

March 18, 2020

## Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 22, Session 4.

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 participants
3. Grantee News
4. FYI - COVID-19 Resources
5. Distance learning and remote collaboration tools
6. Webinars and presentation PowerPoints
7. Training and professional development
8. Conferences, workshops, and meetings
9. Funding and leveraging opportunities
10. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators
11. Join us on future Professional Learning Community calls

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

#### **EPA Happenings:**

EPA HQ would like to express their thoughts that all the grantees and trainees stay safe at this time. This really is a day-by-day situation. Grantees should work with their regional project officers if they have any questions about the status of their grants and the timing to hold classes in light of the current pandemic. In general, it is advised that you follow what is going on in your state, local jurisdiction, or college. As with local organizations, HQ is tracking and assessing COVID-19 developments on a daily basis. Regional Coordinators are working remotely and available to address questions and concerns from EWDJT grantees (See section 10).

#### **HMTRI News:**

Amidst the disruption and uncertainty related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), HMTRI will remain available to share information among grantees, EPA headquarters and Regional Coordinators. A primary role of HMTRI is to promote and share ideas among those interested in establishing community based environmental job training programs. The PLC will continue on its bi-weekly schedule (same time and call in procedures). Our objective is to allow participants to stay in touch with EWDJT happenings, ask questions and allow grantees to showcase their programs. Ideas presented in our communications represent individual opinions. They do not represent EPA, state, local, or organizational policy.

Information presented should not be taken as such. Refer to the CDC or local Department of Health for up-to-date information on the COVID-19 virus.

**Note:** because of heavy call in volume, some PLC participants were receiving busy signals to get in this week's call. If you have difficulty on future calls, retry calling 5 minutes before or after the start time.

For those who have recently joined the PLC, EPA is planning an FY21 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Request for Proposals (RFP) in early summer. Details have not been finalized. If this schedule holds, the FY21 EWDJT grant cycle may be similar to the FY20 cycle. For those interested in seeing what the Request for Proposals might look like, go to the FY20 RFP, EPA outreach webinar and FAQs at the sites listed below.

- [\*\*FY 2020 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) Grant FAQs \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*FY 2020 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) Grants RFP \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*FY20 EWDJT Outreach Webinar \(PDF\)\*\*](#)

In future PLC sessions, we will be discussing strategies successful grantees have used when developing and delivering EWDJT programs. Our next PLC call, April 1<sup>st</sup>, will address the assessment of "Community Need" in addition to grantee updates on coping with COVID-19.

### **2020 EWDJT Annual All-Grantee Meeting**

**August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Holiday Inn Old Town, Alexandria, VA**

The Annual All-Grantee Meeting is open to PLC members, past and current EWDJT grantees, and will be attended by EPA Headquarters Staff in addition to EWDJT Regional Coordinators. This workshop consists of two full days of group networking and breakout sessions addressing issues associated with the development, operation and sustainability of community environmental workforce training programs. Lodging costs for three nights will be provided, with travel on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation and supplemental expenses.

### **All Grantee Meeting in the era of COVID-19**

If you are interested in attending the Annual All-Grantee Meeting, we suggest the following approach.

1. Complete the HMTRI invitation and registration form emailed to PLC members. If you did not receive one, please contact Heather at [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu) .
2. Make hotel reservations for the Holiday in Old Town, Alexandria, VA (see instructions below). They will ask for a credit card number at the time of reservation for incidentals. This is a reservation guarantee only and no charges will be placed on the card.

**Note:** Hotel reservations are easily canceled with no penalties.

At a future date, if you are unable to attend, cancel before the final cut-off date with no charges or penalties. This approach will reserve you a seat at the workshop with no cost or final commitment.

Hold off on travel arrangements for now. Everyone will likely have much better clarity on their travel situation by July.

### **Two ways to make hotel reservations**

#### **By phone**

Call (1-800-972-3159) an operator will ask the town, hotel and dates of the stay (Alexandria, VA, August 11<sup>th</sup> for three nights, Holiday Inn in Old Town). You should also reference the group code, HMT, or mention "HMTRI" or "HMTRI All-Grantee Meeting". All-Grantee Meeting participants have a choice of king or two queen size beds. Either will be \$139 (our block rate.) An estimated price of \$480.46 will appear on the confirmation. HMTRI will be covering this charge directly with the hotel and will not be charged to your card.

