

June 10, 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. Grantee news and status of EWDJT June 10, 2020
5. General Considerations prior to writing an EWDJT proposal
6. NIEHS and OSHA COVID-19 Resources, Webinars, and Websites
7. EPA and ICMA News of Interest
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

EPA Happenings:

It looks as if the FY21 Environmental Workforce Development RFA (Request for Applications) will be issued this month. The announcement can come at any time but most likely towards the end of the month. HMTRI will send out the announcement and the RFA when the news breaks. It is also likely that EPA will announce a webinar explaining the contents of the RFA. Our current “best guess schedule” for application submission, award and program implementation would be as follows:

- Proposal planning and team building - ongoing
- Community relationship and partnership development - ongoing
- EPA request for proposals – June - July, 2020
- Proposals due – August – September, 2020
- Proposal evaluations – Fall - Winter, 2020
- Awards, finalization of work plans and authorization to spend funds –Spring, 2021
- Community awareness, student recruitment, and screening – Summer, 2021
- First year training cohorts – Summer, Fall, 2021

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. Take time to mark your 2021 calendar.

2. HMTRI NEWS

2020 Annual All-Grantee Meeting

August 11 - August 13

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

Virtually via Zoom

PLC participants ---Save the Date!

This year's 2020 All-Grantee Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom August 11 - 13 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. eastern. As in the past, the Annual All-Grantee Meeting will provide an opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and explore innovative ideas regarding the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Program. The All-Grantee Virtual Meeting will be a mix of plenaries, breakouts, and networking opportunities. Participants will include alumni, prospective and current grantees, PLC members, EPA Regional Coordinators, and headquarters staff.

Thank you to those who responded to our request for discussion topics and breakout sessions. Below is a "sneak peek" at this year's sessions.

All-Grantee plenary and breakout sessions

- Welcome and Introductions from EPA and HMTRI
- EPA Regional Coordinator Meetings with Grantees
- Student Perspectives of EWDJT
- Grant Administration
- Recruitment and Screening
- Community and Labor Market Assessment
- Partnership Development
- Graduation, Placement, and Tracking
- Curriculum and Training
- Student Retention and Support Services
- Program Evaluation and Assessment
- Program Tune-up and Grant Writing Strategies
- Substance Abuse and Program Landmines
- After Hours: EWDJT Virtual Grantee Tour
- Health and Safety for Program Managers
- Program Reporting and ACRES
- Leveraging with Partnerships
- Working with WIBs and Service Organizations
- Using Advisors and Employers Strategically
- NIEHS Worker Training Program and COVID-19 Resources
- Training Strategies in the Era of COVID-19
- Tips and Ideas for New Grantees
- Community Awareness and Social Media

In the coming weeks, HMTRI will be finalizing the agenda, identify individuals interested in contributing to breakout discussions, and begin registration. If you would like to give us a "head start" in identifying contributing volunteers, have questions, or additional ideas, contact Heather (hkballou@eicc.edu).

Call for Photos

HMTRI is in the process of updating the brownfields-toolbox.org website, and we are in search of photos to post on the website. We would love to see the following:

- Students receiving training and graduation
- Social events
- People performing on-the-job or public service activities
- Students in training and work environments
- Video of student comments about EWDJT
- Photo or videos of the training facility

If you currently have access to those types of photos and are willing to share, please send them to Heather Ballou at hkballou@eicc.edu.

3. PLC QUESTIONS

EWDJT grantees appear to vary widely across the US with some regions having few grantees and some with many. Does geography influence the selection of EWDJT awards?

The annual grant competitions are national and different regions have varying success rates throughout the years. Awards are based on the quality of the application, which is reflected by answers to ranking criteria. On occasion, EPA may also consider other special factors which are requested as part of the grant application. For the most part, applications are reviewed as objectively as possible without regard to geography.

How have the EWDJT Guidelines changed from the FY20 Request for Proposals?

We cannot answer that question completely until the RFA is issued. No significant changes are expected except the term Request for Proposals (RFP) has become a Request for Applications (RFA), which incorporates an additional form as part of the proposal package. We will note any other changes when the RFA is posted.

Questions?

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

4. GRANTEE NEWS AND STATUS OF EWDJT JUNE 10, 2020

EWDJT programs are experiencing similar constraints and frustrations faced by all educators but amplified due to the socioeconomic issues of our underserved populations. Impediments moving forward include the following:

- Training facilities are closed for public health concerns.
- Many underserved target communities do not have access to technology.
- Participants are not likely to have access to broadband.
- Public buildings providing WiFi access are closed.
- Unless digital learning was in place prior to the shutdown, distribution of technology and creation of distance learning tools is difficult.
- Participants need to be trained in the use of distance learning technology
- Person to person learning (on or off site) is not currently feasible for public health concerns.

