

February 10, 2021



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 24.

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. Partner news
4. Questions from PLC participants
5. “Green shoots” trends in energy and environmental justice
6. Training during COVID
7. COVID resources and fact sheets
8. Funding, leveraging and outreach opportunities
9. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators
10. Join us for the next Professional Learning Community call

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>.

[The Second Call for Ideas will be closing March 8, 2011](#)

We are looking for panels, roundtables, and topic talks that will motivate brownfields stakeholders to engage, learn, and share their experiences and knowledge of community revitalization challenges and solutions. We are still reviewing submissions from the first Call for Ideas. If you submitted an idea in the first Call for Ideas, please do not submit the same idea again

[EPA Nominations for NEJAC Membership is Now Open](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites nominations from a diverse range of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to its National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). The Agency is seeking nominations to fill approximately eight (8) new vacancies for terms through September 2022. Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified persons to be considered for appointment to this advisory council. The deadline to apply is March 24.

2. HMTRI NEWS

Mid-year Zoom panel on in-person training strategies March 10th - 2:00pm Eastern

As discussed in this week’s PLC call, In-person training appears to be the primary method for environmental workforce training delivery as public health concern over virus transmission begins to

abate. In this special Mid-Year Webinar, HMTRI is bringing together the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training community to explore lessons learned during the global pandemic. We will be highlighting successes and challenges associated with protecting instructors and students when delivering in-person training. Our panel of experts includes: Elizabeth Cornell from Limitless Vistas in New Orleans, LA, Ken Alexander from RecycleForce in Indianapolis, IN, and Rene Dulle from St. Louis Community College, St. Louis, MO. The Zoom webinar will be held March 10th in place of a regularly scheduled PLC call.

HMTRI is planning a mid-year Virtual All Grantee Meeting May 4th, 5th and 6th.

This year's All Grantee Meeting will be a Zoom event with a format similar to last year's. Sessions are scheduled from 12:00 to 3:00 pm Eastern each day. The event will feature networking opportunities with EPA staff, Regional Coordinators, current, past and prospective grantees, student videos, break out rooms for discussion and grantee tours. In the coming months, we will be collecting topics of interest, presenters and videos to share with meeting participants.

3. PARTNER NEWS

With a new administration in Washington, a number of appointments, promotions and changes in agency priorities are beginning. This week the PLC would like to recognize individuals, who over the years, have been outstanding friends and contributors to the EWDJT program. We congratulate their success and look forward to their continued support in the coming year.

Michael S. Regan has been confirmed to head the Environmental Protection Agency

Michael S. Regan has been confirmed to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. Regan worked with the Environmental Protection Agency's air quality and energy programs for the Clinton and Bush administrations. He was selected to head the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality in 2017 and made a name for himself by pursuing cleanups of industrial toxins and helping low-income and minority communities hit hardest by pollution. Regan also created North Carolina's Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board to help low-income and minority communities that suffer disproportionate exposure to harmful pollutants from refineries, factories and freeways.

[Montgomery Proffit](#)

A "shout out" to Montgomery in the recent publication "[*Making an Impact Through Employment Opportunities*](#)"

Montgomery Proffit is director of the [OAI Environmental Career Worker Training Program](#) (ECWTP) Consortium in Chicago. He helps individuals from disadvantaged communities obtain the necessary skills for work in environmental careers, such as construction and hazardous waste cleanup.

OAI ECWTP falls under the umbrella of WTP activities but is focused on providing life skills and pre-employment training for underrepresented and unemployed individuals. The life skills component includes courses focused on professional development, financial empowerment, and other topics. The health and safety component includes courses mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration with a focus on hazardous waste, operations, and emergency response and others tailored to participants' career of interest. As an EWDJT grantee and contributor to peer to peer networking activities, Montgomery has shared and demonstrated strategies developed at OAI for recruiting and screening program participants.

