



NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL
PRESS RELEASE
DATE: JUNE 26, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Northeast Florida Regional Council Selected by EPA for \$1.5 Million Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant To Advance Redevelopment Opportunities Across The Northeast Florida Region

JACKSONVILLE, FL — The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) has been selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to begin negotiations for a \$1.5 million Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant. The four-year grant, which requires no local match, will support efforts to assess potentially contaminated properties and prepare them for future redevelopment across the region. The Coalition includes the Northeast Florida Regional Council, Nassau County, and the City of Palatka.

The highly competitive award was made through EPA's Brownfields Program, which helps communities address environmental challenges that may hinder redevelopment and economic investment.

"This selection reflects the strength of regional collaboration and our partners' shared vision for economic revitalization," said Beth Payne, CEO of the Northeast Florida Regional Council. "We are honored that EPA recognized the quality of our application and the opportunities this investment can create for all seven counties in the Northeast Florida region. This funding will help communities test potentially contaminated properties, identify redevelopment opportunities, attract investment, and support long-term economic growth."

Through the coalition grant, NEFRC and its partners will conduct environmental site assessments, engage community stakeholders, and develop strategies that position properties for future redevelopment. These activities help communities better understand site conditions, reduce redevelopment barriers, and prepare sites for productive reuse.

Since 1995, EPA's Brownfields Program has provided funding to assess, clean up, and redevelop properties affected by environmental contamination. Brownfields investments have leveraged billions of dollars in redevelopment activity and supported job creation in communities across the country.

About the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC):

The Northeast Florida Regional Council is a multi-county regional planning agency serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties. Through collaboration, planning, and technical assistance, the NEFRC supports local governments in building a stronger, more resilient Northeast Florida.

Media Contact:

Kenajawa Woody
Northeast Florida Regional Council
Kwoody@nefrc.org | 904-884-6333