

Application Information Sheet

1. Applicant Identification

East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)

 700 16th Street NE, Suite 301

 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

2. Website URL

Coalition Member	Type	URL
ECICOG	Lead	www.ecicog.org www.talkto.ecicog.org/east-central-iowa-brownfields-program
Jones County	Non-lead	www.jonescountyiowa.gov
Linn County	Non-lead	www.linncountyiowa.gov

3. Funding Requested

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

4. Location

Coalition Member	Type	Geographic Area
ECICOG	Lead	Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties in Iowa
Jones County	Non-lead	All of Jones County, Iowa
Linn County	Non-lead	All of Linn County, Iowa

5. Coalition Members' Target Areas and Priority Site Information

Coalition Member	Target Area	Priority Site(s)
ECICOG (lead)	Washington County	1) 313 S 4 th Ave, Washington, IA (Washington Middle School)
Jones County (non-lead)	Jones County	2) 210/212 E. Main St., Anamosa, IA
Linn County (non-lead)	Linn County	[REDACTED]

6. Contacts

- a. Project Director
 - Meagan Prestegard, Environmental Specialist
 - Phone: 319-289-0076, E-mail: meagan.prestegard@ecicog.org
 - 700 16th Street NE, Suite 301, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

b. Chief Executive/Highest Ranking Elected Official
 Karen Kurt, Executive Director
 Phone: 319-289-0059, E-mail: karen.kurt@ecicog.org
 700 16th Street NE, Suite 301, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

7. Population (2020 Census)¹

Priority Site Location	City Population	Target County	County Population
City of Washington	7,352	Washington	22,565
City of Anamosa	5,450	Jones	20,646
City of Ely	2,328	Linn	230,299

8. Other Factors

Factor	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less	1, 2, 3, 6
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.	4
The reuse of the priority site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	4
The proposed project will improve local resilience to the impacts of extreme weather and natural disasters.	4, 5
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.	N/A
The target area(s) is located within a community in which a coal-fired power plant has recently closed (2015 or later) or is closing.	5

9. Letter from State or Tribal Environmental Authority

The State Environmental Authority letter is provided as an attachment.

10. Releasing Copies of Applications



¹ 2020 US Census, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>

December 30, 2025

Tarah Vaughn
Regional Brownfield Program
EPA Region VII
1201 Renner Road
Lenexa, KS 66219

RE: FY26 Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant Application through the
East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG), Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Tarah:

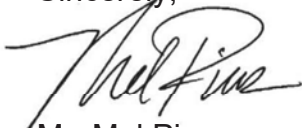
This letter is submitted as a statement of acknowledgement, review and support from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the brownfield assessment coalition grant being submitted by the East Central Iowa Council of Governments regional planning association.

This application and brownfield assessment initiative by ECICOG addresses known and potential hazardous substance and petroleum contamination at multiple abandoned and underutilized commercial and industrial parcels within the counties of Jones, Linn, and Washington.

ECICOG and their coalition partners seek to carry out a comprehensive, community-wide approach for public engagement and participation in the environmental assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment planning efforts for a number of former manufacturing, warehousing, and railroad properties within this coalition area of small, rural communities; however, on their own the communities lack the planning and financial resources needed for a comprehensive approach to the brownfield issues that these sites present. As such, the assistance of ECICOG, and these US EPA grant funds, will help move these communities forward in turning brownfield sites from obstacles and into opportunities for community betterment and public health improvement.

The DNR is pledged to be a supportive partner for ECICOG and their coalition members in this assessment project, and we support the brownfield assessment strategies presented within the ECICOG's application with the highest degree of endorsement and confidence.

Sincerely,



Mr. Mel Pins
Executive Officer
Iowa Brownfield Redevelopment Program

cc: Alicia Presto, Director of Environmental Services, ECICOG

Narrative for Assessment Coalition Grant

C.1. Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization

Coalition Members, Target Areas and Brownfields

C.1.a. Coalition Members

The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG), a regional council, will serve as the lead coalition member. Non-lead members include Jones County and Linn County, both county governments. Jones County and Linn County have identified potential brownfields sites but lack the staff capacity and financial resources needed to apply for and manage this grant independently. Neither county has an established brownfields program; Jones County is a rural county with a limited tax base and Linn County is largely rural outside of the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area. None of the three coalition members (lead and non-lead) have been awarded a Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, RLF, or Cleanup (MARC) grant. If awarded, grant funding will be used to assist communities in identifying and assessing potential brownfields sites and planning for cleanup, redevelopment, and reuse. ECICOG has legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities.

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

ECICOG serves a 6-county region, the geographic boundary for eligible activities, including Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties. The region, which includes the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City metropolitan areas, has a population of 468,601 and covers 4,400 square miles. Beyond the two urban areas, the region contains primarily small towns and rural areas, including 70 incorporated cities, 65 of which have a **population of <8,000**. The region is known as the birthplace of renowned artist Grant Wood, born in Anamosa, Jones County, whose iconic paintings were inspired by the landscapes and agricultural communities of eastern Iowa. Outside of the larger urban areas, communities in the region do not have the staff capacity or financial resources needed to apply for and administer an EPA Brownfields grant. ECICOG has compiled a list of **more than 60 potential brownfield sites**, all located in small cities and rural areas.

Major industry sectors in the region include food and bioprocessing, manufacturing, and agriculture. Cedar Rapids is known as the largest corn-processing city in the world¹. The region experienced substantial declines in manufacturing and agriculture during the 1980s farm crisis², contributing to population stagnation and decline in many of its smaller cities as residents moved from rural communities to suburban and urban areas. As a result, rural communities have struggled with deteriorating main streets, vacant commercial buildings, and abandoned industrial facilities. The closure of multiple businesses and manufacturers has reduced local employment opportunities, leading to smaller tax bases, and placing financial strain on many communities. An Iowa Workforce Needs Assessment³ found a shortage of qualified workers and applicants in East Central Iowa, limiting the region's ability to attract and retain businesses.