[Chip Hughes announced as part of OSHA's New Leadership](#)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) officially has a new team of leaders working to improve worker safety around the country. Following the inauguration of President Joe Biden, Joseph “Chip” Hughes, Jr. was appointed as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Pandemic and Emergency Response. Chip previously served as head of the NIEHS worker Training Program and was instrumental in protecting workers during the collapse and emergency response resulting from the World Trade Center terrorism attacks.

NIEHS Announces Sharon D. Beard as Acting Branch Chief

NIEHS announced that Sharon D. Beard will be replacing Chip Hughes as acting branch chief for the Worker Education and Training Branch, effective on Jan. 31. For more than 25 years, Sharon has been primarily responsible for coordinating, evaluating, and improving the Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP). She uses her background in industrial hygiene to provide expert review, guidance, and leadership in managing a multimillion portfolio of worker training grants in the areas of hazardous waste, emergency response, and nuclear weapons/radiation, reaching communities all over the U.S. As a friend and partner, Sharon has contributed greatly facilitating presentations and discussions as part of our All-Grantee Meetings.

Shalanda Baker

Shalanda Baker has been named as Deputy Director for Energy Justice in the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the U.S. Department of Energy. Prior to her appointment, she was a Professor of Law, Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University. Before joining Northeastern's faculty, Professor Baker spent three years as an associate professor of law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i, where she was the founding director of the Energy Justice Program. Prior to that, she served on the faculty at University of San Francisco School of Law. In 2016, she won a Fulbright award and spent a year in Mexico exploring energy reform, climate change and indigenous rights. We will be discussing Shalanda and energy justice in more detail later in these notes.

4. QUESTIONS FROM PLC PARTICIPANTS

With the uncertainty of class sizes associated with COVID public health concerns, how do grantees pay their training consultants – fixed fee or cost per student?

During the January 27th PLC the question came up regarding training costs. Some grantees have contracted for a fixed cost per class. Others have negotiated training on a cost per student basis. Pathstone indicated they have been able to negotiate a cost per student arrangement with their training consultant. This is a great strategy given that training during COVID may result in variable class sizes perhaps given multiple times during a cohort.

Would you happen to have a directory of trainers in/near my location that provides OSHA10 training?

Instructors for HAZWOPER, asbestos, lead or any of the OSHA certificate courses require certified instructors and sometimes curriculum approved by the state. Potential training providers include consultants, remediation firms, federal, state, or local agencies. Community colleges may have a list of certified instructors as many have established degree or noncredit programs. OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Centers provide certification training for OSHA instructors. Here is their link to approved OSHA10 trainers.

[OSHA-authorized trainers for OSHA10 and 30](#)

The [Partnership for Environmental Training and Education](#) (PETE) is a nonprofit NIEHS partner whose objective is to train qualified and certified trainers in health, safety and environmental remediation. PETE has provided trainers for several EWDJT grantees in a variety of topic areas. Multiple trainers or organizations may be necessary to deliver a complete curriculum. Another suggestion is an internet search in your state providing certified trainers for the instruction being offered.

Questions?

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

5. “GREEN SHOOTS” TRENDS IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The latest omnibus spending bill ([H.R. 133](#)) included approximately \$1.4 trillion to fund the government through September 30, 2021 with increases in Brownfields funding. In addition, President Biden’s January 27th Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad may be providing some “green shoots” for the EWDJT program. Adding to EPA’s increasing emphasis on **environmental justice** programs is the appointment of Shalanda Baker as deputy director for **energy justice** at the U.S. Department of Energy. What does energy justice have to do with EWDJT? Jobs for underserved communities associated with environmental justice are similar and often overlap with jobs associated with energy justice. Many of our EWDJT grantees work with energy **and** environmental job development independently and in combination. Training is both synergistic and contributing to program sustainability. In today’s PLC, we are bringing attention to the importance of EWDJT as an EPA **environmental justice** program and attention to potential opportunities associated with the new emphasis on **energy justice** under the new administration.

