R01-16-A-045

RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
235 Promenade Street, Room 380
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

December 17, 2015

US Environmental Protection Agency
Brownfields Program

RE: FY 2016 Brownfields Assessment Grant – ***Community-Wide Hazardous Substances and Petroleum***

To whom it may concern:

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) is pleased to submit the attached proposal for a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY2016 Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant for $200,000 in hazardous substances and $200,000 in petroleum funding. This proposal is aimed at continuing the successful momentum gained from years of brownfields experience and providing support to 4 communities determined to be most in need: **Arctic Village, Pawtucket Transit Hub Area, Central Falls Transit Hub Area, and the neighborhood of Olneyville**. RIDEM intends to concentrate over 90% of this funding on Brownfields assessment work in these 4 communities, with the remaining 10% being used at high priority sites statewide.

The recession of 2008 hit the State of Rhode Island and its communities early and hard. Multiple factors, such as high long-term unemployment (37.2%), severe transportation infrastructure degradation (50th worst in country), the 4th highest tax burden in the country, stagnant population growth and 5 federally declared natural disasters in the last 6 years have all resulted in our inability to fully recover from the Great Recession.

RIDEM recognizes the increased challenges communities face and their limited in-house capacity to manage brownfields projects. As the only agency in the state with the ability to assist communities with assessments, RIDEM has worked hand-in-hand with communities to transform brownfields sites into productive properties, providing both immediate and long-term economic and environmental benefits. This assistance has helped eliminate public health concerns, create new greenspace, and provide new jobs and affordable housing for local residents.

The success of the RIDEM program is a result, in part, to the strong statewide partnerships established, and RIDEM will continue to work with stakeholders to determine priorities within each community. A total of 7 letters of commitment were received from Community Organizations (see Attachment B).

In response to the ongoing economic crisis that Rhode Island communities continue to experience, and recognizing the success of the RIDEM brownfields assessment program, the people of the State of Rhode Island, for the first time in its history, approved $5 million in bond funding for Brownfields remediation projects in November 2014. With this bond funding, RIDEM will be able to assist communities in the remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites; however, the first step in this process is assessing the numerous contaminated properties that are currently underutilized.

Through the information presented in this proposal, we hope it becomes clear that the successful relationships RIDEM has fostered are real, measurable and highly valued by the entire redevelopment community in Rhode Island. As such, the need for assessment work in our communities is greater than ever. With this grant and through RIDEM's partnership in "A Sustainable Rhode Island/RhodeMap RI" (HUD/EPA/DOT Sustainable Communities Grant), and now with the ability to leverage remediation funding through the state $5 million Brownfields Remediation fund, we will be closer to our goal of creating a healthy and prosperous future for all Rhode Islanders.

The following is the specific information requested in the guidelines:

a. Applicant Identification: RI Dept. of Environmental Management, Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade St., Providence, RI 02908

b. DUNS Number: 111441213

c. Funding Requested:
i) Grant Type: *Assessment*
ii) Federal Funds Requested: *$400,000*
iii) Contamination: *$200,000 Hazardous Substances and $200,000 Petroleum*
iv) *Community-wide*

d. Location: The communities of Arctic in West Warwick, Olneyville in Providence, Cities of Pawtucket, and Central Falls and the State of Rhode Island (see population table below)

e. Property information for site-specific: This is not a site-specific proposal, therefore, not applicable.

f. Contacts:

i) Project Director:	*ii) Chief Executive:*
Cynthia M. Gianfrancesco Principal Environmental Scientist RIDEM - OWM 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 Ph: (401) 222-4700 (x7126) / Fax: (401) 222-3812 Cindy.Gianfrancesco@dem.ri.gov	Janet L. Coit, Director RIDEM 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 Ph: (401) 222-2771 / Fax: (401) 222-6802 Janet.Coit@dem.ri.gov

g. Date Submitted: December 17, 2015

h. Project Period: Three (3) Years (October 1, 2016 through Sept. 30, 2019)

i. Population:

i. Rhode Island	ii. Arctic (West Warwick)	ii. Olneyville (Providence)	ii. Transit Hub Area	
			Pawtucket	Central Falls
1,055,173	11,010	21,090	7,184	19,046

j. Regional Priorities Form/Other Factors Checklist: Please see attached.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information concerning this proposal. We look forward to a continued successful partnership with EPA in years to come. Thank you very much.

Cynthia M. Gianfrancesco

Cynthia M. Gianfrancesco, CPG, CHMM
Principal Environmental Scientist
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

cc: Frank Gardner, EPA Region 1
Leo Hellested, RIDEM
Elizabeth Stone, RIDEM

Regional Priorities Form/Other Factors Checklist

Name of Applicant: __Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management_____

Regional Priorities Other Factor

If your proposed Brownfields Assessment project will advance the regional priority(ies) identified in Section I.E, please indicate the regional priority(ies) and the page number(s) for where the information can be found within your 15-page narrative. Only address the priority(ies) for the region in which your project is located. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Regional Priority Title(s):	**Page #**
1. Assistance to Communities that have limited in-house capacity to manage Brownfield's Projects	5
2. Coordinated public funding for projects	6,9

Assessment Other Factors Checklist

Please identify (with an ***x***) which, if any of the below items apply to your community or your project as described in your proposal. To be considered for an Other Factor, you must include the page number where each applicable factor is discussed in your proposal. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal or in any other attachments, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Other Factors	**Page #**
None of the Other Factors are applicable.	
Community population is 10,000 or less.	
Applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	
Targeted brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land.	
Project is primarily focusing on Phase II assessments.	5,6,8
Applicant demonstrates firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project completion by identifying amounts and contributors of funding in the proposal and have included documentation.	9
Recent (2008 or later) significant economic disruption has occurred within community, resulting in a significant percentage loss of community jobs and tax base.	
Applicant is one of the 24 recipients, or a core partner/implementation strategy party, of a "manufacturing community" designation provided by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP). To be considered, **applicants must clearly demonstrate in the proposal the nexus between their IMCP designation and the Brownfield activities. Additionally, applicants must attach documentation** which demonstrate either designation as one of the 24 recipients, or relevant pages from a recipient's IMCP proposal which lists/describes the core partners and implementation strategy parties.	

cc: Frank Gardner, EPA Region 1
Leo Hellested, RIDEM
Elizabeth Stone, RIDEM

Applicant is a recipient or a core partner of HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) grant funding or technical assistance that is directly tied to the proposed Brownfields project, and can demonstrate that funding from a PSC grant/technical assistance has or will benefit the project area. Examples of PSC grant or technical assistance include a HUD Regional Planning or Challenge grant, DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), or EPA Smart Growth Implementation or Building Blocks Assistance, etc. To be considered, **applicant must attach documentation.**	11
Applicant is a recipient of an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant.	

1. Community Need

1.a.i Targeted Community Description

The majority of communities in Rhode Island are situated along rivers and were the first areas to become industrialized in the 1700's and 1800's. These communities have felt the impacts of industrial pollution for over 200 years and were home to massive textile and manufacturing mills, many of which have suffered decades of degradation from underutilization, vacancy and fires. This is a common thread that runs through our state and the 4 areas targeted in this proposal, as is the high number and type of brownfields present and the effect on local residents. Historically, multi-family tenement housing associated with these historic mills was situated directly adjacent to the mills themselves, leaving these communities with brownfield sites interspersed throughout densely populated neighborhoods. These massive undeveloped and abandoned brick and stone mill structures often define the streetscape in these neighborhoods making redevelopment and utilization of brownfields critical to the revitalization of these communities. Due to the lack of environmental information, these historic mill buildings and the surrounding neighborhoods fall further and further into disrepair each year.

The 4 areas targeted in this proposal – **the Pawtucket and Central Falls Transit Hub, Olneyville (Providence) and Arctic Village (West Warwick)** – have unique histories, yet share a decline in quality of life due to faltering economic prosperity and environmental blight, and are forever connected by their unique locations along the industrialized Blackstone, Woonasquatucket and Pawtuxet Rivers as shown below.

Pawtucket / Central Falls Transit Hub – Pawtucket and Central Falls are situated along the historic Blackstone River in Northeastern RI. Rich in economic and cultural history, the City of Pawtucket is considered part of RI's urban core and was part of the heart and soul of the American Industrial Revolution beginning in the late 1700's. Central Falls is a densely urbanized 1-square mile Environmental Justice community which consistently ranks as the poorest RI community (out of a total of 39 cities/towns in RI) with the lowest household income level, highest poverty rate, lowest rate of home ownership and lowest percentage of college educated residents (2014 ACS Five Year Estimates). Since the mid-1900's, Pawtucket and Central Falls have suffered from years of neglect, and the underserved populations and infrastructure is at a tipping point. As outside investment is slow to trickle into these communities', main street, small entrepreneurs have been trying to eek out a subsistence living from this urban streetscape. The proposed Transit Hub area of Pawtucket is of particular focus for this proposal because of the interest on the part of the city to promote transit-oriented development (e.g. train/commuter rail) for residents in this area, many of whom rely on public transportation.

Arctic Village (West Warwick) - Abundant supplies of water power along the Pawtuxet River enabled Arctic Village to become a major manufacturing center. As the historic, civic and economic center of West Warwick, Arctic has endured decades of decline and faces the challenge of ensuring that new development (residential, commercial and industrial) is adequately balanced with the basic needs of the community, demands for open space, and the character of the historic village. Although the Village has a number of core businesses, housing units, and municipal facilities today, there are numerous instances of vacant or underutilized parcels and buildings. The Arctic Village Redevelopment Agency is working to reverse this trend in partnership with local businesses and outside partners. Arctic Village is an Environmental Justice community with a highly vulnerable population that ranks in the bottom five communities in the state for rates of: 1) household income (5th lowest in RI); and 2) percentage of residents with a 4-year college degree (5th lowest in RI). (2014 ACS Five Year Estimates).

Olneyville (Providence) – The neighborhood of Olneyville is a very diverse area with Hispanics comprising nearly 60% of the population. Olneyville's land uses, as diverse as its people, includes a mix of industrial and commercial uses, a variety of housing types, schools and churches, as well as parks and green space along the Woonasquatucket River. Industrial complexes (largely textile) dominated the landscape and provided stable employment to residents until after World War II when the fortunes of Providence's textile giants declined precipitously. Industries move to the southern United States or shut down altogether. This demise devastated the Olneyville neighborhood as thousands of jobs were lost and never replaced. As an Environmental Justice Area, the residents of Olneyville experience some of the largest health disparities in the state (lead poisoning, asthma) and are impacted by their close proximity to major highways (Rt. 6/10).

