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ii. Chief Executive:

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7. Population:

Approximately 10,309 people live on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and 84% of the population are Native Americans. Although the target area is the entire reservation, cleanup efforts will be near Browning, Montana, which is the cultural and economic hub of the Tribe. The population of the Browning area is approximately 5,736

8. Other Factors Checklist:

Other Factor(s)	Page #
Community population is 15,000 or less	1
The applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory.	1
The proposed brownfield site(s) is impacted by mine-scarred land.	
Secured firm leveraging commitment ties directly to the project and will facilitate completion of the remediation/reuse; secured resource is identified in the Narrative and substantiated in the attached documentation.	
The proposed site(s) is adjacent to a body of water (i.e., the border of the proposed 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 throughfare separating them).	
The proposed site(s) is in a federally designated flood plain.	
The reuse of the proposed cleanup site(s) will facilitate renewable energy from wind, solar, or geothermal energy.	
The reuse of the proposed cleanup site(s) will incorporate energy efficiency measures.	
The proposed project will improve local climate adaptation/mitigation capacity and resilience to protect residents and community investments.	
The target area(s) is impacted by coal-fired power plant that has recently closed (2014 or later) or is closing.	

9. Releasing Copies of Applications: Not Applicable

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1. PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION AND PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

1.a.i. Target Area and Brownfields Background and Description: The Blackfeet Tribe seeks \$1,060,422 in EPA cleanup funding to remediate three contaminated sites on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. These sites pose ongoing public health and environmental risks and limit the Tribe's ability to safely reuse land for community, cultural, and economic purposes. Cleanup is necessary to reduce exposure to hazardous substances, protect vulnerable populations, and support productive reuse consistent with Tribal priorities. The Blackfeet Nation, a 17,000-member federally recognized Tribe, is one of the ten largest tribes in the United States. Approximately 63 percent of enrolled members live on the 1.5-million-acre reservation in north-central Montana, often in close proximity to underutilized or environmentally impacted properties. As a rural, low-income Tribal community, the Reservation faces disproportionate environmental burdens and limited access to cleanup and redevelopment resources, meeting EPA's environmental justice criteria. The Blackfeet people have stewarded this land for more than 10,000 years, yet historic displacement and land loss have resulted in legacy contamination that continues to impede safe land use. The Reservation, established by the Treaty of 1855, includes the communities of Browning, East Glacier, Heart Butte, Seville, St. Mary, Babb, and Starr School, where cleanup will directly benefit residents by improving environmental conditions and supporting future reuse. The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, headquartered in Browning, is committed to effective grant management, environmental compliance, and sustainable land stewardship. EPA funding will enable the Tribe to complete cleanup activities, eliminate barriers to redevelopment, and return contaminated sites to safe and beneficial use, advancing public health protection, environmental justice, and long-term community resilience

1.a.ii. Demographic Information and indicators of Need: Residents of the Reservation face severe and persistent socioeconomic disadvantage compared with state and national populations. These disparities are deep-rooted, systemic, and continue to limit residents' ability to meet basic needs. Household incomes on the Reservation are approximately half of Montana's median household income, placing many families in chronic economic distress. Poverty rates remain extraordinarily high, with nearly one in two residents living below the federal poverty line, compared with roughly 12–15% statewide. This concentration of poverty far exceeds that of surrounding communities and reflects decades of underinvestment. Unemployment on the Reservation is consistently and substantially higher than Montana's overall rate, which has remained below 5% in recent years. Elevated unemployment reduces household stability, restricts access to essential services, and exacerbates food insecurity, housing instability, and health disparities. Despite modest improvements in some indicators, poverty on the Reservation has remained entrenched for decades, demonstrating the need for targeted, sustained investment rather than short-term solutions. The data clearly show that without focused resources and strategic intervention, the structural barriers facing Reservation residents will persist. This project directly addresses these documented inequities and responds to a critical and ongoing community need.

https://censusreporter.org/profiles/25200US0305R-blackfeet-indian-reservation/?utm_source

1.a.iii. Description of the Brownfields: The proposed brownfield cleanup project will focus on two underused or vacant tribal properties located across the reservation—the Former Home Improvement Program (HIP) Building, and Birch Creek School—which collectively

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reflect a legacy of historic community use but now present environmental and structural challenges. The Former HIP Building is a 19,440-square-foot industrial facility constructed in 1970 during a housing boom to support the fabrication of pre-manufactured homes; it is currently vacant, severely deteriorated, and underutilized. An environmental site assessment completed November 2025 identified asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) in flooring, roof piping, and joint compound, indicating a moderate to high severity of contamination associated with aging construction materials. The Birch Creek School, a one-classroom schoolhouse built in 1960, served Blackfeet students and the surrounding community providing education for homesteading and farming families, is now vacant and obsolete; a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment confirmed the presence of asbestos-containing building materials. Both sites are characterized by aging structures, long-term disuse, and confirmed or suspected hazardous materials, posing environmental, health, and safety concerns that warrant cleanup to enable safe reuse and community benefit.

