



Dakota County Environmental Assessment Program

A program of the Environmental Resources Department whose mission is: *To protect, preserve and enhance the environment for the health, enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations*

Environmental Assessment Program Eligibility Information

Eligible applicants for Environmental Assessment (EA) Program funding include all Dakota County cities (including cities with populations less than 10,000).

EA Program Grant Eligible Activities

Environmental Investigations and Remediation

- EA Program Funds will be limited to a minimum request of \$3,500 and a maximum request of \$250,000 for environmental investigations and/or remediation per project, per year.
- Eligible applicants may submit three (3) applications per funding round
- Eligible environmental investigation activities include:
 - Environmental Due Diligence Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESA)
 - Phase II ESAs
 - ground water monitoring
 - soil vapor monitoring
 - Hazardous Materials Surveys
 - Response Action Plan preparation
 - MPCA brownfield program applications (does not include MPCA program fees)
 - report preparation and submittal to MPCA
- Eligible environmental remediation activities include:
 - contaminated soil excavation and disposal
 - ground water remediation
 - contaminated soil remediation
 - soil vapor remediation
 - soil vapor mitigation

EA Program Grant Match

EA-RIG funds awarded will require a minimum 1-1 match from cities requesting funds, match funds can be from grants other than CDA or County funded grants

RIG- EA Program Application Criteria

Applications for EA Program funding will be ranked by considering the following objective criteria. Accumulation of a fixed number of points from the listed criteria does not guarantee the award of funding, and other criteria may be considered in each round of applications.

Impact on Public Health and the Environment

1. There is a **known threat to human health** and/or the environment that would be **reduced or eliminated** by **completion of an approved response action plan (RAP) = maximum of 20 points**. The amount of points assigned is based on the cost effectiveness of the RAP in reducing or eliminating an apparent or known human health concern or threat to the environment. Points should generally be assigned as follows:
 - i. **10 - 20 points** The site will be remediated to the reuse-appropriate standard (suitable for residential or industrial levels per MPCA guidelines)
 - ii. **10 points or less** The site will not be remediated to the reuse-appropriate standard



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- iii. **10 points** Max points given to projects that involve only activities related to asbestos-containing material (ACM) and/or lead-based paint (LBP) abatement

Note: Other factors considered in assigning points for this criterion include the sensitivity of the environment at risk, comparisons of the before and after site conditions and the estimated costs to be incurred to reduce the risk, and whether the costs proposed are generally in line with similar projects.

2. There is a **potential threat** to human health and/or the environment that will be quantified by completion of an **environmental assessment = 15 points**

Redevelopment Potential

3. The **community will derive economic benefit** from the proposed site assessment or clean-up and redevelopment. Economic benefit may be demonstrated by: job creation; tax-base enhancement; proximity to nearby job centers and transit corridors; the efficient use/re-use of land and infrastructure; improves image and reputation; and acts as a catalyst for other economic development = **15 points**
4. The **community will derive economic benefit (see above) and public benefit** from the proposed site assessment or clean-up, and redevelopment. Public benefit of a project may be demonstrated by: the restoration/replacement of deteriorated or economically obsolete structures; reduction or removal of blight; restoration of community vitality; community acceptance or demand; providing a public end-use; creating or supporting affordable housing; protection of a surface water or groundwater supply; and the development of a community asset or need = **20 points**

Leverage & Synergy

5. Local or other funds will be committed to the project = **5 points**
6. The site **has previously received a CDA RIG or EA Program funds** for assessment and now needs to implement a RAP or conduct additional assessment = **10 points**
7. The applicant is a municipality, economic development agency, housing and redevelopment authority, or public non-profit organization = **5 points**

Sustainability of Project

8. The **project incorporates sustainable activities and features** in the project design, construction and operation, and in the remediation = **5 points**

Difficulty in Obtaining Funding

9. The likelihood that the site **will not** be investigated and/or cleaned-up without the use of EA Program funds = **10 points**