



Ohio Abandoned Service Station Cleanup Grant

The Abandoned Service Station Cleanup Grant Program was established to provide funds for the assessment and cleanup of abandoned service station properties. It was established in 2016 with a budget of \$20 million dollars. It is administered through the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA). This grant provides reimbursement funds up to \$500,000 for the cleanup of abandoned service station sites throughout Ohio. To qualify for the grant, the site must:

- be vacant or contain an abandoned structure;
- have a documented petroleum release from a Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) regulated tank;
- not have a release caused by or contributed to by the applicant or property owner;
- have, or obtain, a Class C release designation through BUSTR (a Class C release means no one is financially available to cleanup the site) and have an Ohio Voluntary Action Program Phase I Property Assessment conducted. *Phoenix has experience working on these sites and the grant and can assist with these activities.*

Eligible activities under the grant include: underground storage tank removal, environmental assessments, remediation of petroleum or hazardous substances (e.g., other chemicals, asbestos, lead-paint, or universal waste), building demolition and site preparation activities. Prior assessment activities may be retroactively reimbursed.

Each application is for a single site and the information provided will be scored by ODSA staff. Priority will be given to sites with the greatest environmental, community and economic impact. Funds will be awarded to Political Subdivisions (e.g., a county, municipal corporation, township, port authority, or a county land reutilization corporation "County Land Bank"). Political Subdivisions do not need to own the property to apply; however, they will need to have an access agreement with the property owner and should have a plan for future property use. Developer partnerships with public entities are encouraged. Redevelopment as a gas station is not allowed.

There are two ways to obtain funding from the Abandoned Service Station Grant:

Fast Track Grants

Fast Track grants provide up to \$100,000 for assessment and cleanup activities in order to obtain BUSTR No Further Action (NFA) status. Some eligible activities include demolition, asbestos abatement, and site preparation activities. Fast Track applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed and funded as they are received.

Competitive Round Grants

Competitive round grants will provide up to \$500,000 for cleanup activities which include asbestos, lead paint, and other hazardous substance remediation costs, demolition, asbestos abatement, and site preparation. Prior Fast Track grantees may be eligible for up to \$400,000.

How to Proceed

These funds are anticipated to go quickly. As such, applicants are encouraged to determine potentially eligible sites as soon as possible. Having a Class C release designation and a VAP Phase I are required in order to apply. These activities typically require 3 to 6 weeks to complete. If you are interested in discussing your potential site or getting our assistance with applying, please contact Jeff Paetz via email (jeff@phoenixel.com) or phone (614.746.2695).