

September 12, 2018



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 19, Session 5.

This series of bi-weekly phone calls examines effective Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) strategies from experienced grantees. PLC calls share ideas among successful grantees and prepare interested organizations for the next EPA Request for Proposals. Calls will be a mix of open discussion, workforce development news, resources, and presentations from current grantees.

- Topics:
1. News from Washington and HMTRI
  2. Questions from PLC members
  3. Coalfield Development, Marilyn Wrenn – Wayne, WV
  4. Upcoming webinars
  5. Check out these websites and sign up for newsletters
  6. Professional development opportunities
  7. Upcoming meetings and workshops
  8. FYI – items of interest
  9. EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators
  10. Tune into the next PLC call - Wednesday, September 26, 2018

## **1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI**

### **EPA Happenings:**

Often people in Washington are not able to see the good work being done by our EWDJT grantees. Rachel Congdon, Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, is requesting student stories and photos that can be shared with those not familiar with the environmental workforce program. She is asking grantees to pass on some of your proudest moments and pictures to your Regional Coordinator. They will pass them on to headquarters.

### **HMTRI News:**

Bruce Diamond is in the process of updating the [HMTRI Certified Employee Finder](#). This database gives employers and other grantees insight to grantee programs training, graduation dates, class size and contact information. Information to be updated can be found on the HMTRI website [brownfield-toolbox.org](http://brownfield-toolbox.org) under downloads.

For questions contact Bruce at: [bdiamond@eicc.edu](mailto:bdiamond@eicc.edu)

## 2. QUESTIONS FROM PLC MEMBERS

If you have questions you would like addressed, send it to Heather Ballou at [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu)

How can we find out when the next Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued?

*PLC members will be notified as soon as the RFP is issued. We will also attach a copy of the guidelines. Notices will also be posted on Grants.gov and on the EPA website. The next RFP should be issued in the first month or two in 2019. Applicant will have only 90 days to submit their proposals and this is why prospective grantees need to begin preparation now.*

Do you have an idea when the next “Train the Trainer” workshop is scheduled?

*HMTRI partners with the Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training CCCHST. Check out section 6-Professional development opportunities for a schedule of instructor conferences and CCCHST refreshers.*

## 3. COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, MARILYN WRENN – WAYNE, WV

**Thank you, Marilyn, for your presentation today.**

Before we get into a summary of the Coalfield’s environmental workforce training program, an introduction to this unique program is in order. The target community is an example of a rural community decimated by the loss their primary employer base and income source. West Virginia has the nation’s highest unemployment rate, lowest labor participation rate, and second lowest higher education rate.

The southern portion of the state has been especially hard hit. Similar to other rural and Native American communities, Southern West Virginia has few employers, job opportunities, and residents who would like to stay but have no means of support.

By creating their own jobs, Coalfield Development is on a path to address these issues and the EPA’s Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program is part of the solution. The following materials come from the [Coalfield Development Corporation](#) website, which I highly encourage everyone to visit.

### **Coalfield’s Theory of Change**

“Without spirit, without willpower, without opportunities for overcoming structural barriers, a full life feels unattainable. It is the Coalfield Development Corporation’s (Coalfield) belief that the cause of so many woes in Southern West Virginia is the lack of full lives being lived — the emptiness, the despair built up over generations, which leads to a lack of ambition, gumption, and an inability to dream. Therefore, simply building a new home for a person or giving them a two-year job is not sufficient for smashing down structural barriers and ending generational cycles of poverty. Rather, opportunities for full lives must be provided. As such, the primary strategy of this program and of Coalfield

overall is to provide valuable, varied, and empowering opportunities for low-income young adults in Southern West Virginia.

Our responsibility is to create opportunity, then to provide encouragement and build the self-confidence necessary for pursuing opportunity. When given true opportunities (not just charity or any minimum wage job) self-confidence can be restored.”

“Coalfield’s mission is to be a community based organization that provides quality and affordable homes, creates quality jobs, and generates opportunities for quality life for low income families in southern West Virginia.”

### **About Coalfield Development**

Coalfield Development is an aggregation of six nonprofits working together training and placing community residents in a variety of newly created jobs. Those employment opportunities currently fall into six general career paths.

