



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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EPA Awards \$300,000 Assessment Grant to Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Money will be used to redevelop underutilized properties

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — The Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (KCBRA) announced today it has received a \$300,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to redevelop Brownfield sites throughout the county.

“I want to thank the Environmental Protection Agency for awarding us this grant, which will allow us to assess properties throughout the county and determine if they’re suitable for a brownfield redevelopment project,” said Ken Peregon, Chair of the KCBRA. “This grant is a huge win and will help continue our efforts to return underutilized properties to functional use.”

Brownfield sites pose economic and environmental challenges and the EPA grant will allow the KCBRA to pay for Environmental Site Assessments at sites throughout Kalamazoo County. Although there are targeted areas in the county the grant will focus on, the funds may be used on any eligible brownfield site.

This funding makes it possible for the KCBRA to support projects that will reuse sites, address brownfield conditions and ultimately improve the surrounding community. The KCBRA is one of only four communities in Michigan to receive competitive grant funding out of 154 grant awards nationwide.

The KCBRA works collaboratively with local cities and townships, the State of Michigan, neighborhood associations, and private developers in redeveloping contaminated, blighted, and functionally obsolete properties so they are safer for the surrounding neighborhoods while creating new jobs for the community.

“These assessment and cleanup grants will not only support economic growth and job creation, but they will also empower communities to address the environmental, public health, and social issues associated with contaminated land,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan.

The KCBRA received EPA Assessment Grants in 2006 and 2016. With funds from the most recent grant, the KCBRA performed 38 environmental assessments at 28 project sites across Kalamazoo County. These transformative projects leveraged over \$22 million in further project investment leading to successful redevelopment projects in 7 communities.

This year, the EPA awarded a total of \$66.5 million in Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grants funding to 151 communities across the country. In total, Michigan received \$1.8 million from this grant program.

If you are interested in redeveloping a potential brownfield site in Kalamazoo County, please contact Rachael Grover, Brownfield Redevelopment Coordinator (269) 384-8305 ragrov@kalcounty.com. To learn more, visit the KCBRA website at <https://kalcountybrownfield.com/>.

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