Many communities in the area have faced significant challenges due to flooding and severe weather events. In 2020, all six counties in the region were included in a federal disaster declaration following a derecho severe storm event that devastated communities in the area. The landfill in Linn County is rapidly reaching its capacity, partly due to debris from natural disasters. ECICOG will prioritize brownfield restoration, instead of demolition, to preserve valuable landfill space.

Affordable housing is a critical need in Linn and Washington counties. A 2019 Housing Needs Study⁴ indicates Washington County lacks both affordable rental units and entry level homes, preventing young people from moving to smaller communities. Additionally, the Linn County Housing Needs Analysis⁵, which focused on areas outside of Cedar Rapids, found a lack of affordable housing for low-income residents. If awarded, this grant would enable ECICOG to support communities in assessing and planning for the

¹ https://www.cedar-rapids.org/discover_cedar_rapids/about_us/index.php

² <https://www.thegazette.com/article/farm-crisis-shapes-iowa-producers-who-grew-up-in-the-1980s/>

³ <https://workforce.iowa.gov/labor-market-information/industry-employers/workforce-needs-assessment/data>

⁴ https://washingtoniowa.gov/wpfd_file/washington-county-housing-study-2019/

⁵ <https://www.linncountyiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23628/Linn-County-Housing-Needs-Analysis-PDF?bidId=>

redevelopment of brownfield sites, fostering economic growth and increasing job and housing opportunities.


The target area for each coalition member is: **ECICOG – Washington County, Jones County – Jones County, and Linn County – Linn County.** Washington County is the target area for ECICOG. The county is home to farmland and small communities and is known as Iowa’s barn quilt capital⁶. Washington County encompasses nine incorporated cities, including Kalona, founded as an Amish settlement, several small rural cities, and the City of Washington, the county seat. Washington has a population of 7,352 and has suffered the loss of several employers over the years. Notable examples include the closure of the 100-year-old McCleery calendar factory (loss of 200 jobs in 2004), Modine Manufacturing (245 jobs in 2015-2016), and most recently, JWV Pork (65 jobs in 2024). Seven potential brownfield sites in Washington County have been compiled by ECICOG, but there are many more sites in need of assessment and planning funds.

Jones County, the target area for Jones County, has a total population of 20,646. The population of the county has stagnated from 2010 to 2020. The largest city and county seat of Jones County is Anamosa, population 5,450. The county has identified more than 25 sites currently in need of brownfields assessment funding. Although Jones County is in the ECICOG area, it has received brownfields assistance from the neighboring East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) in Dubuque, Iowa, because ECICOG does not have a brownfields program. Jones County has exhausted available funding from ECIA for brownfields assessment and site reuse planning and needs further assistance to address its many remaining sites.

Linn County is the target area for Linn County and is home to the second largest urban area in the state. The nearly 20 potential brownfield sites compiled by ECICOG in coordination with Linn County are in small cities throughout the county. The population of Linn County increased by approximately 9% from 2010 to 2020, largely due to increases in Cedar Rapids and neighboring city, Marion, while the other communities did not significantly increase in population. These smaller communities are the focus of Linn County as they have limited resources to assess, clean up, and redevelop brownfields.

C.1.c. Description of the Priority Brownfield Sites


ECICOG has collaborated with regional contacts and conducted a survey to identify potential brownfield sites across the 6-county region. Out of the 60+ potential brownfield sites identified, 52 are in the target areas of Jones, Linn, and Washington counties. With additional funding, ECICOG will further expand its list of brownfields. The sites on the current list are in small cities throughout the region and range from vacant, deteriorating downtown buildings to large industrial sites, grain elevators, and former auto service shops. Environmental concerns include developer fears of potential site contamination, the cost of performing due diligence environmental assessments prior to purchase, and evidence or rumor of past soil or groundwater contamination. The priority brownfield sites listed in the table below were selected based on community need, redevelopment potential, and landowner and community cooperation.


Site (Location)/Acreage	Past Use/Current Condition	Potential/Known Contaminants	Assessment/Planning Work Needed
313 S 4 th Ave, Washington, Iowa (Washington County), 1.608 acres	Previous Washington Middle School, 41,578 square feet (sf), currently vacant	Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM), Lead-Based Paint (LBP), Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPHs)	Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), LBP and ACM Inspections, Site Reuse Plan
210/212 E. Main St., Anamosa, Iowa (Jones County), 0.18 acres	Previous farm equipment and auto shop, 7,100 sf, currently vacant	ACM, LBP, TPHs	Phase I ESA, LBP and ACM Inspections, Site Reuse Plan
	Former grain storage facility, fertilizer & herbicide agricultural distributor, 2,572 sf, partially decommissioned, grain storage	Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-VOCs, Herbicides/ Pesticides, metals, TPHs	Cleanup Plan, Site Reuse Plan

⁶ <https://washingtioniowa.gov/experience-our-town/barn-quilt-tour-washington-iowa/>

The City of Washington is actively involved in downtown revitalization and is supported by Main Street Washington, which works to promote and improve the economic vitality of the community. **Washington Middle School**, a priority site, is located near downtown Washington in a residential area. The school is over 100 years old and was decommissioned at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. The age of the building poses the risk of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) and lead-based paint (LBP) contamination. In addition, according to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) underground storage tank (UST) database, the school has a heating oil UST, installed in 1952. With the support of assessment and reuse planning assistance, redevelopment of the school building will create an opportunity to provide affordable housing.

In recent years, the city of Anamosa has invested in revitalizing its historic downtown and has received three downtown revitalization (DTR) community development block grants (CDBGs). These grants have funded over two dozen façade renovations for downtown storefronts, restoring the historic character of the area and encouraging new businesses to move into previously vacant buildings. The property at **210/212 E. Main St.** is a one-story vacant building located in downtown Anamosa. The original building was constructed in 1900, with an addition built in 1940. Historically, the property functioned as a farm equipment and auto shop that includes two garage doors. The building's age raises concerns for LBP and ACM, while its former farm and auto equipment use may have resulted in additional contamination, including TPHs. It is included in the third phase of Anamosa's CDBG DTR project, which will fund façade improvements but does not include any interior rehabilitation. Brownfields assessment funding would help facilitate the sale or lease of this property, leverage existing CDBG investments, and support local business growth.

