

Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC) – 4/7/2021

These are post session notes from the sixth call in this cycle of Workforce Development Professional Learning Community (PLC) conversations. The Environmental Workforce PLC meets every other Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm Eastern time via conference call from any telephone. Each PLC session includes discussions related to workforce development and the successful implementation of EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) programs. The next PLC will be April 21st – same time, place and call in number.

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among Brownfields Job training communities and provide assistance to new communities interested in developing environmental job training programs.

This week’s discussion points included.

- Updates from Washington
- Revisiting the FY21 EWDJT funding announcements
- What’s next for successful and unsuccessful EWDJT applicants
- Looking forward to FY22 EWDJT Requests for Applications

If you received these notes, you are on our list to continue receiving announcements and session notes. Return this email with subject “Remove” if you are no longer interested in receiving PLC notes and announcements.

If you or an associate would like to be added to the PLC participant list, send contact information to:

HMTRI@eicc.edu

Ideas presented during these sessions represent individual opinions. They do not represent EPA, state, local or organizational policy. Information presented should not be taken as such.

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**Post Session Notes
Session 251, April 7th, 2021**

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1. Latest from Washington

Brownfields 2021 is still scheduled in person for September 27-30, 2021

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Sing up for the latest information on the 2021 Brownfields Conference, including featured speakers, sponsorship opportunities, and more.

[Visit the conference website](#)

FY21 EWDJT funding announcements

Congratulations to this year's FY21 applications recommended for funding. We will discuss follow-up events later in today's PLC. The full text of the announcement can be found at the following address.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-selects-18-organizations-receive-33-million-brownfields-job-training-grants-build>

White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) announcements

On March 29th, the White House announced the members of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC). The advisory council will provide advice and recommendations to the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council on how to address current and historic environmental injustices.

The White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) was established by President Biden to ensure that the administration's work is informed by the insights, expertise, and lived experience of environmental justice leaders from across the nation.

Members selected represent a diverse set of geographical regions and will serve in a voluntary capacity. They include the following individuals.

- LaTricea Adams, Michigan
- Susana Almanza, Texas
- Jade Begay, South Dakota
- Maria Belen-Power, Massachusetts
- Dr. Robert Bullard, Texas
- Tom Cormons, Virginia
- Andrea Delgado, Washington, D.C.
- Catherine Flowers, Alabama
- Jerome Foster, New York
- Kim Havey, Minnesota
- Angelo Logan, California
- Maria Lopez-Nunez, New Jersey
- Harold Mitchell, South Carolina
- Richard Moore, New Mexico
- Rachel Morello-Frosch, California
- Juan Parras, Texas

- Michele Roberts, Washington, D.C.
- Ruth Santiago, Puerto Rico
- Nicky Sheats, New Jersey
- Peggy Shepard, New York
- Carletta Tilousi, Arizona
- Vi Waghiyi, Alaska
- Kyle Whyte, Michigan
- Beverly Wright, Louisiana
- Hli Xyooj, Minnesota
- Miya Yoshitani, California

The WHEJAC will complement ongoing work of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) including recommendations for updating Executive Order 12898. This long standing executive order was established in 1993 directing federal agencies to:

- Provide advice and recommendations on EJ issues to the Administrator of the EPA.
- Identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law.
- Develop a strategy for implementing environmental justice.
- Promote nondiscrimination in federal programs that affect human health and the environment, as well as provide minority and low-income communities access to public information and public participation.

Recommendations from NEJAC could have a profound influence on the Brownfields program including EWDJT. More information about NEJAC can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council>

2. News from HMTRI

Mark your calendar

HMTRI is planning the annual virtual All Grantee Meeting May 4th, 5th and 6th.

12:00 to 3:00 pm Eastern each day

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. HMTRI has completed a scan to determine topics and talking points of interest presented below. We are now in the process of recruiting presenters and collecting videos to showcase their program with meeting participants. Registration for the event will be available in the coming days.

Preparing for the 2021 Virtual All Grantee Meeting

Topics and talking points

Thank you for your input regarding topics you would like covered at this year's All Grantee Meeting. The agenda includes three regional breakout sessions, ten plenary sessions and eighteen breakout sessions addressing the topics and talking points suggested. Our after hour sessions will feature home videos and grantee tours.

To make this meeting work, we need the following.

- Co-Facilitators for Breakout Sessions: As you can see from the Agenda, we are having eighteen Breakout Sessions and we need grantee representatives to help start breakout discussions.
- Student Experiences Attending an EWDJT Program: We are always looking for examples of student experiences of what it's like to go through an EWDJT program, and what that experience has meant to the individual going forward. As with video tours, send your videos, emails or photos to sfenton103@aol.com. Phone videos are also welcome.
- Regional Coordinator Breakout Sessions: Questions you would like to have addressed in the regional coordinator breakout sessions.
- Video Tour of Programs: We would also like to showcase EWDJT programs. A short, 5-10-minute video tour of your facility would be an excellent way to do so. If you have an existing video, or could make one to share, we would be delighted to show it. The videos that were shown last year were well received and are a great way to showcase your program. Even photos of your operation in lieu of a video would work as well. Send your videos or photos to: sfenton103@aol.com. Phone videos are welcome.

