

July 24, 2020



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 22.

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
2. News from HMTRI
3. Questions from PLC participants
4. Status of EWDJT July 22nd, 2020
5. Curriculum development – Training that results in placement
6. EPA News at 50
7. EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients
8. Webinars and websites
9. Conferences, workshops and meetings
10. Funding and leveraging opportunities
11. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators
12. Join us on future Professional Learning Community calls

1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The FY21 Environmental Workforce Development RFA is still in final stages of review. Often RFAs are delayed and released without prior notice. We expect the FY21 announcement at any time. **EPA suggests everyone sign up for the [Brownfields listserv](#). That way they will receive information directly as soon as it is released.** HMTRI will also send out the RFA and scheduled EPA webinar when the news breaks. Again the EPA Brownfields Listserv is....

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/1PgxCiv/BrownfieldsListserv>

[2021 National Brownfields Training Conference](#)

EPA is going ahead with the next National Brownfields Training Conference. Offered every two years, the event will be held on April 26-30, 2021, in Oklahoma City. This conference is the largest gathering of stakeholders focused on cleaning up and reusing former commercial and industrial properties. EPA co-sponsors this event with the International City/County Management Association. EPA and ICMA are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and are adapting the in-person conference experience in consideration of participants' health and safety.

The [Call for Ideas](#) is now open. Please submit ideas for dynamic educational sessions in Oklahoma City that will motivate brownfields stakeholders to engage, learn, and share their experiences and knowledge of community revitalization challenges and solutions. HMTRI will be looking for grantees interested in a panel presentation – more on this later...

[Click here to see instructions for submitting your ideas.](#)

Please submit your ideas by August 24, 2020.

2. HMTRI NEWS

Registration Closing Soon ---- 2020 Annual All-Grantee Meeting

August 11 - August 13

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern

Virtually via Zoom

The virtual 2020 All-Grantee Meeting will be held August 11-13 from 12 – 3 p.m. eastern via Zoom. This meeting provides a unique opportunity to share a variety of approaches to Brownfields job training and workforce development. The focus of the meeting is for grantees to exchange information and ideas with each other and with EPA Regional/Headquarters representatives. The goal of the meeting is to assist every grantee and potential grantee to develop their best possible job training program. This meeting will be a mix of plenary and breakout sessions. Current, past and prospective grantees are invited including PLC members. To register, go to the following site.

- <https://brownfields-toolbox.org/2020-all-grantee-registration/>
- Select which sessions you would be interested in attending.
- See the draft talking points below to review session topics.
- There is no cost associated with this meeting.
- PLC members invited.

Breakout topics as a guide for session discussions

B1 – Regions 1-3 Breakout – Introductions - Expectations – Reporting – Communications – Current Regional Events – Regional Networking

B2 – Regions 4-7 Breakout – Introductions - Expectations – Reporting – Communications – Current Regional Events – Regional Networking

B3 – Regions 8-10 Breakout – Introductions - Expectations – Reporting – Communications – Current Regional Events – Regional Networking

B4 – Recruitment and Screening - Recruitment Strategies - Finding and recruiting students most likely to succeed - Student screening, assessment and testing - Student contracts and expectations - Covering the costs of assessment tests – Selecting the appropriate assessment tools – Student physicals – Working with diverse populations - Ex-offenders - Women - Youth – Other special populations – Working with educational and cultural disparities

B5 – Community and Labor Market Assessments - Enlarging the pool of potential employers – Types of labor market assessments - How to conduct a comprehensive labor market assessment – Locating remediation and PLA projects – Working with EPA assessment and cleanup grantees – Using EPA scanning tools - Community assessments – Working with City Hall – Identifying redevelopment contractors - Opportunity and EZ zones – Environmental justice considerations

B6 – Partnership Development - Partners and supporters that can sustain a workforce development program - Engaging partners effectively - Program supporters - Sub-grantees - Contractors and trainers as partners - Selection and recruitment of partners - Working with faith based and other nonprofits – Locating nonprofits with common interests – Nonprofits as sub-grantees