During the past 10 years, the RIDEM Targeted Brownfields Assessment Program (TBA Program) has conducted assessments in 23 of the 39 municipalities in Rhode Island. We plan to allocate 90% of this funding to conduct Phase II assessments in our target areas, with the remaining being used state-wide.

1.a..ii Demographic Information

The following table highlights the demographics for each target area as compared to RI and National data.

	Arctic Village (W. Warwick)	Olneyville (Providence)	Transit Hub Area		Rhode Island	National
			Pawtucket	Central Falls		
Population	11,010 [5]	21,090 [5]	7,184 [5]	19,046 [5]	1,055,173[3]	311,536,594 [1]
Unemployment	4.9% [2]	5.6% [2]	5.4% [2]	5.8% [2]	5.3% [2]	5.3% [1]
Poverty Rate	27.0% [5]	44.2% [5]	48.3% [5]	39.5% [5]	17.0% [5]	11.3% [1]
Percent Minority	17.6% [5]	81.7% [5]	65.7% [5]	77.0% [5]	25.5%[3]	36.7% [1]
Median Household Inc.	$38,540 [5]	$29,724 [5]	$21,646 [5]	$28,842 [5]	$56,361[4]	$53,046 [1]

1. Statistics as provided by EPA in grant guidelines. 2. RI Dept. of Labor – October 2015 Labor Force Statistics (statewide and for municipalities as a whole)
3. April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014 (US Census/ACS). 4. 2009 – 2013 US Census/ACS
5. 2010-2014 US Census/ACS 5-Year Estimates (averaged across census tracts in target areas except for population)

1.a.iii Description of Brownfields

The number of brownfields sites throughout our state numbers in the thousands, and in the hundreds in our target communities, ranging in size from under one acre to over 20 acres. In the areas that we will be targeting, these brownfield sites are directly adjacent to and intermingled within densely populated neighborhoods and in some cases take up multiple city blocks, actually straddling town lines. Many of these sites are presently in an extreme state of disrepair, mostly vacant, and pose a high level of risk due real or perceived environmental impacts associated with historic uses, resulting in slow to non-existent redevelopment. The table below identifies the types of sites and the typical kind of contamination: hazardous substances, petroleum, or both. Each community has identified several brownfield sites that are key to the revitalization of their neighborhoods, as follows:

	Arctic Village	Olneyville	Pawtucket	Central Falls	State-Wide
Key Brownfield Sites (acreage in parentheses)	• Arctic Mill (3.4) • Brookside Mill (23) • Bridal Mill (12.1) • Centreville Mill (4.6)	• Paragon Mill (5) • Colonial Knife (9) • Weybosset Mill (2) • C.Worsted Mill(1.5)	• Coats/Clark Mill(12) • Union Wadding(5) • Transit Hub (5) • Former rail yard (2)	• Coats/Clark Mill (14) • Fmr. lighting plant (9) • Fmr. Train depot (1) • Roosevelt Mill (3)	•Imperial Place,Woon.(5) •Clark Mill, Shannock (9) •Lonsdale Mill, Linc.(15) •Am.Loco, Prov. (>20)
Types of Brownfields Haz.Sub. (HS) Petroleum (P)	• textile mills (HS, P) • drycleaning (HS) • machine shop(HS,P)	• machine shop(HS) •electroplating (HS) • textile mills(HS, P)	• textile mill (HS, P) • auto repair (P) • scrap metal (P)	• textile mill (HS, P) • mfg. plant (HS, P) • rail car repair (P)	• textile mills (HS, P) • machine shop (HS, P) • locomotive plant (HS,P)
Proximity to Community	Directly adjacent to/ intermingled with	Directly adjacent to/ intermingled with	Directly adjacent to/ intermingled with	Directly adjacent to/ intermingled with	Directly adjacent to/ intermingled with

The environmental impacts from these brownfields are felt throughout these neighborhoods. The unknown risks to residents and their children are a great concern and can be summarized as follows:

Environmental Impacts from Hazardous Substances and Petroleum	• Contaminants: heavy metals, PCBs, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-VOCs, petroleum • Continuous water quality impacts to the State's rivers and Narragansett Bay • Diminished fisheries/recreational resources of rivers & urban waterways due to pollution & blight • Impacts to groundwater, surface runoff and migration of contaminants to neighboring properties • Chemical/physical/risk associated with contaminated sites • The loss of clean, undeveloped land due to avoidance of building on contaminated property • Contaminated sediment deposition during March 2010 historic floods

1.a.iv Cumulative Environmental Issues

The history behind each target area as urbanized, former manufacturing centers has left a reputation of pervasive environmental hazards. These hazards are both real and perceived, resulting in underutilized properties. Arctic Village, Olneyville, and the Transit Hub Area (Pawtucket and Central Falls) are all densely populated Environmental Justice communities along heavily industrialized rivers where centuries-old housing stock is impacted by lead paint and historic long-term use of coal (for heating) resulting in widespread PAH/metals in soil. Similarly, all 4 target areas are considered Food Desserts where a significant number of residents is more than a ½ mile (urban) from the nearest supermarket (USDA Food Dessert Locator Tool). Residents in each Target Area are over-burdened by the following types of impacts:

Arctic Village (W. Warwick)	• Closed Landfill (Hay Street) • Little access to public transportation – approximately 81% of Arctic Village residents drove alone to work (Source: Arctic Village Redevelopment Strategy, July 2012) • 24 hazardous waste generators operating (Source: RIDEM Office of Waste Mgmt.)
Olneyville (Providence)	• Residents recreate/fish in heavily impacted/urbanized Woonasquatucket River (downstream from Centerdale Manor National Priority List (NPL) site) • Air quality is heavily impacted by major elevated highways (Rt. 6/Rt. 10) • 50 hazardous waste generators operating (Source: RIDEM Office of Waste Mgmt.)
Pawtucket Transit Hub Area	• Pawtucket Power Plant (major air pollution source) results in air quality impacts • Significant impacts from major transportation routes (Rt.95 & Northeast Corridor railway) • Major source/Title V facilities (e.g. Providence Metalizing) results in air quality impacts • 132 hazardous waste generators operating (Source: RIDEM Office of Waste Mgmt.)
Central Falls Transit Hub Area	• Significant impacts from major transportation routes (Rt.95 & Northeast Corridor railway) • Residents recreate/fish in heavily impacted/urbanized Blackstone River (downstream from Peterson/Puritan NPL site • 28 hazardous waste generators operating (Source: RIDEM Office of Waste Mgmt.)

1.b. Impacts on Targeted Community

While the percent of children with elevated blood lead levels are declining nationally, low-income and minority children remain at highest risk of lead poisoning in RI. Children living in Rhode Island's urban core (3 of our 4 target areas) are at a disproportionate risk for lead paint exposure due to living/playing in close proximity to older housing stock and contaminated sites. Two of the target areas, Olneyville and Arctic Villages, saw some of the highest jumps in new cases in 2013 (RI Dept.of Health). By comparison, Connecticut (2013) and Massachusetts (2014) both saw significantly fewer impacted children (3.0% as compared to 5.2% in RI).

The following presents RI health data for the target areas, and is compared to state/regional/national data:

CHILDREN'S HEALTH	Arctic Village (W. Warwick)	Olneyville (Providence)	Pawtucket Transit Hub	Central Falls Transit Hub	Rhode Island	National
% Children With Asthma Claim	8.0% - 10.3% [1]	10.4% - 15.4% [1]	10.4% - 15.4% [1]	10.4% - 15.4% [1]	12.8% [1]	8.3% [1]
% Children With Elevated Blood Lead Levels	3.6% [2]	8.1% [2]	6.9% [2]	6.8% [2]	5.2% [2]	N/A [4]
% Low Birth Weight Infants	8.2% [3]	8.8% [3]	8.8%[3]	7.4%[3]	7.6% [3]	8.0% [3]

1. Census 2010-2012 – Percentage of children (by range) ages 2–17 that have had an asthma claim (From RI Dept. of Health Asthma Claims Data Book 2014); National number is from the CDC and is the % with current asthma prevalence (ages 0 to 18) 2013.
2. % Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels >=5 mcg/dL in 2014 as provided by the RI Dept. of Health lead database (Jan 015).
3. Rhode Island Kids Count 2015 Factbook Indicators of Child Well-Being, Census Based Indicators 2009-2013 (for entire municipality), state and national data.
4. National prevalence rates at >=5 mcg/dL levels are not yet available according to the RI Dept. of Health; RI's rates are compared to MA and CT (see below).

Similarly, asthma incidence from exposure to toxic hazards is associated with a host of socioeconomic factors, chief among these being poverty. Poverty represents a lack of economic resources available to families to eliminate/reduce exposure to asthma triggers and adequately manage symptoms. The percentage of children with asthma in RI is well above the national average (RI Dept. of Health), and highest in RI's urban core (3 of our 4 target areas). These disproportionate impacts are exacerbated by direct proximity to major highways (Rt. 95/Rt. 6/10) in 3 of our 4 target areas and potential impacts from brownfield sites as shown below.

Types of Brownfields	Contaminants Present	Potential Exposure Pathways	Potential Health Impacts
Electroplating	VOCs	vapor intrusion/Inhalation	asthma, cancer
	Lead	soil, sediment/dermal, inhalation, ingestion	lead poisoning
	Nickle	soil, sediment/dermal, inhalation, ingestion	dermatitis, asthma
Textile Mills	VOCs	vapor intrusion/inhalation	asthma, cancer
	PAHs	soil, sediment/dermal, inhalation, ingestion	asthma, cancer
	lead	soil, sediment/dermal, inhalation, ingestion	Lead poisoning
	Asbestos	soil/ inhalation	Lung disease
Old Housing Stock	Lead paint	Lead paint/dermal, inhalation, ingestion	Lead poisoning

Rhode Island has 11 designated Health Equity Zones (HEZ's) to support innovative approaches to prevent chronic diseases, improve birth outcomes, and improve the social/environmental conditions of neighborhoods with high numbers of sensitive populations and disproportionally impacted residents. Each of the target areas identified in this proposal is the focus of a targeted HEZ:

- Arctic Village HEZ – Located in Arctic, Thundermist Health Associates works to improve access to healthy food, prevent addiction, and improve the environment to support recreation.
- Olneyville HEZ – Located in Olneyville, ONE Neighborhood Builders works to create a safer, greener community with more affordable housing, while giving residents in Olneyville workforce skills.
- Central Falls/Pawtucket HEZ – Local Initiatives Support Corporation, or LISC, is collaborating with partners to address housing, nutrition, access to healthcare, mental health services, parks, and access to childcare.