Please respond to **Steven Fenton, HMTRI Email:** sfenton103@aol.com as soon as possible.

Below is a “sneak peek” of breakouts and talking points for review.

All Grantee Meeting Breakout sessions

May 4th

- B1 Regions 1–3 Breakout** – Introductions – Expectations – Reporting – Communications – Current regional events – Regional networking
- B2 Regions 4–7 Breakout** – Introductions – Expectations – Reporting – Communications – Current regional events – Regional networking
- B3 Regions 8–10 Breakout** – Introductions – Expectations – Reporting – Communications – Current regional events – Regional networking

May 5th

- B4 Partnership Development** – Partners and supporters that can sustain a workforce development program – Engaging partners effectively – Program supporters – Sub-grantees – Contractors and trainers as partners – Selection and recruitment of partners – Workforce Investment Boards – One-stops and social service agencies – Using WIBs to recruit, screen and place participants – Case management opportunities – Working with health and human services agencies – Qualifying students for benefits – Leveraging social service opportunities – Identifying governmental agencies with common interests – Working with faith based and other nonprofits – Locating nonprofits with common interests – Nonprofits as sub-grantees
- B5 Community Awareness and Social Media** – Social media strategies that work – working with faith-based organizations – Selling EWDJT to the community – Program marketing – Enlarging the pool of program applicants – Developing applicant awareness – Program marketing – Open house events – Current participants and alumni as ambassadors – Traditional media strategies – Social media platforms – Radio – Open house events – Formal presentations – Brochures and fact sheets – Effective websites – Meeting tools
- B6 Program Reporting & ACRES refresher** – ACRES overview and update – How is the data used – ACRES Issues– using ACRES –Questions

- B7 Community and Labor Market Assessments** – Enlarging the pool of potential employers – Types of labor market assessments – How to conduct a comprehensive labor market assessment – Locating remediation and PLA projects – Working with EPA assessment and cleanup grantees – Using EPA scanning tools – Community assessments – Working with City Hall – Identifying redevelopment contractors – Opportunity and EZ zones – Environmental justice considerations
- B8 Substance Abuse and Other Program Landmines** – Drug testing as an acceptance criteria– Random drug testing – Testing as a condition of graduation – Selecting the appropriate drug testing protocol – Rehabilitation programs – Harassment policies – Gender neutrality – Anger management –Attendance and tardiness – Critical issues that lead to program failure – Incomplete labor market assessments – Recruitment failures – Inadequate attention to participant needs–Revising work plans
- B9 Impacts and Lessons Learned During the Pandemic**– Learning from past mistakes & challenges – Shifting budgets – Training schedules – Class size reduction – Curriculum revisions – Recruitment and screening- Student retention – Employer and partner participation – Student interaction -Transportation issues – Program planning – Starting and stopping again – Adapting to changing situations

May 6th

- B10 Recruitment and Screening** – Recruitment strategies – Finding and recruiting students most likely to succeed – acceptance criteria – Student screening, assessment and testing – Student contracts and expectations – Covering the costs of assessment tests – Selecting the appropriate assessment tools – Student physicals – Working with diverse populations – Ex-offenders – Women – Youth – Other special populations – Working with educational and cultural disparities
- B11 Training Strategies in Era of COVID-19** – Techniques for keeping students interested and engaged – Training facilities – Distance learning strategies – Digital training materials – Subdividing training cohorts –Training requiring close contact – Preparing for program interruptions – Digital platforms – Classroom safety – Student screening – Technology in the classroom – Training configurations and student distancing – Self-directed training – Working with training providers – Other public health considerations
- B12 Leveraging with Partnerships** – Partnerships with organized labor – Fund raising events – In-kind assistance – Employer assistance – Local grants and foundation support – Private/public partnerships – Synergistic grant opportunities – Faith based and community support – Sources of in-kind support – MOUs and commitment agreements – Recruiting potential leveraging partners – Supplemental funding from program supporters - - Establishing an Advisory Board – Recruiting Advisory Board members – Expectations of the Advisory Board – Using Advisory Boards wisely – Developing employer relationships – Employer open house events – Using employers and advisors as instructors

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- B13 Curriculum & Training** – General categories of EPA supported curriculum – Brownfields hazardous waste assessment and cleanup – Solid Waste Management or Cleanup – Superfund site cleanup and innovative and alternative treatment technologies – Wastewater treatment – Emergency planning, preparedness, and response – Enhanced environmental health and safety – Stormwater Management – Innovative approaches such as Green Infrastructure – Certification programs – Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – Popular course offerings within EPA supported categories – National and State certifications – Unsupported environmental training – Life skills training – Remedial

education programs – On-line, hybrid and in person curriculum – Finding and vetting qualified training providers – Other leveraged supplemental training

B14 Program Tune-up and Grant Writing Strategies– Preparing for the next Request for Applications (RFAs) – Project management – Pre proposal preparations – Pre proposal partnership development – Grants.gov – Issues that lose evaluation points – Proposal tune ups and checklist – Learning from past mistakes – Program evaluation instruments – Types of evaluations – Using evaluations to improve program performance – Revising work plans – Preparing for the next grant proposal

