

November 7, 2018



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 19, Session 9.

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. Strategies that strengthen nonprofits
 4. NIEHS Worker Training Programs simplified
 5. Conferences
 6. Upcoming webinars
 7. Professional development opportunities
 8. Contact active EWDJT graduates
 9. Check out these EWDJT social media sites
 10. Funding opportunities
 11. Placement opportunities
 12. EPA Regional Job Training Coordinators
 13. Tune into the next PLC call – Wednesday, December 5, 2018

1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI

EPA Happenings:

No news from Washington regarding environmental workforce issues.

HMTRI News:

Applications now available for The GreatEST Institute June 3-14, 2019.

Applications can be found at <https://nationalpete.org/events/> and are due February 28, 2019.

See section seven of these post session notes for details about the GreatEST Institute.

EWDJT Grantee Scan

HMTRI is in the process of scanning EWDJT grantees for graduation dates, curriculum, and background information describing their programs. Inactive programs and those without graduates are encouraged to provide information about their last cohort. Data provided allows employers, EPA, and other stakeholders to learn more about EWDJT programs, the availability of trained graduates, and contact information. *Please reply to this scan by Friday, November 16.*

An updated compilation will be distributed on the Job Training listserv, posted to the Brownfields Toolbox website, and shared with EPA and prospective national employers (see section eight of these notes for current EWDJT contacts). Last year's Certified Employee Finder is available on Brownfields-Toolbox.org.

For questions regarding the scan, please contact Bruce Diamond at:

bdiamond@eicc.edu

(563-441-4082)

2. QUESTIONS FROM PLC MEMBERS

If you have questions you would like addressed, send it to Heather Ballou at hkballou@eicc.edu.

Can you explain the differences between the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) worker training grants and EPA EWDJT grants?

In section four, we have deconstructed the NIEHS Worker Training Program in comparison to the EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program. NIEHS and EPA training share some similarities but are quite different in the community they target and the curriculum presented. While NIEHS programs focus on worker health and safety with an emphasis on environmental remediation, spills and hazards, EPA training addresses environmental remediation with an emphasis on worker health and safety.

3. STRATEGIES THAT STRENGTHEN NONPROFITS

This week we discussed the final organizational strategy that can be used to enhance leveraging and program sustainability. Strategies we have discussed previously included the following:

- Expanding state and local governmental programs to include EWDJT
- Organizing as part of a social enterprise or community development corporation
- Merging EWDJT into an established educational institution

Today we discussed using economies of scale strategies to enhance nonprofit leveraging and sustainability. To address this topic we presented three examples of EWDJT programs which were birthed from and became part of larger expanding nonprofit organizations. Being part of a larger entity brings economies of scale, can enhance stability, and strengthen the overall organization. EWDJT programs whose only source of revenue is from EPA often have a difficult time when grant funding is interrupted or ends. Stand-alone programs must support all activities required to train, place, and track students. Support must cover 100 percent of organizational infrastructure costs, facilities, and administrative obligations. An alternative approach is to be part of a larger organization thereby sharing overhead, infrastructure, and many operational costs. This can result in a cost effective, more sustainable environmental workforce development program.

Affiliating with established organizations dramatically reduces the economic burden on the Brownfields portion of the overall program providing a stronger magnet for attracting community support. An often used analogy is adding another car to a moving train rather than building an entirely new railroad. During lean times the moving train can carry the extra load with minimal effort. Three programs we presented today are all well established with operating budgets from \$3 million to over \$20 million dollars. The three examples presented are unlike each other. They have different organizational mission statements with different approaches to fund their programs. Each has incorporated the EWDJT program in order to expand services they offer to their communities and at the same time provide stability to environmental workforce development.

Auberle.org

Auberle is a faith-based nonprofit serving over 4,000 at-risk children and families primarily in eight counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. Auberle's basic mission is to invest in young people and their families. By building strong community partnerships, Auberle creates innovative opportunities and resources for individuals and families in need. Today, they offer 21 programs including preventative and community-based services as well as environmental remediation training.

The Employment Institute which houses the EWDJT program offers multiple nationally recognized certification programs, employment opportunities, life skills, and work readiness training, education services, and employment exposure/search services.