They will ask for a credit card number at the time of reservation for incidentals. This is a guarantee only and again no charges will be placed on the card. After providing them with an email, they will send you a reservation confirmation.

#### **By website**

Go to the booking link: [\*\*Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute\*\*](#)

A reservation form will pop up and you will see "HMT" in the Group Code. You are in the right place. When you complete the registration process you will go to a page that will have "Hazardous Materials" on it. Submit your reservation and receive an email confirmation.

Anyone with questions about the All-Grantee Meeting or having trouble making reservations  
Contact Heather at [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu)

## **2. PLC QUESTIONS**

I am checking in at this time to find out if there is any word on how headquarters wants us to deal with the corona outbreak? We want to make sure we know what EPA headquarters has to say about JT funding and how they want us to deal locally, if they have any thoughts.

*As previously noted, local conditions, policies, and guidance will determine how your organization responds to this rapidly changing pandemic. If you have any questions regarding work plans, progress reports, or project budgeting, contact your Regional Coordinator. Project Coordinators are working remotely responding to emails. Most have already been in touch with grantees in their Region. On EWDJT grant issues, your first point of contact is your EPA Regional Coordinator (see section 10 for contact information).*

#### **Questions?**

Still have unanswered questions? Send them to [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

### **3. GRANTEE NEWS**

Today we heard from experienced EWDJT grantees to see how they were responding the COVID-19 pandemic. While Coronavirus has spread across the entire country, each state and local organization is handling the crisis in their own way based on current conditions and guidance. As of today, most EWDJT programs have temporally put training on hold with some continuing remotely by phone or internet. As COVID-19 works its way thru the economy, HMTRI will share experiences and strategies used by EWDJT grantees in addressing their crisis. In today's PLC we asked two grantees to share their story followed with input from other participants on the call. Also included is a letter from one of our grantees to all community stakeholders regarding the current status of their program.

#### **Santa Fe CC**

##### **"Topic 1: Responding to COVID-19 – Employers looking for certified HAZWOPER workers**

I've spent the past five days assisting larger environmental companies in my area locate trained workers to deploy to decontamination sites across the country. The process is complicated but we've located in three days two people willing to deploy. (Most of my grads are employed.) The local companies didn't want me to contact the other job training sites (yet) to locate grads because of the difficulties of interviewing, medical screening, and employment requirements. However, I will encourage other Project Managers to contact local large employers who might need decontaminate activities.

##### **Topic 2: Use of tablets and digital learning methods. – Costs and benefits**

The major advantages to using tablets are time and money.

**Costs:** We spent (in previous grant) approximately \$350 per student for notebooks, copies for materials for 11-13 certifications. That was approximately \$21,000 for three cohorts of 20 people. It also took about 110 hours of time to compile the notebooks (approximately \$4,500 of staff time). Total costs were about \$25,500 or 12% of the grant.

We only spent \$3600 for tablets for all three cohorts which was only 1.7% of the grant. And, it only took about 10 hours over all three cohorts to get, pass out, and train folks in using the tablets...a significant time savings.

**Benefits:** Tablets gave all trainees email access to keep in touch, training materials were distributed easily, changes could be made in training materials quickly, and we could demonstrate some computer skills when employees used the email and file management associated with tablets. Students also used tablets to take pictures, locate information, share files, and communicate with each other. (Yes, they also found games, music and videos but only had issues with 2 or 3 individuals using tablets inappropriately during class.)"

#### **Janet Kerley**

Santa Fe Community College

[janet.kerley@sfcc.edu](mailto:janet.kerley@sfcc.edu)

## **Auberle**

### **"Regarding virtual recruitment - here are our steps:**

Auberle has a referral partner list of over 80 organizations and programs across Allegheny County-many of whom we are in daily contact with via email outside of COVID19 including Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, Department of Human Services, Partner4Work (our workforce investment board), municipalities/local government and Auberle's own 412 Youth Zone, which is the center for all homeless young people and young people aging out of foster care in Allegheny County.

