

April 1, 2020



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 22, Session 5.

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

Topics:

1. News from Washington and HMTRI
2. Questions from PLC participants
3. Coronavirus (COVID-19) EWDJT Grantee Update: March 2020
4. Grantee News
5. Remote collaboration tools
6. Webinars and presentation power points
7. Jumpstart the next EWDJT Request for Proposals
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 has expressed their thoughts that all the grantees and trainees stay safe at this time. Both headquarters and Regional Coordinators are working remotely and available to address questions and concerns from EWDJT grantees (See section 10 for Regional Coordinator contact information).

Grant operations are expected to be fully functional during the telework enacted in response to the COVID-19 virus. The Agency's grants management offices (headquarters and regional) are fully capable of performing grants functions remotely including requests for grant extensions, waivers, and amendments.

HMTRI News:

Moving forward with the 2020 EWDJT Annual All-Grantee meeting August 12th and 13th

Holiday Inn Old Town, Alexandria, VA

The Annual All-Grantee Meeting is open to PLC members, past and current EWDJT grantees, 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. Hotel for three nights will be provided. This will allow for travel on August 11th and 14th. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and supplemental expenses.

All-Grantee Meeting in the era of COVID19

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 .
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 and there is no charge for the All-Grantee Meeting.

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 11th for three nights, Holiday in Old Town). You should also reference the group code, HMT, or mention "HMTRI" or "HMTRI All-Grantee Meeting". 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

2. PLC QUESTIONS

How should EPA grant recipients request that EPA provide them administrative relief from a requirement due to COVID-19?

Recipients should email their Grant Specialist (GS) for the agreement and send a copy to their Project Officer (PO) and provide a description of the action they want EPA to take. The email should include a brief justification that includes how the COVID-19 public health crisis has impacted their ability to comply with a requirement in the agreement. An authorized EPA official such as an Award Official, Grant Management Officer or Associate Grant Management Officer will provide EPA's decision on the request via email. Depending on the type of action, the grant agreement may also be amended.

Will EPA modify workplans, adjust budgets, and extend project periods of grants if necessary?

Yes. The March 19, 2020, OMB Guidance provides: To the extent permitted by law, awarding agencies may extend awards which were active as of March 31, 2020, and scheduled to expire prior or up to December 31, 2020, automatically at no cost for a period of up to twelve (12) months. This will allow time for recipient assessments, the resumption of many individual projects, and a report on program progress and financial status to agency staff. Project-specific financial and performance reports will be due 90 days following the end date of the extension. Awarding agencies will examine the need to extend other project reporting as the need arises. EPA anticipates that there will be an increase in no-cost extensions/amendments and project period waiver requests. EPA can modify workplans, adjust budgets, and extend the period of performance for grants to address the impacts of COVID-19.

For those interested in more detail

The [EPA Grants COVID-19 FAQs](#) provides information to applicants and recipients impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and covers topics such as, requesting waivers, due date extensions, extraordinary cost allowability, and application submission issues during the public health emergency. The EPA Grants COVID-19 FAQs will be updated as necessary to respond to additional questions or in response to further OMB guidance.

The National Policy, Training and Compliance Division of the Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) has issued two publications on this topic. Go to:

1. [Recipient/Applicant Information Notice, RAIN-2020-G02, EPA Frequent Questions on Grant Issues in Response to the Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Public Health Emergency.](#)
2. [Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) due to Loss of Operations \(March 19, 2020, OMB Guidance\)](#)

Questions?

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

3. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) EWDJT GRANTEE UPDATE: MARCH 2020

The week of March 16th the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) scanned thirty-eight Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) programs seeking to determine how COVID-19 has impacted training and the continuing operation of their program. Of particular interest to HMTRI is sharing strategies under the following circumstances.

- Grantees still in program development or planning an upcoming cohort
- Programs currently recruiting, screening, assessing and accepting program participants
- Training programs in the middle of their cohort with training and certification partially completed
- Grantees between cohorts in the process or continuing to place program graduates.

Data was collected between March 17th and 20th. Today Steve Fenton summarized his evaluation of the scan.