1.c. Financial Need

1.c. i. Economic Conditions

The recession of 2008 hit Rhode Island nearly a fully year earlier than the rest of the country. Our ability to fully recover from the Great Recession has been hampered by: 5 federally declared natural disasters in the past 6

years (*Winter Storm Juno (January 2015), Winter Storm Nemo (February 2013), Hurricane Sandy (October 2012), Tropical Storm Irene (August 2011), & March 2010 Floods*); the 11th highest state in long-term share of total unemployed (37.2%); the 50th worst state in terms of transportation infrastructure degradation; and stagnant populations in our state and target communities. Rhode Island ranks 43 out of 50 nationally for highest state and local tax burden (Forbes), with the highest state sales tax (7%) and 4th highest property taxes. The 4 target areas are in the top 10 highest taxed municipalities in 2015. Communities have also seen a dramatic cut in State aid, from $228 million in 2008 to $73 million in 2015 (excludes education aid). All communities are suffering from budget deficits and Central Falls is still recovering from bankruptcy (2011-2012). However, RIDEM does have the ability to provide measurable results at brownfield sites, but that ability is directly impacted by the limited availability of funding. RIDEM has suffered significant budget cutbacks for the past 10 years and reductions in 128(a) funding have left us with no other source of assessment funding except for funding as provided through this grant. The RIDEM is the only source of brownfields assessment assistance available to our target areas (no county government exists in Rhode Island), all of whom have limited in-house capacity to manage brownfield projects.

While RI established the Brownfields Remediation Bond fund (see 2.c. below) to remediate sites, we rely on EPA grants to assist communities with the first step in the process, assessment. RIDEM is in great need of funding at this time to conduct assessments at over **25** priority sites identified in our target areas. Our current assessment grants are fully allocated and expect to be fully expended by the end of 2016. If we do not receive this Assessment Grant, we will have no funding available to carry out additional brownfields assessment work across RI after 2016.

1.c.ii Economic Effects of Brownfields

There is little debate concerning the economic ramifications of idle brownfields. While no specific estimates are available, the target areas highlighted in this proposal lose tens of millions of dollars in lost tax revenues from abandoned/underused brownfields each year. For example, the large vacant piece of property in the heart of Arctic Village (formerly a church) and the underutilized Arctic Mill are lost financial gems for West Warwick. Such an overwhelming loss of economic potential from brownfields takes into account the estimated loss of income from lost commercial property taxes, direct investment, and production of local goods/services. Additionally, the economies of these target areas also suffer from reduced employment and social revitalization as a result of underdevelopment. For example, in the Pawtucket/Central Falls Transit Hub area, the Coats & Clark Mill is a nearly vacant 2 million square foot historic mill which could provide hundreds of jobs to a heavily minority population whose rate of poverty is three times the national average. From an investment outlook, brownfields also inflict additional barriers to redevelopment - contamination discourages investors from committing to redevelopment projects and similarly discourages insurance companies/lenders who fear liability. With a poverty rate of 44.2%, a minority population of 81.7%, and a median household income nearly half that for the RI, Olneyville cannot afford to let contamination concerns continue drive away investments in healthy affordable housing for this heavily burdened community.

2. Project Description and Feasibility of Success

2.a.i Project Description

This hazardous substances and petroleum grant will be utilized in support of RIDEM's established TBA program, which has been designed to work hand-in-hand with municipalities to implement their Redevelopment/Master Plans, the first step of which is to identify, prioritize and complete assessments of abandoned and underutilized brownfields sites. At least 90% ($187,500 in hazardous substance and $187,500 in petroleum) of this grant will be concentrated in the target areas identified in this proposal. With this grant a minimum of two brownfield sites, one for hazardous substances and one for petroleum, will be selected

in each of the 4 target areas for Phase I and Phase II assessments as outlined in the Task Description below. The remaining 10% of funding, and any funds not utilized by our target communities, will be utilized statewide with the intention of initiating a minimum of one Phase I with hazardous substances and petroleum funding respectively statewide. RIDEM has selected these target areas for the following reasons:

- All have established redevelopment plans with partners and stakeholders made up of state, private and non-profit, and community agencies, centered on community revitalization and preservation.
- Each redevelopment plan concentrates on true mixed-use commercial and light industrial combined with residential development creating job opportunities and safe, affordable neighborhoods.
- Redevelopment plans identify livability principals, needs and solutions, and lay out implementation strategies, including environmental assessments for specific properties.
- All are located in heavily urbanized areas with dense populations that clearly show economic need.

Our target areas have many common needs and strategies that we plan to address with this grant, as follows:

Community/Master Plans	Common Community Need/Issue	Proposed Redevelopment Strategies
Arctic Village, West Warwick: • Arctic Redevelopment Plan • West Warwick Comprehensive Plan	• Underutilized/vacant/foreclosed mills & industrial/commercial buildings • Limited affordable/elderly housing • Need for business growth and jobs • Deteriorating historic buildings • Limited Open Space	• Redevelop Brownfields as mixed use for: o Affordable & elderly housing o Light manufacturing jobs o Small businesses • Create historic mill district with adaptive re-use
Olneyville, Providence: • Olneyville KeepSpace Community Based Plan • Providence Comprehensive Plan	• Limited access to fresh foods • Absentee landlords • Substandard housing • High crime • Vacant/boarded up buildings	• Construct/expand Community Gardens • Establish a food hub in/near community • Restore decrepit housing/increase owner occupancy • Increased occupancy = lower crime rates
Central Falls: • Central Falls Comprehensive Plan • KeepSpace Community Based Plan	• Limited public transit • Heavy traffic & limited parking • Absentee landlords • Substandard housing • High crime	• Expand public transit via bus/rail • Increased occupancy = lower crime rates • Restore decrepit housing • Develop programs to increase owner occupancy
Pawtucket : • Transit Hub Infrastructure Study/Plan • KeepSpace Community Based Plan • Pawtucket Comp. Plan	• Limited public transit • Absentee landlords • Substandard housing • High crime • Lack of marketing for arts organizations	• Construct a commuter rail station linking Pawtucket to Providence and Boston • Restore decrepit housing • Programs to increase owner occupancy • Expand arts & culture accessibility • Increased occupancy = lower crime rates

RIDEM and the target area partners believe that a partnership with the RIDEM TBA program is an essential building block to redevelop and transform existing blight and high crime areas into safe neighborhoods with good jobs available. The RIDEM TBA program continues its involvement with applicants once assessment is complete to identify remediation and redevelopment funding sources, and apply for EPA Cleanup Grants and EPA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loans. RIDEM and the RI Infrastructure Bank work together to select high ranking economic development projects for funding through the RI Brownfields Remediation Bonds Fund. Our hope is that the RI Infrastructure Bank will also be awarded a $1 million EPA RLF for FY2016 in addition to the RLF already awarded to the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency for Pawtucket and Central Falls. With these multiple sources of funding, remediation and redevelopment of sites assessed under this grant are sure to be completed in a swift timeframe. To date, RIDEM has conducted assessments on 31 properties which subsequently received EPA Cleanup Grants, 15 of which have been brought back to or are ready for reuse

2.a.ii. Project Timing

To insure successful timing of projects under this grant, RIDEM will follow the same approach it has successfully utilized for over 10 years. RIDEM is ready to start assessment work immediately upon receipt of this grant, as is outlined in the table below. We currently have 8 pre-qualified environmental professionals/Technical Assistance Contractors (Contractors) under the State of RI Master Price Agreement #309 for site assessment and remediation activities, all of whom have EPA-approved Generic Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP). Contractors were selected under a public bid process that complies with the Federal competitive procurement procedures contained in 40 CFR 31.36 for a period of 4 years based on technical capability and their rates are pre-approved. RIDEM is able to complete all phases of the grant tasks in a timely and efficient manner within the 3 year grant period, as follows:

Project Management Task	Time Line (approximate)
Application period open and public meeting held	June 2016 through July 2016
Application review, scoring and site selection	July 2016 through September 2016
Site eligibility approval, access agreement secured, and community engagement conducted	October 2016 through November 2016
Phase I Contractor selection and Phase I completion	Nov. 2016 through December 2016
Phase II Contractor selection, site-specific QAPP approval and Phase II completion (including limited remedial planning) and post-Phase II community engagement conducted	January 2017 through September 2019

For the past 10 years, the RIDEM TBA program, including all previously awarded EPA assessment grants, has been managed by Cynthia Gianfrancesco. Cynthia will manage this assessment grant, oversee the TBA application process, and management of each site-specific phase of assessment work. Cynthia will oversee the day-to-day activities, hire contractors, manage purchase orders, process invoices, track site-specific and overall grant budgets, and complete all ACRES and quarterly reporting requirements. Grant accounting, payment of invoices and drawdown requests will be carried out by the RIDEM Office of Management Services.

2.a. iii. Site Selection

A statewide announcement of funding availability will be made to initiate the site selection process, requesting submittal of our currently established RIDEM TBA application by a specific deadline. The announcement will be made through a variety of communications outlets, which may include press releases, direct email and the Internet, with the help of our Community Organizations (COs). One or more public informational meetings will be held to explain the process. The RIDEM TBA application requires information necessary to determine site eligibility based on EPA's eligibility requirements, and also includes a scoring mechanism used to prioritize sites based on a 100 point score. The scoring system is based on numerous factors, giving higher point scores to properties that, for example have: unpaid property taxes, reuse plans (including livability/sustainability principles), financial incentives offered by the applicant or municipality, leveraged funds for cleanup and redevelopment, creation of open space, an established community involvement process, and are in an environmental justice area. Applications will be scored by a committee made up of RIDEM staff including Cynthia Gianfrancesco, Ashley Blauvelt and Kelly Owens.