1.b. Revitalization of the Target Area

1.b.i. Reuse Strategy and Alignment with Revitalization Plan: The Tribe's reuse strategy focuses on cleaning up priority brownfield sites—the Former HIP Building and Birch Creek School—to eliminate environmental hazards, reduce health and safety risks, and prepare each site for productive reuse aligned with long-term tribal revitalization goals. Removal of the Former HIP Building will create a clean, build-ready site, providing space for new development such as tribal facilities, housing, or economic enterprises identified in the 2018–2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Birch Creek School will be demolished to remove hazardous materials and eliminate a blighted structure, resulting in a clean site suitable for future redevelopment. This strategy reduces blight, encourages reinvestment in existing developed areas, and avoids expansion into undeveloped lands. Cleanup and reuse planning were shaped through active engagement with tribal leadership, community members, and project partners, ensuring that remediation directly supports economic growth, cultural preservation, environmental protection, and community resilience.

1.b.ii. Outcomes and Benefits of Reuse Strategy: Cleanup of the Former Home Improvement Program (HIP) Building and the Birch Creek School on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana, will reduce human health and safety risks, eliminate blight, and improve environmental conditions. Both properties contain aging, vacant structures with documented asbestos-containing materials and other hazards associated with long-term disuse. Cleanup activities will include asbestos abatement and demolition of the HIP Building and Birch Creek School, removing sources of contamination and eliminating unsafe conditions. This will result in clean, build-ready sites that can be redeveloped for future tribal needs. Removal of the HIP Building will create space for new development to support housing, tribal facilities, and economic enterprises that generate local jobs and strengthen the Browning community. Demolition of the Birch Creek School will eliminate a blighted structure and prepare the site for future redevelopment consistent with the Tribe's long-term revitalization goals. These outcomes support EPA Brownfields Program goals by protecting public health, promoting sustainable reuse of previously developed land, and enabling community-driven economic growth.

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1.c. Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.c.i. Resources needed for Site Characterization: Resources for site characterization will be used to complete comprehensive environmental assessments necessary to understand existing conditions and guide cleanup and redevelopment decisions. This work will include Phase I Environmental Site Assessments to evaluate historical uses and identify recognized environmental conditions, followed by Phase II Environmental Site Assessments where appropriate. Phase II activities may include sampling and analysis of soil, groundwater, building materials, and indoor air to determine the presence and extent of contamination. Testing will focus on contaminants commonly associated with former institutional and commercial properties, including asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, petroleum products, and other hazardous substances. Assessment results will be documented in technical reports and used to evaluate risks, determine regulatory requirements, and identify appropriate remediation and reuse options.

1.c.ii. Resources Needed for Site Remediation: Based on the results of site characterization, remediation resources will be applied to address identified environmental hazards and prepare the sites for safe reuse. Anticipated remediation activities may include the abatement and removal of asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint, demolition and proper disposal of unsafe or contaminated structures where rehabilitation is not feasible, and soil excavation or treatment if contamination exceeds applicable standards. Resources will also support the proper handling, transport, and disposal of hazardous and solid waste materials in compliance with regulatory requirements. Remediation efforts will be coordinated with federal and state agencies and implemented in a phased manner, where possible, to align with redevelopment planning and maximize cost efficiency.

1.c.iii. Resources needed for Site Reuse: Following assessment and remediation, additional resources will be required to support planning and implementation of site reuse. These resources will be used to conduct reuse planning and feasibility analyses, engage community members and stakeholders, and ensure that redevelopment aligns with tribal goals and priorities. Funding may also support conceptual design, adaptive reuse planning, and preparation for future redevelopment activities. Potential reuse scenarios for the Former HIP Building, and Birch Creek School include community facilities, educational or workforce development spaces, health or social service uses, or other purposes identified by the Blackfeet Nation. Leveraging planning funds and future capital investment will help ensure that reuse plans are viable, sustainable, and responsive to community needs.