B15 Health and Safety for Program Managers – Mandatory training, Popular courses – Supplemental health and safety training – Recruiting and vetting qualified instructors – Working with OSHA – Training liability – Classroom safety – OSHA compliance for trainers – Training records – Participant physicals – Instructor credentials – Recent developments and proposed regulations – Recent developments in environmental, health and safety regulations

B16 Student Retention and Support Services – Remedial and life skills education – Sources of in-kind training – Student support services – Community service – Effective case management – Teambuilding strategies – Social events – Stipends – Scholarships – Work study programs – Community service projects – Pre apprenticeship programs – Student networking – Peer to peer coaching – Funding retention and student support services

B17 Tips and Ideas for New Grantees – Selecting Advisory Boards – Staff recruitment and development – Labor market assessments – Student recruitment and screening – Critical issues for successful program development – Land mines and program killers

B18 Graduation, Placement & Tracking – Employer and community participation – Keeping alumni engaged after graduation – Work study and internships – Employer incentives – Using employers as advisors and instructors – Graduates as employers and advocates – Employer attendance at social events – Overcoming employment barriers – Expunging criminal records – Special employment programs – Surety bonds – Mitigating employer concerns – Drug testing prior to graduation

3. Grantee news

Congratulations to these first time grantees. We will be featuring additional first time grantees in future PLCs.

Landforce (Pittsburgh Conservation Corps) Pittsburgh, PA

Landforce was established in 2015 in response to an analysis that highlighted deep inequity in employment, income, and environmental conditions throughout Pittsburgh and its immediate neighbors. Landforce is an organization built out of a collaborative effort on behalf of 6 nonprofits (1 Workforce Investment Board, 2 community-based organizations, and 3 environmental nonprofits) to address local workforce readiness and environmental stewardship needs. Landforce will hire and train people with barriers to employment, using a rigorously designed curriculum which covers both hard and soft skills, combined with actual employment stewarding Pittsburgh's degraded lands. Courses include: Tools and Safety, First Aid/CPR, 40-hour HAZWOPER, Chain Saw, Environmental Stewardship, Tree Tender, and Green Stormwater and Infrastructure. Key partners include the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, Penn State Center-Pittsburgh, Partner4Work, Rivers of Steel, Jones Lang LaSalle, Operation

Better Block, Davey Trees, Kimicata Brothers, Inc., and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

The Research Foundation at the City University of New York

The City College of New York is targeting unemployed and underemployed residents of 16 neighborhoods in the South Bronx. The EWDJT grant is the first of its kind for CCNY. The City College of New York plans to train 52 students and place at least 44 in environmental jobs. Training includes 110 hours of instruction in: 40-hour HAZWOPER; Field Technician Basics; Environmental Sampling of Soil, Groundwater, and Vapor; ASTM Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments; OSHA 30-hour Construction; and OSHA Confined Space Entry. Students who complete training will earn up to two state and three federal certifications. Partners include the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, the Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation, the New York Workforce Development Board, the New York City Brownfield Partnership, and the Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast.

4. Questions from PLC participants

Question: We are in the third year of our grant and not refunded under the FY21 RFA --- suggestions?

Response: *If you have not spent your budgeted funds you may want to check into a no cost extension....See section 6 of these notes for additional program extension strategies.*

Related Question: How should EPA grant recipients request that EPA provide them administrative relief from a requirement due to COVID-19?

Response: *Per EPA ---- Recipients should email their Grant Specialist for the agreement with a copy to their Project Officer providing a description of the action they want EPA to take. The email should include a brief justification that includes how the COVID-19 public health crisis has impacted their ability to comply with a requirement in the agreement. An authorized EPA official such as an Award Official, Grant Management Officer or Associate Grant Management Officer will provide EPA's decision on the request via email. Depending on the type of action, the grant agreement may also be amended.*

5. What next – After the announcement

Now that award announcements have been made, there is still work to be done and hard decisions made which will greatly influence implementation of the program for the next three years. The primary administrative objectives of the time between announcement and authorization to spend funds are to finalize work plans, budgets and comply with EPA grants management requirements and procedures. All of this must be completed before the end of the fiscal year (September 30st).

It is important that grantees respond to requests for information quickly as EPA coordinators are unusually busy this time of year. On an administrative level, here is what to expect between announcements and the authority to spend funds.

- Grantees must first convene a small internal meeting among principles to discuss specifics of the grant, timelines, deliverables and responsibilities. Decisions regarding

resource allocation and commitments to move forward must be made by senior management. We will discuss coordination meetings in more detail in section 5.

