

September 2, 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. Reminders from Washington - FY21 Request for Applications
2. News from HMTRI – All-Grantee Meeting follow up – meeting chat links
3. Questions from PLC participants
4. Grantee and partner news
5. Things to do now
6. Deconstructing Ranking Criteria - Part 2
7. Webinars, online resources, websites, recordings, and PowerPoints
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

- For threshold criteria, it's important that applicants address all the threshold criteria to ensure passing and having their application move on to the evaluation stage. Even if a threshold requirement does not apply to an applicant, the applicant must still include a statement to this effect and not just leave it blank.
- The second reminder is a [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) **blackout period - scheduled September 19-21, 2020 12AM ET to 6AM ET**. This maintenance shouldn't really affect applicants because it is occurring over the weekend.
- Last item – there are only a couple of weeks left before the solicitation closes on September 22nd. Double down to submit your best proposal and best wishes as we get down to the wire.

Last minute RFA references sources

Below are links to the RFA, webinar slides, webinar recording and FAQs.

- [Request for Applications \(RFA\) for FY 21 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) Grants](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About EWDJT Grants](#)
- [How to submit an application through Grants.gov](#)

For a recording and power point of the live webinar, go to the following site.

- [FY 2021 EWDJT Grant Guideline Outreach Webinar Recording](#)
- [FY 2021 EWDJT Grant Guideline Outreach Presentation](#)

2021 National Brownfields Training Conference

EPA moving forward with the National Brownfields Training Conference. EPA and ICMA are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and still planning on adapting the in-person conference experience in consideration of participants' health and safety. While a Call for Ideas closed on August 24, keep your schedule open April 25-April 30, 2021 and stay tuned for future developments. For more information, go to <https://brownfields2021.org/>.

2. HMTRI NEWS

HMTRI response to the Brownfields21 - Call for Ideas

HMTRI has submitted abstracts for two sessions at the 2021 National Brownfields Training Conference. The first is an environmental justice oriented panel discussion titled "*Partnering to Build a Quality Environmental Workforce in Under-Served Communities*". The second, an environmental workforce training oriented roundtable session titled "*Critical issues in establishing a successful Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Program (EWDJT)*". HMTRI is also planning a preconference mid-year All-Grantee Meeting on April 25. Additionally, HMTRI will have a booth representing and available to all EWDJT grantees. If accepted, we will be recruiting grantee presenters and mentors.

All-Grantee Meeting follow up – meeting links

For those attending the 2020 All-Grantee Meeting, chats and websites discussed in breakout sessions are listed below. Thank you for the informative links. PowerPoints and additional materials will be posted on the brownfields-toolbox.org as they are compiled.

Session B5- Community and Labor Market Assessments

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : NIEHS Economic Impact Report for the Environmental Career Worker Training Program - https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/wtp_ecwtp_report_508.pdf

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : Resources for Programs - ECWTP and Joint ECWTP/EWDJT Meetings at Brownfields 2019 Conference - https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/training_program_areas/ecwtp/ecwtp_ewdj_t_2019/index.cfm

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : NIEHS WTP Assessments and History page <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2565>

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : See Durham NC (Regional) Local Labor Market Information as an example of the types of labor market assessments that come out monthly https://files.nc.gov/nccommerce/documents/LEAD/Labor-MarketOverviews/2020_8_Durham_WDB_Update.pdf

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : For NC - Labor Market Overviews by Workforce Board
The Labor Market Publications/Overviews by Workforce Board are fact sheets comprised of economic and labor market data specific to each of the 23 WDB areas - <https://www.nccommerce.com/data-tools/reports/labor-market-data-tools/labor-market-publications#labor-market-overviews-by-workforceboard>

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : Amelia - For connection to unions, I would suggest you go to RI COSH
<https://www.coshnetwork.org/node/132>

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : The NIEHS New England Consortium at UML trains a large number of these groups
- for more information go to https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/wtp_ecwtp_report_508.pdf

Session B12 - Substance Abuse and Other Program Landmines

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : NIEHS Opioids & Substance Use: Workplace Prevention & Response material can
be found at <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2587>

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : Other Resources such as NIEHS Responder & Community Resilience Training can
be found at <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2528>