Experiences shared by scanned EWDJT grantees

As COVID-19 works its way thru the economy, HMTRI is collecting and sharing experiences and strategies used by EWDJT grantees in addressing their crisis. We are mindful that challenges grantees must address are fluid and circumstances are evolving constantly. Nevertheless, the information

gathered provides insight on how EWDJT programs are moving forward and ideas for mitigating the impacts of COVID-19. In the next section of these notes, we present examples of the experiences EWDJT grantees have shared during this crisis. Here are some general observations from the scan.

- 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 temporarily put training on hold with some continuing remotely by phone or internet.
- COVID-19 has affected all communities and training programs to varying degrees and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.
- Individual program responses to the pandemic depend on a variety of factors such as program location and available resources.
- Maintaining contact with students is a priority for all programs and the methods of communication with them varies as do the results.
- The ability to provide training through distance learning as an alternative to classroom training is a real challenge for some programs because not all students have access to the internet and some programs report their curriculum is designed to be delivered in a traditional classroom and not online.
- Keeping students engaged while not knowing an end date of the pandemic is a major focus and will be an ongoing challenge.
- Some programs report that with so many people being laid off, former program graduates may return looking for placement assistance and that, coupled with new clients who may be entering the system, could place a strain on community resources not previously seen or anticipated.

HMTRI will continue to serve as repository for ideas and solutions to ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic. We will catalog best practices and lessons learned disseminating this information to program staff through upcoming PLC's and brownfileds-toolbox.org.

Those who wish to share your thoughts or update your situation, please respond to these notes or email Steve Fenton at sfenton103@aol.com.

4. GRANTEE NEWS

Contributions from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) EWDJT grantee scan

It is important to keep in mind that grantee contributions provided during this scan were only applicable during the week of March 19th and subject to change. Circumstances remain fluid with program operations in the state of flux and vary from region to region. As EWDJT programs work their way through the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope to share experiences and ideas moving forward.

Thanks to those who have shared their experiences and ideas with the rest of us. As the COVID-19 continues to interrupt environmental workforce training, we would like to continue sharing updated information and strategies used by EWDJT grantees to successfully navigate challenges posed by this crisis. Here is news from some of our grantees and strategies they are using to mitigate challenges posed by COVID-19. Information is current to the week of March 19th and circumstances fluid.

RecycleForce:

RecycleForce is offering to partner with the city of Indianapolis to provide COVID-19 HAZ training and clean-up opportunity by training participants how to effectively wear PPE and supplying their workers with N95 respirators, full body Dupont 120-Tyvek coveralls, and how to work safely with chemical agents to destroy possible residue of the Coronavirus on city buses, public offices, school rooms, parks and recreation facilities. They can match these workers with the over 80 HAZ40 graduates that currently are a part of the RecycleForce family. We are not suspending training as of yet, but we are taking all the necessary precautions for maintaining social distance and hand shaking, hands to face, and maintaining crowding to 10 and under. We also provide distance learning of our HAZ40 and permitting workers to work from home, as we are sensitive to the families that are most vulnerable to attract this virus such as the elderly, the millennium population as carriers and the children that are currently out of school.

PUSH Buffalo:

Many do not have reliable phone service, especially now that many have been laid off and can't pay their phone bills. Many use a Wi-Fi number instead of traditional phone service, but the only reliable places to get free service are downtown in public areas which may be closed (ex, government buildings and libraries which are currently shut down in our city, cafes which you can't sit down in) or which people may be avoiding due to social distancing precautions, and that at the least aren't conducive to learning. This is our biggest hurdle with distance learning - it isn't very accessible to the vulnerable population we serve. We are doing alright because so far area employers still expect to ramp up for the spring/summer construction season, but that could change. We think we will definitely see reduced numbers of people in trainings due to inability to offer in-person trainings in the critical period before job placements increase for the season, but expect to see more people accessing our support services and direct job placements.

Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps/Milwaukee CERT Program:

We are fortunate to have our Project Foundry software. We've had it for the past few years as an integral part of CERT School, and it provides us the direct communication and instructional management with students. Ours use it while in the classroom and out. We closed today for the first day. All students are busy with remote online courses, and we've divided our staff to serve as Advisors to advise specifically assigned students throughout the week. In addition, the course instructor is reaching out to each student daily with encouragement, support and guidance for completion of projects. We're on hold with the end-of-course hands-on assessments but are brainstorming environments and opportunities to bring together students to complete these final aspects of the course for completion. We're using all forms of technology for communication and evaluating outdoor classrooms and other creative venues where students will be physically distant but socially connected to perform and participate. Ever evolving. The National Partnership for Environmental Education (NPETE) has been a great help with technical guidance, e.g. cleaning methods for our P-100 respirators that we'll plan activate as appropriate. I'll be reaching out to NPETE momentarily —to ask their assistance with the registration of the next cohort for the online HAZWOPER.

Oregon Tradeswomen:

Oregon Tradeswomen cancelled our Environmental Worker Training cohort which was scheduled to operate March 16th – April 3rd 2020 in response to Oregon Governor issuing an Executive Order requiring gatherings of more than 10 people to be postponed or cancelled until after April 8th 2020. At this time, many of the students we serve have limited access to Internet and/or laptops. We recently purchased student laptops with other funds (not EPA) so there is a potential to use in the future if the quarantine period is extended. We have reached out to our state Bureau of Labor and Industries

(Oregon) to see if we can secure some assistance from them or the University System of Oregon to support an online / remote learning platform. Several other funders have already communicated to us that we can continue to invoice for contracts/grants in an effort to keep our operations moving forward, including our planning time with regards to distance learning options and communicating with students. We hope that EPA issues similar guidance and support during the COVID-19 crisis.

Check out the Governor's Executive Order- State of Oregon Updated Mitigation Measures on Coronavirus Response.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ikBiqj-OM_mllxdITdkWU7OgIJK3XpU/view

TWIN:

At this time, we are still trying to meet our obligation for the current grant. Our trainees don't want the program to stop so the goal for graduation on April 17th has not changed. We will do whatever we can (that is under our authority) to make that happen and to meet grant obligations. However, if things beyond our control prevent that from happening, we will make appropriate adjustments (and we hope EPA will be understanding and flexible to let us fulfill any unmet obligations at a later time, if possible). I am concerned about being able to recruit for the next training cycle scheduled for June. We typically start outreach and recruitment activities 2 months prior. With the closure of many organizations we engage with to do recruitment, our access to our target demographics will be very limited. I don't think we are at the peak of this pandemic yet. I think that will happen in the middle of our next recruitment period. If that is the case, we will push back the start of the next training cycle.

At this time, we are assessing our trainees' Wi-Fi capability at home. Some don't have computers or internet access. We do have a few laptops we use for soft skills that we can loan to them. However, we need to get them internet access capability. Spectrum, a local internet service provider is offering free internet services for 60 days to households with grade school children so they can have access to online learning. Hence, we are encouraging or trainees to reach out to Spectrum to request the service offering (if they do not currently have Wi-Fi capability). There is also the potential for them to access gotomeeting via their phones. So, currently we are in the process of preparing for a potential transition to distant learning.

Colorado Department of Local Affairs: We are in the process of hiring staff, developing training curriculum, building our advisory board, etc. The program is not well established enough to answer any of the above. COVID has not impacted us, but that is simply because much of our work is happening remotely anyway. We are experiencing slower response times as folks deal with the crisis though.

Pauline Auberle Foundation:

- Case managers are required to work a normal work-day and work a 40 hour work week, but will be working from home.
- If case managers are not able to work your typical work week you will need to inform both Abby and Rodney why this is not possible. At that point you will need to use your sick time or vacation time.
- Case managers will be expected to respond promptly to emails, phone calls and texts during regular employment institute business hours.
- We will provide all of our services in a virtual manner to our clients. This includes:
- Regular check ins with clients via a phone call, text message, email, video applications and etc. You are expected to keep in touch with your clients and respond to your clients needs on an on-going basis.

- Clients will still be expected to complete online trainings such as Customer Service and Advanced Customer Service. If they have the ability to connect to wifi, to do this I would get this set-up for them.
- You can also have clients complete the OSHA-10 on-line training as well especially those that will be doing lawn care or the Environmental Training Program (HAZWOPER) that have not completed and will be working on this year's crew.
- You can provide on-line tools to explore career options, completing the O*NET survey via phone and discussing the results.

