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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Dubuque Awarded Brownfield Grant for South Port Redevelopment Planning**

DUBUQUE, Iowa — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded \$200,000 to the City of Dubuque to assist in planning for the redevelopment of the South Port area in the Port of Dubuque. The EPA announced yesterday the selection of 20 communities in 16 states receiving approximately \$4 million in Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (AWP) grants for cleanup and reuse of Brownfields sites to revitalize communities and strengthen local economies.

The South Port area consists of 33-acres of vacant and industrial waterfront property south of the Ice Harbor and adjacent to Dubuque’s downtown. It includes the property between the Mississippi River and the railroad tracks on both the north and south sides of U.S. Highway 20 and the Julien Dubuque Bridge. Dubuque’s grant application described plans to redevelop the South Port area as a “new downtown neighborhood” with expanded Mississippi Riverwalk access in a transit-oriented environment. The current plan envisions a variety of uses, including commercial, retail, recreational and residential.

The Port of Dubuque Master Plan, adopted in 2002, outlined a multi-phased redevelopment plan for the entire Port and provided the guidance for what would become a \$400 million investment in the North Port, transforming 90 acres from a blighted industrial site to a vibrant recreational, educational, historical, environmental,

and employment destination. Redevelopment of the South Port represents the final two phases of the plan by reclaiming underutilized and brownfield property on the South Port for mixed-use development while balancing creative visions and market demand.

The EPA is awarding up to \$200,000 per recipient to work with communities on Brownfields planning activities and reuse in conjunction with community assets such as housing, recreation and open space, employment, education and health facilities, social services, transportation options, infrastructure and commerce needs. The area-wide planning approach recognizes that revitalization of the area surrounding Brownfield sites is also critical to the successful reuse of the property. The approach enables local leaders to conduct a community-wide systematic approach to identify uses and improvements in the area to foster public-private redevelopment efforts. This inclusive, locally driven planning approach advances health and equity by fostering plans for livable communities through jobs, recreation, housing, and an increased tax base.

Considered reuses of Brownfield sites include advanced manufacturing businesses, recreation hubs, mixed-income housing, community centers that serve youth and unskilled workers, leveraging existing infrastructure to support a walkable, transit-oriented community and capitalizing on Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts. This group is also leveraging partnerships with local universities, community groups, local health facilities, local businesses and other neighborhood-based nonprofit groups.

Modeled after New York State's Brownfields Opportunity Area (BOA) Program and part of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities—a interagency partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development and EPA-- these grants recognize that successful, sustained community revitalization, particularly in economically distressed communities, occurs when neighborhood stakeholders, local governments and the private sector are provided tools to develop a shared plan for redevelopment and community-wide improvement.

View the full announcement from the EPA at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a7b2ee8e45551c138525735900404444/e95252f5efc7070e85257e030067fd3d!OpenDocument>

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