[Ely is a small city located south of Cedar Rapids in Linn County, with a population of 2,328. 



C.1.d. Identifying Additional Sites

ECICOG would use a portion of these grant funds to develop a comprehensive brownfield inventory for the region, building off the list of over 60 sites already identified by communities in our area. Several criteria will be used to identify and prioritize additional brownfield sites, including known or perceived contamination, reuse plans, redevelopment potential, and site status including but not limited to occupancy, access agreements, and ownership. The location of the site will also be evaluated by community needs, as measured by US Census data, with priority given to sites in areas with higher amounts of underserved and sensitive populations. ECICOG will solicit further input from communities in the 6-county region to identify and prioritize additional brownfield sites. At least two sites will be assessed in each target area and additional sites within the region and outside of target areas will be addressed throughout the grant period.

⁷ <https://www.elyiowa.com/home/news/old-town-district-master-plan>

Revitalization of the Target Areas

C.1.e. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

The priority site reuse efforts align with Envision East Central Iowa⁸ 2022-2026, a comprehensive economic development plan developed with broad community participation, for ECICOG's 6-county region. Strategic actions 3 and 4 of this plan aim to protect and sustain natural resources, as well as revitalize neighborhoods through rehabilitation, infill projects, and adaptive reuse. **Washington Middle School**, Washington, Washington County-The redevelopment goal for the school is to reuse the building and construct apartments, including affordable units. The City of Washington 2019 Comprehensive Development Plan⁹ identified housing revitalization, including housing of varying densities, as a top priority. The plan also noted a lack of developable lots within the city limits. A 2019 Housing Needs Study found that Washington County lacks affordable rental units and entry level homes. Redeveloping the building for residential use aligns with the Comprehensive Plan and will provide new affordable housing in an established area near downtown amenities.

210/212 E. Main Street in Downtown Anamosa, Jones County-The redevelopment goal for this downtown building is to facilitate the sale and/or lease of the property to a business (retail or office). The addition of new businesses and the elimination of long-term vacancies in downtown Anamosa aligns with the Jones County 2023 Comprehensive Land Use Plan¹⁰, which identified main street and downtown assistance for revitalization as top priorities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition, the Old Town Ely Master Plan seeks to redevelop downtown Ely and supports mixed use development, including infrastructure improvements and streetscape enhancements. [REDACTED]

C.1.f. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy

The redevelopment of priority sites has the potential to significantly spur economic growth in their communities. Retrofitting the **school building in Washington** into apartments will fulfill a critical need for new, affordable housing. The size of the building will allow for the creation of 25-30 additional housing units. Reuse plans will emphasize the use of energy efficient technologies in the building, such as LED lighting, improved insulation, and an upgraded HVAC system. The building is also a candidate for rooftop solar panels, with the potential to produce over 625,000 kWh per year, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory PVWatts tool¹². Using solar energy would make the building less reliant on the energy grid and strengthen community resilience.

The assessment of **210/212 E. Main Street in Anamosa** is a key step to facilitate the sale, lease, and reuse of the building. Redevelopment of this property will build on ongoing downtown revitalization efforts and leverage CDBG investments to support continued economic growth. Investment in Anamosa's downtown will help attract private investment to create new businesses in the area, increase employment opportunities, and increase property values and tax revenues. [REDACTED]

ECICOG will encourage the consideration of energy efficient improvements in brownfield reuse plans. Energy efficiency measures, such as improved insulation and enclosure, increase resilience to extreme

⁸ <https://www.envision-eastcentraliowa.org/>

⁹ https://washingtoniowa.gov/wpfd_file/comprehensive-development-plan/

¹⁰ https://www.jonescountyiowa.gov/files/land_use/2023_comprehensive_land_use_plan_52187.pdf

¹¹ https://www.elyiowa.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif6406/f/uploads/ely_comp_plan_approved_01.02.2024.pdf

¹² <https://pvwatts.nrel.gov/pvwatts.php>

weather by keeping buildings cooler during heat waves and reducing heat loss during winter power outages. Adaptive reuse of buildings will be prioritized over demolition, where possible.

Strategy for Leveraging Resources

C.1.g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse

ECICOG assists communities in a 6-county region to leverage state and federal grant opportunities. If awarded, this grant would provide the initial investment needed to help secure additional financial resources. Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) offers Redevelopment Tax Credits to developers that revitalize brownfield sites. Parts of Linn County, including Ely, qualify for an Energy Community Tax Credit Bonus from the US Dept. of Energy for renewable energy projects due to the retirement of a coal-fired power plant.

Name of Resource	Is the Resource for Assessment, Remediation, or Reuse Activities?	Is the Resource Secured or Unsecured? & Additional Details/Information About the Resource
US EPA Cleanup Funds	Remediation Activities	Unsecured. Funding for assessment and planning will make property ownership more accessible to small communities, enabling them to apply for cleanup funds through the US EPA, Iowa DNR Brownfield Redevelopment Program or Derelict Building Program.
Iowa DNR Brownfield Redevelopment Program	Assessment, Remediation Activities	
Iowa DNR Derelict Building Program	Reuse Activities (demolition)	
IEDA Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Reuse Activities	Secured for Anamosa’s priority site, unsecured for other priority sites, Anamosa received a \$650,000 DTR CDBG in 2025 to upgrade downtown buildings, including the façade for 210/212 E. Main.
IEDA Community Catalyst Program	Reuse Activities	Unsecured. Funding for building redevelopment, rehabilitation, or deconstruction to stimulate economic growth.
IEDA Workforce Housing Tax Credit	Reuse Activities	Unsecured. Redevelopment of the Washington Middle School site into housing units would qualify for these tax benefits.
Low Income Housing Tax Credit		
KSU TAB Program	Assessment, Remediation, Reuse Activities	Public outreach, technical assistance, and reuse strategies. ECICOG has collaborated with KSU TAB to hold in-person and online workshops.
Local Funding, including tax increment financing (TIF) and local option sales tax (LOST)	Reuse Activities	All priority site cities have local funding opportunities that may be secured, including TIF, LOST, tax abatement and rebates, and/or funds from community donations. Ely has already leveraged the use of LOST and TIF funding for infrastructure improvements to support the Old Town Ely project, which includes the priority site. Anamosa offers TIF and tax abatement through Anamosa’s Economic Development Assistance Program.