Despite many businesses may not be hiring due to the virus outbreak we can still have clients apply for jobs on-line and we can communicate with our business partners to let them know an EI client has applied. Once this passes and places start to hire again they will be in their hiring que.

We can be there to support clients if they need other services such as therapy for example. You can still refer for therapy and therapy could be potentially delivered via tela-therapy or similar electronic means which our behavioral health team is implementing as of tomorrow, 3/18/2020.

If they need food we can still refer to our food pantry and we will assist with providing food boxes. We will be limiting person to person contact and dropping food boxes off on front porches or brining food boxes outside to clients as they come to Auberle. NO clients are allowed in the building for food.

Staff responsibilities:

- You will be expected to participate in all supervisions with your supervisor via conference call. If you meet with Abby in person, it needs to be in a spacious setting so you have the appropriate amount of body space between to you (6 feet).
- You will be expected to participate in all team meetings via similar means as noted above.
- You will be expected to participate in meetings with funders, business partners and training partners when needed as well via electronic, phone and etc.
- Great time to get caught up on all of your documentation during this time-case notes, ISPs, outcome reports to Abby.
- You can still come to the campus if needed and if you keep appropriate distances and follow all precautions as instructed by the CDC, Allegheny County Health Department and reputable government agencies.
- Staff will not come to the facility under any circumstances if you have any symptoms such as coughing, respiratory distress or a fever. Please apply and use practical / common sense.
- So as you can see we have a solid plan in place to keep things going and providing services but doing slightly different.

Our case aide will not be transporting clients until further notice. Clients will be provided bus tickets, if needed.

Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc.:

We are planning to push the training back to an August 2020 start date. This will also require us to reschedule our 2nd cohort planned for October 2020.

Missouri Job Center:

We are having to either divide the class in half and split the training into two separate rooms - which means paying for an additional trainer for 3 days this week only, offer a.m./p.m. sessions, or have participants attend on opposite days so no more than 10 people (including trainers) are in the room at one time. Our city Mayor has issued an order to prohibit gatherings of 10 or more which is why we are required to make these changes

Groundwork Rhode Island:

We have suspended our spring training session, which would have started at the beginning of April, but for now we are moving ahead with supporting our partner's training starting at the end of May - where we offer 4 weeks of environmental services training as part of their longer 12 week training session. We will continue to track past graduates and support their search for employment as needed

Santa Fe Community College:

Assisting environmental companies in locating HAZWOPER trained people for decon deployment across the country. There is a possibility that two SFCC grads will deploy.

St. Louis Community College:

If COVID-19 becomes worse and the June class must be delayed, we will seek an extension. I've already spoken with my grant project officer.

Limitless Vistas:

We will postpone classes until they are safe to resume. I do not think this will affect completing our grant requirements.

City of Pittsburg Future Build Program:

As of today, we are treating it as suspended, to resume when given the "all clear" but it is not known when that might be and the conventional wisdom is that things will get worse before they get better⁵.

5. DISTANCE LEARNING AND REMOTE COLLABORATION TOOLS

In this era of ZOOM, Go to Meetings, Microsoft teams, we thought we would note the low tech approach HMTRI has used over the years. PLC participants know only too well the advantages and disadvantages HMTRI experiences using FreeConferenceCall.com. All said, we have used this free service to complete 227 Professional Learning Community Calls (PLC) over many years with a few technical glitches, interruptions, background noise and music on hold. With all its faults, we plan on continuing using this platform for our "low tech" informal PLC calls. For quick simple staff communications, here is just another option to keep multiple stakeholders informed.