Despite these constraints, the EWDJT program is more important than ever. EWDJT provides Environmental Justice opportunities for community residents disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, the pandemic and resulting recession. For many ex-offenders EWDJT provides one of the few pathways to a productive life.

Here are the situations in which PLC participants find themselves on June 10, 2020.

- Organizations interested in starting or continuing a program and are preparing for the next RFA.
- FY21 grantees will be delivering their first cohorts in the summer of 2021. Hopefully, COVID19 may be less or no longer an issue.
- Grantees funded during the FY20 cohort are planning their first round of training. Some are considering distant or hybrid learning as an alternative training approach. A hybrid program would replace face-to-face training in soft skills such as financial literacy, report writing, resume development, and limited technical certification programs.
- EWDJT programs that have been interrupted due to COVID-19 and public health guidelines are primarily on hold. Exceptions include Recycle Force, which has been identified as an essential service to the community, and Auberle and Santa Fe Community College, which have internet-based communications.
- Programs between training cohorts are in the process of placing graduates or assisting laid off graduates seeking employment.

Shout outs to Paul from RecycleForce and Mike from MVWIB regarding impediments to successful ex-offender programs.

..... **Did you know?** In the state of Indiana and many other states ex-offenders must pay the justice system \$450/ month for their ankle monitoring bracelets? Failure to pay results in additional convictions and fines. This is an example of many collateral consequences facing ex-offenders. Paul shared that RecycleForce worked in conjunction with city partners and just received word that ankle monitoring fees will be waived for three months county wide, reducing a monetary burden on the ex-offender populations during hard economic times.

Mike from MVWIB shared a resource, [*National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction*](#). This site has State-by-State news and resources related to ex-offenders, incarceration and overcoming the burdens brought on as a result conviction.

5. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO WRITING AN EWDJT PROPOSAL

Cooperative agreements, eligibility, and threshold requirements

EWDJT grants are cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements establish a relationship between EPA and the funded organization that allows for guidance and tracking from project officers. For this reason, EWDJT cooperative agreement proposals are more detailed than less restrictive grants.

- EWDJT cooperative agreements require a high level of detail as part of the application and selection process.
- Detailed budgets, program plans and capability are incorporated in the application evaluation.
- Work plans and deliverables must be approved prior to authorization to spend funds. Changes in budgets and agreed upon plans require approval from Regional Coordinators.
- Quarterly progress reports track program progress and deliverables with input from Regional Coordinators.

To keep the application process as objective as possible each application is reviewed as part of a multistep process. First is the Threshold Evaluation. Does the application meet minimum criteria for being considered as a fundable grant? Threshold criteria are evaluated on a pass or fail basis. Applicants who fail to address threshold criterion may be asked to clarify issues, provide additional information or notified within 15 days that their application cannot be considered for funding. This process is straight forward and not subject to interpretation. In the FY20 grant cycle, there were eight threshold criteria.

- Applicants meet the eligibility requirements set out in the RFA.
- It must be demonstrated that proposed project does not duplicate other federally funded environmental job training programs.
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training is provided.
- Federal funds requested are consistent with those available. The maximum request for funds is \$200,000.
- The application is in compliance with instructions, page limits, and format requirements.
- A training curriculum chart indicating the cost of each course is provided. EWDJT grants are three-year cooperative agreements with training the first two years.
- Target areas and proposal submission requirements are met.
- Submission of the proposal is in proper order- Proposal submission must be through grants.gov on or before the due date.

Ranking Criteria

Applications screened for threshold and eligibility requirements proceed to a more demanding part of the application, ranking criteria. Ranking criteria is a process EPA uses to objectively order applications to be recommended for funding. Each criteria is assigned a score or points based on answers to specific questions relating to how the grant will be implemented, the background and capability of those submitting the application. Ranking criteria scores are important. As few as 2 points has kept a proposal from being funded. All questions must be answered to maximize final totals. Applications with the highest scores are considered for funding.

If the FY21 RFA remains similar to last year, scores for seven ranking criteria will be assigned by the grant evaluation team. It should be noted that some of the criteria overlap such as labor market assessments, leveraging, community and employer partnerships. Each request for information, however must stand alone and not rely on a previously answered response.

