



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

Brownfield Redevelopment Area Grant (BRAG)

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TDEC Division of Land Protection – Remediation Branch



Introduction & Background

What is a Brownfield?

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





Brownfields by the Numbers



2 million farmland acres

to be lost by 2027 in TN (*UT Institute of Ag, 2025*). Building on brownfields conserves rural farmland by re-using existing land in Tennessee's small communities.



7.3 jobs created

per \$100,000 expended on brownfield cleanup & redevelopment (*EPA, 2016*).



\$655.3M in new incomes

created directly from locating projects on brownfields and **\$1.0 Billion** in the regional economy in support of the direct growing business activity (*TN ECD CERT, 2017*).



Brownfield Redevelopment Area Grant (BRAG)

- State-administered brownfield grant program to direct funds for identification, assessment, remediation, and planning in communities.
 - Eligible Entities
 - Local Government/Public Entities
 - Quasi-Governmental Agencies (i.e. qualifying development boards and districts)
- Timelines
 - Grant applications currently being accepted till December 1, 2026.
- Match
 - NONE!
 - Participation in VOAP is required for Assessment, Remediation, and Closure grants.
 - Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties' enrollment and oversight costs under VOAP are eligible for reimbursement



BRAG Grant Categories

Identification - \$20,000

- Create a brownfield inventory.
- Properties can be privately or publicly owned.

Planning - \$25,000

- Development and remediation planning for specific brownfields.

Assessment - \$100,000

- Investigate and assess the extent of contamination.
- Properties can be privately or publicly owned.

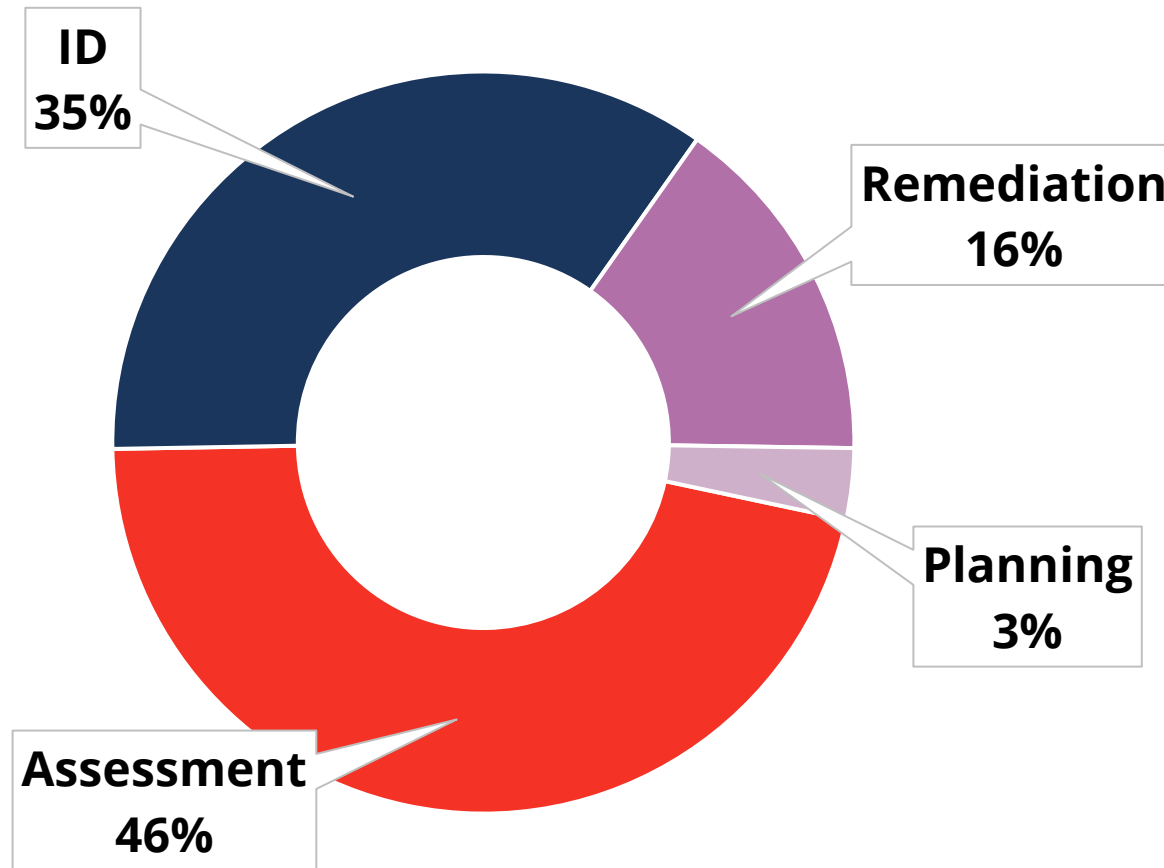
Remediation - \$500,000

- Clean up to an identified end-use
- Properties **must** be owned by the applicant