1.c.ii. Use of Existing Infrastructure: This grant will facilitate the use of existing infrastructure across the proposed sites by leveraging the buildings, roads, and utility connections already in place at the Former HIP Building, and Birch Creek School. Cleanup and, where appropriate, demolition or stabilization will allow these sites to be safely reused, reducing the need for new construction and maximizing the value of existing roads, water, sewer, and utility systems that are already maintained by the Tribe. The Former HIP Building site, once remediated and demolished, will provide a clean, build-ready location that can connect directly to existing utilities to support future tribal development or economic

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projects. For the Birch Creek School site, following cleanup and demolition, will retain access to existing water, sewer, and electrical connections, allowing future redevelopment to efficiently utilize established infrastructure. Our Tribe will seek additional funding and in-kind support from federal, state resources, and project partners to implement these infrastructure improvements. By prioritizing the use of existing infrastructure, this project reduces costs, preserves community resources, and strengthens the sustainability of redevelopment efforts while supporting the Tribe's broader revitalization and economic redevelopment goals.

2. COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.a.i. Community Need for Funding: Our Reservation is an extremely rural, underserved Tribal community covering 2,370 square miles with a population of approximately 10,300 residents (about 4.3 people per square mile). This low population density significantly limits access to infrastructure, environmental services, and economic opportunity. Browning, Montana, the Tribal headquarters, has approximately 990 residents and experiences severe economic distress. An estimated 40.6 percent of residents live below the federal poverty level, and median household income (\$34,318) is less than half the Montana average. Across the Reservation, median household income is approximately \$39,583, with poverty affecting nearly one-third of residents. Unemployment remains elevated relative to state rates and understates true economic hardship. The former Town of Browning disincorporated due to financial instability, transferring responsibility for water, wastewater, and solid waste systems to the Tribe, which now manages these aging systems with limited resources. These conditions meet EPA's environmental justice criteria and demonstrate a disproportionate burden from environmental and infrastructure challenges. EPA cleanup funding is critical to reducing public health risks, supporting safe land reuse, and strengthening long-term community resilience.

<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/25200US0305R-blackfeet-indian-reservation/>

https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Montanas_Unemployment_Rate_at_2-9Percent?

<https://www.ksutab.org/sites/default/files/4983.R08-20-A-011.pdf?>

2.a.ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations

(1) Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations: A 2017 Blackfeet Community Health Assessment, conducted with the Blackfeet Tribal Health Department, identified substance abuse and suicide as the top health priorities on the Reservation. Behavioral health concerns continue to be acute in the community, with earlier findings showing that at least 50% of women giving birth at the Indian Health Service's Blackfeet Community Hospital had a documented substance use history. One in three 8th-grade students surveyed reported having attempted suicide, and many adults reported persistent feelings of depression and sadness. Statewide data underscore the severity of this crisis: Montana has one of the highest suicide mortality rates in the nation, and suicide rates among Native American youth in Montana are more than five times the rate of other groups in the state. Non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives across the U.S. experience suicide death rates substantially higher than the general population, and suicide remains one of the leading causes of death for Indigenous youth ages 10–34. Substance misuse, including the ongoing impact of opioids like fentanyl, disproportionately affects Native residents and is compounded by limited local treatment resources, with few detox beds and medication-assisted treatment options available on the Reservation. These intersecting behavioral health challenges — high rates of substance abuse, youth suicide attempts, and limited access to care — reflect persistent disparities in

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mental health and underscore the critical need for community support, infrastructure improvements, and interventions that address both environmental and social determinants of health.

https://www.cheerequity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/0_full_cha_final_4.12.17.pdf

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-01-native-american-communities-highest-suicide.html>

<https://www.mtpr.org/montana-news/2022-05-24/the-blackfeet-nations-struggles-underscore-the-fentanyl-crisis-on-native-american-reservations>

While no statistics are available, we believe there is a connection between substance abuse, suicide rates, and brownfields. Vacant brownfields sites attract youth and drug use. Blighted and dilapidated properties also give residents a sense of hopelessness and depression. Assessments and redevelopment of our brownfield sites will eliminate blight and the abandoned buildings being used for drug use. There is no simple solution to these larger problems, but creating positive outcomes through community development is an important piece of the puzzle that can be furthered through the use of brownfields funds

(2) Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions: Cancer remains a major health burden for American Indian residents of the Blackfeet Reservation, with recent data showing that cancer mortality rates among reservation residents are higher than those of White Montanans and statewide averages; between 2012 and 2021 there were an average of about 37 new cancer diagnoses and 15 cancer deaths annually, and lung, colorectal, and kidney cancers occur at disproportionately high levels compared to expected rates. Access to care remains a significant challenge: receiving cancer treatment still requires long travel to regional hospitals, with the closest facilities often 100+ miles away, disrupting families and delaying care. Diabetes continues to be prevalent among American Indian adults locally and nationally, occurring at substantially higher rates than the overall U.S. population and contributing to ongoing chronic disease burden and complications such as kidney failure and blindness. These persistent disparities in cancer incidence, mortality, and chronic disease, compounded by limited local healthcare resources and barriers to preventive screening and treatment, underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions and infrastructure support to improve long-term health outcomes on the reservation.