- It's is easy to use
- Call from any phone
- Has advanced capabilities (which we do not use)
- Allows users to record calls
- Provides session reports
- No cost to users

FYI, if you would like to sign up for this free service, go to the following site

[FreeConferenceCall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com)

[Using a simple platform, call originators can simply call in their assigned phone number from any phone to begin the conference call. No computer needed. If you prefer using a computer, WiFi or wireless access, here are instructions to get started.](#)

- **Download The Mobile App.** Tap here to [Download for iPhone](#), here to [Download for Android](#). This will give you the ability to call in over WiFi. Our app also has smart call routing so when you dial-in using your phone we'll route you to carrier networks that have the most bandwidth.
- **Download The Desktop App.** This lets you call in using your computer and also lets you stay better connected with screen sharing and video conferencing. Tap the following link and scroll down to [Download the Desktop App.](#)
- **Schedule meetings to start 15 or 45 minutes past the hour** rather than on the hour. Carrier networks are less congested at these times.

6. WEBINARS AND PRESENTATION POWERPOINTS

[ECWTP and Joint ECWTP/EWDJT Meetings 201](#)[ECWTP and Joint ECWTP/EWDJT Worker Training Program](#)

B3 - Resilience During the Age of COVID-19: A Generalist Guide

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 10:00am PT/1:00pm ET

Speaker: Ignacio Dayrit | Program Director | Center for Creative Land Recycling

Communities around the world are providing relief services in response to COVID-19. As communities recover, the experiences and lessons from COVID-19 will be among other possible resilience planning measures for pandemics, disaster recovery, climate change, public safety, terrorism, and other events. Are there similar resilience elements to prepare for these disasters? How can one evaluate the resilience of a community - pre- and post-COVID-19? What can one do now to promote resilience through anticipated grant opportunities for brownfields, economic development and other sources?

[LinkedIn: Staying Connected in a Time of Disconnect](#)

Georgia Brownfields Association

Thursday, April 9, 2020

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM EDT

GBA is committed to fulfilling its mission educate its members, provide networking opportunities, and bring the industry together - even during times of disconnect such as this. Now, more than ever, resources such as LinkedIn can help maintain connectivity and business continuity.

During GBA's free April 9 webinar, LinkedIn expert Rachel Simon will guide participants through topics including:

- WHAT should your profile look like?
- General best practices on LinkedIn profiles including photos, headline, summary, experience etc. The focus is on your profile as your digital "first impression."
- WHO is in your network?
- Overview of why it's important to understand who is in your current LinkedIn network. How to download your connections to see if your network is comprised of the right people and share recommendations on how to add connections.

[How to Bring Your Live or In-Person Events Online](#)

Thu, Apr 9, 2020

11:00 AM PDT

Free webinar

Are you facing the possibility of having to cancel or postpone your next forum or fundraising event? We've got you covered.

Joe DiGiovanni and Kyle Barkins, co-founders of the marketing and technology agency, Tapp Network, will walk you through the process of migrating your in-person event online. From communications strategies to choosing the right technology, Joe and Kyle will present on how to use what you've already created, and what needs to be done to make a successful virtual event.

Attendees will walk away knowing:

The best communications strategy to inform and engage your attendees and presenters
What technology you'll need to execute a successful virtual event and fundraiser
Maximize your ROI and keep the momentum going for the rest of 2020. To register, go to:

[A Tale of Two Cities: Identifying Inequities and Spurring Revival in America's Legacy Cities](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

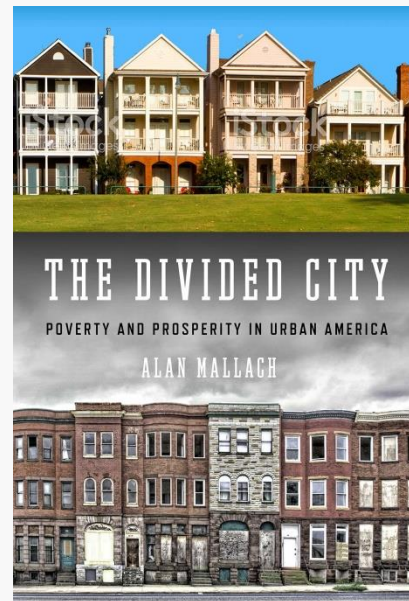
10:00am PT/1:00pm ET

Speaker: Alan Mallach | Senior Fellow | Center for Community Progress and the National Housing Institute | Author of *The Divided City: Poverty and Prosperity in Urban America*

What's happening to America's legacy cities? Are they doomed to haunt us as the ghosts of a bygone industrial era or can we breathe new life into them? As Alan Mallach expertly relays in his book *The Divided City: Poverty and Prosperity in Urban America*, it's not as simple as that.