B7 – Graduation, Placement & Tracking - Employer and community participation - Keeping alumni engaged after graduation – Work study and internships – Employer incentives - Using employers as advisors and instructors – Graduates as employers and advocates - Employer attendance at social events

- Overcoming employment barriers - Expunging criminal records – Special employment programs - Surety bonds - Mitigating employer concerns - Drug testing prior to graduation

B8 – Curriculum & Training – General categories of EPA supported curriculum - Brownfields hazardous waste assessment and cleanup - Solid Waste Management or Cleanup - Superfund site cleanup and innovative and alternative treatment technologies - Wastewater treatment - Emergency planning, preparedness, and response - Enhanced environmental health and safety - Stormwater Management- Innovative approaches such as Green Infrastructure - Certification programs - Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – Popular course offerings within EPA supported categories - National and State certifications – Unsupported environmental training - Life skills training – Remedial education programs – Finding and vetting qualified training providers – Other leveraged supplemental training

B9 – Student Retention and Support Services - Remedial and life skills education – Sources of in-kind training – Student support services – Community service - Effective case management - Teambuilding strategies – Social events – Stipends – Scholarships – Work study programs – Community service projects – Pre apprenticeship programs – Student networking – Peer to peer coaching – Funding retention and student support services

B10 – Program Evaluation and Assessment - Learning from past mistakes - Program Evaluation instruments - types of evaluations – Using evaluations to improve program performance – Revising work plans – Preparing for the next grant proposal

B11 – Program Tune-up and Grant Writing Strategies - Preparing for the next grant proposal – Project management – Pre proposal preparations – Pre proposal partnership development - Grants.gov – Issues that lose evaluation points - Proposal tune ups and checklist

B12 – Substance Abuse and Other Program Landmines - Drug testing as an acceptance criteria- Random drug testing - Testing as a condition of graduation – Selecting the appropriate drug testing protocol – Rehabilitation programs – Harassment policies – Gender neutrality – Anger management – Attendance and tardiness - Critical issues that lead to program failure – Incomplete labor market assessments - Recruitment failures – Inadequate attention to participant needs-Revising work plans

B13 – Health and Safety for Program Managers - Mandatory training, Popular courses – Supplemental health and safety training – Recruiting and vetting qualified instructors - Working with OSHA – Training liability – Classroom safety - Recent developments - OSHA compliance for trainers - Training records - Participant physicals - Instructor credentials – Recent Developments and Proposed Regulations

B14 – Program Reporting & ACRES – ACRES overview and update - How is the data used – ACRES Issues- using ACRES -Questions

B15 –Leveraging with Partnerships – B6 Continued - Partnerships with organized labor – Fund raising events – In-kind assistance – Employer assistance – Local grants and foundation support – Private/public partnerships – Synergistic grant opportunities – Faith based and community support - Sources of in-kind support – MOUs and commitment agreements – Recruiting potential leveraging partners - Supplemental funding from program supporters

B16 – Working with WIBs & Service Organizations – Workforce Investment Boards - One-stops and social service agencies – Using WIBs to recruit, screen and place participants – Case management

opportunities – Working with health and human services agencies - Qualifying students for benefits – Leveraging social service opportunities – Identifying governmental agencies with common interests

B17 – Using Advisors and Employers Strategically – Establishing an Advisory Board - Recruiting Advisory Board members – Expectations of the Advisory Board - Using Advisory boards wisely – Developing employer relationships- Employer open house events - Using employers and advisors as instructors

B18 – NIEHS Worker Training Program & COVID-19 Resources – Introduction to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) - The NIEHS Worker Training Program – Professional development and training resources – COVID19 efforts and resources

B19 – Training Strategies in Era of COVID-19 – Techniques for keeping students interested and engaged - Training Facilities - Distance Learning Strategies – Digital Training Materials – Subdividing Training Cohorts –Training Requiring Close Contact – Preparing for program interruptions - Digital platforms - Classroom safety – Student screening – Technology in the classroom – Training configurations and student distancing – Self directed training – Working with training providers – Other public health considerations