C.1.h. Use of Existing Infrastructure

The priority sites have the infrastructure needed to serve the proposed redevelopments, including water, sewer, electricity, natural gas, communications, and road access. Prioritizing the reuse of existing structures will promote sustainable revitalization and maintain the historic character of the buildings and area. The proposed redevelopment plans include preserving historic buildings, including one listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If any demolition is necessary, salvage and recycling will be used to minimize landfill debris. The City of Ely has replaced water and sewer lines and installed stormwater infrastructure downtown as part of the Old Town Ely Master Plan. The city has planned for mixed use development in downtown Ely, with roadway improvements, pocket parks, event spaces, additional parking, and trails.

C.2. Community Need and Community Engagement

Community Need

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

Most communities in East Central Iowa have received no prior brownfields funding. The 6-county region consists of two urban areas and 65 small communities with populations <8,000. Since the 2010 US Census, many of these small communities have experienced population stagnation or decline. These small populations and tax bases hinder communities’ ability to assess, remediate, or plan for the reuse of brownfield sites. In addition, small towns often lack the resources to purchase brownfield properties. This is a limiting factor, as ownership of the property is a prerequisite for much of the assessment and cleanup funds from the state of Iowa, such as the DNR Derelict Building and Brownfield Redevelopment programs.

As illustrated in the table below, **all priority site cities have small populations**. The priority site cities of Anamosa and Washington and the target areas of Jones County and Washington County have **lower median household incomes** than the statewide and national average. The priority cities of Anamosa and Washington **have higher poverty rates**, at 1.4-1.9 times the Iowa average. **Unemployment rates** in the priority cities of Anamosa and Washington are **23-30% higher** than the state average of 3.6%. Food insecurity is also present in Jones County and the priority site cities of Anamosa and Washington, with more families receiving SNAP benefits compared to the Iowa average of 9.2%. In addition, the priority site cities of Anamosa and Washington along with Jones County have **median home values below the state average** of \$195,900. Brownfield sites in the target areas contribute to ongoing economic decline and reduced property values. Receipt of this grant would support the redevelopment of priority sites outlined in this application, along with other eligible sites, driving economic revitalization through job creation and the expansion of local housing options.

Demographic Indicators ¹³	Priority Site Cities			Target Area Counties			Iowa	US
	Anamosa	Ely	Washington	Jones	Linn	Washington		
2020 Population ¹⁴	5,450	2,328	7,352	20,646	230,299	22,565	3,190,369	331,449,281
Median Household Income	\$56,167	\$102,262	\$56,536	\$73,071	\$76,421	\$71,339	\$73,147	\$78,538
Poverty Rate	20.4%	4.1%	15.0%	10.4%	9.9%	8.5%	11.0%	12.4%
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	2.5%	4.7%	2.9%	3.7%	2.5%	3.6%	5.2%
SNAP benefits	16.5%	3.2%	14.8%	10.0%	8.8%	8.7%	9.2%	11.8%
Median Home Value	\$164,900	\$275,800	\$144,500	\$183,400	\$204,400	\$199,600	\$195,900	\$303,400

Bold & Red values are > (or < for income and home value) Iowa values, Shading indicates values are > (or <) US values.

C.2.b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations

Sensitive populations in the target area counties include children, older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people living in poverty. As shown in the table on the next page, these populations experience higher exposure to lead due to higher shares of older (pre-1960) housing with LBP across the region. The City of Washington and Jones and Washington counties have **higher proportions of older housing than both state and national averages**, and Anamosa and Linn counties also exceed the national average. Residents in **all three target counties also experience particulate matter (PM) levels** above state and national averages, increasing risks such as heart disease. Children represent a larger share of the population in Ely (28.1%) and Washington County (24.6%), compared to the statewide average of 23%. Older adults also make up a larger share of the population in the cities of Anamosa and Washington, as well as in Jones and Washington counties, where the proportion of residents aged 65 or over exceeds the state average of 17.8%. **Child poverty rates in Anamosa and Washington are more than twice the state average.**

¹³ 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/>

¹⁴ 2020 US Census, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/>

Award of an FY26 Assessment Coalition grant to ECICOG would provide critical funding for Phase I and Phase II ESAs, including LBP and ACM inspections. These assessments will support the identification and mitigation of LBP and ACM, reducing the exposure of sensitive populations such as children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents.

Sensitive Populations and Environmental Indicators ¹⁵	Priority Site Cities			Target Area Counties			Iowa	US
	Anamosa	Ely	Washington	Jones	Linn	Washington		
Poverty Rate for Children <18 years	25.7%	6.2%	26.6%	14.0%	11.7%	11.7%	12.7%	16.3%
Over age 64	18.1%	12.1%	22.7%	21.1%	16.9%	19.8%	17.8%	16.8%
Children <18 years	19.9%	28.1%	22.3%	20.9%	22.8%	24.6%	23.0%	22.2%
Persons with Disabilities	17.9%	5.4%	18.4%	13.7%	11.3%	13.5%	12.4%	13.0%
PM2.5 (µg/m ³) ¹⁶				8.8	9.6	8.5	7.4	7.3
Lead Paint (pre-1960 housing)	37.3%	16.7%	57.2%	42.5%	27.6%	48.5%	38.7%	26.1%

Bold & Red values are > Iowa values, Shading indicates values are > US values.

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

Cancer poses a significant challenge for Iowa, with the state’s cancer incidence rate surpassing the national average. Jones and Washington counties and the City of Washington exhibit **higher cancer rates compared to the rest of the state**. Anamosa and Linn County also report cancer rates above the US average. Chronic respiratory and cardiovascular conditions are also prevalent in the target areas. **Asthma rates in all target areas and priority site cities are above the state average**. See the table below. In addition, the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and coronary heart disease (CHD) exceed both state and US averages in Jones and Washington counties and in Anamosa and Washington cities. COPD also exceeds state and national averages in Linn County. Brownfields funding for priority sites will help address these health disparities by reducing exposure to environmental hazards, such as LBP, ACM, and other contaminants. Reuse plans, including the potential expansion of green space in Ely, will further support community health by creating additional opportunities for physical activity, adding to the city’s existing walking and bicycle trail network.