- Soon after announcements are made, Regional Coordinators will contact and send a package or templet with all the information the EPA grants office needs to process the grant.
- After the award letter has been received, grant recipients must acknowledge their acceptance of the terms and conditions. In the case of governmental organizations, acceptance may have to be approved by City Council, community colleges, nonprofit and tribes may need approval from the Board of Directors, Tribal Council or Director. Don't assume these approvals will be automatic.
- Next, are a series of meetings including program staff, key partners, EPA Regional Coordinators, followed by public announcements, community and stakeholder events (discussed later)
- Terms and Conditions with approved work plans should be the primary focus for the next 4 months.
- Concurrently, discussions continue with the EPA in order to process the cooperative agreement, work plans and approval to release funds. Discussions need to be completed before September 30th (end of FY2021).
- It is suggested to respond to EPA's requests for information quickly as the EPA grants office will be busy processing EWDJT in addition to other brownfield related grants. If the approval progress gets delayed, as a last resort, expenses may be charged to the grant 90 days before final paperwork is complete. This requires EPA approval and is reserved for unforeseen special situations.

As part of "Terms and Conditions", two employees from the grantee's organization must complete the EPA on line mandatory Grants Management Training for Non-Profit Applicants. One of the employees must be the project manager the other authorized to draw down funds. Money will not flow until training has been completed. Note: those who have received prior EPA awards are likely already certified unless new employees occupy administrative positions.

The course can be accessed at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ogd/training//index.htm> .

Ideas regarding EPA meetings and public awareness

The first suggestion is to organize internally first before "getting the word out". Successful applicants need to get their "act together first" before public awareness and even communications with EPA begin.

Suggested organizational meetings before "going public"

With the exception of senior management and governmental meetings, internal organizational meetings may occur as a group or individually.

- Senior management. In some cases, city council, tribal leaders or elected representatives may need to approve grant acceptance before moving forward
- The EWDJT project manager and staff who will be working on the project
- Key partners especially leveraged and in-kind partners
- Advisory Board members
- Contractors/Consultants (already vetted and selected)
- Stakeholders as deemed appropriate by the project officer

Clearly, senior management must be informed and provide advice and consent before proceeding with other stakeholders.

Topics of internal meetings should explore the following topics

- Review the project timeline, goals and objectives
- Summarize resource commitments proposed in the application
- Revisit the grant proposal, deliverables, time lines and budget
- Assign responsibilities to key personal, advisory board members and consultants
- Insure that workloads assigned to key personal will sufficiently cover project deliverables
- Review community and labor market assessments to insure they are still relevant
- Insure trainers have coordinated training with community and employer needs
- Discuss revisions that may need to be addressed in the work plan or budget
- Receive commitments and establish milestone agreements for each deliverable

Topics to discuss in meetings with EPA regional coordinators and grant specialists (when appropriate).

- Grant Terms and Conditions (review grant processing packet)
- Reporting requirements, including quarterly reports and ACRES, and expected time frame to report accomplishments
- Review the project timeline, goals and objectives
- Revisit the grant proposal, deliverables, budgets and possible revisions to the work plan
- Brief the EPA Regional Coordinator to become acquainted with the community and the target area
- Help the grantee project manager understand roles and responsibilities under EPA Cooperative Agreements
- Identify issues to avoid future surprises
- Develop a schedule and lay out clear expectations for all involved
- Review the proposed curriculum and certifications provided
- Go over allowable expenses and process for reimbursement
- Present performance expectations
- Review targets and projected milestones compared to the application proposal
- Answer grantee questions from internal meetings
- Advice, tips and sources of additional support known to the Regional Coordinator

Public meetings and community awareness

Public meetings provide a forum for beginning an EWDJT grant before it officially begins. Community awareness may take many forms and include alternative venues. Internet, radio, print media, community and religious gatherings are opportunities to supercharge an EWDJT program. Here are the ways community awareness supercharges new programs.

- Community awareness jump starts recruitment efforts
- Increases stakeholder support
- Alerts employers of a new source for trained workers
- Attracts new untapped leveraging partners
- Informs government agencies regarding a new upcoming jobs program
- Provides elected officials and representatives an opportunity to participate in EWDJT

Suggested contents included in community awareness events

- Explain how EWDJT benefits the community
- Review the project timeline, goals and objectives
- Describe planned efforts for engaging the public
- Introduce key program personnel and briefly describe their roles and responsibilities
- Introduce other Partners (Other agencies, city personnel, elected officials)
- Discuss the opportunities associated with environmental jobs
- Review the curriculum, training schedule and services available
- Provide insight regarding the community impact
- Detail the recruitment, application and screening process
- Answer questions and concerns
- Include an opportunity for networking between program staff and among guests

Meetings and public awareness events are critical to new EWDJT programs. Existing programs also need to continue evangelizing their program. Surprisingly, many communities, public agencies, potential supporters and employers are not aware their local EWDJT program exists.

6. What next – After an unfunded application

First time applicants

Preparation for an EWDJT proposal is time consuming and effort intensive. While existing programs have a track record and established partners, new programs have a more difficult job establishing relationships and responding to an unfamiliar Request for EWDJT applications. With a fresh start, new programs need at least six months to a year establishing networks, partnerships and leveraged resources. EPA is aware of the advantage current grantees have over new applicants and go to great lengths insuring a level and subjective competition. Here are some suggestions to new unfunded EWDJT applicants.

- Begin planning for the next FY22 Request for Proposals due out this summer
- For applicants who have not yet started an EWDJT program, work to keep the idea of establishing community based training alive in the community
- Seek local demonstration and planning grants
- Continue recruiting new partners interested in supporting environmental workforce training
- Inform partners, supporters and stakeholders your intentions to submit an expanded proposal for consideration during the next funding cycle
- Reexamine and strengthen your partnerships, community outreach and target community relationships
- Plan ahead, it takes a good part of the year to assemble, coordinate and institute a working partnership team
- Keep the stakeholder team together- Inform partners that awards were extremely competitive based on limited funding and competitive responses to specific evaluation criteria

With additional work, the next submission for funds has a likelihood of being successful. Many EWDJT programs have “missed” a cycle only to come back strong with a new program and more comprehensive proposal.

Tips to consider for unfunded grantees finding themselves in year two or three of their grant cycle

Existing grantees interested in “re-upping” program funding have extensive prior experience and established partners. Prior reputation or performance, however, is not a “slam dunk” for receiving additional funds. Existing programs must expand their applications in order to be refunded for another three years. Resubmission or recycling of past proposals does not work. Competition for next year’s grants may be especially intense as there were 26 funded proposals in FY20 eligible for “re-ups” in FY22. Tips for current grantees include the following.

- Start your ‘Plan B’ as soon as possible even during the first year of operation. The best time to secure leveraged partners is when the EWDJT program is fully operational.
- Assume EPA funds are temporary and are for startup purposes. Look to state and local governmental organizations for continuing support.
- Development staff should always keep an “eye out” for Federal, State and local funding opportunities even if they are not directly related to EPA environmental workforce development. PLC notes regularly includes grant and funding opportunities.
- If your organization is resubmitting, do not assume an old proposal can be resubmitted. Some EPA Regional Coordinators keep track of old proposals for reference.
- Partnerships, letters of support and needs assessments need to be maintained and current. Applicants for FY22 will need to revisit FY21 supporters and partners.
- Keep current stakeholders and supporters informed but expand your circle of partners.
- Begin NOW. Seek out planning grants and resources. Local funds may become available to continue a network of stakeholder organizations, partners, employers and leveraged resources to establish a community environmental jobs program.

Unfunded “re-ups” - EWDJT extension and sustainability strategies

Many excellent programs are not able to be funded because of budget constraints. As a result, grantees should prepare plans to “sit out” a cycle or two if their proposal is not selected for refunding. Rather than shutting down an established environmental workforce training program, grantee alumni should move forward with EWDJT in their community. Here are suggestions for programs finding themselves with an operational program without EWDJT assistance.

- Seek local labor and community development grants to replace lost EPA funding
- Consider reducing program offerings during while operating with reduced funding
- Offer contract training to business and industry
- Approach employers for funding assistance to continue providing a certified workforce
- Provide refresher training for a fee to past participants
- Consider merging with a current partner or established community organization
- Seek new partners interested in supporting environmental workforce training
- Approach governmental organizations for funding to institutionalize EWDJT
- Reorganize non-credit EWDJT into credit programs at community colleges or universities
- Seek out larger organizations with institutional or legislative funding to merge into
- Consider approaching other training programs allowing them to add environmental training to services they are not currently offering
- Preserve materials, contacts, proposals and supporters - Inform partners that FY21 awards were extremely competitive and attempts are being made to continue the program

In the past, EWDJT programs have become dormant only to come back strong with new partners, new program plans and a more comprehensive proposal. We consider these programs as EWDJT alumni.

7. Tools, applications and resources

Protecting workers involved in emergency response and cleanup

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 page contains health and safety resources for workers who may be at risk of exposure to COVID-19. The National Clearinghouse creates training tools to aid in the development of awareness-level courses or other awareness-level materials. These tools provide health and safety guidance to workers who work in industries with the potential for exposure to COVID-19. GO to:

[NIEHS COVID Training Tools](#)

EPA Community Environmental Justice Mapping Tool

EPA has an environmental [justice \(EJ\) mapping and screening](#) tool that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. This tool allows users to access high-resolution environmental and demographic information for locations in the United States, and can assist users with identifying areas that contain: minority and/or low-income populations; potential environmental quality issues; a combination of environmental and demographic indicators that is greater than usual; as well as other factors that may be of interest.

Although this tool has many applications, it is particularly useful in identifying supporting data for writing a competitive EPA brownfield EWDJT application. Many grant writers struggle with identifying community or target area needs and story, or they have identified the needs and story but lack the supporting quantifiable data. This tool better enables applicants to prepare more compelling applications with greater odds of success.

EPA List N Tool: Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

EPA expects all products on List N to kill the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) when used according to the label directions. To find a product, locate the EPA Reg. No. on the product label, then enter the first two sets of numbers into the tool. For example, if EPA Reg. No. 12345-12 is on List N, you can buy EPA Reg. No. 12345-12-2567 and know you're getting an equivalent product. [Read our step-by-step guide.](#)

These products are for use on surfaces, not humans. Children should not use these products. Inclusion on List N does not constitute an endorsement by EPA. Additional disinfectants may meet the criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). EPA will update this list with additional products as needed.

