



RE: FY2026 EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant Application

Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) is pleased to submit this proposal for FY2026 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant funding. Below we provide the information requested.

1. Applicant Identification	Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, Texas 75503
2. Website URL	https://atcog.org/
3. Funding Requested	Grant Type: Assessment
	Assessment Grant Type: Coalition
	Federal Funds Requested: \$1,500,000
4. Location * - Incorporated Towns	<p>2 States; 10 Counties; 35 Incorporated Cities; 10 Incorporated Towns; 116 Unincorporated Cities</p> <p>Arkansas Cities & Towns: Artex, Beck, Black Diamond, Boggy, Boyd, Bright Star, Capps City, Clear Lake Junction, Clipper, Doddridge, Dooley, Fairland, Ferguson Crossroads, Fort Lynn, Fouke*, Garland*, Genoa, Gertrude, Hammons, Hervey, Homan, Index, Jonesville, Kiblah, Lakewood Estates, Mandeville, Mayton, McKinney, Mount Pleasant, Paup, Pleasant Hill, Ravanna, Rocky Mound, Rondo, Smithville, Sylvesterino, and Texarkana</p> <p>Arkansas Counties: Miller</p> <p>State: Arkansas</p> <p>Texas Cities & Towns: Addran, Aikin Grove, Albion, Almira, Ambia, Annona*, Antioch, Antioch, Argo, Arthur City, Atlanta, Atlas, Avery*, Avinger*, Bagwell, Bassett, Beaver Dam, Ben Franklin, Birthright, Blodgett, Bloomberg*, Blossom, Bogata, Boston, Brashear, Bridges Chapel, Brookston, Bryans Mill, Burns, Carbondale, Carterville, Cason, Cass, Charleston, Chicota, Clarksville, Clearwater, College Hill, Como*, Cookville, Corley, Cornett, Crossroads, Cumby, Cunningham, Cusseta, Cuthand, Cypress, Dalby Springs, Dalton, Daphne, De Kalb, Deport, Detroit, Dike, Domino*, Douglassville*, East Delta, English, Enloe, Eureka, Fairview, Gafford, Glory, Green Hill, Gum Springs, Hagansport, Hooks, Hopewell, Hopewell, Horton, Hubbard, Hughes Springs, Jenkins, Jot Em Down, Kensing, Kildare, Klondike, Lake Creek, Lakeview, Lanark, Lanier, Leary, Linden, Lone Star, Macon, Majors, Malta, Maple, Maple Springs, Marshall Springs, Maud, McCoinville, Midcity, Midway, Miller Grove, Miller's Cove*, Milton, Monticello, Mount Pleasant, Mt. Vernon, Naples*, Nash, Negley, New Boston, New Colony, New Hope, Nickleberry, O'Farrell, Oak Grove, Old Boston, Old Salem, Old Union, Omaha, Pacio, Paris, Patman, Pattonville, Pecan Gap, Peters Prairie, Petty, Pickton, Powderly, Pruitt, Purley, Queen City Cooper, Rattan, Red Hill, Red Lick, Redbank, Redwater, Reno, Roach, Roxton, Saitillo, Scroggins, Siloam, Simms, Smyrna, Spring Hill, Springdale, Sulphur Bluff, Sulphur Springs, Sumner, Sun Valley, Talco, Three States, Tira*, Toco Daingerfield, Vasco, Victory City, Wake Village, Wamba, Ward Creek, White Oak, Wilkinson, Winfield, Winnsboro, and Yowell</p> <p>Texas Counties: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus</p> <p>State: Texas</p>



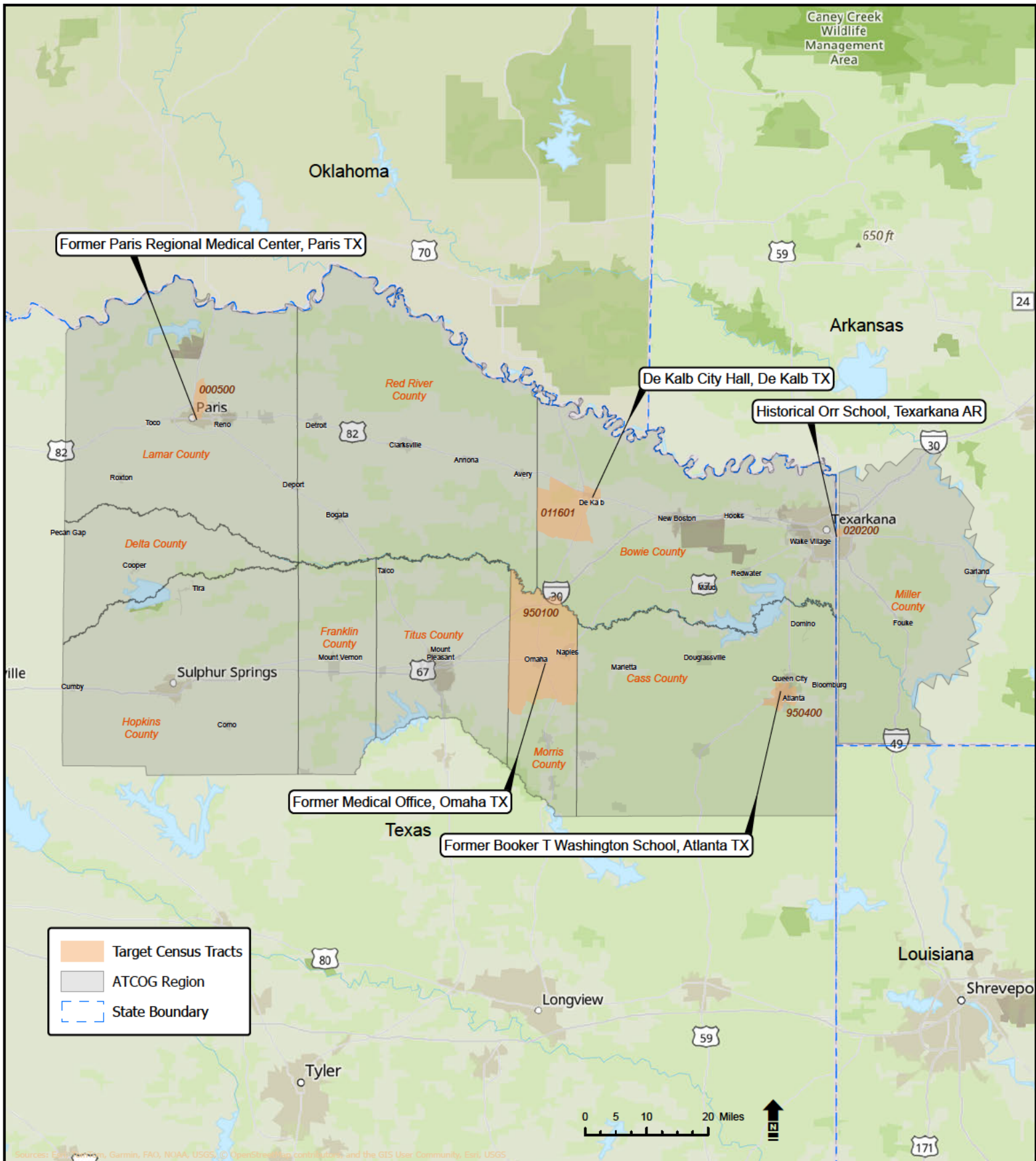
<p>5. Coalition Members' Target Area and Priority Site/Property Information (See Map Attached of Geographic Region Boundary, Target Areas, & Priority Sites)</p>	<p>Lead and Non-Lead Coalition Member Target Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Member (ATCOG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target Area: City of Omaha; Census Tract (CT) 48343950100 • Non-Lead Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City of Paris; Target Area: City of Paris; CT 48277000500 ○ City of Atlanta; Target Area: City of Atlanta; CT 48067950400 ○ City of De Kalb; Target Area: City of De Kalb; CT 48037011601 ○ Miller County; Target Area: Miller County; CT 05091020200 <p>Proposed Priority Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Medical Office – 111 Big League Bend, Omaha, TX • Former Paris Regional Medical Center– 820 Clarksville Street, Paris, TX • Former Booker T Washington School – 902 Murray Atlanta, TX • Former City Hall – 110 East Grizzly Drive, De Kalb, TX • Historical Orr School – 831 Laurel Street, Texarkana, AR 	
<p>6. Contacts</p>	<p>Project Director</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>
<p>Name</p>	<p>Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director/Grant Administrator</p>	<p>Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director</p>
<p>Phone Number</p>	<p>(903) 255-3529</p>	<p>(903) 255-3520</p>
<p>Email Address</p>	<p>tlindsey@atcog.org</p>	<p>mrudel@atcog.org</p>
<p>Mailing Address</p>	<p>4808 Elizabeth Street Texarkana, Texas 75503</p>	<p>4808 Elizabeth Street Texarkana, Texas 75503</p>
<p>7. Population (2020) *</p>	<p>Population of ATCOG Region: 322,049</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of Omaha, TX CT 48343950100: 4,422 • Population of Paris, TX CT 48277000500: 4,318 • Population of Atlanta, TX CT 48067950400: 4,906 • Population of De Kalb, TX CT 48037011601: 2,754 • Population of Miller County, AR CT 05091020200: 2,617 <p><small>*U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census results</small></p>	



8. Other Factors:	
Other Factors	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less.	N/A
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).	N/A
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.	3 & 4
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	3 & 4
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.	3 & 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.	9,10 & 11
The target area(s) is impacted by a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.	N/A

9. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority: Letters of acknowledgement from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality are attached.

