

Cleaning up contaminated lands

Environmental Response Fund (ERF)

Environmental cleanup costs can be a barrier to development

Contaminated lands present risks to the health of our residents, communities and environment. The cost of cleaning up contaminated sites can be prohibitive for developers and businesses looking to invest in our communities, create jobs and grow our economic base.

Providing funding to assess and clean up contaminated lands benefits businesses and communities by spurring economic growth, revitalizing neighborhoods and leveraging private and public investment to protect and preserve our environment.

Environmental Response Fund (ERF)

To help reuse contaminated sites where the added cost of environmental cleanup is a barrier to improvements or redevelopment

Case study: Mino-bimaadiziwin

Mino-bimaadiziwin, which means “living the good life” in Ojibwe, is a 110-unit affordable housing community built on behalf of the Red Lake Ojibwe Band. The project provides housing to Red Lake Ojibwe Band members and other local Native American residents and brings much-needed services to the tribe’s urban population.

The site is in the heart of the Minneapolis Native American Cultural Corridor. \$42 million in funding for the project came from the City of Minneapolis, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and 15 others, including Hennepin County. The county’s Environmental Response Fund helped with soil cleanup, and abatement of asbestos and lead left on the formerly dilapidated and vacant site.

Who is eligible?

Municipalities, economic development agencies, housing and redevelopment authorities, government entities, nonprofit organizations, and private for-profit companies.

What can be funded?

Environmental consulting, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) review fees, laboratory, assessment, cleanup plan development, asbestos and lead paint assessment and abatement, some demolition.

How does it work?

Max individual award: No minimum or maximum.

Awarded grants have ranged from \$5,000 to more than \$800,000.

There are two funding cycles per year with applications due May 1 and November 1.

Matching funds are not required.

Learn more and apply

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