- Agriculture
- Green construction
- Solar
- Mine and land reclamation
- Land and facility redevelopment
- Creative space and social enterprise

“Coalfield Development was formed in 2009 by local citizen leaders concerned that the people of Wayne County lacked adequate access to quality, affordable housing. Initially, the organization was staffed by volunteers. In 2010 Brandon Dennison, who previously worked as a West Virginia Housing Intern shifted his efforts to Coalfield Development. Under his leadership, Coalfield has rapidly grown into the regional entity it is today. The nonprofit expanded services into Lincoln and Mingo Counties, going from a donated corner in the Wayne County Commission Office, to an overflowing apartment unit serving as an ad-hoc office with a leaking roof, to an impressive new location (with a better roof). As illustrated below, the entire community joined in as supporters, stakeholders and contributors.

In 2015, Coalfield Community Development Corporation received their first EPA EWDJT grant. A model with similarities to RecycleForce, Coalfield Development creates jobs for participants during and after training. Coalfield Development is in the process of creating a social enterprise model that could be useful to many rural and Native American tribes located in communities with few employers and fewer available jobs.

### **A quick summary of the Coalfield Development Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program**

## **Target Community**

Coalfield Development is targeting underemployed and unemployed residents of Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, and Mingo Counties in West Virginia, with an emphasis on young adults, veterans, and coal miners living in areas environmentally degraded by coal mining. This target community represents the part of the state most impacted by water and mountain top coal mining regulation.

## **Curriculum and training**

The guiding vision for Coalfield's training is the 33-6-3 program - Formally unemployed people (especially laid-off coal miners) are hired on to work-crews that staff the social enterprises listed above. These work-crews provide labor on community projects that create assets for local residents. Each week, crewmembers complete 33 hours of paid work, 6 credit hours of higher education, and 3 hours of personal development mentorship. Training is coupled with a 12-12 reflection. Twelve on personal attitude and 12 for care (of self and others).

Trainees participate in environmental job training on two levels, basic and advanced. EWDJT participants can participate in either program. Both levels provide life skills training, job shadowing, and internships in addition to construction skills training.

## **Learning Level**

Participants gain a working knowledge of job related environmental issues that will provide them an opportunity to earn applicable state, federal, and professional certifications. For Learning Level participants, the HAZWOPER course is required. They are also required to participate in case management, professional skills development counseling, and job placement services which will be provided to all participants whether advanced or learning level.

## **Advanced Training Level**

Participants complete 218 hours of EPA-funded environmental training as well as have the opportunity to earn an Associate's Degree in Applied Science from Southern Community & Technical College or Mountwest Community & Technical College. Applicable licenses, professional certifications and on-the-job experience are part of this training.

The advanced technical training program covers 218 hours of classroom instruction, including the following core coursework. Total training, mentoring and career development can last up to three years. It should be noted that participants work and train concurrently in one of the six social enterprises.

- OSHA HAZWOPER 40 hours

- Lead

- Asbestos abatement

- Lead renovation, repair, and painting

- Mold awareness

- Methamphetamine lab cleanup

- Chemical inventory, storage, and handling

- Site surveying and blueprint reading

Job readiness and life skills training courses - leveraged by partners-available to all participants  
Seven state or federal certifications and licenses

### **Partners, advisors, and supporters**

Partners, advisors, and supporters include a long list of the following organizations:

#### ○ **Planning Partners**

- [Abandoned Properties Coalition](#)
- [Center for Economic Options](#)
- [Collective Impact](#)
- [FAHE](#)
- [Housing Authority of Mingo County](#)
- [Kingery and Company](#)
- [Lincoln County Economic Development Authority](#)
- [Lincoln County Family Resource Network](#)
- [Marshall University Brownfields Assistance Center](#)
- [Mingo County Redevelopment Authority](#)
- [Southwestern Community Action Council](#)
- [Wayne County Economic Development Authority](#)
- [Wayne Family Resource Network](#)
- [West Virginia Community Development Hub](#)

#### ○ **Project Partners**

- [Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity](#)
- [Appalachian Coal Country Team](#)
- [Appalachian Regional Commission \(ARC\)](#)
- [Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation](#)
- [CommunityWorks in West Virginia](#)
- Crum Neighborhood Association
- [Edward Tucker Architects](#)
- [Enterprise Community Partners](#)
- [Federal Home Loan Bank – Pittsburgh](#)
- [Fort Gay Community Association](#)
- [Foundation for the Tri-State Community](#)
- [Heritage Farm Museum and Village](#)
- [Housing Authority of Wayne County](#)
- [Huntington Museum of Art](#)
- [Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. \(KISRA\)](#)
- [Lincoln County High School Building Construction Program](#)
- [Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation](#)
- [Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation](#)
- [Mills Group](#)
- [Mingo County Schools Building Construction Programs](#)