412 Youth Zone is a safe and welcome one-stop center for young people ages 16-23 that are transitioning out of the foster care system and are eligible for independent living services or are experiencing unstable housing.

Homebuilders works with high-risk families involved with the child protective services system. The goal of the program is to remove the risk of harm to the child instead of removing the child.

Rapid Rehousing works with individuals, ages 18-24, in assisting them in finding safe, stable, and affordable housing. Case managers work with clients, most first-time renters or homeowners, on providing rental assistance, case management services, and most importantly, partnerships with local landlords.

Residential Care serves boys (ages 13-20) and girls (ages 12-20) who are experiencing behavioral issues or family problems severe enough to keep them from remaining at home or with a family member. The goal of residential is to prepare the youth to return to their family, be placed in a kinship or foster home, or transition to independent living based on their age. Residential programs also provide medical and education support services to youth in 24-hour residential and shelter care.

Auberle Behavioral Health Services consist of both Mental Health and Substance Abuse treatment. Auberle has a strong and skilled clinical team of mental health professionals, including those licensed in Professional Counseling, Marriage & Family Therapy, and Social Work. Auberle has its own Outpatient Mental Health License. Services include individual, family, couples, and group therapy for children, adolescents, and adults.

Auberle's Foster Care program is the largest non-kinship Foster Care program in Allegheny County. The Foster Care program connects children and youth with families. The children vary in age from newborns to 21 years old. Auberle's Foster Care Recruiter and Trainer teaches foster parents everything they will need to know to care for a foster child. They certify individuals, couples, and families from all over Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Auberle funds its programs from a variety of unrelated sources including county service contracts, School lunch programs, numerous third party contract for services, grants, and donations with an overall budget in excess of \$13 million.

The variety and depth of Auberle's programs demonstrates how EPA grantees can contribute to and benefit from large community based nonprofits.

- Large institutionalized organizations provide stability for smaller grant programs
- EWDJT can fit well in faith-based or community social service organizations
- Training and workforce development often complements other projects
- Social service organizations may be able to provide most of the services not funded by EPA

For more information visit:

<https://www.auberle.org/>

LA Conservation Corps

The LA Conservation Corps (LACC) operates dramatically different than Auberle. LACC is a Conservation Core based rather than a community/social services based nonprofit. Its strength comes from six youth and young adult based program areas including the EWDJT program. In addition to working with EPA in environmental workforce development, LACC partners with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, offering Corpsmembers specialized training and opportunities to learn about environmental careers with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and a variety of other conservation organizations.

As with Auberle, LACC supports itself with contracts and partnerships totaling almost \$18 million. Rather than providing social services, LACC partners with the City of Los Angeles and other agencies for community improvement projects such as repairing sidewalks, constructing, and cleaning public spaces. Recently LACC successfully completed several high-profile water conservation projects to counteract the efforts of the California drought.

With a budget over \$20 million, LACC receives over \$1.5 million in support from corporations. In-kind and individual contributions exceed \$600 thousand demonstrating the extensive leveraging and community support provided to backstop the organization. Each of the organizations grants and projects are housed in one of six program areas. They include the following:

- [Young Adult Corps](#)
- [Clean & Green](#)
- [The SEA Lab](#)
- [Corpsmember Development](#)
- [After School Program](#)
- [LA Education Corps](#)

In addition to grants and contracts, LACC seeks support in the following manner:

- [Donate](#)
- [Become A Corpsmember](#)
- [Apply for Clean & Green](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Career Opportunities](#)
- [Hire the Corps](#)
- [Friends of the Corps](#)

Key to the LA Conservation Corps success, like other examples discussed today is the ability to establish a critical mass of programs, leveraging, and support. Other qualities include the following attributes:

- Extensive use of providing government services and contracts for support
- Large and deep source of contributors and supporters
- Major participation by private sector organizations
- Aggressive use of available environmental and education grants
- Extensive leveraging between environmental and educational oriented programs

For more information visit:

<https://www.lacorps.org/>

Opportunity, Advancement, and Innovation in Workforce Development (OAI)

