

**Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development
Municipal Grant Program (Assessment-only)**

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

July 26, 2023

Round 18AO (Assessment-only Grant)

Announcement: The [Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development](#) (OBRD) of the Dept. of Economic and Community Development (DECD) would like to announce the availability of funding under the Municipal Brownfield Grant Program (Assessment-Only) and is inviting applications for the same. The purpose of the Municipal Grant Program as per [C.G.S Section 32-763](#), is to provide grants for brownfield remediation and redevelopment. Additional program goals include encouraging public-private partnerships, leveraging the maximum amount of private funds to increase the economic impact of the State’s investment, reactivating long-stalled sites and encouraging job creation.

OBRD has also simultaneously announced the availability of funding under the remediation and limited assessment grant and loan programs. The total funding pool available for all DECD Round 18 notices is up to \$25 million. The review and decision process for all programs will be simultaneous. *See note under Source of Funding below.*

“Brownfield” Definition: As per [C.G.S Section 32-760](#), “Brownfield” means any abandoned or underutilized site where redevelopment, reuse or expansion has not occurred due to the presence or potential presence of pollution in the buildings, soil or groundwater that requires investigation or remediation before or in conjunction with the redevelopment, reuse or expansion of the property.

Maximum and Minimum Requests Per Application or Project:

- *For any project:* Maximum request: \$200,000; Minimum Request: \$100,000.
- *For Applicants who are Councils of Governments (COGs) and Brownfield Land Banks (BLBs) only:* Total grant requests of up to \$500,000 may be submitted per application and for multiple projects in one municipality or multiple municipalities. However, the maximum and minimum amounts thresholds per project will be as noted above. Please complete and submit the COG/BLB coversheet along with your project applications if you are submitting for multiple projects.

All applicants are welcome to submit multiple projects under separate applications. Municipalities can also submit for multiple unrelated sites under one application as long as the total request for the project is within the specified thresholds (minimum of \$100K and maximum of \$200K).

Application Process: Applicants are required to fill out the Grant Round 18AO Application available on the [Grant Program Webpage](#). The Application has two separate sections – Part A: Threshold Eligibility Section and Part B: Project Details. Applications may be denied funding after review of Part A of the Application Form.

COGs/BLBs: If applying for multiple projects please complete and submit the COG/Land Bank cover sheet. Please make sure to submit a separate application form for each proposed project.

All application submittals (along with attachments) shall either be:

1. Uploaded to a DECD SharePoint folder [PREFERRED METHOD]
 - a. Applicants must request a SharePoint link by emailing brownfields@ct.gov
 - b. Include Applicant & Project Name and Program Code (18AO) in subject line.
 - c. **Recommended** to make folder request by noon on Wed, Sep 20, 2023;

OR

2. Emailed to brownfields@ct.gov

- a. Include Applicant & Project Name and Program Code (18AO) in subject line.

Application Due Date: The Application Form will be accepted until **noon** on Friday, Sep 22, 2023. An email will be sent to applicants to confirm receipt of the form and application package.

Questions related to the NOFA that are not included in the FAQ document should be emailed to brownfields@ct.gov by Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Any FAQ addendum that includes responses to additional questions not covered in the current FAQ document will be posted on the OBRD website by Friday, August 25, 2023.

All Applicants for funding under this Round 18AO NOFA should tentatively expect to receive clarification questions via email or requests for meetings in Oct – Nov 2023. Awards are tentatively scheduled to be announced in the 1st or 2nd week of December 2023.

Eligible Applicants: A Municipality as defined by [C.G.S Section 32-760](#) (12); Economic Development Agency, as defined by [C.G.S Section 32-760 \(6\)](#); and Connecticut Brownfield Land Banks, as defined by [C.G.S Section 32-760 \(22\)](#). Entities responsible for the contamination are ineligible. All applicants must provide proof of access to the site, site control or path to site control.

Source of Funding: Public Act 23-205 Sec. 13 (d) (1) approves \$35 million in bond funds for the Brownfield Program for fiscal year 2024. DECD has submitted a request to the State Bond Commission for approval of these funds to support this funding round opportunity and others under the program in FY 2024. (*Note: No funding award will be made until the SBC approves bond funds for the program.*)

Enabling Statutes: [C.G.S. Section 32-763](#)

Eligible Uses of Funds: Costs associated with the investigation, assessment, and limited demolition required to conduct assessment activities.

