

September 29, 2010

Notes from Brownfields Job Training Professional Learning Community (PLC) Session #29

Session leader: Mike Senew

Topic: Funding Sources

NOTES FROM SESSION 29

This session started with a PLC member's question – How do I get my trainers certified? We then started a discussion regarding start-up funding.

Thanks to Mollie Dowling from OAI, Inc.

OAI has developed and operated a very successful job development and training program. OAI Inc. has participated in both the NIEHS and EPA grant programs along with numerous additional job specific training programs. They have additionally expanded to other areas including Kansas City.

Per the question this week...

How do I get my trainers certified?

OAI, Inc. has developed Train-the-Trainer programs in both RR&P (Renovation, Repair, and Painting) as well as 1910.120 (40-hr Hazardous Wastesite Worker). Questions regarding their Train-the-Trainer programs can be directed to Mollie at mdowling@oaiinc.org.

Another excellent resource for Train-the-Trainer programs in RR&P can be found at http://www.afhh.org/res/res_training_RRP_train_the_trainer.htm. RR&P is the new EPA lead regulation for workers potentially exposed to lead paint – mostly in buildings built before 1978.

As an alternative to developing in-house training, many start-up and mature programs have opted to partner with certified training organizations in the community. These may include:

- A local community college with an environmental program.
- A university, university extension, or faculty capable of providing training.
- A local governmental organization such as the fire department, hazardous materials team, or emergency response unit.
- Organized labor organizations providing training to members and partner participants.
- Local consultants certified to provide training. Lists of these organizations are often maintained by state or local environmental or health departments. EPA also maintains a list of certified RR&P trainers.

The “take-away” is that you, as the program manager, do not have to be an expert in environmental health and safety, remediation, or weatherization. Program managers must have good organizational skills and the ability to reach out to partners who can provide a skill and knowledge base required to run a comprehensive program.

As job development programs mature, there are clear advantages to having in-house training capabilities. However, the capability of providing in-house training is not a prerequisite for developing or sustaining an excellent program. In fact, as we will examine in future sessions,

training remains one of eight major components necessary to operate a successful job development and training program.

FUNDING SOURCES

FY11 EPA Job Training Grant Request for proposals will be issued in October with a due date in January. During this PLC cycle, we will examine successful strategies for implementation of each criteria noted in the EPA guidelines.

Each grant is approximately \$200K over 2 years and is designed as a startup grant to establish new programs. While EPA grants are small by comparison to other potential funding sources, they allow communities the opportunity to establish programs that can be leveraged with other resources and continue without federal assistance.

Funding for sustainable Brownfields Job Development and Training programs comes from a variety of other sources including:

- Federal agencies
- State and local agencies
- Public and private foundations, trusts, and benefactors
- Private sector benefactors
- Community groups and nonprofits

At first review, most communities interested in developing a job training program look to federal grants as the sole source of funding. In reality, reoccurring state, local, and community support provide sustained funding that is not available from federal grants.

Green For All has an excellent publication that was originally designed for ARRA (Stimulus) funding. However, it is still relevant. *Federal Resources to Enhance and Sustain Green Pathways Out of Poverty Programs* is available at <http://www.greenforall.org/what-we-do/building-a-movement/community-of-practice/resources-for-training-programs>.

www.greenforall.org tracks federal funding announcements including grant preparation, resources, and schedules. The other prime source is www.grants.gov which is the clearinghouse for federal assistance. HMTRI's *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at www.brownfields-toolbox.org will also post federal announcements relevant to Brownfield's Job Development and Training programs.

As previously mentioned, state and local funding could be a more significant resource for developing a sustained green jobs training program. State and local funding can be reoccurring. As part of a reoccurring budget, job development and training will be funded year after year. State and local funding can be less competitive if similar jobs programs are not already available. Reporting, placement, and tracking requirements are often not as comprehensive as those associated with federal grants.

Foundation and private sectors are also excellent sources for leveraging public money.

Federal grants should be regarded as startup funds that must be replaced and leveraged during the development phase of the project. Local foundations, trusts, corporations, and individual

benefactors contribute to an overall sustainable budget that must continue past the end of the grant period.

A more detailed discussion of potential funding sources related to Brownfields job development and training can be found on the *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at www.brownfields-toolbox.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: October 13, 2010
 2:00pm EDT

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