The highest scoring hazardous substances and petroleum applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be recommended for funding, with at least one hazardous substances and one petroleum site selected in each of the 4 target areas. Recommendations for site selection will be sent to all COs for review and concurrence. Once sites are selected and EPA eligibility approval received, RIDEM will work with applicants and property owners to acquire site access by signing the currently established RIDEM site access agreement.

Applicants will also be asked to assist with Community Engagement Activities which may include, but not be limited to, notification to the community and hosting informational meetings to explain the site assessment process, findings, and cleanup/reuse plans. The entire site selection process will be carried out by RIDEM staff under state funding, with no costs charged to this assessment grant.

2.b. Task Descriptions and Budget Table

2.b. i. Task Descriptions

Cooperative agreement oversight (personnel costs and supplies) will be paid by state funds and not funded by this assessment grant. Site specific tasks for Hazardous Substances (HS) and Petroleum (Pet) are based on average costs from similar work conducted during the past few years, as follows:

Task I – Community Engagement	Contractual Cost: $2,500. Community Engagement Activities will be conducted primarily by RIDEM and our COs; however, it may be necessary at some points during the process to hire a contractor for minimal assistance. We are, therefore, budgeting $2,500 for this task.
Task II– 10 Phase I Assessments	Contractual Costs: 5 HS and 5 Pet Phase I assessments **(10 projected outputs),** at a cost of approx. $2,000 each (total: $10,000 HS and $10,000 Pet) in compliance with EPA's All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) and ASTM E1527-13. Phase I Reports will be provided to the TBA applicant, property owner, potential buyer and EPA Region I within 30 days of completion. The projected results from this work will be 10 properties (**10 projected outcomes)** that have completed AAI and are ready for property transactions and/or ready for Phase II work.
Task III – 8 Phase II assessments	Contractual Costs: 4 HS and 4 Pet Phase II assessments **(8 projected outputs)** at a cost of approx. $45,000 each ($187,500 HS and $187,500 Pet) in accordance with an EPA Region I approved site-specific QAPP and the RIDEM *Remediation Regulation.* The final output will be a Site Investigation/Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report (SIR/TBA) which will including planning level cost evaluations for 3 remedial alternatives which meets the requirements of an Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) and will be compliant with EPAs climate change requirements. This task will also include limited cleanup planning if funding is available. SIR/TBA Reports will be provided to the TBA applicant, property owner, potential buyer and EPA Region I within 30 days of completion. The projected results from this work will be 8 properties (**8 projected outcomes**) that are ready to apply for EPA Cleanup Grants and enter remediation.
Task IV– Travel	Travel for 1 staff person to attend one EPA Brownfields Conference. Estimated costs (airfare and travel/lodging/per diem) are up to $2,500 ($1,250 HS and $1,250 Pet) depending on the location.

2.b. ii. Budget Table: Hazardous Substances (HS) and Petroleum (Pet)

Budget Category	**Project Tasks**				
Programmatic Costs	Task I: Community Engagement	Task II : 5 HS and 5 Pet Phase I's	Task III : 4 Phase II HS and 4 Pet. assessments	Task IV: Travel for 1 staff to EPA BF Conference	Total
Personnel		-	-	-	-
Fringe Benefits		-	-	-	-
Travel – HS				$ 1,250	$ 1,250
Travel - Pet		-	-	$ 1,250	$ 1,250
Equipment		-	-		
Supplies		-	-	-	-
Contractual-HS	1,250	$ 10,000	$ 187,500	-	$ 198,750
Contractual-Pet	1,250	$ 10,000	$ 187,500	-	$ 198,750
Other		-	-	-	-
Total	**$2,500**	**$ 20,000**	**$ 375,000**	**$ 2,500**	**$ 400,000**

2.c Ability to Leverage

RIDEM currently has the ability to leverage funds, as indicated in the attached commitment letter (Attachment C) and table below, in the amount of approximately $375,000 to support this Brownfields assessment grant:

Source of Leveraged Funding	Amount of Leveraged Funding annually	Use of Leveraged Funds	Letter of Commitment
State account	$50,000 - 75,000	Personnel	Yes
State Natural Resource Damage Claim Funds	$50,000	Assessment and Remedial Assistance	Yes
RI Brownfields Remediation Bond fund	Unknown at this time	Remediation	Yes

As a show of commitment and in recognition of RIDEM's successful Brownfields program, in Nov. 2014 Rhode Islanders approved a $5 million RI Brownfields Remediation Bond fund. Applications for projects received to date under this bond fund total in excess of $9 million, with 3 of the 4 target areas awarded funding in 2015. Projects funded through this EPA assessment grant will be given high consideration in future state bond fund opportunities. In addition, the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency received a $700,000 RLF last year for use in the Cities of Pawtucket and Central Falls. To date, they have awarded loan funding in the amount of $140,000 to the Branch Street Project, which RIDEM completed the assessment on under our FY2012 assessment grant, after which they applied for and were awarded 5 EPA Cleanup grants for the project. It is expected that projects funded under this grant will continue to be given priority consideration for RLF funding in Pawtucket and Central Falls. Also, the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank is submitting an RLF grant proposal for FY2016 for $1 million, and if awarded, will also give priority to projects assessed under this grant.

Our target communities are very knowledgeable when it comes to utilizing various sources of funds. As such, brownfield projects managed under the RIDEM TBA program typically benefit from many other leveraged resources. However, based on information provided by our target communities, the below table presents various funding sources currently leveraged directly in those communities which will continue to be available on future projects and sites selected under this Brownfields assessment grant. Examples of currently leveraged funds in the target communities are:

Type of Funding	Source of Funding	Approx. Amount of Funding
Building Homes Rhode Island	RI Housing	$2 Million
KeepSpace Implementation	RI Housing	$400,000
Low Income Housing Tax Credits	RI Housing	$16 million
Federal Historic Tax Credits	NPS	$550,000
State Historic Tax Credits	SHPO	$650,000
Neighborhood Development Fund	Local Initiatives Support Corp	$300,000 annually
Communities Supporting Healthy Lifestyles	RI Dept. of Health	$100,000
Community Development Block Grant	HUD	Unavailable
RI Housing & Pawtucket HOME	HUD	$1.4 Million
Total		**$21.4 Million**

3. Community Engagement and Partnerships

3.a.i. Community Involvement Plan

A priority for RIDEM and its partners is meaningful involvement by the communities and residents most impacted by the assessment and cleanup of brownfields in each target area. RIDEM, as the leading state agency for environmental affairs in Rhode Island, is experienced with the process of notifying and engaging

the public in environmental and land use decisions that will have significant local impacts. RIDEM's well-established brownfields program has developed cooperative partnerships with organizations in each target area focused on brownfields revitalization and redevelopment. Our partners at the state Dept. of Health can be engaged on an as needed basis for sites where health concerns arise.

Planning for effective community outreach and stakeholder involvement is essential to the success of this funding opportunity. RIDEM, in partnership with community leaders and the COs listed herein, plans to educate residents and stakeholders about the process and lasting benefits of prioritizing and assessing brownfields sites. Feedback from engaged community members will be incorporated into the decision making process. In addition, the environmental justice requirements of RIDEM's *Remediation Regulations* to expand timely public involvement in the site remediation process will be adhered to. In partnership with its COs, RIDEM will use a combination of the following approaches for community engagement:

- Strategically utilize identified Community Organizations in each community to notify/engage the public
    - *Example: Engage the Arctic Village Redevelopment Agency in ongoing outreach*
- Factsheets/flyers for soliciting continued community engagement (in appropriate languages)
    - *Example: Engage Central RI Chamber of Commerce to develop outreach opportunities*
- Open public stakeholder meetings with interested/engaged members of the public at key milestones
    - *Example: Coordinate with local planning offices to ensure municipal support/feedback*
- Local media (newspaper & TV) will be updated periodically with press releases and official notices
    - Example: *Utilize the Pawtucket Times and Kent County Daily Times for ongoing outreach*
- Social media tools (e.g. Twitter/Facebook)/websites will be kept up-to-date with the latest information
    - *Example: Create a new, dedicated Facebook page to solicit feedback/share information*

3.a. ii. Communicating Progress

In order to ensure the success of this proposal, RIDEM will: 1) be sensitive to cultural/language differences & disabled individuals who want to participate in the execution of the projects; 2) proactively collaborate with residents, community leaders and COs to ensure we are appropriately responding to comments and information is being provided in a manner that is helpful to the public; 3) work closely with the planning departments in West Warwick (Arctic Village), Providence (Olneyville), Central Falls and Pawtucket to ensure momentum as assessment projects proceed; and 4) identify one single point-of-contact, Cynthia Gianfrancesco, to handle all inquiries. Updated information will be disseminated (in multiple languages, as needed) to impacted residents and COs in a timely manner to ensure the public is actively engaged in the projects undertaken as part of this grant. RIDEM's relationship with the Environmental Justice League of RI may be utilized to promote outreach and make accommodations for communication barriers.

3.b. Partnerships with Government Agencies

3.b.i Local/State/Tribal Environmental Authority

RIDEM is the primary agency which holds jurisdiction over protection of human health and the environment in the State of Rhode Island. All assessment activities will be conducted under RIDEM's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) in accordance with the *Remediation Regulations* and other applicable RIDEM regulations, such as those regulating wetlands, stormwater and groundwater. The purpose of the *Remediation Regulations* is to create an integrated program requiring reporting, investigation and remediation of contaminated sites in order to eliminate and/or control threats to human health and the environment, both on and off of the site. Sites assessed under this grant will proceed through RIDEM's VCP process as follows:

- Obtain EPA approval, complete Phase I & Site-Specific QAPP addendum (w/EPA approval)

- Conduct public notice (w/public meeting & comment period if EJ area, school, daycare, etc.)
- Conduct Field work and complete SIR/TBA report, with remedial alternatives and cost estimates (ABCA)
- RIDEM issues letter approving SIR/TBA report and conducts second public notice period
- RIDEM issues Remedial Decision Letter requiring Remedial Action Work Plan
- Performing party submits Remedial Action Work Plan and RIDEM issues Remedial Approval Letter
- Performing Party conducts remediation/redevelopment under RIDEM oversight until completion
- RIDEM issues Letter of Compliance

Tribal involvement is not anticipated to be needed at this time, but if so the appropriate authority will be contacted. Also, there are no local or county environmental authorities in Rhode Island.

