



# Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Initiative

## Introduction

The Indiana Brownfields Program (Program) has established a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Initiative (Phase I ESA Initiative) to help Indiana communities investigate the environmental status of their brownfield sites. To facilitate redevelopment of such properties which are hindered by actual or potential environmental contamination, the Program will provide Phase I environmental site assessments conducted under the ASTM E1527-21 standard to identify recognized environmental conditions and help quantify potential cleanup liability (i.e., pre-purchase due diligence to qualify as a bona fide prospective purchaser). An award under this initiative will be for professional services to be provided by the Program and not a grant of funds.

## Who can request assistance through the Phase I ESA Initiative?

Indiana political subdivisions and not-for-profit organizations can apply for a Phase I ESA for an eligible site(s) through an application process.

## What types of sites are eligible for funding?

The following sites are eligible for Phase I ESA funding:

- Sites that are currently owned by the applicant (political subdivision or non-profit) and the applicant did not cause or contribute to the historic contamination or own and/or operate at the site at the time of the disposal or release of contaminants
- Non-applicant owned sites to which the applicant has written consent to access and for which the current owner did not cause or contribute to suspected contamination or own and/or operate at the site at the time of the disposal or release of contaminants
- Non-applicant owned sites to which the applicant has written consent to access which are owned by a party that is potentially liable for suspected contamination but which are tax delinquent or abandoned, as certified by the county, or the owner has demonstrated an inability-to-pay that has been verified by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management

## Who will conduct the Phase I ESA?

The Program will issue a request for bids for the Phase I ESAs to the sixteen environmental consulting firms previously qualified by the Program.

## How much funding is currently available?

The Program has set aside a minimum of \$75,000 for the Phase I ESA Initiative, with which it anticipates funding between 25 and 30 Phase I ESAs.

## How can I request this assistance?

Applications for a Phase I ESA are accepted on a rolling basis. Visit the Financial Assistance page of the Indiana Brownfields Program Web site at [www.brownfields.IN.gov](http://www.brownfields.IN.gov) to view or download the application form and site access agreement.

## At a Glance:

**The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Initiative provides financial assistance to or for the benefit of political subdivisions to identify recognized environmental conditions on brownfield sites to facilitate cleanup or quantify potential**

## What is a Brownfield?

A brownfield is an underutilized property where redevelopment or reuse is complicated due to actual or potential environmental contamination.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PHASE I ESA INITIATIVE:**  
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