

April 4, 2012

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) – Cycle 6, Session 2 (session 61)

Topics: EPA's RFP Due Date April 12th – Reminders
 Last minute resources
 Understanding the spirit and objectives of FY2012 Proposal Guidelines
 Land mines and other issues to consider
 Grant opportunities
 Upcoming events

EPA's RFP – Due Date: April 12th – Reminders

- Electronic proposals must be submitted before April 12, 2012, 11:59pm Eastern time.
- Mailed/commercial delivery must be postmarked on or before April 12, 2012.
- Give yourself extra time for final revisions and unintended issues.
- Estimated timeline:
 - Initial screening of proposals (threshold criteria) – May
 - Intensive review of remaining proposals (ranking criteria) – Additional 3-4 months
 - Grant awards July/August 2012 – before end of fiscal year (September 2012)
 - Annual All-Grantee Meeting – Alexandria, VA , October 1-2, 2012
 - First training cycles begin late 2012 – early 2013
 - Optimal placement opportunities – first quarter 2013
- Grant term: 3 years max.

Last minute resources

- To download the full RFP, go to <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-03.pdf>
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on EPA's Web site. Among other information, it also highlights the changes to this year's RFP and clarifies some issues in the RFP. http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal_guides/ewdjt_faqs.pdf
- To download resource information related to environmental education and training, go to www.ateec.org
- To download resource information specific to Brownfields job development and training, go to www.brownfields-toolbox.org
- To download resource information specific to NIEHS job development and training, go to www.niehs.nih.gov
- EPA Headquarters information online, go to www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm
- To download EPA's Job Training Report: *Improving Land and Lives: 10 Years of Investment in EPA's Job Training Program* – Background information, go to www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm#tenyears
- For a list of previous Job Training Grant Recipients, go to http://cfpub.epa.gov/bf_factsheets/index.cfm
- For a list of existing and past EPA funded Job Training grant recipients in your area, go to www.epa.gov/brownfields/plocat.htm.

Understanding the spirit and objectives of FY2012 Proposal Guidelines

Job placement is first priority. There should be a clear path from recruitment, training, and graduation to successful placement. Strong interaction with employers contributes to a strong proposal. Emphasis must be on placement. Careful attention should be made to exceeding the 70% graduate placement rate and one year minimum tracking period.

Directly link training with employer needs. There should be a demonstrated commitment from local employers to consider program graduates for employment. Employer relationships should include potential employers on advisory boards and as guest speakers.

More than half of the ranking criteria points relate to interaction with the target community. Community interaction includes not only employers, but also community groups in the targeted area including representation on advisory boards. Community relationships top the list of “must document” items in the proposal.

Customize training and job development efforts to EPA partner interests. The offices listed below have partnered with the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program. Training, target communities, and employment should be in line with the mission of these offices. Missions and goals may be found at www.EPA.gov. Awareness training is also required in topics of concern to partner programs. The emphasis on various topic areas will be dependent on local labor market assessments and concerns.

- Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR)
- Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)
- Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST)
- Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (FFRRO)
- Center for Program Analysis (CPA)
- Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)
- Office of Wastewater Management (OWM)
- Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

The goal is to develop a job training cooperative agreement opportunity with expanded training in additional environmental media outside the traditional scope of Brownfields hazardous waste.

The Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program does not address energy related jobs. Those are well funded by HUD, DOE, and DOL. Less subtle are EPA offices not participating in this program such as the Office of Air Programs. Target communities, training, and jobs should concentrate in the areas impacted and of interest to program sponsors.

This program is for residents impacted by environmental pollution, unemployed with barriers to employment:

- Not dislocated employees
- Not professional development
- Not underemployed
- Not economically depressed with little or no environmental degradation

The EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program is designed to be leveraged with other resources. The program should not be isolated and cannot stand alone. Recruitment, training, and job development requires extensive leveraging and partnered resources.

