

CONNECT News

Community Supp**O**rt, **N**etworking, and Assista**N**ce
for **E**nvironmental **C**areer **T**raining

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The Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) with a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assists communities establish environmental job training programs supported by the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program (EWDJT). To better exchange ideas among EWDJT grantees, HMTRI distributes CONNECT, a bimonthly e-publication, featuring topics of interest among those interested in participating in the EPA environmental workforce grant program. Ideas presented do not represent EPA policy, guidance or opinions and should not be taken as such. This month's issue continues discussion on preparing for the FY22 EWDJT Requests for Applications (RFAs) which are expected to be issued this summer.

Preview of this summer's FY22 EWDJT applications

Should we submit and EWDJT application this summer?

Each year, when EWDJT Requests for Applications (RFAs) are posted on Grants.gov, HMTRI receives the following questions. "We are interested in developing an environmental workforce training program in our community. How do we apply for EPA funding assistance?" After reading the detailed RFA, a second question soon follows. "Responding to the RFA requires extensive detail. Should we apply this year, and if so, do we have a chance competing against experienced grantees?" This issue of CONNECT News, address these concerns, and provides "sneak peek" into the FY22 RFA based on last year's guidelines.

Answering the second question is easier than the first. EPA goes to great lengths to "level the playing field" using "Other Factors" in addition to Threshold and Ranking evaluation criteria. EPA evaluators understand the advantages continuing programs have over communities attempting to start new programs. During the FY21 cycle, about half of funded applications were from new communities and half from

current or past grantees. It is not sufficient for current or previous grantees to "recycle" old applications. Every application must stand on its own merits, capabilities and understanding of EWDJT goals and objectives. Evaluators rank proposals based on the quality of information provided in the application. Unfortunately for some, an excellent program submitting a poorly written grant proposal is not likely to be funded.

A more difficult question to answer relates to the interest communities have in supporting an EWDJT program. The March issue of CONNECT News explores basic questions regarding the support organizations and communities are willing to provide towards the establish an EWDJT program. Definitive discussions need to take place among organization principals, staff and supporters on the following topics. Do we have sufficient staff and facilities? Do we have community support? Can we find partners willing to contribute to the program? Is there sufficient demand in our community to employ our graduates? Every potential applicant must address these issues before committing the

time and effort required to develop a competitive EWDJT application. Here are a few of the costs and benefits associated with committing to develop an EWDJT grant application.

Negatives

EWDJT programs are cooperative agreement grants. Workplans, deliverables and budgets need to be determined well in advance of federal funds being approved for spending.

- Grants total only \$200K over 3 years.
- Applications require detailed work plans.
- EPA sets specific goals and performance expectations.
- Successful grantees require extensive leveraging.
- For new applicants, the RFA requires more than the 60-day response time to develop a comprehensive proposal.
- Training will not begin for a year after application due dates.

Positives

When in doubt, we encourage organizations to apply rather than waiting for the next grant cycle even if more response time is required.

- Unsuccessful applicants will be considered as potential applicants in FY23.
- Unsuccessful applicants are given an opportunity for a debriefing to identify issues with their application.
- Many first-year applicants are unsuccessful only to receive funding with a new expanded proposal in the next competition.
- Unsuccessful applicants have an opportunity to expand their program, develop additional partnerships and leveraged resources between competitions.
- Rejected or unsuccessful applications will not reflect negatively or influence next year's submission.

- Committing and announcing intentions to develop an EWDJT program often attracts funding from other sources.

Still on the fence? – Other options

For those still questioning if they are ready to commit to writing a “full blown” EWDJT application, alternative options exist. Consider partnering with an established organization with common goals and experience able to provide resources your organization currently needs. Sub-grantees are subject to the same rules and regulations as the primary grantee and can operate in partnership with the primary grantee. Together a partner/sub-partner relationship creates an EWDJT program stronger than either would individually. This is often the case when partnering with Workforce Investment Boards, city or county government, a community college or large nonprofit organization with common goals such as a social service agency. In the next sections, we will summarize and review the structure and content of the FY21 RFA. It is expected that the FY22 RFA, to be issued this summer, will be similar. Moving forward, the HMTRI Professional Learning Community (PLC) will address application guidelines in detail with updates as the new RFA is posted.