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : We also have an NIEHS Illicit Drug Exposure page at
<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2562>

Sharon Beard, NIEHS : Here is a great article on how COVID-19 and Opioid Addiction collided
<https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/covid-19-and-opioid-crisis-when-pandemic-and-epidemic-collide>

After hours:

Sharon Beard, NIEHS -B12 : More NIEHS ECWTP Videos and Success Stories from UCLA-LOSH/WRUC can
be found at <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2600>

Sharon Beard Also check out the NIEHS ECWTP 25th Anniversary Page at
<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2595>

Amelia Rose Groundwork Rhode Island : Amelia - arose@groundworkri.org

Paul Sammons – RecycleForce Partnership with Brightmark
<https://www.brightmark.com/engage/recycleforce-partnership/>

Session B15 - Leveraging with Partnerships

Ilyssa Manspeizer : @David Casavant I believe Sustain U shifted to masks at one point.
<https://sustainuclimbing.org/>

Session B19 - Training Strategies in the Era of COVID-19

Tiffany Mrotek – PowerPoint Classroom - <https://www.helloteacherlady.com/blog/2020/4/how-to-create-a-virtual-bitmoji-scene-in-google-slides-or-powerpoint>

EPA disinfectant list <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sarscov-2-covid-19>

Don: dwr76@msn.com

James: hendersonj@bartonccc.edu

Ron: rsnyder@netins.net

After hours:

Libby Cornell – Limitless Vistas Student Testimonial Jasmine: https://youtu.be/SoA_JQGqKgg

Libby Cornell – Limitless Vistas Student Testimonial Alvin: <https://youtu.be/mEJH-xch64M>

Paul Sammons – RecycleForce and community partners https://archive.org/details/ReLaunch_of_Career_Pathways_Collaborative

Alex Lopez – LA Conservation Corps Student Testimonial: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/former-gang-member-gets-second-chance-at-life-through-losangeles-conservation-corps/52788/>

Alex Lopez – LA Conservation Corps Student Testimonial: <https://youtu.be/sYtURYu1TpQ>

3. PLC QUESTIONS

Could you explain “Other Factors” in the RFP. Why is it not included as part of Ranking Criteria?

Other Factors provides EPA with the ability to award funds to challenged communities that may not have scored in the top 15 proposals using Ranking Criteria as a guide. This Criteria is subjective in nature and does not carry a point value but has the ability to influence applications recommended for funding. In our opinion, if possible, all applicants should respond to Other Factors. Especially new, rural and tribal related programs. See section 5 for a more detailed explanation of “Other Factors”.

Do you have the contact information for the EPA Attorney?

You may contact Jim Drummond at Drummond.james@epa.gov. An alternative address is shepherd.channing@epa.gov.

Questions?

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

4. GRANTEE AND PARTNER NEWS

ENERGY COORDINATING AGENCY

2020 VIRTUAL COMMUNITY ENERGY CONFERENCE

Date: October 16th.

Join ECA to discuss how we can work together to meet the needs of the communities we serve within the ever-changing 'new normal' brought on by COVID-19. We will be joined by people and organizations sharing stories of resilience and adaptation, along with information about how we navigate the coming year.

Throughout the morning, the panelists will be presenting on Housing Needs, a utility panel on COVID Response, Clean Energy Workforce Transformation, The New Normal of Energy Efficiency, and Concerns for Environmental Justice.

The conference will conclude with the presentation of Community Champion Awards. Nominations are OPEN! Please share with us the stories of individuals and organizations that inspire so that we might lift

them up this October. We look forward to getting to know the incredible people whose work you highlight.

Location: Wherever you are!

Time: 8:00a - 12:30p Format:

Zoom

Registered attendees will receive a link along with guidance for accessing the webinar in early October.

Green For All

Environmental racism means these communities suffer the most from pollution and the climate crisis, while often benefiting the least from the growing clean economy. **But what would it look like if we connected justice-involved people, those who have been arrested, convicted and/or incarcerated, to apprenticeship programs, job training and job placement in the green economy?**

In 2011, Green For All worked with the members of our National Working Group on Green Re-entry to develop a groundbreaking [report](#) highlighting a unique opportunity to transition people from prisons and jails into sustainable careers in a burgeoning green economy. Nearly ten years later, the Dream Corps and its programs **Green For All, #cut50, and TECH** are working across silos and geographies to break the cycle of recidivism, close prison doors, and open doors of opportunity in the green economy and technology for people of color and low-income communities across the country.