10. Releasing Copies of Applications: Not Applicable



Source: Esri, DeLorme, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS





**DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
GOVERNOR

Shane E. Khoury
SECRETARY

November 25, 2025

Electronic Mail Only

Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Ark-Tex Council of Governments
4808 Elizabeth Street
Texarkana, Texas 75503

**RE: Letter of Support for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 EPA Brownfields
Community-wide Assessment Grant Application**

Dear Mr. Prange:

The Division of Environmental Quality Office of Land Resources (DEQ) is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Ark-Tex Coalition of Governments' (ATCOG's) application for a Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grant in Federal Fiscal Year 2026. As the state response program, the Arkansas Brownfield Program encourages and supports local efforts to identify and assess brownfield properties.

If awarded, the grant will facilitate environmental assessments of underutilized properties located in Miller County, Arkansas, with a focus on Texarkana, Arkansas as one of the target areas. Properties assessed by ATCOG may be eligible for enrollment in the Arkansas Brownfield Program for additional oversight, to qualify for liability protections under Arkansas law, or to obtain funding for remedial actions.

Please feel free to contact me at (501) 682-0616 or by email at addie.mcclain@arkansas.gov if further assistance is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. McClain".

Addie McClain, Program Supervisor, Brownfields
Division of Environmental Quality

Brooke T. Paup, *Chairwoman*
Catarina R. Gonzales, *Commissioner*
Tonya R. Miller, *Commissioner*
Kelly Keel, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

December 16, 2025

Mary Beth Rudel
Executive Director
Ark-Tex Council of Governments
4808 Elizabeth Street
Texarkana, TX 75503

Sent via email

Subject: Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Proposal for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FY26 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant for Hazardous Substance and Petroleum

Dear Ms. Rudel:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) acknowledges the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a FY26 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant for Hazardous Substance and Petroleum. The TCEQ believes the work completed under the grant will significantly impact the enhancement of this community and supports the grant proposal. You may contact me at 512-239-2023 or anukriti.mahayan@tceq.texas.gov if you have any questions or if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Anukriti Mahayan

Anukriti Mahayan
Brownfields Program Manager
Remediation Division

AM/dl



1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION & PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION:

Coalition Members, Target Area, & Brownfields: 1.a Coalition Members: Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG), one of 24 regional councils in Texas (TX) is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1968 and will serve as the **lead coalition** member. ATCOG serves 10 rural counties (the Region; geographic boundary), 9 in Northeast (NE) TX (Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus) and 1 in Southwest (SW) Arkansas (AR; Miller). The **non-lead coalition members** include 4 local units of government: **City of Paris (Paris), TX** (population [pop.] 24,476); **City of Atlanta (Atlanta), TX** (pop. 5,433); **City of De Kalb (De Kalb), TX** (pop. 1,527); and **Miller County, AR** (pop. 42,588).¹ Together, ATCOG and the non-lead coalition members - form the Coalition.

All 4 non-lead coalition partners have limited financial and staff resources and do not have the capacity to apply for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Grant or fund and manage site investigation activities on their own. The Coalition relies on ATCOG to provide regional funding assistance and thus, this Grant will be a valuable tool in helping the Coalition move projects forward by quantifying unknown environmental conditions that often deter developers. The ability to fund activities that create shovel-ready sites is a significant challenge facing the ATCOG Region due to low incomes, rural populations, and limited municipal staff capacities.

1.b. Overview of Brownfield Challenges & Description of Target Areas: The Region represents approximately 322,049 residents² across 6,373 square miles.³⁴ This grant will assist with the redevelopment of brownfield sites within the Region historically characterized by timber and agricultural lands, with small towns and rural cities developed around railroads. Key economic drivers have included petroleum, natural gas, chemicals, iron and steel products, cotton, and lumber. Although rail was traditionally the primary export route for these commodities, the rehabilitation of the Red River (located north and west of the Region flowing into the Mississippi River) in the 1970s reinstated barge access to the Gulf Coast and improved the movement of goods.

These industries have since declined, leaving limited new investment and contributing to high unemployment and poverty rates, and lower per capita income than state and national averages. In addition to its natural resources, the Region was once home to 2 Army installations in central Bowie County, TX: The Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant (LSAAP) and the Red River Army Depot (RRAD), established in the early 1940s. In 2005 the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended closing the LSAAP and realigning the RRAD, resulting in the loss of 406 Army civilian positions, 251 contractor positions and leaving extensive vacant brownfield sites that continue to burden communities throughout the Region.⁵

The Region also contains over 100 legal and illegal closed landfills, as well as many abandoned industrial facilities and gas stations. These blighted areas inhibit economic development and decrease housing and land values of adjacent properties. Redevelopment of brownfield sites will increase economic development, create jobs, provide rationale for undertaking additional revitalization projects, and protect the health and environment of the Region's communities.

The Coalition has prioritized 5 Target Areas based on significant community need and the high redevelopment potential of identified brownfield properties. The Priority Sites are located in: **De Kalb, TX** CT 48037011601 (pop. 2,754); **Miller County, AR** CT 05091020200 (pop. 2,617); **Omaha, TX** Census Tract (CT) 48343950100 (pop. 4,422); **Paris, TX** CT 48277000500 (pop. 4,318); and **Atlanta, TX** CT 48067950400 (pop. 4,906).⁶

The 5 Target Areas have a combined population of 19,017, representing **only 5.8% of need in the substantial footprint of the ATCOG Region.**⁷ Redevelopment of the Priority Sites within the Target Areas will address economically impoverished/disproportionately impacted populations, through revitalization, job creation, and economic development.

1.c. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites: Generally, it is more cost-effective for developers to choose sites without development constraints, which has contributed to sprawl in NE TX/SW AR and abandonment of infill sites, resulting in blight and decay of communities. The Coalition has developed an inventory of more than 100 brownfield sites in the Region and selected 5 Priority Sites that present the strongest potential for reuse and community benefit with funding available to address environmental concerns. Each Priority Site is positioned to directly support urgent local redevelopment goals including expanding healthcare access, restoring historic and cultural assets, creating education and workforce facilities, or advancing downtown and corridor revitalization efforts, once assessment and planning is completed.

Former Medical Office 0.93 acres @ 111 Big League Bend, Omaha, TX	Target Area: Omaha CT 48343950100*	Lead Coalition Member: ATCOG
This property consists of a 4,826 square foot (sq. ft.) building, constructed in 1992, and located in Morris County, TX, NE of the intersection of U.S. Highways 259 and 67 and accessible from U.S. Highway 67. The building has suffered significant damage due to plumbing-related flooding.		

¹ <https://www.census.gov/en.html>

² Policy Map

³ <https://www.texascounties.net/statistics/landarea.htm>

⁴ <https://www.arcountries.org/site/assets/files/3777/arkansasquaremiles.pdf>

⁵ <https://texamericascenter.com/about-texamericas-center/rrad-lsaap-story/>

⁶ <https://www.census.gov/en.html>

⁷ <https://www.census.gov/en.html>



impacting its overall condition and functionality. Given its age, prior use as a medical facility, and existing damage, environmental and structural assessment is required prior to any redevelopment or demolition activities for future use as a new medical facility.

Former Booker T Washington School 1.0 acres @ 902 Murray Atlanta, TX	Target Area: Atlanta CT 48067950400* & **	Non-Lead Coalition Member: City of Atlanta
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Built in 1950, this site served African American students during the era of legally segregated public education. With a main building (21,967 sq. ft.) and an outbuilding (1,848 sq. ft.), the school functioned not only as an academic institution but also as a cultural and civic hub until desegregation. The school closed in 1970 and has remained vacant since. Perceived concerns include structural soundness, asbestos-containing materials (ACM), lead-based paint (LBP), and mold. West of the property a service station and auto repair garage could have impacted the site with potential petroleum, Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs), Volatile Organic Compound (VOCs), and Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs). This site is prioritized for assessment and reuse planning due to the future redevelopment of a youth career training/education center.

Historical Orr School 0.37 acres @ 831 Laurel Street, Texarkana, AR	Target Area: Miller County CT 05091020200	Non-Lead Coalition Member: Miller County
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Built in 1880, the Orr School is believed to be one of the earliest free public schools in Texarkana for the African American. Originally constructed as a two-story building but reduced to a one-story building in 1920 when a new roof and craftsman-style windows were added. The School holds national significance as the only surviving building in Texarkana associated with famed ragtime composer Scott Joplin, who studied there as a child. The site was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)⁸ in 1976. Though currently boarded up and vacant, local organizations have launched oral history and preservation projects to protect its legacy and amplify the voices of those connected to it in recent years, but the building's dilapidated state has halted progress. Perceived concerns include structural soundness, ACM, LBP, and mold. This site is prioritized for assessment and reuse planning due to its historical designation and access to other preservation funding which has been secured, but environmental assessments, reuse planning, and community engagement are needed to identify cleanup needs and future use.

Former Paris Regional Medical Center 3.1 acres @ 820 Clarksville Street, Paris, TX	Target Area: Paris CT 48277000500**	Non-Lead Coalition Member: City of Paris
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Established in 1898, as St. Patrick's Academy, the 3.1-acre property was adapted for medical use in 1911. The hospital expanded to meet increasing demand and support military healthcare needs during World War II. In 1968, the facility was modernized and became part of the Paris Regional Medical Center. Due to healthcare consolidation and declining inpatient utilization, the site was closed in 2018. Vandalism and exposure to environmental damage are visible due to broken windows and prolonged vacancy. The site also lies south of an active gas station and is 2 miles from 2 active groundwater contamination cases. Perceived concerns include structural soundness, ACM, LBP, mold, hazardous and regulated medical waste, heavy metals, petroleum, and PCBs. This site is prioritized for assessment and reuse planning due to its historical designation, location, and health impacts to the community. Environmental assessments, reuse planning, and community engagement are needed to move this site from a vacant deteriorating structure to a site driving revitalization and providing community benefit.