<https://www.ksutab.org/sites/default/files/4983.R08-20-A-011.pdf>

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/diabetes-and-american-indiansalaska-natives>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/Blackfeet2024.pdf>

Brownfields and their associated contaminants pose a serious threat to the health of residents on the Blackfeet Reservation. Abandoned or underused properties may contain hazardous substances such as lead, asbestos, petroleum products, and industrial chemicals. Exposure to these contaminants—through soil, water, or air—can increase the risk of cancer, respiratory illnesses, developmental problems in children, and other chronic diseases. Given the rural nature of the reservation, limited access to healthcare, and high rates of pre-existing conditions like diabetes and substance use, even low-level exposures can have disproportionate and lasting impacts on community health

(3) Disproportionally Impacted Populations: The Blackfeet Reservation is recognized as an Environmental Justice Community due to a legacy of contaminated housing and related health hazards. Beginning in the 1970s, federally assisted homes in the Glacier Homes development were built with wood foundations treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA), exposing residents to arsenic and contributing to chronic structural issues that foster toxic mold growth in damp conditions. Residents have long reported high rates of respiratory illness and mold-related symptoms, with past surveys showing around 71% of occupants experiencing such symptoms and many children affected by asthma at rates well above the

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national average. National data indicate that asthma affects roughly 6.5–8.0% of U.S. children and adults, with American Indian and Alaska Native populations experiencing higher prevalence than the general population. Due to severe housing shortages and limited financial resources, many tribal members remain in substandard, contaminated homes, exacerbating health disparities. Assessment and redevelopment of priority brownfield sites will expand safe, healthy housing options, reduce environmental health risks, and foster economic opportunity on the Blackfeet Reservation.

<https://www.cdc.gov/asthma-data/about/most-recent-asthma-data.html>

The Blackfeet environment is increasingly impacted by extreme weather that threatens resident health, safety, and infrastructure. Winters bring heavy snow and high winds that create hazardous travel, property damage, and extended power outages. In December 2025, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council declared a State of Emergency due to severe flooding, wind, and storm conditions, as rivers rose out of their banks and weather-related damage displaced families and damaged roads and culverts, highlighting the community's vulnerability to extreme events. Recent regional storms produced record-level wind gusts approaching or exceeding 80–90+ mph, which snapped trees, downed power lines, damaged structures, and caused widespread service disruptions across northwest Montana. These climates — heavy snow, powerful winds, and increasing flood and wildfire threats due to drought conditions — compound existing environmental health risks and underscore the urgent need for resilient infrastructure, environmental remediation, and community support.

https://www.cutbankpioneerpress.com/story/2025/12/17/news/blackfeet-tribe-declares-flooding-state-of-emergency/3455.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

2.b. Community Engagement

2.b.i. & ii Project Partners and Project Roles: The Project Partners and the specific role they will have on the grant are identified as follows:

- **NACDC (Angie Main, 406.338.2099)**, Role: Supports access to capital and credit for businesses seeking to reuse cleaned site.
- **Siyeh Development Corp. (Dennis Fitzpatrick, 406.338.5669)**, Role: Provide in-kind consulting to identify and recruit business for priority site redevelopment.
- **Blackfeet Tribal Health (Vernon Grant 406.338.7912)**, Contributes in-kind staff support to assess community health risks at priority sites.
- **TERO (Teola Fish, 406.338.7887)**, Facilitates employment of Tribal members in assessment and cleanup activities.
- **Blackfeet Community College (Brad Hall, 406.338.5441)**, Offers student learning and workforce training opportunities tied to cleanup activities.
- **Browning Public Schools (Rebecca Rappold, 406.338.2715)**, Assists with community outreach by sharing project information with families.

2.b.iii. Incorporating Community Input: We will actively engage the community using multiple outreach methods. Announcements will be posted in Tribal agency offices and shared at Tribal Council meetings, Blackfeet Community College events, and the two annual reservation powwows. Meeting invitations and newsletters will be sent to our existing participant list, developed through Tribal 128(a) funds, and the list will be expanded continuously to maximize community participation. Information will also be distributed via our website, social media, and fact sheets for each site assessed. Special efforts will ensure

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engagement with community members who have limited phone, internet, or transportation access, and we will work with local and regional media to communicate progress and opportunities for input. All outreach methods are designed to solicit meaningful community feedback that will directly guide the brownfields assessment program.

3. TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES AND MEASURING PROGRESS

3.a. Proposed Cleanup Plan: Multiple cleanup alternatives were evaluated for the Birch Creek School, and HIP Building to address asbestos-containing building materials (ACBMs), lead-containing paint (LCP/LBP), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), ranging from no action to full abatement and demolition. For the Birch Creek School and HIP Building, which are vacant and deteriorated, the preferred alternative is full cleanup with demolition, including complete abatement of ACBMs and removal of LCP/LBP, PCBs, mercury, and CFCs, representing the most protective and practical remedy. This site-specific approach is protective, feasible, and cost-effective because it eliminates or significantly reduces human health and environmental risks, applies proven cleanup methods tailored to site conditions, supports redevelopment by removing unsafe structures where appropriate, and avoids unnecessary demolition. The total cost of the preferred alternative is moderate relative to other options, and implementation is feasible upon award of EPA Cleanup Grant funding, with the Blackfeet Environmental Office providing oversight and ensuring compliance with all applicable federal, state, and tribal regulations.

3.b. Description of Tasks/Activities, Outputs and Cost Estimates
Grant Tasks/Activities:

Tasks to be completed & outputs over a 3-Year period are shown in the table below:

Task	Task Name	Key Activities	Deliverables/Outputs	Total Cost
Task 1	Cleanup Planning & Procurement	Issue RFP; procure QEP; review Phase II ESA's; conduct additional sampling if needed; prepare Cleanup/Demolition Plans and site-specific HASPs.	Issued RFP; Executed QEP contract; Cleanup/Demolition Plans; Site-specific HASPs	Low-Moderate
Task 2	Cleanup Activities	Abatement of all ACBMs; scraping and encapsulation of LCP at Coldfeet School; removal of PCBs, mercury, and CFCs as applicable; demolition of Birch Creek School and HIP Building; waste handling and site stabilization.	Abated Coldfeet School; Partial abatement and demolition of Birch Creek School and HIP Building; Waste manifests and disposal records; Photo documentation.	High
Task 3	Cleanup Oversight	Administrative, technical, and regulatory oversight; contractor management; site inspections; compliance verification; documentation of cleanup completion.	Inspection and oversight logs; Contractor compliance records; Cleanup completion documentation	Low-Moderate
Task 4	Community Engagement	Public notices; two community meetings; distribution of three fact sheets; ongoing	Outreach materials; Meeting summaries;	Low

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		communication regarding cleanup activities and schedules.	Community engagement records.	
Task 5	Reporting	Preparation and submittal of EPA Brownfields grant reports documenting progress, expenditures, and cleanup outcomes.	Quarterly progress reports; Final Cleanup Report; Grant closeout documentation	Low

3.b.i. Budget Table

3-Year Budget Breakdown by Fiscal Year

Budget Category	FY27	FY28	FY29	3-Year Total
Personnel	\$55,453	\$55,453	\$55,453	\$166,359
Fringe (25%)	\$13,863	\$13,863	\$13,863	\$41,589
Travel – Out State	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Travel – In State	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Contractual	\$254,464	\$254,464	\$254,464	\$763,392
Other (supplies, utilities, cell phone, etc.)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Supplies (\$4,297	\$4,297	\$4,297	\$12,891
Indirect Costs (IDC 15%)	\$10,397	\$10,397	\$10,297	\$31,191
Total	\$353,474	\$353,474	\$353,474	\$1,060,422

3.d. Plan to Measure and Evaluate Environmental Progress and Results: Progress on outputs and outcomes will be tracked in quarterly reports and ACRES. Projects will be reviewed monthly by office staff and the QEP to identify and resolve any issues impeding performance. Outputs will be evaluated annually against workplan goals for the grant period.

4. PROGRAMING CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE

4.a. Programmatic Capability

i. Organizational Structure & ii. Description of Key Staff:

Grant funds and activities will be managed by the Black Environmental Office (BEO). The BEO currently manages a budget of over \$1.4 million, and receives funds from EPA for several programs including Brownfields Tribal Response, Air Quality, Climate Change, General Assistance Program (GAP), Underground Storage Tanks (USTs), Water Quality, and Hazardous Waste. We also help implement the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Bureau of Indian Affairs) through support services contracts. The Tribe has successfully carried out the functions of all federal, state, and tribal grants and programs and we plan to main our track record if awarded the requested funds.