The FY21 RFA structure and layout

Once a decision has been made to proceed with the development an FY22 EWDJT application, background and support data collection begins. Development of proposals is more like a jigsaw puzzle than a linear progression of tasks. Essentially all the background and support data need to be gathered concurrently as grant writing begins. Structurally, the RFA is divided into three sections. Each addresses specific goals in the evaluation process. The threshold/cover letter section establishes eligibility to move forward with the evaluation process. The narrative presents the proposed program with expectations and deliverables. Lastly, the

attachment section provides back up and support for previous sections including “Other Factor” special considerations.

Cover Letter – Threshold Criteria

- Response to all threshold eligibility criteria
- Demonstration of eligibility as presented in the EPA RFA guidelines

Narrative – Ranking Criteria

- Response to ranking criteria and requests for information
- Presentation of the program plan and proposed deliverables

Attachments and support

- Documentation of applicant eligibility (Documentation does not count against page limitations)
- Milestones Schedule
- Other Factors Checklist
- General letters of support from partners and employers identified in the application

Threshold Criteria – The first step in qualifying eligible proposals

Threshold Criteria are used as a screen identifying proposals eligible for funding per EPA EWDJT guidelines. Rather than spending time processing proposals not eligible to receive EPA funding, a checklist eliminates non-fundable grants before a time-consuming detailed ranking evaluation begins. Applications are reviewed on a pass/fail basis. Applications must provide a satisfactory response to every qualifying criterion. All thresholds must be satisfied to pass the screen. Proposals that do not pass the initial threshold screen are notified within 15 days of application submission. At this point, the first cut, eliminates ineligible proposals. It is important that staff is available to clarify minor issues that may influence passing or failing Threshold Criteria. Failure to respond to a criterion will automatically disqualify an application without clarification.

Threshold Criteria have remained basically unchanged over the last several funding cycles except alternative training during the COVID pandemic which will be discussed later. Here are the Threshold Criteria used in the FY21 RFA. Remember, every topic must be addressed completely without exceptions.

1. Organizations must be eligible to apply for the EWDJT program.

For entities other than cities, counties, tribes, or states, documentation needs to be submitted regarding the applicant’s eligibility to receive Federal support under EWDJT guidelines. Organizations may include nonprofits, trusts, organizations organized by governmental resolution, or statutes. They do not include for profit or proprietary organizations. Eligibility documentation becomes part of the attachments section and does not count against the 15-page limit.

2. Applicants must demonstrate that the EWDJT program will not duplicate other Federally funded environmental job training programs.

Applicants need to be careful on this criterion. While it is important that EWDJT grantees seek partnerships and leveraged resources, it is important that they identify why those resources do not duplicate funding provided by EWDJT. Example programs that support environmental related job training include the following.

- EPA’s Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI)
- EPA’s Environmental Justice Small Grants Program
- Studies, investigations, training, and special purpose activities relating to the Environmental Justice Grants Program
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program
- Department of Labor (DOL) grants that include brownfields remediation, renewable energy, HVAC, or other

energy-related training or wastewater treatment technology operator training

- Funding provided by Housing and Urban Development (HUD, Department of Energy (DOE), Health and Human Services (HHS), and
- Funding from other federal agencies providing brownfields related training

If an organization is or plans to receive funding for environmental training, they need to demonstrate how services under the proposed project will complement, but not duplicate, existing federal environmental job training activities. If the proposed target community is not a recipient of any federally funded environmental or “green job” training programs, a statement must be included as part of the threshold criteria.

Strategies used by applicants to demonstrate support but not duplication include the following.

- Identify different target groups. This may be by age, demographic, community, employment, or legal status.
- Identify different types of training and certifications offered. For example, air, wastewater operator, OSHA safety and construction (not qualified under EWDJT guidelines).
- When “Green job” awareness training programs are present in the target area, applicants can demonstrate how EWDJT certifications complement, and not duplicate, existing federal awareness and training programs.

3. HAZWOPER training is required as part of the core curriculum.

- All EWDJT programs must include OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER).

4. Proposals must not exceed \$200,000 for the three-year project.

- Applications may be less but not exceed the \$200K limit.

5. Page counts and formats must conform to guideline standards.

- Cover letters cannot exceed 3 pages.
- The narrative portion cannot exceed 15 pages.
- Attachments cannot exceed 15 pages.
- Requested forms are excluded in page counts.
- Single spacing and only one scanned image per attachment page will be accepted.