- [Mountwest Community and Technical College](#)
  - [Natural Capital Investment Fund](#)
  - One Foundation
  - [Our Children Our Future](#)
  - [Preservation Alliance of West Virginia](#)
  - [Rural Studio](#)
  - [Solar Holler](#)
  - [Southern West Virginia Community & Technical College](#)
  - [Sustainable Williamson](#)
  - [Tolsia High School Building Construction Program](#)
  - [Unlimited Futures, Inc.](#)
  - [Virginia Community Development Corporation](#)
  - [Wayne County Community Service Organization, Inc.](#)
  - [Wayne County Habitat for Humanity](#)
- **Public Sector Partners**
    - [City of Delbarton, WV](#)
    - [City of Huntington, WV](#)
    - [City of Kenova, WV](#)
    - [Housing & Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)
    - [Lincoln County Commission](#)
    - [Southwestern West Virginia Region 2 WORKFORCE Investment Board](#)
    - [Town of Hamlin](#)
    - [Town of Wayne, WV](#)
    - [Town of West Hamlin](#)
    - [United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development](#)
    - [Wayne County Commission](#)
    - [West Virginia Affordable Housing Trust Fund](#)
    - [West Virginia Development Office](#)
    - [West Virginia Housing Development Fund](#)
  - **Private Sector Partners**
    - [5/3 Bank](#)
    - [BB&T Bank](#)
    - [Chase Bank](#)
    - [Judd Roth Real Estate Development](#)
    - [United Bank](#)

### **Recruitment, training, placement, and tracking**

The overall plan called for recruitment of 72 students into the EWDJT component. The program plan called for placement of 63 graduates with tracking of graduates for three years. Some of the graduates will find full employment in one of the six organizations that comprise the Coalfield

Development. Others may continue with additional educational opportunities or secure outside employment.

Coalfield Development Corporation creates its own jobs with social enterprise. Participants enter the program working with one of the following partners. Depending on interest and demand, employees receive training, mentoring, and certification to excel in their chosen occupation.

- Reawaken Appalachia - Real Estate Development
- Revitalize Appalachia - Construction Development
- Reclaim Appalachia - Environmental Remediation
- Refresh Appalachia - Sustainable Agriculture
- Rediscover Appalachia - Creative Place Making
- Rewire Appalachia - Solar Installation

### **Placement, leveraging, and sustainability**

Coalfield Development Corporation was organized on the principles of mentorship, on-the-job training, higher education, social enterprise, innovation, community collaboration, and entrepreneurial leadership. These principles set the direction and guides the organization, providing jobs and sustainable opportunities for community residents. EWDJT participants and grantees are provided internships, job shadowing, and job opportunities in any of the Coalfield endeavors. While not yet totally self-sufficient, Coalfield Community Development Corporation is well on its way to benefit the community, benefit the residents and benefit the environment.

Those interested in contacting Marilyn regarding the Coalfield Community Development and their 33-6-3 training program may contact him at the following address:

Marilyn Wrenn  
Coalfield Development Corporation  
(304) 501-4755  
P.O. Box 1133  
Wayne, WV 25570  
[mwrenn@coalfield-development.org](mailto:mwrenn@coalfield-development.org)  
[www.coalfield-development.org](http://www.coalfield-development.org)

## **4. UPCOMING WEBINARS**

### **Opportunity Zones and Brownfields Redevelopment: What's New?**

Thursday, October 4, 2018

The webinar will run from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

[REGISTER HERE](#)

If you need assistance with your registration, please contact Sean Vroom, [svroom@njit.edu](mailto:svroom@njit.edu), 973 596-6415.

Opportunity Zones provide a critical economic tool to communities interested in brownfields redevelopment. Now, that Opportunity Zones are designated across the nation, this webinar will

provide updates to the program, fund development to attract equity capital, and an example of a local government preparing for investment.

For Opportunity Zones Frequently Asked Questions, go to:

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/opportunity-zones-frequently-asked-questions>

For link to view the map of all designated Qualified Opportunity Zones, to:

[https://www.cims.cdfifund.gov/preparation/?config=config\\_nmtc.xml](https://www.cims.cdfifund.gov/preparation/?config=config_nmtc.xml)

*This webinar is brought to you by the National Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program, co-hosted by the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Programs at Kansas State University (KSU), the Center for Creative Land Recycling, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation. In addition, speakers include our valuable partners: PNC Bank and Acadiana Planning Commission. The workshop is made possible with funding provided by U.S. EPA.*

### **Center for Creative Land Recycling**

Interested in [CCLR](#)'s webinars? CCLR is an EPA's technical assistance provider for brownfield assessment and cleanup grantees. Center for Creative Land Recycling records and saves all of their webinars.