All Employment Institute Case Managers and 412 Youth Zone Youth Coaches are required to check in with their clients weekly during social distancing, this is over 2,000 individuals that Coaches and Employment Institute case managers are communicating with and serves as a great recruitment pool.

Virtual recruitment would begin with these agencies via e-blasts and phone calls. Perhaps we would host a webinar/conference call for clients or referral partners who want to hear about our Environmental Training program. We would also target social media recruitment.

### **Virtual Screening:**

- Receive all vital documents via a secure server (Microsoft encryption)
- Complete program application via phone with clients, get signatures in person at a later time. Or if client has the ability, send application to them via email for e-signature.
- Required completion of (aspects) of Mental Toughness (our screening process) virtually, led by Jake:
  - Complete resume and mock interview via phone with Jake
  - Required to research 5 jobs they'd like to apply to and why
  - Conference calls each day for JumpStart success topics (our soft skills curriculum)
  - Complete OSHA 10 online
  - Conference call with employer partners for employers to virtually meet prospective employees
  - SimCoach Games life skill game, download and play on your own.
  - Required follow up conversation with Jake on what was learned.

We are hopeful that COVID19 will pass by August 2020, when our training is scheduled. As you guys know, they would be required to complete our Environmental Training certifications (HAWOPER, Lead, Asbestos, Confined Space, First Aid/CPR) in person."

## **Abby Wolensky**

Deputy Director, Employment Institute - Auberle

[www.auberle.org](http://www.auberle.org)

### **A letter to stakeholders ----ECA AND COVID-19**

"As everyone is aware, we are encountering a worldwide pandemic in regard to the COVID-19 Coronavirus disease. Here at ECA, we have taken steps to minimize the likelihood of contamination by

regularly cleaning door handles, handrails and all commonly touched surfaces with Micro-Ban disinfectant spray. Additionally, we have placed two dozen hand sanitizing stations throughout the building.

Our staff of instructors and administrators are on high alert for any person that is showing signs of flu-like symptoms. We are not assuming that every cough and sniffle may be a confirmation of infection but at the same time we will advise the potentially infected individual, if the symptoms are accompanied by a high fever, to contact a medical professional.

In regard to our field operations, we continue to serve our clients and provide the services that we deliver for our funders. Given the number of homes that ECA gets into a daily basis, there is a high likelihood that we will need to curtail these services in the future. For the time being, our field personnel are taking every precaution possible to avoid any possible contamination short of not going into the residence. Given the unprecedented nature of this matter, things can change very quickly.

ECA will follow the lead of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They provide up-to-date, reliable information on coronavirus as the situation unfolds. As the expression goes, we are hoping for the best and preparing for the worst. Thank you in advance for your understanding and although things are changing daily, at this point we are planning to continue to provide our regular training at ECA. We will keep you informed if circumstances change.”

Steve Luxton  
CEO, ECA

Thanks go out to Janet, Abby, and Steve for sharing their experiences. In future PLC calls, we will continue to provide stories from the field. If you have an experience we can share with other PLC members, please send them to Heather at [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

#### **4. FYI – COVID-19 RESOURCES**

As previously noted, operation of EWDJT programs come from organization policy, state, and local guidance and from personal judgement. Issues concerning EWDJT grant performance, work plans, budgets, and schedules should be coordinated with EPA Regional Coordinators.

##### **CDC Coronavirus Online Resources**

For information about coronavirus, including risk assessments or travel, visit the CDC website [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

CDC works 24/7 to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and domestic. CDC provides email updates including the following:

- Detailed information on CDC's public health work
- Sign up for CDC.gov email updates

- Mitigation strategies and treatment
- Review current policies and regulations
- Search frequently asked questions
- Get statistics on over 500 cities
- Subscribe to numerous other health related newsletters

**Key CDC Links to Learn More About COVID-19:**

- [Key Facts about COVID-19](#)
- [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
- [How to Prepare for COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Risk Assessment by Country](#)

**State and local online resources**

For statewide information about coronavirus and COVID-19, state health and human services departments are likely to have the most current information. In North Carolina, for example the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.gov website has extensive current information locally. Perform a web search on your state and the department of health or health and human services for links to local current conditions.