Join us April 21st when we chat with Alan Mallach as part of our continuing Brown Bag Brunch webinar series. We'll discuss the decline of America's industrial cities, consider the impetus and implications of their seemingly unequal resurgence, and outline how municipalities and land reuse practitioners can plan for equitable urban revitalization. We'll also consider how the present health crisis and aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic may influence urban planning, revitalization priorities, and redevelopment policy moving forward.

This structured 30 minute conversation will be followed by 30 minutes of Q&A directly with the author. Don't miss this critically important and engaging conversation.



[Getting Started Early](#)

National Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program

co-hosted (TAB) Programs at Kansas State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and the Center for Creative Land Recycling with funding provided by U.S. EPA

Part 1 April 29, 2020, 1:30 PM CST to 2:30 PM CST

Part 2 April 30, 2020, 1:30 PM CST to 2:30 PM CST

While these webinars address EPA's assessment and cleanup grants, they contain material and ideas relevant to EWDJT grants. Find out more about our sister Brownfields program.

Ever wondered if a brownfield grant was right for you and what information is necessary to develop a strong proposal? If so, please join us for a two-part webinar to gain a better understanding of how to put together a competitive grant application package.

Part 1 will cover some of the activities outlined in the EPA's, "Getting Started Early" document and make sure participants have a good understanding of whether a brownfield grant is a good fit for them. The webinar will also help participants assess where they are in the brownfield process, what information will be needed for a brownfield grant application, and what steps could be taken now to prepare when applying for a brownfield grant this fall:

Do you have sites and priorities?

What partnerships are needed to address these sites?

Have you begun gathering this information?

Answering these basic questions will allow participants to be better informed and prepared when determining whether or not to apply for a brownfield grant.

The Part 2 webinar will focus on the "How To" of developing the basic brownfield program elements and incorporating them into a brownfield grant application:

What core brownfield program elements should be considered in a grant application and are they robust enough in your community?

What steps can be taken to develop these elements prior to applying and how do you incorporate that information into your brownfield grant application?

7. JUMPSTART THE NEXT EWDJT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For those who have recently joined the PLC, EPA is planning an FY21 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Request for Proposals (RFP) this 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 April 1st will address the assessment of "Community Need" in addition to grantee updates on coping with COVID-19.

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

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.

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

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
- Track the status of submitted applications

To view the website, click:

[Grants.gov](#)

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

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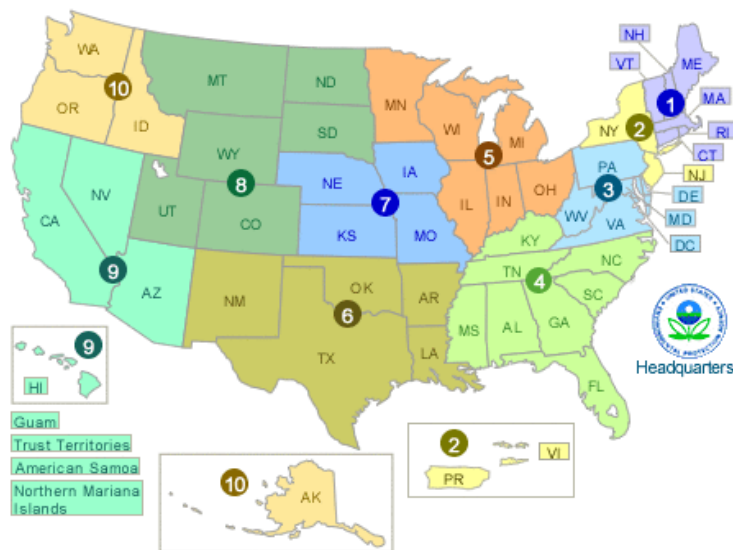
Map of EPA Regions

Credit: epa.gov

10. JOIN US ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALLS

Upcoming PLC calls

- 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. 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](#) 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 hballou@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.