Check them out online at [www.cclr.org/webinar\\_archive](http://www.cclr.org/webinar_archive)

## **5. CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES AND SIGN-UP FOR NEWSLETTERS**

### **Connect with EPA Region 6:**

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eparegion6>

On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EPAregion6>

Activities in EPA Region 6:

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-6-south-central>

### **Subscribe to the Brownfields Listserv**

Are you interested in receiving updates from the Brownfields Program? By adding your name to the Brownfields listserv, you will receive periodic announcements and press releases related to the Brownfields Program.

To subscribe to the Brownfields listserv send a blank email message to:

[brownfields-subscribe@lists.epa.gov](mailto:brownfields-subscribe@lists.epa.gov)

### **The E-News brief of the National Clearinghouse**

The E-News brief of the National Clearinghouse is a free weekly newsletter focusing on new developments in the world of worker health and safety. Each issue provides summaries of the latest worker health and safety news from newspapers, magazines, journals, government reports, and the Web, along with links to the original documents. Also featured each week are updates from government agencies that handle hazmat and worker safety issues such as DOE, EPA, OSHA, and others. The Clearinghouse News



brief provides articles and resources relating to the worker health and safety community. While NIEHS is not a regulatory body, we seek to provide information of relevance to the training community.

[Subscribing](#) to the National Clearinghouse News brief is the best way to stay on top of the worker health and safety news.

### Keep up with EPA announcements and events

Follow [OLEM on Twitter!](#)

## 6. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### The Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training

The Community and College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST), administered by the [Partnership for Environmental Technology Education](#) (PETE) can training components for EPA EWDJT trainers. CCCHST consists of 120 partners offering hazardous materials instruction (HAZWOPER and related Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.120) in most states of the nation. CCCHST uses a curriculum developed by the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) through a train-the-trainer model program. CCCHST instructors, prepared by PETE and HMTRI, annually train 10,000 workers, technicians, and supervisors to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials encountered during waste site clean-up, disaster site cleanup, Brownfields redevelopment, transportation of hazardous materials, and in response to spills and releases of hazardous materials. Here is the schedule for upcoming CCCHST professional development opportunities:

#### **The GreatEST Institute**

June 3 – 14, 2019

Eastern Iowa Community College District – Rescue Center, Davenport, Iowa  
OSHA Health and Safety Hands-On Instructor Training

#### **Disaster Site Response for Trainers Institute**

January 7 – 11, 2019

Indian River State College – Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex – Fort Pierce, Florida

#### **PETE Instructor Professional Development Conferences**

March 27-29, 2019 – Arkansas Environmental Training Academy, Little Rock, AR  
In conjunction with NESHTA 3-day Designing & Delivering Effective Training Pre-Conference Workshop

April 23-25, 2019 - Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, PA

July 16-18, 2019 - South Central College, North Mankato, MN  
& NESHTA Annual Conference/Member Mtg.

## PETE & NESHTA Specialty Instructor Training Opportunity

NESHTA Designing & Delivering Effective Training Pre-Conference Workshop  
(3-day Sunday-Tuesday) March 24-26, 2019 Little Rock, AR

### ACRES training for EWDJT grantees

#### [Brownfields Online ACRES Training](#)

EPA offers the following two online training courses to aid Brownfields Cooperative Agreement Recipients in reporting their grant-funded activities using ACRES:

Day	Date	Time	Webinar Link
Tuesday	December 11, 2018	1pm Eastern Time	<a href="#">WebEx Session EXIT</a>
Tuesday	March 12, 2019	1pm Eastern Time	<a href="#">WebEx Session EXIT</a>

#### To Join Training

There is no need to pre-register for training, however it is recommended that you [test your computer EXIT](#) to ensure compatibility prior to the training. On the day of training, follow the instructions below (you will need to join BOTH a conference call and a virtual meeting):

Phone: Dial 1 (408) 650-3123

Phone: Enter the conference code 958-346-757

Phone: the Audio Pin isn't needed

Computer: Click the Join Meeting link next to the training you would like to attend

Computer: Enter the meeting password ACRES

[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

## 7. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

### National Brownfields Leadership Summit

September 25 - 26, 2018

Washington DC

Don't miss the brownfields redevelopment event of the year: join CCLR and NALGEP (a division of CCLR) at the National Brownfields Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The Summit will bring together private, public and non-profit leaders from across the redevelopment industry and connect them with key decision makers in the nation's capital. Hear the latest in redevelopment policies, programs, and funding opportunities and interact directly with leading federal agency personnel. Whatever your role as a redevelopment practitioner is, the Summit is the must-attend brownfields event of 2018.