6. A curriculum chart with cost estimates for each course must be submitted

As part of the Threshold evaluation, applicants must submit a detailed training curriculum chart with associated costs for each training course. Information includes the following.

- Course name
- Level of training
- Type of certification
- Number of hours
- Start and end dates
- Number of time course is offered
- Training provider
- Cost of the course
- Percent of the grant budget

7. A target area must be identified.

Applicants must identify the target area they propose to serve.

- Target service areas identify a town or city, as well as neighborhoods or communities.
- Applicants cannot propose to serve multiple target areas.
- EPA will consider applications that propose to serve large areas, especially in rural communities, that may include several towns.

8. Funded proposals in the FY21 cohort are not eligible to apply for FY22 funding.

- Eighteen organizations receiving funding from EPA in FY21 are not eligible to apply under the FY22 competition.

- Twenty-six FY20 grantees will be eligible to apply.
- Previous unfunded grantees and new applicants will also be eligible for available funds.

9. Will alternative training plans be in this year's Threshold Criteria?

- Calendar year 2020 has been a difficult year for EWDJT grantees. Public health concerns required alternative training strategies and innovative approaches be included in the RFA.
- At this date, it is not certain that EPA will address innovative or alternative approaches to environmental workforce training.

With all the boxes checked, eligible EWDJT applications move forward to a structured, objective evaluation process.

Narrative - Maximizing Ranking Criteria point totals

Ranking Criteria screens applications eligible for funding to create a "short list" for further review. Applications with the highest scores combined with applications having additional considerations (Special Factors) will be recommended for funding. The number of grants awarded will depend on EWDJT budget allocations for FY22. That number is not usually released until awards are announced. As few as two points have made a difference in the funding "cutoff". To be among the top proposals, applicants need to focus on the following objectives.

- Seek every point possible.
- Leave no question unanswered.
- Answer each question independently.
- Do not assume evaluators know anything about your program. Many may not be familiar with EWDJT.
- Every response must stand on its own merit.
- Be as specific as possible when providing information.

- Be quantitative rather than subjective. Use numbers whenever possible.
- Include partner names and secure MOUs.
- Hold public meetings.
- Do not forget to involve the community.
- Engage city government.
- Never exclude the Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

Program coordinators and grant writers each have their own strategies for grant development. A suggested approach from successful applicants includes researching and gathering data for Ranking Criteria as a system. Address each topic area in depth and then use the body of research and data collected as a reference when responding to each request for information. This approach allows for a "deep dive" into all available information and avoids contradictory statements. Using a single grant writer supported by a support team, also provides continuity of presentation. HMTRI addresses the EWDJT system by relating Ranking Criteria to "Critical Issues" associated with successful EWDJT programs. The March issue of CONNECT News details the eight "Critical Issues" faced by EWDJT programs. Resolving "Critical Issues" first allows responding to Ranking Criteria in a way that addresses the goals and objectives of the EWDJT program. Here is a summary of eight "Critical Issues" HMTRI uses to address information requests presented for evaluation in the EPA RFA.

COMMUNITY AND LABOR MARKET ASSESSMENT

Community assessment and selection of a target community is one of the first issues confronting EWDJT program developers. Proper community assessment requires an appreciation of neighborhoods where student recruitment will focus.

Partnership development

Partnership building identifies partners required to fill resource gaps created by limited Federal support.

Leveraging for additional program support

EWDJT support is limited and can only be used for specific environmental training and placement. Applicants must demonstrate how they will fill the gaps created by limited EPA funding availability.

Student recruitment, screening, and assessment

Student screening must provide a transparent process for selecting the most deserving and likely to succeed participants.

Curriculum development

Core Curriculum, aside from HAZWOPER (OSHA 1910.120), needs to address employer needs identified as part of the labor market assessment.

Support services, life skills, remedial training, and student retention

Services and training other than environmental health and safety are not supported by EPA. This issue must be addressed with partnerships and leveraged resources.

Placement and tracking

Finding sustainable jobs for graduates in environmental technology is a responsibility of the EWDJT program. It should be considered as part of the program development process.

Program continuation and sustainability

Demonstrating a program is not a “one off” project requires strategic planning for program continuation.

FT21 Ranking Criteria points

Ranking Criteria Guidelines summarized and reformatted below represent requests for information totaling 109 points as part of the FY21 EWDJT RFA. It is likely that the FY22 RFA will have a similar structure and evaluation methodology.

