



707 North Robinson, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677

News Release

For Immediate Release: January 11, 2011
Contact: Skylar McElhaney, (405) 702-7167

Love Link Ministries Receives Grant for Environmental Cleanup

A ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 20, 2011, to award Love Link Ministries, Inc. a Brownfields cleanup grant from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The event will take place at the NuWay building at 1122 Linwood, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Love Link Ministries, Inc. was a dry cleaning and laundry facility for many years. There are residual dry cleaning solvents under the building. The grant will be used to install a system to ensure that solvent vapors in the subsurface cannot enter the building. Love Link Ministries is developing a Compassionate Ministry Center on the property, which will include a food pantry, thrift store, outpatient drug and alcohol counseling, nutritional teaching, and on-site job training.

Funding for these grants is from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). DEQ's Brownfield Program received approximately \$1.9 million to issue grants and loans through its Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund. The ARRA Brownfield cleanup grants are meant to finance eligible shovel-ready Brownfield cleanup projects, encourage redevelopment and create and/or preserve local jobs in communities across the state. The funds may be used toward the cleanup of properties contaminated by hazardous chemicals, petroleum or petroleum products, mine-scarred lands, and buildings containing asbestos and lead paint. Local governments and non-profit organizations are eligible for grants and loans; "for-profit" companies are eligible for low-interest loans.

DEQ will hold another Brownfields cleanup grant competition this year. Questions about the ARRA Brownfield cleanup grants and loans can be sent to oklahomabrownfields@deq.ok.gov.

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