

October 28, 2020



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 23.

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. Latest from Washington
2. News from HMTRI
3. Questions from PLC participants
4. Grantee and partner news
5. Collateral consequences of incarceration
6. Strategies used to transition returning citizens into environmental jobs
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**

### **New Dates for Brownfields 2021 Conference**

**Brownfields 2021 will now be held September 27-30, 2021**

#### **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

The goal of the National Brownfields Training Conference is to provide a vibrant networking and learning environment for the Brownfields community. To deliver the valuable in person education and networking opportunities we all look forward to at every Brownfields Conference, we are working to ensure that the venue and travel arrangements will be as safe and healthy as possible for conference attendees. We are committed to providing attendees with the safest and most engaging event possible, while also considering evolving restrictions on gatherings and travel. EPA and ICMA agree that the new September dates will allow for a more robust event in Oklahoma City, especially with regards to educational sessions and networking events. For more information, go to <https://brownfields2021.org/>.

### **EPA will be reopening the Call for Ideas between January 11 and February 28, 2021**

“Due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, Brownfields 2021 has been rescheduled from its original April dates to September 27-30, 2021. It is still being held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Previously submitted session proposals are still under review and no decisions have been made at this time. However, we understand that projects and practice continue to evolve. We will be reopening the Call for Ideas between January 11 and February 28, 2021 and are currently looking to have sessions selected and posted on the website by late March/April 2021. We will be making some small changes to the Call for Ideas when it reopens, but the most important thing to know is that all participants are free to submit additional ideas when it reopens.”

## **EPA Awards 4.1 million in New Environmental Justice Grants**

EPA Awards 4.1 million in New Environmental Justice Grants, Including COVID-19 Relief

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected 28 organizations to receive new Environmental Justice grants, totaling 4.1 million dollars. 10 of these organizations will receive as much as \$200,000 to support the nationwide effort against the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) pandemic. The remaining 18 will get up to \$120,000 to support community-based efforts to develop and implement solutions addressing environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities. To learn more, check out the following sites.

[State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement and COVID-19 2020 Project Summaries](#) 

[Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program 2020 Project Abstracts](#) 

## **2. HMTRI NEWS**

### **Remaining PLCs this cycle and next year' schedule**

With two PLCs remaining in this cycle, we are pushing the next session forward a week in honor of Veterans Day. The next PLC call will be **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**.

After a holiday break, a brand new cycle will begin **January 13<sup>th</sup>**.

### **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)*". If accepted, we will be recruiting grantee presenters and mentors. Let us know if you are interested in either of these sessions or in a new abstract to be submitted before February 28<sup>th</sup> (the new abstract deadline).

As a result of the Brownfields 21 rescheduling, HMTRI is planning a mid-year virtual All-Grantee Meeting towards the end of April or early May. We are currently looking for open dates to maximize EPA and grantee participation. If the September 27-30, 2021 Oklahoma City conference remains as scheduled, HMTRI is planning a face to face preconference All Grantee Meeting to supplement our Spring virtual meeting. Additionally, HMTRI plans to have a booth representing and available to all EWDJT grantees. Email Heather at [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu) with your suggestions and ideas.

## **3. QUESTIONS FROM PLC PARTICIPANTS**

Although we have not yet been successful in obtaining an EWDJT grant, Jake's presentation of the work they are doing at Auberle is impressive. Could you provide us with his contact information?

*Auberle has an outstanding EWDJT program including transitional training with wrap around services for returning citizens. You may contact him at the following address: Jake Markosky, Pauline Auberle Foundation, [jakem@aubarle.org](mailto:jakem@aubarle.org). We also suggest you reapply for the next round of EWDJT grants next summer. Many applications are not funded on their first try but then receive a grant after revising and expanding their application.*

### **Questions?**

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

#### 4. GRANTEE AND PARTNER NEWS

##### Zender Environmental to present at EPA Environmental Justice for [Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#)

The webinar will feature presentations on the EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples, the three (3) EPA EJ financial assistance programs.