1. COMMUNITY NEED (A total of 20 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it:

- Demonstrates a compelling picture of need in the community, and specifically, the identified target area.
- Makes a connection between the public health, welfare, environmental,

and/or economic challenges faced by the community and/or target area and the presence of brownfield sites and other cumulative environmental issues.

Specifically, this criterion will evaluate the quality and extent to which you clearly, concisely, and realistically address the community need criterion in your application considering the following items.

1.A. Community Description (10 points)

- The depth and degree of environmental and economic challenges confronting your city/town/geographic area and the specific area where you plan to serve. (3 points)
- The impact of current community challenges on residents and an explanation of how/why you selected your target area. (3 points)
- Demographic statistics provided compared to city, state, and/or national averages and how well they demonstrate a community indicative of need. (2 points)
- The extent to which the application seeks to serve target communities with high indicators of need such as high rates of unemployed individuals, dislocated workers, individuals laid off as a result of recent manufacturing plant closures, severely under-employed individuals or unemployed individuals, low income and minority residents of environmentally impacted communities, veterans, and individuals with little to no advanced education. (2 points)

1.B. Labor Market Demand (10 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- The depth and degree you conducted a labor market assessment to gain an understanding of the current job market in your target area. (3 points)
- The methods used to conduct your assessment. (3 points)

- The extent to which the labor market assessment resulted in an indication that your target area has the demand for a skilled environmental workforce your training program would provide. (2 points)
- The extent to which the results of your assessment were incorporated into the development of your application and training program curriculum. (2 points)

2. Training Program Description (A total of 10 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- The proposed training curriculum is comprehensive and realistic. (2 points)
- The training curriculum is structured to be of benefit to students and the community. (2 points)
- The training program incorporates sustainable practices. (2 points)
- The logic behind why the training curriculum was designed and structured the way it was. (2 points)
- How the certifications and knowledge gained by graduates of your program will help ensure successful employment. (2 points)

3. Budget (A total of 6 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- A clear and logical rationale for each cost included in the proposed budget for which EPA funds are intended to be used and all costs are accounted for and add up to the total requested funding amount. (3 points)
- A realistic basis for program costs and an efficient and effective use of EPA funds and the probability/likelihood the applicant will be able to execute the proposed training program within the cost parameters of the funding estimated, and a plan to expend funds

in a timely and effective manner. (3 points)

4. Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes (A total of 19 points)

Your application will be evaluated, as further described below, on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- Clear anticipated outputs and outcomes that meet the anticipated goals of this program (i.e., to place at least 70% of graduates in full-time employment).
- A comprehensive strategy to recruit and retain students.
- Resources available to students to ensure their successful completion of the program.
- The ability of the applicant to sustain this program once EPA funds are expended.
- Specifically, this criterion will evaluate the quality and extent to which you clearly, concisely, and realistically address this criterion in the application considering the following items.

4.A. Outputs and Outcomes (5 points)

- How appropriate and applicable your anticipated outputs and outcomes are to the training program described in the application? What is the quality of your plan to achieve your anticipated outputs and outcomes? How robust your plan is to track and evaluate your progress towards achieving these outputs and outcomes? How well your program goals are aligned with the outputs/outcomes and likelihood of program success? (5 points)

4.B. Recruitment and Screening (8 points)

- How the strategies and processes by which the applicant plans on recruiting residents from the target area demonstrates a likelihood for success. (2 points)

- The effectiveness of the processes the applicant will use to screen potential students and benchmarks they must pass in order to participate in the proposed program. (2 points)
- The robustness of these benchmarks in helping to ensure students are retained and finish the program successfully. (2 points)
- The accessibility of your program to your target populations, both geographically in terms of transportation and any costs they may incur to participate. (2 points)

4.C. Program Support (4 points)

- Support and resources that are secured to help ensure the proposed program will be able to place graduates in jobs. (2 points)
- The quality of the system in place to track graduates of the program and the length of time the applicant plans to track their graduates, and the number and quality of any hiring incentives the applicant plans on using to market graduates to employers and place them in jobs. (2 points)

4.D. Program Sustainability (2 Points)

- The quality and extent of the resources or partnerships that are acquired or entered into and the likelihood these will sustain the program once EPA funds are expended and the grant is closed. (2 points)

5. COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS (A total of 28 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- Actions or plans to effectively involve and inform residents, community groups, and employers from and around the target area in the development and/or execution of your training program.
 - Thoughtful integration of the needs of the community into the program and forged partnerships that will help enhance the success of students; and
 - Relevant roles of community organizations, local environmental entities, and employers and affirms their involvement to the program through commitment letters.
- Specifically, this criterion will evaluate the quality and extent to which you clearly, concisely, and realistically address the following in the application.