Former City Hall 0.14 acres @ 110 East Grizzly Drive, De Kalb, TX	Target Area: De Kalb CT 48037011601	Non-Lead Coalition Member: City of De Kalb
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Constructed in 1969, the 6,000 sq. ft. Former De Kalb City Hall sits within De Kalb's civic core. Zoned light industrial and commercial, the corridor along Highway 82 is undergoing significant transition. The property is positioned adjacent to a former Union Pacific rail line, now under TxDOT right-of-way and incorporated into the regional Rails-to-Trails network extending from Farmersville to Texarkana. Additional nearby land uses include an auto repair shop and mechanical facilities. Per TCEQ, 4 groundwater contamination cases are active within 0.75 miles of the site. Perceived concerns include structural soundness, ACM, LBP, mold, pesticides, petroleum, PCBs, heavy metals, creosote, and PAHs. As De Kalb advances plans to convert the current two-lane roadway into a four-lane commercial corridor with a designated turn lane, this site is increasingly strategic for future redevelopment. Planned transportation improvements, combined with the site's central location and municipal interest in revitalizing the area, make environmental assessment and reuse planning critical to unlocking its economic potential.

* Current Opportunity Zone Designation; ** Likely eligible for Opportunity Zone 2.0

1.d. Identifying Additional Sites: The identification of additional sites will be completed throughout the life cycle of the grant and ATCOG will continue adding to the site inventory and prioritization of the list which at the time of this grant submittal contains more than 100 brownfield sites throughout the ATCOG Region, with 73 of those in the Target Areas.

In the event grant funds remain after addressing the Priority Sites/Target Areas, ATCOG, the non-lead coalition members, the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) Firm, and the Brownfield Advisory Committee (BAC) will evaluate the redevelopment potential of additional sites within ATCOG's geographic boundaries. This will include rankings in four categories from 1-3, with 1 being least likely to 3 being very likely. The categories include: 1. Redevelopment Feasibility; 2. Community Goals; 3. Environmental; 4. EPA Priorities. Each category will have 6-10 subcategories (examples: level of contamination, ability to leverage additional funding, promotes affordable housing, potential for green infrastructure) to be evaluated and to rank the sites in the most underserved areas of the Region.

Revitalization of the Target Areas: 1.e. Reuse Strategy & Alignment with Revitalization Plans: Reuse strategies aim to transform the Priority Sites into community assets—ranging from commercial and mixed-use- redevelopment to cultural,

⁸ National Register of Historic Places (U.S. National Park Service)



educational, and corridor-based reinvestment. Each aligns directly with local land use plans and revitalization priorities by advancing economic growth, historic preservation, workforce development, and strengthened community services.

Priority Site	Reuse Strategy	Alignment With Land Use, Plans, & Community Priorities
Former Medical Office	Redevelopment of the site will leverage its location along U.S. Highway 67 for an upgraded advanced medical facility to provide access to healthcare in this medically underserved area with limited access to essential services. ⁹	Aligns with the ATCOG’s 2023-2028 <i>Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)</i> ¹⁰ , which prioritizes rural corridor revitalization, improved access to essential services, and redevelopment of underutilized commercial properties to strengthen economic resilience in rural towns. Located in an Opportunity Zone designation ¹¹ and Small Business Association (SBA) HUBZone ¹²
Former Booker T Washington School	Conversion into a youth career training and education center; adaptive reuse to honor and activate a historically significant site with the creation of workforce readiness and learning spaces.	Supports ATCOG’s 2023-2028 <i>Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)</i> ¹³ priorities for workforce development, youth training, equitable investment in underserved communities, and historic preservation. Reinforces local goals for improving educational access and revitalizing historically important neighborhoods. Located in an Opportunity Zone designation ¹⁴ ; likely eligible for Opportunity Zone 2.0 ¹⁵ ; and Small Business Association (SBA) HUBZone. ¹⁶
Historical Orr School	Adaptive reuse of this NRHP site by a nonprofit as a museum and community serving facility tied to local heritage and preservation efforts as an anchor for heritage tourism.	Directly advances the <i>Texarkana 2040 Comprehensive Growth Plan</i> ¹⁷ , one of the three goals of the plan includes Enduring Neighborhoods and Places, capitalizing on existing assets, while striving to preserve enduring historic areas, while fostering economic vitality and respect to the environment.
Former Paris Regional Medical Center	Once assessed, this historic building zoned for mixed commercial, residential, office, and retail, will be eligible for Historic Tax Credits and more financial resources, to become a community asset. Investment in stabilization, preservation, and adaptive reuse would safeguard a landmark that embodies more than a century of public service.	Aligned with Paris’s 2018 <i>Comprehensive Plan</i> ¹⁸ , which prioritizes downtown reinvigoration, redevelopment of abandoned or historic structures, increased housing diversity, and expansion of community -amenities. Located in a likely eligible for Opportunity Zone 2.0 ¹⁹ ; Texas Enterprise Zone ²⁰ ; and Small Business Association (SBA) HUBZone. ²¹
Former City Hall	Commercial redevelopment supporting a transitioning corridor under roadway expansion. Redevelopment of this site, supports De Kalb’s plans commercial expansion, enhanced mobility, and leveraging the Rails-to-Trails network for recreation and tourism.	Advances ATCOG’s 2023-2028 <i>Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)</i> ²² goals for rural economic diversification, corridor revitalization, and strategic alignment with transportation investments. Located in a Texas Enterprise Zone. ²³

1.f. Outcomes & Benefits of Reuse Strategy: Revitalization of the Priority Sites will deliver significant economic, social, and environmental benefits across the Region by transforming vacant or deteriorating buildings into productive community assets without displacing residents or businesses. Site redevelopment will stimulate private investment, expand local employment opportunities, and strengthen neighborhood stability. Each site offers unique opportunities based on location, historical context, and community priorities that can serve as diverse examples for future redevelopment efforts. Reuse plans will include design strategies that improve local resilience to impacts from extreme weather events and natural disasters.

At the **Former Medical Office in Omaha**, environmental assessments will enable repurposing a vacant building located along a major transportation corridor. The site has an interested party for reuse of the site into medical offices. Once potential concerns are identified, the site has strong potential reuse for expanding local health services while catalyzing small business development and bring job opportunities to this rural, medically underserved area with limited access to essential services.²⁴

At the **Former Booker T. Washington School in Atlanta**, assessment and reuse planning will support the community’s vision to redevelop this historically significant site into a youth career training and education center. This investment will create new pathways for workforce readiness and support long-term economic mobility for low-income youth, while strengthening

⁹ Policy Map
¹⁰ ATCOG CEDS
¹¹ ArcGIS Web Application
¹² <https://www.sba.gov>
¹³ ATCOG CEDS
¹⁴ ArcGIS Web Application
¹⁵ Opportunity Zones 2.0 Project
¹⁶ <https://www.sba.gov>

¹⁷ Comprehensive Plan
¹⁸ Paris 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update
¹⁹ Opportunity Zones 2.0 Project
²⁰ Texas Enterprise Zones
²¹ <https://www.sba.gov>
²² ATCOG CEDS
²³ Texas Enterprise Zones
²⁴ Policy Map

community cohesion. Redevelopment will also eliminate environmental hazards, reducing risks to residents and surrounding sensitive populations.

At the **Historic Orr School in Miller County**, reuse planning will allow this nationally recognized heritage site to transition from deterioration to preservation. Adaptive reuse will strengthen cultural tourism, support nonprofit programming, and create opportunities for community-serving uses such as educational programming, historic interpretation, and arts-based initiatives. Improvements will also preserve a key community landmark while mitigating environmental risks that currently threaten the structure, neighborhood, and sensitive populations.

At the **Former Paris Regional Medical Center**, cleanup and reuse planning will unlock redevelopment potential for one of Paris's most historically significant properties.²⁵ Once environmental hazards are addressed, the site can be repositioned for mixed-use or community-oriented redevelopment aligned with downtown revitalization efforts. This will restore vitality to a prominent corridor, attract private investment, increase available housing, and provide new amenities for residents.

At the **Former City Hall in De Kalb**, assessments will support redevelopment along a corridor undergoing major transportation improvements. Cleanup and reuse of this strategically located site will help attract new commercial activity, complement planned mobility upgrades, and improve the economic outlook of the community. Proximity to the regional Rails-to-Trails network further enhances opportunities for connection.

All Priority Sites, post cleanup- reuse will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters by replacing deteriorated structures with safer, more efficient buildings and by incorporating strategies such as:

- **Energy efficient upgrades** (high-efficiency windows, insulation, HVAC) in renovated buildings.
- **Potential for renewable energy** from wind, solar, or geothermal energy will be reviewed during redevelopment planning for suitable structures.
- **Tree planting/green infrastructure** to manage stormwater, reduce heat island impacts and improve air quality.
- **Reuse of existing public infrastructure** to limit strain on municipal budgets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with new construction.