OAI is an independent 501(c)(3) with headquarters in downtown Chicago and a regional office in the city's south suburbs. OAI's website presents a staff of 34 and an annual budget of over \$3 million. Continuous expansion in workforce development has allowed this nonprofit to benefit from economies of scale. Different than Auberle and LA Conservation Corps, OAI has primarily focused its attention on grants and services associated with workforce development especially in the area of environment, health, and safety. OAI began as a small project launched in 1976 to integrate Indochinese refugees into the social and economic mainstream. By the mid-1990s, OAI was successfully working with community-based partners in Baltimore, Kansas City, and beyond. In 1995, OAI received its first grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, (NIEHS) (see the next session about NIEHS). By 2001, OAI was able to leverage the NIEHS grant with one of the first EPA EWDJT grants. Since then, the nonprofit has been able to compete successfully in both NIEHS and EPA grant competitions.

Recently, OAI has been able to extend its efforts into the south Cook County region to serve job seekers and employers through comprehensive workforce, education, training, and placement services. High Bridge, L3C, was established in 2015 as OAI's first social enterprise venture providing green jobs training as a commitment to environmental stewardship and economic development in Chicago Southland. High Bridge, L3C installs and maintains high-quality green infrastructure and low-impact landscaping while providing graduates and local residents with employment.

A list of OAI partners includes the following governmental and nonprofit organizations and demonstrates the importance of partners for success and sustainability:

- Chicago Department of Transportation
- WRD Environmental
- Forest Preserves of Cook County
- City of Chicago Department of Fleet and Facility Management
- Signature Staffing Resources
- Republic Services
- Applied Ecological Services
- Cook County Department of Environmental Control
- Chicago Park District
- Literacy Chicago
- Youth Guidance
- North Lawndale Employment Network
- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

Most essential to the leveraging and sustainability of nonprofits is the depth and breadth of community engagement. On their website, OAI presents a sample of organizations that support their efforts including the following:

- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Department of Labor
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Manufacturing Association
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Cook County Community Development Block Grants
- Cook County Justice Advisory Council

- The Nature Conservancy
- World Business Chicago
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- Polk Bros Foundation
- McCormick Foundation
- WorkLab Innovations
- Illinois Manufacturing Association
- Boeing
- ComEd
- Turner Construction
- Bank of America
- First Midwest Bank
- Business and Career Services, Inc.

For more information visit:

<https://www.oaiinc.org/>

Economies of scale for EWDJT program stability and sustainability - takeaways

Organizational structure, affiliations, and partnerships are practices that make a distinction between EWDJT programs that demonstrate sustainability and those that do not. Existing EWDJT programs considering reapplication for Federal assistance or new programs interested in developing an environmental training program in their community should consider the following issues:

- Application to EPA for continued funding should not be considered as part of a sustainability strategy.
- Replacing EPA startup funding with state and local partnerships can provide a continued level of support.
- Merging EWDJT with other local workforce programs can contribute to stable funding when other options are not available.
- Working relationships with community, governmental, non-governmental, and faith-based stakeholders can lead to supplemental and sustained support.
- Advisory board members and employers should be considered as potential sources of support.
- Program organizers should consider multiple strategies when considering program sustainability
- All programs need to promote individual donations and fund raising events.
- Actively solicit funding from community foundations and philanthropic organizations.
- Actively respond to federal, state, and local grant solicitations.
- Enjoy a positive and popular public image in the communities they serve.
- Actively leverage available community resources.
- Maintain numerous partnerships and advisory relationships.

4. NIEHS WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS SIMPLIFIED

History and background

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), one of the seven National Institutes of Health (NIH) organized under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The mission of NIEHS is to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives. Included in that mission is community involvement, outreach, and education. To accomplish that

goal, the Worker Training Program (WTP) was organized in Research Triangle Park, NC. Since 1987, WTP has funded a network of nonprofit organizations that conduct training in every U.S. state and territory. The program is committed to creating a national workforce that can protect themselves, co-workers, and communities from environmental hazards. Training is a key part of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's federal regulations protecting workers engaged in hazardous waste operations.

Currently, The NIEHS Worker Training Program has six major grant programs:

- Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program
- Environmental Career Worker Training Program
- HAZMAT Disaster Preparedness Training Program
- Small Business Innovation Research E-Learning for HAZMAT Program
- NIEHS/Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Worker Training Program
- Ebola Biosafety and Infectious Disease Response Training Program

The first two of these grant programs have an indirect relationship to the EPA Environmental workforce Development and Job Training Program.

The Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (HWWTP)

HWWTP was organized in 1987. Hazardous waste site worker training provides occupational safety and health training for workers who may be engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal, containment, or chemical emergency response. With grants providing direct training and train the trainer training, more than 3 million workers have been trained since its inception.

The following organizations are funded through July 2020:

- [Alabama Fire College](#)
- [Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training](#)
- [CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training](#)
- [International Association of Fire Fighters](#)
- [International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#)
- [International Chemical Workers Union Council Center for Worker Health and Safety Education](#)
- [International Union, United Auto Workers](#)
- [LIUNA Training and Education Fund](#)
- [Midwest Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Training](#)
- [New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center](#)
- [Nova Southeastern University](#)
- [OAI, Inc.](#)
- [Texas Southern University / Deep South Center for Environmental Justice](#)
- [Texas-Utah Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Education and Training](#)
- [The New England Consortium-Civil Service Employees Association](#)
- [The Steelworkers Charitable and Educational Organization](#)
- [Western Region Universities Consortium](#)

The Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP)

The Environmental Career Worker Training Program was known as the Minority Worker Training Program until 2014. The program focuses on delivering comprehensive training to increase the number of disadvantaged and underrepresented minority workers in areas such as environmental restoration, construction, hazardous materials/waste handling, and emergency response. Since 1995, the ECWTP has

provided pre-employment and health and safety training to thousands of people from underserved communities nationwide. Topic areas associated with the ECWTP program include the following:

- Environmental restoration
- Construction
- Hazardous materials/waste handling
- Emergency response
- Confidence building
- Cultural diversity
- Financial responsibility
- Job readiness/employment success
- Stress and time management
- Work relationship dynamics
- Some ECWTP-supported training also includes enrollment in apprenticeship programs

Life skills and other pre-employment training are supported components of the ECWTP. This instruction provides trainees with the personal and interpersonal skills required to deal with the challenges of everyday life and to obtain and sustain employment.

The following organizations are funded through July 2020

- [CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training](#)
- [New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center](#)
- [OAI, Inc.](#)
- [Texas Southern University / Deep South Center for Environmental Justice](#)
- [The Steelworkers Charitable and Educational Organization](#)
- [Western Region Universities Consortium](#)

NIEHS Worker Training vs EPA Environmental Workforce Development

Reviewing the history, curriculum, and grant recipients of the two NIEHS worker training programs in comparison to the EPA workforce development and job training program, the following similarities and differences appear:

- The Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (HWWTP) educates large numbers of workers on how to protect themselves when dealing with hazardous materials.
- HWWTP may be direct training or train the trainer training.
- Grantees are primarily made up of organized labor, universities, and large nonprofits.
- Grant terms are for a period of five years.
- OSHA and worker protection form a basis for the core curriculum.
- HWWTP tends to be occupation based rather than community based.
- HWWTP grants focus on incumbent workers rather than unemployed community residents.

The Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) is similar to the EPA program with the following differences:

- The NIEHS program partners with organized labor organizations, university, and larger nonprofits.
- As with other NIEHS programs, grant terms are five years.
- ECWTP does not restrict funding to environmental remediation training.
- Allowable expenses can include construction and life skills training.
- NIEHS training does not necessarily target specific communities.

- Less emphasis is placed on resource leveraging.
- Core curriculum is broader and less restrictive than EPA curriculum.
- NIEHS funds fewer grantees less often than EPA.

It should be noted that EPA grantees are restricted from duplicating federal assistance. At first glance, one might observe what appears to be duplication as in the case of OAI. This is not the case in that each of these programs are dramatically different in curriculum, service areas, program goals, and administration. Most important, successful programs are able to demonstrate how these programs enhance the overall mission rather than duplicate services.

For more information on the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, go to www.niehs.nih.gov.

For more information on the NIEHS Worker Training Program, visit www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp.

For more information on the National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training, or to subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter, go to <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp>.

5. CONFERENCES

[2018 Florida Remediation Conference](#)

Dec. 5-6, 2018

Orlando, FL

The 2018 Florida Remediation Conference, our 24th annual event, will convene in early December with more than 500 soil and groundwater cleanup industry professionals on hand. The conference is scheduled for Dec. 5-6, 2018, (a new Wednesday/Thursday format) at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando.