5.A . Collaboration with Entities Involved with Local Remediation Activities and Environmental Projects (8 points)

- The extent to which the applicant collaborates with entities performing environmental work in and around the target area including, but not limited to, brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund, cleanup, and area-wide planning grant recipients, Superfund site cleanup contractors, EPA-funded state or tribal regulated corrective action or landfill closure projects, recycling facility operators, or personnel from city-operated wastewater treatment facilities in your community. (2 points)
- The quality of the partnership(s) and benefits these partnerships may bring to your program and graduates. (2 points)
- The number and types of entities which have made commitments to support your program. (2 points)
- The quality and applicability of the information provided in letters of support from entities which have made any commitments, detailing the depth and degree to which they intend on being involved in your program. Letters of support provided in the attachments should be consistent with the

commitments or statements made within the Narrative. (2 points)

5.C. Employer Involvement (12 points)

- The extent to which the applicant collaborates with employers within or near the target area and, if applicable, any employer partnerships that have resulted in previous graduates of your job training program being hired. (3 points)
- The depth and degree of employer involvement in the design of your program including, but not limited to, meeting dates, advisory council participation, and curriculum development. (3 points)
- Level of involvement and commitment from employer partners that will enhance a graduate's chance of success including, but not limited to, commitments to interview students, hire graduates, provide on-the-job training, and/or mentoring. (3 points)
- The quality and applicability of the information provided in letters of support from employers who have made any commitments, detailing the depth and degree to which they intend to be involved in your program. Letters of support provided in the attachments should be consistent with the commitments or statements made within the Narrative. Commitments accompanied by letters of support affirming these commitments may garner more points. (3 points)

6. Leveraging (A total of 6 points)

Your application will be evaluated, on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- Additional funds, in-kind services, and or other resources, beyond EPA funds awarded, that will be obtained and used to support the proposed job training program. (2 points)

- The overall applicability and benefit these additional resources will bring to the program. (2 points)
- Whether the leveraged resources are firm (have already been committed or confirmed), or if they are an anticipated leveraged resource. Applications with firm leveraged funding and resources may garner more points. (2 points)

7. Programmatic Capability (Total of 20 points)

Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates:

- The ability of your organization to successfully manage and complete the project, considering your programmatic and administrative capacity.
- Successful performance under past and/or current federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements.
- Resolution of any audit findings; and
- A reasonable plan to track and measure project progress.

Specifically, this criterion will evaluate the quality and extent to which you clearly, concisely, and realistically address the following items in the application:

7.A. Grant Management System (4 points)

- How efficient and effective of a system the applicant has in place to manage and administer this grant, including information regarding a program manager or dedicated staff assigned to help run the proposed program. (2 points)
- If necessary, expertise is not readily available within your organization, the applicants plan for acquiring such expertise and ensuring experts have the necessary knowledge and experience demonstrating their qualifications. (2 points)

7.B. Organizational Experience (8 points)

- How efficient and effective your organization is at working with the local community of your proposed target area. (4 points)
- How efficient or effective your organization is at providing training and developing a local workforce. (4 points)

7.C. Audit Findings (2 points)

- Whether the applicant has any adverse audit findings, and if they do, how the applicant has corrected, or is correcting, the adverse audit findings and the likelihood that these findings will not continue to be a problem. (2 points)

7.D. Past Performance and Accomplishments (6 points)

In evaluating an applicant's response to this criterion, in addition to the information provided by the applicant, EPA may consider relevant information from other sources including information from EPA files and/or from other federal or non-federal grantors to verify or supplement information provided by the applicant.

Applicants never receiving any type of federal or non-federal assistance agreement

If the applicant has never received any type of federal or non-federal assistance agreement, they should provide a response to such effect. The applicant will receive a neutral score (3 points) for this criterion, however failure to respond to this criterion may result in zero points for this criterion.

Current or Past EPA EWDJT Grant Recipients

Demonstrated ability to successfully manage past EPA EWDJT or Brownfields Job Training Grant(s) and proven success throughout the different phases of work under the grant.