Mr. Gerald Wagner serves as the Director of the BEO and has 35 years of related experience. Mr. Wagner holds an A.S. in math and science and a B.S, in Biology. He oversees the brownfields program and communicates and coordinates with other Tribal Departments as needed. He also helps to secure funding to complete projects. The Brownfields Manager, Shawn Lahr, will oversee the program and Office to ensure all grant funds are appropriately spent and all workplan objectives and grant

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terms and conditions are successfully met. Mr. Lahr has served as the Brownfields Tribal Response (128a) program manager at the Blackfeet Environmental Office since 2006, and has 20 years of experience. Mr. Lahr received the following certifications: OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER, Asbestos Inspector, Asbestos Contractor-Supervisor, Methamphetamine Worker-Supervisor, Mold Assessment-Remediation, and Underground Storage Tank (UST) Inspector. The Program also employs Carl J. McLean, Brownfields Coordinator. Mr. McLean holds much of the same certifications as Mr. Lahr as well as an A.S. in natural resources and has worked with the Brownfields program since 2016. In addition to the Brownfield staff, Tonia Armstrong of the Blackfeet Finance Department handles all financials related to our existing Brownfield Grants. Mrs. Armstrong holds an A.A. in business and has been with the finance department for 25 years.

For the purposes of this grant, our organizational structure can be defined as follows. The Blackfeet Tribe will handle the overall management of personnel, tribal lands, and tribal programs. The Blackfeet Environmental Office will implement the grant-funded brownfields program. We believe this efficient structure will ensure that the project is successfully completed in a timely matter and that financial, administrative, and technical requirements of the grant will be completed.

iii. Acquiring Additional Resources:

The Blackfeet Tribe plans to hire a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) to help fulfill the community involvement and assessment aspects of the grant. The Blackfeet Finance Department includes a procurement officer that will ensure that the process of hiring a QEP will be carried out in accordance with our policies as well as EPA and federal requirements. My Wagner and Mr. Lahr will assist the procurement officer with preparation and dissemination of an RFP, review of proposals, and selection of a QEP. Using this process, we will be able to obtain the expertise needed to successfully complete the project.

4.b Past Performance and Accomplishments

4.b.i. Currently Has or Previously Received an EPA Grant

(1) Accomplishments: The Tribe has a strong record of successfully managing EPA Brownfields funding and completing assessment and cleanup activities in compliance with EPA requirements. The Brownfields Tribal Response Program has effectively managed Tribal 128(a) funds since 2004, completed 28 environmental assessments, and coordinated closely with EPA, including the Emergency Response Program. The Tribe has established a public record demonstrating progress on all four required elements, including maintaining an inventory of over 500 potential brownfield sites that is regularly updated and available for public review, ensuring oversight and enforcement authority, providing opportunities for public participation, and implementing cleanup plan approval mechanisms. Since 2004, the Tribe has held approximately 30 public meetings and engaged Tribal leadership, planning committees, and developers to support transparent and community-driven redevelopment. The Tribe has successfully completed multiple cleanups and redevelopments using 128(a) and EPA Brownfields grant funding, resulting in reuse of former brownfield properties for Tribal offices, health and social service facilities, commercial businesses, and recreational uses. Notably, the Tribe successfully completed a \$200,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the Heart Butte Government

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Square, including assessment, abatement, renovation of three buildings, and demolition of two unsafe structures, and fully expended funds in compliance with EPA requirements. The Tribe also successfully managed a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant, completing Phase I and II assessments on nine underutilized properties and supporting community engagement, demonstrating the Tribe's capacity to effectively manage EPA funds, meet grant deliverables, protect public health, and advance sustainable redevelopment.

4.b.ii. Compliance with Grant Requirements: The Tribe is currently in compliance with all agreements related to several funding agencies. We are current on EPA projects and in good standing with EPA Region 8. The Blackfeet Tribe has received an annual Tribal Response Program 128(a) grant beginning in 2004. Since that time, the Blackfeet Environmental Office has complied with all reporting requirements, including the filing of periodic progress reports and annual financial status forms. All funds have been expended appropriately and in a timely manner, and annual progress is achieved with respect to the expected grant outputs and outcomes. Information on assessments and cleanups has been entered into the ACRES database and published on the Blackfeet Environmental Office web page. Outputs and outcomes were reported in ACRES for 15 sites. Sites not entered into ACRES were reported in collaboration with the EPA Emergency Response Program. Funds were completely expended for closed grants carried out between 2004 and 2018 (the period we have been receiving 128(a) funds). The start date of our current Brownfields Tribal Response 128(a) grant was October 1, 2019 and the grant period ends September 20, 2020. Because it is the beginning of the grant period, we still have approximately \$100,000 of grant funds remaining. We plan to use remaining funds for personnel salaries, benefits, and assessment/cleanup work at selected sites. We do not anticipate any problems expending the remaining funds by the end of the grant period. A portion of our 128(a) funds would be used to support the assessment activities described in this application.

