



DeWine Administration Announces \$60M in Brownfield Remediation Grants' First Round

Gov. Mike DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted and Department of Development (DOD) Director Lydia Mihalik all spoke at events at around the state Tuesday, announcing distribution of \$60 million in the first round of Brownfield Remediation grant funds. The program has a total of \$350 million and launched in December 2021. (See *The Hannah Report*, 12/14/21.)

DOD will provide funds for 78 projects in 35 counties as part of the first round, including \$54.8 million for 37 clean-up projects and \$5.5 million for 41 assessment projects. The program focuses on industrial, commercial and institutional brownfield sites that had been abandoned, idled or underutilized because of the known or potential release of hazardous substances or petroleum. A full list of first round recipients is available at www.hannah.com>Important Documents & Notices>Library.

"These hazardous, decaying sites -- some of which have been vacant for decades -- are barriers to economic growth and community revitalization, but now, we're going to help breathe new life into these areas," DeWine said during an event in Mansfield. "The projects we're funding today will not only revive these sites for new development, but they'll also improve quality of life and open the door for exciting new opportunities for the citizens of our state."

The Mansfield project received a \$3 million grant to remediate petroleum tanks and hazardous chemicals at the remaining Westinghouse Electric Products buildings that have been vacant since 1990. It is expected the site will be redeveloped into housing, businesses and/or greenspace. DeWine also spoke in Canton, where a project to remediate the Renkert Building -- its first skyscraper -- is receiving a \$3.4 million grant to convert the building into a 92-room extended stay hotel and first floor restaurant.

"More businesses are looking to expand in Ohio, but they need sites that are ready to go immediately," Husted added in the release. "By cleaning up brownfield sites, we are creating locations that are ready to accommodate a business expansion. We are also transforming communities by removing blighted buildings and turning those sites into new opportunities for economic development."

Mihalik said the grants would "have a positive impact in our communities, helping them remove blighted properties and prepare sites for redevelopment." She spoke at events in Lima, Defiance, Toledo and Findlay, while Husted attended an event in East Liverpool.

Cuyahoga County has the highest number of project sites at 13, including 10 for cleanup/remediation and three assessments. The largest grant amount is \$6.43 million for redevelopment of a Goodyear Akron Mix Center. Eight grants were at or above \$3 million.

The Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) and County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) both praised the grant funding in press releases.

"As one of the leading advocates for the investment in brownfield revitalization, [GOPC] is thrilled to see that the first recipients of Brownfield Remediation Fund grants have been announced," said Director of Strategic Engagement Jason Warner. "This program, when fully

executed, will provide millions of dollars to communities throughout Ohio, and along with millions more in leveraged funds from the local governments and the private sector, we can begin the process of eliminating these scourges of economic progress across the state of Ohio.”

“These funds are vital to the redevelopment of contaminated properties,” said CCAO President and Montgomery County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman. “We are grateful to the Ohio General Assembly and the DeWine administration for including these funds in the state budget. With state assistance, these sites will undergo a transformation that will start the economic revitalization of the neighborhoods around them.”

Story originally published in *The Hannah Report* on April 26, 2022. Copyright 2022 Hannah News Service, Inc.