- Funds drawn down in a timely and appropriate manner; explanation of need for additional funds if you have an open grant with funds remaining. Provide information on whether you have been able to submit quarterly

reports in a timely manner as well as on going ACRES reporting. (3 points)

- Demonstration of success towards achieving expected results; proven compliance with the workplan, schedule, and terms and conditions. Provided accomplishment data that demonstrates success of program (or an explanation of issues encountered that may have hindered meeting program goals) including the number of individuals you trained and placed versus what goals were set in your approved workplan and your program's placement rate. (3 points)

Applicants who have Not Received an EPA EWDJT Grant

Recipient of Other Federal or Non-Federal Assistance Agreements Demonstrated ability to successfully manage federal or non-federal grant(s), and the performance of all phases of work under each grant.

- Demonstrated ability to successfully complete and comply with the workplan, including schedule, progress, grant/project goals, use of funds in timely and appropriate manner, and terms and conditions. (3 points)
- Demonstrated success in meeting and complying with reporting requirements, including quarterly reporting, technical reports, final reports, and data entry into required systems such as ACRES, as applicable. (3 points)

Other Factors

It is important to complete the Other Factors Checklist as part of the RFA's appendix. EPA's Selection Official may consider the following other factors, in addition to the evaluation results based on the criteria already discussed, in making final funding decisions.

- In their applications, applicants should provide a summary on whether and how any of these "other factors" apply to their EWDJT project.

- Applicants must also complete and submit the Other Factors Checklist and attach supporting documentation as needed, as described in Appendix 3, as part of their application submission. Failure to do so may affect EPA’s ability to consider these other factors during selection decisions. EPA may verify this information prior to selection and consider this information during the evaluation process.
- Fair distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas, including an equitable distribution of funds to “micro” communities (those communities with populations of 10,000 or less). EPA strongly encourages non-urban communities, including micro-communities, to apply.
- A balanced distribution of funds among EPA’s 10 Regions and among states and territories.
- Fair distribution of funds between new applicants and previous job training grant recipients; (“New” applicants are defined as organizations that have not received EPA brownfields job training grant funding since 2013.
- Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory or is an organization that will primarily serve tribal or territorial residents.
- Whether the applicant is located within or includes a county experiencing “persistent poverty” where 20% or more of its population lived in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.
- Applications that seek to serve veteran.
- Whether the applicant’s project is located in an IRS-designated Qualified Opportunity Zone.

Here are some sites that may be helpful in collection Other Factor information.

Federally recognized Indian Tribes

<https://www.bia.gov/about-us>

Income and Poverty Estimates.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html>

Opportunity Zones

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/businesses/opportunity-zones>

The FY22 EWDJT grant timeline

The FY22 grant cycle timeline depends on the RFA posting date, the final award date and date when awarded applicants are authorized to spend funds. The first two years focus on program development, training delivery and placement. A final year has been added for additional training, placement, tracking and program sustainability. A hypothetical schedule for those submitting FY22 applications is likely to change, but might look like the timeline presented below.

Late summer 2021- August, September

- EPA issues a Request for FY22 EWDJT Applications (RFAs).

Fall 2021 – September, October

- Applicants have 60 days to write and submit their applications.
- Proposals are submitted for threshold review.

Winter 2021

- Threshold and ranking criteria evaluations continue.

Spring 2022

- Depending on EPA budget allocations, programs are recommended for FY22 funding consideration.
- Successful and unfunded applicants are notified their program has been recommended or not recommended for funding.

Summer 2022

- Grant packages are sent to successful applicants.

- Award letters and acceptance by applicants are received.
- Work plans and grant administration is completed prior to final award.
- Funds available for training are released before September 31st.

Winter 2022- 2023

- Initial cohorts begin with program refinements, partnership development and placement continuing.
- Training and placement continue with progress reporting quarterly.
- Consideration regarding program expansion, improvement and sustainability continue.

2024

- Placement, funding development and program continuation is considered as the completion date of the grant approaches.

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Join Our Listserv

HMTRI is part of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and has provided environmental workforce development technical assistance since the inception of EPA's Brownfields Initiative.

CONNECT notes presented represent individual opinions and ideas from Professional Learning Community participants and EWDJT grantees. They do not represent EPA policy, guidance or opinions and should not be taken as such.

For more information on HMTRI technical assistance services or to be added to our Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv, please contact us at: HMTRI@eicc.edu.