For information and registration go to: <https://www.cclr.org/dc-leadership-summit-092018>.

## **2018 Southeast Brownfield Conference**

**September 26 - 28, 2018**

**Birmingham, AL**

You're invited to the 3rd Annual [Southeast Brownfield Conference](#), taking place in Birmingham, AL from Wednesday, September 26, 2018 to Friday, September 28, 2018.

The Conference is a forum for developers, real estate professionals, environmental professionals, state environmental agencies, tribes, local governments, non-profit organizations, and community members interested in brownfield redevelopment. More than 200 attendees are anticipated from all Southeastern states, providing great opportunities for you to network with old friends and new prospects. The conference is organized by the Alabama Brownfields Association (ALBFA), the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Alabama is proud to be hosting this regional conference this year and to continue to build upon last year's successful state conference.

To view the agenda and lodging information, and to register, go to:

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1130022048030&ca=839d6215-c495-4329-ba36-2e7e120a57f2>.

## **Florida Brownfields Association (FBA)**

**September 30 - October 3, 2018**

**Daytona Beach, Florida**

The Annual Florida Brownfields Conference hosted and organized by the Florida Brownfields Association (FBA) and its members will be held September 30 – October 3, 2018, at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort in Daytona Beach, Florida. This year FBA is taking attendees behind the scenes at Daytona International Speedway and One Daytona! On Monday, October 1, the FBA will visit the speedway with a private tour and presentation by Daytona International Speedway leadership on the nearly \$1 billion in planned redevelopment projects. [Register Here](#)

The latest in redevelopment policies, programs, and funding opportunities and interact directly with leading federal agency personnel. Whatever your role as a redevelopment practitioner is, the Summit is the must-attend brownfields event of 2018.

For information and registration go to: <https://www.cclr.org/dc-leadership-summit-092018>

## **PA Brownfields Conference**

**October 1 - 3, 2018**

**Lehigh Valley, PA**

The 2018 Conference is set for October 1-3, 2018 at the [Sands Bethlehem](#) in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania.

Plan to join us to learn about opportunities for transforming communities throughout the commonwealth. Conference attendees will experience the Lehigh Valley's success in creating a vibrant destination where people want to live, work, play and visit.

The Conference is planned in collaboration between the [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#) (DEP) and the [Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania](#) (ESWP).

More Information, go to <https://eswp.com/brownfields/overview/>.

## 8. FYI – ITEMS OF INTEREST

### **Updated Version of the Minimum Health and Safety Training Criteria is now available**

The development of the Minimum Health and Safety Training Criteria: Guidance for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and HAZWOPER-Supporting Training was based on a series of national technical workshops sponsored by NIEHS WTP to serve as the quality control basis for the training grants awarded by the WTP. Following WTP's fourth workshop held on October 2017, the updated final guidance document was prepared and issued based on comments received.

[Minimum Health and Safety Training Criteria](#) 

Back issues of the News brief are available on the [archives page](#).

[National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training](#)

## 9. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **US EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**

Environmental justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program provides financial assistance to eligible nonprofit organizations and tribal governments to build collaborative partnerships, identify local environmental and public health issues, envision solutions, and empower the community through education, training, and outreach. Environmental Justice Small Grants fund projects up to \$30,000. For more information, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

### **The 2018 Department of Transportation BUILD Discretionary Grants**

#### **The other BUILD ACT – not to be confused with The 2018 BUILD Act & EPA Brownfields Program**

The 2018 Department of Transportation BUILD Discretionary Grants NOFO are currently available. The DOT's BUILD Discretionary Grant (not to be confused with the BUILD Act) replaces the previous DOT TIGER program.

BUILD Discretionary grant information located at <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>. Link to original NOFO (.pdf): [https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/policy-initiatives/build/114796/fed-reg-build-nofo-2018\\_0.pdf](https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/policy-initiatives/build/114796/fed-reg-build-nofo-2018_0.pdf).

Link to DOT Build webinar outreach slides, which highlights Environmental Protection criteria on Slide 13: <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/subdoc/236/final-how-compete-build-52418.pdf>.

This \$1.5B program is for communities seeking infrastructure funds to assist in community revitalization.