Ranking Criteria (from FY20 RFP)

- **Community Need - 20 points**
 - Community Description (10 points)
 - Labor Market Demand (10 points)
- **Community and Employer Partnerships - 26 points**
 - Collaboration with Entities Involved with Local Remediation Activities and Environmental Projects (6 points)
 - Community Partnership Building (8 points)
 - Employer Involvement (12 points)
- **Program Structure, Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes – 15 points**
 - Outputs and Outcomes (5 points)
 - Recruitment and Screening (4 points)
 - Program Support (4 points)

- Program Sustainability (2 points)
- **Training Program Description - 10 points**
- **Budget - 6 points**
- **Leveraging - 3 points**
- **Programmatic Capability - 20 points**
 - Grant Management System (4 points)
 - Organizational Experience (8 points)
 - Audit Findings (2 points)
 - Past Performance and Accomplishments (6 points)

Community assessment, partnerships and labor market assessments represent almost half of the total evaluation points and will take the largest effort and time. It is essential that immediate attention be given to activities that involve partnerships, outreach and relationships with potential stakeholders.

Other factors - A final evaluation that can influence application rankings

As part of their final funding decision, EPA may consider other factors, in addition to the ranking criteria scores just described. Applicants should provide a summary on whether and how any of these “other factors” apply to their EWDJT project. Most EWDJT programs serve veterans and many experience persistent poverty. Everyone should at a minimum check with their local commerce department to determine if the area they are serving is in an IRS-designated Opportunity Zone. Last year, other factors included the following considerations:

- Fair distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas
- A balanced distribution of funds among EPA’s 10 Regions and among states and territories
- Fair distribution of funds between new applicants and previous job training grant recipients
- Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory, or is an organization that will primarily serve tribal or territorial residents
- Whether the applicant is located within, or includes, a county experiencing “persistent poverty” where 20% or more of its population has lived in poverty over the past 30 years
- Whether the applicant is a member of an Urban Waters partnership project
- Proposals that seek to serve veterans
- Whether the applicant’s project is located in an IRS-designated Opportunity Zone

Establishing a grant proposal team

Previous grantees have suggested the following approach during this period before the RFA has been issued. Establish a team of individuals to be involved in proposal development. Have them read the RFA and attend the EPA webinar (to be announced). Recruit and get commitments from team members who will be involved in the grant. Many of these individuals will wear multiple hats. Also remember that this effort is “in kind” and cannot be charged to the grant or provided as a condition that they will be funded by the grant.

- Project coordinator
- Grant Administrator
- Budget administrator
- Technical coordinator
- Outreach staff
- Grant writer
- Advisors (interested in participating in the program)
- Employers (interested in participating in the program)

- Trainers (interested in participating in the program)

Before grant preparation gets too far along

Before getting too far into proposal development, there is an important issue that needs to be addressed up front:

- Is your organization eligible to apply for the EWDJT grant?
- Are you set up to submit and administer the proposal using grants.gov and SAM?
- Proposals have been rejected because the applicant's www.SAM.gov account is inactive.
- Applicants have used the wrong DUNS number resulting in rejected proposals.
- When the submitter is not the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) applications have been rejected.

The first responsibility for program managers is to verify that your grant submission process is up to date.

Be sure whoever is submitting the proposal is registered at www.grants.gov. The organizations Ebiz Point of Contact will oversee the organizations grants.gov activities. Sometimes the Ebiz Point of Contact will authorize a representative to submit the proposal. He or she is called the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). As a refresher, make sure that whoever is submitting the proposal spends some time on grant.gov and the System for Awards Management (SAM) working with the help desks when necessary. Grants.gov has all types of information regarding the grants submission process including a primer (grants 101, all about submitting Federal grant application). The registration process “from scratch” **may take a month or more to complete**. Occasionally, technical and other issues arise when using www.grants.gov. We suggest a “dry run” even if the account has been used in the past. **Applicants must use their accounts at least once per year to remain active.**

To check an account status, go to www.SAM.gov and enter the DUNS number used for grant submission. The System for Award Management (SAM) is an official website of the U.S. government. You can use this site to:

- Register to do business with the U.S. government.
- Update or renew your entity registration.
- Check status of an entity registration.
- Search for entity registration and exclusion records.
- Make sure your password is up to date.
- Use the help desk for assistance at 1-800-518-4726.

Things to do now and when the RFA is issued

Those participating in previous PLC discussions should be well on their way to developing their FY21 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program proposal. Here are some critical steps that need to be addressed in the early stages of program development.

Contact your EPA Regional Coordinator

While Regional Coordinators cannot talk about your specific proposal, they can provide clarification regarding the RFP. Now is the best time to clarify issues and ask questions. See section 10 of these notes for Regional Coordinator contact information.