Strategy for Leveraging Resources: I.g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse: ATCOG serves as a bridge between federal, state, and local governments as well as developers and non-profit organizations and therefore has the ability and means to leverage key funding programs, as well as assist coalition members with navigating additional funding in the Target Areas.²⁶

FEDERAL - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development *Community Development Block Grants*: are available to counties and cities and can be leveraged for various projects increasing the opportunity for redevelopment with new infrastructure in place. ***Community Services Block Grants*:** aids through Community Action Agencies for anti-poverty programs. ***National Parks Services Historic Tax Credits*:** owners of income producing properties listed on the NRHP Places may be eligible for 20% federal and 20% state income tax credits for rehabilitation of historic properties. In addition to the above resources available to leverage this project, the Coalition, counties, cities, and non-profit organizations may also take advantage of other federal funding, including the **U.S. Economic Development Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Transportation, National Parks Service, EPA Cleanup and Multipurpose grants, and the Region 6 Targeted Brownfield Assessment Program.**

STATE - Texas: TX Historical Commission *Historic Preservation Texas Credit Program*: a 20% tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic buildings; **TX Economic Development *Enterprise Zone Program*:** a state sale and use tax refund program designed to encourage private investment and job creation in economically distressed areas of the state; **TCEQ *Brownfield Site Assessment Program*:** state grant funding for Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) for Hazardous Substances and Petroleum sites. **Railroad Commission of TX *Brownfield Response Program*:** technical and financial support for redevelopment with little to no cost to local governments, non-profit organizations, tribes, universities, school districts and economic development corporations. In addition to the above resources available to leverage this project, the Coalition, counties, cities, and nonprofits may also take advantage of other state funding, including **TX Parks & Wildlife, TX Department of Agriculture, and TX Department of Housing and Community Affairs.** **Arkansas: Arkansas Economic Development Commission** offers the following: ***Rural Services Block Grants; Community Development Block Grants*** (available for rural communities in Miller County outside of Texarkana city limits); ***Rural Community Grant Program.*** **Arkansas Department of Human Services *Community Grant Program*:** supports projects that lessen or eliminate poverty. In addition to the above resources available to leverage this project, the Coalition, counties, cities, and CBOs may also take advantage of other state funding, including **Arkansas Historic Preservation Program *Historic Preservation Restoration Grant*; Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality *Brownfield Program*; Arkansas Department of Commerce; Arkansas Development Finance Authority; Arkansas Department of Agriculture**

²⁵ [Paris Landmark to Close | News | theparisnews.com](https://www.theparisnews.com)

²⁶ <https://storage.googleapis.com>

FOUNDATIONS – Counties, cities, non-profits, and businesses within the Region may be able to access grants from non-profits such as the **Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grants, National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant, AARP Community Challenge Grant, Engage Arkansas, Arkansas Community Foundation,** and many more.

1.h. Use of Existing Infrastructure: This grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure (e.g., utilities, roads, buildings, etc.) at the Priority Sites and/or within the Target Areas wherever possible. Properties within the Target Areas are served by roads, water, wastewater, sewer, utilities, lighting, natural gas, and other public infrastructure. ATCOG’s goal is to prioritize redevelopment strategies that cause the least strain on city budgets while providing the best opportunity for infrastructure reuse. When/if building demolition is necessary, ATCOG will work with the municipality to use strategies to minimize materials sent to landfills and keep valuable materials in the local economy where repurposing creates local jobs. Although any additional upgrades at the Priority Sites are unknown at this time, if significant upgrades arise, the funding opportunities described in 1.g. will be reviewed for additional funding.

2. COMMUNITY NEED & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Community Need: 2.a. The Community’s Need for Funding: The Target Areas are presented with reuse challenges due to the small populations and/or low incomes and have the inability to draw on other sources of funding for revitalization. Many of the Region’s most economically impoverished/disproportionately impacted residents live in the Target Areas, with **41.5% of the Paris Target Area in poverty, 57.1% of the Miller County Target Area rent burdened, and 15.5% of the Atlanta Target Area having less than a high school diploma.**²⁷ These factors plus small populations, make it harder for Target Area residents to qualify for good paying jobs, increasing the **unemployment rate which is greater than that of Region, TX, AR, and the U.S for all 5 Target Areas.**

Table 1: Community Need Data

	De Kalb CT 48037011601	Miller County CT 05091020200	Omaha CT 48343950100	Paris CT 48277000500	Atlanta CT 48067950400	ATCOG	TX	AR	U.S.
Poverty rate	15%	29.9%	18.8%	41.5%	26.1%	16.6%	13.8%	16%	12.4%
Population 65+	21.5%	12.2%	22.1%	17%	18.3%	19.9%	13.2%	17.3%	16.8%
Population under 18	28.1%	15.1%	24.6%	23.3%	22.9%	23.7%	25.2%	23.3%	22.2%
Unemployment	5.1%	5%	8.6%	6.9%	6%	4.8%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%
Disabled population	13.5%	19.1%	21.3%	16.7%	22.8%	18%	12%	17.8%	13%
Median household income	\$57,900	\$30,227	\$50,326	\$31,620	\$57,895	\$58,032	\$76,292	\$58,773	\$78,538
Household income <\$50,000	43.5%	69.6%	49.8%	64.8%	48.7%	44.4%	32.8%	43.3%	32.3%
Per Capita Income	\$28,691	\$23,465	\$26,313	\$22,857	\$29,846	\$30,478	\$39,446	\$33,147	\$43,289

Note: All data was downloaded from www.policymap.com on 1/18/2026 and are from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019-2023 American Community Survey (ACS). **Red** = data higher/lower % per capita than ATCOG Region; **Highlights** = data higher/lower than TX or AR; **Bold Font** = data higher/lower % per capita than U.S. De Kalb, Omaha, Paris, and Atlanta Target Areas are compared to TX data and Miller County is compared to AR data.

2.b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations: The health and welfare of sensitive populations in the Target Areas are disproportionately affected and demographic data of these sensitive populations are shown below.

Table 2: Health/Welfare of Sensitive Populations Data

	De Kalb CT 48037011601	Miller County CT 05091020200	Omaha CT 48343950100	Paris CT 48277000500	Atlanta CT 48067950400	ATCOG	TX	AR	U.S.
Housing built before 1980	60%	84.3%	59.7%	75.9%	67.7%	45.7%	34.4%	40.5%	50.5%
Disabled population in poverty	28.5%	22.2%	15.2%	14.8%	33.2%	24.2%	17.4%	26.4%	21.4%
Disabled population unemployment	22.3%	30.0%	34.7%	39.6%	52.9%	30.6%	20.5%	34%	24%
Population 65+ in poverty	24.2%	24.7%	14%	13.1%	21.8%	14.1%	11.7%	11.2%	10.4%
Female head households; children under 18 in poverty	16.8%	44.5%	36.8%	77.8%	49.3%	44%	35.4%	38.9%	32.6%
Poverty rate of children under 18	13.2%	32.2%	19.3%	69.9%	47.9%	21.7%	18.9%	21.4%	16.3%
SNAP Benefits	15.6%	11.6%	19.9%	14.5%	17.1%	14.2%	18.5%	8.9%	12.3%

Note: All data was downloaded from www.policymap.com on 1/18/2026 and are from the U.S. Census Bureau 2019-2023 ACS. **Red** = Higher than ATCOG Region; **Highlights** = data higher/lower % than TX or AR; De Kalb, Omaha, Paris, and Atlanta Target Areas are compared to TX data and Miller County is compared to AR data. **Bold Font** = data higher/lower than U.S.

An average of 24.2% of the Target Areas are under the age of 18 with 31% in poverty, nearly **double the U.S. average.**²⁸ **With more than half of housing in the Target Areas built before 1980,** and higher amounts of children in these Target Areas than the U.S., children are more likely to be exposed to high levels of hazardous materials including LBP.²⁹ Of the 5 Target Areas, the Paris Target Area has the highest percentages of this sensitive population being impacted with 69.9% of

²⁷ www.policymap.com

²⁸ www.policymap.com

²⁹ www.policymap.com

children under 18 in poverty; 77.8% of female head households with children under 18 in poverty; and 75.9% of housing built before 1980.³⁰ The redevelopment of the **Former Paris Regional Medical Center** into a mixed-use development will offer new, healthy housing options and job opportunities will reduce the higher than U.S. percentage, 14.5% of SNAP benefit users.³¹

The population over 65 in poverty in the De Kalb, Miller County, and Atlanta Target Areas is more than double that of the U.S.³² The Atlanta Target Area also has higher than the U.S. of disabled in poverty and **double the U.S. of disabled unemployed**.³³ The Target Areas include many of the Region’s most economically impoverished/disproportionately impacted populations including children, the elderly, and those with disabilities. Redevelopment of the Priority Sites provides a clear pathway to reducing exposure risks, improving environmental conditions, and strengthening the Target Areas. By assessing and planning for the cleanup at these Priority Sites, the Coalition will directly address threats that contribute to chronic disease, unsafe housing, and elevated health vulnerabilities. Reuse of the sites will further support healthier living environments and improved access to services, jobs, and safe housing, breaking the cycle of environmental and health disparities that have persisted for decades.

2.c. Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions: The proposed grant and reuse strategies directly address the elevated rates of cancer, asthma, birth defects, and other adverse health conditions documented across the Target Areas by removing exposure linked to hazardous substances, pollutants, and petroleum contamination at the Priority Sites. Environmental assessments, RBM surveys, and reuse planning will identify and quantify specific threats such as ACM, LBP, mold, heavy metals, PCBs, and petroleum impacts that contribute to higher-than-average disease incidence in these communities. These actions will help identify, mitigate, and ultimately reduce the environmental health threats that have contributed to disproportionately high rates of chronic disease and adverse health conditions in the Target Areas. The table below demonstrates cancer rates within the counties the Target Areas are within.

Table 4: Cancer Data

Cancer incidence rate per 100,000	Morris County Omaha Target Area	Miller County Target Area	Cass County Atlanta Target Area	Lamar County Paris Target Area	Bowie County De Kalb Target Area	TX	AR	U.S.
Colon & Rectum	55.9	35.3	56.7	46.3	44.9	38.3	42.2	36.4
Lung & Bronchus	84.3	74.4	73.2	73.5	71.3	45.2	70.4	53.1
Bladder	N/A	12.9	18.7	26.8	18.2	15.3	19.3	18.8
All Cancer	511.5	402.5	499.2	486.7	459.1	430.6	476	444.4

Note: All data was downloaded from www.policymap.com on 1/12/26. Red Font = data higher TX or AR; Bold = data higher than U.S. Data is unavailable at the census tract and city level.

