



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 26, 2018**

**Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation, Alleghany County, VA**

### **EPA Brownfields Program**

EPA has selected the Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation for a Brownfield's assessment coalition grant. Community-wide hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 12 Phase I and five Phase II environmental site assessments. Community-wide petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct eight Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds of both types will be used to prepare reuse plans, create a Brownfield's inventory, prioritize sites, and conduct community outreach activities. Assessment activities will focus on the four locations within the coalition partner locations of Alleghany County, the Towns of Clifton Forge and Iron Gate, and the City of Covington.

The Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation has been awarded \$600,000.

The Brownfields Program targets communities that are economically disadvantaged and provides funding and assistance to transform blighted sites into assets that can generate jobs and spur economic growth. A study analyzing 48 Brownfield's sites found that an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup. This is two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to the cleanup of these Brownfield's sites. Furthermore, another study found that property values of homes located near Brownfield's sites that are cleaned up increased between 5 and 15 percent after cleanup.

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse Brownfield's. A Brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002, as amended by the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2018, was passed to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize Brownfield's sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training

grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

EPA has selected 144 communities for Brownfield's environmental Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grants. The 221 grants totaling \$54.3 million will provide communities with funding to assess clean up and redevelop underutilized properties while protecting public health and the environment.

List of the FY 2018 Applicants Selected for Funding:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicants-selected-fy18-brownfields-assessment-revolving-loan-fund-and-cleanup-grants>

For more information on EPA's Brownfields Program: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

For more information on how Brownfield's restoration has positively impacted local economies and the quality of life for neighboring communities:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-success-stories>