**World Health Organization - WHO resources**

To get a world perspective on coronavirus and COVID-19, go to WHO International. WHO provides current conditions across the globe with WHO guidance and resources, go to [COVID-19](#).

**5. DISTANCE LEARNING AND REMOTE COLLABORATION TOOLS**

TechSoup is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting other nonprofits in the acquisition and use of technology. Once a nonprofit organization has been accepted, numerous resources are made available free or at reduced costs from major contributors including Microsoft, Adobe, Dell and GOOGLE.

TechSoup offers a range of services to help nonprofits better implement and manage their technology. From emergency tech support to strategic planning to fully managed IT services. Offerings are designed to meet the needs of all types of organizations. For more information go to:

<https://www.techsoup.org/services>

EWDJT grantees may find the following article from Cameron Jones at Techsoup on March 6, 2020 useful when exploring distance learning, classroom instruction and workplace tools.

“As the number of [COVID-19](#) cases continues to rise in the communities where we live and serve, organizations are encouraging their staff to work remotely if possible. While a planned transition to a remote workforce would typically be staged over time, one may need to be implemented quickly in this scenario. Because the current situation with COVID-19 is changing so rapidly, the resources we’re

providing below (most of which are free) are options that can be implemented relatively quickly, with little to no external IT support needed to do so and with a focus on remote communications and information sharing solutions.

Of course, there are many types of nonprofits that are not able to implement work-from-home policies due to the nature of their work, including museums, shelters, and health care providers. But if you are part of an organization that is able to continue to operate if your staff are all working remotely from home, we hope that what follows is of use to your nonprofit.

### **Communications Solutions for Staff Working Remotely**

Most organizations are now working with email that is hosted in the cloud, including Office 365, Gmail, or email hosted by your Internet service provider. If you are using either [Office 365 Nonprofit](#) or [G Suite for Nonprofits](#), you are really well set up to work remotely already. Both solutions have great communication and collaboration features that you may just need to activate.

#### **Office 365 Users**

[Teams](#) is included with all Office 365 Business and Enterprise licenses and can be used to

- Collaborate on documents
- Share files
- Chat with team members or specific groups
- Host meetings
- Create channels to house specific workgroups — which can include document storage, chat functionality, and shared notes

If you want to know more about Teams and how to set it up and use it, TechSoup Courses has two trainings on how to use Microsoft Teams at our [Digital Skills Center](#):

- [Introduction to Microsoft Teams](#)
- [Using Advanced Functions in Microsoft Teams](#)

Microsoft also recently published a [blog post](#) on using Teams during these challenging times.

#### **G Suite for Nonprofits Users**

If you're already using the Nonprofit G Suite Basic, Google has just announced that it is making [Google Hangouts Meet's premium functionality available for free until July 1](#). This includes the ability to host virtual meetings for up to 250 people and live-streaming for up to 100,000 viewers for free.

Options for Nonusers of Office 365 or G Suite That Are Quick and Easy to Set Up

#### **Zoom**

[Zoom](#) is a video and audio conferencing platform that enables both simple online meetings and group messaging. Staff can participate in Zoom meetings from both mobile devices and laptop or desktop computers. [Here's a blog post](#) on some helpful tips and tricks for getting the most out of Zoom for your organization.

## **Workplace**

[Workplace](#) from Facebook is another great option that's free to nonprofits. It's sort of like an internal Facebook just for you and your employees and volunteers, but it's on a separate application from your personal Facebook accounts. Workplace is designed to help teams communicate, share, and make decisions together in a secure and private space online that's independent of whatever other platforms you use for email and document storage. [Here's a recent blog post](#) from the folks at Workplace that highlights how this tool can be used to stay connected during the COVID-19 outbreak

## **Slack**

[Slack](#) is a popular communications tool that helps keep your organization connected via direct and group messages along with "channels" that can be used to centralize discussions on specific topics. A free version of its Standard Plan is available to organizations with fewer than 250 employees.