Health Indicators (disease prevalence in adults)	Priority Site Cities			Target Area Counties			Iowa	US
	Anamosa	Ely	Washington	Jones	Linn	Washington		
Cancer ^{17,18}	8.6%	7.1%	10.2%	9.7%	8.7%	9.7%	8.9%	8.4%
Asthma ^{17,18}	9.8%	10.0%	10.1%	9.8%	10.3%	9.8%	8.9%	10.3%
COPD ^{17,18}	8.0%	4.3%	9.3%	7.7%	6.5%	7.6%	6.0%	6.4%
CHD ^{17,19}	7.4%	3.9%	8.7%	7.4%	6.2%	7.3%	6.4%	6.4%

Bold & Red values are > Iowa values, Shading indicates values are > US values.

C.2.d. Economically Impoverished/Disproportionately Impacted Populations

Priority sites, and other sites identified according to selection criteria in C.1.d., above, will be improved in economically impoverished areas. Sensitive populations, including those in poverty, are disproportionately impacted by environmental contaminants such as LBP. Pre-1960 housing that has not undergone LBP abatement is often more affordable and therefore more likely to be occupied by lower income households, increasing the risk of exposure. Anamosa, Washington, and all three target counties report lower median household incomes than the US average.

This grant would help to reduce threats to human health by increasing the amount of LBP and ACM inspections conducted in the region. These inspections will support increased LBP and ACM removal

¹⁵ 2023 ACS 5-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/>

¹⁶ 2020 National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, <https://hdpulse.nimhd.nih.gov/data-portal/physical>

¹⁷ City & County, US CHD (2023): CDC PLACES, <https://www.cdc.gov/places/tools/county-comparison-tool.html>

¹⁸ State & US (2023): America’s Health Rankings, <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures>

¹⁹ State CHD (2023): Heart Disease and Stroke Report, <https://publications.iowa.gov/51945/1/2023%20Heart%20Disease%20and%20Stroke%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

activities. In addition, ESAs may find other contamination that can be remediated and/or restricted from residential use, reducing health risks for sensitive populations. In addition, grant funding for the redevelopment of Washington Middle School into apartments will help address critical housing needs in Washington County by increasing the availability of affordable rental units. Assessing the priority site in downtown Anamosa will support redevelopment planning that aligns with community needs, helping to attract business and employment opportunities to an area with high unemployment and poverty rates.

Community Engagement

C.2.e. Project Involvement & 4.C.2.f. Project Roles

Organization/Entity/Group	Mission	Point of Contact	Project Involvement
City of Anamosa	Provide public services, ensure public safety, and promote economic growth.	Jeremiah Hoyt jeremiah.hoyt@anamosa-ia.org	Aid in identifying sites, assist in community outreach that will inform the future reuse of sites, assist with reuse strategies for proposed redevelopment, provide input on scope of work for sites, and potentially serve on advisory committee that prioritizes sites. Jones and Linn counties will be key members of the brownfields program advisory committee and will lead prioritization decisions.
City of Ely		Eldy Miller cityadmin@elyiowa.com	
City of Washington		Jo Gaa jgaa@washingtونيowa.gov	
Jones County Economic Development	Foster economic growth in their respective counties.	Derek Lumsden director@jonescountydevelopment.com	
Washington Economic Development Group		Melanie Bimson wedg@washingtونيowa.gov	
Jones County, non-lead coalition member	Enhance quality of life for residents and provide essential services.	Whitney Hein auditor@jonescountyiowa.gov	
Linn County, non-lead coalition member		Cara Matteson cara.matteson@linncountyiowa.gov	
Kansas State University's Technical Assistance to Brownfields (KSU TAB)	Assist communities with brownfield assessment, cleanup, and reuse and provide technical assistance.	Kristin Prososki kp3@ksu.edu	Technical support related to outreach, engagement, reuse planning, and redevelopment strategies.
Iowa DNR	Conserve and enhance Iowa's natural resources.	Mel Pins mel.pins@dnr.iowa.gov	Technical support related to assessment and remediation.
Iowa Waste Exchange	Divert waste from the landfill by matching waste generators with markets. Building reuse is a priority.	Lindsey Given Egli lindsey.givenegli@ecicog.org	Identifying sites, outreach, and landfill diversion.

C.2.g. Incorporating Community Input

ECICOG and coalition members will conduct brownfield outreach focusing on education and awareness, community engagement, and building partnerships in the region. ECICOG will form a brownfields program advisory committee (BAC), which will include a minimum of one representative from each target area and will also include members from local governments, economic development organizations, and others in the region with knowledge and expertise related to brownfields. The BAC will assist in the identification and prioritization of brownfield sites and provide input on education and community outreach and engagement.

ECICOG will provide brownfield program information, progress, resources, and educational materials to stakeholders and will respond to community input through the ECICOG website, social media, newsletters, direct mailings, webinars, in-person conferences, workshops, or other community events, as appropriate. ECICOG will solicit input virtually and in person, including open house events in communities with planning activities. When appropriate, brownfields outreach may be included in ongoing planning efforts in a community or in the region. At the community level, if a comprehensive planning effort is underway, ECICOG

will explore opportunities to incorporate brownfields into the planning process. In general, ECICOG’s outreach approach will incorporate accessibility measures, as appropriate, and materials will be available in the commonly spoken languages of the community where outreach is conducted. All in-person outreach methods will have an alternative option for the community to participate.

ECICOG has conducted initial brownfield outreach and incorporated the input into the development of this application. In September 2025, ECICOG held an online workshop with Iowa DNR and KSU TAB to inform the community about brownfields, site evaluation, assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment information, and funding resources. The workshop also solicited input with a brownfield site survey, which was distributed to community contacts in the region, including city administrators, economic development groups, and others. Following the survey, ECICOG met with county and city staff in target areas to solicit further input.