Attachment A
Threshold Criteria
Blackfoot Tribe Brownfields Brownfield Grant

Threshold Criteria Documentation Responses

1. Applicant Eligibility

The Blackfeet Tribe is applying for this EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant as a federally recognized tribe.

2. Previously Awarded Cleanup Grants

The Blackfeet Tribe affirms that the proposed sites have not received funding from a previously awarded Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Cleanup Grant.

3. Expenditure of Existing Multipurpose Grant Funds

The Blackfeet Tribe affirms that it does not have an open EPA Brownfields Multipurpose Grant.

4. Site Ownership

The former HIP Building, and Birch Creek School sites are held in trust by the U.S. Government for the Blackfeet Tribe.

5. Basic Site Information

Site 1:

- a) Site Name: Former HIP Building
- b) Site Location: 98 Heart Butte Road

Site 3:

- a) Site Name: Birch Creek School
- b) Site Location: 48.530043, -113.014181

6. Status and History of Contamination at the site

Former HIP Building

- a) Type of contamination: Hazardous Substances
- b) Operational History and Current Use: The HIP building is a former structure on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation that historically housed the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) and related tribal administrative operations. The Tribal Housing Improvement Program historically focused on addressing unsafe

and unsanitary housing conditions for tribal members. It has been vacant and is now deteriorated, underscoring the need for cleanup.

- c) Environmental Concerns: Like other legacy buildings assessed by the Blackfeet environmental Office, The HIP Building contains hazardous building materials typical of pre-1980 construction, including asbestos-containing materials (ACBMs) and lead-containing paint (LCP/LBP).
- d) How the Site Became Contaminated and the Nature and extent of Contamination: The HIP Building became contaminated primarily due to its historical construction. Like many pre-1980 buildings, it contains hazardous building materials, including ACBMs in insulation, flooring, and roofing, as well as LCP on interior and exterior surfaces. Electrical and mechanical components may also contain Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The extent of the contamination encompasses the entire building, including all interior and exterior spaces, structural components, and mechanical systems, with deteriorating materials increasing the potential for airborne release and human exposure.

Birch Creek School

- a) Type of contamination: Hazardous Substances
- b) Operational History and Current Use: The Birch Creek School is a former school building that historically served the local community and is currently abandoned and deteriorated.
- c) Environmental Concerns: Construction materials typical of the period include ACBMs in flooring, insulation, and roofing, and LCP/LBP on walls and trim, Electrical mechanical components may also contain PCBs, mercury, and CFCs.
- d) How the Site Became Contaminated and the Nature and Extent of Contamination: The site became contaminated primarily due to these historical construction materials and subsequent neglect over the decades, rather than from chemical spills. The extent of the contamination encompasses the entire building, including all interior spaces, structural components, and mechanical systems, with deteriorating materials increasing the risk of exposure to airborne fibers, dust, and debris.

7. Brownfield Site Definition

The Blackfeet Tribe affirms that the HIP Building, and Birch Creek Schools are all:

- a) Not listed or proposed for listing on the National Priorities List;
- b) Not subject to unilateral administrative orders, court orders, administrative orders on consent, or judicial consent decrees issued to or entered into by parties under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA); and

c) not subject to the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the U.S. government.

8. Environmental Assessment Required for Cleanup Grant Application

No Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESAs) are known to have been completed for the sites. A Phase II was conducted by EarthTech Environmental and finalized in November 2025. The Phase II ESA was performed in accordance with ASTM international (ASTM) Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments and included site sampling and surveying activities conducted in October 2025. These activities were designed to evaluate the presence and extent of environmental contamination and to support the assessment of potential cleanup needs. The Phase II ESA documented the following and sampling and surveying efforts