## **Team Viewer**

[TeamViewer](#) is another option for organizations with distributed staff. It can be used by your IT staff to remotely manage devices (whether laptops or IoT devices) or by your staff to collaborate among themselves using the video conferencing and online collaboration features. [Setup support resources](#) can be found directly through TeamViewer.

We're aware that not everyone has Internet access at home, and for staff that need to work remotely where they don't have an easy Internet connection, [Mobile Beacon](#) offers wireless hotspots that can connect up to 10 Wi-Fi-enabled computers or other devices to the Internet through Mobile Beacon's 4G LTE mobile broadband network. And because they can be shared or used by different staff anywhere, anytime, they offer great flexibility for staff on the move.

## **Document Management and Collaboration for Remote Work**

Working with remote staff is also about being able to easily share and co-edit documents in real time, which can be critical to getting projects done or grant proposals out the door. Again, if you already have Office 365 or Google for Nonprofits, those solutions have document storage and collaboration tools built in, and you'll just need to activate them.

## **Office 365 Users**

Office 365 comes with many options for cloud document storage and sharing. You can also leverage OneDrive, which is essentially an online folder system for file storage. This could be helpful if you are trying to ensure that you have access to the documents and files you will need if you work remotely. TechSoup Courses has an [introductory overview of OneDrive](#) that is free to nonprofits. This is one of the quickest ways to get documents into the cloud so that you can access them from anywhere.

To collaborate on files and documents, you can use Microsoft Teams (as stated above) or Microsoft SharePoint sites. SharePoint requires a bit more setup, but it can be useful, particularly if you are trying to share documents with external stakeholders. TechSoup's [implementation services](#) can scope a SharePoint setup project for you.

## **G Suite for Nonprofits Users**

For G Suite users or for those not using G Suite, the free [Google for Nonprofits](#) offer includes Google Drive Basic, a business version of Google Drive that allows you to set sharing and access permissions. This can be used by any organization, even if you're using Office 365, and is a fast way to create a document repository in the cloud.

## **Box Users**

[Box](#) is another great option for small organizations (needing 10 or fewer licenses) looking to move documents quickly into the cloud. Box is relatively easy to get set up, but if you need help, there are two options for you:

[Box Coaching Corps](#) is available to assist small organizations that need help setting up Box.

TechSoup Services' [Help Desk](#) can also help with a very basic setup for Box.

### Access and Permissions

For any online document storage and collaboration solution, you should take a moment to think about the access and permissions you want on different folders, particularly if you are dealing with sensitive data about donors or constituents that requires compliance.

## **Two More Quick Points on Working Remotely**

- If your staff can't work remotely because they're using desktops rather than laptops, the [TechSoup Refurbished Hardware program](#) is a great source of low-cost, high-quality laptops that come preloaded with Windows 10 and the Microsoft Office Suite (but not Office 365). And, as mentioned above, we have Mobile Beacon hotspots to connect to the Internet from anywhere.
- You should review your organization's remote work policy to ensure that the guidance for technology use is up-to-date and relevant to this situation.

We hope you all are staying safe and monitoring the guidance and advice from the [CDC](#) and other health officials in your communities.

At TechSoup, our mission is to help you carry out your mission. We are committed to doing just that throughout this current public health emergency and beyond.

## **Virtual Workshop**

On March 12, TechSoup hosted a virtual workshop on managing the impact of COVID-19 on nonprofits. Here is the recording of that workshop.

### Additional Resources

- See ICTworks' advice on [organizing a virtual conference](#).
- Understand the [Videoconferencing Tools Available to Your Nonprofit](#).
- Begin [Thinking Outside the Inbox](#) about communication and collaboration tools.
- Get some [Key Tips for Working Remotely for Your Nonprofit](#)."