Prepare for the EPA webinar by reviewing the RFA and frequently asked questions when issued

Some participants may attend the webinar with minimal preparation. The EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training webinar covers the entire RFA in one setting. Staff will review the

guidelines in detail. With so much information being presented in a limited time, it will be easy to become confused or miss important bits of information. For this reason, we recommend reading the guidelines in detail before the webinar, then the FAQ's from past years. Next, assemble a list of issues that are unclear or confusing. As the webinar proceeds, listen to the answers to these questions. If issues are still confusing, present them during questions and answers.

Issues that can be confusing when reading the RFA

EPA provides detailed guidance regarding allowable costs supported by the EWDJT grant. Even with this guidance, applicants often have questions regarding specific situations. Examples of questions from previous competitions include the following:

- Funding available for specific environmental programs
- Allowable administrative costs
- Fundable curriculum offerings
- Contracting for services requirements
- Partnering and leveraging procedures
- Reporting budget estimates and leveraged funds
- Allowable and unallowable costs for specific activities

Be prepared to clarify answers to these questions with your Regional Coordinator.

6. NIEHS AND OSHA COVID-19 RESOURCES, WEBINARS, AND WEBSITES

NIEHS is on the forefront of health and safety training especially as it pertains to protecting workers involved in emergency response and cleanup activities. The following website contains an extensive catalog of health and safety resources for workers who may be at risk of exposure to COVID-19. The NIEHS training Tool and associated reference materials will be updated with new information as the situation evolves.

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/covid19worker/>

For more information regarding COVID19 resources or the NIEHS Worker Training Program, contact Sharon Beard at beard1@niehs.nih.gov

Protecting Infectious Disease Responders During the COVID-19 Outbreak

A report summarizing key themes and takeaways from the spring 2020 workshop, "Protecting Infectious Disease Responders During the COVID-19 Outbreak," is now available on the workshop webpage. The report describes WTP's quick activation and timely response to previous infectious disease outbreaks and public health disasters, along with the current COVID-19 pandemic. It also describes topics related to preparedness and considerations for training to effectively manage COVID-19 risks in the workplace.

https://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/events/pastmtg/hazmat/assets/2020/wtp_spring_2020_workshop_report_508.pdf

The March 17 Workshop on Protecting Infectious Disease Responders During the COVID-19 Outbreak, sponsored by Emory University Woodruff Health Sciences Center, in conjunction with the NIEHS WTP, has been condensed into a 12-minute highlight video. Go to the following site to view videos.

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2592>

U.S. Department of Labor Issues Frequently Asked Questions and Answers About Face Coverings, Surgical Masks and Respirators in the Workplace

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a series of frequently asked questions and answers regarding the use of masks in the workplace. The new guidance outlines the differences between cloth face coverings, surgical masks and respirators.

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

7. EPA AND ICMA NEWS OF INTEREST

EPA COVID-19 policy statement regarding EPA's lead-based paint program

EPA released a COVID-19 policy statement regarding EPA's lead-based paint program. The COVID-19 public health emergency is affecting the certification process for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead-based Paint Activities (Abatement) Program and the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Program. This policy statement applies only to individuals certified by the U.S. EPA under the [Abatement Program](#) and the [RRP Program](#), not those certified by an authorized State, tribe or territory. Authorized States, tribes and territories may take a different approach under their own authorities. Already certified individuals operating under the U.S. EPA administered programs may be unable to take in-person third-party exams or complete the in-person hands on activities required as part of the certification or recertification process because most exam and training providers are closed due to the public health emergency. Although performing regulated activities without complete or proper certification is a violation of EPA's lead-based paint regulations, U.S. EPA's enforcement memorandum of March 26, 2020 ([Temporary COVID-19 Enforcement Policy](#)), provides that EPA may exercise its enforcement discretion with regard to such violations if your interim certification or certification expired on or after March 13, 2020 and it was not possible to complete your certification or recertification process solely due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. If you continue to perform regulated activities, we recommend that you follow the terms of the Temporary COVID-19 Enforcement Policy. See the complete policy statement at the following site.

<https://www.epa.gov/lead/newsroom>

Integrating equitable public service to rapidly diversifying communities

The International City Managers' Association

During the ICMA strategic planning process, ICMA members noted that now, more than ever, local government professionals are called upon to integrate equitable public service to rapidly diversifying communities. Local governments must consider issues of equity and inclusion that go beyond race, ethnicity, and gender and include variations in age, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, educational attainment, immigration levels, and community size.

