

April 28, 2010

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC) Session #19

Session leader: Mike Senew

Topic: Funding

NOTES FROM SESSION 19

Funding for sustainable Brownfields Green Jobs Training programs comes from a variety of sources including:

1. Federal agencies
2. State and local agencies
3. Public and private foundations, trusts, and benefactors
4. Private sector benefactors
5. Community groups and nonprofits

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

EPA provides the most direct source of startup funding via the annual Brownfields Job Training grants. The next round of EPA grants will likely be announced this summer, with a due date around the end of November or early December and an award date in early spring 2011. 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 sources of funds, they allow communities an opportunity to establish programs that can be leveraged with other resources and continue without federal assistance.

Green For All has an excellent publication, originally designed for ARRA funding, but still relevant. See the following ULR for a copy:

<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 www.brownfields-toolbox.org will also post federal announcements relevant to Brownfield's Job Development and Training programs.

As previous mentioned, state and local funding could be a more significant resource for developing a sustained green jobs training program.

1. State and local funding can be reoccurring – as part of a reoccurring budget, job development and training will be funded year after year.
2. State and local funding can be less competitive if similar jobs programs are not already available.
3. Reporting, placement, and tracking requirements are often not as comprehensive as those associated with federal grants.

Foundation and private sector funding are 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 green jobs and Brownfields job training funding can be found at www.brownfields-toolbox.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC session: Wednesday, May 12, 2010
 2:00 p.m. EDT

Topic: Working Within the Community for Resources, Participants, &
 Placement

Feel free to invite a guest!