Environmental justice in EPA

Today celebrates the 27th birthday of the environmental justice (EJ) movement with the signing of [Executive Order 12898](#) "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." by President Bill Clinton February 10th, 1994. Public awareness actually dates back to 1987 in Warren County, NC when planning officials decided to locate a hazardous waste site filled with PCBs in an already underserved minority community. Residents with support from the NAACP and United Church of Christ brought light to the environmental inequities burdening Warren County and many other of our poorest communities. The 1987 United Church of Christ study examined the relationship between waste siting decisions in the United States and race. That study concluded that race was the most significant factor in siting hazardous waste facilities and that three out of every five African Americans and Hispanics live in a community hosting toxic waste sites. Warren County was not an aberration. Cancer alley in Louisiana, Hunters Point in California and thousands of underserved communities across the country amplified the EJ crisis in America. In 1992, President George Bush formed a working group to study government’s role in federal siting decisions, but it was not until 1994 when President Bill Clinton formalized a Federal responsibility for promoting environmental justice.

Since 1994, the application of Executive Order 12898 has been emphasized or minimized by each administration. EPA has defined environmental justice as “The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.” In the spirit of that mandate, community residents regardless of gender or ethnicity should have an opportunity, with training, to reap the benefits of revitalization and environmental cleanup. Priority should be given to the following groups:

- Residents of communities historically affected by economic disinvestment
- Residents in communities experiencing health disparities.
- Inhabitants of communities with environmental contamination

- Low-income, minority and underserved populations
- Members of Tribal communities

EPA's responsibility in promoting environmental justice is demonstrated in the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program (EWDJT). It is EPA's response to Executive Order 12898 that justifies EPA involvement in environmental workforce development and job training. In the context of the new Biden administration, environmental justice appears to be "front and center". Today we are reviewing President Biden's focus on justice in both energy development and environmental remediation.

Potential environmental justice opportunities in EPA

[H.R. 133](#). The \$2.3 trillion omnibus spending bill includes approximately \$1.4 trillion to fund the government through September 30, 2021. The appropriations include \$91 million towards brownfields grants, a \$2 million increase from FY20 enacted levels. **At least 10% of that amount is to go to communities where at least 20% of the population has lived under the poverty level over the last 30 years. Also under EPA appropriations, the bill includes \$1.2 billion for Superfund and \$12.5 million towards environmental justice activities**

President Biden's January 27th executive order

President Biden's January 27th, order addressing global climate change and establishing mechanisms and actions his administration plans to take became significant to the Brownfields environmental justice program in the second half of the executive order. Here are some excerpts EWDJT grantees may want to be aware of as they guide the direction of their program.

Sec. 219 of the executive order

To secure an equitable economic future, the United States must ensure that environmental and economic justice are key considerations in how we govern. That means investing and building a clean energy economy that creates well-paying union jobs, turning disadvantaged communities..... It is therefore the policy of my Administration to secure **environmental justice** and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, **water and wastewater** infrastructure, and health care.

Sec. 223. Justice40 Initiative

As it relates to legacy pollution and environmental justice

(a) Within 120 days of the date of this order, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Climate Advisor, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall jointly publish recommendations on how certain Federal investments might be made toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities. The recommendations shall focus on investments in the areas of clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; **training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of critical clean water infrastructure.** The recommendations shall reflect existing authorities the agencies may possess for achieving the 40-percent goal as well as recommendations on any legislation needed to achieve the 40-percent goal.

Energy Justice

In President Biden's January 27th executive order is an ambitious climate change agenda involving all Federal agencies especially The Department of Energy and EPA. A large part of the plan is a shift away from fossil fuels to clean energy, like wind and solar power. A major component of that plan includes attention to **environmental justice, jobs and training community residents**. Shalanda Baker has been named as deputy director for energy justice at the U.S. Department of Energy to coordinate and implement DOE's energy justice program. As the executive order is read, it rings familiar tones to the EPA environmental justice program in areas of training, jobs and assistance to underserved communities. Here are some excerpts from the January 27th executive order addressing energy justice, job training and workforce development.

