

Fact Sheet
February 2003

Federal Brownfields Grants Available to School Districts



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



Brownfields are properties in urban areas that are contaminated or thought to be contaminated and are underutilized due to perceived remediation costs and liability concerns. Redevelopment of Brownfields represents an alternative for school districts where "Greenfields" (land with no previous commercial or industrial use) are not available.

On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act, expanding federal assistance and including grants for assessment, cleanup, and job training. School districts may apply for grants through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 9 Office.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) encourage school districts to participate in the grant program. Upon request, DTSC will provide a letter of support to districts applying for grants.

Assessment Grants: Provide funds to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement. Up to \$350,000 per site is available to address concerns of hazardous substance contamination and up to \$350,000 per site is available to address concerns of petroleum contamination. Up to \$700,000 is available per district.

Cleanup Grants: Provide funds to cleanup Brownfields sites. Up to \$200,000 per site is available, for a maximum of five sites. Applicants must provide 20 percent matching cost share in the form of money, labor, material, or services (no administrative costs). School districts must own sites to apply.

Revolving Loan Fund Grants: Provide funds to capitalize a revolving loan fund and to provide sub-grants to carry out cleanup activities. Up to \$1,000,000 per district. Applicants must provide 20 percent matching funds, a portion of which can be non-administrative, in-kind services.

Proposal Submission and Selection Program: U.S. EPA will rank applications from initial Proposals. Final Proposals will be accepted by invitation only. For U.S. EPA Grant Proposal Guidelines, visit www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm#pg. Brownfield grants are awarded annually. The next round of proposal submission is expected to open in the fall of 2003. For further information or to request a letter of support from DTSC, contact:

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.