Along with our solid technical agenda is the largest exhibit of professional cleanup technologies and services in the Southeast U.S. Over 90 exhibitors will be on-hand to discuss new tools and techniques for your remediation project toolbox.

6. UPCOMING WEBINARS

[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.

7. 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, IA
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, FL

PETE Instructor Professional Development Conferences

-*March 27-29, 2019 – Arkansas Environmental Training Academy, Little Rock, AR

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

- July 16-18, 2019 – South Central College, North Mankato, MN

***PETE & NESHTA Specialty Instructor Training Opportunity**

March 24-26, 2019

NESHTA Designing & Delivering Effective Training Pre-Conference Workshop

Applications can be found at <https://nationalpete.org/events/>.

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	1 p.m. EST	WebEx Session EXIT
Tuesday	March 12, 2019	1 p.m. EST	WebEx Session EXIT

8. CONTACT ACTIVE EWDJT GRANTEES

Are you interested in contacting current environmental workforce development and job training grantees?

EWDJT grantees are happy to assist other grantees and prospective applicants to share their experiences with interested organizations. Contact information is available from the 2018 All-Grantee Meeting participant list on Brownfields-Toolbox.org.

New and Refunded Grantees	Region	State	FY Award
Alaska Forum, Inc.	10	AK	2016, 2018
Auberle	3	PA	2016
Civic Works, Inc.	3	MD	2016, 2018
Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc.	9	CA	2016
Earth Conservancy	3	PA	2017
Energy Coordinating Agency	3	PA	2016
Essex County Division of Training and Employment	2	NJ	2018
Florida State College at Jacksonville	4	FL	2017
Fortune Society, Inc., The	2	NY	2017
Full Employment Council, Inc.	7	MO	2018
Glens Falls, City of	2	NY	2016
Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, Inc.	5	WI	2017
Groundwork Rhode Island	1	RI	2018
Hunters Point Family	9	CA	2018
King County	10	WA	2018
Lawson State Community College	4	AL	2016
Limitless Vistas, Inc.	6	LA	2016, 2018
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	9	CA	2016, 2018
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board	1	MA	2017
Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Waterbury	1	CT	2016
Nye County	9	NV	2016
OAI, Inc.	5	IL	2017
Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.	10	OR	2017
PathStone Corporation	2	PR	2017
People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc.	2	NY	2017
Pittsburg, City of	9	CA	2016, 2018
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	10	WA	2016
RecycleForce	5	IN	2018
Redevelopment Authority of Cumberland County	3	PA	2016
Richmond, City of (California)	9	CA	2017
Rochester, City of (New York)	2	NY	2016
Salish Kootenai College	8	MT	2017
Santa Fe Community College	6	NM	2017
Springfield, City of (Missouri)	7	MO	2016, 2018
St. Louis Community College	7	MO	2017
St. Nicks Alliance	2	NY	2018
Sustainable South Bronx	2	NY	2018
Tacoma, City of	10	WA	2016, 2018
The Hunters Point Family	9	CA	2016
Training to Work an Industry Niche	4	NC	2018
West End Neighborhood House, Inc.	3	DE	2018
Zender Environmental Health and Research Group	10	AK	2017

[Map of EPA Regions](#)

9. CHECK OUT THESE EWDJT SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Civic Works' Baltimore Center for Green Careers (BCGC)

The mission of Civic Works' Baltimore Center for Green Careers is to make Baltimore's economy more equitable and sustainable by training residents for jobs in the emerging green economy. Since 2003, the combination of meaningful employment, a living wage, and marketable trade skills has proven powerfully successful.

<http://baltimoregreencareers.civicworks.com/>
www.twitter.com/BCGC

Groundwork Rhode Island

Groundwork Rhode Island's Adult Job Training introduces local residents to career pathways in the environmental sector – particularly in the areas of brownfield remediation, lead and asbestos abatement, stormwater management, and urban land restoration. The training offers many certifications that make participants more competitive job applicants, and gives them hands-on experience in stormwater, garden, and tree planting projects that also improve the places where they live and work. By giving people the resources and skills they need to make a difference in their own communities, Groundwork is building a new and lasting force for change in participants' own neighborhoods. Groundwork Rhode Island's education, employment, job training and stewardship programs all serve the common goal of creating and sustaining healthy, beautiful, and resilient communities for all.

groundworkri.org/programs/adult-job-training/
www.instagram.com/groundwork_usa
www.twitter.com/GroundworkUSA
www.facebook.com/GroundworkRI

10. 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 [here](#).