[EPA N List Tool](#)

Underground storage tank tool

EPA developed UST Finder, a web map application containing a comprehensive, state-sourced national map of underground storage tank (UST) and leaking UST (LUST) data. It provides the attributes and locations of active and closed USTs, UST facilities, and LUST sites from states as of 2018-2019. UST Finder contains information about proximity of UST facilities and LUST sites to: surface and groundwater public drinking water protection areas; estimated number of private domestic wells and number of people living nearby; and flooding and wildfires. UST Finder can import additional data layers and export UST facility and LUST site information for use by other software programs.

- [UST Finder](#) is available on EPA's GeoPlatform. A quick start guide and user manual are available below and in the application as well
 - [UST Finder: National Underground Storage Tanks and Releases Web Map \(PDF\)](#) Provides a 2-page overview about UST Finder
 - [Quick Start Guide](#) Helps you navigate UST Finder
 - [UST Finder User Manual \(PDF\)](#)
 - Provides a step-by-step guide on how to navigate the UST Finder application as well as methods used and background material
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8. Upcoming Webinars and virtual conferences

EPA Brownfields Stakeholder Discussion with Nonprofits
April 23, 2021
1-3pm Eastern

Please join EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization for a Brownfields Stakeholder Discussion with Nonprofits and Community Foundations on Friday, April 23, 2021 from 1-3pm EDT!

We invite representatives from nonprofit organizations and community foundations to join this online, open discussion about nonprofit leadership in brownfields assessment, cleanup and redevelopment projects. We will use these questions to guide our discussion:

- How does your nonprofit organization view its role in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment?
- What benefits and barriers exist to nonprofits leading brownfield cleanup and redevelopment projects?
- How can EPA best engage with nonprofit organizations that are most interested in leading brownfields cleanup and redevelopment?

[REGISTER HERE](#)

If unable to attend or if you prefer to share your thoughts on the guiding questions via email, please submit comments to EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization at BUILDAct@epa.gov.

The comment period is open through April 23

Passed and Proposed: What the Federal Budget Means for Brownfields Redevelopment
April 29, 2021 | 2:00-3:00 pm EST

David Lloyd
Director | Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization, U.S. EPA

Matt Ward
Co-Founder and CEO | Sustainable Strategies

Darnell Moses
Vice President | Council for Development Finance Agencies (CDFA)

CENTER FOR CREATIVE LAND RECYCLING
RECLAIM. CONNECT. TRANSFORM.

Moving Forward Act

You've no doubt heard of the Moving Forward Act and President Biden's proposed Build Back Better Plan, but did you know that both include major provisions that support brownfields redevelopment and land reuse? The Moving Forward Act authorizes \$2.25 billion for the EPA Brownfields program for FY 2021 through FY 2025; Build Back Better, if passed, would support community-wide revitalization initiatives including brownfields redevelopment as it applies to clean energy development, climate resilience, environmental justice, and more. And we haven't even mentioned the newly reinstated congressional earmarks or current agency appropriations!

Join CCLR for an in-depth discussion on federal funding coming down the pike and how you can, and should, leverage it to turn neighborhood liabilities into community assets.

[Register Here](#)

Environmental Justice – what is it, really?

Atlanta University Center Environmental Justice and Collaboration for Westside Transformation

April 27, 11:30 am Eastern

Dr. Yomi Noibi will lead a discussion on the Development of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Green Infrastructure Plan: why Environmental Justice is its centerpiece and why this plan was needed. Student involvement is at the heart of Environmental Justice, and students embraced the movement for Green Infrastructure at AUC. Participants will:

- Learn how to put an equity lens on environmental justice;
- Gain a deeper understanding of the need for integrated stormwater management and benefits of green infrastructure;
- Understand the role of administration, faculty, students, community leaders, non-profits, and community leaders in adopting equity in developing stormwater infrastructure and increasing greenspace in low-income communities; and
- Learn about strategies for university-community partnerships that lead to equitable outcomes

[Registration](#)

Green Dialogues Series

Streamed LIVE on Instagram

Friday, April 16 and Friday, April 23

Sign up to receive a reminder to join our Green Dialogues Series Live series

We're excited to bring you our "Green Dialogues Series" in partnership with ECOS, a series of conversations on the green economy and sustainability that will be streamed LIVE on Instagram.

Can Sustainability Be Accessible for All?

Friday, April 16

7-7:30 pm Eastern

Featuring Kristy Drutman (@browngirl_green), Helga Garza-Garcia (Director, Agri-Cultura Network), Jenna Arkin (VP Innovation, ECOS), and Nisha Anand (CEO of Dream Corps)

Redefining the 'Green' Job

Friday, April 23

7-7:30 pm Eastern

Featuring sustainability influencer Isaias Hernandez and Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks (CEO of ECOS), and Harry Johnson (Government Affairs Manager of Dream Corps Green for All).

Join us for 30-minute LIVE conversations on key sustainability issues and how they shape our work building a green economy that creates good opportunities for all. Green For All will be joined by our partners at ECOS, as well as experts, influencers, and impacted community members from across the country. All three sessions will include a live Q&A, so come with questions!