Sec. 215. Civilian Climate Corps. In furtherance of the policy set forth in section 214 of this order, the Secretary of the Interior, in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit a strategy to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order for creating a **Civilian Climate Corps Initiative**, within existing appropriations, to mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers and maximize the creation of **accessible training opportunities and good jobs**. The initiative shall aim to conserve and restore public lands and waters, bolster community resilience, increase reforestation, **increase carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protect biodiversity**, improve access to recreation, and address the changing climate.

Sec. 223. Justice40 Initiative – as it relates to clean energy and energy justice

Within 120 days of the date of this order, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Climate Advisor, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall jointly publish recommendations on how certain Federal investments might be made toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities. **The recommendations shall focus on investments in the areas of clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development**

Read the full text and actions impacting energy and environmental justice programs across governmental agencies. The full text is available at the following site.

[Presidents Executive order on Climate Change & Environmental Justice](#)

Environmental Justice Webinars

Community Visions for Environmental Justice Organizing

Feb. 27, March 6, and March 13

1:30-4:15 p.m. ET

How can technical assistance providers such as researchers, lawyers, academics and students support community-led movements for environmental justice? The Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic is hosting three Saturday panels featuring community leaders and assistance providers, followed by moderated small-group discussions with speakers and attendees. Panels run from 1:30-2:45 p.m. ET, and discussions run from 3:00-4:15 p.m. ET on Feb. 27, March 6, and March 13.

The Mapping Inequality Project

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice

March 4, 2021

12:00—1:00pm EST

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice is launching an Environmental Justice (EJ) and Systemic Racism Speaker Series, beginning with a set of five sessions that thoroughly examine the relationship of

redlining and current environmental challenges, particularly the climate crisis. A recent National Center for Civil and Human Rights webinar on [EJ, redlining and the climate crisis](#) provides a good overview of this subject.

The first webinar in the series will be held on March 4, 12:00—1:00pm EST and will feature [The Mapping Inequality Project](#). This unique collaboration created a foundational resource for unprecedented research, education, organizing, and policy advocacy on redlining and current environmental challenges. It provides publicly accessible digitized versions of redlining maps for about 200 cities. This has already generated an explosion of trailblazing work in the area of EJ and systemic racism. Project co-founders Robert Nelson, University of Richmond, and LaDale Winling, Virginia Tech, will discuss the genesis, philosophy, methodology, and impact of this game changing project.

[2021 National Environmental Justice Conference & Training Program \(NEJC\)](#)

March 17-19, 2021 in Washington, DC

The 2021 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program

Leaders from various sectors will engage in 3 days of free exchange of ideas and approaches to environmental justice and particularly the impacts of COVID-19 on environmental justice and low-income communities that are the most vulnerable and have long been decimated by health disparities. These general and interactive training sessions will feature voices of experience, research, discussions, and thought-provoking dialogue. The program format will feature needs and challenges of communities, governments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based organizations, and others with interests in environmental justice and health disparities and how addressing them can build health communities.

6. TRAINING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2020 was indeed a year that unfolded as none of could have predicted or expected. In a little over a year the U.S. lost more citizens than war, accidents or terrorism has ever inflicted.

- January 31 - worldwide death toll of more than 200
- February 25 - CDC Says COVID-19 Is Heading Toward Pandemic Status
- **March 16** - HMTRI conducts its first grantee scan
- May 28 - 100,000 deaths
- October 19 - 220,000 deaths
- **December 20** - HMTRI conducts its second grantee scan
- December 31 - 346,000 deaths
- January 28 - 430,000 deaths

As the pandemic expanded, governmental agencies on all levels instituted public health measures to protect residents from “community spread” of the virus. Especially affected by public health protections were congregant settings including education and training programs. EWDJT grantees were in the “cross hairs” of efforts to minimize community spread. As the March surge spread across the country, facilities were ordered shut with restrictions on transportation and gatherings of any significance. As the pandemic expanded, EWDJT grantees found themselves in the following situations.