From ,TechSoup By the Cup [announcements@e.techsoup.org](mailto:announcements@e.techsoup.org) by Cameron Jones

## **6. WEBINARS AND PRESENTATION POWERPOINTS**

### **Superfund and Brownfields Funding Vehicles for Tribes**

**March 23, 2020,**

**1:00PM-2:30PM EDT**

This webinar will provide information about potential tribal funding vehicles to help address contaminated land as well as to build capacity within tribes for environmental response including: Brownfields Funding Opportunities, Superfund Subpart O Funding Opportunities, and Superfund Community Involvement Funding Opportunities. Among the topics covered will be what makes tribes eligible for each of the kinds of funding vehicles, what kinds of activities can be funded by each, and how Superfund and Brownfields funding interact (or don't). The webinar should provide tribal environmental professionals with a greater understanding of different potential funding vehicles that may support their work at impacted sites and should assist them in discussing funding options with their EPA regional counterparts.

### **Superfund Redevelopment Roundtable Webinar Series**

**(Part 2)**

**03/24/2020**

A two-part webinar series for developers and local governments interested in redeveloping Superfund sites and putting them back into productive use. Hear best practices and lessons learned from developers and local governments who have gone through the process. Hear from U.S. EPA, who will answer questions, provide information on available resources and support, and update participants on the latest tools and guidance. Share your thoughts and experiences on how U.S. EPA can better support reuse of sites in your community and across the nation.

## **7. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Opioid Use in Construction**

#### **CPWR Issues report and launches awareness training**

The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) has unveiled an opioid awareness training program in response to its recently issued report showing that unintentional overdose deaths among construction workers have increased dramatically over the past decade. According to the Jan. 21 report, 65 unintentional overdose fatalities occurred in the construction industry in 2018. The figure also represents a 35.4% climb from the 48 overdose deaths recorded in 2017.

### **TechDirect**

TechDirect, prefers to concentrate mainly on new documents and the Internet live events. However, we do support an area on CLU-IN where announcement of conferences and courses can be regularly posted. We invite sponsors to input information on their events at <https://clu-in.org/courses>. Likewise, readers may visit this area for news of upcoming events that might be of interest. It allows users to search events by location, topic, time period, etc. If you have any questions regarding TechDirect, contact Jean Balent at [balent.jean@epa.gov](mailto:balent.jean@epa.gov)

## **8. CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND MEETINGS**

### **National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program**

**April 22-25, 2020**

**Hilton Washington DC National Mall**

**District of Columbia**

Leaders from various sectors will engage in 3 plus days of free exchange of new ideas and new approaches to building healthy communities. These general and interactive training sessions will feature voices of experience, research, discussions, and thought-provoking dialogue. The program format will feature needs and challenges of communities, governments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based organizations, and others with interests in environmental justice and health disparities and how addressing them together can build health communities. This joint conference will highlight programs and collaborations that work, as well as initiatives that will not prove successful. Program speakers will feature representatives from Federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, community groups, business and industry, public interest groups, academia, and other entities. This interactive forum will give conference participants the opportunity to network with a variety of interests from diverse quarters. All conference participants will realize informative and productive resources that can support their individual program goals and objectives. Conference participants will also see examples of approaches that produce positive results through innovation and collaboration. All in all, the conference will prove beneficial and informative to participants.

### **Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South (TENSOS)**

**Chattanooga Convention Center**

**May 13-15, 2020**

**1150 Carter Street**

**Chattanooga, TN 37402**

The Tennessee Environmental Network conference is the largest, most comprehensive and diverse environmental education opportunity in Tennessee, and will be attended by over 1,000 Local, State, and Federal Government Officials, Business and Industry Leaders, Attorneys, Consultants, Engineers, Developers, Land Owners, Architects, Agribusiness Leaders, Energy Experts, Water Planning Districts, Universities, Public Health Officials, Solid Waste, Enviro-Tech, and Recycling Experts, and many, many others with a strong interest in environmental activities in Tennessee and the Southeast region.