### **U.S. Department of Labor announces funding opportunity for apprenticeship expansion in key industry sectors.**

U.S. Department of Labor today announced \$150 million in grants to support sector-based approaches to expand apprenticeships on a national scale in key industry sectors. When awarded, the grants will move a step closer to President Trump's vision set forth in [Executive Order on Expanding Apprenticeship in America](#), which calls for increasing the number of apprentices in the U.S. across all industries.

This grant program aims to accelerate the expansion of apprenticeships to new industry sectors, and to increase apprenticeship opportunities for all Americans. Veterans, military spouses, service members re-entering the civilian workforce, and underrepresented groups in apprenticeship, including women, people of color, and ex-offenders will benefit from their investments. As directed by the 2017 Executive Order, the Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion released on May 10, 2018, its [final report to the President](#), which provides detailed recommendations for meeting these goals.

"The expansion of apprenticeships makes the greatest workforce in the world – the American workforce – even stronger," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. "This funding is an investment in America's workforce, will contribute to competitiveness by helping job creators meet increasing demands for skilled workers, and meets the nation's need for family-sustaining careers." There are more than 6.6 million job openings in the U.S., many of which require advanced skills. The Department will award up to \$150 million in H-1B funds to approximately 15 to 30 apprenticeship programs, with awards ranging from \$1 million to \$12 million. The grant size will depend on the size of the targeted industry sector and the proposed scale of the apprenticeship projects.

Funding will be awarded to projects designed to:

Expand apprenticeships to occupations that have not typically used apprenticeships to bring new entrants into the workforce. By focusing on information technology, advanced manufacturing, banking and finance, and healthcare, we can offer new job seekers opportunities and upskill those already employed in these industries to bolster the sector's competitiveness; Increase the level of apprenticeship activity among a range of new employers within these industry sectors,

particularly small and medium-sized businesses; and Promote a sector-based approach to large-scale expansion of apprenticeships that include a paid, work-based learning component and a required educational or instructional component that results in the issuance of an industry-recognized credential and meet appropriate quality assurance standards. For additional information on grant eligibility, and how to apply for funds, visit <https://www.grants.gov>.

#### 10. EPA REGIONAL JOB TRAINING COORDINATORS

EPA Region 1 Danny Rodriguez	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Phone: (617) 918-1060 E-mail: rodriguez.danny@epa.gov
EPA Region 2 Schenine Mitchell	NJ, NY, PR, VI	Phone: (212) 637-3283 E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
EPA Region 3 Jeff Barnett	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	Phone: (215) 814-3246 E-mail: barnett.jeff@epa.gov
EPA Region 4 Bushra Jawaid	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Phone: (404) 562-8569 E-mail: jawaid.bushra@epa.gov
EPA Region 5 Linda Morgan	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	Phone: (312) 886-4747 E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov
EPA Region 5 Craig Mankowski		Phone: (312) 886-9493 E-mail: mankowski.craig@epa.gov
EPA Region 6 Rita Ware	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Phone: (214) 665-6409 E-mail: ware.rita@epa.gov
EPA Region 7 Alma Moreno Lahm	IA, KS, MO, NE	Phone: (913) 551-7380 E-mail: moreno- lahm.alma@epa.gov
EPA Region 8 Christina Wilson	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	Phone: (303) 312-6706 E-mail: wilson.christina@epa.gov
EPA Region 9 Nova Blazej	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	Phone: (415) 972-3846 E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov
EPA Region 9 Noemi Emeric-Ford		Phone: (213) 244-1821 E-mail: emeric- ford.noemi@epa.gov
EPA Region 10 Deborah Burgess	AK, ID, OR, WA	Phone: (206) 553-2580 E-mail: burgess.deborah@epa.gov

## 11. TUNE INTO THE NEXT PLC CALL – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

### Cycle 19 – 2018 Environmental workforce PLC schedule

9/26/2018 Session 198

11/07/2018 Session 201

10/10/2018 Session 199

11/21/2018 Session 202

10/24/2018 Session 200

Join our 30 minute discussion with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni and new interested stakeholders. PLCs give grantees a chance to highlight their programs and an opportunity for others to learn from their experience. Email questions or to be placed on the PLC register send contact information to [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Heather Ballou at [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

Visit our [HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox](#) website for more information on Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training programs. All [PLC session notes and recordings](#) are also located on the website. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Heather Ballou at [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

**NOTE:** The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and job training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA or its policy and should not be taken as official guidance.