- Grantees in the planning and development stages of their next cohort
- Grantees currently recruiting, screening, assessing or accepting program participants
- Programs in the middle of a cohort with training or certification partially completed
- Grantees placing recent program graduates

To better understand how HMTRI could assist EWDJT programs during the pandemic, two grantee scans have been conducted. The first was in Mid-March during the initial wave of COVID infections. The

second occurred in late December as pandemic infections and deaths were peaking. Results of each scan was shared with EWDJT grantees in subsequent PLC calls. A summary and highlights of both scans appear in the January issue of CONNECT News, which can be found at the following site, [Grantee Scans during the COVID Pandemic](#).

The March Scan

While coronavirus has spread nationally, each state and county is handling the crisis in their own way based on current public health conditions and guidance. Fortunately, EPA announced approximately \$5.1 million in Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grants to 26 communities in October 2019. These grantees were still in the planning stages of their first cohort and were not required to send students home or interrupt ongoing cohorts. Others reported the following impacts to their programs.

- As of March 16th, most EWDJT programs temporally put training on hold with some continuing remotely by phone or internet.
- COVID-19 affected communities and training programs to varying degrees and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.
- Individual program responses to the pandemic depend on a variety of factors such as program location, participant makeup and available resources.
- Maintaining contact with students is a priority for all programs.
- Communication methods of among grantees vary greatly, as do the effectiveness of those strategies.
- The ability to provide training through distance learning as an alternative to classroom training challenges most EWDJT programs. Students do not have access to the internet or technology. Instructors additionally indicate their curriculum is designed to be delivered in-person and not online.
- Keeping students engaged while not knowing an end date of the pandemic is a major focus and will be an ongoing challenge.
- Some programs report that with so many people being laid off, former program graduates are returning looking for placement assistance.
- Returning graduates coupled with new clients, will place a strain on resources not previously seen or anticipated.

The December Scan

As 2020 came to a conclusion, HMTRI conducted a second scan of EWDJT grantees have another snapshot of how training was proceeding. At this point in the pandemic, over 346,000 Americans had died with over 20 million infections. As in the first scan, the objective was to share information among grantees as COVID-19 public health concerns evolve. For this scan, we asked the following.

- For each of the common technical and nontechnical courses offered by EWDJT grantees, how is training delivered?
- How grantees are communicating with their participants during the pandemic?
- When online training is being used, how is instruction delivered?
- What are the impediments limiting the effectiveness of training either online or in-person?
- When public health concerns abate, how will EWDJT training be delivered in the future?

As with the March scan, it was understood that many grantees may not have an active cohort or were not training due to public health, organizational restrictions or in the planning stages for their next training session. As part of the December scan, participants were asked their opinion on challenges

posed by COVID public health restrictions. Issues were segregated into those related to in-person training and the use of hybrid or online training as a mitigation measure.

Issues with in-person training and social distancing

When instruction was delivered in-person, here were the drawbacks and issues created by COVID public health concerns.

- Pandemic restrictions prohibited in-person sessions for several months.
- Capacity restrictions slow rate of attendance and completion.
- Recruitment
- Our curriculum works only as in-person, especially with technology limitations for our participants. This, however, places limitations on class size.
- Methods changing before we even got the program started.
- Being able to transport the students to job interviews.
- Finding individuals who want/are willing to take a job that requires them to report in person.
- Finding a way to structure the size of our cohort due to gathering size limitations. We have had to run a cohort no larger than 10 participants, due to Pennsylvania's restrictions. This will result in us running an extra cohort if restrictions are not lifted by 2021.
- Maintaining a safe environment - screening, ensuring everyone wears a mask, uses hand sanitizer, and follows all protocols. The issue is people will still engage in risky activities outside of class, potentially putting other students and staff at risk. Constant reminders are needed.
- Hands-on with social distancing CDC requirements

Issues with online training

When instruction was able to be delivered online, here were the drawbacks and issues presented by instructors.