100% higher than average incidence of colon, rectum, and bladder cancer exist in Cass, Lamar, and Bowie counties compared to that of Texas. These cancers have been historically linked to chronic exposure to a variety of contaminants, many of which have been common at many brownfield sites, including heavy metals (lung, colon, rectum cancers), VOCs and SVOCs (bladder cancer), and petroleum components (bladder cancer).³⁴ With an average of more than 60% of homes in the Target Areas built prior to 1980, ACM exposure (lung cancer) and LBP exposure (lung and bladder cancers) is high.³⁵

The Region (Texas Health Service Region 4) demonstrates notable differences from statewide birth defect averages. Spina bifida prevalence in Region 4 is approximately 32% higher than the Texas average (4.90 vs. 3.72 per 10,000 live births), while cleft lip with or without cleft palate occurs at a rate about 26% higher in Region 4 (13.47 vs. 10.72). Gastroschisis is also elevated, with Region 4 experiencing rates roughly 27% higher than statewide Texas (6.41 vs. 5.04).

Table 5: Potential Environmental Contamination and Birth Defects³⁶

Birth Defect	Spina Bifida	Cleft Lip	Gastroschisis
Potential Environmental Contamination	Benzene; Ambient Air Pollution; pesticides	Ambient Air Pollution	Ambient Air Pollution; petroleum; herbicides

These statistically significant deviations indicate that Region 4 carries a **disproportionately higher risk for certain birth defects**, reinforcing the need for region-specific prevention efforts and additional medical facilities such as redevelopment of the Former Medical Office into an upgraded advanced medical facility.

Exposure to airborne particulates, such as wind-blown contaminated soils and ACMs, believed to be present on the Priority Sites, may contribute to and/or complicate asthma and other respiratory diseases. Potential ingestion, inhalation, and dermal contact with contaminated air, soil, and building products poses a public health risk and ATCOG will utilize this funding to

³⁰ www.policymap.com

³¹ www.policymap.com

³² www.policymap.com

³³ www.policymap.com

³⁴ [Cancer incidence and mortality](#)

³⁵ [PolicyMap - Dig Deeper](#)

³⁶ [Texas Birth Defects Registry \(TBDR\) Annual Report | Texas DSHS](#)

identify, assess, and plan cleanup of the Priority Sites and other nearby sites. The redevelopment and reuse of the Priority Sites will increase community health benefits to some of the most sensitive populations of the Region.

2.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations: The Target Areas contain a high percentage of economically impoverished/disproportionately impacted residents who face elevated exposure risks from nearby brownfield sites. Lower income households and under-resourced communities experience persistent barriers to educational attainment, stable employment, and healthy living environments, increasing their vulnerability to pollution related health concerns and long-term economic hardships. Through assessments, community engagement, and strategic reuse planning, ATCOG is committed to addressing the environmental, economic, and health burdens from brownfield sites that have plagued the Target Areas for decades. Redevelopment of the Priority Sites will reduce exposure to contaminants while creating opportunities to support workforce development, youth training, safe housing, and community amenities—improving school readiness, job access, neighborhood stability, and long-term economic viability.

Community Engagement: 2.e. & 2.f. Project Involvement and Roles: ATCOG will form a BAC with representation from the non-lead coalition members and regional organizations/entities/groups. The BAC will be actively engaged throughout the project and have input on key decisions including site prioritization, assessment activities, and site reuse planning. ATCOG will convene the BAC on a quarterly basis with in-person and virtual options as well as providing a Quarterly Project Update via email for those who cannot attend.

Table 4: List of Organizations/Entities/Groups & Roles

Name	Entity's Mission	Point of Contact	Specific Involvement
Miller County	Dedicated to transparent service, essential resources, and improving quality of life.	Cathy Hardin Harrison cathy.hardin@millercountyar.gov	Non-lead coalition members - inform all phases of the project. Assist with site selection and advise on reuse of sites, connect potential employers with priority sites, engage staff, and provide financial incentives for projects.
City of Paris	We work together, we can overcome anything, we can achieve anything, and most importantly, we always reach higher.	Rose Beverly rbeverly@paristexas.gov	
City of Atlanta	A perfect location offering education, employment opportunities, and an attractive low cost of living.	Danica Porter dporter@atlantatexas.org	
City of De Kalb	The Friendly City.	Lowell Walker lowellwalker@dekalb-tx.com	
City Federation Of Colored Women's Clubs of Texarkana Inc (City Federation)	"Lifting As We Climb" to improve homes and community in Texarkana.	Jamie Simmons orschooltxk@gmail.com	Serve as a connector to additional nonprofits; Provide input on preservation-focused reuse strategies especially relevant for historically significant sites.
Lone Star Economic Development Corporation	To bring businesses to Lone Star and help those businesses flourish.	Rudy Dudley [REDACTED]	Provide technical assistance for economic development, publicize the brownfield program to those seeking new or expanded opportunities, and assist with site selection.
Ark-Tex Regional Development Company Inc.	An SBA Certified Development Company established in 1982 specializing in financing for owner occupied commercial real estate projects.	Melody Harmon mharmon@atcog.org	Support projects with access to additional low interest loan opportunities including SBA-504 loans, revolving loan funds, and a regional development loan program.
Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center	Helping Small Businesses - It's What We Do Best	Amber Keith akeith@ntcc.edu	Provide technical assistance for economic development, publicize the brownfield program to those seeking new or expanded opportunities, and assist with site selection.
Queen City	Picture Your Business Here	Amanda Wiley Amanda.wiley@qcpdtx.org	Provide input on re-use options and zoning approvals and assist with site selection.
Texarkana Chamber of Commerce	Building partnerships to build a healthy economy and improve quality of life.	Robin Hickerson rhickerson@texarkana.org	Publicize the brownfield program to those seeking new or expanded opportunities, provide opportunities to speak about the grant program, and assist with site selection.



Name	Entity's Mission	Point of Contact	Specific Involvement
Engineer EST Inc.	Building what's next infrastructure the places, spaces and systems that support our lives.	Shawn Napier shawnm@estinc.com	Inform site selection and provide advice for reuse options based on engineering feasibility.
Sulphur Springs Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation	Committed to being an active force in the growth of new primary jobs and the expansion and retention of existing jobs.	Chris Brown chris@ss-edc.com	Provide technical assistance for economic development, publicize the brownfield program to those seeking new or expanded opportunities, and assist with site selection.
Workforce Solutions NE Texas	To be a "driving" force in the area to provide employers with workforce support for the economic benefit of the communities served.	Bart Spivey Bart.spivey@netxworks.org	Provide technical assistance for economic development, publicize the brownfield program to those seeking new or expanded opportunities, and assist with site selection.
Eleventh Street Baptist Church	Winning Souls to Christ through The Word of GOD!	Andrew Hill 11thstreetbaptistchurch@gmail.com	Inform site selection, support efforts for outreach, and provide information to other nonprofits needing access to this funding.

ATCOG will work with county health departments for assistance with community outreach and advice on health-related issues. ATCOG will offer engagement opportunities to additional city and county staff throughout the Region not listed in this application. ATCOG will also work with local Texarkana College, Texas A&M University, and University of Arkansas-Hope to offer engagement opportunities and encourage education unit participation.

2.g. Incorporating Community Input: ATCOG recognizes that meaningful community engagement is essential to project success and applies communication strategies designed to meet residents where they are. Through traditional, targeted, innovative, and online outreach methods, ATCOG will provide accessible opportunities for stakeholders to learn about brownfield activities and offer input that directly informs site selection, cleanup planning, and reuse strategies at various stages throughout the lifecycle of the grant.

Working with the BAC and QEP Firm, ATCOG will address barriers such as transportation, digital access, and language limitations to ensure participation, particularly among populations historically underrepresented in redevelopment efforts. ATCOG will document and summarize community input, clearly communicate how that input influences project decisions, and maintain a transparent feedback loop that strengthens trust and demonstrates meaningful consideration and incorporation of community perspectives throughout the grant period.

Traditional – Including public meetings, done virtually or in-person meetings; press releases, fact sheets, and needed forms. **Targeted** – Outreach to specific groups that may not otherwise participate in a planning process. Notable groups include non-English speaking residents, the homeless population, youth, and the elderly. Examples of targeted outreach include listening sessions (virtual or in-person), piggybacking on other meetings or gatherings, and/or partnering with BAC organizations. **Innovative** – These are creative and unconventional outreach methods to help gather information, increase awareness of the planning process, and boost participation. Examples are bike or walk audits to collect data by photo or video, pop-up events, demonstration projects, and scavenger hunts. These activities encourage interactions in the Target Areas and can capture full-time employees, busy parents, and business owners. **Virtual/Social Media** – Internet-based outreach can increase awareness and participation while reaching people who may not otherwise participate. Geographic Information System (GIS) StoryMaps can be used as an “online equivalent” for public meetings. This online tool guides participants through the project including narrative, interactive and static maps, survey questions, videos, infographics, and more.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, & MEASURING PROGRESS:

Description of Tasks/Activities & Outputs: 3.a.-d. Project Implementation; Anticipated Project Schedule; Task/Activity Lead; and Outputs: **Project Implementation, Anticipated Project Schedule, Task/Activity Lead, and Outputs:** ATCOG is requesting \$1,500,000 of EPA Coalition Assessment funding to assess and plan for the cleanup/reuse of the Priority Site and Target Areas. The scope has been organized into 5 tasks as described below.