Recently, Green For All teamed up with UCLA's Institute of Environment and Sustainability (IoES) to produce ***Facilitating Reentry of Justice-Involved Individuals into the Workforce***, an updated examination of new opportunities and challenges to unlock employment prospects for people returning to communities after incarceration.

Based on extensive interviews with reentry programs, employers, unions, and formerly incarcerated individuals, the report provides a set of key recommendations on best practices and policies to reduce barriers to employment and sustainable livelihoods. Go to section 7 for the full report.

5. THINGS TO DO NOW

Now is the time to double check your application submission process

Double check the person assigned to submit your proposal. Have them log on and insure your credentials are current and that submission procedures have not changed since a grant application was last submitted. 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.**

Important note: We have been informed that [grants.gov](#) will be down for scheduled maintenance **September 19 to the 21**. You will need to plan accordingly. We suggest you submit your grant early

Don't get caught off guard

- If multiple staff members are participating in proposal development, it is important that specific deliverables have been defined and hard deadlines established.
- Schedule proposal completion by September 14.
- Grants.gov is expected to be down for maintenance September 19 to the 21.
- We suggest distributing the proposal "to a fresh set of eyes" for review and consistency.

- Continue collection letters of support from leveraged partners, potential employers, advisory committee members and community supporters.
- Double check your response to Threshold Criteria. Fill in any gaps that may have appeared. Insure that every request has a response.

6. DECONSTRUCTING RANKING CRITERIA - PART 2

Addressing EPA’s seven Ranking Criteria and Other Factors, the PLC has suggested deconstructing each Criteria, developing as much information as possible about each topic, and then reconstructing each Criteria responding specifically and completely to every question asked in each section. Ranking Criteria stand on their own merits and as such similar information (not repetitive) may be useful in responding to more than one Ranking Criteria.

On August 19th we discussed evaluation criteria related to community and partnership development. Establishing relationships in the community, among supporters and employers are key to successful proposals and the topic of several Ranking Criteria questions. Today we focused on training, budgets, leveraging and other factors. Below are Ranking Criteria that have been deconstructed.

Please note we have presented ideas in a different type font. These suggestions are only opinions of those familiar with the EPA evaluation process and do not reflect EPA guidance or policy. Clearly, local conditions, policies and guidance will influence each applicant’s response to Ranking Criteria.

In today’s PLC, following each Ranking Criteria we discussed ideas that grantees may have not considered when developing their proposal.

Ranking Criteria for discussion today

Ranking Criteria discussed today represent 41 of 109 evaluation points. Additionally, Other Factors provide evaluators an additional subjective measure designed to “level the playing field” for new, rural and other challenged communities. 1.A. Community Description (10 points)

1.B. Labor Market Demand (10 points)

2. Training Program Description (10 points)

3. Budget (6 points)

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

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

5.B. Community Partnership Building (8 points)

5.C. Employer Involvement (12 points)

6. Leveraging (6 points)

7. Programmatic Capability (20 points) Other Factors

2. TRAINING PROGRAM DESCRIPTION (10 points)

- Your application will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates: The proposed training curriculum is comprehensive and realistic (2 points);
- The training curriculum is structured to be of benefit to students and the community (2 points);
- The training program incorporates sustainable practices (2 points);

- The logic behind why the training curriculum was designed and structured the way it was (2 points); and
- How the certifications and knowledge gained by graduates of your program will help ensure successful employment. (2 points)

Issue 1- Alternative training plans

This year, “the elephant in the room” requires applicants to propose two training plans.

- How you propose to deliver EWDJT trainings in person under normal circumstances.
- How you propose to deliver the EWDJT trainings if in-person training is not possible due to impacts related to COVID-19.

Applicants should keep in mind that the training plan should be based on the labor market assessment with input from potential employers and advisors. If this is true, why would the proposed curriculum be different when comparing each plan? Other questions local public health restrictions have on the training plan may include the following.