- EJ Small Grants
- EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements
- State -Tribal, Local & Territorial governments- EJ Cooperative Agreements

Presentations include Kawerak Inc., Zender Environmental Health and Research Group, and the Tewa Women United on their experiences with the EJ financial assistance programs, including their use of the funding and outcomes of their work. See section 7 for more details.



##### [Recycling Electronics with the Re-Use Corridor](#)

Coalfield Development's Conservation Coordinator, Jacob Hannah, partnered with other members of the Appalachia ReUse Corridor to host an Electronic Recycling Day to bring in old electronics. The ReUse Corridor collected 133 pounds of materials at their event, preventing them from entering landfills. To learn more about the ReUse Corridor, read Jacob Hannah's essay linked above!

##### [Groundwork RI EWDJT program leverages local Dads job training program](#)

In 2018, Groundwork RI received an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant from EPA that has, so far, paid for seven (7) training sessions, including three (3) for Children's Friend, addressing such topics as brownfields remediation, lead in renovations, wastewater, indoor air quality, erosion and sediment control, and composting. The trainings also included hands-on field projects in areas including general landscaping, urban agriculture and composting, green stormwater management, and brownfield remediation projects.

Where are they now? Out of a total of 19 graduates from the Dads job training program since 2018, 16 completed Groundwork RI's training portion including OSHA Health and Safety, and 11 have found employment. The Dads have been employed by Children's Friend in its facilities department and by Groundwork RI on its GroundCorp landscaping team. Graduates have also been employed by RI Hospital, TPI Composites building wind turbine blades, Pathfinder Tree Service in Massachusetts, J&D Landscaping and Lawn Care, Robert Alan Matthews Garden Design, and more.

##### [NIEHS has established a series titled "Training Best Practices in the Time of COVID-19"](#)

NIEHS has made available professional development materials addressing virtual training, available tools, platforms and special topics with a focus on protecting workers who may be at risk of exposure to COVID-19. Training videos are available at the link above.

#### 5. COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF INCARCERATION

Today the PLC continued a discussion on the "baggage" returning citizens convicted of crimes carry with them as they attempt to reenter the environmental workforce. Beginning in 1990 the number of

incarcerated individuals has risen exponentially. The “war on drugs”, “three strikes and you’re out”, get tough on crime policies, minimum sentence guidelines and economic conditions among underserved communities has resulted in over 70 million people with criminal records. Of those only about 11% have been convicted of violent crimes with almost 60% convicted of drug offences. With almost 10,000 returning citizens released from prison every week, what is the responsibility of EWDJT programs to assist this underserved population enter the green economy?

### **Are EWDJT programs sufficiently addressing special needs of returning citizens?**

While most EWDJT programs include ex-offenders as part of their underserved target community, several programs have extensive programs dedicated to transitional training and workforce reentry into the green economy. Those programs include RecycleForce, The Fortune Society, The Pauline Auberle Foundation and others such as The Cypress Mandela Training Center with many years of experience training and placing previously incarcerated participants. What can we learn from those expert in transitional training to avoid setting up our participants for failure? Today we are going to touch on the following issues:

- Challenges faced by participants training for reentry into green jobs.
- Understanding the challenges faced by instructors and program staff.
- Placement challenges that set up graduates for failure.
- If an EWDJT program cannot offer sufficient support and services, should transitional training be provided to returning citizens? If offered, under what conditions?