3.b.ii Other Governmental Partnerships

RIDEM has a long-standing working relationship with the EPA Region 1 Brownfields program, as well as the EPA Superfund NPL, Pre-Remedial and Removals programs. We will continue to work closely with the EPA Region 1 to maintain the successful Brownfields program we have established. In addition, RIDEM is a partner in "A Sustainable Rhode Island/RhodeMap RI" (HUD/EPA/DOT Sustainable Communities Grant – see Attachment D), working towards our mutual goal of creating a healthy and prosperous future for all of Rhode Island. We also have established relationships with many other federal, state and local governmental agencies. Due to Rhode Island's small size, there are no local or county health agencies. Under this grant, we expect that these relationships will continue, as follows:

Agency/Entity	Expected Role
RI Department of Health	Assistance with public outreach on projects with complex human health issues
RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission	State Historic Preservation Officer reviews
Cities of West Warwick (Arctic Village), Providence (Olneyville), Central Falls & Pawtucket.	Target communities submitting TBA applications, assisting with acquiring access agreements and guiding projects through assessment, remediation and redevelopment
US HUD/EPA/DOT	HUD/EPA/DOT Sustainable Communities Grant Provider

3.c Partnerships with Community Organizations

3.c.i Community Organization Description & Role

CO	Description, Role and Commitments Promised
Groundwork Providence	• An EPA Environmental Job Training grant recipient providing urban residents with hazardous materials handling and cleanup certifications and sustainable landscaping training in EJ areas • Will create a dialogue with stakeholders about Brownfields redevelopment in the community, create/distribute educational materials, & assist RIDEM with community outreach priorities.
Grow Smart Rhode Island	• Statewide non-profit public interest group representing a broad coalition of business/non-profit/government partners fighting sprawl & leading the charge for better-managed growth • Will leverage its communication resources & member network to promote brownfields remediation projects & host/participate in public meetings to promote the advantages of brownfields projects.
Blackstone River Water-shed Council	• A non-profit state-recognized watershed council representing 10 municipalities dedicated to restore, enhance and preserve the physical, historical and cultural integrity of the historic Blackstone River • Will help identify potential sites, co-host public meetings, and conduct public education and outreach
Pawtucket Central Falls Dev. Corp.	• A non-profit community development corporation formed in 1990, managing affordable housing, empowering residents to create healthy neighborhoods, and encourage economic opportunity • Will identify sites, organize meetings, outreach and educate community on risks and benefits related to brownfields, provide translation services, choose sites for cleanup that result in positive impacts

ONE Neighborhood Builders	• A non-profit community development corporation formed in 1988 working with residents to build a safe, healthy and stable community • Will identify sites, advocate for remediation of sites assessed, organize community empowerment information exchanges, provide neighborhood-specific policy advise
Pawtuxet River Valley Authority and Watershed	• The oldest non-profit/state-recognized watershed council in RI represents 13 municipalities working to improve, preserve and protect the historic Pawtuxet River through public education and open space • Will host public meetings, identify potential sites, engage property owners, conduct public outreach, provide policy or legal advise
Central Chamber of Commerce	• Works closely with local businesses and the community to support and advance the business community by providing leadership initiatives in economic and human development • Will help identify sites, share information with members, and host public meetings

3c. ii. Letters of Commitment

See Attachment B for letters from the above 7 Community Organizations RIDEM will partner with on this grant.

4. Project Benefits

4.a.i Health and/or Welfare Benefits

The anticipated public health benefits from this proposal in each target area are numerous, with the health of children and other sensitive populations improving in the following manner:

- Asthma reductions due to improved air quality, especially in Olneyville & the Transit Hub Area (see 1.b)
- Reduction in childhood lead poisoning levels, especially in Arctic Village & Olneyville (see 1.b)
- Reduction in numbers of abandoned structures that pose health and safety risks (e.g. mill fires)
- Overall reduction of exposure pathways (e.g. vapor intrusion, dermal contact)
- Decreased risk of contact with impaired waters in all 4 target areas (all riverfront communities).
- Increased recreational opportunities and healthy lifestyle

With health and welfare going hand-in-hand, RIDEM also anticipates improved quality-of-life via a reduced number of underutilized properties, an increased number of healthy/affordable housing units, pedestrian/ streetscape improvements and an overall increase in civic pride in each of the target areas.

4.a. ii. Environmental Benefits

The neighborhoods in our 4 target areas are all in dire need of revitalization and reinvestment, and RIDEM, through this proposal, has developed a clear approach to address these issues to bring about lasting positive change to the local environment. By concentrating on brownfields assessments, residents in all target areas will see the following **environmental benefits** both during and beyond the life of this grant:

- Remediation of contaminant impacted soil, groundwater, surface runoff, and sediment (*particularly in Pawtucket/Central Falls Transit Hub area which is densely populated & has high housing/jobs needs)*
- Removal of chemical/physical exposure risks and migration to neighboring properties (*particularly in Olneyville which is heavily impacted by underutilized sites & hazardous waste generators)*
- Reduction of water quality impacts to rivers, ponds, and Narragansett Bay as sites are remediated (*particularly in Arctic Village which has riverfront recreation areas accessible to residents)*
- Remediation of blighted properties to kick-start revitalization (*particularly in Pawtucket/Central Falls Transit Hub where revitalizing abandoned sites (e.g. Coats/Clark Mill & old train depot) are municipal priorities)*

4.b. Environmental Benefits from Infrastructure Reuse/Sustainable Reuse

4.b.i. Policies, Planning, and Other Tools

RIDEM has and will actively promote sustainable development principles through the following programs:

Local Comprehensive Plans/Redevelopment Agencies	The 4 target areas have comprehensive plans that promote transit oriented development and re-zone areas to facilitate mixed-use of brownfield properties. RIDEM worked with other state agencies to ensure that local plans in 2015 and beyond include stronger direction for stormwater management, sea-level rise, and climate resiliency.
RI Efficient Building Fund	In 2015, RI established (through the RI Infrastructure Bank) an energy efficiency and renewable energy RLF to provide financial assistance for municipally-owned buildings and schools for deep energy savings projects.
Land Use 2025 - RI State Land Use Policies & Plan	Through the implementation of this statewide plan, RI places particular emphasis on steering growth to those places that can best accommodate sustainable development.
Groundwork Prov. , EPA Job Training Partner	Groundwork will conduct outreach and distribute materials to stakeholders and the community on sustainable reuse practices and green infrastructure.
HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant	RIDEM is an active participant in the RI Consortium that received a FY 2011 HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

4.b. ii. Integrating Equitable Development or Livability Principles

While RIDEM is aware of and encourages all six (6) EPA livability principles, our TBA application prioritizes projects that integrate enhanced transportation choices, equitable/affordable housing and create value in neighborhoods. Livability principles are also considered through the RIDEM's environmental justice program to ensure that communities have a say in how redevelopment limits gentrification and promotes equitable housing. As such, we are keeping with the goals of EPA Strategic Plan Objective 3.1 (Promoting Sustainable and Livable Communities) and Rhode Island's HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) grant which is being implemented by the RI Division of Planning as RhodeMap RI. RhodeMap RI is a statewide collaborative effort overseen by a consortium of decision-making member organizations /agencies/municipalities, and one of the targeted areas in RhodeMap as a potential growth center is Arctic Village (West Warwick). The Concept Plan for Arctic Village laid out in RhodeMap highlights assets (e.g. mix-use development and walkable streets), constraints (e.g. large vacant property at the heart of the Village), and opportunities (e.g. redeveloping town owned land at the north end as a gateway to the Village).

4.c. Economic and Community Benefits (long-term benefits)

4.c. i. Economic or Other Benefits: Completed assessments, cleanups and redevelopment can lead to the following benefits in our target areas:

	Potential Economic / Other Benefits
Transit Hub (Pawtucket/Central Falls)	Increased access to reliable transportation choices can result in increased property values, investment and tax revenues; may also increase workers' ability to access education and employment opportunities (increasing their productivity and incomes),
Arctic Village (West Warwick)	A revitalized village center can lead to direct economic benefits in the form of increased tax revenues, property values and job opportunities; a compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented village center can lead to 'quality of life' improvements for residents and visitors.
Olneyville (Providence)	Improved access to affordable/safe housing can have profound effects on child development & school performance; increased numbers of residents in new housing, even lower income populations, can lead to increased business for local merchants.

From creating jobs to increasing tax bases, funding provided through this grant holds the potential to be the catalyst needed to jump-start important redevelopment projects in all target areas. The long term economic

benefits brought about by the revitalization of brownfields sites in blighted areas can be far reaching Since we do not know at this time which specific projects will be initiated under this grant, it is not possible to project quantitative estimates of job numbers, or other economic benefits; however, funding for site assessments in these communities is the first step to removing one of the key financial barriers to the redevelopment of properties and stimulate ongoing area-wide development.

4.c. ii. Job Creation Potential: Partnerships with Workforce Development Programs

RIDEM, a partner with Groundwork Providence (2015 EPA Brownfields Job Training grantee) understands the importance of job training programs. Groundwork Providence provides certification training to residents of EJ communities for hazardous materials handling/cleanup. Also, One Neighborhood Builders (Olneyville) has a social enterprise program that provides 18-24 year-olds with paid work and job counseling. Both Groundwork Providence and One Neighborhood Builders are committed Community Organizations to our grant proposal.

5. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

5.a. Programmatic Capability

The RIDEM TBA program is managed by the Office of Waste Management (OWM), which has a proven track record of experience, knowledge and resources necessary to successfully carry out grant requirements within the 3 year grant period. The project management team is lead by Cynthia Gianfrancesco, a Principal Environmental Scientist, with over 27 years of experience at RIDEM. Ms. Gianfrancesco has managed EPA grants since 1990, including the Superfund Pre-Remedial and Brownfields Assessment grants, of which the majority of funding is dedicated to carrying out site assessments. Ms. Gianfrancesco carries out the day-to-day responsibilities of managing these grants, including oversight of contractors, processing of invoices, site-specific decisions, and quarterly and ACRES reporting. In the event that Ms. Gianfrancesco vacates her position another qualified OWM staff person will be assigned to manage the program. Ms. Gianfrancesco reports to Kelly Owens, Supervising Engineer, who assists with grant management activities. Ms. Owens has worked for RIDEM for 23 years and has been the supervisor of the RIDEM Brownfields/VCP program for the past 14 years. The OWM currently employs 11 engineers and scientists in the Brownfields Program whose experience and expertise can be drawn upon. All financial management is carried out by RIDEM's Office of Management Services who handles all grant accounting, issuance of purchase orders, payment of invoices, drawdown requests, budget tracking and completion of all final grant closeout reports. RIDEM also has a staff of attorneys who are available for any legal matters which may arise.

Under this grant, tasks including completion of Phase I assessments, QAPPs, and Phase II assessments and remedial planning, will be carried out by one of our 11 pre-qualified Contractors. As described in Section 2.a.ii above, our Contractors are environmental professionals selected to participate in the State of RI Master Price Agreement (MPA) #309 for site assessment and remediation activities. After completing a public bid process that complies with the Federal procurement procedures contained in 40 CFR 31.36, Contractors are selected for a period of 4 years based on technical capability and rates. Most of these Contractors possess a Region I approved Generic Brownfields QAPP so that projects only need a Site-Specific QAPP Addendum for field work conducted. This allows additional funding to be available for actual assessment work at sites. RIDEM staff and the Contractors will be dedicated to carrying out all assessment activities under this grant, ensuring that work is carried out in a timely manner with the highest level of technical expertise available.

5.b. Audit Findings - There have been no adverse audit findings reported.

5.c. Past Performance and Accomplishments

5.c.i. Currently or Has Ever Received an EPA Brownfields Grant

The RIDEM Office of Waste Management (OWM) has been managing EPA grants since 1985 with the first Superfund Pre-Remedial Multi-Site Cooperative Agreement. Since that time, OWM has managed cooperative

agreements, including Superfund National Priority List, CORE, Superfund Pre-Remedial, Brownfields 128(a) and Brownfields Assessment Grants. OWM currently manages two EPA Brownfields Assessment Grants and one 128(a) grant, and as well as over 70 federal grants for which the accounting is managed by RIDEM's Office of Management Services. The five most recent Brownfields grants received by RIDEM currently have or are on schedule to expend all funds on or before the end of the grant period, as follows:

Grant Type/Number/ Hazardous Substances (HS) or Petroleum (Pet)	Grant Period	Original Funded Amount	Balance as of 12-1-15 or end of grant period	Amount allocated	Approx. % of Work Plan Tasks Completed
FY2012 BF Assessment Grant/BF96166701 - HS - Pet	10/1/12-9/30/16	$200,000 $200,000	$ 23,286 $ 135,414	100% 100%	100% 40%
FY2014 BF Assessment Grant/BF96197401 - HS	10/1/1 -9/30/17	$200,000	$185,000	100%	10%
FY2013 Section 128(a)/RP96174201 (closed)	10/1/13-9/30/14	$874,708	$ 0	100%	100%
FY2014 Section 128(a)/RP96186301	10/1/14-9/30/15	$874,708	$ 0	100%	100%
FY 15 Section 128(a)/RP96198801	10/1/15-9/30/16	$837,199	$760,318	100%	10%

5.c.i.1. Compliance with Grant Requirements

For all grants RIDEM has consistently met all Terms and Conditions, and work plan requirements, is current on all required submittals (quarterly reports/technical reports/financial status reports), and is up-to-date on ACRES data inputs. All assessment grant funding has been fully allocated to specific sites. RIDEM has substantially completed or is on schedule to complete all work plan tasks and projected outputs under each grant within the grant period, with the exception of the FY2012 Petroleum Only grant which was extended one year due to delays in the site selection process.

5.c.i.2. Accomplishments

The success of the RIDEM Brownfields assessment program started with the Brownfields Showcase Community Pilot in 1998 and continued with the implementation of our TBA program through our 128(a) and EPA Brownfields Assessment grants. Our TBA program has developed into a well respected assessment program that municipalities, non-profits and developers have come to trust and depend upon. Due to our years of experience, our existing process for soliciting priority brownfields sites and acquiring access from property owners, and our environmental professional contracting mechanism, we are able to proceed through the assessment process in a timely and efficient manner. All accomplishments have been reported to EPA through quarterly reports and ACRES, including reporting of all outputs (Phase I and Phase II reports) and outcomes (sites/acres remediated, ready for reuse/redeveloped) and are summarized in the following table:

Accomplishments: Number of TBA Sites			
With completed Phase I and/or Phase II Reports (output)	Remediated/In process of remediation(outcome)	Received EPA Cleanup Grants (outcome)	Redeveloped and/or ready for reuse(outcome)
90	48	31	29

Redevelopment of these sites ranges from open space and affordable housing to schools, theaters and mixed industrial uses. While these are notable accomplishments, the TBA program has barely made a dent in addressing the thousands of brownfield sites in Rhode Island. However, with the federal assistance we currently receive, we are able to continue to identify priority properties and chip away at the never-ending list of brownfield sites. Our greatest challenge at this time is a lack of funding to initiate new projects to keep our program active and moving forward. The RIDEM brownfields program's continued success is dependant upon receiving this EPA assessment grant as we believe we have aptly shown in the presentation of this proposal.

Attachment A

Threshold Criteria:

1. Applicant Eligibility

   The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management ("RIDEM") is a government entity created by the Rhode Island General Assembly and is eligible to apply for funding through EPA's Brownfields Assessment Grant Program. RIDEM's enabling statute can be found at R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-17.1.

2. Letter from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority

   Not required. Applicant is the Rhode Island state environmental authority (RIDEM). Implementation by RIDEM will ensure efficient compliance with state regulations and will facilitate interactions with other state programs to support redevelopment.

3. Community Involvement

A priority for RIDEM and its partners is meaningful involvement by the communities and residents most impacted by the assessment and cleanup of brownfields in each target area. RIDEM, as the leading state agency for environmental affairs in Rhode Island, is experienced with the process of notifying and engaging the public in environmental and land use decisions that will have significant local impacts. RIDEM's well-established brownfields program has developed cooperative partnerships with organizations in each target area focused on brownfields revitalization and redevelopment. Our partners at the state Dept. of Health can be engaged on an as needed basis for sites where health concerns arise.

Planning for effective community outreach and stakeholder involvement is essential to the success of this funding opportunity. RIDEM, in partnership with community leaders and the COs listed herein, plans to educate residents and stakeholders about the process and lasting benefits of prioritizing and assessing brownfields sites. Feedback from engaged community members will be incorporated into the decision making process. In addition, the environmental justice requirements of RIDEM's *Remediation Regulations* to expand timely public involvement in the site remediation process will be adhered to. In partnership with its COs, RIDEM will use a combination of the following approaches for community engagement:

- Strategically utilize identified Community Organizations in each community to notify/engage the public
  - *Example: Engage the Arctic Village Redevelopment Agency in ongoing outreach*
- Factsheets/flyers for soliciting continued community engagement (in appropriate languages)
  - *Example: Engage Central RI Chamber of Commerce to develop outreach opportunities*
- Open public stakeholder meetings with interested/engaged members of the public at key milestones
  - *Example: Coordinate with local planning offices to ensure municipal support/feedback*
- Local media (newspaper & TV) will be updated periodically with press releases and official notices
  - Example: *Utilize the Pawtucket Times and Kent County Daily Times for ongoing outreach*
- Social media tools (e.g. Twitter/Facebook)/websites will be kept up-to-date with the latest information
  - *Example: Create a new, dedicated Facebook page to solicit feedback/share information*

4. Site Eligibility and Property Ownership Eligibility (Site-Specific Proposals Only)

   Not applicable. This is an application for Community-wide assessment funding.

Attachment B

Letters from Community Organizations

GROUNDWORK PROVIDENCE

8 Third Street
Providence, RI 02906

401.351.6440
401.351.0118 fax
www.groundworkprovidence.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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December 8, 2015

Ms. Cynthia Gianfrancesco
Principal Environmental Scientist
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Re: RI DEM FY 2016 Brownfields Assessment Grant Proposal

Dear Cynthia,

I am writing to express Groundwork Providence's full support for the RI DEM's FY 2016 Brownfields Assessment Grant Proposal. Groundwork Providence is pleased to support RI DEM to maximize the community, educational, and sustainability impacts of the agency's Brownfields program.

Groundwork Providence is an environmental and community development organization devoted to providing residents of Rhode Island's urban environmental justice communities with the skills, opportunities, and resources to improve the health, sustainability, and resiliency of their own neighborhoods. We run several programs supporting this mission, including a successful job training program funded through the EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant program.

During each job training cycle that we hold twice a year, up to 15 residents of RI's urban core cities (primarily Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Woonsocket) who face a variety of barriers to employment, receive a broad range of classroom-based and hands-on training related to Brownfields remediation, toxic waste handling, stormwater and wastewater management, urban landscaping, and other related topics. Graduates receive ongoing job-placement support, including temporary paid hands-on training as employees of Groundwork Providence's landscaping social enterprise, GroundCorp.

We are pleased to continue our partnership with RI DEM in engaging both participants and graduates of our job training program in appropriate projects and hands-on learning experiences that will help make the students more competitive job seekers and applicants.