B20 – Tips and Ideas for New Grantees – Selecting Advisory Boards – Staff Recruitment and Development – Labor market assessments – Student recruitment and screening - Critical Issues for Successful Program Development – Land mines and program killers

B21 – Community Awareness and Social Media - Social media strategies that work – working with faith-based organizations – Selling EWDJT to the community – Program marketing - Enlarging the pool of program applicants - Developing applicant awareness – Program marketing – Open house events – Current participants and alumni as ambassadors - Traditional media strategies – Social media platforms – Radio – Open house events – Formal presentations – Brochures and fact sheets – Effective websites

Again, to register and select your breakout sessions, go to the following site (Act now as sessions are filling fast)

<https://brownfields-toolbox.org/2020-all-grantee-registration/>

Interested in helping?

We are counting on your participation to make 2020 the best ever All Grantee Meeting.

Here are items we are collecting.

(1) Co-Facilitators for Breakout Sessions: As you can see from the topics guide, we are having twenty-one breakout sessions and we are recruiting two grantee representatives to help start breakout discussions.

(2) Student Experiences Attending an EWDJT Program: We are looking for examples of student experiences of what it's like to go through an EWDJT program, and what that experience has meant to

the individual going forward. Send your videos, emails, or photos to sfenton103@aol.com. Phone videos are welcome.

(3) Regional Coordinator Breakout Sessions: Do you have questions that you would like to have addressed in the regional coordinator breakout sessions?

(4) Video Tour of Programs: We will be showcasing EWDJT programs. A short, 5-10-minute video tour of your facility would be an excellent way to do so. Due to the ongoing concerns with COVID-19, if you have an existing video or YouTube posting, send it in to share. Phone videos are welcome. We would be delighted to show it. Even photos of your operation in lieu of a video would work as well.

Please respond by sending videos, photos and questions to Steven Fenton as soon as possible.

Email: sfenton103@aol.com

3. PLC QUESTIONS

"I expect, as with other grantees, the COVID-19 pandemic has messed up our training schedule, class sizes and curriculum. Do I need to get permission from EPA to make these changes? "

EPA Regional Coordinators are well aware of COVID-19 public health concerns, facility closures and their impact on EWDJT work plans. Our best advice is to contact your Regional Coordinator and keep them informed of recent developments and anticipated revisions to your work plan. Regional Coordinators will work with you as the pandemic continues. If you have not been in contact with them, contact information is presented in section 11.

Questions?

Still have unanswered questions? Send them to hkballou@eicc.edu.

4. STATUS OF EWDJT JULY 22ND, 2020

Anecdotal comments and observations from this week's PLC .

- EWDJT grantees associated with larger organizations (determined as essential) have been able to remain open during the closure of most training sites. Limited recruitment, screening and training continue.
- Facilities are beginning to open on a limited basis depending on local public health concerns and organizational policies.
- For the most part, program staff are continuing administrative operations including program planning, partnership communications, limited recruitment and placement activities.
- As of July 27th a PLC member has noted that they have been able to begin readiness training by reducing class size to 10 participants with temperature checks and social distancing.
- When class size is reduced, a second cohort of 10 participants follows allowing for a total of 20 participants per cycle.
- When training begins, orientation, remedial education and life skills appear to be delivered first.
- Weather permitting, social circles and limited instruction are being moved outdoors.
- EWDJT alumni are returning asking for placement assistance and the possibility of refresher training.

5. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT – TRAINING THAT RESULTS IN PLACEMENT

Training resulting in placement is highly dependent on a curriculum that incorporates employer needs, student engagement and quality instruction. In the case of the EPA environmental workforce program, it also includes motivated graduates seeking employment. Often those graduates need additional support and services not funded by EPA. Remedial education, life skills and workplace readiness need to be leveraged by contributing partners. In today's PLC we discussed a systematic approach to developing a core curriculum that will be responsive to both student and employer needs. The approach suggested is counter intuitive, beginning with employer needs assessments and working backwards to student recruitment and screening. Working backwards improves the likelihood that there will be jobs for program graduates. Here is a checklist (in systematic order) for establishing training resulting in placement.

- Determine employer needs first.
- Insure EPA will support training to address those needs.
- Establish the availability of qualified trainers.
- Recruit, screen and support students who will be successful.

Curriculum must address employer needs

EWDJT programs anticipate placement rates exceeding 70% with many successful grantees achieving 100% placement. Those achieving 100% are almost always providing training guided by employers and advisory boards (which include potential employers). Often successful grantees receive commitments from employers to interview program graduates even before cohorts begin. Those commitments are often included in RFA proposals. Employers are more than happy to provide their expectations of job applicants including skill and knowledge requirements. Their input should have a high degree of influence on the curriculum. As discussed in previous PLC sessions, labor market assessments need to begin early and continue throughout the program. Demand for workers with specific skill sets change over time depending on local economic conditions, local environmental issues, infrastructure improvements and remediation projects. As worker demands change, EWDJT curriculum must remain responsive and current. Frequent scans of potential employers can help insure that training is relevant and the curriculum is addressing topics that are consistent with workforce needs.

Curriculum must align with EPA's EWDJT funding priorities

A question is often asked. Why is the EWDJT program located in EPA rather than the Department of Labor where many training programs exist? The response relates to these basic issues.

- EWDJT is part of a broader mission in EPA to consider Environmental Justice as part of its primary mission.
- Environmental training specifically addresses a demand for trained certified workers needed in brownfield remediation. Training is specific to environmental remediation including the health and safety of those workers.
- EWDJT programs provide underserved and unemployed residents an opportunity to find environmental jobs in communities that have experienced environmental and economic hardship.

EWDJT cooperative agreements are made possible with grants from EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR). Additionally, to a lesser extent, they have been supported by other program offices including the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR), Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI), Center for Program Analysis (CPA), Innovation, Partnerships, and Communication Office (IPCO), Office of Water (OW), Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP), and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). As a result, the

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Program allows grantees to deliver a broader array of training in the environmental field besides the traditional brownfields hazardous waste and petroleum cleanup training historically provided. It is understandable that each program office would like to see training proportional to their support. The challenge for EWDJT applicants is to align their training, labor market assessment and program priorities with those of EPA. As of the last RFA, here are the program priorities which determined training EPA would support.

- Brownfields hazardous waste assessment and cleanup training, including petroleum cleanup training
- Solid Waste Management or Cleanup training
- Superfund site cleanup and innovative and alternative treatment technologies training
- Wastewater treatment training
- Emergency planning, preparedness, and response training
- Enhanced environmental health and safety training
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training
- Alternative energy technologies (e.g. solar installation training, training in the preparation of formerly contaminated sites for renewable energy purposes, etc.)

NOTE: this list of priorities and funding support may change when the FY21 RFA is issued.

For example, Office of Air and Radiation is not currently supporting EWDJT. While curriculum in this area may be in demand with employers ready to hire, it must be supported with leveraged funds from other grants or contributing partners. The same situation goes for life skills training, remedial education and student services.

Finding qualified trainers, certified curriculum and facilities

After determining employer needs and establishing EPA's ability to support training to meet those needs, it is important to find facilities, instructors and leveraged partners to deliver training. When or if grantees are unable to locate qualified instructors or training facilities, curriculum offerings will need to be adjusted. Ideas for securing facilities and instructors include the following.

- Trainers may need to be certified and capable of delivering instruction and certifications.
- Trainers are often available from a local college (as leveraged partners, sub grantees or contractors).
- Training can be provided by another governmental program willing to contribute unsupported training or services.
- Facilities may be contributed by local governmental agency or social service organization.
- Trainers may be employed as consultants or contractors providing "fee for service" instruction.
- Instructors must be available per the proposed training schedule.
- Potential employers may donate facilities, equipment and instructors as leveraged partners.
- Community stakeholders often provide facilities and services to local nonprofits.