### **Challenges faced by participants preparing for reentry**

NICC terms collateral consequences as follows. “Collateral consequences are legal and regulatory restrictions that limit or prohibit people convicted of crimes from accessing employment, business and occupational licensing, housing, voting, education, and other rights, benefits, and opportunities. Some collateral consequences serve a legitimate public safety or regulatory function, such as keeping firearms out of the hands of people convicted of violent offenses, prohibiting people convicted of assault or physical abuse from working with children or the elderly, or barring people convicted of fraud from positions of public trust. Others are directly related to a particular crime, such as registration requirements for sex offenders or driver’s license restrictions for people convicted of serious traffic offenses. But some collateral consequences apply without regard to the relationship between the crime and opportunity being restricted, such as the revocation of a business license after conviction of any felony. Frequently consequences also apply without consideration of the time passed between the conviction and the opportunity being sought or the person’s rehabilitation efforts since the conviction. Consequences and restrictions vary widely between states. Often courts do not inform those convicted of the restrictions they have incurred.”

Mike from MVWIB shared an excellent resource first developed by the National Bar Association and is currently updated with support from the Department of Justice. The site has State-by-State news and resources related to ex-offenders, incarceration and overcoming the burdens brought on as a result conviction. To access the online searchable database that identifies and categorizes the statutes and regulations that impose collateral consequences in all 50 states, the federal system, and the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, go to either of the following sites.

[National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction.](#)

[https://niccc.csgjusticecenter.org/database/results/?jurisdiction=&consequence\\_category=&narrow\\_category=&triggering\\_offense\\_category=&consequence\\_type=&duration\\_category=&page\\_number=1](https://niccc.csgjusticecenter.org/database/results/?jurisdiction=&consequence_category=&narrow_category=&triggering_offense_category=&consequence_type=&duration_category=&page_number=1)

Consequences of conviction vary widely by state and type of crime with Vermont having the fewest number of restrictions and Louisiana having the most. Sometimes consequences are instituted to protect the general population, other times to deliver additional punishment to the perpetrator of crime. Example restrictions include

- Restrictions on employment or volunteerism
- Occupational restrictions
- Licenses that may include a commercial driver's license
- Government employment
- Ability to secure loans or grants
- Ability to receive SNAP benefits
- Fines, restitution and civil liabilities

Again, restrictions vary by state, nature of the crime and time elapsed since reentry.

### **Challenges faced by participants preparing for reentry**

Food and housing are the first and second highest priorities faced by returning citizens. In most cases, released inmates return to their home communities, hoping for support from family and friends. No job, no money, a reputation and a return to peer groups that brought them to prison are just the beginning of a long road to productive citizenship.

- Some participants are homeless with no transportation.
- In addition to mental issues, PTSD from incarceration is becoming more prevalent.
- Some participants have persistent health issues.
- Certain states require reentry candidates bear all costs of administration and tracking such as court costs, restitution and ankle bracelets.
- Without employment basic life skills and personal hygiene are sidelined.
- Almost 25% of prisoners return to prison within the first 3 years.

### **Challenges faced by instructors and program staff.**

Challenges faced by returning citizens are shared by those trying to assist in their transition to a productive life.

- Many participants are still involved or impacted by drug use.
- Released inmates often return to their previous peer group rather than positive mentors.
- Many returning citizens have not been in a classroom environment for years.
- Language and gang affiliations have a potential for personality conflicts.
- Recently, the number of participants with mental/PTSD related issues is increasing.
- Release commitments are likely to conflict with training schedules and attendance.
- Most returning citizens will require wrap around services.

### **Placement challenges that set up graduates for failure.**

- The unemployment rate of those attempting to re-enter the workforce is 60-70%.
- Some participants need from 10-15 hours per week related to oversight/probation/counseling and other work.
- Employers are reluctant to take a chance on reentry workers.
- Employers must be committed to assisting new hires that may have special needs.

- Transportation and housing may impede the productivity of returning citizens.
- Some employers may have concerns with legal liability associated with employing ex-offenders.
- Employers may be concerned, from a public relations perspective, employing workers with criminal records.

