

December 2, 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. The Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training Program (RACEJT) - Lynn Zender and April Reed-McCoy
6. <http://www.zendergroup.org>
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**

### **National Brownfields 2021 Conference**

**September 27-30, 2021**

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

To keep posted on the latest information on the 2021 Brownfields Conference, including featured speakers, sponsorship opportunities, and more, go to the following sign up [form](#).

For more information **about Brownfields21**, 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 FY 2021 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants**

The MAC Grant applications were submitted October 28, 2020. Nationally, EPA received approximately 430 submissions. EWDJT grantees are encouraged to coordinate with MAC grantees both during

proposal development and program implementation. The selection announcement is expected in Spring 2021.

## **2. HMTRI NEWS**

### **HMTRI is planning a mid-year virtual All-Grantee Meeting**

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. In the next week or two, we will be scanning grantees for their preferences and ideas.

### **September 27-30, 2021 Oklahoma City Brownfields National Conference**

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 the Spring virtual meeting. Additionally, HMTRI plans to have a booth representing and available to all EWDJT grantees.

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

Can you give us an update on the progress of the FY21 Request for EWDJT Applications?

*The exact date of award announcements is highly variable depending upon EPA's COVID remote work schedule and ability to coordinate reviewer evaluations. Our current "best guess schedule" for application review, award and program implementation is flexible but could look like this.*

- **FY21 EWJT Proposals were submitted – September 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- *Threshold criteria (Pass Fail) notifications of application rejections were sent out in October*
- *Ranking criteria evaluations – Currently in progress*
- *Award announcements – expected February, 2021*
- *Program planning, partnership coordination and scheduling – March-April, 2021*
- *Finalization of work plans and award finalization – March-May, 2021*
- *HMTRI Virtual All-Grantee Meeting (EPA, alumni, current and new grantees - Late April/early May, 2021)*
- *Authorization for grantees to spend funds –April-May, 2021*
- *Community awareness, student recruitment and screening – Summer, 2021*
- *2021 National Brownfields Conference and HMTRI Preconference All-Grantee Meeting- September 27, 2021*
- *First year training cohorts begin – Fall, 2021*
- *ACRES and Quarterly reports – Due quarterly after award finalization*

### **Questions?**

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

#### 4. GRANTEE AND PARTNER NEWS

Zender Environmental RACEJT program delivers in the era of COVID [The Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training Program \(RACEJT\)](#) is Zender's EWDJT program. Here is how exceptional grantees provide training in rural areas when there is no internet and COVID prohibits travel and face to face instruction:



##### **“No internet, no computer? No Problem!**

2020 training went from a residential style training to a distance learning model overnight, just days before students were posed to fly into Anchorage. It was nothing short of heroic for students this year to attend classes without internet, receiving course materials via snail mail. All committed to 2-4 hour live calls, every day, despite quarantine conditions, taking care of family and subsistence activities. A total of 9 students received several national certification courses that will help them attain meaningful work within their community or region. Here is Oscar Active Jr of Kongiganak, donning his HAZWOPER decon equipment for the 40 hr. certifying course. All 9 completed session one of RACEJT 2020 and when safe to travel, will fly in and complete the hands-on portion of the remaining courses to complete their UAF, Occupational Endorsement. Congratulations Crew of 2020!

**7 of the 9 RACEJT 2020** graduates are **already employed** since session one's end. Of the remaining two, one is in quarantine at home now and one in the process of being hired. Graduates are working as spill responders of home fuel tank spills, landfill operators, collectors and laborers, utility clerk and wastewater plant work.”

#### 5. THE RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAM (RACEJT)- Lynn

Zender and April Reed-McCoy

Thanks Lynn and April for today's presentation.

As previously noted, The Rural Alaska Community Environmental Job Training Program (RACEJT) is Zender Environmental Health and Research Group's EWDJT program. The overall mission of their organization is “to provide environmental program services for underserved Tribal and isolated-rural populations where the need exists.” Their EWDJT program provides environmental job training to support local environmental efforts in rural Alaska communities. Over the years, experience has demonstrated that the most difficult environmental job training programs have the following challenges:

- Programs in dispersed or rural communities
- Training participants with health, education, age, gender, and cultural disparities
- Recruitment, training and placement of Tribal and indigenous populations in traditional environmental jobs
- Lack of transportation
- Student populations with no or limited computer/internet access

Zender has faced and overcome each of these challenges consistently placing nearly all of their graduates and retaining more than 85 percent of their applicants. They received their first EPA grant in 2011 and have successfully competed for four additional awards.