Task 1: Cooperative Agreement (CA) Management, Reporting, & Other Eligible Activities

a. Implementation: ATCOG will manage all aspects of the project, including coordination with the EPA and QEP. Reporting will include Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs); ACRES Updates; Annual/Final Federal Financial Reports (FFRs); and a Final Performance Report documenting accomplishments, outputs, outcomes, and success stories. ATCOG has procured a QEP Firm in accordance with (2) CFR Part 200 requirements and will oversee the QEP Firm and other contractors. 2 ATCOG staff will also attend state/regional workshops/conference(s) and/or 2 National Brownfield Conferences. Any proposed changes to the Task will be discussed with and approved by EPA.



b. Schedule: Management & reporting will be ongoing throughout the 4-year implementation period. QPRs will be submitted within 30 days after quarters end. ATCOG intends to attend the 2027 National Brownfield Conference in Salt Lake City, UT as well as other local/state/regional workshop/conference(s) and another National Brownfield Conference(s).

c. Leads: ATCOG will lead this task including management, execution, and compliance with the terms and conditions of the CA. The QEP will assist with reporting activities.

d. Outputs: 16 QPRs; 1 Final Performance Report; ACRES Updates (ongoing upon completion of outputs); and two ATCOG staff to attend local, regional, state, and/or 2 EPA National Brownfield Conferences.

Task 2: Brownfield Inventory and Site Prioritization/Selection

a. Implementation: ATCOG will work with the QEP, non-lead coalition members, and the BAC to continue the development of the site inventory (currently containing over 100 sites) and to prioritize sites. Environmental database information will be utilized as well as information from Sanborn fire insurance maps, city directory records, tax delinquencies, and building code violations. The inventory will be in a GIS format such that it can be a future resource for ATCOG with each site catalogued using the parcel tax ID numbers. ATCOG will acquire historical fire insurance maps (FIM) and georeference and mosaic them into seamless coverages for each year acquired. A detailed map analysis will identify features from each FIM for each year acquired that identify industrial, commercial, and other uses that potentially generated or used hazardous materials during their operations. This will include features like gas stations, dry cleaners, factories, machine shops, in addition to specific features such as USTs and ASTs, materials storage, asbestos uses, etc. Each feature will be digitized using GIS and a database of features will be created that can be used for any spatial analysis such as land use planning, remediation, utility work, and brownfield identification. As part of the site selection process, ATCOG will survey the BAC, local developers, real estate brokers, and other stakeholders for information on potential sites, conduct desktop studies and windshield surveys to verify existing site conditions.

b. Schedule: BAC Meetings will be held each quarter through the lifecycle of the grant; Brownfield Inventory/Site Prioritization will be initiated in Q1 '27 and will continue throughout the lifecycle of the grant; GIS Data Mapping will initiate during Q4 '26 and continue through Q3 '30.

c. Leads: ATCOG, QEP, non-lead coalition members, and BAC will continue developing a brownfield inventory including prioritization and selection of sites for ESAs and planning.

d. Outputs: Inventory – GIS files and FIM Georeferenced

Task 3: Phase I & II ESAs, Regulated Building Material (RBM) Surveys, Section 106 Review & Response Action Plans (RAPs)/Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCAs)

a. Project Implementation: Under the direction of ATCOG, the QEP will complete Property Eligibility Determination (PED) request forms to be submitted to the EPA (hazardous substances) and/or TCEQ or ADEQ (petroleum). Upon confirmation of eligibility, Phase I ESAs will be completed in accordance with 40 CFR Part 312, the All-Appropriate Inquiries Final Rule, and the standards set forth in the ASTM E1527-21 Phase I ESA process. All reports will be provided electronically (e.g., Adobe Acrobat) to ATCOG by the QEP. Reports will also be linked to ATCOG's GIS database. The QEP under the direction of ATCOG will perform Phase II ESAs, RBM surveys, 1 Section 106 Review (Historic Orr School), and/or RAPs and ABCAs on Priority Sites that meet eligibility requirements. A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be prepared and approved by EPA as part of this grant award prior to conducting any Phase II ESAs or other sampling activities. Prior to initiating any Phase II ESA field work, Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) and Health and Safety Plans (HASPs) will be prepared for each site and submitted to EPA. Phase II ESAs will follow standards set forth in the ASTM E1903-19 Phase II ESA process.

b. Schedule: Task 3 activities will be completed throughout the life of the grant. EPA/TCEQ/ADEQ PEDs, Site Access Agreements, conduct Phase I ESAs: Q1 '27–Q3 '30. Preparation and submittal of QAPP: Q4 '26; ACM/hazardous building material surveys: Q1 '27–Q3 '30; Conduct Phase II ESAs: Q1 '27–Q3 '30; Section 106 Review (Historic Orr School): Q4 '27; Prepare RAPs & ABCAs: Q3 '27–Q3 '30.

c. Lead: Under the direction of ATCOG, the QEP will complete Phase I & II ESA activities and reporting, supplemental assessment activities, RBM surveys, Section 106 Review (Historic Orr School) and/or RAPs/ABCAs that meet the eligibility requirements.

d. Outputs: 1 QAPP & 3 Annual Updates; 15 PEDs, 15 Phase I ESAs, 9 HASPs/SAPs; 9 RBM surveys; 9 Phase II ESAs; 3 RAPs; 3 ABCAs; 1 Section 106 Review (Historic Orr School).

Task 4: Reuse Planning and Community Outreach*

a. Project Implementation: ATCOG, with QEP support, will implement comprehensive community outreach using traditional, targeted, innovative, and virtual engagement methods. This will include meetings, forums, outreach with non-lead coalition members and stakeholders, and the development/distribution of informational materials. ATCOG and the QEP will meet with local representatives and host public meetings for property owners interested in participating in the project. The outreach approach will ensure that residents and stakeholders have meaningful opportunities to engage in decision-making throughout the process. Community involvement for individual sites will be tailored and conducted as needed. The BAC will meet once per quarter for 16 quarters. 4 reuse/area-wide planning studies will be completed within the Target Areas with the potential for substantial redevelopment. These plans include existing conditions review; market study; community engagement (2 in-person visioning workshops); 2 preliminary concept designs; final concept design and perspective illustrative renderings; and resource roadmap. 1 site-specific reuse plan (Historic Orr School) which includes existing conditions review; market study; community engagement (1 in-person visioning workshop); a preliminary concept design; final concept design and perspective illustrative renderings; and resource roadmap.

b. Schedule: Task 4 will be ongoing throughout the duration of the grant implementation. Outreach communications: Q4 '26–Q4 '30; Outreach meetings as needed; BAC meetings 1 per quarter for 16 quarters; and reuse area-wide (4) & site-specific (1) planning studies: Q1 '27–Q3 '30.

c. Lead: The QEP will lead the technical elements under the direction of ATCOG with support from non-lead coalition members and BAC.



d. Outputs: 1 Community Involvement Plan; outreach meetings including 16 quarterly BAC meetings; outreach documentation & supplies; online communications; 4 reuse/area-wide planning studies; 1 site-specific reuse plan (Historic Orr School).

Administrative

a. Implementation: Maintaining and operating financial management systems required under 2 CFR § 200.302; preparing payment requests and handling payments under 2 CFR § 200.305; financial reporting under 2 CFR § 200.328; non-federal audits required under 2 CFR 200 Subpart F; and closeout under 2 CFR § 200.344.

b. Schedule: Ongoing throughout the 4-year implementation period.

c. Leads: ATCOG will lead this task.

d. Outputs: Transaction-level financial records; records of received funds and disbursements; complete ASAP drawdowns; submittal of 4 annual and 1 final SF-425 Federal Financial Report; expenditure summaries by budget category.

* 30% of funding is allocated to reuse/area-wide planning & site-specific planning.

3.e. Cost Estimates: With high poverty rates, aging population, vacant businesses, and economic challenges, the Region will leverage this funding with proven strategies to engage communities in a dynamic process to revitalize Priority Sites that will provide sustainable community revitalization. The table below provides a breakdown of estimated costs by task. An average rate of \$150/hour is used for contractual services, and \$58/hour is used for ATCOG personnel/fringe (\$38/hour for personnel + \$20/hour for fringe) to administer the grant. **The non-lead coalition members will contribute their own resources as in-kind services to support the activities described herein.**

Table 5 - Budget for Grant Funded Activities

Budget Categories	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4**	Administrative	Total
	Cooperative Agreement (CA) Management & Reporting	Brownfield Inventory & Site Prioritization/Selection	Phase I & II ESAs; RAPs; & RBM Surveys	Reuse Planning & Community Outreach		
Personnel	\$57,000	\$22,800	\$19,000	\$20,558	\$11,400	\$130,758
Fringe	\$30,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,820	\$6,000	\$68,820
Travel ¹	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,392	\$0	\$13,392
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$980	\$0	\$980
Contractual	\$28,950	\$81,000	\$664,100	\$468,000	\$0	\$1,242,050
Other	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Direct Costs	\$130,950	\$115,800	\$693,100	\$501,750	\$17,400	\$1,459,000
Indirect Costs²	\$16,500	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$3,500	\$41,000
Total Budget	\$147,450	\$122,800	\$700,100	\$508,750	\$20,900	\$1,500,000

¹ Travel to brownfields-related training conferences is an acceptable use of these grant funds. ² Indirect administrative costs for ATCOG's Coalition Assessment Grant applicant does not exceed 5% of the total EPA-requested funds. *ATCOG has federally approved indirect rates for indirect costs. ** 30% of funding is allocated to reuse/area-wide planning & site-specific planning.

The following table provides a summary of the estimated costs for project outputs by task and budget category.