- Lowered interest in trainings and employment.
- Not being able to offer full in-person trainings.
- Increased childcare/elder care responsibilities.
- Our target audience has very little access to the internet or tablets/computers to do online work.
- Keeping everyone's attention. The 40-Hour HAZWOPER has been the worst. The modules are too long, and people lose interest.
- Certification requires in-person sessions.
- Internet unreliable; participants lack devices for remote training.

Trends from the December scan

When asked if grantees plan to return to strictly in-person training when health concerns have been mitigated. Here was the feedback.

- Respondents indicated that there is a significant list of challenges to providing training during the pandemic.
- It is unlikely that EWDJT programs will be able to deliver only online instruction, without some sort of face-to-face to face interaction.
- The vast majority intend to return to in-person instruction only
- None intend to stay with online instruction only
- most intend to use a Hybrid
- About half would like to have a combination of in-person and online instruction

- Previously most of the technical and non-technical courses were previously done in-person. Now, most of these courses include online and/or hybrid instruction to go along with in-person training.
- The range of strategies is consistent with the diversity of EWDJT programs.
- Training delivery varies widely based on local public health restrictions, the participant population and trainer capabilities.
- Despite difficulties associated with online training, almost every course has been delivered online, however an in-person component is usually required.
- A clear shift has been made from in-person training to online or hybrid delivery
- When permissible most grantees will return to in-person training with online supplements

7. COVID RESOURCES AND FACT SHEETS

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

To access these tools, go to:

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

The NIEHS WTP and the National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training developed three new fact sheets.

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Workers](#), offers important facts to help workers make an informed decision about being vaccinated.
- The [Injection Safety for COVID-19 Vaccinators and Vaccine Administrators](#) fact sheet covers sharps and needle safety to protect vaccinators from needlestick injuries and blood exposures.
- The third fact sheet, [Key Elements of a Model Workplace Safety and Health COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#), includes a step-wise plan and key elements to help employers and workers implement a safe and effective workplace vaccination program.

The fact sheets can be found under the COVID-19 Toolbox on this page.

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

Addressing the role of the vaccine in workplace COVID-19 prevention

Check out the recording of the NIEHS January 14 webinar on addressing the role of the vaccine in workplace COVID-19 prevention: How to weed through misinformation, mistrust, and improve worker protections. You can access the recording here

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

Upcoming webinars in this series are listed on the following page.

[WTP Meetings & Workshops page](#)

Joint Consensus Statement on Addressing the Aerosol Transmission of SARS CoV-2 and Recommendations for Preventing Occupational Exposures

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) developed a joint consensus statement on aerosol transmission of SARS CoV-2. This document is designed to summarize what is currently known about inhalation transmission and the need for regulation, research, and funding to prevent airborne transmission. This statement was co-signed by several other organizations. For more information, go to:

[AIHA](#)

CPWR COVID-19 Clearinghouse

The scientific community's understanding of how the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spreads is evolving. This COVID-19 Clearinghouse was established as a central resource for construction employers and workers to find the latest research, guidance documents, training and other resources to help prevent the spread of the disease as construction work continues in some markets and starts up in others. The information posted is accurate as of the date posted. Every effort will be made to include only the latest information, however, since the situation is evolving.

please let us know if more timely information is available.

[CPWR COVID-19 Clearinghouse](#)

8. FUNDING, LEVERAGING AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

[Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program \(P42\)](#)

Deadline to apply is 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.

Abstracts and Ideas submission deadline - Feb. 19

[2021 Brownfield Seminar](#)

Tuesday, June 22 - Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Thank you to those who have submitted your abstracts for the GBA 2021 Brownfield Seminar. The deadline for [abstract submissions](#) is quickly approaching - Friday, Feb. 19, 2021. While we appreciate a fully cooked idea, we're also accepting suggestions and requests for keynote speakers and topic ideas, so let us know what type of programming will bring the most value. Given the success and tremendous feedback following last year's virtual Seminar, and continued safety concerns around COVID-19, we will present the [2021 Brownfield Seminar](#) virtually on Tuesday, June 22 and Wednesday, June 23, 2021

[Online Abstract Submissions for APHA's](#)

Creating the Healthiest Nation: Strengthening Social Connectedness

Deadline to submit -- March 21.

