

## Helpfenberger, Joseph

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**From:** Jennifer Goff <jgoff@columbiacountyfla.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 8:40 AM  
**To:** Pamela J. McElroy; Diane Scholz; Helpfenberger, Joseph; Roberts, Stephen; Theresa Pinto; David Kraus; Walker Noah; Mario Coppock; Terri Phillips; Glenn Hunter  
**Cc:** Tim Williams  
**Subject:** EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant

**Importance:** High

Good morning all –

Understanding the purpose of our coalition and how the **EPA Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant** will assist in the redevelopment and reuse of Downtown Lake City, Bell Road Corridor, and the Mega site areas; ultimately resulting in a positive economic impact to The City of Lake City and Columbia County as a whole. **Assessment Coalition Grants** are appropriate when three or more eligible entities plan to perform Assessment Grant activities on at least five brownfield sites within their communities. Up to \$600,000 per application is appropriated to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances and/or petroleum. No funding match is required for this grant. EPA anticipates funding/awarding an estimated 87 Assessment Grants for an estimated \$32 million nationally, subject to the quality of applications received, availability of funds, and other applicable considerations for the EPA FY21 Grant Cycle.

Our Coalition will be submitting an **EPA Coalition Assessment Grant Application in the amount of \$400,000** and our coalition team members are “The City of Lake City (Applicant), Columbia County, Lake City/Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, North Florida Economic Development Partnership, and Richardson Community Center”. Each team member is a vital part of our coalition; representing key components of our community and communicating through an outreach program in the understanding of how the Brownfield funding will be used in attaining a healthy prosperous future.

A critical part of EPA’s Brownfields Program is to ensure that residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and environmental contamination have an opportunity to reap the benefits from brownfields redevelopment. EPA’s Brownfields Program has a rich history rooted in environmental justice and is committed to helping communities revitalize brownfield properties, mitigate potential health risks, and restore economic vitality. A **brownfield site is defined** in CERCLA § 101(39) as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land. Assessment Grants provide funding for developing inventories of brownfield sites, prioritizing sites, conducting community involvement activities, conducting planning, conducting site assessments, developing site-specific cleanup plans, and developing reuse plans related to brownfield sites. Assessment Grant funds may not be used to conduct cleanup activities, but build a strong information inventory for the application of future redevelopment/cleanup grants to assist in leveraging with other funding sources such as CDBG, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), EDA, USDA, etc....; hence attracting future business and growth to our area.

I realize that I’ve not really had the opportunity to bring everyone up to speed with what this Brownfield Coalition Grant is all about, so I asked Pam to draft a brief narrative to help fill in some blanks. I’m also sharing points that were discussed on last Friday’s call. While it isn’t on the calendar yet, I’d like to schedule a meeting for tomorrow at 11am if everyone is available, so that we can answer any questions regarding the action items listed below:

Following up on Friday’s call, I wanted to share our discussion points as well as make a request of each Coalition member.

- I will be drafting a letter to be used for requesting support from City and County councils as well as other entities that have a vested interest in this project
- Ms. Diane will send a list of possible supporters, we will divide and conquer the list amongst our team – **Diane completed. Jennifer to send out to group today.**
- Moving our meetings to weekly for the next two weeks prior to the application deadline (October 28<sup>th</sup>). Jennifer will resend invite.
- We have lowered the dollar amount that we are requesting through this grant to \$400,000. After a lengthy discussion, we feel that the sum is more than enough to cover the Phase I assessments of the project sites we have identified along the Hwy 441/Marion St corridor. Additionally, we feel that requesting a lower dollar amount will increase our chances of being awarded as the overall amount being allocated for this grant has been lowered from last year.

Our ask of each Coalition Member is as follows:

- Letter of commitment from each board/group
- A brief narrative describing how your group will support the coalition, to include any sub organizations and/or committees. Essentially what we're looking for is how can your organization help further the project.

Thanks everyone!

Jennifer

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