As a community-based partner, Groundwork Providence commits to helping RI DEM make this grant a success, including providing the following services and resources:

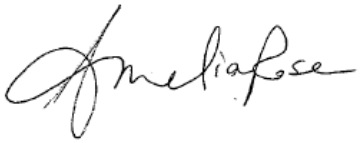
Proud Member:

GROUNDWORK PROVIDENCE

- Create a dialogue with our own stakeholders about the role of Brownfields redevelopment in the community
- Assist RI DEM with community outreach and creating opportunities to speak with community members directly
- Create and/or distribute educational materials to community members in collaboration with RI DEM
- Work with RI DEM to identify opportunities for HAZWOPER-certified individuals involved in our job training program to shadow RI DEM contractors on assessment work and/or invite these contractors to provide classroom instruction using a local site as a case study during a job training cycle
- Provide at-cost trees and free planting for up to 30 trees as a hands-on learning experience for our training participants to a non-profit developer leveraging RI DEM Brownfield Assessment funding

We look forward to continuing and strengthening this partnership with RI DEM! Please contact me at (401) 559-2204 or arose@groundworkprovidence.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



Amelia Rose
Executive Director

GrowSmartRI
Sustainable Economic Growth
& Quality of Place

Howard M. Kilguss
Chairman of the Board

Scott Wolf
Executive Director

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December 10, 2015

Ms. Cynthia M. Gianfrancesco
Principal Environmental Scientist
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

RE: *Support for RIDEM FY2016 Brownfield Assessment Grant Proposal*

Dear Ms. Gianfrancesco:

On behalf of Grow Smart Rhode Island this letter is being provided to confirm our strong commitment to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) in your proposal for a FY 2016 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. We agree to work cooperatively with RIDEM and the other community based organizations to provide the type of assistance highlighted below.

Grow Smart is a statewide coalition of business interests, non-profit organizations and government agencies that have come together to address the issue of sprawl in Rhode Island. Our purpose is to make Rhode Islanders aware of the environmental, economic and social impacts of sprawl and to promote policies and practices that direct future growth toward urban and town centers while reducing development pressures on our farming and forest land.

A key element of our work over the last ten years has been promoting the connection and synergy between Rhode Island's State Historic Tax Credit program and its resulting and successful impact on brownfield clean-up. A 2007 study by Grow Smart found that the tax credit program has provided the necessary financial support to clean up contamination found on many of the historic sites being recycled into use. And these environmental gains are occurring in urban, suburban and rural communities throughout Rhode Island.

The RIDEM's Brownfields Assessment Grant program has provided and hopefully will continue to provide much needed funding for assessment work in many Rhode Island communities. Assessment of these sites is the first step to revitalizing the community and bringing properties back to beneficial reuse.

Grow Smart stands prepared to leverage its communication resources and network of more than 6,000 civic leaders, state & local officials, development professionals, journalists and active citizens to promote the brownfield assessment opportunities should this grant be awarded. We are also committed to hosting/participating in public meetings to help promote the many advantages that brownfield reclamation offers to communities.

As a member of the State Planning Council, our organization is dedicated to listening to and respecting the community's ideas and concerns, and look forward to working with RIDEM to make this a very successful program

Assistance from EPA will provide the critical resources that will help support the very visible, ongoing local efforts to redevelop these communities in environmentally sound ways and to bring additional properties back into productive reuse, thus generating jobs/revenue and providing affordable housing.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Scott Wolf

Scott Wolf
Executive Director

Blackstone River Watershed Council

Friends of the Blackstone

John Marsland, President

December 4, 2015

Michael Baer
Senior Advisor
Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
235 Promenade Street, Suite 119
Providence, RI 02908

RE: Support for EPA Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Baer,

The Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone (BRWC/FOB) is pleased to provide this letter to confirm our commitment to the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) in their proposal for a FY2016 EPA Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The BRWC/FOB agrees to work cooperatively with the RIIB to provide the type of assistance Highlighted below.

- Help identify potential sites
- Co-host public meetings with RIIB
- Conduct public education/outreach about brownfields and their risks

The BRWC/FOB is a 100% volunteer organization dedicated to restore, enhance and preserve the physical, historical and cultural integrity of the Blackstone River, its watershed and its eco-system, through public advocacy, education, recreation and stewardship. We are recognized by the State of Rhode Island as the watershed council for the Blackstone River and the ten municipalities in the Blackstone River watershed.

Awarding of this grant will help to fund much needed environmental remediation and redevelopment work across Rhode Island. Historical industrial use of properties throughout the Blackstone River Valley communities has resulted in many distressed and underutilized properties with actual or potential environmental contamination. With the grant funding, the RIIB will be able to remediate exposure risks to contaminated media and ultimately redevelopment. Remediation of these sites is a crucial step in bringing properties back to beneficial reuse. We intend to work cooperatively with the RIIB and other community based organizations to identify properties in need of remediation and redevelopment to bring about the type of change many Rhode Island communities are striving to achieve.

Your consideration of this proposal is greatly appreciated.

John Marsland

Sincerely,
John Marsland, President

P.O. Box 8068, Cumberland, Rhode Island 02864. Phone: 401.334.2153

PAWTUCKET
CENTRAL FALLS
DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015

Attn: Cynthia Gianfrancesco
Principal Environmental Scientist
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

RE: *Commitment to EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Proposal*

Dear Ms. Gianfrancesco:

Pawtucket Central Falls Development (PCF Development) is happy to provide this letter to express our commitment to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) in their proposal for a FY 2016 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. We look forward to working with RIDEM to provide assistance in the implementation of this grant.

PCF Development has been developing affordable housing for the past 25 years. In that time, we have created more than 200 units in Pawtucket and Central Falls, RI. Our organization strives to transform foreclosed and distressed properties that were once neighborhood eyesores into high quality, safe units of affordable housing. Often times, the development of key properties leads to a major neighborhood revitalization. Our most recent developments have reinvigorated the Barton Street neighborhood of Pawtucket; turning what was once a hotbed of crime and transient housing to a community that is now full of homeowners, affordable condominiums, parks, bike paths, new businesses, mixed use developments, and attractive housing.

Our staff is focused on not only developing housing but also connecting and engaging with community residents. Over the past few years alone, PCF Development has sponsored four major resident engagement programs. These activities allow us to not only better understand the needs of the community, but also act on them and provide programs that are relevant to our tenants and neighbors. As a result, we feel that our organization has a strong connection to the Pawtucket/Central Falls community. If Rhode Island DEM is awarded this grant, PCF will assist in the implementation in a number of ways. First, our staff will help identify potential Brownfield cleanup sites in this community. Our real estate development team has a strong understanding of sites that have historically not been developed because of environmental issues. Second, PCF will connect RIDEM to local residents. Our organization regularly reaches out to community residents with newsletters, social media and community meetings. Our outreach includes translation services for what is an extremely diverse and multi-cultural

neighborhood. In order to help in the implementation of this Brownfields award, we will include RIDEM in future meetings and outreach to the Pawtucket and Central Falls community. This will include education on the risks of brownfields, site prioritization/selection and the benefits of remediation. Finally, we will work with RIDEM to ensure that the cleanup of chosen sites leads to development that fits the need of the community and ensures a positive impact and neighborhood revitalization.

As a non-profit real estate developer we are all too aware of the significant burden that brownfields and hazardous materials can place on a project. Being located in an historic New England community with a strong heritage of manufacturing and industry only compounds the likelihood that each local development will encounter a need for environmental remediation. Many times, local developers are trying to clean up mills and environmental damage left by previous generations. If awarded, this grant will provide funding for much needed assessment work across our communities. Assistance from EPA will provide the critical resources that will help support the very visible, ongoing local efforts to redevelop these communities in environmentally sound ways and to bring additional properties back into productive reuse, generate jobs and revenue. With the grant funding, the RIDEM will be able to assess the environmental conditions at sites so that exposure risks to contaminated media will be determined and ultimately remediated. Assessment of these sites is a crucial first step in bringing properties back to beneficial reuse. We hope you will strongly consider this application and its potential to significantly improve the quality of life for residents in our low income industrial Rhode Island communities.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Linda Weisinger
Executive Director

ONE NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDERS

December 4, 2015

Cynthia Gianfrancesco, Principal Environmental Scientist
RI Department of Environmental Management, Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

RE: Support for FY2016 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Proposal

Dear Ms. Gianfrancesco:

On behalf of ONE Neighborhood Builders, (ONE NB, aka Olneyville Housing Corporation), this letter serves to express our enthusiastic support to the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) for their proposal for a FY2016 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. We agree to work cooperatively with RIDEM to provide the type of assistance noted below.

ONE NB is a 26 year-old 501(c)3 community development corporation focused on the physical revitalization and economic stabilization of Providence's poorest neighborhood and Rhode Island's poorest census tract. Our activities are generally divided into two separate but complementary business lines: real estate redevelopment and community asset building.

It is through the real estate redevelopment business line that ONE NB will most directly assist RIDEM in the following ways:

- Help identify environmentally impacted sites for RIDEM investigation;
- Advocate for the remediation of those sites;
- Acting through our role as fiscal agent and convening entity for the 21-member Olneyville Collaborative, organize opportunities for community-empowering information exchanges;
- Based on our brownfields remediation and redevelopment experience, provide neighborhood-specific policy advice particularly around the reclamation of vacant and/or abandoned properties.

Brownfields identification and assessment assistance from EPA, if awarded, will provide the critical resources necessary to support our on-going efforts to redevelop the Olneyville neighborhood in environmentally sound ways and to bring distressed properties back into productive use generating jobs, wealth, and a stabilized tax base. We shall work cooperatively with RIDEM and other community-based organizations to help identify contaminated sites and advocate for brownfields remediation.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Langlykke
Director of Real Estate Development

401.351.8719 66 Chaffee Street Providence, RI 02909
ONEneighborhoodbuilders.org

Pawtuxet River Authority
& Watershed Council

8 Hope Furnace Road ·Hope, RI 02831
(401) 615-7039 ·*pra@pawtuxet.org*
www.pawtuxet.org

December 14, 2015

Ms. Cynthia M. Gianfrancesco
Principal Environmental Scientist
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

RE: Support for EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Proposal

Dear Ms. Gianfrancesco:

I am writing to confirm our commitment to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) in their proposal for a FY 2016 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

The Pawtuxet River was one of the earliest industrialized rivers in the United States. The watershed of this river represents 1/3 of the entire population of RI and supplies 65% of the state with drinking water. The Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council(PRAWC) is one of Rhode Island's oldest watershed organizations having been established by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1972. For more than forty years the PRAWC has been working to reverse the damage done by 150 years of industrial development. The PRAWC has cleaned hundreds of tons of debris from the Pawtuxet River, built river access and trails, obtained funds to upgrade sewage treatment plants, and worked to preserve open space. As the river has improved, we've been looking upstream to address water quality issues watershed-wide. Your proposed project, to identify contaminated sites to redevelop them as "brownfields", is an important component of that effort.