Training must be appropriate for program participants

The final consideration in aligning employer needs with curriculum is insuring that participants are able, interested and motivated to absorb the subject matter. When any of these attributes are lacking, retention rates soar and employers recognize the lack of enthusiasm during job interviews. Participant recruitment and screening is the final input when establishing a training curriculum. Should grantees

recruit and screen to the complexity of the curriculum or should they adjust the curriculum to the target participant population? Either way the following issues should be considered.

- Educational background, skill and knowledge base needed to complete training.
- Availability of remedial education programs when skills are not sufficient.
- Local and transportation issues associated with attending training.
- Physical abilities needed to successfully complete the curriculum.
- Length and depth of training required to secure employment.
- Availability of social services to support a successful completion of the curriculum.

Life skills training and student services must be supported by leveraged sources

While essential to successful workforce development programs, life skills training and student services are not supported by EWDJT and must be provided with leveraged sources. Life skills and social services are major critical issues into themselves. We will discuss those issues in a future PLC session.

Training that results in placement

- Working backwards from labor market assessment to student recruitment increases the likelihood of placement.
- Curriculum should be driven by employer needs first then other factors need to be considered.
- Training must conform to environmental priorities of program offices that support EWDJT.
- Only assessment, remediation, cleanup, health and safety training is supported by EPA.
- Life skills training and student services are essential but must be supported with leveraged funding.
- Curriculum should consider training that will result in high retention with placement rates exceeding 70%.
- Recruitment and screening applicants who can be successful is will “make or break” an EWDJT program.

6. EPA AT 50

Transforming and Revitalizing Communities by Cleaning Up Brownfields

This week, as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) 50th anniversary commemoration, EPA’s Office of Land and Emergency Management is highlighting the agency’s Brownfields program and successes in revitalizing underserved and economically disadvantaged communities.

Since October of 2016, EPA has funded the assessment of 6,572 properties, and cleanup at 638 properties, and made 2,900 properties ready for anticipated reuse. Over this same period, more than 43,000 jobs were leveraged as a result of Brownfields actions.

EPA recently announced the selection of 155 grants for communities and tribes totaling over \$65.6 million in EPA Brownfields funding through the agency’s Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup Grant Programs. One hundred and eighteen (118) of the communities and tribes selected can potentially assess or clean up brownfield sites in census tracts designated as federal Opportunity Zones.

“Without redevelopment opportunities, urban and rural communities – even those with deep historic roots – can eventually wither,” said OLEM Assistant Administrator Peter Wright. “Brownfields

remediation and revitalization supports communities by investing in the redevelopment of existing properties in the community.”

Since EPA’s Brownfields Program began in 1995, it has provided nearly \$1.6 billion in Brownfield funding to assess and clean up contaminated properties and return blighted properties to productive reuse. EPA’s Brownfields funding has leveraged more than \$32.6 billion in cleanup and redevelopment from both public and private sources, which in turn has produced more than 167,000 jobs. This is an average of nine jobs per \$100,000 of EPA investment and more than \$17 in private funding for each dollar of EPA Brownfield grant funding. For example, Brownfields grants have been shown to:

Increase Local Tax Revenue: A study of 48 Brownfields sites found that an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional local tax revenue was generated in a single year after cleanup. This is two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to the cleanup of these sites.

Increase Residential Property Values: Another study found that property values of homes near revitalized Brownfields sites increased between 5 and 15 percent following cleanup. For the latest information on what’s happening as “Cleaning Up America’s Land” month continues, follow EPA on Twitter.

EPA on Twitter:

[@EPALand](https://twitter.com/EPALand)

For more on EPA’s 50th Anniversary and how the agency is protecting America’s waters, land and air, visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/50>

Follow EPA on social media:

[#EPAat50](https://twitter.com/EPAat50).