C.3. Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress

Description of Tasks/Activities and Outputs

C.3.a. Project Implementation, C.3.b. Anticipated Project Schedule, C.3.c. Task/Activity Lead, and C.3.d. Outputs

<p>Task 1: Project and Program Management</p> <p>a. Project Implementation: Implementation will be led by ECICOG, in partnership with coalition members and the BAC, with support from a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) and planning consultant selected through a competitive process in compliance with 2 CFR 200.318-326. ECICOG will establish a pool of qualified QEP firms and planning consultants through a request for qualifications (RFQ) process. ECICOG will be responsible for grant management and compliance with EPA grant requirements and will prepare and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with non-lead coalition members. ECICOG will be responsible for the following tasks: procurement of a QEP firm and planning consultant, formation and leadership of the BAC, coordination with regulators, grant management and reporting, site eligibility determinations, and site access coordination. ECICOG will oversee the QEP and Planning Consultant, which will be tasked with completing environmental assessments, site cleanup planning, and site reuse planning.</p> <p>b. Anticipated Project Schedule: MOA in Q1 (FY27), procure QEP in Q2, procure planning consultant Q4, quarterly reports beginning in Q1 and continuing throughout the grant. Annual reporting and forms submitted Q5 (FY28) and continuing annually, final closeout report at end of grant performance period (projected Q16, end of FY30).</p> <p>c. Task/Activity Lead: The ECICOG Project Manager (PM) will oversee grant management and all tasks with support from the Environmental Services Director and QEP.</p> <p>d. Outputs: Executed MOA, Quarterly reports to EPA (16), Annual reports (4), Final project closeout report (1), ACRES profiles (~30 sites) with ongoing progress updates, disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) program requirements, including MBE/WBE certification, procure and oversee QEP and planning consultant.</p>
<p>Task 2: Outreach, Engagement, Inventory, and Prioritization</p> <p>a. Project Implementation: ECICOG will form a BAC to provide input on program implementation, develop an outreach and engagement strategy, identify sites, and assist with outreach and engagement. Program information and resources will be shared with the public in several ways, including an updated website, newsletters, distributing educational materials, and presenting information at meetings/workshops/open house events. Engagement may also include soliciting community input and feedback through in-person and virtual methods. ECICOG will expand its brownfield inventory and prioritize sites based on criteria outlined in C.1.d., Identifying Additional Sites, above.</p> <p>b. Anticipated Project Schedule: Form BAC in Q1 (FY27), hold quarterly meetings thereafter, develop outreach and engagement strategy in Q1-2 (FY27). ECICOG will continue to add brownfield sites to the inventory as they are identified throughout the 4-year project period. Sites will be prioritized throughout the project period.</p> <p>c. Task/Activity Lead: ECICOG PM, with support from QEP.</p> <p>d. Outputs: Outreach and engagement strategy, prioritized brownfield inventory, site access agreements, property eligibility determinations (~30), quarterly BAC meetings (16), regular website updates and social media posts, presentations, and informational materials developed and distributed.</p>
<p>Task 3: Planning Activities</p> <p>a. Project Implementation: Planning consultant will produce site reuse/redevelopment plans, which may</p>

include market studies, infrastructure needs, brownfields revitalization/area-wide plans. ECICOG/planning consultant will lead community meetings, which may include community visioning sessions, to gather and incorporate feedback on planning activities (at least one per plan).
b. Anticipated Project Schedule: Reuse planning activities will begin in the first year (FY27) and ongoing throughout the 4-year project period.
c. Task/Activity Lead: ECICOG PM and planning consultant.
d. Outputs: Site reuse plans (~5), a minimum of 5 outreach/community involvement events (at least one per plan),
Task 4: Environmental Assessment and Remediation Planning Activities
a. Project Implementation: The QEP will conduct ESAs on sites identified as priorities by the BAC. Phase I and II ESAs, ACM and LBP inspections will be completed by the QEP in accordance with EPA All Appropriate Inquiry requirements and applicable ASTM standards and practices. Assessment activities may also include, but are not limited to, the completion of a generic quality assurance project plan (QAPP), site-specific QAPPs, site-specific sampling and analysis plans (SSAPs), and health and safety plans (HASPs). National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation will occur when applicable. Cleanup planning, including Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCAs), will be conducted, as applicable, after Phase II ESAs. Prior to assessment, site access agreements will be obtained and eligibility will be determined.
b. Anticipated Project Schedule: Generic QAPP in Q3 FY27, Phase I ESAs beginning in Q3 FY27 and then ongoing throughout the grant period. Phase II ESAs will be conducted as recommended following Phase I ESAs, and ABCAs will be conducted following Phase II ESA recommendation.
c. Task/Activity Lead: ECICOG PM and QEP.
d. Outputs: 1 generic QAPP, 30 Phase I ESAs, 15 Phase II ESAs including SSQAPPs, SSAPs and HASPs, ACM and LBP inspections, ~5 ABCAs and/or cleanup plans

C.3.e. Cost Estimates

A summary of total costs by task and budget category are included in the table below.

Budget Categories		Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Total
		Project and Programmatic Management	Outreach, Engagement, Inventory, and Prioritization	Planning Activities	Environmental Assessment and Remediation Planning Activities	
Direct Costs	Personnel	\$80,000	\$44,800	\$85,500	\$25,000	\$235,300
	Fringe Benefits	\$20,000	\$11,200	\$21,375	\$6,250	\$58,825
	Travel	\$9,200	\$2,175	\$1,544	-	\$12,919
	Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
	Supplies	-	\$2,000	\$3,000	-	\$5,000
	Contractual	-	-	\$250,000	\$890,000	\$1,140,000
	Other	\$1,000	-	-	-	\$1,000
Total Direct Costs		\$110,200	\$60,175	\$361,419	\$921,250	\$1,453,044
Indirect Costs		\$16,530	\$9,026	\$16,713	\$4,687	\$46,956
Total Budget		\$126,730	\$69,201	\$378,132	\$925,937	\$1,500,000

*The budget does not include direct administrative costs. Indirect administrative costs are calculated using the 15% federal de minimis rate applied to personnel, fringe benefits, travel, supplies, and other costs. Total indirect costs do not exceed 5% of the total requested funds.