Zender's RACET program targets unemployed residents of small and rural Alaskan Native Villages (100-1,000 residents) located throughout Alaska. Many are off the state road system and can be reached only

by plane or chartered boat. The unemployment rate in some of these villages, before COVID, exceeded 19 percent. About one third of residents are food and housing insecure. Despite its reputation as rural with vast open spaces, Alaska has approximately 6,287 known contaminated sites, with much of the contamination resulting from inadvertent spills, careless chemical handling, and unregulated waste disposal during the last century's development. In addition, thousands of remote mining sites contain high concentrations of heavy metals and processing chemicals. Today Lynn and April discussed their unique program and the strategies they have used to overcome challenges associated with rural and culturally diverse EWDJT programs.

### **Student recruitment and screening in rural or remote locations**

Zender targets 180 rural tribal communities throughout Alaska that have Alaska Native populations greater than 30 percent. Recent program participants have been 95% native Alaskan ranging from 10 % to 30% female. In Alaska as with other rural communities, it is not feasible for participants to commute. For this reason recruitment, application and training is handled differently than most, more concentrated grantee programs. In Alaska, one of the best communication, awareness and marketing approaches is extensive use of radio. Dispersed communities make radio an essential marketing and recruitment media. Internet is important and extensively used by the [RACEJT](#) program as will be illustrated in the next section of these notes. The [www.zendergroup.org](http://www.zendergroup.org) website is one of the best EWDJT websites and is used for instructional materials, resource distribution, marketing, recruitment, and application processing. It should be noted, that even with a comprehensive internet communications system, many villages are challenged to provide reliable internet.

Applicants download and complete applications available online with telephone assistance and support. While a GED is required, the primary screening methodology involves personal communications. The next step is a series of telephone interviews providing RACEJT staff an opportunity to assess the applicant's desire and interest in the program. This essentially replaces the on-site interview used by most programs. It is made clear from the very beginning that RACEJT has a zero tolerance policy. Students abusing alcohol or drug are discharged from the program immediately.

### **Pre and post COVID training**

Post COVID training at Zender is best described in the previous section on grantee news. With limited internet connectivity, restricted face-to-face training, correspondence by mail supplemented by phone remains the most effective instructional delivery methodology. Under pre-COVID conditions, training was centralized in Anchorage requiring students to travel from remote communities, remain in Anchorage for 2 weeks of intensive training, return home for 2 weeks and then return for 2 weeks of final instruction and graduation. Classes consume the entire day simulating a working environment. With resource and time limitations, some classes continue into the evening and continue 7 days a week. The core-training program includes 195 hours of instruction within three general themes:

- Brownfields waste assessment and cleanup training
- Solid waste management
- Spill response

RACEJT training is based on a comprehensive needs assessment. The training program is intentionally broad to equip graduates with resumes that will allow them to find full-time work within their home communities. In a normal cohort Zender would plan to recruit about 18 students from 12 to 15 different

villages. Recent placement rates have approached 100 percent with retention rates exceeding 85 percent.

**2020 pre-COVID courses included the following:**

- Universal Refrigerant Recover Tech, Section 608
- OSHA Forklift Operation Standard [29 CFR 1910.178(l)]
- OSHA 40 HR HAZWOPER [29 CFR 1910.120]
- CPR/First AID [American Heart Assoc.]
- OSHA Confined Space Entry [29 CFR 1910.146]
- OSHA 10 HR Construction Safety [29 CFR 1926]
- Rural Alaska Landfill Operator (RALO) [AK Solid Waste Assoc. of N. America]
- Rural Solid and Hazardous Waste Management [UAF ENVI 115]
- Alaska Certified Erosion and Sediment Lead
- National Incident Management System 100 and 200
- GPS Basic Mapping Advanced Job Readiness [UAF ABUS 183]
- Boating Safety [Boat US Foundation]
- State of Alaska Qualified Water & Soil Sampler Training [UAF ENVI 110]
- DOT HAZmat Regulations [49 CFR 171-177]
- Rural Alaska Oil & Hazardous Substance Spill Response [UAF ENVI 117]
- Facility Maintenance [UAF CTT 130]
- Advanced Job Readiness [UAF ABUS 183]

Participants who complete the training earn fifteen state and federal certifications.

