

MCEDD Brownfield Assessment Coalition

Supporting the five-county MCEDD region



Agenda

- Brownfield definitions
- Grant overview
- Site selection process & coalition priorities
- Call for site nominations and public participation

EPA Brownfield Definition

A brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Why address brownfields?

- Loss of tax base, jobs, and property values
- Impacts on neighboring properties
- Limited land available for development in our community
- Threats to public health and the environment



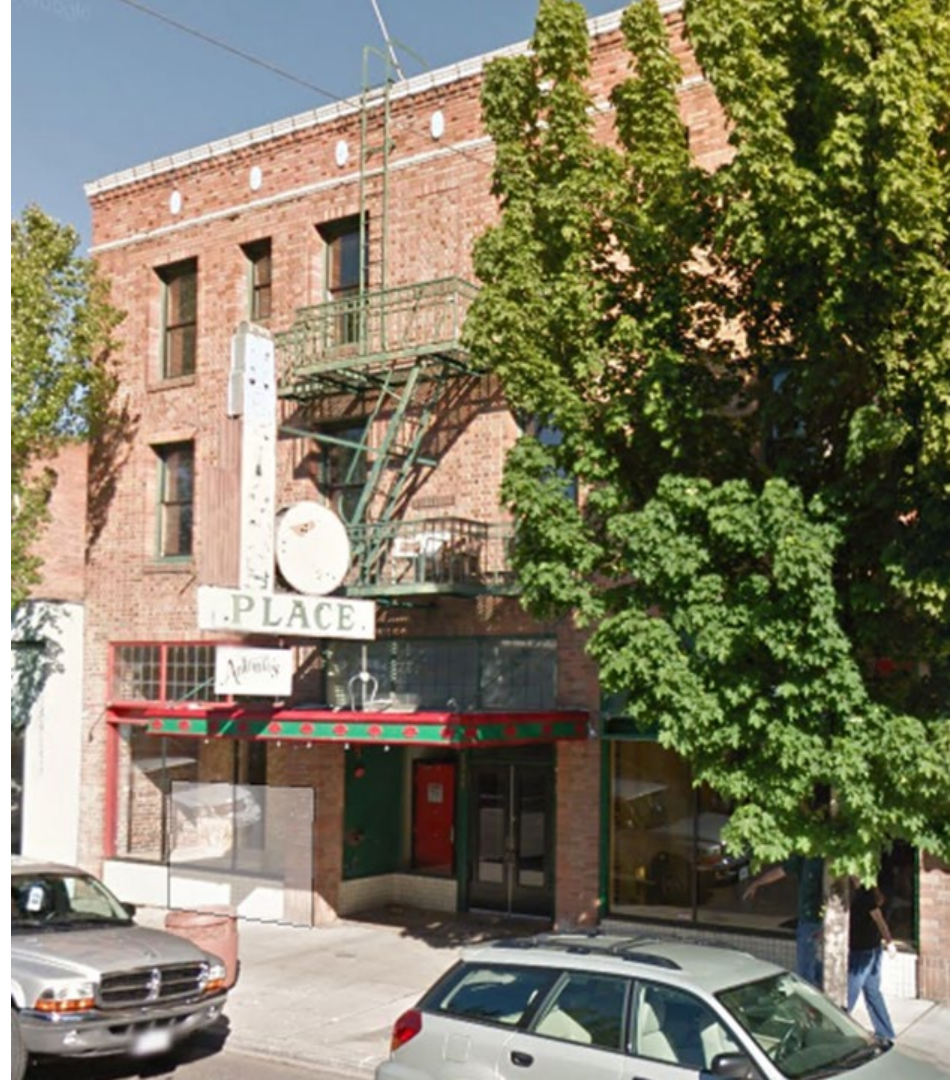
Grant Overview

- US EPA Brownfields **Assessment Coalition Grant**
- **Coalition Partners:**
 - Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation
 - Wasco County
 - Sherman County
 - Klickitat County
- **Grant Period:** now through September 2027

Grant Overview

Grant funds can be used for the following tasks:

- Phase I Environmental Assessments
- Phase II Environmental Assessments
- RBM Surveys
- Site Cleanup/Reuse Plan



Process for Property Participation

1. Nominate property using the form that's linked on MCEDD's [brownfields webpage](#)
2. Coalition members and/or MCEDD review for alignment with coalition priorities
3. MCEDD notifies applicant of decision
4. Property completes access agreement
5. MCEDD seeks EPA eligibility approval



Coalition Priorities

- Promote the development of new housing, with a focus on attainable housing and multi-family rentals
- Resolve environmental barriers on employment/ industrial land
- Provide benefits to underserved members of our communities
- Align with regional goals outlined in the [Columbia Gorge Economic Development Strategy](#)
- Align with local community goals/priorities in the city or county where the project is located, when available

Benefits of Participation

1. Phase I ESA (~\$5K), Phase II ESA (~\$25K), and remedial planning (~\$10K) services provided at no cost
2. Facilitation of financing for redevelopment construction costs and/or property purchase
3. Potential to avoid costly environmental cleanup liability

Case Study – Last Stop Saloon

- Private property owners used The Dalles' program to make progress toward developing upper floors into multifamily housing units
- Phase I ESA and RBM survey helped business owners better understand redevelopment barriers
- Program assisted with development of conceptual floor plan



