

**OFFICE OF BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION AND DEVELOPMENT
REMEDIAL ACTION AND REDEVELOPMENT MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM & TARGETED
BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT LOAN PROGRAM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
JUNE 16, 2014**

1. Can municipalities pass grants through to developers/owners?

- No. Municipalities may, however, make low-interest loans to developers or other owners if they were a co-applicant with the municipality. Please see Conn. Gen. Stat. sec. 32-763(e). “Pass-through grants” are not permitted.

2. Can municipalities apply for assessment grants in this round?

- Yes. In the last several weeks, DECD has conducted a series of information sessions at locations throughout the state, and several municipalities have indicated an interest in applying for grant funding to conduct environmental site assessments as part of this round of funding. While assessment is an eligible use of funds for the current round of funding, given that the Ranking and Review grid is focused on remediation and redevelopment projects, assessment applications are likely to receive comparatively low scores and may not receive funding in this round. As a result, DECD will allocate up to \$1,000,000 of this funding round for municipal assessment grants. Municipalities can apply for up to \$200,000 of funding, and applications will be scored on a separate Ranking and Review grid designed to evaluate assessment applications. Applications for assessment funding will be accepted until July 14, 2014. Questions related to assessment applications will be accepted via brownfields@ct.gov until June 23, 2014; answers will be published at www.ctbrownfields.gov on June 30, 2014. A revised Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and the new Ranking and Review grid have been posted on the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development’s website, which can be accessed by visiting www.ctbrownfields.gov.

3. From my understanding applications will now be accepted for Assessment (up to \$200,000). Are municipalities/COG’s limited to one application or could two applications be submitted (i.e. one for assessment, one for remediation)?

- Municipalities can submit applications for separate projects to each or both of the Assessment and Remediation funding processes.

4. Are these grants just for brownfield projects or are there other perimeter projects that fit the scope of projects covered?

- Only a brownfield, as defined by Conn. Gen. Stat. sec. 32-760 (2), is eligible this funding.

5. Can an entity apply for both an Assessment and a Remediation grant?

- Municipalities can submit applications for separate projects to each or both of the Assessment and Remediation funding processes.

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6. If the answer to the above question is yes, can an entity apply for both an Assessment and a Remediation grant for the same site?

- Each project can apply for either Assessment or Remediation funding. The same project cannot apply for both Assessment and Remediation.

7. Is there a different application to use if applying for assessment funds? The current application seems more applicable to clean up and development projects.

- Municipalities can use the same application and simply omit or leave blank questions that are not relevant to an assessment project.

8. If a Municipality is successful in securing brownfields grant funding:

- **Can the Municipality lend the funds to the owner/developer (in this case a 501(c)(3) non-profit) of the brownfield site?**
 - Yes, if the developer was a co-applicant. Please see Conn. Gen. Stat. sec. 32-763(e).
- **Can the rate and term be set at the sole discretion of the municipality?**
 - The municipality may determine the interest rate, but it must be at least 1%; the loan cannot extend beyond 20 years.
- **Is the loan from the Town to the owner/developer forgivable?**
 - No. Loan principal and interest payments are required to be returned to DECD, minus twenty percent of principal which the grant recipient may retain. Please see Conn. Gen. Stat. sec. 32-763(e).
- **Can the municipality contract with a preferred developer to perform the work on their behalf?**
 - DECD-funded projects must adhere to DECD guidelines for procurement of construction and other professional services.

9. If the owner/developer applies for a brownfield loan:

- **Can the loan be deferred, and if so, what is the deferral term?**
 - Yes; deferrals will be negotiated on a project-by-project basis.
- **Can the loan be forgiven?**
 - Recent legislative changes allow DECD's Commissioner to forgive all or a portion of brownfield loans when such forgiveness is determined to be in

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the best interest of the State from an economic or community development perspective.

- **If neither, what is the minimum interest rate and maximum loan term?**
 - Minimum interest rate: 1%
 - Maximum loan term: 20 years

10. Are any Council resolutions required as part of the OBRD Remedial Action and Redevelopment Municipal Grant Application?

- Local municipal approvals are not required by DECD prior to submitting an application; however, prior to the closing of an Assistance Agreement (contract), DECD will require a Certified Resolution that the person signing is authorized to apply for and receive the funding.

11. We were very recently (2014) awarded a Brownfields grant from your office, however, work remains to be done in [town]. Are we again eligible?

- Yes; prior awards within the same municipality do not preclude future awards for additional projects. Specific projects, however, may not be eligible for additional funding depending on the timing of the prior award.

12. Can a municipality submit multiple applications i.e. submit applications for differing sites/projects?

- Municipalities may submit one application for Assessment funding and one for Remediation. However, there can be multiple applications from different applicants for different projects within the same municipality (i.e., the municipality for Site A, a developer for Site B, and a different developer for Site C).