Over the three-day event, TENSOS will host an elite group of environmental professionals seeking to exchange knowledge and share ideas around environmental concerns in Tennessee and across the Southeast region. The educational program, designed and developed by a 40-member Steering Committee, offers more than 70 unique courses in nine educational breakout sessions, allowing attendees to design their own personalized curriculum while receiving approved Continuing Education credits (if applicable). With the combined efforts of the state's leading environmental organizations, the Tennessee Environmental Network conference is a valued educational requirement focused on Sustaining the Future for the People of Tennessee and the Southeast region. The 2020 conference will take place at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your participation, please contact:  
David Mook – TEN Co-Executive Director  
[DMook@CentergyGroup.com](mailto:DMook@CentergyGroup.com)  
678.427.2430

[Attendee Registration](#)

[Sponsorship Registration](#)

[Exhibitor Registration](#)

[2020 Virginia Brownfields Conference](#)

**June 17-18, 2020**

**Norton and St. Paul, VA**

This year the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will be hosting it's annual Brownfield Conference in Norton and St. Paul, VA. This conference will give communities a chance to hear from expert speakers, gain valuable inside knowledge on how to remediate and reclaim brownfield properties in their communities, and network with industry professionals.

[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 deadline for session ideas is March 16, 2020. Interested entities can submit up to two presentation proposals. Speakers will be required to register at the reduced speaker rate of \$50 by August 3, 2020. Questions can be directed to Carrie Staton at [carrie.staton@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:carrie.staton@mail.wvu.edu).

### **The 6th Annual GBA Brownfield Seminar**

**Rescheduled for Oct. 12, 2020**

Out of an abundance of caution and sensitivity to coronavirus COVID-19 concerns, the Georgia Brownfield Association has rescheduled the Brownfield Seminar to Oct. 12, 2020 to better serve attendees, speakers and sponsors of this important conference and conversation. The event will proceed on this new date 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. 12, 2020.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting brownfield redevelopment in Georgia. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **9. FUNDING AND LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Support innovative solutions for source reduction or pollution prevention**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking grant applications through the Source Reduction Assistance Grant Program from states, federally recognized tribes, universities, local governments, and other groups to support innovative solutions for source reduction or pollution prevention (P2) through research, education, training, or certain other methods. As the agency highlights chemical safety during the month of

March, these grants support that goal by providing information, training, and tools to improve public health and the surrounding environment, reduce pollutants, and decrease resource use (e.g., water and energy).

EPA anticipates awarding individual grants in the range of \$20,000-\$200,000 for a two-year funding period (or between \$10,000 - \$100,000 per year), though award amounts may vary based on EPA region. EPA anticipates awarding 20 grants in total.

Proposals are due by April 30, 2020. Additional information is available on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), under Funding Opportunity Announcement EPA-HQ-OPPT-2020-002.

**Read more about the Source Reduction Assistance Grant Program**

**Develop and Implement National Environmental Education Training Programs**

As directed by the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$11 million in funding for a multi-year cooperative agreement to develop and manage the National Environmental Education Training Program. Applications must be submitted no later than May 29, 2020.

“Training environmental educators on the latest science, technology, and engineering is crucial not only to their engagement on the issues, but also to inspiring the next generation of environmental educators,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “Through this cooperative agreement, we hope to increase the availability and understanding of scientific information to improve environmental decision making and promote a cleaner, healthier environment for all Americans.”

The purpose of the program is to develop and deliver environmental education training and long-term support to education professionals across the U.S. Applications must include proposals for national programs that will:

Help train environmental educators.

- Increase distribution of quality materials.
- Improve non-formal education programs.
- Enhance coordination among environmental education organizations to help reduce duplication and costs.
- Increase the number of environmental educators.
- Increase public knowledge of the environment.

Only one cooperative agreement will be awarded to a U.S. institution of higher education, a not-for-profit institution, or a consortium of such institutions. Applicants must provide non-federal matching funds or in-kind contributions of at least 25% of the total cost of the project.

**Background**

In 1991, EPA established the Office of Environmental Education to implement programs mandated by the National Environmental Education Act, including the National Environmental Education and Training Program. Since 1992, the program has trained more than 4,400 formal and nonformal educators by building infrastructure

through leadership clinics, developing state certification programs, and using technology to expand access to resources to enhance the value of environmental education, among other initiatives.