Task 1: Project and Programmatic Management (\$126,730) – Personnel: 1,600 hours at an average of \$50/hour = \$80,000; Fringe Benefits: 25% of Personnel Costs = \$20,000; Travel: two ECICOG staff attend two EPA brownfield conferences (air/mileage: \$900 x 4 staff = \$3,600, hotel: \$250 x 4 staff x 4 nights = \$4,000, food: \$100 per day x 4 staff x 4 days = \$1,600); Equipment: no cost; Supplies: no cost; Contractual: no cost; Other: conference and training registration fees at \$250 registration fee for 4 staff = \$1,000. Indirect Costs: 15% of personnel, fringe benefits, travel, and other costs = \$16,530.

Task 2: Outreach, Engagement, Inventory, and Prioritization (\$69,201) – Personnel: 800 hours at an average of \$50/hour = \$40,000 and 160 hours at an average of \$30/hour = \$4,800; Fringe Benefits: 25% of personnel costs = \$11,200; Travel: 3,000 miles at \$0.725/mile = \$2,175; Equipment: no cost; Supplies: \$2,000 for printing outreach materials; Contractual: no cost; Other: no cost; Indirect Costs: 15% of personnel, fringe benefits, supplies, and travel costs = \$9,026.

Task 3: Planning Activities (\$378,132) – Personnel: 1,650 hours at an average of \$50/hour = \$82,500 and 100 hours at an average of \$30/hour = \$3,000; Fringe Benefits: 25% of personnel costs = \$21,375; Travel: 2,130 miles at \$0.725/mile = \$1,544; Equipment: no cost; Supplies: \$3,000 for planning-related materials including printing and meeting supplies; Contractual: 5 plans at \$50,000 per plan = \$250,000; Indirect Costs: 15% of personnel, fringe benefits, supplies, and travel costs = \$16,713.

Task 4: Environmental Assessment and Remediation Planning Activities (\$925,937) – Personnel: 500 hours at an average of \$50/hour = \$25,000; Fringe Benefits: 25% of personnel costs = \$6,250; Travel: no cost; Equipment: no cost; Supplies: no cost; Contractual: consultant to prepare a general QAPP for \$5,000, 30 Phase I ESAs at \$4,500/assessment = \$135,000 and 15 Phase II ESAs including SSQAPP, SSAP, ACM and LBP inspections at \$40,000/site = \$600,000; 5 ABCAs at \$30,000/site = \$150,000; Indirect Costs: 15% of personnel and fringe benefits = \$4,687.

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

ECICOG will prepare a workplan describing tasks, activities, roles, and timelines for completion. Progress and outcomes will be documented in quarterly reports submitted to EPA, in annual reports, and at grant closeout. These reports will detail the number and results of environmental assessments, hazardous material inspections, community outreach and engagement events, site reuse plans, and cleanup plans, including photos, press releases, and other relevant updates. ECICOG will monitor progress monthly and take necessary corrective actions to ensure tasks are completed in accordance with the workplan. Brownfield site data and progress will be uploaded every quarter to ACRES. ECICOG will hold quarterly meetings with the BAC to gather input and provide updates. Community outreach and engagement will be measured by the outreach materials distributed (in-person and online), event frequency and participation, and feedback collected. Outcomes to be tracked include acres of land assessed and ready for reuse, sustainable redevelopment (reuse vs. demolition, acres of greenspace created, use of renewable energy, etc.), increased affordable housing availability, funding leveraged for cleanup and redevelopment, and jobs created.

C.4. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

Programmatic Capability

C.4.a. – C.4.c. Organizational Capacity, Organizational Structure, & Description of Key Staff

ECICOG will serve as the lead coalition member and will be responsible for programmatic, administrative, and financial requirements. ECICOG has the organizational capacity to successfully administer this grant, including the necessary systems, processes, and procedures, as demonstrated through the successful management of more than **19 million dollars in state and federal grants from 2020-2025**. ECICOG staff are experienced in administering grants from a wide range of state and federal agencies, ensuring compliance, accountability, and timely project delivery.

Coalition members will enter into an MOA upon award to define roles and responsibilities. ECICOG will coordinate implementation of the program, using a site selection process developed collaboratively with coalition members. Generally, qualified sites within target areas will be allocated funds first based on a prioritization rank order determined by coalition members. Any necessary modifications to the site selection process will be decided collectively by coalition members. Upon designation of the specific sites, ECICOG will work with the coalition members and, as applicable, local governments where the site is located to finalize the scope of work for the QEP. This organizational structure will ensure clear accountability, efficient decision making, and the timely expenditure of grant funds. ECICOG's key staff are described below.

ECICOG Staff	Role	Expertise, Qualifications, Experience
Meagan Prestegard	Project Manager overseeing all program tasks.	Environmental engineer with 10 years experience in project management; includes 6 years of RCRA regulatory experience.
Alicia Presto	Environmental Director providing program oversight and support.	Planner with 16 years experience in planning, project management, grant administration, and community outreach and engagement.
Tom Gruis, Jessica Walker, and Zach Huggins	Community development specialists providing outreach and engagement support.	Staff with 27 years combined experience in community revitalization, economic development, and planning.
Karen Kurt	Executive Director providing program oversight.	Executive leader with 25 years of experience in local government, including 6 years at ECICOG.
Gina Peters	Office Manager handling expenses and financial reporting.	30 years experience handling expenses and financial reporting.

C.4.d. Acquiring Additional Resources

For environmental assessment and planning activities that require a QEP or planning consultant, ECICOG will follow the necessary federal grant procurement procedures to develop a list of approved QEP and planning consultants. ECICOG has experience procuring contractors through the request for qualifications process and will ensure compliance with 2 CFR Part 200, 2 CFR Part 1500, and 40 CFR Part 33. ECICOG planning staff will handle basic outreach and engagement, but complex planning activities will require an experienced consultant.