9. Site Characterization

The subject properties are two brownfield sites located on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana: the HIP Building and Birch Creek School. Each site contains hazardous building materials associated with pre-1980 construction that restrict reuse, demolition, and redevelopment. The HIP Building is a 1,900-square-foot structure on a 1.72-acre parcel, constructed in the 1970s to support the fabrication of pre-manufactured homes. The site is underutilized due to the presence of hazardous materials. Cleanup will enable redevelopment that supports housing, tribal facilities, and economic enterprises, generating local jobs and strengthening the Browning community. The Birch Creek School, constructed in 1960 to serve homesteading and farming families, is located on a 0.25-acre parcel and is currently underutilized due to hazardous building materials. Based on site conditions and redevelopment constraints, demolition following proper abatement is anticipated, allowing for safe future reuse of the property. Both sites contain legacy contaminants typical of pre-1980 construction, including asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) and lead-containing paint (LCP). A Phase II Environmental Site Assessment completed in October 2025 confirmed the presence of ACBM and LCP at each site. These materials pose potential health risks and represent a significant barrier to safe occupancy, renovation, or demolition. Cleanup activities funded through this grant will mitigate these hazards, protect public health, and remove barriers to redevelopment. The project will support tribal revitalization by enabling new development at the HIP site and preparing the Birch Creek School site for safe and productive future use.

10. Enforcement or Other Actions

There are no ongoing or anticipated environmental enforcement or other actions related to the Former HIP Building, and Birch Creek School. There are no known inquiries or orders from federal, state, or local government entities regarding the responsibility of any party for the contamination or hazardous substances at the sites.

11. Site Requiring a Property-Specific Determination

The Blackfeet Tribe affirms that no property specific determination I required for either of the two sites for which Brownfields Grant funding is sought.

12. Threshold Criteria Related to CERCLA/Petroleum Liability

a. Property Ownership Eligibility - Hazardous Substance Site

(1) CERCLA §107 Liability

The Blackfeet Tribe, as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, is not potentially liable for contamination at the site under CERCLA §107. We understand that EPA has generally not considered tribes to be liable as potentially-responsible parties under CERCLA. Therefore, the Blackfeet Tribe is not subject to the statutory prohibition against the use of Brownfields grant funds to pay for cleanup costs at a site for which the tribe is potentially liable.

b. Circumstances Under Which the Property Was Acquired

The Former HIP Building, and Birch Creek School all sit on parcels held in trust by the U.S. Government for the Blackfeet Tribe. The Blackfeet Tribe was established by the treaty in 1855.

13. Cleanup Authority and Oversight Structure

a. Describe how you will oversee the cleanup at the site.

Tribal Response Program staff at the Blackfeet Environmental Office intend to consult with EPA Brownfields Program personnel in Region 8 regarding technical aspects of cleanup implementation. The tribe also plans to hire an environmental consultant and a hazardous materials abatement contractor to carry out the cleanup work. Tribal Brownfields staff will manage the work of the contractor with support from the EPA.

b. Access to Adjacent or Neighboring Properties.

Not Applicable. (Tribal Trust Land, which includes the sites, is accessible from BIA Route 1 & US HWY 89, and no other sampling or other activities are necessary on other properties.)

14. Community Notification

a) Draft analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA)

Draft ABCA addressed each site. See attached ABCAs below (Attachment B).

b) Community Notification Ad

Notice of the public meeting was submitted to our local newspaper (Glacier Reporter) with circulation in the target Area, on December 31, 2026, 14 days prior to submission of the

grant application. Notice of the meeting was also posted on the BEO brownfield webpage (www.blackfeetenvironmental.com) and distributed by email to BTBC. Fliers were also distributed throughout the outlining communities. The ads clearly state that a copy of the grant application, including the draft (ABCAs), was available public review and comment; how to provide comments by contacting the Blackfeet Environmental Office; where the draft application could be accessed through a meeting notice; and the date, time, and location of the public meeting(s) See Advertisement attached below. (Attachment C)

c) Public Meeting

A public meeting concerning the proposed EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant Application was held at the Glacier Peaks Hotel on January 7, 2026 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM MST.

1. Summary of Public Comments Received &

2. Responses to Public Comments

The only public comments received concerning the draft application were in the form of questions asked during the Public Meeting. The questions and responses are summarized in the meeting notes, attached below. (Attachment C)

3. Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes are attached. (Attachment C)

4. Meeting Sign-in Sheet

The sign-in sheet is included in the last page of the meeting notes. A list of attendees is also provided in the meeting notes.

Public Meeting Regarding Draft ABCA held at Glacier Peaks Hotel

1. Flier advertisement was posted at community centers around Browning, Heart Butte, and Babb;
2. Agenda and prepared remarks;
3. Notes from the Public meeting;
4. Comments and questions received; and
5. Our responses to the comments and questions.