- Will COVID-19 influence the student recruitment process and acceptance standards?
- Will screening methods need to be revised requiring computer availability and literacy?
- Will class size need to be reduced?
- Can students be trained at a safe distance perhaps requiring alternative facilities?
- Do grantees need to consider supplementing or replacing classroom training with distance learning strategies?
- Are trainers available to deliver HAZWOPER and /or other face to face contact certifications?
- What will be the availability of computers, internet or phones to program participants?
- Can expanded use of social media platforms be helpful?
- How will curriculum need to be revised?
- How can training cohorts build resilience into their programs in case training is disrupted in mid-session?
- Will COVID-19 introduce new employment opportunities for EWDJT graduates that may influence the training program?

As will be discussed in other Ranking Criteria, plan A and B not only impact the training plan but also affect the recruitment, screening placement and tracking functions of EWDJT programs.

Issue 2 – Funding availability

As previously noted, the training plan is based on employer needs but is also influenced by funding availability within EPA. While most EWDJT training falls in categories that EPA is likely to support, some may not. Air pollution remediation training, for example, is not currently supported. Life skills, remedial education and student support is encouraged but must be funded with leveraged resources. Here is a summary of training that the EWDJT program supports.

Brownfields hazardous waste assessment and cleanup training, including petroleum cleanup training: \$2,880,000

- Solid waste management or cleanup training: \$15,000
- Superfund site cleanup and innovative and alternative treatment technologies training: \$25,000
- Wastewater treatment training: \$10,000

- Emergency planning, preparedness, and response training: \$20,000
- Enhanced environmental health and safety training: \$15,000
- Alternative energy technologies (e.g. solar installation training, training in the preparation of formerly contaminated sites for renewable energy purposes, etc.): \$15,000
- Underground storage tanks : \$20,000

In developing the training plan, applicants may wish (with employer guidance) to focus on hazardous waste assessment and cleanup related training having over \$2.8 million available for EWDJT. It should be noted that this is a broad category under which many topic areas can be covered. Always relate the training program to the labor market assessment.

Issue 3 – Trainer availability

Given current local public health restrictions, trainers and consultants previously available to deliver training may not be offering Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER 1910.120) at this time. It is important to note the following issues.

- Public health guidelines are changing rapidly.
- Face to face training previously restricted is now opening up.
- The first EWDJT cohort under the FY21 cycle will not begin until the summer of 2021.
- Even with training restrictions, trainers are adapting new strategies to deliver instruction.

If trainers are not currently offering in person training, applicants may wish to consider broadening their search for available trainers especially with regard to certifications requiring face to face and participant contact training.

Issue 4 – Curriculum

HMTRI is regularly asked to provide example training plans to prospective EWDJT applicants. Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER 1910.120) training must be provided to all EWDJT participants. Aside from HAZWOPER training, EWDJT grantees are expected to customize curriculum guided local workforce needs. While not mandatory, OSHA 10, OSHA 30 and First Aid are often offered for health and safety considerations. A partial list below demonstrates the diversity of curriculum offerings that have been delivered by EWDJT programs over the years depending on local worker demand.

- Site remediation, assessment, inventory and analysis
- Asbestos abatement
- Lead abatement
- Renovation, repair, and painting (RRP)
- Mold remediation
- Meth lab cleanup
- Underground storage tank removal
- Confined space training
- Crime scene cleanup of hazardous materials
- Bloodborne pathogens
- Deconstruction and recycling technicians
- Emergency planning, preparedness, and response
- First aid, CPR, blood borne pathogens □ Hazardous materials traffic control
- Commercial driver's license (CDL)
- Forklift driver training
- Hazardous materials flagger

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
- Building trades related to constructing beams, caps, synthetic barriers, pumping facilities, and similar structures to remediate contamination
- Computer-aided design and drafting (CADD)
- Water/wastewater training
- Geographic information systems (GIS)
- General construction (OSHA 10 or OSHA 30)

3. BUDGET (6 points)

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

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

The best advice in responding to this Ranking Criteria is to make sure **all numbers and statements presented in the proposal are consistent**. When numbers do not line up, proposals are guaranteed to lose points. A complete and total review of the proposal in a single sitting by multiple reviewers will mitigate this common error.