7. EPA GRANTS MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS

This online training course is designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of the entire grant life cycle, from preparation of an application through grant closeout. Throughout this training, the term grant is used as a general term to refer to both grants and cooperative agreements.

The course is divided into separate modules that can be completed individually. Each module includes knowledge checks to verify your understanding of key concepts. If you need to leave a module, the last slide to be completed will be saved, and you will be able to return to that location later. Upon completion, you will be prompted to generate a downloadable certificate of completion.

Module 1

Provides a foundation for understanding how EPA uses grants to achieve its mission, including the types of assistance agreements used by EPA and the phases of the grant lifecycle.

Approximately 45 minutes /

[Launch](#)



Module 2

Covers EPA's requirements for demonstrating financial management system and internal controls capability and EPA grants management policies and procedures, which can help identify potential areas of weakness.

Approximately 90 minutes

[Launch](#)



Module 3

Includes an overview of how to find grant opportunities, how to prepare and submit a grant application and budget, and the EPA's process for evaluating applications and notifying applicants.

Approximately 60 minutes /

[Launch](#)



Module 4

Describes the process and procedures for accepting an EPA grant award, from the initial notification to the procedures for reviewing and accepting the award documents.

Approximately 30 minutes

[Launch](#)



Module 5

Provides guidelines and information about managing an EPA grant in accordance with EPA's grant regulations and the terms and conditions of the award.

Approximately 60 minutes

[Launch](#)



Module 6

Reviews guidelines and information about closing out an EPA grant in accordance with EPA's grant regulations and the terms and conditions of the award.

Approximately 60 minutes

[Launch](#)

Additional support and resources regarding EPA grants management

[EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#): This online training course is designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of the entire grant life cycle, from preparation of an application through grant closeout.

[Grants.gov Workspace Training for Grant Applicants and Recipients](#): Beginning January 1, 2018 all grant applicants must use Workspace to submit applications through Grants.gov. EPA is hosting a Grants.gov-led session that will provide training and a demonstration on Workspace. No registration is required.

[EPA Subaward Training for EPA Assistance Agreement Recipients](#): This optional training is intended to assist EPA assistance agreement recipients to understand Subawards and their responsibilities for oversight. It includes helpful tools to assist with determining the differences between subawards and contracts, and assists recipients with finding helpful resources.

[Understanding EPA's Nondiscrimination Statutes & Regulations](#): EPA's Office of Civil Rights has prepared this on-line training course to help applicants for and recipients of EPA financial assistance comply with EPA's nondiscrimination requirements under federal law. The course is also aimed to increase the public's understanding of EPA's nondiscrimination regulations and statutes.

[EPA Grants Award Process Webinar](#)

[SAM.gov Grantee Account Migration Webinar](#)

[Grants.gov Informational Session and Consultation Sessions for Tribes](#)

8. WEBINARS AND WEBSITES

NIEHS WTP Essential and Returning Worker Online Training Course

Now Available

As workplaces reopen, workers and employers are safeguarding against COVID-19. Vivid Learning Systems designed an online version of the NIEHS WTP Essential and Returning Worker Training course,

which is now available from Vivid Learning Systems. This training includes an Introduction and modules on Assessing Exposure Risk to SARS CoV-2, Workplace Exposure Prevention, Cleaning and Disinfections, and Resilience. Access to this course is free of charge.

[Vivid Learning System LMS](#)

9. CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

[2020 Georgia Environmental Conference](#)

August 26-28, 2020

Jekyll Island, GA

The Annual Georgia Environmental Conference is the largest and most comprehensive professional environmental education conference serving Georgia and the Southeast region – across the public and private sectors.

Mission: To meaningfully and significantly present Georgia Environmental Conference's diverse slate of topics and featured speakers focusing on providing fresh, new, high value, well-balanced, diverse, and relevant educational content with a positive impact on current and future practitioners and the environment of Georgia and the Southeast region.