## **6. STRATEGIES USED TO TRANSITION RETURNING CITIZENS INTO ENVIRONMENTAL JOBS**

Strategies and best practices for EWDJT program working with returning citizens is an ongoing topic HMTRI will be addressing this topic in future PLCs, grantee scans and All-Grantee Meetings as it is an integral component when working with underserved populations. Failure to address the special needs of returning citizens could result in decreased retention rates among EWDJT grantees not aware of the challenges and strategies discussed.

### **Strategies for recruitment and assessment of returning citizens**

A difficult question for program staff to ask is the following. Is the EWDJT program sufficiently funded and partnered to address the needs of reentry applicants. The answer may be no. In such cases, the proper approach is to determine who will be selected for the few seats available for EWDJT instruction and certification. With 20 seats per cycle, opportunities must be given to the most worthy and most likely to succeed in employment. It is of no value to a participant if he or she cannot graduate, obtain sustained employment or disrupt opportunities afforded to others.

- Determine if the EWDJT program is capable of serving participants with special needs.
- What level of offense is considered acceptable for entry into the EWDJT program?
- Can returning citizens put former issues and "baggage" behind?
- Will housing and transportation be an issue in attending classes?
- Are program offerings flexible enough to accommodate participant absences?
- Will participants with special needs disrupt schedules, training and certification?
- Allow a path for reentering the program if circumstances are beyond applicant control.
- Are participants committed to program requirements, rules and expectations?

### **Strategies for instructors and program staff to increase student retention.**

- Can HHS and other partners provide wrap around services if needed?
- Are local partners able to deliver lunch daily if required?
- Are local health and wellness facilities available to participants?
- Are legal services available to provide assistance and consultation?
- When possible provide paid transitional work to supplement training.
- Extensive use of peer to peer networking including volunteer mentors providing support and guidance.
- Encourage peer to peer mentoring. Encourage graduates to return to the program and mentor a new participant.
- Encourage and support team building exercises.
- Engage in exercise before each session to begin the training day.
- Institute the issuance of uniforms to mitigate gang rivalries.
- Have instructors had sufficient experience working with reentry classes?
- Can curriculum be presented graphically and with demonstrations?
- Will language become an issue to successful completion of the curriculum?
- Always have a clear path from participant to program staff.

### **Strategies that set graduates up for success**

As previously noted, a failure to employ graduates is a failure of EWDJT planning. Employers and partners interested in interviewing and employing ex-offenders need to be recruited prior to accepting returning citizens into the program.

- Many employers are interested in returning citizens who have been vetted, screened and trained.
- Employers can plan on 10-15 hours per week related to oversight/probation/counseling, and community service if they informed of schedules in advance.
- Some employers are returning citizens themselves eager to help others and “make a difference”.
- Never let a graduate go for an interview without reviewing reentry challenges with potential employers.
- Seek out employers with special programs for returning citizens.
- Participants completing the course of study have demonstrated reliability and determination.
- Consider smaller employers likely to take a chance of reentry workers.
- Consider manpower firms able to identify their workforce.
- Many states have special employment incentives for reentry workers.
- EWDJT graduates are vetted, screened and carry with them as much as \$5,000 worth of certifications.
- EWDJT graduates have demonstrated their desire to begin a new life.
- Previous graduates are the best sales force for EWDJT graduates.

Clearly, there is lot to unpack in today’s PLC. Transitional training and reentry into the green economy is an ongoing topic worth discussing. Hopefully as a group, HMTRI and EWDJT grantees can expand strategies and best practices when working with this special underserved and challenging population.

### **Additional resources for reentry strategies**

Green for All has published a best practices guide titled *Best Practices in Re-entry Strategies*. As part of the publication, Green For All sited the following best practices for organizations working with re-entry populations.