Table 6 - Summary of Task Cost Development and Application of Funding

<p>Task 1: Cooperative Agreement (CA) Management, Reporting, & Other Eligible Activities: Total Budget = \$147,450 (\$130,950 direct & \$16,500 indirect) Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel & Fringe Costs of \$87,000 is budgeted for 1,500 hours (hrs.) for 3 ATCOG staff (Personnel: 1,500 hrs. x \$38/hr. = \$57,000 & Fringe Benefits: 1,500 hrs. x \$20/hr. = \$30,000). Contractual Costs of \$28,950 is budgeted for the QEP at an estimated \$150/hr. This includes budget for grant implementation meetings (48 x \$150 x 2 staff = \$14,400); quarterly reporting (16 x \$300 each = \$4,800), 1 Final Closeout Report (\$4,500); and ACRES reporting (35 hrs. x \$150/hr. = \$5,250). Travel Costs of \$12,000 (\$7,000 for airfare and transportation, \$3,000 (\$200* x 15 nights) for hotel accommodations, \$2,000 for meal expenses (\$50* per meal x 40 meals) are budgeted for expenses for two ATCOG staff members to attend local, regional, and/or state, conferences and/or 2 EPA National Brownfield Conference(s). Other Costs of \$3,000 is budgeted for 2 ATCOG staff registration costs for conferences (\$350* x 2 ATCOG staff x 2 National Brownfield Conferences = \$1,400* and \$1,600* for registrations for local, regional, and/or state conferences). Indirect Costs of \$16,500 for administrative costs.</p>
<p>Task 2: Brownfield Inventory and Site Prioritization/Selection: Total Budget = \$122,800 (\$115,800 direct & \$7,000 indirect) Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel & Fringe Costs of \$34,800 is budgeted for 600 hrs. for 2 ATCOG staff (Personnel: 600 hrs. x \$38/hr. = \$22,800 & Fringe Benefits: 600 hrs. x \$20/hr. = \$12,000) Contractual Costs of \$81,000 is budgeted for the QEP to continue updating the brownfield inventory. This includes records research (100 hrs.), GIS data entry and mapping (100 hours), windshield survey (40 hours), interviews with residents (40 hrs.), presentations/meetings (60 hrs.) (340 hrs. x \$150/hr. = \$51,000) and \$30,000 for georeferencing FIMs, City Directories, and web map preparation. Indirect Costs of \$7,000 for administrative costs.</p>
<p>Task 3: Phase I & II ESAs; RAPs, & RBM Surveys: Total Budget = \$700,100 (\$693,100 direct & \$7,000 indirect)</p>



Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel & Fringe Costs **\$29,000** budgeted for 500 hrs. for 1 ATCOG staff (Personnel: 500 hrs. x \$38/hr. = \$19,000 & Fringe Benefits: 500 hrs. x \$20/hr. = \$10,000). Contractual Costs **\$664,100** budgeted for the QEP to complete a QAPP (\$7,500); 3 Annual QAPP Updates (\$2,500 each = \$7,500); 15 PEDs (\$750 each x 15 = \$11,250); 15 Phase I ESAs (\$5,000 each x 15 = \$75,000); 9 HASP/SAPs (\$4,500 each x 9 = \$40,500); 9 Phase II ESAs (\$45,000 each x 9 = \$405,000); 9 RBM surveys (\$7,500 each x 9 = \$67,500); 3 RAPs (\$5,000 each x 3 = \$15,000); 3 ABCAs (\$5,000 each x 3 = \$15,000); 1 Section 106 Review (Historic Orr School [\$19,850]). Indirect Costs **\$7,000** for administrative costs.

Task 4: Reuse Planning Studies and Community Outreach:**
Total Budget = \$508,750 (\$501,750 direct & \$7,000 indirect)

Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel & Fringe Costs of **\$31,378** is budgeted for 541 hrs. for 3 ATCOG staff (Personnel: 541 hrs. x \$38/hr. = \$20,558 & Fringe Benefits: 541 hrs. x \$20/hr. = \$10,820). Travel Costs of **\$1,392** is budgeted for 120 miles per quarter to attend outreach events (120 x 16 x \$0.725). Contractual Costs of **\$468,000** is budgeted for the QEP to complete: 4 Reuse/Area-Wide Plans including: existing conditions reviews; market study; community engagement with 2 in person visioning workshops; preliminary concept designs; final concept design and perspective illustrative renderings; and resource roadmap (\$90,000 x 4 = \$360,000); 1 Site-Specific Reuse Plan (Historic Orr School) existing conditions review; market study; community engagement with 1 in person visioning workshops; preliminary concept design; final concept design and perspective illustrative rendering; and resource roadmap (\$90,000). \$18,000 for Community Outreach activities including: \$3,000 for Community Involvement Plan; \$4,500 for Outreach Documents (30 hrs. x \$150/hr. = \$4,500); \$3,000 for Online Communications (20 hrs. x \$150/hr. = \$3,000); \$7,500 for Outreach Meetings including 16 quarterly BAC meetings (50 hrs. x \$150/hr. = \$7,500). Supply Costs of **\$980** includes \$800 for boards needed at community outreach events and \$180 for printing of brochures/handouts. Indirect Costs of **\$7,000** for administrative costs.

Administration: Total Budget = \$20,900 (\$17,400 direct & \$3,500 indirect)

Cost Basis and Assumptions: Personnel & Fringe Costs of **\$17,400** is budgeted for 300 hrs. for 1 ATCOG staff (Personnel: 300 hrs. x \$38/hr. = \$11,400 & Fringe Benefits: 300 hrs. x \$20/hr = \$6,000) to complete transaction-level financial records; records of received funds and disbursements; complete ASAP drawdowns; submittal of 4 annual and 1 final SF-425 Federal Financial Report; and expenditure summaries by budget category. Indirect Costs of **\$3,500** for administrative costs.

* Costs are approximate and may be subject to change based on inflation rates and location. ** 30% of funding is allocated to reuse/area-wide planning & site-specific planning.

3.f. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results: The status and date of completion of **outputs** and anticipated **short- and long-term outcomes** will be tracked, measured, evaluated, and reported to EPA via status calls, ACRES updates, quarterly, annual, and grant closeout reporting. Quarterly reports will include accomplishments and planned activities for the next quarter. Significant deviations in the schedule will be evaluated and discussed with the EPA Project Officer to develop corrective actions. The following **outputs** will be tracked in quarterly reports as well as presented at BAC meetings: # of potential brownfields identified/prioritized; # of Phase I ESAs; # of Phase II ESAs; # of RBM Surveys; # of ABCAs/RAPs; and # of community meetings and success stories. Sites assessed will be linked to parcel data, to allow for efficient tracking and analysis of project outcomes using GIS.

The following **short- and long-term outcomes** will be tracked: # of sites cleaned up; # of sites/ acres of land redeveloped; # of acres of greenspace created; amount of private investment/leveraged funding; and # of jobs created or retained. ATCOG will refine the project schedule/milestones as part of the CA Work Plan to ensure activities are completed within the 4-year period. ATCOG will continue to update ACRES beyond the project end date to ensure outcomes continue to be captured.

4. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY & PAST PERFORMANCE:

Programmatic Capability: 4.a. – 4.c. Organizational Capacity/Structure and Description of Key Staff: ATCOG will be responsible for compliance with administrative and programmatic conditions under the Cooperative Agreement (CA). ATCOG, a voluntary association of local governments, organized in June 1969, as an Interstate Regional Planning Commission, has the programmatic processes and procedures in place to successfully manage the implementation of the CA. **Annually, ATCOG administers over \$16 million** in state, federal, local, and private grants and loans. ATCOG will work closely with other internal teams including Transportation Programs, Housing Programs, GIS, and additional staff within the Regional Planning and Development, Economic Development, and Environmental Program teams. The staff listed below are also the team leading ATCOG’s FY2025 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant implementation and will see that both funding mechanisms are looked at when reviewing how to assist projects in the Target Areas.

ATCOG will oversee the project to ensure timely completion of key milestones. Brief descriptions of key staff include **Brownfield Project Director (BPD) – Toni Lindsey:** Ms. Lindsey has over 30 years of experience in management, finance, and development and serves as ATCOG’s Regional Development Director. In this role she leads grant writing and administration of federal, state, and local grants for ATCOG and the counties, cities, and stakeholders within the region. Toni is responsible for communications with funding agencies, elected officials, city and county staff, and economic development entities. She also serves as the BPD for ATCOG’s FY2025 RLF grant.

Brownfields Project Manager (BPM) – Paul Prange: Mr. Prange, has been with ATCOG for more than 20 years and serves as ATCOG’s Environmental Resource Coordinator. In his role, he is responsible for the development and implementation of Solid Waste Planning, Water Quality Monitoring, Land Reuse, Lead Outreach and Training Programs, Regional Flood Planning, and Rider 7 PM2.5 Local Air Quality Planning. Paul was a part of ATCOG’s team who successfully implemented EPA Brownfield Assessment grants awarded for FY2005, 2007, and 2009 and currently serves as the BPM for ATCOG’s FY2025 RLF grant.

Additional Project Staff – Brownfields Quality Assurance Manager (BQAM) Kathy McCollum: Ms. McCollum has over 22 years of experience in management, regulatory oversight, and public outreach, and serves as ATCOG’s Hazard Mitigation and Development Specialist. She coordinates and facilitates hazard mitigation plans for entities within the Region and serves as the BQAM for ATCOG’s FY2025 RLF grant. **Ashlyn Winters, Finance Specialist:** Ms. Winters has 4 years of financial management experience including all ATCOG environmental, economic, and regional grant programs/loans. She is responsible for internal audits and prepares needed documentation for all external audits.