The Conference hosts an elite group of environmental professionals seeking knowledge and sharing ideas around environmental concerns in Georgia and the Southeast region. GEC anticipates an estimated 700 attendees, including Attorneys, Consultants, Engineers, Business, Industry, Federal, State, and Local Government Officials, Planners and Developers, Landowners and many, many others with a strong interest in environmental programs in Georgia and the Southeast. Sponsorships enable more diverse groups and individuals to participate at the Annual Georgia Environmental Conference. Through continued participation in this program, we may continue to offer course registration fees far below that charged for comparable events and learning opportunities, while providing a top-notch Conference experience.

[The WV Brownfields Conference](#)

September 15-17

Huntington, WV

The WV Brownfields Conference & Main Street/ON TRAC Training is West Virginia's premier redevelopment event that combines educational programs with networking opportunities between communities, local governments, development professionals, and service providers. The conference features expert panels, interactive workshops, technical training, and project case studies.

The Conference Planning Committee is currently seeking mobile workshop and breakout session ideas to fill limited slots for the 2020 Conference in Huntington, WV on September 15-17. We are looking for session ideas focused on downtown development, remediation and site preparation strategies, re-use planning approaches, and redevelopment funding opportunities. Creative session formats, such as town hall or roundtable discussions and interactive workshops, as well as traditional panel presentations, are encouraged.

[The 6th Annual GBA Brownfield Seminar](#)

Full-day conference at Georgia Power

Monday, Oct. 19, 2020

Join us Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 for the sixth annual Brownfield Seminar. We are planning to present the same great event we had planned before coronavirus (COVID-19) rearranged all of our lives and schedules, in its originally planned format, as a full-day conference at Georgia Power. Those who submitted abstracts - thank you, we will be in touch with you directly regarding your submission.

[Registration](#) is open and sponsorships are still available! If you're already registered, don't worry - we have transferred your registration to the new event date on Oct. 19, 2020.

[The 2020 Florida & Alabama Brownfields Conference](#)

October 25-28

Pensacola, FL

The first-ever joint Florida & Alabama Brownfields Conference will be co-hosted by the Florida Brownfields Association and the Alabama Brownfields Association.

Hosted at the historic Pensacola Grand Hotel, just a short walk to the renowned redevelopment successes in downtown Pensacola. Join us for this unique opportunity to connect with Brownfields leaders, visionaries, and stakeholders from two states. The 2020 conference will be held at the historic Pensacola Grand Hotel, located on the site of the Louisville and Nashville passenger depot constructed in 1912, replacing the 1882 vintage L&N Union Station -- now preserved, redeveloped, and listed on the National Historic Registry.

[The 26th Florida Remediation Conference & Exhibition](#) (FRC 2020)

November 4-6, 2020

Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate

Champions Gate (Orlando), Florida

The Florida Remediation Conference (FRC) is one of the premier soil, air and water remediation conferences of the year. Though FRC started out as a Florida-centric event 25 years ago, it has developed a solid reputation for fostering the remediation and redevelopment industries across the Southeast. FRC attracts over 600 attendees comprised of a mix of industry representatives, developers, consultants and contractors, and over 100 exhibitors and sponsors from across the country. The Florida Remediation Conference & Exhibition is requesting individuals that have an interest in presenting an oral or poster presentation at the 26th annual event which will take place on November 4-6, 2020.

[National Brownfields Conference](#)

April 27-30, 2021

Oklahoma City, OK

The National Brownfields Training Conference is the largest event in the nation focused on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Held every two years, the National Brownfields Conference attracts over 2,000 stakeholders in brownfields redevelopment and cleanup to share knowledge about sustainable reuse and celebrate the EPA brownfields program's success. Whether you're a newcomer or a seasoned professional, Brownfields 2021 offers something for you!