**Partnerships**

Rural communities have the ability and necessity to leverage with other rural programs bringing multiple resources to students. It is important that organizations in small communities seek out all available partners, resources and employers to help offset constraints imposed on rural programs. Partners and potential employers work closely coordinating workforce needs with training and certification. Zender's key partners include the following organizations:

- Kawerak Inc.
- Bristol Bay Native Association Integrity Environmental
- Akiachak Native Community Tribal Environmental Department
- Organized Village of Kwethluk
- University of Washington NIEHS Worker Training Program
- UAF College of Rural and Community Development
- Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
- Native Council of Port Heiden
- Copper River Native Association
- Native Village of Hooper Bay
- Kuna Engineering.

**Student retention**

Lynn attributes their exceptional retention rate to a "buddy system". To conserve resources, and encourage team building, participants bunk up two to a room when in Anchorage. The entire cohort and staff are together seven days a week 24 hour a day. Training is structured as a full workday with students living and working together as a team. RACEJT has a zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol

with strict behavior and professionalism enforced. As with other highly mentored programs, retention rates increase when peer-to-peer teambuilding is encouraged.

### **Placement & Tracking**

Placement & tracking in rural and disbursed communities is difficult but not impossible. The number of employers may be lower than urban communities but with near 100% placement rates, RACEJT demonstrates that rural and tribal programs can flourish. To “jumpstart” placement, RACEJT has established a priority application process for unemployed community residents who can find an employer who will hire them upon completion of training. Employers must provide letters of support and participate in the application/ interview process. In addition to potential employer support, RACEJT staff identifies and matches employers with workforce needs having the “best fit” for available graduates. The program makes extensive use of employer relationships and considers them as partners and supporters of the program.

### **Zender’s work in environmental justice**

In 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Zender Environmental Health and Research Group an Environmental Justice (EJ) Collaborative Problem Solving Grant to help address social justice in Alaska. Zender Environmental administers the Backhaul Alaska Program on behalf of the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce (SWAT). [Backhaul Alaska](#) is a statewide coordinated system to remove hazardous wastes, relying on and bolstering the ground-built capacity of the local communities. The EPA environmental justice grant helps SWAT establish partnerships and develop the Backhaul Alaska program in a manner that best works for the people it serves. The advice and consent of participating tribes and local communities is paramount in executing all aspects of the program.

### **Contact and Additional Information:**

Lynn and April would be happy to discuss their program and issues associated with working with Tribes, non-English speaking students, rural and disbursed communities.

Zender Environmental Health & Research Group program

Lynn Zender

April Reed-McCoy

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308 G Street, Ste. 312

Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone: 907-277-2777

### **6. [www.zendergroup.org](http://www.zendergroup.org)**

It is rare that the PLC features a grantee’s website as part of the biweekly phone conversation. Zender Environmental is an exception. “Hands down”, the [zendergroup.org](http://www.zendergroup.org) website is one of the best grantee sites and is used for instructional materials, resource distribution, marketing, recruitment and application processing. Strong websites for programs in rural, remote and diverse target communities are a necessity, but also an excellent resource for any EWDJT program.

The entire RACEJT program is clearly presented on their website. After today’s PLC, we encourage listeners to spend some time learning more about RACEJT on the internet. Go to

<http://www.zendergroup.org/racejt.html>

Employers, partners, supporters and participants will see the entire program in detail with links to additional information including the following:

- Program summaries and purpose
- Program brochures
- Application packets
- FAQs
- Informational flyers
- Informational flyers for employers
- Schedules and time lines for training – see this year’s schedule below
- Course lists
- Testimonials from graduates
- Technical resources

Here is a sample introduction to RACET for the site

“Are you from a remote non-hub Alaska community? Do you need training in the environmental health field, so that you are qualified to be a Landfill Operator, Environmental Technician, Emergency Spill Responder, Home Fuel Tank Inspector, Certified Sediment and Erosion Control Lead, Forklift Operator, Water and Soil Sampler, or Backhaul materials specialist? Then this may be the program for you!

**EMPLOYERS:** Are you an employer with an upcoming project and you are searching for skilled local workers? This program may help you attain your workforce goals. Trainees that have secured jobs once they graduate have priority program acceptance!