Information on how to apply for the National Environmental Education and Training Program for 2020 is available at:

<https://www.epa.gov/education/national-environmental-education-and-training-program-solicitation-notice-2020-rfa>

**For those new to EWDJT – Check out Grants.gov early**

[Grants.gov](#) is the Federal portal for the listing of Federal funding opportunities from 26 Federal agencies. With Grants.gov, individuals and organizations can perform the following:

- Find Grant Opportunities
- Search for available grant opportunities
- Register to receive notification of grant opportunities
- Apply for Grants
- Search for and download application packages
- Complete application packages offline
- Submit completed application packages
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### **Guide to Finding Federal Assistance and Resources for Environmental Justice Efforts**

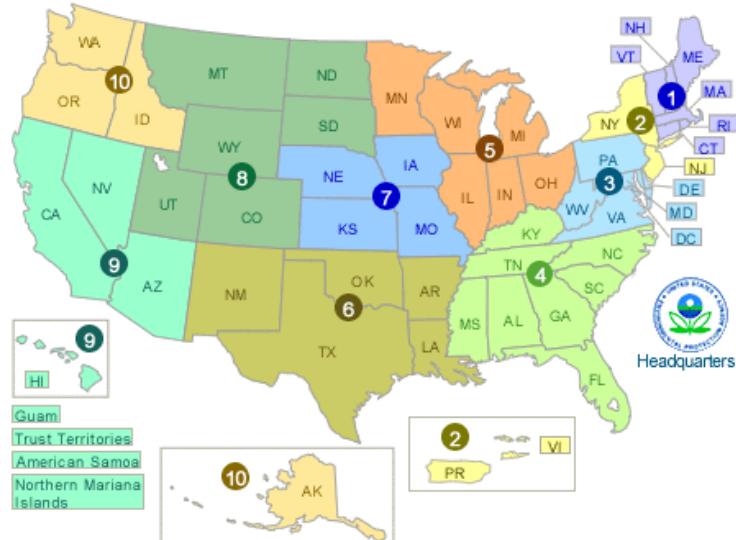
This EPA guide offers general guidance and tips on searching for funding opportunities, as well as information on tools, trainings and other relevant resources that are available to help address community needs. The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) includes several federal agencies and White House offices that increase local community capacity to promote and implement innovative and comprehensive solutions to environmental justice issues.

Go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-06/documents/ejiwg-guide-to-assistance-and-resources-for-ej-efforts-updated.pdf>

### **10. EPA REGIONAL JOB TRAINING COORDINATORS**

<b>EPA Region 1</b> Danny Rodriguez	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Phone: (617) 918-1060 E-mail: rodriguez.danny@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 1</b> Myra Schwartz		Phone: (617) 918-1696 E-mail: schwartz.myra@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 2</b> Schenine Mitchell	NJ, NY, PR, VI	Phone: (212) 637-3283 E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 3</b> Gianna Rosati	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	Phone: (215) 814-3406 E-mail: rosati.gianna@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 4</b> Wanda Jennings	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Phone: (404) 562-8682 E-mail: jennings.wanda@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 5</b> Linda Morgan	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	Phone: (312) 886-4747 E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 5</b> Craig Mankowski		Phone: (312) 886-9493 E-mail: mankowski.craig@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 6</b> Rita Ware	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Phone: (214) 665-6409 E-mail: ware.rita@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 7</b> Alma Moreno Lahm	IA, KS, MO, NE	Phone: (913) 551-7380 E-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 8</b> Christina Wilson	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	Phone: (303) 312-6706 E-mail: wilson.christina@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 9</b> Nova Blazej	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	Phone: (415) 972-3846 E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 9</b> Noemi Emeric-Ford		Phone: (213) 244-1821 E-mail: emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 10</b> Susan Morales	AK, ID, OR, WA	Phone: (206) 553-7299 E-mail: morales.susan@epa.gov



Map of EPA Regions

Credit: [epa.gov](http://epa.gov)

## 10. JOIN US ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALLS

### Upcoming PLC calls

- April 1
- April 29
- May 13
- May 27
- June 10

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the [brownfields-toolbox.org](http://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](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

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

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