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is now accepting abstract submissions for oral and poster presentations for the APHA 2021 Annual Meeting and Expo. Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts on the meeting theme, "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Strengthening Social Connectedness," and current and emerging public health issues.

[The US EPA Green Infrastructure Program](#)

Applications due March 26th, 2021

The US EPA Green Infrastructure Program (GreenStream) is soliciting applications from eligible applicants for the following activities.

- Assist in the development and use of innovative activities relating to water workforce development and career opportunities in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector including green infrastructure training.
- Expand public awareness about drinking water and wastewater utilities and to connect individuals to careers in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector.

It is anticipated that up to five cooperative agreements will be awarded under this announcement, each with a project period of up to three years, depending on the amount requested and overall size and scope of the projects(s). The total estimated amount of federal funding potentially available is approximately \$1,000,000.

The closing date for application submissions is March 26th, 2021.

[CPWR is now accepting applications for funding from the Small Study Program](#)

CPWR's Small Study Program provides seed money of up to \$30,000 to investigate promising new research initiatives. Many major research projects began with a Small Study to demonstrate its viability or test the approach, and other studies have resulted in important stand-alone projects. A survey of researchers funded under this program found that more than 60 percent had published their findings in peer-reviewed journals.

How to apply for a Small Study Grant

Researchers interested in funding should review [the Small Study Guidelines](#), which explain the requirements and process in detail. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis and can come from investigators from a wide range of disciplines, including applied computer sciences, communication sciences, construction management, consumer marketing, economics, engineering, psychology, and work organization. We also welcome innovative proposals from occupational safety and health researchers, ergonomists, epidemiologists, researchers partnering with industry practitioners, and others. Learn more from reviewing the list of [Funded Small Studies](#).

9. 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

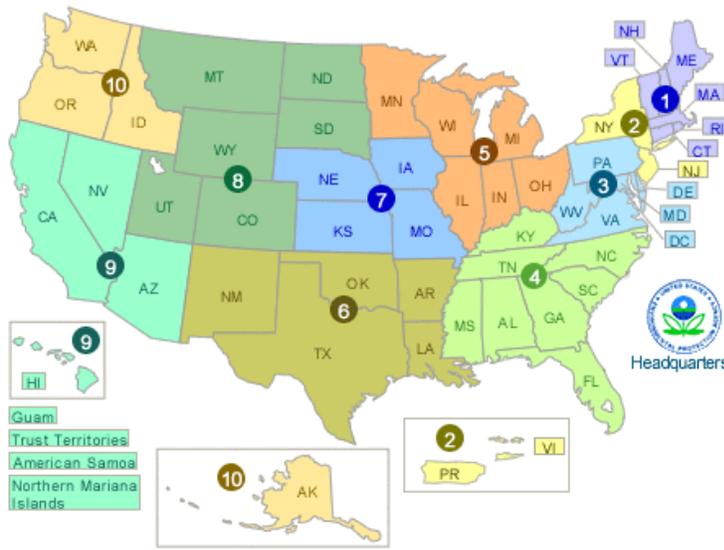
**Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate
Champions Gate (Orlando), Florida**

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.

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



Map of EPA Regions

Credit: epa.gov

11. JOIN US ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALLS

Upcoming PLC calls

- February 24

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the brownfields-toolbox.org. Join our 30-minute discussion with EPA EWDJT grantees, alumni and new interested stakeholders. PLCs give grantees a chance to highlight their programs and an opportunity for others to learn from their experience. For questions or to be placed on the PLC register, send your contact information to hkballou@eicc.edu.

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

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