Regarding cost estimates for training. Hopefully applicants have contracted with trainers as a part of proposal development under the condition that the grant is funded. Having a “trainer on board” will provide specific cost, experience and capability information that can be used in the preparation of the proposal.

4. PROGRAM STRUCTURE, ANTICIPATED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES (19 points)

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

- Clear anticipated outputs and outcomes that meet the anticipated goals of this program (i.e., to place at least 70% of graduates in full-time employment)
- A comprehensive strategy to recruit and retain students
- Resources available to students to ensure their successful completion of the program
- The ability of the applicant to sustain this program once EPA funds are expended

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

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

4.B. Recruitment and Screening (8 points)

- How the strategies and processes by which the applicant plans on recruiting residents from the target area demonstrates a likelihood for success (2 points)
- The effectiveness of the processes the applicant will use to screen potential students and benchmarks they must pass in order to participate in the proposed program (2 points)
- The robustness of these benchmarks in helping to ensure students are retained and finish the program successfully (2 points)
- The accessibility of your program to your target populations, both geographically in terms of transportation and any costs they may incur to participate. (2 points)

4.C. Program Support (4 points)

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

4.D. Program Sustainability (2 points)

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

Exceed minimum placement guidelines

All grantees need to commit to at least 70% placement. If possible, with employer partnership agreements, increasing retention and placement numbers would be a ++. For existing grantees, historical numbers would provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate success in this area. Employer partnerships need to be reiterated in this section since they are closely related to recruitment, retention placement and tracking. Don't assume this topic has been covered in a previous Ranking Criteria.

Recruitment and placement

Plan A and Plan B does not just affect the training program. Student recruitment, retention and placement are also likely to change in the era of COVID-19.

- EWDJT graduates may find themselves more in demand than they have been in the past.
- Having certifications associated with health and safety related to the remediation of hazardous materials, EWDJT graduates receive special skills not normally found in the general population.
- In the near term, COVID-19 may have a larger impact on how placement staff will need to interact with potential employers.
- Coordination with potential employers may shift to online interaction while student training remains face to face.
- Interviews and other interactions with graduates may employ a variety of social media platforms such as Facebook, Skype or zoom.

4.D. is stuck in this Ranking Criteria.

Program sustainability is really related closely to partnership development and program leveraging. A response to this Ranking Criteria needs to demonstrate strong relationships with

government, employers and leveraged partners. In the event that EPA funding is reduced or interrupted, local supporters are often willing to “pick up the slack”.

Program sustainability and program leveraging are also closely related. Unintended expenses and gaps in formally funded grants and contributions are almost certain in the best EWDJT programs. Most successful EWDJT programs employ several of the fundraising strategies listed below.

- Individual and corporate donations
- Multiple State and Federal Grants
- Solid partnerships with governmental organizations
- Family foundation contributions
- Philanthropic organization support
- Non-governmental and faith based contributions
- Social media - Go Fund Me, website donation requests
- Funding drives, events, sponsorships,
- Fines, judgements and penalties
- Legislative funding
- Special fundraising projects

A note of Caution. Don't assume this topic has been covered in another Ranking Criteria such as leveraging or partnerships.

6. LEVERAGING (6 points)

- Your application will be evaluated, on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates: Additional funds, in-kind services, and or other resources, beyond EPA funds awarded, that will be obtained and used to support the proposed job training program (2 points)
- The overall applicability and benefit these additional resources will bring to the program (2 points)**
 - Whether the leveraged resources are firm (have already been committed or confirmed), or if they are an anticipated leveraged resource. Applications with firm leveraged funding and resources may garner more points. (2 points)

In our opinion, leveraged partnerships are an extremely important consideration in proposal evaluation. Leveraged support is often underestimated by EWDJT applicants. Almost all partnerships provide some level of leveraged support. Many times the level of support is not obvious. Most applicants list a few of the principal leveraged partners providing life skills training and students services. In kind contributions, facilities and equipment should not be overlooked. Major contributors should provide a letter of commitment and support with a letter or MOU. Here are examples of leveraged support often overlooked by EWDJT applicants.