Remedial Closure - \$75,000

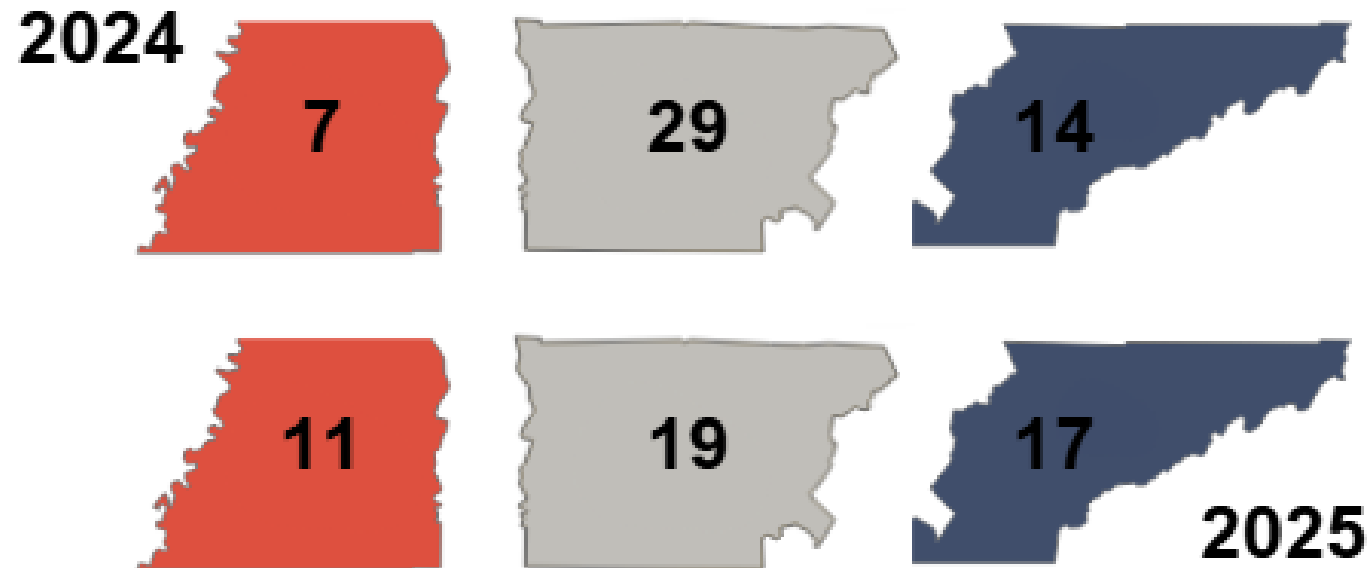
- Complete site closure activities to achieve NFA and/or NLUR

BRAG by the Numbers 2024 & 2025



- 97 grants awarded totaling \$11,540,741.63.
- Currently 67 of those are open and active.
- \$2 million dollars in projects completed.
- 35 new sites added to the VOAP, meaning these properties are now being investigated and/or remediated.

BRAG by the Numbers 2024 & 2025



- Across 2024 and 2025, most awarded applications came from the Middle region (49.48%), followed by the East (31.96%) and the West (18.56%).
- Over \$4.9 million dollars have been awarded to Tier 3 and Tier 4 distressed counties.

COMING SOON: Dashboard



Department of
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Division of Land Protection
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 Filter Guidance

Application Type

(All)

Application Status

(All)

Grant Cycle

(All)

County

(All)

Total Number of Grants by Grand Division

WEST	MIDDLE	EAST
18	22	31

Awarded Grant Amount

BRAG Success – Hero's Hill - Knoxville

- \$500K Remediation Grant
- Former Foote Mineral Company manganese ore separation facility with metals contamination in soil.
- Additional characterization and remediation was needed to allow for residential housing for homeless veterans.
- Site work includes installation of protective soil cap, environmental monitoring, soil management, installation of slab on grade foundations, and verification sampling to ensure no risk of exposure to the veterans
- Broke ground in February 2026, project is substantially complete with a ribbon cutting scheduled for August 27th.



BRAG Success – Former Sanitary Laundry & Dry Cleaning, Knoxville

- Former dry-cleaning facility with soil, groundwater, and vapor impacts from petroleum and chlorinated solvents.
- Knoxville Community Development Corporation (KCDC) received a \$500,000 BRAG grant to complete the remediation through the use soil removal, vapor mitigation, and asbestos and lead based paint abatement.
- The remediation of the site allowed the property to be sold in January 2025 and redeveloped. The building has now been restored and is occupied. The grand opening was celebrated in December 2025.



BRAG – The Goal

Make brownfields as *or more* appealing than greenfields/farmland, conserving Tennessee's land.



Contact the TDEC BRAG Team

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