

In December 2014, the City of Lodi applied for a \$400,000 U.S. EPA Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant to provide funding for the reuse and revitalization of properties throughout the City of Lodi Urban Boundary. The EPA has announced today that the City of Lodi is one of 147 communities nationwide to receive the requested grant funding.

The City intends to use the grant funding to inventory, prioritize and plan for cleanup and reuse of priority brownfield and revitalization opportunity sites throughout the community. The goals of the project are economic development (making sites ready for new businesses, creating jobs and tax-based revenue, etc.) and environmental restoration (reducing threats to human health and the environment; creating parks, trails etc.).

A revitalization opportunity site is defined broadly by the U.S. EPA as “abandoned, idled or under-used property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” The U.S. EPA grants support five general types of activities – all of which are relevant to the City’s goals:

- Conducting a community-wide inventory of potential sites;
- Identifying priority opportunity sites and conducting assessment activities;
- Conducting cleanup and reuse planning;
- Community outreach; and
- Planning for revitalization of priority areas or corridors.

Additional sources of State or Federal funding will be sought for cleanup work. The award of this EPA Brownfield grant will provide Lodi a better opportunity to secure those funds. The goal of the U.S. EPA program is to turn underutilized sites to a community benefit, restoring them to safe, viable properties that contribute to the economic wellbeing of the community.

The EPA’s Brownfields Program has created many benefits for local communities, as highlighted below.

- Projects leveraged \$17.79 per EPA dollar expended;
- Leveraged 90,363 jobs nationwide;
- Can increase residential property values 5.1% - 12.8% near Brownfield sites when cleanup is complete; and
- Promotes area-wide planning.