Leveraging for unsupported training and student services

- Case worker.
 - Environmental training not supported by the grant
 - OSHA safety training not related to fundable topics
 - Soft skills, employability, remedial reading, writing and math skills
 - Child and dependent care
 - Financial literacy training and support Personal and legal
 - Transportation

- Drug and alcohol rehabilitation
- Supplemental training support, facilities and equipment
- Veteran assistance
- Workers with disabilities assistance
- Housing assistance
- Stipends and financial assistance including Pre apprenticeship programs

Leveraging for enhanced services also supported by EPA

- Occupational awareness and marketing
- Recruitment assistance
- Labor market assessments
- Participant referrals
- Applicant testing and assessment
- Case management
- Counseling services
- Job readiness training
- Training and equipment assistance
- Placement assistance
- Tracking assistance

Leveraging funds available for discretionary spending, sustainability and program expansion

- Student internships or work study programs
- Student stipends and scholarships
- Equipment and facilities for training and administration
- Training
- Food, snacks and support for student events
- Field trips
- Admission and travel to employer events and job fairs
- Employment programs for special populations

Identifying the leveraged component of partnerships can add an additional 6 points to the overall score. It is also important to lock in partnerships with some sort of *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*. Principal partners should also provide a support letter.

Other Factors

EPA's Selection Official may consider the following other factors, in addition to the evaluation results based on the criteria above, as appropriate, in making final funding decisions. In their applications, applicants should provide a summary on whether and how any of these "other factors" apply to their EWDJT project. Applicants must also complete and submit the Other Factors Checklist and attach supporting documentation as needed, as described in Appendix 3, as part of their application submission. Failure to do so may affect EPA's ability to consider these other factors during selection decisions. EPA may verify this information prior to selection and consider this information during the evaluation process.

- Fair distribution of funds between urban and non-urban areas, including an equitable distribution of funds to "micro" communities (those communities with populations of 10,000 or less). EPA strongly encourages non-urban communities, including micro-communities, to apply;
- A balanced distribution of funds among EPA's 10 Regions and among states and territories;

- Fair distribution of funds between new applicants and previous job training grant recipients; (“New” applicants are defined as organizations that have not received EPA brownfields job training grant funding since 2013;
- Whether the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe or United States Territory, or is an organization that will primarily serve tribal or territorial residents;
- Whether the applicant is located within, or includes, a county experiencing “persistent poverty” where 20% or more of its population lived in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates.
- Applications that seek to serve veterans
- Whether the applicant’s project is located in an IRS-designated Qualified Opportunity Zone <https://www.cdfifund.gov/Pages/Opportunity-Zones.aspx>.

In our opinion, every proposal should respond to Other Factors. Especially new, rural and tribal related programs. Other Factors provides EPA with the ability to award funds to challenged communities that may not have scored in the top 15 proposals using Ranking Criteria as the only evaluation guide.

Other Factors can bump up proposal ranking based on a variety of factors including:

- New proposals
- Small and rural communities
- Proposals serving Native Americans
- Proposals serving veterans
- Target communities in poverty zones
- Target communities in opportunity zones

Don’t overlook serving veterans and opportunity zones. Almost every EWDJT programs is located in or near an opportunity zone. New grantees must check the “new grantee” Other Factor as it helps level the “playing field” when competing with experienced grantees.

It is important to complete the Appendix 3 - Other Factors Checklist (page 46 of the RFA)

Identify with an X any of the items which may apply to your proposed Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant project area as described in the application. Also, provide the page number and where the information is located within the application on how you meet the factor on the line provided next to each factor. Here are some sites that may be helpful in collection Other Factor information.

Federally recognized Indian Tribes

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

Income and Poverty Estimates.

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

Opportunity Zones

<https://www.cdfifund.gov/Pages/Opportunity-Zones.aspx>

7. WEBINARS, ONLINE RESOURCES, WEBSITES, RECORDINGS, AND POWERPOINTS

NIEHS Webinars

[Tools for Creative Engagement on Virtual Platforms](#)

Thursday, September 10 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT

Presenters will share ideas and creative ways to engage participants in virtual health and safety training. Attendees will participate in demonstrations that include software and apps as well as webinar tools and activities for any online training platform.