Obtainment of this grant will help to fund much needed environmental assessment work in our watershed and across Rhode Island as well. Industrial use of sites throughout the Pawtuxet Valley and Rhode Island has resulted in many distressed and underutilized properties and neighborhoods with actual or potential environmental contamination. With the grant funding, the RIDEM will be able to assess the environmental conditions at sites so that exposure risks to

contaminated media will be determined and ultimately remediated. Assessment of these sites is a crucial first step in bringing properties back to beneficial reuse.
Working with this RIDEM program, the Authority would:

- Host public meetings at our headquarters attended by RIDEM
- Help identify potential sites.
- Seek out pertinent sites in our watershed and engage their owners about the role of brownfields redevelopment in their community
- Conduct public education/outreach about brownfields & their risks.
- Provide policy or legal advice

The PRAWC is committed to protecting and restoring the lands and the waters of the Pawtuxet Watershed. This project would be a big boost in that effort. The Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council will do whatever we can to support you, assisting with public education and outreach as best we can.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Nero
Chairman

Central Rhode Island
Chamber of Commerce

Your Business Resource...If you have a question, ask.

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Residence Inn by Marriott – Warwick

Maryanne Bevans, Esq.
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Joseph D. Lajoie
Greenwood Credit Union

Thomas P. McGovern
A Wish Come True, Inc.

Richard F. Nagele
Advantage Marketing Information

Corrine Riley
William J. Riley Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc.

Frank Ritz
AAA Northeast

Justin Sadler
Active Data Solutions, LLC

Christine Wilson
Coastway Community Bank

Brent E. Wyrostek
Arrest-A-Pest, Inc.

December 11, 2015

Ms. Cynthia M. Gianfrancesco
Principal Environmental Scientist
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

RE: *Support for EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Proposal*

Dear Ms. Gianfrancesco:

I am writing this letter to confirm our commitment to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) in their proposal for a FY 2016 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

The Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce works closely with local businesses and community to help them reach their goals. We have worked collaboratively with other civic and business organizations on numerous projects and look forward to the opportunity to collaborate on this one.

If the RIDEM is awarded the grant we will:

- Help identify potential sites.
- Share information to our members and the local community about identified sites and the role brownfields can have in redevelopment and economic revitalization.
- Provide a location to host public meetings so the RIDEM can connect with our members.
- Create, post and/or distribute collateral and assist in identifying other partners that may be able to assist with the project.

The redevelopment of brownfields sites is critical for economic revitalization. Awarding of this grant will help to fund much needed environmental assessment work across Rhode Island. Historic industrial use of properties throughout Rhode Island's communities has resulted in many distressed and underutilized properties and neighborhoods with actual or potential environmental contamination. With the grant funding, the RIDEM will be able to assess the environmental conditions at sites so that exposure risks to contaminated media will be determined and ultimately remediated. Assessment of these sites is a crucial first step in bringing properties back to beneficial reuse. We intend to work cooperatively with RIDEM and other community based organizations to bring about the type of change many Rhode Island communities are striving to achieve.

We thank you for your consideration, if I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me at 401-732-1100.

Sincerely,

Lauren E.I. Slocum IOM
President and CEO

3288 Post Road ◆ Warwick, Rhode Island 02886 ◆ 401-732-1100 Fax 401-732-1107
business@centralrichamber.com ◆ www.centralrichamber.com

Attachment C

Leveraging Documentation

RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE / DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
235 Promenade Street, Room 380
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

15 December 2015

Frank Gardner, Brownfields Coordinator
EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100, Mail Code: OSRR7-2
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: Letter of Commitment for Leveraged Funds to Support RIDEM 2016 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant

Dear Mr. Gardner,

This letter is being written to confirm the commitment of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) for funding to be provided in support of the RIDEM Brownfields Assessment Program and its FY2016 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. The majority of personnel costs for staff who will oversee and manage this grant will be provided through a State funded account in the amount of approximately $75,000 annually. In addition, RIDEM expects to be able to allocate $50,000 annually in funding from natural resource damage claims it has settled with responsible parties to support contractual funding for assessment and remedial assistance work of brownfield sites in the target communities. As such, these sources of non-Federal leveraged funds are estimated at approximately $375,000 for the grant period.

In addition, the State of Rhode Island recently passed a $5 million bond fund for Brownfields remediation. It is anticipated that assessment projects completed under this grant that conform with the bond funding eligibility and selection guidelines will be considered for remediation funding through the bond fund.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. DeStefano
Deputy Chief
RIDEM – Office of Waste Management

cc: Cynthia Gianfrancesco, RIDEM

Attachment D

HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities Documentation

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

By and Between the Members of the Consortium for

A Sustainable Rhode Island

*This Agreement is made between the **Rhode Island Division of Planning** and **Janet Coit**, hereinafter referred to as the "**Member**," for the purpose of establishing the agreed conditions under which the Member shall participate in the Governance and Management of the Consortium (Attachment A) in development and implementation of A Sustainable Rhode Island, as described below, effective as of the date of the last execution below.*

Whereas, a consortium has been created, comprised of state governmental units, municipal governmental units and nonprofit organizations that seek to develop and implement *A Sustainable Rhode Island,* which will guide the State towards a sustainable future; and,

Whereas, the consortium is intended collectively to have the capacity and experience to carry out the proposed activities within the work program (Attachment B) executed under a cooperative agreement with HUD for development of *A Sustainable Rhode Island;* and,

Whereas, the members of the consortium have authorized one member, the Rhode Island Division of Planning, as the lead applicant, to act in a representative capacity with HUD on behalf of all members of the consortium and to assume administrative responsibility for ensuring that the consortium's program is carried out in compliance with all HUD requirements; and,

Whereas, while the lead applicant holds fiscal and administrative responsibility for regular interaction with HUD, the consortium has developed a governance and management structure that reflects the diversity of its partners and allows for maximum participation in strategy development and decision- making;

Whereas, the result of this effort will be the development and implementation of *A Sustainable Rhode Island*; a unified effort of local governments, organizations, state agencies and the public to create a regional plan for sustainable development and implement several action items as described in the work program;

Whereas, upon completion of all project activities or within ninety (90) days of the end of the funding period (whichever is sooner), the bodies described may be dissolved and this Agreement terminated; and,

Whereas, this Agreement may be extended and amended by both parties, if desired, for the purpose of continuing to work on post-grant sustainability and coordination issues.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, all parties to this agreement, as "**Members**" of the consortium, accept the responsibility of carrying out their role in the successful completion of the work program of *A Sustainable Rhode Island;*

Furthermore, upon execution of the agreement, each "**Member**" will participate in accordance with the governance and management structure as attached (Attachment A).

Both parties hereto represent that they have authority to enter into this Partnership.

So agreed this, the 23rd **day of** May, **2012**

Janet Coit, Director, RI Department of Environmental Management

Department of Environmental Management	**Janet Coit, Director**
Name of the Member Organization	**Chief Official of the Member Organization**

So agreed this, the 11 **day of** June, **2012**

Rhode Island Division of Planning, Associate Director

RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767 TDD 401-222-4462

May 15, 2012

Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W., Room 10180
Washington, D.C. 20410

Re: Letter of Commitment - HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

To Whom it May Concern:

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has agreed to serve as a member of the Rhode Island Consortium applying for this grant opportunity.

As an organization, we commit to provide $30,000 of in kind contribution from Scott Millar's salary and fringe benefits.

Scott Millar, Administrator Sustainable Watersheds: Annual Salary: $103,489
Fringe Benefits: $59, 912
Total: $160,408

DEM is committing a minimum of 341 hours of Scott Millar's time @$88/hour over the three year grant period.

Sincerely,

Terrance Maguire , Assistant Director Finance

30% post-consumer fiber

State of Rhode Island: Division of Planning

Staff Contact
Melanie Jewett Army, Supervising Planner
401-222-6183
Chris Witt, Principal Planner
401-222-4719

Rhode Island residents have an opportunity to shape the state's future through RhodeMap RI: Building a Better Rhode Island, a project to develop a statewide, integrated plan to advance sustainability and equity and to create a better place for all Rhode Islanders. The state in collaboration with public and community leaders will seek answers to basic questions about what we want for Rhode Island.

How do we build strong, resilient communities with jobs and housing for all Rhode Islanders? How do we improve our economy while also preserving those qualities that make Rhode Island special? Where should we direct future investments in housing, infrastructure, and businesses to have the greatest positive impact on the state?

The state has the opportunity to answer these questions because of a three year, $1.9 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grant it received from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2012. The Sustainable Communities program is a joint effort of HUD, the US Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency that recognizes the connections among land use, housing, transportation, environmental, and economic issues.

RhodeMap RI has eight key elements: housing, economic development, growth centers, technical assistance, public participation, social equity, performance measures, and implementation.

For more information about RhodeMap RI visit the project website, RhodeMap RI

OMB Number: 4040-0004
Expiration Date: 8/31/2016

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:
- [ ] Preapplication
- [x] Application
- [ ] Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:
- [x] New
- [ ] Continuation
- [ ] Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received: 12/17/2015

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier: BF

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, RHODE ISLAND DEPT OF

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 05-6000522

* c. Organizational DUNS: 1114412130000

d. Address:

* Street1: Office of Waste Management
Street2: 235 Promenade Street
* City: Providence
County/Parish:
* State: RI: Rhode Island
Province:
* Country: USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code: 02908-5767

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:
* First Name: Cynthia
Middle Name:
* Last Name: Gianfrancesco
Suffix:

Title: Principal Environmental Scientist

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number: 401-222-4700 X7126
Fax Number: 401-222-3812

* Email: cindy.gianfrancesco@dem.ri.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.818

CFDA Title:

Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

EPA-OSWER-OBLR-15-04

* Title:

FY16 Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Grants

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Brownfields Assessment Program

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments | Delete Attachments | View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant 1,2 * b. Program/Project 1,2

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date: 10/01/2016 * b. End Date: 09/30/2019

18. Estimated Funding ($):

* a. Federal	400,000.00
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	400,000.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .

☒ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment | Delete Attachment | View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name: Terrence

Middle Name:

* Last Name: Gray

Suffix:

* Title: Assoc. Director for Environmental Protection

* Telephone Number: 401-222-4700 X7100 Fax Number:

* Email: terry.gray@dem.ri.giv

* Signature of Authorized Representative: Cynthia Gianfrancesco * Date Signed: 12/17/2015