



USEPA Brownfield Assessment Grant Award to Montgomery County Land Bank
PRESS RELEASE

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Montgomery County Land Reutilization Corporation
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Land Bank Awarded \$500,000 US EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant

Montgomery County—The US Environmental Protection Agency announced today that it has awarded Montgomery County Land Reutilization Corporation (MCLRC) a \$500,000 Community-wide Brownfield Assessment Grant. A Community-wide Assessment grant provides funding to inventory, characterize, assess and conduct a range of planning activities including developing site-specific cleanup plans.

MCLRC, also known as the Land Bank will use the funding to support Montgomery County communities struggling with environmentally challenged, vacant and abandoned properties. These properties, remnants of past environmental practices by defunct businesses, are a blighting and destabilizing influence on neighborhoods.

“The Montgomery County Land Reutilization Corporation is grateful for the opportunities this funding award provides to expand our impact in areas where blighted, abandoned brownfield sites have resulted in disinvestment,” said Montgomery County Commissioner and Land Bank Board Chair Carolyn Rice. “This funding will facilitate MCLRC and communities transition of environmentally challenged sites into viable, marketable properties,” Rice added.

According to the US EPA, the funding includes \$112.8 million for 183 selectees for Assessment Grants. “With today’s announcement, we’re turning blight into might for communities across America,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan.

MCLRC is one of six Ohio entities to be selected for this type of grant. “The Montgomery County Land Reutilization Corporation submitted an outstanding application, and we deeply appreciate the tremendous commitment of time and energy that went into its preparation,” David R. Lloyd, Director Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization for the US EPA.

Abandoned, non-productive brownfield properties are frequently tax delinquent and often located in underserved, lower income communities. These sites are known to reduce property values and adversely impact the health and welfare of neighboring

residents. According to Land Bank officials, the grant creates opportunities to expand collaboration with County jurisdictions and leverage resources.

“The US EPA grant allows the Land Bank to assist Montgomery County communities that would otherwise not have the financial, technical, or administrative resources to address these properties,” said Mike Grauwelman, MCLRC Executive Director. “This will be a catalyst for repositioning these sites for future economic development,” Grauwelman said.

Remediating environmentally contaminated property is costly and time consuming. The process first requires an understanding of ownership and liability status and then extensive assessment, characterizing the contaminants and developing a remediation plan to address them. Implementing the plan can entail years of sustained community effort and financial resources.

But remediating brownfields have multi-faceted benefits to communities. It reduces the need for additional infrastructure for sprawling new development, increases property values and expands the tax base.

“Transforming idle, environmentally compromised property benefits the entire community,” stated Montgomery County Treasurer, John McManus. “It encourages investment and redevelopment, creates wealth through increased property values and raises tax revenue which benefit schools, fire, health services and our whole community,” McManus said.

Montgomery County Land Reutilization Corporation is a non-profit agent for the County whose mission is to reposition distressed real estate to support Montgomery County’s communities in building quality of life and vibrant neighborhoods, one property at a time.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-administration-announces-254-million-tackle-polluted-brownfield-sites>

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