ICMA hopes that this toolkit will provide current and future local government leaders with an additional capacity to ensure that they continue to work toward building equitable and inclusive organizations and communities.

<https://icma.org/sites/default/files/Equity%20and%20Inclusivity%20Toolkit%20Web%20Final.pdf>

Other ICMA resources and downloads

https://icma.org/topics/social-justice?_zs=Pjpsb1&_zl=HsQq6

8. CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

2020 Georgia Environmental Conference

August 26-28, 2020 – Still on

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

Rescheduled for Oct. 12, 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 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.

9. FUNDING AND LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

COVID-19 Funding Available to Minority, Rural and Socially Vulnerable Communities for Linkages to Services, Information and Education

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced a competitive funding opportunity to invest up to \$40 million for the development and coordination of a strategic network of national, state, territorial, tribal and local organizations to deliver important COVID-19-related information to racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities hardest hit by the pandemic.

EPA Provides Grant Funding to Support Environmental Justice Communities Impacted by COVID-19

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to improve the environment and public health conditions of low-income and minority communities through our daily efforts to ensure all Americans have clean air, safe water, and access to information to make decisions to protect personal and public health. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, EPA is making \$1 million in grant funding available to states to help local environmental justice communities address COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income and minority communities. Through the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program, EPA will provide funds to states, local governments, tribes and U.S. territories to work collaboratively with environmental justice communities to understand, promote and integrate approaches to provide meaningful and measurable improvements to public health and the environment.

"Environmental justice grants aim to support public education, training, and emergency planning for communities across the country impacted by COVID-19, regardless of their zip code," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "These grants are part of EPA's effort to actively fight the COVID-19 pandemic that is having a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities."

The grant funding will be used to support public education, training, and emergency planning for communities impacted by COVID-19. Projects could include sharing information related to EPA-approved disinfectants to combat COVID-19; addressing increased exposure of residents to in-home pollutants and healthy housing issues; and training community health workers.

EPA anticipates awarding five grants of approximately \$200,000 each for up to a two-year funding period. The agency encourages applicants to develop innovative plans and processes to conduct effective outreach to underserved communities, especially in places where Internet access may not be readily available to all residents. Interested applicants must submit proposal packages on or before June 30, 2020 to be considered for the available funding.

For more information on EPA's Environmental Justice program go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/state-environmental-justice-cooperative-agreement-program>

Superfund Research Program

Occupational Health and Safety Education Programs on Emerging Technologies

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.

Susan Harwood Training Grants for Nonprofit Organizations

Worker Safety and Health Training Grants

U.S. Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$11.5 Million In Worker Safety and Health Training Grants
The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced the availability of \$11.5 million in Susan Harwood Training Grants for nonprofit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations, employer associations, labor unions, joint labor/management associations, Indian tribes, and colleges and universities.

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.

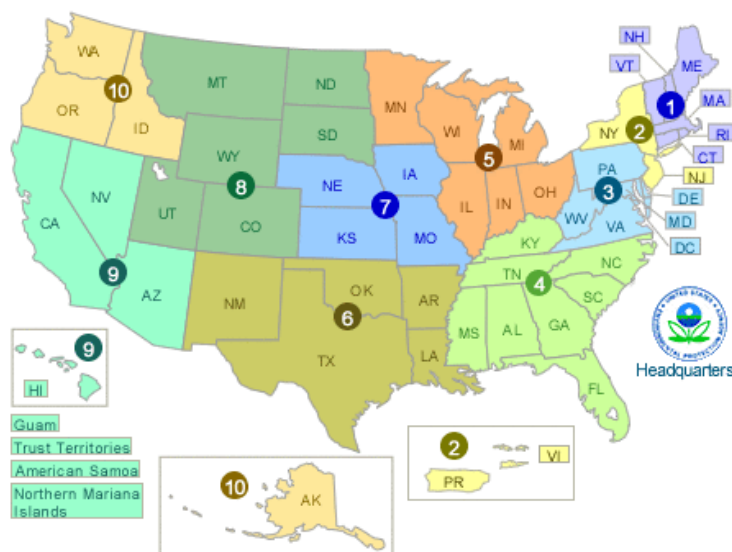
10. EPA REGIONAL JOB TRAINING COORDINATORS

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EPA Region 10 Susan Morales	AK, ID, OR, WA	Phone: (206) 553-7299 E-mail: morales.susan@epa.gov

Map of EPA Regions

Credit: epa.gov



12. JOIN US ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALLS

Upcoming PLC calls

- June 24

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 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.