9. FUNDING AND LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES

[FY 2021 Supporting Equitable Development and Environmental Justice in Brownfields Communities Grant Guidelines](#)

Submission deadline - September, 21, 2020

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, to provide direct technical assistance to communities nationwide on the integration of environmental justice and equitable development when developing solutions to brownfields cleanup and revitalization challenges. EPA anticipates awarding one grant for an estimated \$600,000. The award is anticipated to be funded incrementally on an annual basis over three years, at approximately \$200,000 per year. The application submission deadline is September, 21, 2020.

See additional details on the [FY 2021 Brownfields Training, Research and Technical Assistance solicitation page](#) and apply at www.grants.gov.

Outreach Webinar

Monday,

August 3, 2020

12:00 to 2:00 pm EDT

EPA will host an outreach webinar for prospective applicants. A recording of the live webinar will be made available on the [solicitation page](#).

Webinar Access information:

Adobe Connect link: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/fy21edej/>

Conference number: 1-866-299-3188

Participant code: 202-566-1817

National Science Foundation—Civic Innovation Challenge

Stage 1 - \$50,000

Stage 1 proposals are due August 3, 2020

Stage 2 - \$1,000,000

CIVIC is organized as a two-stage competition with two tracks centered around the following topic areas: Track A: Communities and Mobility: Offering Better Mobility Options to Solve the Spatial Mismatch Between Housing Affordability and Jobs; and Track B. Resilience to Natural Disasters: Equipping Communities for Greater Preparedness and Resilience to Natural Disasters.

Eligible Entities: Communities in partnership with local, state, or tribal government officials; non-profit representatives; community organizers or advocates; community service providers; and/or others working to improve their communities

Stage 1 proposals are due August 3, 2020

[More Information.](#)

Superfund Research Program

Occupational Health and Safety Education Programs on Emerging Technologies

Proposals due: Aug. 3, 2020

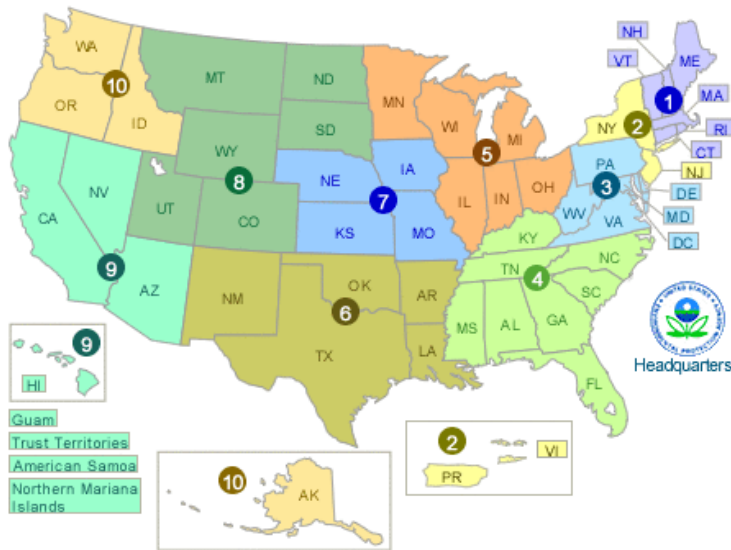
The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. The deadline to apply is Aug. 3 by 5:00 p.m. local time. Go to:

[NIEHS Grants](#) 

11. EPA REGIONAL JOB TRAINING COORDINATORS

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about EWDJT grants, extensions, budgets or work plans. For those thinking of submitting an application for FY21 funding, check in to express your intentions. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current and potential grantees. It is important to be on their contact list for conference calls and newsletters.

EPA Region 1 Myra Schwartz	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Phone: (617) 918-1696 E-mail: schwartz.myra@epa.gov
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Map of EPA Regions

Credit: [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov)

12. JOIN US ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALLS

Upcoming PLC calls

- August 5

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the brownfields-toolbox.org.

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. For questions or to be placed on the PLC register, send your contact information to hkballou@eicc.edu.

Visit our [HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox](https://brownfields-toolbox.org) 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.

