



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***State grant awarded to clean up former school***

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Brownfields Program has awarded \$30,000 to Washington Township in Starke County to begin asbestos removal at the site of a former elementary school, located at the intersection of State Road 23 and Division Rd. The Township has plans to demolish the school facility and build a new community center.

“We are happy to get this grant so that we can remove the asbestos and move forward with our plans to create a new facility that can be used to serve our community,” said Washington Township Trustee Karen White.

The proposed community center would be the largest rental building for special events such as weddings and 4H exhibitions in Starke County . The plans still must obtain approval from several State agencies before the existing facility can be demolished.

“This grant will help eliminate a health hazard and help provide a location for the people of Starke County to meet and conduct community activities,” said State Representative Nancy Dembowski. “This new center will provide benefits for area residents for many years to come.”

“Cleaning up distressed properties in our cities and towns makes Indiana more attractive to new businesses, which ultimately creates jobs for Hoosiers – Governor Daniels’ number one goal,” said Ryan Kitchell, Public Finance Director of the State of Indiana .

A brownfield is a property where redevelopment can be complicated due to actual or potential environmental contamination. The Indiana Brownfields Program aims to help communities identify and mitigate these environmental barriers, which could impede the economic growth of the community.

Political subdivisions are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$300,000 to perform environmental remediation activities. Awardees must meet an investment criterion within

two years of a grant award; otherwise they must repay the grant. Investment can include, but is not limited to demolition, construction or site preparation.

The Indiana Brownfields Program is managed by the Indiana Finance Authority and offers financial, legal, technical, and educational assistance to entities involved with brownfields redevelopment. The Indiana Finance Authority was created by Governor Daniels in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related finances under one entity.

Communities can obtain more information on grant eligibility from the Indiana Brownfields Program at [www.brownfields.in.gov](http://www.brownfields.in.gov) or contact Sara Westrick Corbin at (317) 234-1688 or [swestrick@ifa.in.gov](mailto:swestrick@ifa.in.gov).

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