						\$3,500
	Construction							
	Contractual	\$49,950	\$36,000	\$46,000	\$450,000	\$693,270	\$150,000	\$1,425,220
Total Budget		\$84,770	\$36,000	\$85,960	\$450,000	\$693,270	\$150,000	\$1,500,000

Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results: The designated QEP will create and sustain a detailed project schedule outlining key goals, budget distribution, and deliverables. Regular monthly updates will be compiled to track the project's progress, shared with the EPA via the ACRES database. Should there be any deviation from pre-set benchmarks or timelines, joint meetings involving the EPA, coalition partners, and the QEP will be organized to address challenges, find solutions, and strategize on necessary adjustments to realign the project with its objectives. Early attention will be given to inventory and planning tasks to evaluate potential additional capacities in the Target Areas and other encompassed communities within the geographic boundary of the grant. Additionally, the Coalition will oversee project advancements by gathering documentation from all contractors and consultants, sharing this data with the EPA through regular quarterly meetings, reports, and ongoing correspondence. The collected information and benchmark tracking will be assessed at the BAC meetings and communicated through public media.

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

4.a-4.c. Organizational Capacity, Structure, and Key Staff - Hocking County, as the lead coalition member, has organized the capacity to oversee all programmatic, administrative, technical, and financial aspects of the proposed Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant. The County routinely manages state and federal grants supporting infrastructure, environmental, and community development initiatives and has established financial controls, procurement procedures, and reporting systems to ensure compliance with federal requirements. Hocking County’s experience coordinating across multiple jurisdictions positions it well to administer this

multi-county coalition grant and ensure timely and effective implementation. The organizational structure for the project will support clear accountability and collaborative decision-making among coalition members. Hocking County will serve as the primary point of contact with EPA, manage grant administration and financial oversight, and coordinate consultant procurement in accordance with applicable procurement standards. Vinton County and Meigs County, as non-lead coalition members, will actively participate in site identification, prioritization, and review of assessment activities within their respective target areas. Governance will be maintained through regular coordination meetings involving representatives from Hocking, Vinton, and Meigs Counties, with support from project partners. These meetings will be used to review progress, confirm site priorities, discuss assessment findings, and jointly determine how remaining funds are allocated. This structure ensures meaningful involvement by all coalition members in decisions related to site selection, assessment sequencing, and future reuse considerations. Key staff supporting the project include county personnel and contracted partners with experience in Brownfield assessment, environmental planning, grant administration, and community engagement. Hocking County will designate a project responsible for day-to-day grant oversight, coordination with the EPA, and compliance monitoring. Financial staff will manage budgeting, invoicing, and financial reporting. Qualified environmental consultants will be procured competitively to conduct Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments and prepare associated deliverables.

b. Past Performance and Accomplishments (f.) Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements. (1) Purpose and Accomplishments - The Hocking County Board of Commissioners has not previously received an EPA Brownfields grant but has successfully administered comparable state-funded revitalization programs. In 2025, Hocking County, in partnership with the Buckeye Hills Regional Council, was awarded a \$500,000 Ohio Department of Development Building Demolition and Site Revitalization (BDSR) grant to address blighted properties and prepare sites for future reuse. Grant activities included planning, environmental due diligence, and demolition of abandoned structures that posed risks to public health and economic development. This work involved engaging environmental consultants to complete Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and required remedial planning prior to demolition. A key project supported by the BDSR grant was the demolition of the former Hocking County Jail in Logan, a vacant 4,500-square-foot structure unused since 2005. Removal of the structure eliminated a long-standing blight and supports future reuse of the site consistent with community revitalization goals.

(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements - Hocking County has remained in full compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms of the BDSR grant. The County has submitted all required reports in a timely and acceptable manner, documented progress toward expected outcomes, and coordinated closely with Buckeye Hills Regional Council to ensure adherence to program requirements. Project milestones were met as scheduled, and no corrective actions were required, demonstrating the County's capacity to effectively manage environmental assessment and redevelopment-focused financial assistance agreements.

**FY2026 US EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant
Hocking, Vinton, and Ross County Ohio**

RESPONSES TO THRESHOLD CRITERIA

1. **Applicant Eligibility** - The Hocking County Board of Commissioners, the lead entity (grantee) for this coalition assessment grant, is a general-purpose unit of government within the State of Ohio.

Number and Eligibility of Non-lead Coalition Members - There are two coalition members, The Vinton County Board of Commissioners and the Meigs County Board of Commissioners, both general-purpose units of government within the State of Ohio.

2. **Target Areas:**

Hocking County - Ward Township, the Village of Murray City, Starr Township, Green Township, Falls Township, the City of Logan, and Washington Township.

Vinton County - Swan Township, Elk Township, the Village of McArthur, Clinton Township, Vinton Township, and the Village of Hamden.

Meigs County - Columbia Township, Salem Township, Rutland Township, Village of Rutland, Salisbury Township, Village of Middleport, Village of Pomeroy.

3. **Non-lead Member(s) that Never Received an EPA MARC Grant** - The Meigs and Vinton County Board of Commissioners, each non-lead coalition member, are not the recipients of an open cooperative agreement for MARC Grant funding.
4. **Legal Authority to Expend Grant Funds on Behalf of Non-Lead Coalition Members**
The Hocking County Board of Commissioners affirms that it has the legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.
5. **Coalition Agreement** - See Attached
6. **Community Involvement** - The coalition plans to release press releases upon receiving funds to inform the community and to provide information on the purpose of the grant to assess the brownfields in their designated target areas with the help of community partners identified within the grant application.

7. **Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds** - None of the coalition members have an open EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant or Multipurpose Grant.

8. **Contractors and Named Subrecipients** - N/A