Land mines and other issues to consider

1. Primary applicants must be a 501(c3) (documented), college, tribe, or governmental agency.
2. Page limits are strictly enforced:
 - a. Transmittal letter, 2 pages max
 - b. Narrative (threshold & ranking), 18 pages max
 - c. Attachments, 15 pages
 - d. Nonprofit documentation, not included in page limitations
3. Funds allowed by the grant vs. leveraged funds for other purposes are strictly monitored.
4. Clearly demonstrate leveraged resources.
5. Identify sources and activities provided by leveraged partners.
6. Mandatory training as described in the RFP: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.
7. Additional training to be provided at various levels of concentration depending on local needs assessments and employer interest.
8. RRP, while not mandatory, may be relevant based on local need assessments.
9. Underground Storage Tank Leak Prevention.
10. Solid Waste Management or Cleanup.
11. Innovative and alternative treatment technologies.
12. Wastewater treatment.
13. Specialized training in reducing chemical exposures.
14. Environmental spills and emergency response.
15. Include a tracking plan for one year minimum.
16. Every question MUST be answered to avoid losing ranking points.
17. Every question and request for information should be itemized and answered.
18. Do not assume a question was answered previously. Be repetitive, if necessary.
19. Every question and request for information must be able to stand alone.
20. Focus support letters on the target community organizations, potential employers, leveraging partners, and stakeholders. Public officials are not so important unless they contribute to the program operation.
21. Make your program plans simple and easy to read.
22. While reviewers are informed, do not assume they know anything about your target community, or programs of partner organizations.
23. Treat this project as an ongoing effort that will be implemented sooner or later, with or without EPA funding. Planning for next year's grant request will likely begin soon after awards are made.

Grant Opportunities

U.S. EPA

Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality – Safe Drinking Water
EPA-OW-OGWDW-12-01. Due date: April 9, 2012. \$500,000 and up. Total amount of the program: \$14.5 million. This is an excellent opportunity to leverage an environmental training program. Open to nonprofits. For details, go to www.grants.gov.

Announcements

Upcoming environmental workforce related conferences

National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia on May 15–17, 2013.

The 15th National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia, on May 15–17, 2013. The Conference, cosponsored by U.S. EPA, is the largest and most comprehensive event in the nation that focuses on issues important to community revitalization and the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of contaminated properties. Stay tuned to www.brownfieldsconference.org for more information on the 2013 conference.

Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2012

Oklahoma Brownfields Conference, May 22-23, 2012, Skirvin Hilton, Oklahoma City.

Rethink ... Reinvest ... Reinvent

Convening at one of Oklahoma City's Brownfields success stories, the historic Skirvin Hilton Hotel, hear from industry leaders about the economic, social, and environmental impact of Brownfields redevelopment.

Who Should Attend? Realtors & real estate appraisers; developers and investors; commercial/industrial property owners & bankers; attorneys & environmental consultants; environmental professionals; nonprofit organizations; architects, engineers, surveyors, & planners; governmental officials involved in redevelopment projects.

Registration fee includes programming, breakfast and lunch for both days, and networking reception at the Petroleum Club.

Private Sector Registration:

Includes private entities

\$200 Early Bird Registration through March 16th

\$250 Registration through May 21st

\$300 Onsite Registration

Public Sector Registration:

Includes government entities, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and education institutions

\$100 Early Bird Registration through March 16th

\$125 Registration through May 21st

\$150 Onsite Registration

The program is posted online at www.oklahomabrownfields.com.

Ohio Brownfields Conference 2012

May 23 – 24, 2012, Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. For more details, please go to http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/Brownfield_Conference2012.aspx.

Good Jobs, Green Jobs Regional Conferences

<http://www.greenjobsconference.org/>.

Midwestern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference

May 10 – 11, 2012

Detroit, Michigan

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: April 18, 2012
 2:00pm EDT

Topic: Establishing, implementing, and sustaining an Environmental Job
 Development and Training Program

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs.