



## **GOPC White Paper Analyzes Brownfield Remediation Fund, Calls for Another \$500M**

The Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) released Tuesday a white paper on “The Benefit of Brownfields” analyzing the Ohio Department of Development’s (DOD) awarding of \$252 million during the first round of the Brownfield Remediation Fund. (See *The Hannah Report*, 4/6/22, 6/17/22.) GOPC is also calling for another \$500 million in remediation funding through the next state operating budget.

The paper found that 72 percent of the total \$350 million was awarded during the first round, with funds going to 58 counties for 115 clean-up projects and 74 assessments. “The anticipated end uses for the remediated sites are impressive, including affordable housing, riverfront recreation space, a job training center and new industrial sites,” GOPC wrote in a release. The center will continue to update its data as additional rounds are announced.

The white paper also said that Ohio had previously been a national model for brownfield redevelopment, with the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) yielding a return of nearly \$5 for every dollar of CORF funds spent. That program contributed \$1.4 billion to the state GDP and led to high-paying jobs in fields of medicine, medical research, military research and development and manufacturing, according to GOPC.

GOPC also said as additional rounds of the Brownfield Remediation Fund are awarded, its full economic benefits will be better understood. Other data reported in the white paper included that 10.1 million Ohioans, or 86 percent of the population, live in the counties receiving at least one award. Counties with a population over 400,000 received the largest share of first round grants, while smaller counties got the most assessment grants.

Sixty percent of fund recipients were land banks, nonprofits and the private sector. Forty percent were local governments and port authorities.

In regard to the proposal for another \$500 million, GOPC said “all signs suggest that demand outstripped available funding.” There should also be two funding rounds per year bifurcated into “A” and “B” periods, for amounts of \$125 million in each, the organization said.

The full white paper is available at [www.hannah.com](http://www.hannah.com)>Important Documents & Notices>Library.