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 replaces the previous DOT TIGER program. BUILD Discretionary grant information is located [here](#), as well as the link to original [NOFO](#). [The DOT Build webinar](#) highlights Environmental Protection criteria on Slide 13.

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>.

11. PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[AmericanSolarWorkforce.org](#) links solar employers and job seekers

AmericanSolarWorkforce.org, a comprehensive online platform linking solar employers and job seekers to build a strong and diverse solar workforce. This career platform is managed by the Solar Training Network, a program led by The Solar Foundation with a team of partners and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.

The Solar Training Network developed the platform after its research showed a large majority of solar employers find it difficult to hire qualified candidates. And their 2017 study, [Solar Training and Hiring Insights](#), reported that a majority of solar employers find current job board services insufficient or difficult to use. [AmericanSolarWorkforce.org](#) helps fill these gaps by facilitating connections between solar companies, career seekers, training providers, and workforce boards. Using this platform, which is free of charge, employers can post job opportunities and connect with thousands of candidates. Solar career seekers can create attractive profiles, apply for jobs, identify training providers, and make connections with solar companies.

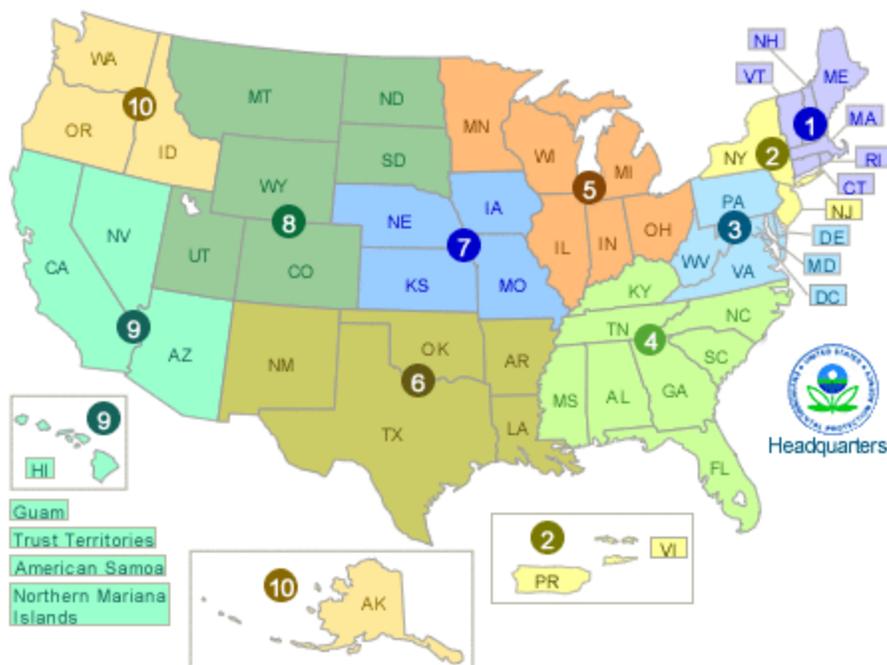
This platform includes original research and useful resources to support solar workforce development. For example, a new toolkit, [Strategies for Solar Workforce Development](#), shows how solar companies can engage with local workforce development resources and build a pipeline of talented employees. The platform also features a “Solar Panel” with advice from workforce experts, and a shared news and events page for users to post updates.

Any employer or job seeker can sign up on the platform now and start building new connections in solar. You can get started by creating a free profile on AmericanSolarWorkforce.org.

12. 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
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Map of EPA Regions



Credit: epa.gov

13. TUNE INTO THE NEXT PLC CALL – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

Cycle 19 – 2018 Environmental workforce PLC schedule

12/05/2018 Session 202

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.

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Heather Ballou at 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.

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.