#### **Best practices for assisting re-entry of justice involved individuals**

- Training Opportunities During Incarceration
- Transitional Jobs: Immediate Work and Income Upon Release
- Wrap-Around Support Services
- Soft Skills Development
- Industry Certifications
- Pre-Apprenticeship Programs
- Foster Relationships with Employers
- Retention Services

#### **To access *Best Practices in Re-entry Strategies***

Go to:

<http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/greenforall/pages/5043/attachments/original/1430777271/GFA-Reentry-Paper.pdf?1430777271>

### **Facilitating Re-entry of Justice-Involved Individuals into the workforce**

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 re-entry 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 re-entry populations - Best management practices for re-entry within the framework of green infrastructure and provide a set of recommendations. - Experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals and case studies from organizations. For the full report, go to:

<https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/facilitating-reentry-of-justice-involved-individuals-into-the-green-workforce-final.pdf>

Below are PLC participants that would be happy to discuss their reentry programs in more detail.

#### **Paul Sammons**

[psammons@recycleforce.org](mailto:psammons@recycleforce.org)  
<http://recycleforce.org/>

#### **Judy De La Cruz**

The Fortune Society  
[jdelacruz@fortunesociety.org](mailto:jdelacruz@fortunesociety.org)

#### **Jake Markosky**

Pauline Auberle Foundation  
[jakem@auberle.org](mailto:jakem@auberle.org)

#### **Eric Shanks**

Cypress Mandela Training Center  
[eshanks@cypressmandela.org](mailto:eshanks@cypressmandela.org)

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

[\*\*U.S. EPA webinar series to build the capacity of tribal government, indigenous peoples and other environmental justice practitioners.\*\*](#)

**Tue, November 10, 2020**

**2:30 PM – 4:00 PM EST**

This webinar will feature presentations on the EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples, the three (3) EPA EJ financial assistance programs (1- EJ Small Grants, 2- EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements, and 3 - State -Tribal, Local & Territorial governments- EJ Cooperative Agreements), and presentations from Kawerak Inc.,

Zender Environmental Health and Research Group, and the Tewa Women United on their experiences with the EJ financial assistance programs, including their use of the funding and outcomes of their work. Speakers:

- Vanessa Tahbone, Environmental Coordinator, Kawerak Inc.
- **Lynn Zender, Executive Director, Zender Environmental Health & Research**
- **Simone Sebalo, Deputy Director, Zender Environmental Health & Research**
- Beata Tsosi-Pena, Coordinator, Environmental Health and Justice Program, Tewa Women United
- Dani Triebwasser, MS Candidate, Environmental Justice & Conservation Ecology, University of Michigan
- Danny Gogal, Tribal and Indigenous Program Manager, Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Registration is required. Registered participants will receive details on how to access the webinar closer to the date of the session.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>

For questions about the series, please contact: Danny Gogal at [gogal.danny@epa.gov](mailto:gogal.danny@epa.gov) or Ericka Farrell, [farrell.ericka@epa.gov](mailto:farrell.ericka@epa.gov).

### **[Socially Distant Engagement Ideas for Grant Applicants](#)**

Community engagement is a requirement for applicants seeking EPA Brownfield MARC Grant funding. EPA recently released a guide of virtual tools and other approaches to continue to perform outreach during COVID-19. When face-to-face meetings or in-person interactions can't happen, consider using virtual tools alongside non-digital approaches.

### **[Small Communities, Big Solutions](#)**

Coalfield Development is partnering to host the third annual Small Communities, Big Solutions Conference on November 16th. The conference will pull together community leaders to share ideas on improving West Virginia and network with other leaders. Learn more at our event site!

### **Creating the Water Workforce of the Future: Webinar Series**

#### **[Technology Adoption: It's All About the People](#)**

**December 9, 2020**

**11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time**

**Moderator - Jim Horne, U.S. EPA**

Every day, water service providers tackle complex challenges, such as aging water infrastructure, extreme weather events, water shortages, rising costs, increasing customer demands, and cyber security. Water sector utilities serve as “anchor institutions” in their communities and are implementing new and exciting technologies to address these pressing challenges. As utilities adopt these new technologies, they also need to invest in their most important resource: their staff. It is critically important that employees receive training and support to ensure the water workforce remains efficient and resilient.