Sign up on this page to receive reminder texts before each IG Live with the link to join our conversations

[Sign up for reminder texts](#)

Climate Safe Neighborhoods

May 5

12:00 Eastern

Learn about the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership and how youth in two of Groundwork's Trusts, Groundwork Hudson Valley, and Groundwork Richmond, VA, and other places are leading the way in working closely with residents and stakeholders to organize, mobilize, and effect systems change to make communities more resilient to extreme heat and flooding.

[Register Here](#)



GBA Virtual Brownfields Conference

June 22-23

Join to support GBA in its mission to ensure our State benefits from the continued clean-up of and reinvestment in environmentally impacted and underutilized properties in Georgia. We hope that you will be a part of this exciting work, which will benefit you as an individual and the industry as a whole. [Click here](#) to download an overview of 2021 membership levels and benefits. Sign up for Early Bird Registration for the 2021 Brownfield Seminar and you'll receive discounted registration. And, thank you to those of you who submitted abstracts for this year's conference.

[Click here to learn more](#)

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

**Superfund Redevelopment Program Webinar Series –
Equitable Redevelopment and Environmental Justice –
April 20**

1:00 pm Eastern

One of EPA's key objectives is to make sure everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards. Given that Superfund sites disproportionately impact communities of color and low-income communities, the Superfund redevelopment process provides an opportunity to facilitate equitable redevelopment by involving impacted communities in the planning process and identifying how to reduce burdens and increase benefits through the redevelopment process. This webinar will discuss strategies for incorporating equitable redevelopment and environmental justice into Superfund site cleanup and redevelopment. The webinar will cover the key components of equitable redevelopment, the role EPA, local government and developers can play in equitable redevelopment, examples of equitable redevelopment and EPA tools and resources available to address environmental justice at Superfund sites. For more information and to register,

<https://www.itrcweb.org> or <https://clu-in.org/live>.

How do you plan to adapt your 2020 education tech investments for 2021 and beyond?

April 22

2:00 PM ET

Over the past year, students, teachers, and administrators have proven that the new e-learning tools and digital equity solutions purchased in response to the pandemic have many benefits that improve learning by expanding opportunity and allowing teachers to respond to students' unique needs.

During this webinar, you will hear from district leaders who utilized remote learning tools prior to the pandemic, adjusted them to meet student needs for distance learning, and are now adapting them to prepare students and schools for an increasingly digital future.

The future of education, including remote, hybrid, and in-person learning environments, will require that we leverage these advancements and the heroic work of teachers to continue serving students inclusively and equitably.

[Remote learning tools](#)

9. Funding, leveraging and outreach opportunities

EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant Program

Closing Date: May 7

\$2,800,000

\$50,000 per award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to improve the environment and public health conditions of low-income communities and communities of color through the advancement of racial equity and environmental justice. This funding announcement supports the priorities detailed in President Biden’s Executive Order 13985 titled Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government and Executive Order 14008 titled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. EPA continues to make effective responses to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the climate crisis top priorities. To address these multiple crises, this announcement places emphasis on projects focusing on COVID-19 impacts, as well as climate and disaster resiliency. Additionally, EPA is emphasizing projects addressing diesel pollution in underserved communities living near ports and railyards as part of EPA’s Ports Initiative (see details further described in this solicitation). Finally, to promote equitable accessibility to EPA grant funding and to assist small entities, approximately half of the total available funding under this announcement is intended to be reserved for small non-profit organizations with 10 or fewer full-time employees subject to the quality of applications received and other relevant considerations. Under this solicitation, therefore, there will be two separate ranking lists developed- one for small non-profit organizations of 10 or fewer full-time employees and one for all other eligible applicants as further described in this solicitation.

[For more information](#)

EJ grant opportunities

(EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program

Request proposal packages on or before May 7

\$50,000 per award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the availability of up to \$6 million in grant funding under The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program and The Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) Program. “These grants are crucial to supporting vulnerable and overburdened communities disproportionately affected by environmental health risks,” said Office of Environmental Justice Director Matthew Tejada. “With renewed leadership to address environmental justice under the Biden-Harris Administration, we are excited to support community efforts to address historically challenging issues.” The EJSG Program estimates approximately \$2,800,000 will be awarded to approximately five applications per EPA region in amounts of up to \$50,000 per award. This

includes the EPA's Ports Initiative program which anticipates funding up to six additional projects that address clean air issues at coastal and inland ports or rail yards.

EPA will be giving special consideration to the following focus areas:

- Addressing COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income communities and communities of color
- Climate Change and Natural Disaster Resiliency outreach and planning
- New applicants to either opportunity
- Ports Initiative to assist people living and working near ports across the country
- Small non-profits

The EJCS Cooperative Agreement Program's total estimated funding for this opportunity is approximately \$3,200,000. EPA anticipates awarding two cooperative agreements of \$160,000 each within each of the 10 EPA Regions.

To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>.