Threshold Requirements: Applicants will need to demonstrate the following in the pre-application stage to be eligible to apply for the program:

- Proof that the site is a brownfield as per [C.G. S. Sec. 32-760](#)
- Proof that the Applicant and potential development partners have no direct or related liability for the conditions of the brownfield.
- Proof that Applicant has access or will have access to the property, site control or path to site control.

Application Review and Award Criteria : The following criteria will be used to score the applications.

Clarity on Assessment Needs	Knowledge of contamination history
	Preliminary investigations
	Project need and description
	Budget feasibility/Cost-efficiency
Economic and Community Development Impact	Project is located in a distressed municipality (see C.G.S. Sec. 32-9p)
	Project in Opportunity Zone
	Property location benefits/merits
Non-DECD	Developer interest and non-DECD support

Support	Non-DECD funds committed
	Market demand/Studies for site
Applicant Experience	Applicant experience with completing similar projects on-time and within budget

Application Page limit (excluding attachments): DECD encourages all applicants to be succinct with their responses to the questions. DECD will only accept responses to the questions included in the space provided within the forms. Material presented outside of the forms may not be reviewed. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Please make sure to label attachments as per instructions on form.

Schedule Summary:

Presentations and Walk-in Teams Meeting¹ (see below for call-in info)	
<u>Wed, August 9, 2023 (9 – 10AM)</u>	Special Topic: What’s new in Round 18? <i>Note: There is no change in the Assessment-only Application & process</i>
<u>Wed, August 23, 2023 (9 – 10AM)</u>	Special Topic: Application Form Budget and ROI Tables <i>Note: Does not apply to Assessment-only Program</i>
<u>Wed, September 6, 2023 (9 – 10AM)</u>	Special Topic: Public-private Partnerships
Questions on the NOFA	
Wed, August 23, 2023	Deadline for questions to DECD on this NOFA
Friday, August 25, 2023	Posting of FAQ Addendum (if any) on OBRD’s Website
Application Deadline	
Wed, September 20, 2023 @ noon	Request for SharePoint folder (see <i>Application Process</i>)
Friday, September 22, 2023 @ noon	Deadline to submit or upload Application Package
Round 18 Award Announcement	
December 2023 1 st or 2 nd week	Award Announcements (tentative)

¹**Microsoft Teams Walk-in Meetings:** The session will begin with a brief topical presentation followed by time for questions and answers.

[Click here to join the Teams meeting](#) on your computer or mobile app.
Or call in (audio only) 1.860.840.2075; **Phone Conference ID:** 435-012-966#

For questions: Please send email to brownfields@ct.gov (preferred) or contact the dedicated OBRD hotline number at 1.860.500.2395.

OBRD Website: For info on all opportunities and programs, visit, www.ctbrownfields.gov.

Campaign Contribution Restriction Notice: This is a notice in case you are successful in receiving a grant award. For all State contracts, defined in section 9-612 of the Connecticut General Statutes as having a value in a calendar year of \$50,000 or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a value of \$100,000 or more, the authorized signatory to any Agreement with DECD represents that they have received the State Elections Enforcement Commission’s notice advising state contractors of state campaign contribution and solicitation prohibitions, and will inform its principals of the contents of the notice.



Disclaimer: DECD reserves the right to amend or cancel this NOFA, to modify or waive any requirement, condition or other term set forth in this NOFA or the program application, to request additional information at any time from one or more applicants, to select any number of applications submitted in response to this NOFA, or to reject any or all such applications, in each case at DECD's sole discretion. DECD may exercise the foregoing rights at any time without notice and without liability to any applicant or any other party. Applications to this NOFA shall be prepared at the sole expense of the applicant and shall not obligate DECD to procure any of the services described therein or herein from any applicant. DECD shall not be obligated to any applicant until a final written agreement has been executed by all necessary parties thereto and all applicable approvals have been obtained. As such, any funds expended by the applicant prior to these approvals will be done so entirely at the risk of the applicant.