Please join EPA and speakers from two leading organizations as they discuss the motivations, challenges, and benefits they are experiencing as they work with their own employees and others to ensure their people get the best support possible to meet the technology and water quality challenges of the 21st century.

This webinar is part of an ongoing webinar series sponsored by EPA, with support from other leading water associations. More information on this series is available at <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-waterinfrastructure/water-sector-workforce>

### **Opportunity Zones**

Are Opportunity Zones boosting small, minority-owned and legacy businesses?

The massive new Opportunity Zone tax incentive was conceived as a tool to promote economic development, job creation, poverty reduction, and support for new businesses in areas of concentrated poverty. A couple years in, is it having the desired effects? Are the investments supporting small business stability and growth, especially for minority-owned legacy businesses?

**Unrealized Gains, our new report, takes a closer look at these questions. [Read more about the report.](#)**

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

### **The 2020 Florida Brownfields Conference**

**October 29-November 6**

**Virtual**

Keeping Our Community Safe While Staying Connected. Despite the challenges of our current climate, brownfield cleanup and redevelopment, environmental justice, community engagement and revitalization, and equitable development are as timely and important as ever. We are committed to bringing you a provocative, engaging virtual brownfields conference in 2020. For 2020, we are also working with our partners with U.S. EPA Region IV to include the Region IV New Brownfield Grantee Workshop and broader Southeast Regional themes in the virtual 2020 conference.

During the 2020 virtual conference, we plan (i) to hold the U.S. EPA Region IV New Brownfield Grantee Workshop virtually in coordination with U.S. EPA as part of the conference and (ii) to serve as a platform for provocative sessions that showcase both Florida and Region IV Brownfields issues, initiatives, and efforts, in order for participants throughout Region IV to come together, participate, collaborate, and to share. Virtual Conference Format -The 2020 Brownfields Conference will be an all virtual event.

Registrants will be emailed an access code to join the events a few days before the conference.

We will be offering creative events for participants to come together, network, collaborate, and share.

Registration Costs

PRIVATE SECTOR - \$125.00

PUBLIC or NON-PROFIT SECTOR - \$100.00

STUDENT - \$ 50.00

EPA NEW GRANTEES WORKSHOP - NO CHARGE (Not Including Other Conference Sessions)

Registration includes virtual access to all sessions, workshops, videos, and events hosted by FBA for the 2020 Florida Brownfields Conference. Participants will be required to login from their own network for access.

### **2020 Virginia Brownfields Conference**

**Join DEQ for the latest information on brownfield redevelopment in Virginia.**

**Tuesday November 10th.**

Two full days of great sessions - including a full day in between for a break.

Sessions will focus on great projects across the state and an opportunity to speed network with our sponsors. Don't miss this exciting event coming to a computer near you!

**[View the agenda here.](#)**

The conference will feature six sessions over two days, with sessions at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, with long breaks in between. Register at the following site.

### **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!

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

**November 17-19, 2021**

**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 now take place on November 17-19, 2021.

View this link to learn more:

<https://floridaremediationconference.org>

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

### **Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program (P42).**

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is continuing the Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program, referred to as Superfund Research Program (SRP) Centers. SRP Center grants will support problem-based, solution-oriented research Centers that consist of multiple, integrated projects representing both the biomedical and environmental science disciplines. The Center cores are tasked with administrative (which includes research translation), data management and analysis, community engagement, research experience and training coordination, and research support functions. SRP is holding a webinar to provide information about the new funding opportunity on October 1. The application deadline is February 15, 2021. For more information and to register for the webinar, see

<https://clu-in.org/live>.