Past Performance and Accomplishments

C.4.f. Has Not Received an EPA Brownfields Grant but has Received Other Federal or Non-Federal Financial Assistance Agreements

C.4.f.1 Purpose and Accomplishments

Award Date	Awarding Agency	Amount	Purpose and Accomplishments
3/24/2023	Economic Development Administration	\$210,000	Partnership Planning Grant to support regional collaboration to create and retain jobs, improve resilience, and the ability to compete globally. Ongoing staff support and technical assistance to implement the region’s comprehensive economic development strategy.
8/1/2023 & 8/15/2023	Environmental Protection Agency	\$999,845 & \$999,845	Two Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program planning grants for the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City metropolitan statistical areas. Developed priority and comprehensive climate action plans.
2023-2025	Iowa Economic Development Authority	\$3,000,000 since 2023	Since 2023, ECICOG successfully applied for and managed six Water/Sewer CDBGs in the region. These grants are used by small communities with >51% low-to-moderate income residents to improve water and wastewater infrastructure.

C.4.f.2 Compliance with Grant Requirements

ECICOG has successfully led the grants outlined above including project management, financial administration, stakeholder outreach and engagement, and communication with funding agencies. ECICOG consistently achieves and records expected results, submits required deliverables, meets reporting requirements, and follows applicable procurement policies. ECICOG has a history of compliance with grant workplans, schedules, following all terms and conditions, and timely reporting. The **Partnership planning grant** is currently underway and ECICOG provides ongoing staff support and technical assistance. The **CPRG grants** are currently in progress. ECICOG manages financial administration, submits semi-annual reports, draws down funds using ASAP.gov, and coordinates with an EPA project officer. ECICOG currently handles all grant administration tasks for 4 **CDBG Water/Sewer grants**. Two CDBGs for water main replacement projects were successfully closed out in December 2025 after project completion. **There have been no compliance issues with any of these grants.**

Threshold Criteria for Assessment Coalition Grants

1. Eligibility of Lead and Non-Lead Coalition Members

- a. Lead Coalition Member:
 - i. The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) is a Regional Council established under governmental authority. In Iowa, councils of governments were established by Executive Order Number 11 in 1968 and codified in Iowa Code Chapter 28H. ECICOG was established July 1, 1973 through Articles of Agreement in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 28E. See Attachment A for documents affirming eligibility as a Regional Council.
 - ii. ECICOG is not exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- b. Non-Lead Coalition Members:
 - i. ECICOG is proposing a coalition with two (2) non-lead members.

Coalition Non-lead Member	Type
Jones County	County government
Linn County	County government

Both non-lead coalition members are eligible county governments that are not exempt from Federal taxation under section 501(c)(4). See Attachment B for a letter from each non-lead member affirming eligibility and tax exemption status.

2. Target Areas

Coalition Member	Target Area
ECICOG (lead)	Washington County, Iowa
Jones County (non-lead)	Jones County, Iowa
Linn county (non-lead)	Linn County, Iowa

3. Non-lead Members that Never Received an EPA MARC Grant

No member (lead or non-lead) of the coalition has ever been awarded an EPA Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, or Cleanup (MARC) grant. See Attachment B for a letter from each non-lead member affirming grant status.

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

- a. ECICOG, as lead coalition member, attests that it has the legal authority to expend grant funds on behalf of the non-lead members to conduct the proposed grant activities. See Attachment B for a letter from each non-lead member affirming this legal authority.

- b. Not applicable. ECICOG’s geographic boundary encompasses the geographic boundaries of both non-lead members. ECICOG’s geographic boundary includes the counties of Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties in Iowa.

5. Coalition Agreement

Both non-lead coalition members submitted signed letters indicating their intention to be part of the coalition and establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) upon grant award. See Attachment B for the letters and supporting documentation from each non-lead coalition member.

6. Community Involvement

The proposed grant would provide an opportunity for ECICOG and coalition members to conduct brownfield specific outreach in a six-county region that includes Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Washington counties. Outreach will focus on education and awareness, community engagement, and building partnerships in the region.

A regional brownfield program advisory committee will be formed to provide input on program implementation, identifying brownfield sites, and assist with outreach in the region. The committee will include representatives from local governments, economic development organizations, and others in the region with knowledge and expertise related to brownfield and community revitalization. The committee will include a minimum of one representative from each of the target areas.

For outreach and engagement in the region, ECICOG proposes the following approach. If awarded, a complete outreach and engagement strategy will be developed by ECICOG with input from the brownfield program advisory committee.

Outreach	Approach
Education and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide brownfield program information, resources, and program implementation progress to the public, local governments, and other stakeholders on the ECICOG brownfield website, newsletter, social media, and direct mailing, as appropriate. • Develop and distribute educational materials using virtual and in-person methods that may include, but are not limited to, websites, social media, webinars, conferences, meetings, and other community events. • Presentations at virtual or in-person conferences, meetings, events, or webinars with local groups and organizations. Examples of local groups and organizations include the

Outreach	Approach
	chamber of commerce, Hometown Pride Committee, countywide city clerk/administrator group, etc.
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit community input on potential brownfield sites and reuse ideas. Advertising will include, but not be limited to, community newsletters, social media, local newspapers, and direct mailings, as appropriate. • Host virtual and in-person open house events in communities with brownfield site planning activities.
Building Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advisory committee will include representatives from local governments, economic development organizations, and others in the region. • Solicit feedback and involvement from the public, businesses, community organizations, and property owners in communities with brownfield program projects.

When appropriate, brownfield outreach may be included in ongoing planning efforts in a community or the region. At the community level, if a comprehensive planning effort is underway, ECICOG will explore opportunities to incorporate brownfields into the planning process. In general, ECICOG’s outreach approach will incorporate accessibility measures, as appropriate, and materials will be available in the commonly spoken languages of the community where outreach and engagement activities are taking place. Providing virtual participation may help ECICOG reach stakeholders who do not typically participate in in-person or government hosted events.

7. Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds

Not applicable. ECICOG does not have an open EPA Brownfields Assessment or Multipurpose Grant.

8. Contractors and Named Subrecipients

Not Applicable. ECICOG has not procured a contractor or consultant, and ECICOG does not have a specific subrecipient(s) in this application.