To learn more about pre-application assistance calls and how to apply for funding, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program>

Applicants interested in either opportunity must submit proposal packages on or before May 7, 2021 to be considered for the available funding. Applicants should plan for projects to begin on October 1, 2021.

For more information on environmental justice grants, funding, and technical assistance visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

CPWR

Accepting applications for funding from the Small Study Program

Open applications accepted

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, go to:

[Additional information](#)

10. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about EWDJT grants, extensions, budgets or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current and potential grantees. It is important to be on their contact list for conference calls and newsletters.

EPA Region 1

CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

Myra Schwartz

Phone: (617) 918-1696

E-mail: schwartz.myra@epa.gov

EPA Region 2

NJ, NY, PR, VI

Schenine Mitchell

Phone: (212) 637-3283

E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov

EPA Region 3

DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

Gianna Rosati

Phone: (215) 814-3406

E-mail: Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov

EPA Region 4

AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

Wanda Jennings

Phone: 404-562-8682

E-mail: jennings.Wanda@epa.gov

EPA Region 5

IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Linda Morgan

Phone: (312) 886-4747

E-mail: morgan.linda@epa.gov

EPA Region 6

AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

Rita Ware

Phone: (214) 665-6409

E-mail: ware.rita@epa.gov

EPA Region 7

IA, KS, MO, NE

Alma Moreno Lahm

Phone: (913) 551-7380

E-mail: moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov

EPA Region 8

CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

Christina Wilson

Phone: (303) 312-6706

E-mail: wilson.christina@epa.gov

EPA Region 9

AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU

Nova Blazej

Phone: (415) 972-3846

E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov

Noemi Emeric-Ford

Phone: (213) 244-1821

E-mail: emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov

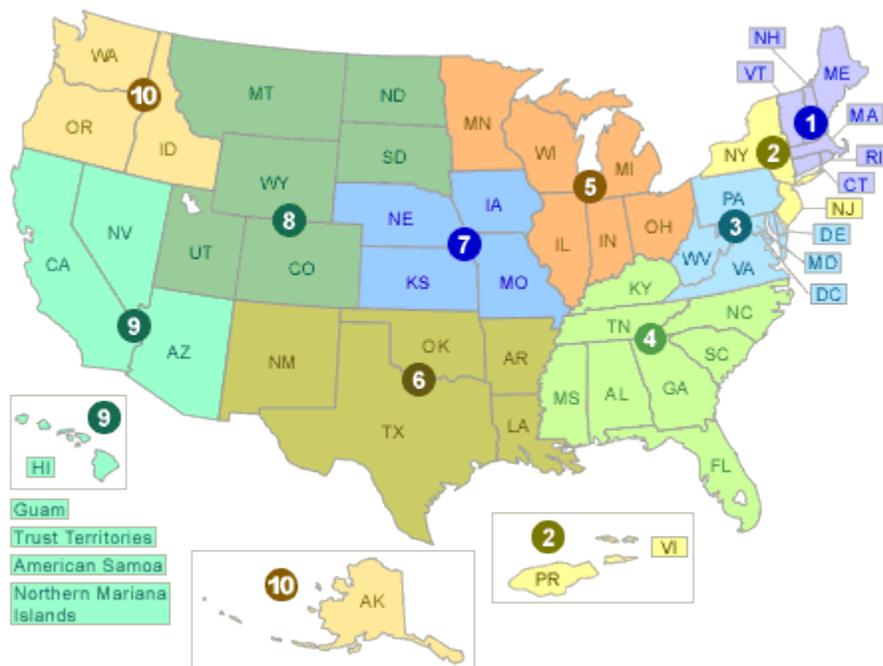
EPA Region 10

AK, ID, OR, WA

Susan Morales

Phone: (206) 553-7299

E-mail: morales.susan@epa.gov



11. Join us for the next Professional Learning Community call

Missed a few of our PLC sessions? Post session notes are available on the brownfields-toolbox.org. Go to the PLC corner.

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among those interested in establishing community based environmental job training programs. Our sessions allow participants to stay in touch with EWDJT happenings, ask questions, showcase their programs

and help others. The Environmental Workforce PLC is open to all and there is no cost or obligation to attend. Join us when you can.

Next PLC call – Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 – Same time and “call in”

Email questions or to be placed on the PLC register send contact information to:

HMTRI@eicc.edu

To participate in our Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community session call:
(319) 527-3513

Use access code **550105** followed by # to be connected to our session.

Sign up a friend – no cost – no obligation

Join us for helpful hints & open discussion

Call from any phone at: 1:55 pm Eastern time (5 minutes early) Discussions last about 30 minutes.

-- PLC notes and recordings of past sessions are also uploaded to our website at:

<http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-sessions/>.

If you would like to invite a guest, feel free to forward this email.

HMTRI is part of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and has provided environmental workforce development technical assistance since the inception of EPA's Brownfields Initiative.

PLC notes presented represent individual opinions and ideas from Professional Learning Community participants and EWDJT grantees. They do not represent EPA policy, guidance or opinions and should not be taken as such.

For more information on HMTRI technical assistance services or to be added to our Grantee and Community Outreach Listserv, please contact:

HMTRI@eicc.edu.

