

Community Development and EPA Brownfields Assessment Funding

The Community Development Department announces its intent to apply in October for federal funding through the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program. This federal program is designed to empower states, communities, stakeholders and local governments to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is defined as: real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Brownfield grants serve as the foundation of the federal Brownfields Program and support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, cleanup and job training activities. Thousands of properties have been assessed and cleaned up through state and the federal Brownfields Program, clearing the way for their reuse.

Gadsden County plans to submit for two Community-Wide Assessment grants – a hazardous substance assessment grant and a petroleum or petroleum-product assessment grant. These grants will provide up to \$200,000 each for brownfields inventories, redevelopment planning, environmental assessments such as Phase I and Phase II site assessments, and community outreach and involvement. The funding can be used on public and private properties with the permission of the property owner and is strictly a voluntary program. The grant application deadline is October 16, 2009. Grant award announcements are expected by May 2010.

For more information on EPA's Brownfields Program visit www.epa.gov/brownfields. To learn more about Gadsden County's grant efforts and how you can assist in its grant efforts, please contact Ms. Sonya Burns at 875.8659 or SBurns@gadsdencountyfl.gov.