If Ms. Lindsey can no longer complete her duties as BPD, Mr. Prange (BPM) and project staff will ensure the project continues. ATCOG will work closely with the BAC, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, counties, cities, and non-profits to ensure that outputs and outcomes from this grant align with the plans and visions for ATCOG and the Region.

4.d. Acquiring Additional Resources: ATCOG has proactive staffing succession plans, eliminating project delays and ensuring project staff have appropriate qualifications and experience. ATCOG routinely contracts with consultants and has established procurement procedures included in the ATCOG Procurement Policy and Procedure Manual (updated January 2023), adhering to 2 CFR Parts 200 ensure consistency and transparency in ATCOG’s procurement process. ATCOG has procured through a competitive RFQ process a QEP firm to assist with implementation activities for this grant. ATCOG is also continuously tracking additional opportunities to pursue funding resources that align with ATCOG’s vision and the counties and communities they serve.

Past Performance & Accomplishments: 4.e. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Brownfields Grant:

4.e.(1) Accomplishments: 4.e.(2) Compliance with Grant Requirements:

FY2005 EPA Brownfield CWA Grant for Hazardous Substances: BF-97699701-3

1. Accomplishments: During the lifecycle of the grant the following outputs and outcomes were completed 11 Phase I ESAs completed; 5 Site-Specific SAPs submitted; QAPP and Annual QAPP updated approved; 5 Phase II ESAs completed. Successful BAC and Stakeholder meetings were held, and ATCOG staff attended a National Brownfield Conference as well as other state and regional brownfield events and trainings. **2. Compliance with Grant Requirements:** All quarterly performance reports, technical reporting, and ACRES reporting were completed and submitted on time. All grant terms and conditions were met. **The \$200,000 grant was completed with no funds remaining and all budget spent.**

FY2007 EPA Brownfield CWA Grant for Hazardous Substances: BF-96699001-2

1. Accomplishments: The following outputs and outcomes were completed: 13 Phase I ESAs completed; 10 Site-Specific SAPs submitted; QAPP and Annual QAPP updated approved; 10 Phase II ESAs completed. Successful BAC and stakeholder meetings were held, and ATCOG staff attended two National Brownfield Conferences as well as other state and regional brownfield events and trainings. **2. Compliance with Grant Requirements:** All quarterly performance reports, technical reporting, and ACRES reporting were completed and submitted on time. Due to staffing changes, **83.8% of the \$200,000 grant was spent with \$32,450.01 remaining at the end of the project period.**

FY2009 EPA Brownfield CWA Grant for Petroleum: BF-96698901-4

1. Accomplishments: The following outputs and outcomes were completed: site inventory of potential petroleum sites; 5 Phase I ESAs completed; 4 Site-Specific SAPs submitted; QAPP and Annual QAPP updated approved; 4 Phase II ESAs completed. Successful BAC and stakeholder meetings were held, and ATCOG staff attended a National Brownfield Conference as well as other state and regional brownfield events and trainings. **2. Compliance with Grant Requirements:** All quarterly performance reports, technical reporting, and ACRES reporting were completed and submitted on time. All grant terms and conditions were met. **The \$200,000 grant was completed with no funds remaining and all budget spent.**

FY2025 EPA Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Grant: BF-2F94801-0

1. Accomplishments: The Quality Management Plan was approved by EPA on 12/8/2025. The QEP contract for implementation was executed on 1/7/2026. Sites are being reviewed for use of funds across the Region. **2. Compliance with Grant Requirements:** All quarterly performance reports to date have been completed and submitted on time.

Threshold Criteria

1. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) is a voluntary association of local governments established in 1968. ATCOG is a Regional Council established under governmental authority whose membership includes a group of “general purpose units of local government” as that term is defined in 2 CFR § 200.64 and is therefore eligible to receive EPA funds for assessment of brownfields. A copy of ATCOG’s current bylaws and articles of incorporation are provided in Attachment A, which documents the legal structure and rules of governance for the organization.

ELIGIBILITY OF NON-LEAD COALITION MEMBERS

Non-Lead Coalition Members:

- City of Paris (Paris), Texas is a “general purpose unit of local government” as defined in 2 CFR § 200.64 and is therefore eligible to be a non-lead coalition member and an eligible entity for assessment funds.
- City of Atlanta (Atlanta), Texas is a “general purpose unit of local government” as defined in 2 CFR § 200.64 and is therefore eligible to be a non-lead coalition member and an eligible entity for assessment funds.
- City of De Kalb (De Kalb), Texas is a “general purpose unit of local government” as defined in 2 CFR § 200.64 and is therefore eligible to be a non-lead coalition member and an eligible entity for assessment funds.
- Miller County, Arkansas is a “general purpose unit of local government” as defined in 2 CFR § 200.64 and is therefore eligible to be a non-lead coalition member and an eligible entity for assessment funds.

2. TARGET AREAS:

Lead Coalition Member Target Area:

- Omaha, Texas Census Tract (CT) 48343950100 (ATCOG)

Non-Lead Coalition Member Target Areas:

- Paris, Texas CT 48277000500 (Paris)
- Atlanta, Texas CT 48067950400 (Atlanta)
- De Kalb, Texas CT 48037011601 (De Kalb)
- Miller County, Arkansas CT 05091020200 (Miller County)

3. NON-LEAD MEMBER(S) THAT NEVER RECEIVED AN EPA MARC GRANT:

City of Paris, Texas; City of Atlanta, Texas; City of De Kalb, Texas; and Miller County, Arkansas have not been recipients of an open cooperative agreement for MARC Grant funding or a MARC Grant that closed in 2015 or later.

4. LEGAL AUTHORITY TO EXPEND GRANT FUNDS ON BEHALF OF NON-LEAD COALITION MEMBERS:

a. ATCOG attests that it has legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct proposed grant activities.

b. ATCOG geographic boundary encompasses the geographic boundaries of all non-lead coalition members.

5. COALITION AGREEMENT:

Signed letters of agreement from each non-lead coalition member: City of Paris, Texas; City of Atlanta, Texas; City of De Kalb, Texas; and Miller County, Arkansas to ATCOG are provided in Attachment B.

6. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

ATCOG recognizes that meaningful community engagement is essential to project success and applies communication strategies designed to meet residents where they are. Through traditional, targeted, innovative, and online outreach methods, ATCOG will provide accessible opportunities for stakeholders to learn about brownfield activities and offer input that directly informs site selection, cleanup planning, and reuse strategies.

Working with the BAC and QEP Firm, ATCOG will address barriers such as transportation, digital access, and language limitations to ensure participation, particularly among populations historically underrepresented in redevelopment efforts. ATCOG will document and summarize community input, clearly communicate how that input influences project decisions, and maintain a transparent feedback loop that strengthens trust and demonstrates meaningful consideration and incorporation of community perspectives throughout the grant period.

Traditional – Including public meetings, done virtually or in-person meetings; press releases, fact sheets, and needed forms. **Targeted** – Outreach to specific groups that may not otherwise participate in a planning process. Notable groups include non-English speaking residents, the homeless population, youth, and the elderly. Examples of targeted outreach include listening sessions (virtual or in-person), piggybacking on other meetings or gatherings, and/or partnering with BAC organizations. **Innovative** – These are creative and unconventional outreach methods to help gather information, increase awareness of the planning process, and boost participation. Examples are bike or walk audits to collect data by photo or video, pop-up events, demonstration projects, and scavenger hunts. These activities encourage interactions in the Target Areas and can capture full-time employees, busy parents, and business owners. **Virtual/Social Media** – Internet-based outreach can increase awareness and participation while reaching people who may not otherwise participate. Geographic Information System (GIS) StoryMaps can be used as an “online equivalent” for public meetings. This online tool guides participants through the project including narrative, interactive and static maps, survey questions, videos, infographics, and more.

7. EXPENDITURE OF EXISTING GRANT FUNDS:

ATCOG does not have an open EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant or Multipurpose Grant.

8. CONTRACTORS AND NAMED SUBRECIPIENTS:

ATCOG has selected a firm under a “comprehensive services process” for both grant writing and grant implementation services. ATCOG’s procurement method used was a Request for Proposal (RFP). Details regarding ATCOG’s RFP process are described in detail below.

- The RFP and related documents were posted on the ATCOG website on July 17, 2024 ([Doing Business with ATCOG - Ark Tex Council Of Governments](#)) and on the EDDBS for the State of Texas.
- The RFP was solicited in the following newspaper: Texarkana Gazette from July 17-21, 2024.
- Bid invitations were also sent to four firms.
- Four proposers responded to the RFP on August 15, 2024.
- The chosen QEP firm, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) was announced on August 20, 2024.

Below is the timeline of the RFP process as seen in the RFP released on July 17, 2024.

RFP TIMELINE SCHEDULE (dates/times subject to change)

Bid Release	Wednesday, July 17, 2024
Questions Due	Wednesday, July 21, 2024
Staff Responses Post	Friday, August 9, 2024
Bids Due	Thursday, August 15, 2024 (12:00pm)

INTERNAL TIMELINES

Evaluation Commences Friday, August 16, 2024
Award Recommendation Monday, August 19, 2024

A copy of the RFP, responses, and signed executed contract may be requested by contacting Toni Lindsey (tlindsey@atcog.org).

ATTACHMENTS TO THRESHOLD CRITERIA RESPONSE

- A – Documentation of Applicant Eligibility
- B – Documentation of Coalition Agreement
 - B.1 – City of Paris (Paris), Texas
 - B.2 – City of Atlanta (Atlanta), Texas
 - B.3 – City of De Kalb (De Kalb), Texas
 - B.4 – Miller County, Arkansas