[In-Person Training under COVID-19: Protocols and Practices](#)

Friday, September 18 3:00-4:00

p.m. EDT

Presenters will cover the basics of safely holding in-person training during the COVID-19 pandemic. Policies from organizations currently delivering in-person training will be discussed and trainers who are in the classroom will share lessons learned to help attendees understand and plan for the inperson experience.

[NIEHS WTP Essential and Returning Worker Online Training Course](#)

Now Available

As workplaces reopen, workers and employers are safeguarding against COVID-19. Vivid Learning Systems designed an online version of the NIEHS WTP Essential and Returning Worker Training course, which is now available from Vivid Learning Systems. This training includes an Introduction and modules on Assessing Exposure Risk to SARS CoV-2, Workplace Exposure Prevention, Cleaning and Disinfections, and Resilience. Access to this course is free of charge. [Vivid Learning System LMS](#)

[Facilitating Reentry of Justice-Involved Individuals into the workforce](#)

This report is an addendum and update to the 2011 report, *Best Practices Guide for Green Re-Entry Strategies*, researched and written by UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (IoES). Since 2011, governmental, academic, and nonprofit entities have expanded efforts to close the "revolving door" of recidivism via green reentry programs and initiatives. This addendum seeks to capture some of the key developments including: - Updates on policy developments and economic changes - Barriers and opportunities for employment for reentry populations - Best management practices for reentry within the framework of green infrastructure and provide a set of recommendations. - Experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals and case studies from organizations.

[Resource Road-mapping Webinar Recording Now Available](#)

Resource Road-mapping for Revitalization: Tools for Leveraging Funding & Other Resources for Brownfields & Land Revitalization webinar, sponsored by the EPA Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, is now available online - you can access it via the "Go to Archive" button on the [webinar homepage](#).

The webinar homepage also has downloadable copies of the presentation and of several of the materials that were discussed during the session, including examples of a Resource Roadmap, Funding Matrix, and Briefing Sheet.

[AIHA COVID19 Resources](#)

AIHA has joined efforts with CDC and NIOSH (National Institute on Occupational Safety and Health) to help educate the public about returning to work safely by hosting a series of free webinars by business sector.

Back to work resources from the AIHA link below offers specific, easy-to-follow, science-based recommendations for limiting the transmission of the coronavirus while operating a wide variety of businesses, including restaurants, retail outlets, and hair and nail salons. Guidelines were developed for smaller organizations that don't have readily available occupational health and safety resources. AIHA encourages employers, employees, and customers to carefully read and implement as many of the recommendations contained in the guidance document as applicable.

8. CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

[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.

[6th Annual GBA Brownfield Seminar](#)

Zoom webinar Oct. 6 & 7, 2020 9 a.m. to 1 p.m

The health and safety of our members and partners has always been a top priority for our organization. After tremendous review and discussion, we have made the decision to pivot our 2020 Brownfield Seminar to a virtual format as a result of the increasing impact COVID is having in our state and beyond. Please plan to join our Zoom webinar on Oct. 6 & 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

While we will miss seeing you all in person and networking with you at the event, please know that we will present the same high-value content that was originally slated for earlier this year. In fact, we are excited to share a number of benefits to this format:

Extended reach - please consider inviting your contacts from all corners of the state (and beyond!) to join us. An online format will allow us to extend our reach and include those who may not typically be able to join in person due to travel restraints.

[ENERGY COORDINATING AGENCY](#)

2020 VIRTUAL COMMUNITY ENERGY CONFERENCE

October 16th, 2020 8:00a - 12:30p Format: Zoom

Join ECA to discuss how we can work together to meet the needs of the communities we serve within the ever-changing 'new normal' brought on by COVID-19. We will be joined by people and organizations sharing stories of resilience and adaptation, along with information about how we navigate the coming year.

Throughout the morning, the panelists will be presenting on Housing Needs, a utility panel on COVID Response, Clean Energy Workforce Transformation, The New Normal of Energy Efficiency, and Concerns for Environmental Justice.