For more information and application instructions for the grants, see

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-20-014.html>.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

#### **Local Foods, Local Places**

**Application deadline: October 30, 2020**

Local Foods, Local Places helps cities and towns across the country protect the environment and human health by engaging with local partners to reinvest in existing neighborhoods as they develop local food systems. In 2021, the program is sponsored by the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) and EPA. Local Foods, Local Places supports locally led, community-driven efforts to protect air and water quality, preserve open space and farmland, boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, improve access to healthy local food, and promote childhood wellness.

Through Local Foods, Local Places, partner communities have worked on projects such as:

- Opening year-round, downtown markets featuring foods from local farmers.
- Planning cooperative grocery stores and other food access options to help revitalize small-town main streets.
- Creating centrally located community kitchens or food hubs to aggregate and market local foods.
- Starting business incubators to help entrepreneurs launch food-related businesses on main streets.
- Making it easier for people to walk or bicycle to farmers markets and local restaurants.
- Helping schoolchildren to grow their own food, and making healthy local food accessible to families, including via SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits.
- Exploring ways to use Opportunity Zones in the context of local food system development and downtown revitalization.
- Developing community gardens in walkable, transit-accessible places.

In selecting Local Foods, Local Places partner communities, special consideration is given to communities in the early stages of developing local food enterprises and creating economically vibrant communities.

Local Foods, Local Places builds on the [ARC-EPA-USDA Livable Communities in Appalachia](#) partnership, which worked to promote economic development, preserve rural lands, and increase access to locally grown food in Appalachian towns and rural communities. Many of the communities we work with through Local Foods, Local Places are small towns or rural communities. To find more of our resources for rural places and learn about how revitalization can help towns strengthen their economies, improve quality of life, and protect the environment and human health.

**Communities are invited to apply for a new round of planning assistance from Local Foods, Local Places.**

The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 30, 2020.

[Click here for the 2020-2021 Local Foods, Local Places application.](#)

If you have questions about the program or the application process, please read the

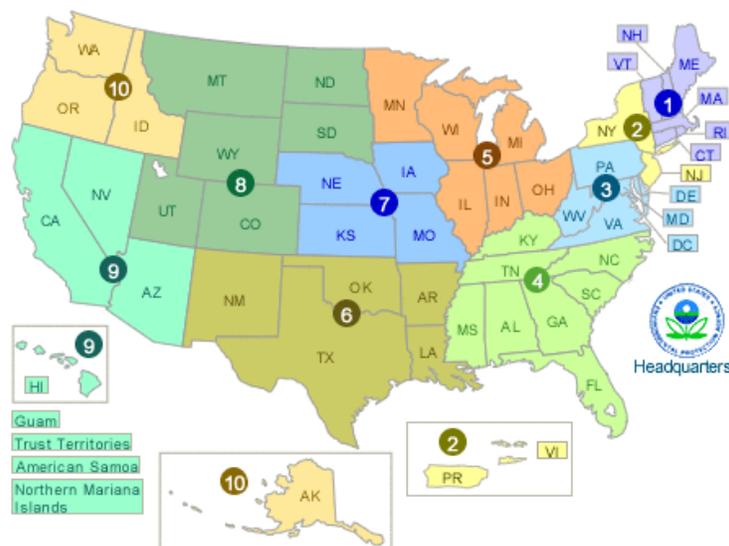
[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) About Local Foods, Local Places.](#)

**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.

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Map of EPA Regions

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

## 11. JOIN US ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALLS

### Upcoming PLC calls

- November 18 – this is pushed 1 week in honor of Veterans Day.
- December 2
- December 16

**Note:** Cycle 14 will start January 13, 2021.

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the [brownfields-toolbox.org](http://brownfields-toolbox.org). Join our 30-minute discussion with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni and new interested stakeholders.

PLCs give grantees a chance to highlight their programs and an opportunity for others to learn from their experience. For questions or to be placed on the PLC register, send your contact information to [hkballou@eicc.edu](mailto:hkballou@eicc.edu).

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

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