**YR 2021 Tentative Training Dates** (You must commit to attending both sessions):

March-April 2021: Two weeks on, two weeks off, then back again to complete = 4 weeks

**Participant Qualifications:**

- Must be unemployed or under-employed, working no more than 20 hrs. per week
- Must live in a rural village consisting of 30% or more Alaska Native population
- Other eligibility factors are included in the application packet.

**Cost:** Scholarships are available to help make this a FREE TRAINING for nearly all applicants!!!!

**Written Application Due Date:** *Exact date to be announced.*

**Application Packet and Application Requirements:** Read all information and instructions in the Application Packet.

Click here for the 2021 Application (Projected Availability 11/30/20)

If you have questions, call April McCoy at 717-4754, or email her at [amccoy@zendergroup.org](mailto:amccoy@zendergroup.org)

**Additional YR 2020 RACEJT Program Information:**

[2020 Informational Flyer](#)

[2020 Informational Flyer](#) Employer Version

[2020 RACEJT Course List](#)

[List of RACEJT Graduates by Community and Region](#)

[RACEJT Portfolio Review of 2012 to 2019 Programs”](#)

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

### **Essential Workers in the Time of COVID-19**

**Johns Hopkins Education and Research Center**

**Photojournalist Earl Dotter**

**December 7, 2020**

**12:10 – 1:20 ET**

Johns Hopkins Education and Research Center (ERC) for Occupational Safety and Health is sponsoring a webinar titled, “Essential Workers in the Time of COVID-19.” This will feature photojournalist Earl Dotter, who will also show a history of the use of personal protective equipment.

### **Protecting Volunteers from COVID-19 During Natural Disaster Response and Recovery**

**The webinar is free and open to all**

**Dec 7, 2020 2:00 PM Eastern**

The NIEHS Worker Training Program Fall/Winter Webinar Series presents a 90-minute webinar in partnership with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, Subcommittee on Environmental Justice and Natural Disasters. This webinar accompanies the new release of the joint AIHA/NIEHS Guidance to Protect Volunteers From COVID-19 During Natural Disaster Response and Recovery. This guidance is designed to provide unpaid natural disaster response volunteers with information about protection from COVID-19 and how volunteer organizations operate during a response to help understand the managerial and organizational systems volunteers encounter. The webinar panelists include experts from a variety of organizations who will discuss their experiences working with volunteers who deployed for natural disaster response and clean-up. It will address suggestions for how and why to deploy, expectations for volunteer supervisors/ organizations, controls for indoor and outdoor safety measures, lodging and dining, PPE supply, HAZMAT training, and more.

### **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>



### **Fatigue in the Workplace:**

#### **Effects on Health and Performance and Measurement Considerations Webinar**

**Dec. 16 at 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET.**

A leading cause of non-fatal work injuries is overexertion and bodily reaction. What is less understood is the role fatigue plays as a contributing factor. Fatigue in the workplace is a multidimensional process that results in diminished worker performance and is often underappreciated and unrecognized. This webinar will present an overview of worker fatigue and how it may be defined, examine ramifications on worker health and performance, and identify measurement considerations.

### **E-Newsbrief of the National Clearinghouse**

The E-Newsbrief of the National Clearinghouse is a free weekly newsletter focusing on new developments in the world of worker health and safety. Each issue provides summaries of the latest worker health and safety news from newspapers, magazines, journals, government reports, and the Web, along with links to the original documents. Also featured each week are updates from government agencies that handle hazmat and worker safety issues such as DOE, EPA, OSHA and others. The National Clearinghouse Newsbrief is the best way to stay on top of the worker health and safety news.

### **Covid-19 Training Tools from NIEHS**

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) has been tracking information about the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as it pertains to protecting workers involved in emergency response and cleanup activities performed in the United States. This website contains health and safety resources for workers who may be at risk of exposure to COVID-19. Topics and links include:

- General Awareness Training Tool
- Essential and Returning Workers Training Tool
- COVID-19 Toolbox
- WTP Awardee Resources
- WTP Webinars
- WTP Technical Workshops
- Federal Links and Documents
- Other Links and Documents

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

### **National Brownfields Conference**

**September 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**

### **FY 2021 Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities**

#### **The deadline to apply is December 22, 2020**

EPA's Brownfields Program announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, to provide technical assistance to communities and stakeholders to help address their brownfield sites, and to increase their understanding and involvement in brownfields cleanup, revitalization and reuse. The deadline to apply is December 22, 2020.

For more information and application instructions, Go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/fy-2021-technical-assistance-brownfields-communities-grant-solicitation>.