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

Full-day conference at Georgia Power Monday, Oct. 19, 2020

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

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

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

October 25-28 Pensacola, FL

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

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

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

November 4-6, 2020 Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate (Orlando), Florida

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

[National Brownfields Conference](#)

April 27-30, 2021 Oklahoma City, OK

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

9. FUNDING AND LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Submission deadline - September, 21, 2020

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

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

[Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants](#)

Proposals due: September 14, 2020

The Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans which focus on directing resources to address three core goals: Housing, People, and Neighborhood. To achieve these core goals, communities must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan. The application deadline for 2020 HUD Neighborhood Planning Grants is September 14, 2020.

EPA Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grants

The Request for Applications for FY21 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants is now posted on grants.gov.

Applications are due October 28, 2020.

EPA anticipates to have a virtual information session for applicants on September 14th.

FY 2021 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Application Resources

- [FY 2021 Multipurpose Grant Guidelines](#)
- [FY 2021 Assessment Grant Guidelines](#)
- [FY 2021 Cleanup Grant Guidelines](#)
- [FY 2021 Summary of Brownfields Grant Guideline Changes](#)

National Applicant Outreach Webinar

Potential applicants are invited to participate in an upcoming webinar with EPA to review and address questions about the solicitations. The webinar is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2020 at 1:30 PM ET.

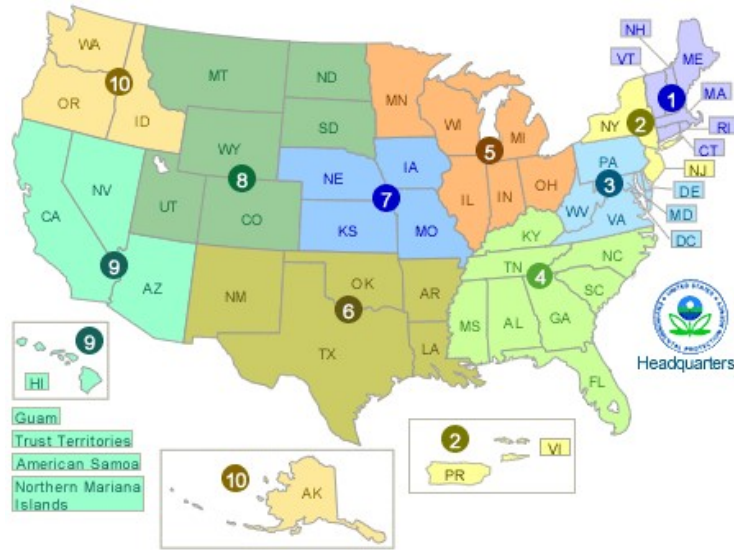
Participants may join the webinar at <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/fy21mac/> and/or via conference call (dial-in number: 1-866-299-3188/ access code: 202-566-1817#).

10. EPA REGIONAL JOB TRAINING COORDINATORS

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about EWDJT grants, extensions, budgets or work plans. For those thinking of submitting an application for FY21 funding, check in to

express your intentions. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current and potential grantees. It is important to be on their contact list for conference calls and newsletters.

EPA Region 1 Myra Schwartz	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Phone: (617) 918-1696 E-mail: schwartz.myra@epa.gov
EPA Region 2 Schenine Mitchell	NJ, NY, PR, VI	Phone: (212) 637-3283 E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
EPA Region 3 Gianna Rosati	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	Phone: (215) 814-3406 E-mail: rosati.gianna@epa.gov
EPA Region 4 Wanda Jennings	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Phone: (404) 562-8682 E-mail: jennings.wanda@epa.gov
EPA Region 5 Linda Morgan	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	Phone: (312) 886-4747 E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov
EPA Region 6 Elizabeth Reyes	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Phone: (214) 665-3163 E-mail: reyes.elizabeth@epa.gov
EPA Region 6 Rita Ware		Phone: (214) 665-6409 E-mail: ware.rita@epa.gov
EPA Region 7 Alma Moreno Lahm	IA, KS, MO, NE	Phone: (913) 551-7380 E-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov
EPA Region 8 Christina Wilson	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	Phone: (303) 312-6706 E-mail: wilson.christina@epa.gov
EPA Region 9 Nova Blazej	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	Phone: (415) 972-3846 E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov
EPA Region 9 Noemi Emeric-Ford		Phone: (213) 244-1821 E-mail: emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov
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

- September 16

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](http://HMTRI.BrownfieldsToolbox) 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.