### **EPA Office of Land Revitalization**

#### **Contractor support to provide technical assistance (TA) directly to communities**

The EPA Land Revitalization Program is offering contractor support to provide technical assistance (TA) directly to communities who wish to incorporate sustainable and equitable approaches to their locally-driven land revitalization projects. Each TA will offer \$30,000 to support site reuse for a brownfield or other contaminated property, and must be completed by Dec 2021.

Types of TA's work include:

- Market analysis, labor market and economic research
- Site design and revitalization plans, green infrastructure
- Reuse assessment of potential assets and barriers to implementing revitalization plans
- Identifying next steps and actions needed for implementing a redevelopment project
- Incorporating sustainable, equitable and/or resiliency practices into reuse

For more information please contact Tish Corbett at [corbett.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:corbett.patricia@epa.gov), 215 814-3173.

### **NOSI: Promoting Health, Safety, and Recovery Training for COVID-19 Essential Workers and their Communities**

#### **The deadline to apply is Dec. 30.**

NIEHS published a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) for the purpose to provide support for successful applicants to develop partnerships with local worker centers and community organizations specifically targeting under served and disadvantaged communities with higher than average COVID-19 transmission rates. The deadline to apply is Dec. 30.

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

#### **Application deadline: February 15, 2021**

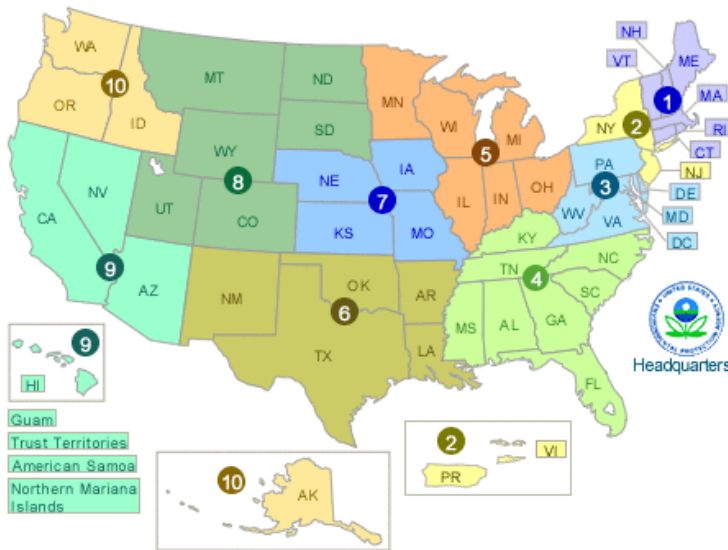
The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is continuing the Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program, referred to as Superfund Research Program (SRP) Centers. SRP Center grants will support problem-based, solution-oriented research Centers that consist of multiple,

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.

#### 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.

<b>EPA Region 1</b> Myra Schwartz	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Phone: (617) 918-1696 E-mail: schwartz.myra@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 2</b> Schenine Mitchell	NJ, NY, PR, VI	Phone: (212) 637-3283 E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 3</b> Gianna Rosati	DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	Phone: (215) 814-3406 E-mail: rosati.gianna@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 4</b> Wanda Jennings	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Phone: (404) 562-8682 E-mail: jennings.wanda@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 5</b> Linda Morgan	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI	Phone: (312) 886-4747 E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 6</b> Elizabeth Reyes	AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Phone: (214) 665-3163 E-mail: reyes.elizabeth@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 6</b> Rita Ware		Phone: (214) 665-6409 E-mail: ware.rita@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 7</b> Alma Moreno Lahm	IA, KS, MO, NE	Phone: (913) 551-7380 E-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 8</b> Christina Wilson	CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	Phone: (303) 312-6706 E-mail: wilson.christina@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 9</b> Nova Blazej	AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU	Phone: (415) 972-3846 E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 9</b> Noemi Emeric-Ford		Phone: (213) 244-1821 E-mail: emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov
<b>EPA Region 10</b> Susan Morales	AK, ID, OR, WA	Phone: (206) 553-7299 E-mail: morales.susan@epa.gov



Map of EPA Regions

Credit: [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov)

## 11. JOIN US ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALLS

### Upcoming PLC calls

- December 16

**Note:** Cycle 34 will start January 13, 2021.

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the [brownfields-toolbox.org](https://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](https://brownfields-toolbox.org) 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.

